

Tom Grattan's War



*The wartime
adventures
of a London boy
in Yorkshire*



From the golden age of children's television drama, *Tom Grattan's War* was a period piece, set at the time of the First World War and told the tale of a 16-year-old London lad (Michael Howe) who is too young to help his country in the far off fields of Flanders, so is therefore set to work on a farm to help with the nation's food production.

While Tom's father is fighting in Europe his mother is helping the war effort by working in a London munitions factory. For his part, Tom is sent on a long journey to stay with relatives in rural Yorkshire for the duration of the war. Once at the Kirkby's moorland farm, he is set to work in the fields, making his own quiet contribution to the war effort.

But Tom is introduced to much more than unfamiliar country ways. Along with the Kirkby's daughter, Julie (Sally Adcock), he encounters espionage, kidnapping, robbery and sabotage, and also faces more complex dilemmas – not least when German prisoners of war working at the nearby quarry become the target for angry attacks by local people who have lost loved ones at the front.

The narrator (Richard Warner) appeared at the start of each episode and provided an occasional voice-over during each story.

Whilst the war is fought on the remote battlefields of Europe, its consequences are all too real for Tom and his new friends.



In this episode from the series “Tom Grattan’s War,” titled, “The Soldier from Margham,” listen to the dialogue between the actors, what during and after WW1, was called “Shell Shock.”

