

Synopsis of Scenes

Act I

- Scene 1 The Market in Stepney Way
- Scene 2 The Duckets' Parlour, 157 Cable Street, Stepney,
Wednesday 4th September 1940
- Scene 3 The Morning Room of the Carlton Club, Belgravia, the same evening
- Scene 3B En Route from Essex to Hanover Square
- Scene 4 The Bull Tavern, Cable Street, Stepney, Thursday September 5th, 1940
- Scene 5 14, Hanover Square, the Same Evening
- Scene 6 The Strand, near the Savoy Hotel
- Scene 7 The Audition, the Savoy Hotel
- Scene 8 The Railway Arches, Salmon Lane, Stepney,
4.30 pm, Saturday September 7th 1940

Act II

- Scene 1 The remaining half of the Bull Tavern, shortly afterwards
- Scene 2 157, Cable Street, Stepney, that evening
- Scene 3 The Café de Paris, Coventry Street
- Scene 4 The same night, on the way home to the East End
- Scene 5 The Carlton Club, some time later

The Storyline

Set in London in September 1940, our story focuses on the lives of a group of youngsters from the East End. The action takes place before and after the first German bombing raid of the Blitz, during the afternoon of 7th September. This was the first time that civilian areas of London had been targeted. As a morale booster, the Eastenders decide to revive an old tradition of Thursday night 'ding-dongs', a community sing-along in the local pub, The Bull. However, during a rehearsal for the ding-dong an unlikely group of aristocratic visitors arrive at the pub when their car breaks down in the East End. This first chance meeting, which does not go at all well, is destined not to be the last and a romance begins to blossom between Lord William, heir to the Earldom of Gresham, and Mary, a working-class girl from Stepney. An advert in the paper results in both sets of characters auditioning to join ENSA. Neither group expects the other to be there. When the Westenders get through and not the Eastenders, William, Edward and Charles decline their place and join the auxiliary fire service instead in order to 'do their bit for England'. This creates the opportunity for a great act of heroism on the part of the Westenders. Meanwhile, Frank, Alice's boyfriend, is missing in action, presumed dead. The Bull tavern is bombed and partly destroyed and it looks as if the ding-dong will not take place.....