



JAN STRUTHER, who created
"Mrs. Miniver"



GREER GARSON as the heroine
of the film

★ *JOYCE ANSTRUTHER was her maiden name, and Mrs. Maxtone-Graham contracted it into the pen-name, Jan Struther, under which she has become famous, in order to avoid being confused with her mother, who is also a successful writer. Her husband, a captain in the British Army, was captured in Libya.* ★

The author of "Mrs. Miniver" went to America in 1939, and has travelled across the United States several times. She has many hobbies. One of them is carpentry; amateur botany is another.

The Maxtone-Grahams have three children. Janet and Robert went to America with their mother. James remained at school in England; he is now 20 and engaged in the war effort.

Since the world-wide success of the "Mrs. Miniver" sketches, Jan has made many public appearances. In the eyes of many, she is the embodiment of "Mrs. Miniver." She is now writing another book—about America.

(continued from previous page)

have. I know that on first biting into a hot dog my expression changed from doubtful to pleased—just as theirs do. I am sure that they are as grateful as I am for the enormous hospitality that is shown to them here. They are among the favourite guests at the many canteens for servicemen. They have been invited into American homes from coast to coast—and that is where they find out most especially that the distance between countries is only a matter of miles.

This adaptability is something else the war has taught us. It is not only those of us who have moved about during the last four years who have learned it. Even the men and women who have stayed right where they were when the war started have found that the habits and activities of a lifetime have been changed or destroyed. We have discovered that we can do without many things which we used to think were necessities.

I think women in particular have discovered amazing things about themselves in this period. Many of them have given up pretty clothes for utilitarian uniforms and overalls. Many of them have turned themselves into soldiers, sailors, farmers or mechanics—and made little fuss about it. In fact, I think most of them have been both pleased and surprised at finding how capable they really could be if they tried. Even the millions of us who had jobs before the war now realise that there were many hours in each day which we were wasting. These hours are now being used for Red Cross work, helping in canteens, in bond drives and in many other war activities. Women are learning how to make the most of

their time—and they are accomplishing wonders with it.

The women of all the united nations have proved that they can take their place on the battlefield and in the factory—and yet, miraculously, throughout these four terrible years, homes have been maintained and schools have been kept going. Airplanes have been flown, ships and bombs have been built, trucks have been driven, children have been washed and dressed, meals have been cooked and eaten, friendship and hospitality have not been allowed to lapse.

If we can do all this in times of war, surely we can accomplish as much in times of peace. If we can defend our countries and homes and ways of life, surely we can work as hard to better them when they are no longer in danger.

For all of us, wherever we may be, our greatest aim right now is victory. After that, I think that most of us long, as I do, to be re-united with our families as quickly as possible.

But, in our happiness and contentment at accomplishing these things, we must not forget the lessons we have learned from war. Not just the big lessons of how to establish international relations and maintain a lasting peace, but the little lessons: things like finding out how much alike an English boy can be to an American or an Australian or a New Zealander; how good the food in some far-off country has tasted; how kind and simple the people of a strange nation can be. And we mustn't forget, and this is especially true for women, how many new things we have learned to do; how much we can accomplish in a day, and how, now that we have proved that we can take all kinds of jobs and responsibilities, we're going to be expected to go right on doing it.

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