

THE GOON SHOW:
THE NASTY AFFAIR AT THE BURAMI OASIS

First broadcast on October 4, 1956. Script by Spike Milligan and Larry Stephans. Produced by Peter Eton. Announced by Wallace Greenslade. Orchestra conducted by Wally Stott. Transcribed by Christopher P. Thomas, corrections by Peter Olausson.

Greenslade:

This is the BBC Home Service.

FX:

[Trumpets, groans, raspberries]

Sellers:

Excuse me... *[giggles]* Excuse me, what is the price of sliced ham, per portion?

Greenslade:

I really couldn't say.

Sellers:

Blast!

Greenslade:

Err... Yes, well now, this is the BBC Home Service. Had you been alive, at 3am on the 3rd of Autumn 1956, and switched on your wireless, you would have heard... This:

FX:

[Silence]

Greenslade:

It wasn't much of a program, was it? If you had tuned in at nine o'clock, you would have heard:

FX:

[Beep, beep, beep, clump, peep, peep, honk]

Sellers:

Good morning, here is the news. We regret to announce, that the Burami oasis situation has deteriorated. The British garrison is under constant attack from Sheik Rattle And Roll. Sheik Rattle And Roll you will recall was sent down from Maudlin College, Oxford, for attacking the British garrison there. Service Chief's have called up the following classes: Upper, Middle and Lower. They will report to their nearest, at their earliest.

Seagoon:

Yes, dear listeners, that same morning...

FX:

["It's a long way to Tipperary" slowly being sped up]

Seagoon:

I received my papers. I read the sports page and reported for duty. Hup!

FX:

[Fanfare, wobble; door opens]

Seagoon:

Neddie Seagoon, reporting for duty, sir!

Grytpype:

We'll never win. Ahem... Name?

Seagoon:

Seagoon.

Grytpype:

Sex?

Seagoon:

Yes, please.

Grytpype:

With or without?

Seagoon:

With.

Grytpype:

I see. Now then Seagoon, what made you join the army?

Seagoon:

An armed escort and two military policemen.

Grytpype:

[Writing] "Patriotic volunteer". Now what were you in civilian life?

Seagoon:

I was an admiral in the Royal Navy.

Grytpype:

I say! You've left a well paid job.

Seagoon:

Yes! That's why I'm here! There must be some mistake!

Grytpype:

There must be. You an Admiral? By Jove, yes...

Seagoon:

What what? How dare you insult a man wearing the Queen's open neck shirt, flannelled trousers, flat cap, and boots?

Grytpype:

I'm so sorry, I beg your pardon.

Seagoon:

You don't seem to realize. I've served on the H.M.S. Thespas since my father died. You see the H.M.S. Thespas is a family business, father put it in his wife's name.

Grytpype:

What was her name?

Seagoon:

H.M.S. Thespas.

Grytpype:

What was her maiden name?

Seagoon:

The Yarmouth Belle.

Grytpype:

How she must have suffered.

Seagoon:

What what what what what what what what?

Grytpype:

Relax, Admiral Seagoon...

Seagoon:

[Over] Bwark bwark bwark bwark... [chicken type noises]

Grytpype:

We know you're a Naval man, that's why we sent for you, you see the Army is desperately short of sailors.

Seagoon:

I'm sorry to hear that. We had a terrible shortage of soldiers in the Navy.

Grytpype:

Snap. Now Admiral, you don't mind my calling you by your first name?

Seagoon:

Touché. Fred Touché.

Grytpype:

Well, Admiral Fred, the garrison at Burami oasis is under constant siege.

Seagoon:

Aohoo?

Grytpype:

Now there's only one way to deal with these turban devils of bran, we're... Wait a minute, wait for it... *[suddenly over-dramatic]* We're going to send a GUNBOAT!

FX:

[Thunderous cheers, leading into "Land of Hope and Glory"]

Seagoon:

Yes, it was action at last. That night, I called the Chiefs of Army, Navy, and NAFFI, to hear my plan of attack.

Voices:

[Mutter, rhubarb, rhubarb, etc.]

Seagoon:

Gentlemen! I have here a statue of the situation at the Burami oasis.

Milligan:

Thank you.

Seagoon:

The Arabs, as you can see, are attacking our garrison at night only.

Milligan:

Arroow. Does this mean that our troops are fighting in their pajamas?

Seagoon:

I fear so.

Sellers:

Gad! It must be hell out there!

Seagoon:

Any questions?

Sellers:

Yes. Can't we arrange for the Arabs to attack in the daytime?

Seagoon:

No. They charge twice as much to attack in the day. After sundown, it's only two and six a battle.

Greenslade:

Sir, er, would it not be worth the extra costs? So that our men could be spared the indignity, of fighting in their night attire?

Sellers:

Yes.

Milligan:

Yes, right.

Seagoon:

Gentleman. I have overcome that difficulty, with a cunning move. Heh heh heh heh. Our troops now wear battle dress at night, and pajamas in the daytime.

Omnes:

Bravo. *[Mutters of agreement]*

Seagoon:

Any more questions?

Milligan:

Yes, could you tell me the price of sliced ham, per portion?

Seagoon:

No.

Milligan:

Blast.

Seagoon:

So then gentlemen, intelligence tells us the reasons for these attacks are, the Burami garrison is to play football next month.

Omnes:

Oh! What a devilish plan! *[Agreement]*

Ellington:

[Off] Yes!

Gryttype:

Splendid! On no account let them use a telephone.

Ellington:

Yall toola hoola dingle.

Gryttype:

Because, you fool, another foot is tapping it! Now listen carefully. Do you know what the British are up to?

Ellington:

Yeah, they are up to the end of 1956.

Gryttype:

Blast! That means they caught us up. Quick Moriarty, put up a calendar for 1958, that will give us a two-year lead.

Ellington:

Oooh, me warn you! If Arab football team no beat British garrison team, you get no more money. Goodbye!

Gryttype:

I didn't like the sound of it, Moriarty. We must get to Burami oasis at once. Now hand me that boat, and unwrap Max Geldray.

Geldray:

Oh, hello boy...

Max Geldray and Orchestra:

[Musical interlude]

FX:

[Fanfare]

Greenslade:

[Fades in] ...The increasingly sordid affair at the Burami oasis part human. For dancing enthusiasts the rest of the show will be played in slow foxtrot time. Over now to the beleaguered garrison at Burami.

FX:

[Beleaguered fighting noises]

Abdul:

Argh, Major, Major Bloodnok! The Arabs are attacking for the first time in this series! Arsenal three, Tottenham one. Hooray.

Bloodnok:

What? Arrrrriooaaooowww. Oooooiiiiiaaaooowww. Oooh! That's better! Oh, oohohoho. Excuse me Bombay Bibbie my dear, I, I can't understand, Arabs attacking in the daytime? They'll, they'll never learn the tango this way. Oh dear!

Seagoon:

Sir, sir, there's an Arab riding down on us on a flaming stallion!

Bloodnok:

Watch your language!

Seagoon:

English sir, what's yours?

Bloodnok:

The same! Interpreter, you can go home.

Throat:

Right mate!

Seagoon:

There's the flaming Arab.

Bloodnok:

Mind your language! There may be sensitive Scott's Guardsmen present!

Flowerdew:

S'all right, I don't mind really, honestly, it's quite all right.

Bloodnok:

Sellers! How dare you change your voice from mine into his for one joke only! Now I shall show these turban wogs of bran who's master of this oasis! Abdul, hand me my...

FX:

[Knock knock knock knock knock knock knock]

Bloodnok:

It's a lie. It's a lie! We're just good friends I tell you! Get out the back way dear! Ohh! Mind the thunderbox will you? Oohhh!

FX:

[Knock knock knock knock knock knock knock]

Ellington:

[Off] Open up, cor blimey, or I smash my fist down!

Bloodnok:

Oooohhh! It's Sheik Rattle and Roll! Ohh, Abdul, hand me my blacking up coward's disguise kit will you?

FX:

[Knock knock knock knock knock knock knock]

Bloodnok:

Oohh! Just a moment Mr. Roll, erm, my wife isn't dressed yet.

Ellington:

[Off] How long she going to be?

Bloodnok:

I'll, em, I'll, em, write to her in London and find out. Where's my pen?

FX:

[Typewriter sounds]

Bloodnok:

[Over] "Dear Volumnia, I am writing to find out how long you will take before..."

FX:

[Door being broken down]

Ellington:

Yimbamboola!

Bloodnok:

How dare you yimbambola in my tent! Wait a moment! Nadger me standing load, you're not Sheik Rattle and Roll! You look like Ray Ellington!

Ellington:

I am! Me forced to take extra parts. Need money. Married recently.

Bloodnok:

I understand! I understand, oohh ho ho hoho, ohho hoho! Me married myself! Ohh hohoho!

Ellington:

Me done better! Me married my girl. More fun!

Bloodnok:

Ooohhhh hohohoh! You naughty yimbalatoola, you!

FX:

[Telephone rings]

Bloodnok:

Ooooohhaahoho! Ohh, oh, what what what? Er, hello?

Greenslade:

[Other end of phone] *The Nasty Affair at the Burami Oasis*, part four.

Bloodnok:

Right, reverse the charge please. Now, erm, Sheik, state your business.

Ellington:

You four week behind with rent.

Bloodnok:

What? Nonsense! Get out of my tent, or I'll call the manager!

Ellington:

You no bluff me! Look, your rent book. Three pound ten owing.

Bloodnok:

What? I can get an oasis down the road for half that! Look here in *The Evening Wog Mail*.

Ellington:

What?

Bloodnok:

[Reading] "To let, self contained oasis, third floor, share harem. Twelve and six. Suit cowardly British garrison". There you are!

Ellington:

Me don't wish to know that.

Bloodnok:

What?

Ellington:

Me want my back rent. Me behind in installments, on sun lamp.

Bloodnok:

What? You steaming son of the sands. I know! Abdul! hand me my British military-type saxophone now!

FX:

[Saxophone playing jazzy version of "Land of Hope and Glory"]

Ellington:

Stop Bloodnok! Stop! You win! You got bigger bore saxophone than me, and dum dum music. But, I reek revenge, soon! Gidup!

FX:

[A chicken galloping off to the distance]

Bloodnok:

He's not so well off, riding his dinner!

FX:

[Fanfare]

Seagoon:

Yes, immediately on arrival at the oasis, we began to open the crates, having first disguised ourselves as chickens.

FX:

[Knock knock scrape bwark bwark bwark!]

Seagoon:

You can't be too careful, pardon me, woaaa bwark bwark bwark bwark bwark bwark bwaaaaark bwark bwark bwark bwaaaaark bwark bwark bwark

Flowerdew:

Pardon me sir, I think somebody's overacting.

Seagoon:

Why?

Flowerdew:

We've just found an egg.

Seagoon:

What bwark bwark bwark bwark bwark-bwark? Then there's an impostor amongst us! I'll find him. Men! Assume your own voices and from the left, number!

Soldier One:

One

Soldier Two:

Two

Soldier Three:

Three

Soldier Four:

Four

Soldier Five:

Five

Soldier Six:

Bwark!

Seagoon:

That's him! March that chicken away!

Soldier Six:

Bwark, bwark bwark bwark bwark!

FX:

[Fanfare]

Greenslade:

That night, by the light of the Araby-type moon, they began to assemble the giant battleship, prior to launching it in the oasis. A master technician was in charge.

FX:

[Clink clink, clink clink, clink]

Eccles:

[Singing ver clinking] Wooaaa, foot and mouth with me... By the dustbins of Rome... *[speaks]* It's ok folks, I ain't the master technician. Ahahahaha!

Bluebottle:

Nooo! I am the master technician!

Eccles:

Wait a minute, 'Bottle... How long have you been a master tung-a-tunk-nikon?

Bluebottle:

I'm not going to tell you, Eccles.

Eccles:

O-k Bot-tle. Ok, don't tell me. *[Exits, singing]* By the dustbins of Rome... *[inaudible, but it made the audience laugh]*

Bluebottle:

Don't leave me here in the dark! I tell you!

Eccles:

[Off] I don't want to know!

Bluebottle:

[Follows Eccles off] Come back! Eccles! Eccles! Come back! *[Garbled, over audience]*. Where are you?

Eccles:

[Close again] I'm here.

Bluebottle:

[Returning] Oohh! Eccles, I'm so glad you're here *[garbled]*.

Eccles:

Awwww...

Seagoon:

SILENCE!

Eccles:

...you got more applause than me...

Seagoon:

[Angry gibbering]

Eccles:

...I don't like - he got more clapping than me...

Seagoon:

I, I, I don't wish to know that. Thank you. Now then men... Men!

Everyone:

[Garbled arguments]

Eccles:

What? *[raspberry]* to you!

Seagoon:

MEN! We've got half an hour till dawn.

Bluebottle:

Thank you, Captain!

Seagoon:

Shut up, Bluebottle.

Eccles:

Shut up, Bluebottle.

Bluebottle:

Shut up, Eccles!

Eccles:

Shut up, Eccles.

All three:

Shut up, shut up!

Seagoon:

Please, now...

Eccles:

Shut up!

Seagoon:

We've got till dawn, to assss... to assemble the battleship and launch it in the oasis. Ready? GO!

FX:

[Various odd shipbuilding-type noises, fairly short]

Seagoon:

Right! Flowerdew?

Flowerdew:

Yes, sir?

Seagoon:

Run up a flag.

Flowerdew:

I'll get the sewing machine sir, yes.

Seagoon:

Yes, dear listeners, there she is. Now, to get her into the water. Eccles?

Eccles:

Shut up! Oh!... Yeah?

Seagoon:

You lift the sharp end, you take the blunt end. I'll be on the bridge. Somebody's got to steer, ahem. Now, together, lift!

Eccles and Bluebottle:

[Lifting] Oooooohh, eeeee.

Eccles:

[Off] Ehhh 'Bottle!? You lifting your end?

Bluebottle:

'Course I'm lifting.

Eccles:

[Off] Ohh. I'd better lift my end then.

Bluebottle:

You aren't half a rodden swine you are! Unhh.

Eccles:

[Off] ...Got more clapping than me.

Bluebottle:

[Lifting] Eeeeehhh. Ooohhh. Eeeeeaaooo. Ooooo. All this strain-inge can harm a lad you know? Eeeee.

FX:

[Dropping and breaking noise]

Bluebottle:

Ooohh! My knees have fallen off.

Seagoon:

Never mind, lad, here... Here... *[Laughing]* Here, have a fresh pair. I always carry them since the dreadful affair of the Mr. Fresh contest in 1956. Now come on, lift!

All:

[Lifting] Eeeeeoooooh!

Greenslade:

Ladies and gentlemen, with only two men to carry the battleship, an unexpected time lapse has occurred. To fill it, Ray Ellington will spon.

Seagoon:

Don't panic! I'm the captain of this shipwreck. If there's any panicking to be done, I'll do it.

Sellers:

Pardon me, captain, pardon me, can you tell me the price of smoked ham, per small portion?

Seagoon:

Twenty seven and six.

Sellers:

Ohh.

FX:

[Gunshot type bang]

Sellers:

Argh!

Minnie Bannister:

Ohhh min-ma-middle-doh. Maaooohh ohhh oooo ooeooooo yiddledoh. Ummm paa, what time do we get to Margate Pier, young man?

Seagoon:

What? A woman on board a British battleship? I must court martial myself. Admiral Seagoon?! Shun!

FX:

[People standing to attention]

Seagoon:

Admiral Seagoon? Yes, sir? You are charged with having a Minnie Bannister on board your ship. Is that true? It's a lie! Case dismissed! Thank you! Now we must recover that water from the Arabs to refloat this ship. FULL SPEED AHEAD!

FX:

[Anchor being raised, various shouting, ship's horn]

Greenslade:

Cynical listeners may question the possibility of sailing a battleship on sand. Meantime, at the Arab fortress of Rasher el Bacon...

Grytpype:

Nice little fort you've got here, Sheik.

Ellington:

Yes, just a little thing my wife ran up.

Grytpype:

You dance divinely.

Moriarty:

Excuse me, Grytpype, there's a battleship outside to see you.

Grytpype:

Anyone we know?

Moriarty:

I don't know sir, but he's wearing a turban.

Grytpype:

Then it's one of ours. Come in.

FX:

[Door opening]

Seagoon:

Steady with the *[garbled]*, turn it left, the other way round...

Eccles:

Ok, right.

Seagoon:

...Get the guns facing him.

Eccles:

Right.

Seagoon:

Right! Pull the blanket off.

Eccles:

[Pulling the blanket off] Uhh!

Seagoon:

Hands up.

Grytpype:

Damn! Trapped by a brilliant stratagem, and a common-or-garden forty-four thousand ton battleship.

Seagoon:

Right, Colonel Thynne, you traitor! Hand over the water of the Burami Oasis!

Grytpype:

Seagoon! Drop that battleship. One step nearer and my men will drink the Burami Oasis!

Seagoon:

You wouldn't dare!

Grytpype:

No? Men! Uncork bottles!

FX:

[Bottles being uncorked]

Grytpype:

There, Seagoon, they're ready to drink.

Seagoon:

Stalemate!

Moriarty:

Stale mate? It was fresh this morning mate!

Grytpype:

What?

Seagoon:

So we faced each other. The Arabs with the precious bottles of oasis water, poised at their lips...

Eccles:

Aoohhhhh...

Seagoon:

...And we covering them with the sixteen inch guns of our battleships...

Eccles:

Aoohhhhhh...

Seagoon:

...I had to think of something.

Eccles:

Aaaooohhhhhhh...

Sellers:

Diana Dors?

Seagoon:

No, no.

Sellers:

An adjustable spanner?

Seagoon:

No.

Sellers:

A sink pump?

Seagoon:

No.

Sellers:

Diana Dors?

Seagoon:

No! No, no.

Sellers:

A telephone?

Seagoon:

That was it! A telephone!

FX:

[Telephone rings]

Seagoon:

Hello?

Bloodnok:

[On phone] Bloodnok here.

Seagoon:

Bloodnok!

Bloodnok:

[On phone] Shush! Don't raise your voice, it might be seen. I say, Seagoon... Something terrible has happened, I've been robbed of twenty thousand gallons of gin!

Seagoon:

Where was it?

Bloodnok:

[On phone] In the Burami Oasis!

Seagoon:

What?

Bloodnok:

[On phone] Yes! Years ago I drained all the water out and filled it up with gin, on account of the shortage, you know.

Seagoon:

Thank you.

FX:

[Phone being slammed down]

Seagoon:

Hah hah hah! Gin? They'll never win the football match now! Hahahaha! Colonel Thynne! We're coming to get that water! Drink it if you dare. Men, forward!

Gryttype:

All right, drink.

FX:

[Bubbles (supposedly drinking sounds)]

Seagoon:

Yes dear listeners, without knowing it, the fools were drinking twenty thousand gallons of neat gin.

FX:

[Crowd noises]

Seagoon:

[Over] Ha ha ha! Now for the football match.

FX:

[Crowd noises]

Seagoon:

Sure enough that evening, the Arab football team staggered onto the field, in no condition to play. Ha! The result of the match was a forgone conclusion.

Greenslade:

British garrison, twelve; drunken Arabs, sixty-eight. Which, erm, just goes to prove, that gin is a dashed good drink. Goodnight.

Orchestra:

[Closing theme]

Greenslade:

[Over] That was the Goon Show, a BBC recorded program featuring Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe Spike Milligan, with the Ray Ellington Quartet, and Max Geldray. The orchestra was conducted by Wally Stott. Script by Spike Milligan, and Larry Stevens. Announcer Wallace Greenslade. The program produced by Peter Eton.

Orchestra:

[End theme]