

**FAMOUS AND FORGOTTEN by ANDREW COLLEY**  
**the True story of Dick Kerr's Ladies**  
**with MUSIC by FIONA ROSS**

**List of Characters**

DICK KERR, Factory Manager

BETH HARRIS  
EDITH LANCASTER  
MOLLY WILSON  
CARMEN POMMIER  
MARY KELL  
LILY PARR  
GRACE HOLMES  
ALICE STANLEY

JIM HARRIS, husband of Beth

THE GENTLEMEN OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
DOCTORS

ANNOUNCER  
REPORTERS  
PHOTOGRAPHER

MILLE MILLIAT  
ENGLISH SUPPORTER  
FRENCH SUPPORTER

DON BAILEY

AMERICAN COMMENTATOR

CHEER LEADERS

EXTRAS; FRENCH FEMALE FOOTBALLERS, THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THE DICK KERR TEAM, U.S. MALE FOOTBALLERS

All these are optional. They can be imagined

A Note on casting: The size of the cast can be reduced if the actors playing the Gentlemen of the Football League also take all other parts, except those of Dick Kerr's Ladies, Dick Kerr, and Don Bailey. Similarly, the Roubaix Ladies team and the Washington Kickers can either be suggested or actually seen on stage.

**Music book and CD also available as part of the package.**

**ABOUT THE PLAY**

The play is a true story. The author's intention is to give credit to an extraordinary event, one that few people have heard of, the incredible story of a group of women factory workers who form an unbeaten football team. In six years of playing, they never lost and vast crowds turned out to watch the matches. With the men away at war, other women working at their menfolk's jobs in other factories also formed football teams. Every weekend the 'beautiful game' was carried on by women, supported by

thousands. They were even invited to America to play a team of men - and they beat them too! Then they came back to England and were banned from ever playing again. Football was not a suitable sport for the tender sex. It was unseemly and might cause serious injury or even prevent them being able to have children. In any case, now the men were back, they were no longer needed, either in the factories or on the sports grounds. Within a few years, it was as if they had never been.

The play is lively and gives good even parts for all the group of women players. It is more a play with music than a musical. The songs are fewer perhaps than in an average musical, but they are good ones.

Though set in the First World War, the emphasis is never on what is happening at the front. The focus is always solely on the women and their deserved rise to temporary fame.

## **CHARACTERS**

All of the girls, Dick Kerr and Jim at the front, should have strong Lancashire accents.

**DICK KERR** - is the factory manager who ends up managing the most successful football team of the war years. He is a nice man from the start, a fair boss who gives credit due to all who deserve it. He becomes very close to his feisty female workers. At first, he didn't believe women could manage the heavy work of the factory, but he quickly changes his mind - even in this area, the women beat the men! He ends by being their staunch admirer and friend.

**BETH HARRIS** married to Jim at the front. She misses him dearly and is the main reminder of where the men are. She is a steady reliable person, very calm, perhaps older than many of the others.

**EDITH LANCASTER** quite strongly feminist. Like Beth she appears a little older and more sensible than some.

**MOLLY WILSON** wide-eyed and optimistic, one of the young ones, living with her large supportive family.

**CARMEN POMMIER** - a jolly, fun-loving girl, taller than the rest. She's a bit 'laddie' in type. She is the goal-keeper.

**MARY KELL** is very young and very mouthy. She speaks before she thinks, often aggressively. At home, she is ruled by her Dad's disapproval - just a hint that he perhaps hits her. She's certainly a tough youngster.

**LILY PARR** - rather timid, shy, can be a bag of nerves but with encouragement a good player. She's a very fast runner and plays right wing.

**GRACE HOLMES** - helpful and kind, a bit quieter than some, thoughtful. She's the one who thinks of raising money for the wounded soldiers.

**ALICE STANLEY** is the instigator of the team. She has solo songs, so needs to be a decent singer. She played football with her brothers as a kid and was, in her words, better than them. She is not boastful, however, just honest. It is her certainty that they can succeed that is the backbone for the others. She is also, of course, their star player.

You will notice there are only eight women mentioned in the team. If you have sufficient people from which to draw, you could add three unspeaking parts to be part of the female chorus, to take part in the factory work and in the games.

**JIM HARRIS** - Beth's husband, who we see at the front. He is mainly used as a narrator, reading from Beth's letters to him about the exploits of the team.

DON BAILEY -is the American who, having served the war from a base in England and followed the Dick Kerr Ladies from game to game, invites them to play his men in the U.S. - where his job is really as a football team manager.

MLLE MILLIAT - is the French woman who has organised a woman's team in France, which she brings over to play against the Ladies.

All other parts are self-explanatory and taken by the men who make up the chorus of the Gentlemen of the Football League. The exception is the Cheer-leaders, who could be just a separate cameo, or could double with the extra three unspeaking team members, if used.

## EXTRACT ONE

***Preston, England 1916. A bare stage except for a desk which is covered with papers and a name plate 'Mr Kerr.'***

***Music, Dick Kerr enters slowly and sits at his desk with his head in his hands. As the music fades, the house lights dim, leaving very low light on Mr Kerr and the stage.***

***Enter a man - Jim Harris - in army uniform, but no hat. He walks around the bare factory. Shakes his head. He addresses the audience:***

JIM                Dick Kerr's Engineering Works. Finest factory in the North of England. Machine parts, tools, body work. Real craftsmanship, and a decent wage too. [***He pauses and looks at Dick Kerr.***] Mr Kerr - the best boss a man can have. Hard but fair. If you've got a problem he'll listen, but if production's down you'll get the sharp end of his tongue. Ten years I've worked here. Ten happy years. One hundred and fifty men worked these machines. Teamwork it were. They were fine lads. Mates. Now look at it - empty. Every single one of the men has turned in his overalls and gone to the Front. I must be one of the last to go. There's some not coming back. Another two in the paper today. Still, they say it'll all be over soon. They said that last year. And the year before that. Poor Mr Kerr ... the Government's taken his place over - 'requisitioned for the war effort' they call it. Turning it into a munitions factory - you know - shells, bombs, cartridges and the like. Don't know who they're going to get to work here - there's no men left in the town. I've heard talk they're going to take on the women. I can't see it myself - the thought of my Beth working these machines - standing here covered in oil and muck like us lads used to be - it doesn't seem right ...

***Music as Jim goes over to Mr Kerr and shakes his hand. Receives a brown envelope - his pay packet. He is met by his wife - Beth. She's carrying his kit bag and hat. They walk off, arm in arm. Bugle or reveille.***

***Dick Kerr stands up. He is holding a piece of paper.***

KERR                Women! They want me to make three hundred cartridge cases a day and they send me women! I can't understand it. Surely there must be some men left in this town that can use these machines? It's not that I don't want women working. I don't even care if they get the vote if that's what they really want, but these are heavy machines - dirty - I can't see that they'll be up to it. It's just not right. They've sent me a list already! The first ones are arriving today.

***He reads the names and the women enter, in working clothes under coats and hats. They begin to get ready for work, sitting or standing around the stage, taking off their coats and hats.***

KERR Edith Lancaster ... Molly Wilson ... Carmen Pommier ... Beth Harris  
...? [*He pauses briefly.*] ... Mary Kerr ... Lily Parr ... Grace Holmes ...

**As the music fades, the lights fade on Kerr and come up on the women.**

EDITH I couldn't believe it when I saw the notice in the Town Hall ...  
MOLLY ... 'Ladies, your country needs you,' it said ...  
CARMEN ... so I signed up ...  
BETH ... well, with Jim off at the war now, there's nowt to do ...  
MARY ... my Dad got in a right state ...  
LILY ... don't like the look of some of these machines ...  
CARMEN ... I reckon it's going to be a real laugh ...  
GRACE ... they say he can be really nasty, that Mr Kerr ...  
MOLLY ... I've always wanted a job ...  
MARY ... 'I don't like it!' he said, 'it's not right!' ...  
EDITH ... my old mum would be dead proud of me ...  
LILY ... I hope they show us how to use them properly ...  
CARMEN ... I'm going to save up and send one of those food parcels to our Frank ...  
BETH ... My Jim's been gone two weeks now. I write to him nearly every  
day. Haven't heard a word ...  
GRACE ... You will, love, just wait a while ...  
MARY ... 'Women at work! Whatever next?' he said. 'You should be at home  
where you belong.' ...  
CARMEN ... and I'm going to go down the pub after, just like the lads do ...  
EDITH ... I reckon women have got just as much right to a job as the men ...  
MOLLY ... if they won't let us fight, we might as well make the bloody bombs...  
LILY ... hey, that's swearing, that ...  
MOLLY ... so what, the men do it, so why can't we? ...  
CARMEN ... I might even have some money left over for myself ...  
MARY ... I hate my dad sometimes ...  
GRACE ... my grandpa's jealous. He says he'd be down here if they'd let him ...  
BETH ... I wonder what my Jim'll think. Last letter, I told him all about it ...  
MOLLY ... When do we start?

**Siren. Mr Kerr comes in.**

KERR Now listen to me all of you, er ... Ladies ... when you hear that  
sound, it means it's time for work. All right?  
MARY Well how were we supposed to know?! And who are you anyway?  
EDITH Ssh, Mary! He runs the place.  
KERR No, sorry, you're right ... I should've ... I'm Mr Kerr ... and I'm the  
manager. [*He fumbles in his pocket and takes out a crumpled  
piece of paper - his speech. He clears his throat.*] Welcome to Dick  
Kerr's Engineer..er... I mean, Dick Kerr's Munitions Factory,  
ladi ... I mean ... girls ... er ... you'll be working from six in the  
morning to four in the afternoon with twenty-five minutes for lunch ... the  
... er ... toilets ... er, for ... for ... women ... such as they are ...  
are outside the back door and across the yard ... er ... that's all. [*He  
begins to leave quickly.*]  
MOLLY Aren't you going to tell us which machines we're on ...  
CARMEN And show us how to work them?...

EXTRACT TWO

**There is a knock on the door. Alice Stanley walks through the factory to Mr Kerr's desk. She is holding some papers - her references.**

ALICE Mr Kerr?  
 KERR Yes?  
 ALICE I've come about the job. In the factory.  
 KERR I think we've got everyone we need, love. And more!  
 ALICE I've got good references, Mr Kerr.  
 KERR Ah well, seeing as you're here, I'd best take a look. [**He takes her papers and reads through them.**] Not bad. Not bad at all ...  
 very good ... What's this? You like playing football? You mean, you like  
 watching your young man on a Saturday. Now I could tell you a thing  
 or two about football. Used to play myself ... got a lot of contacts in the  
 game ... centre half, I was ...  
 ALICE No, no! I like playing. I play football.  
 KERR You play football?  
 ALICE All the time. Well, I used to ... before the war, with my brothers and their  
 mates and that.  
 KERR Don't your skirts get in the way?  
 ALICE I'm sorry?  
 KERR Oh, er, nothing ... just a joke ... I'm sorry ... seriously though, you  
 shouldn't be doing that sort of thing, love. You'll do yourself some  
 damage.  
 ALICE But I enjoy it, sir.  
 KERR Yes, well, that's your business. You do what you like in your spare  
 time.  
 ALICE I'm good, sir.  
 KERR I'm sure you are, but playing football won't help you make three  
 hundred shell cases a day, will it now? Still, I suppose if you play  
 football you must be fit. And you'll need to be. Turns out these girls are good  
 workers. I didn't think they had it in them, I must say. [**He pauses and looks through her papers again.**] All right. I'll give  
 you a chance. Come on, I'll introduce you to the girls. They're on  
 their break.

**He takes her into the factory.**

KERR Now, listen to me, girls. This is Alice. Alice Stanley. She's going to  
 be working with you. Oh, and you might be interested to know  
 ... she's a footballer!

**Kerr exits.**

BETH You play football?  
 ALICE Yeah.  
 EDITH What - for a team?  
 ALICE No. There's no teams. Just for fun. You know, with me brothers and their  
 mates.  
 GRACE I've seen you! I've seen you play! Out on the park behind the mill. You're  
 good, you are ...  
 ALICE I'm better than the boys - well, most of them anyway.  
 MARY Better than the men!  
 LILY It must be great ...  
 CARMEN I reckon I'd be a good goalie, me...  
 ALICE Why not? You're tall enough...

EXTRACT THREE

KERR Right, girls, this is it. First game. First of many, I hope. I've had a word with Mr Frankland at the Foundry and it turns out they've got a pretty useful team. Tough girls. They've been training just like you, and they've had a few practice matches, so it's not going to be easy. Couple of those girls really know how to play. Carmen, keep your eye on the ball, and Mary - I don't want any of those high tackles, right?

MARY Well, the men do it, so why can't I?

KERR Just concentrate on getting the ball up front to Alice and Lily. They'll do the rest.

ALICE And not too high - keep it to the feet.

KERR Beth, you've got a good boot on you - if you get the ball just give it a whack.

BETH I'll do my best Mr Kerr.

EDITH We all will, Mr Kerr.

KERR Right. All got your boots on? Any questions now?

BETH Is there anyone coming to see us, Mr Kerr?

KERR I don't know, love. Everyone in the factory knows about it but you know most people like to get straight home. I expect there'll be five - or ten.

CARMEN My next door neighbours are all coming along.

EDITH And my little niece. She's dead proud.

MARY My dad's not coming. He won't have me mention it in the house. Thinks I've gone soft in the head.

CARMEN And there's a couple of lads from the pub, home on leave - they're coming.

MOLLY My whole family's turning out. I'm dead nervous.

EDITH What about you, Lily love?

LILY Just a couple of me friends maybe. For a laugh, like.

BETH I reckon there's going to be more like twenty or thirty!

MOLLY Should make them pay! Might make a bob or two. Spend it in the pub after!

CARMEN Nay, Molly! Don't be daft. Who's going to pay to see us play?

GRACE Yes, but we could make a collection. We could give the money to Moor Park Hospital. Help them look after the wounded soldiers.

EDITH That's a grand idea, Grace. Some of them poor soldiers need all the help they can get.

MOLLY What do you think, Mr Kerr? Can we do it?

KERR I've got no objection, Molly, if that's what you want to do. We could send some of the other girls around with a hat. But people are hard pressed, mind. I can't see us getting more than a bob or two. Still. Can't do any harm. Now, come on, it's time for kick off. Just go out there and show 'em what you can do ... oh! And enjoy yourselves!

***The girls run off. Kerr is left alone.***

KERR Girls playing football! That's something I never thought I'd see in my lifetime. But they're good lasses. Some of the best. I never thought I'd care, but you know, by heck - I hope they bloody win!

***Blackout. Lights up on Carmen. Knees muddy, carrying a hat full of money.***

CARMEN Grand! That were grand! That were ... the best ninety minutes of my life. Honestly. We won. Four - nil. We won! Every single one of the girls was fantastic. Mr Kerr said I did brilliant in goal and as for Lily and Alice up front ... I don't think I've seen men play as well as that. But the best thing of all was the crowd! There must have been one hundred and fifty people! There weren't hardly room to play. Mr Kerr had to get a

loudspeaker and get them all to move back! They shouted and  
cheered and when the game was over - well! I've never  
heard such applause - and cheering. Some of the other girls went  
round with hats to collect money. You know how much they got?  
Twenty-five pounds, thirteen shillings and sixpence! Me and the girls  
are going to take it up the hospital in the morning. Mr Kerr's  
going to write to all the factory owners in Preston. Try to get their  
girls to make up teams too. He says if he has his way we'll be playing  
twice a week!...

#### EXTRACT FOUR

***The girls come on. They're dirty and bloodied. Some are limping, and they're carrying Lily who is in pain. Mr Kerr follows them on.***

KERR Another great game, girls! They're not getting any easier, mind  
you. Those lasses from the brewery are no pushover. I thought  
we were lucky to finish three - one up. Thought you looked a bit off  
form today, Carmen. That was a soft goal you let in.

CARMEN Give over, Mr Kerr. You should try diving on that ground week after week.  
And I'm fed up with clattering into those oil drums. Why can't we have  
proper goal posts?

KERR I didn't say it was easy, Carmen...

MARY My knees are black and blue.

KERR Ah, well, perhaps you should go easy on those tackles, love.

EDITH That's nothing to do with it, Mr Kerr. There's bloody great stones in the  
ground, and bits of old metal. Dangerous it is.

ALICE I went right down a pothole. Twisted my ankle really bad.

GRACE And it's not just the state of the ground, Mr Kerr. Did you see what  
happened to Lily?

BETH She ran right into the spectators. They were spilling all over the  
pitch. Nearly trampled her, poor thing.

KERR Yes, well she'll get over it. There's nothing to worry about.

MARY That's not good enough, Mr Kerr. We can't go on like this, week in, week  
out. It's not a proper football pitch and it never will be.

MOLLY We want to play on a proper pitch...

ALICE ...with goal posts and corner flags ... and somewhere decent to change ...

CARMEN ... and proper lines to mark out the penalty area...

GRACE ... and somewhere for the spectators to sit...

EDITH ... a pitch we can play properly on ... with grass instead of stones ...

ALICE ... we're a bloody good team, Mr Kerr, we deserve a good pitch.

KERR What is this? A strike or something? I thought you were enjoying  
yourselves. Having a bit of fun.

BETH We are, Mr Kerr. But the thing is, you see, it's got bigger than that  
now, much bigger. It's got - out of hand, if you like. There's teams all over  
Lancashire now. Everyone in Preston knows about Dick  
Kerr's Ladies. Everyone in Lancashire nearly. People want to  
know. It's giving them summat to talk about which isn't the war  
and rationing and who's got a flippin' telegram saying their  
son's not coming home. Mr Kerr, last week a reporter from the Daily  
Herald came to watch us. He'd heard about us. God knows from where.  
But the thing is, Mr Kerr, he only stayed ten minutes. He  
couldn't get through the crowd. And even if he could have done -  
what would he have seen? Twenty-two girls falling down potholes and  
spraining their ankles on bits of old machinery. We're a good team, Mr  
Kerr, and if we could get a decent pitch, I tell you we'd be more famous  
than Blackburn Rovers.





MOLLY Or happier...

EXTRACT SIX

BAILEY Let me introduce myself. The name's Donald - Donald Bailey - but I want you Ladies to call me Don. That's the way we do things in America.

MOLLY You're American? What are you doing still here? I thought you'd all gone home.

BAILEY Well, yeah, that's true - but I thought I'd stay over a while in your beautiful country and anyways, I've been enjoying myself so much watching you Ladies every week, that I just couldn't seem to drag myself away.

ALICE You've watched every game?

BAILEY That's right... from Preston, to Manchester, to Blackburn, to Liverpool. I've been there, rain or shine. I'm your number one fan.

MOLLY Well, you'll have to find some other team to support now.

BAILEY Yeah, I heard about that spot of bother you had from those men at the top, so to speak. You don't want to worry about them. They're a hundred years behind the times. All that's purely sex prejudice. I want to make a suggestion...

MARY I don't think we want to hear it. We've had enough of listening to men deciding things for us.

GRACE Ssh. Give him a chance, Mary.

BAILEY I understand your sentiments, ma'am, but why don't you all just listen for a minute. Now, like I said, I've been watching you and I can tell you - you're good - very good.

ALICE The best.

BAILEY Well, we'll see about that. Now, I'm from Washington D.C. in America. You may not have heard of that, but I can assure you that it's a big place.

LILY Bigger than Preston?

BAILEY That's right, Lily, bigger than Preston. Now, I happen to be a little bit like your own Mr Kerr.

CARMEN You run a factory?

BAILEY No. I run a football team - the best in Washington, actually.

CARMEN What are they called then?

BAILEY The Washington Kickers.

MARY Never heard of them.

BAILEY Well, no, but I can assure you that they are very famous, and very good too.

EDITH What are you telling us all this for?

BAILEY Well, I've been thinking. You see, the Washington Kickers need a challenge. They're becoming a bit ... complacent. You see, like you, they've won every game they've played. I'd like them to play you.

BETH You mean - the Washington Kickers are coming here?

KERR I think you've made a mistake, Mr Bailey. You see, we're not allowed to play anymore. They say football's not a suitable game for women in this country. There's nowhere to play.

BAILEY I know. But you see, in America we do things differently. Why, a team like yours in America would be ... front page news. You'd be on the wireless...

GRACE I don't understand what you're saying.

BAILEY Mr Kerr... ladies ... I'll come straight to the point. I want you to come to Washington D.C. in two weeks' time, to play a game against the Washington Kickers in the Lincoln Stadium, Washington, in front of one hundred thousand spectators.

***Silence. Then Edith stands up.***

EDITH Mr Bailey ... I think there's a few things you ought to know about Dick Kerr's Ladies. We played football - yes. We were good - maybe the best - who knows. In that respect we were just like the men - better even. But, Mr Bailey - we haven't been paid a penny for any of it. All the money people have paid to see us play - it's all either gone straight to charity or to the Football League. Now it's all over. The war's over. Soon this factory will go back to producing machine parts like it always did. We'll all be released from the factory and the jobs will go back to the men. None of us have a job to go to...

BETH We've got people to look after ... people who depend on us now.  
My Jim needs me here.

EDITH That's right. We've just got to go back home, take our memories with us, and get back to our ordinary lives. Mr Bailey, if we saved our pennies for a thousand years, we could never afford to go to America. That's not for the likes of us. Now I thank you for thinking of us. Thank you for being our biggest fan. Now, if you'll excuse us, we have our lives to be getting on with.

***The girls get up to go.***

BAILEY Wait - Edith, Alice, all of you. Just hear me out. [***He takes a bundle of papers out of his pocket.***] I don't think you understand. You see, the Mayor of Washington is a generous man, and he supports people with initiative like yourselves. He has agreed to pay, in full, all of your passages on the *SS Montclere*, leaving Liverpool a week Thursday. Beth, you can bring Jim with you. Why, the sea air will do him a power of good! You'll all be put up in one of our fine hotels for the duration of your stay and, Ladies, you will want for nothing while you're in our country. These are your tickets. All you have to do is pack your bags.

***Complete silence.***

ALICE We're not going without Mr Kerr.  
BAILEY Why, of course not. This is his ticket.

***Pause. Then an eruption of cheers. They rush forward, kiss Mr Bailey, then rush off. The last thing we hear from them:***

MARY My dad'll kill me!  
LILY Just let him try!

***Bailey and Kerr are left onstage. There is a pause as they watch the girls go.***

BAILEY Do you know, sir, I can't remember if I told them something important.  
KERR What do you mean, Don?  
BAILEY The Washington Kickers - they're men...

EXTRACT SEVEN

***During the next bit of commentary we see Alice, Edith and Lily as the Commentator mentions them. They play out the moves which lead to the penalty.***

COMMENTATOR Alice Stanley straight back to Edith Lancaster, the captain ... surely there's no time for another attack ... but no, Miss Lancaster kicks it way up field where it's collected on the turn by Lily Parr - what a player she is! Miss Parr slips it to Alice Stanley ... back to Miss

penalty area...  
the ground!

Parr. Parr through to Stanley again ... she's inside the  
she's got two men to beat ... she's over! She's on  
Incredible!

**Lights up on the stage as we see and hear all the women facing front and appealing to the unseen referee over the commentary. Dick Kerr rushes on to join them.**

COMMENTATOR The players from England are appealing to the referee ... I can't believe it! It's a penalty kick! A penalty kick to Dick Kerr's Ladies with just seconds remaining!

**The lights fade slightly and the crowd sounds cease as the girls go into a huddle.**

COMMENTATOR The crowd is quiet. Who's going to take the penalty? Who is going to have the last kick of the game for Dick Kerr's Ladies?

**Alice Stanley emerges from the huddle of players with a real ball and walks forward into a brighter spotlight.**

COMMENTATOR It's Alice Stanley! Who else?

**Drum roll begins. The Commentator describes what we see Alice doing as she prepares to take the penalty. Behind her and to one side, the rest of the women and Dick Kerr are watching in semi-darkness.**

COMMENTATOR She wipes the ball on her shirt. She places it very carefully on the penalty spot... the rest of the team look on. This to level the scores ... this to get even...

**Quick cross-fade from Alice to the rest of the women and Dick Kerr in a tight huddle, clinging to each other for support. We hear their thoughts.**

KERR Now remember what I told you, Alice love...  
MOLLY Five years unbeaten.  
KERR ...Keep your eye on the ball...  
LILY I never thought I had it in me.  
KERR ... Pick your spot ...  
GRACE I'll not forget any of them.  
KERR ... Strike it cleanly...  
CARMEN These are the best mates I've ever had.  
KERR ... and don't be distracted by the goalie...  
MARY When I get home, I'm moving out. I can't go back to him.  
KERR ...You've got the skill, Alice.  
EDITH We were given a football signed by President Harding.  
KERR ... put one past him...  
BETH Jim wants to start a family. I told him - I'll have eleven of them!  
KERR ... I can't watch! [**He turns away.**]  
COMMENTATOR She begins her run up now...

**There is a blackout. A few seconds of silence. The spotlight comes up on Alice. She is holding the ball. She speaks to the audience.**

ALICE Did we do it? Did we draw with the best team of men footballers in the United States? [**Pause.**] Of course we did! Me, Carmen, Lily, Beth,

MARY Edith, Molly, Mary, Grace - we were the best. We lost to no one!  
ALICE ... not even the men!  
MOLLY And then we went home...  
GRACE ... back to Preston.  
BETH ... To our lives...  
LILY ... our families ...  
ALICE ... our problems ...  
CARMEN And nobody mentioned women's football again.  
EDITH There was nowhere for us to play any more.  
ALICE It was banned for fifty years.  
ALICE But that's men for you! They want all the glory. [***The girls are standing closely together. They are smiling.***] That was the true story of Dick Kerr's Ladies - the champions of the world!