

GREAT IDEAS OF WAR

3 x 60' Factual Series



Out of the Blood, Sweat and Tears of War come Great Ideas as this series shows...

War may cause sorrow, death and destruction – but every one of us benefits from what it brings to our daily lives.

In-car Sat Navs, I-pods, cosmetic surgery – even **baked bean tins** – all owe their existence to governments spending billions on technologies originally designed to win wars.

This three part social history series presented by **Evan Davis** from Dragons' Den uses archive film and interview to tell the story of how and why certain gadgets and skills were developed for war – and how they became part of all our lives in peacetime.

Format

In *Programme One* we'll look at pre WWI and see how:

- A sweet maker in the Napoleonic Wars inspired Henry Heinz's world famous tinned **baked beans** in 1895 with the idea of preserving food inside vacuum sealed glass jars to prevent Napoleon's troops' food rations from rotting, 86 years earlier
- Florence Nightingale's battle with the lack of sanitation in military hospitals in the Crimean War caused her to spearhead the clean up of hospitals in Britain on her return and set up the **first training school for nurses** and paved the way for better improved conditions in hospitals today
- The French Government gave Louis Pasteur lots of money during the Prussian Wars to further his research on germs and pasteurisation so that today we can enjoy **milk, beer and wine**

In *Programme Two*, we'll look at the two World Wars and learn how:

- Radio frequency devices to crash German boats into the Allies' in WWI and to detonate bombs in WWII inspired Scientists 60 years later to use this technology to create today's modern day weapons of mass destruction, the **TV Remote**
- Shortages of fuel during WWI led to a post war electricity boom for the first time in Britain, resulting in the first ever **electricity driven washing machines and toasters**

- A military radar system omitting microwaves in the 1940's led a Scientist to discover that they could also be used to heat food when he found they had melted a chocolate bar in his pocket, resulting in the birth of the **Microwave Oven**.
- The American Government injected \$80 million into mass-producing **Penicillin** when they joined WWII as it wasn't just bullets and bombs that were taking soldiers' lives, it was diseases and infections and the increased accessibility to this antibiotic helped save more lives, which is good for us, as it became available to the public afterwards
- World War II Propaganda encouraging citizens to dig for Victory gave rise to the phenomenon of **modern day diets** and eating healthily
- Mosquitoes and the need to protect soldiers in World War II from their fatal bites forced the US Government to invent the aerosol can, and give us **hairsprays and deodorants**
- **The Biro** was invented because the British Royal Airforce needed a new type of pen that wouldn't leak at higher altitudes in fighter planes like the Fountain Pen did
- The chocolate **M&M's** were discovered when Forrest Mars Senior saw soldiers eating pieces of chocolate covered with a hard sugary coating to stop them melting in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War

And in *Programme Three*, we'll end the series by looking at Modern Wars and the good things to come out of them including:

- The first ever **Digital Computers** which came out of the US Military's need to integrate more sophisticated computers into its defence strategy after a realisation that the computers used in WWII had problems calculating the trajectory of aircraft weaponry because of the many variables involved
- Entertainment gadgets such as the **Ipod and the Gameboy**, which owe their existence to the micro-electronics revolution of the Cold War from 1949 to 1956 and the silicon chips which miniaturized the large, cumbersome computers, making them faster, smaller and able to store more information
- **In car Sat Navs** which use technology that was first used in the US Military Communications Satellite (SCORE) to compete with the Soviet Union's Sputnik I launched in 1957 and to keep America ahead in the Cold War
- **The Internet**, which was developed from a smaller computer network commissioned by the US Military in the 1960's to track and control missiles and bombs after a nuclear attack.



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