

We began in anger but you've gotta laugh. Initially I was aghast at several shocked officers' books about our epic failures in Iraq and Afghanistan and I wrote a story and lyrics for a biting satire that would skewer our politicians' and generals' monumental incompetence and duplicity. We called that Crack On.

But time, and some guidance from helpful producers, and lessons learned in a GSA workshop with West-End MD Benjamin Holder made us see more and more how funny the show could be. All those dim and pompous generals! Those starry-eyed politicians! Those ludicrously inadequate bits of kit that our poor soldiers depend on! That failing yet boastful army of ours!

So what began as a new *Oh What a Lovely War* now has more than a dash of *The Book of Mormon* splashed into it and Crack On has become Private Joe.