

= George (Blackadder) =

George was a supporting character who appeared in various adaptations of the BBC sitcom Blackadder , played by Hugh Laurie . Each series saw a different incarnation of the character , because each was set in a different period of history . He was most prominently featured in the third and fourth series , shouting almost all of his lines throughout both . The character was added to the series as a replacement for the Lord Percy Percy character , who did not appear in the third instalment because Tim McInnerny , the actor playing him , feared being typecast .

The first incarnation of the character was a caricature of George , Prince of Wales , serving as the main antagonist of the third series . The second , Lt. The Hon. George Colthurst St Barleigh , was a young officer in the British Army during World War I , a supporting protagonist in the fourth series . Both portrayals were of " dim @-@ witted upper @-@ class twits " , who depended greatly on Edmund Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson) . The character garnered positive responses from critics .

= = Personality = =

Both Prince George and Lt. George are portrayed as dim @-@ witted " upper class twits " . The son of King George III , Prince George is represented as a childish , spoiled , bumbling foppish fool who spends money extravagantly (especially on impressive trousers and socks) . Lieutenant George , stationed in the trenches of World War I , retains his enthusiastic naiveté , despite being stuck in the trenches for 3 years , revealing a lack of awareness of the seriousness of his circumstances ; Robert Bianco of USA Today stated the character " smiles through in the face of certain death " .

Both men are portrayed as very incompetent , in " Nob and Nobility " , it takes Prince George a week to put on a pair of trousers by himself , eventually putting them on his head . George relies heavily on Blackadder in the third (Mr. E. Blackadder) series , even while Blackadder despises George for his immense wealth and complete inability to rectify problems in his life . While George is considered " moronic " and " idiotic " , he is helpful , loyal , and is aware he is not very intelligent , describing himself as " thick as a whale omelette " . In a 2008 retrospective , co @-@ star Stephen Fry said George 's keenness for self @-@ improvement was one of the things he felt made the character likeable . In " Duel and Duality , " the final episode of the third series , after a sexual encounter with the Duke of Wellington 's nieces , this princely incarnation of George is struck by a point @-@ blank shot from the vengeful Wellington 's pistol and killed . George briefly awakes , believing that he may have a cigarillo case on him that deflected the blow , but when he realises that he must have left the case at home , promptly falls dead again in Baldrick 's arms .

George 's incarnation as Lieutenant The Honourable George Colthurst St. Barleigh MC , in Blackadder Goes Forth , is a frontline officer ? strongly reminiscent in both manner and personality of Bertie Wooster (as whom Laurie would later go on to appear) ? who joined the army on the first day of World War I , along with nine other students at Cambridge University . The ten men named themselves the Trinity College tiddlywinks , or the " Trinity Tiddlers " . It is revealed later , in the fourth series ' finale , that George is the only surviving member of the group . Although he lacks any kind of skill , competence , or authority as an officer , his upper @-@ class status and educational background meant he went straight into the commissioned ranks upon enlisting . George is shown to have a special friendship with General Melchett (Fry) , an old family friend with whom he shares his public school " tally @-@ ho " attitude towards the war . Melchett even offers George a way out of the trenches for the " final push " , which he refuses , much to Blackadder 's incredulity . Although George is shown to have benefited from his background of privilege he still remains a generally kind and hopeful individual , and shortly before the big push at the end of the final episode George finally expresses some genuine fear and sadness that he may indeed die .

In the 1989 sketch Shakespeare Sketch Laurie portrays a very George @-@ like William Shakespeare . Lord Blackadder is his agent and manages to persuade him to condense his new play Hamlet .

= = Development = =

Tim McInnerny, who had starred in *The Black Adder* and *Blackadder II* as Lord Percy Percy, was afraid to be typecast in comedic roles and decided not to appear in the third instalment of *Blackadder*, though he did appear in the episode "Nob and Nobility", as Lord Topper, a snobby aristocrat who claims to be *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and returned in the fourth series playing Captain Kevin Darling. The Prince George character was created as a new "incompetent sidekick" for the title character. He was modelled after George IV of the United Kingdom, who served as Prince Regent between 1811 and 1820. Laurie had previously guest starred in the final two episodes of *Blackadder II*, and the producers decided to cast him in the role of Prince George. Laurie's physical appearance differed significantly from George IV's appearance, who was obese during the time of his regency. Writers Ben Elton and Richard Curtis were unfazed by this, referring to George as "a fat, flatulent git", an appropriate description for the real Prince rather than Laurie.

Laurie was supposed to wear a monocle as Lt. George, the character's second incarnation, but eventually decided against it after it kept falling out of his eye. Laurie reprised the role of Prince George in the Christmas special *Blackadder's Christmas Carol*, and portrayed a new character, Lord Pigmot, set in the distant future. He also appeared in the millennium special *Blackadder: Back & Forth*, playing the Roman Consul Georgius and the modern day Major George Bufton @-@ Tufton, The Viscount Bufton @-@ Tufton. Although no new series or specials were made, the creators of the series have commented on various proposals over the years; one possibility was a film in which the main characters return as a 1960s' rock band, with George playing the guitar and keyboard. Curtis later said Laurie's international success with *House* would make a new instalment difficult.

== Reception ==

George, as well as Laurie, drew positive responses from critics. Tara Ariano and Sarah Bunting of *Television Without Pity* considered Laurie one of the best actors in the series' cast. Richard Barber of *People* lauded Laurie's performance as George as "hilarious" and "brilliant". David Smith of the *Guardian* highlighted the pathos of the performance, writing that Laurie's performance as Lt. George, as he was about to go over the top to his death, "elicited tears of both laughter and grief".