

## Music From WWII

The first war song from WWII was based upon the exploits of Navy Captain William A. Maguire, a navy chaplain stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was on the dock when the bombs began to fall, but made his way on board his ship, where he found himself on the stern, near a gun mount. When the gunner and his pointer were both killed while manning the anti-aircraft gun, other men took their places and others formed a line from the ammunition hold beneath the gun, and passed up ammunition for the duration of the battle.

Frank Loesser, a well-known Hollywood composer, wrote the words and music. It became an instant hit in a nation still reeling from being plunged into World War II by the sneak attack of Japan.

*Down went the gunner, and then the gunner's mate  
Up jumped the sky pilot, gave the boys a look  
And manned the gun himself as he laid aside The Book, shouting  
"Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition! Praise the Lord, and pass the  
ammunition!  
Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition and we'll all stay free!"*

A novelty song written for one of Walt Disney's propaganda films originally named *Donald Duck in Nutzi Land* also became an instant hit in America. By popular usage, the title became "*Der Fuehrer's Face*"

Sung with a corny German band accompaniment, *Der Fuehrer's Face* gave Americans a wonderful chance to give the razzberry to Hitler, Goebbels, Goering & Co. Every mock "Heil!" in the song is followed by a beautiful, boisterous and not entirely sanitary Bronx cheer. [Stick your tongue out through tightly closed lips and blow hard to get this result.] The musical insult to the Nazis begins:

*Ven der Fuehrer says, "Ve iss der Master Race,"  
Ve Heil! Heil! Right in der Fuehrer's face.  
Not to luff der Fuehrer iss a great disgrace,  
So we Heil! Heil! Right in der Fuehrer's face.  
Ven Herr Goebbels says "Ve own the world und space,"  
Ve Heil! Heil! Right in Herr Goebbels' face.  
Ven Herr Goering says, "Day'll never bomb dis place,"  
Ve Heil! Heil! Right in Herr Goering's face.*

In October, 1942, a New York disk jockey offered his listeners a free recording of *Der Fuehrer's Face* for every war bond they purchased of \$50.00 or more. In one evening, he sold over \$30,000 worth of bonds.