



MUSIC OF WWII

RED, WHITE & BLUE STANDARDS

1. Sentimental Journey – *Doris Day (With Les Brown)*
2. Stardust – *Glenn Miller & The Army Air Force Training Command Orchestra*
3. What Do You Do In The Infantry? – *Bing Crosby; Chorus & Orchestra Conducted By John Scott Trotter*
4. Begin The Beguine – *Artie Shaw & His Orchestra*
5. You'll Never Know – *Dick Haymes*
6. Comin' In On A Wing And A Prayer – *Eddie Cantor With Cookie Fairchild's Orchestra*
7. Keep 'Em Flying – *Gene Krupa; Johnny Desmond, Vocals; Col. John F. Daye, Service Orders*
8. Stormy Weather – *Lena Horne With Lou Brigg & His Orchestra*
9. G.I. Jive – *Johnny Mercer With Paul Weston's Orchestra*
10. Gee, But It Is Great To Be In The Army – *G.I. Chorus; Sgt. Jules Munshin, S/Sgt. Johnny Messner, Pvt. Buddy Moreno & G.I. Chorus*

SONGS THAT INSPIRED A NATION

1. The Road To Victory (Theme Of The 6th Victory Loan) – *Bing Crosby With Chorus & Orchestra*
2. Goodbye Sue – *Perry Como With Benny Goodman & His V-Disc All Stars*
3. (There'll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs Of Dover – *Kate Smith With Jack Miller's Orchestra*
4. American Patrol – *Glenn Miller*
5. Bob Hope Broadcasts To The U. S. Navy
6. Here Comes The Navy (Beer Barrel Polka) – *The Andrews Sisters With Vic Schoen's Orchestra*
7. Ballad Of The Leatherneck Corps (The Marines Hymn) – *Tyrone Power, Narrator; With Al Goodman's Orchestra*
8. Tell It To The Marines – *Kay Kyser; Harry, Max & Jack, Vocals*
9. Remember Pearl Harbor – *Swing And Sway With Sammy Kaye; The Glee Club, Vocals*
10. Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag – *Bob Crosby & His V-Disc Bob Cats Featuring Martha Tilton*

WARTIME CLASSICS

1. A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square – *Glenn Miller (Ray Eberle, Vocal)*
2. Praise The Lord And Pass The Ammunition – *Nelson Eddy With Robert Armbruster's Orchestra & Chorus*
3. I Threw A Kiss In The Ocean – *Kate Smith With Jack Miller's Orchestra*
4. Waitin' For The Train To Come In – *Peggy Lee With Dave Barbour's Orchestra*
5. First Class Private Mary Brown – *Perry Como, With Mixed Chorus*
6. You're In The Army Now – *The Jesters*
7. Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy – *The Andrews Sisters With Vic Schoen's Orchestra*
8. Der Fuehrer's Face – *Spike Jones*
9. Swinging On A Star – *Bing Crosby*
10. We'll Meet Again – *Jack Leonard With Ray Bloch's Orchestra*



ITEM # SBOX 91922

MUSIC OF WWII



World War Two was a defining – and harrowing – event in the lives of an entire generation. No one was left untouched by this global war which saw over 16 million Americans suit up in uniform and millions of others contributing to the cause. The entire nation was literally at war and everyone needed something to help deal with the many hardships and sacrifices that were being made on a daily basis. Enduring the loss of loved ones and friends, the rationing of food, the blackouts and the burnouts, there seemed to be one

constant friendly sound that soothed both the hearts and minds of those at home and abroad: the music, the Big Bands and the soothing voices of the crooners.

Especially to the troops, this great music provided both entertainment and a means to escape the harsh realities of war. To be stuck in a foxhole in North Africa or storming a beach on the Philippines, one of the few things that could boost your morale was the music which found its way to you via V-discs, the radio, or at USO performances.

THE MUSIC THAT GOT AMERICA THROUGH THE WAR

The music of World War Two reflected the fears and hopes of millions of soldiers and civilians around the world. From the optimistic “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate The Positive” and “The Road To Victory (Theme Of The 6th Victory Loan)” to the sentimental, even wistful “We’ll Meet Again” and “I Threw A Kiss In The Ocean,” to the rousingly militaristic “Praise The Lord And Pass The Ammunition” and “Arms For The Love Of America,” these songs were a reflection of the people who were touched by the horror and the valor of the Second World War in one way or another.

While many of the songs of World War Two were earnestly serious, or dreamily sentimental, there were many songs which took a look at the war from the lighter side. The master of the novelty record, Spike Jones, decided that the best way to deal with Adolf Hitler and his Nazi goons was through parody.

In fact, it is interesting to compare Spike Jones’ “Der Fuehrer’s Face” with Charlie Chaplin’s first all-talking picture *The Great Dictator*. They both stick their tongue out at the madman who embroiled an entire world in war.

THE SONGS

Sentimental Journey (1945)



Doris Day

A smoky and loping ballad, this song looked ahead to the better times which veterans and civilians alike were hoping for at the end of the War. It provided a vacation without having to worry about air raid drills or rationing and a chance to “renew old memories.” Released in March of 1945, when the end of the war could be seen in the near future, it connected with the public on a very

wide level, spending twenty-eight weeks on the Pop charts, nine of those at #1. It was recorded with bandleader Les Brown and became one of Doris Day’s signature tunes.

Comin’ In On A Wing And A Prayer (1943)

If there was one section of the American Armed Forces that came into its own during the War, it was the Air Force. From the Doolittle raid of 1942 (which saw American B-25 bombers launched from aircraft carriers bomb targets in Japan, when Japan thought it was invincible) to the ending of the war in the Pacific with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by B-29 Superfortresses, the fliers in these massive planes were busy wherever Americans were fighting and they were celebrated in songs such as this one. “Comin’ In On A Wing And A Prayer” details the adventures and hardships of being part of a bomber crew: while they really hit their target, they’re still flying back “with one motor gone.” The version included here was recorded by veteran singer Eddie Cantor, perhaps best-known for his version of “Makin’ Whoopee.” His version contains an appeal in the middle of the song to buy more War Bonds to support the war effort (“your investment in victory and peace”).

G.I. Jive (1943)

A humorous take on that staple of the American infantry, the G.I. (short for ‘General Infantry’). This song was written and performed by Johnny Mercer (famous for co-writing standards such as “That Old Black Magic” and “Come Rain Or Come Shine”) and was a #11 hit for him in 1944, spending 9 weeks

on the charts! Popular bandleader Louis Jordan would enjoy an even bigger hit with the song a few months later, managing to get the song to #1 on the charts. This hilarious song details the chores that faced your average infantryman: "After you wash and dress, more or less. You go get your breakfast, in a beautiful little café they call the mess. Jack, when you convalesce, out of your seat, Into the street, make with the feet."

Goodbye Sue (1944)



Perry Como

A scene played out countless times all across the nation during the Second World War: the tearful farewell to a soldier who is going off to war. In this song, the singer overhears a conversation "it was their last farewell. Goodbye Sue. All the best of luck to you. You've been my only gal." This song was a key one in the career of crooner Perry Como, as it was his first chart hit in 1943 (admittedly a minor one, peaking at #18). He would go on to enjoy dozens of Top Ten hits, and was one of America's favorite singers during the 1940s and 1950s. He would eventually make a successful transition to television, hosting his own show on CBS.

(There'll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs Of Dover (1941)

If ever there was a song identified with the Second World War, and Great Britain's never surrender attitude, it would be this sentimental and ethereal classic. This song looked forward to a bright and peaceful future when the Nazi menace was conquered: "There'll be love and laughter. And peace ever after. Tomorrow, when the world is free." It was written by two Americans, Walter Kent and Nat Burton and there were five different versions of the song that charted in 1942. Included here is Kate Smith's take on the song, which reached #9 on the Pop charts.

Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag (1945)

"Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag" was another World War I song that was dusted off and used again during the Second World War to help boost morale. The song was written by brothers George Henry & Felix Powell in 1915 and won a competition for a marching song to raise the spirits of the British Army suffering from the horrors of trench warfare. The version



Benny Goodman

here was recorded by Bing Crosby's brother, Bob, an artist who, while not enjoying the tremendous success of his older brother, still enjoyed over a dozen Top Ten hits during the 1930s and 1940s. This song was recorded with Martha Tilton, who first came to prominence singing with Benny Goodman, and was released as a V-disc which would have been distributed to servicemen in the Armed Forces.

Praise The Lord And Pass The Ammunition (1942)

Much has been written about this song which was inspirational in both a sacred and a secular manner. While it cannot be fully confirmed, it seems that this song was inspired by Chaplain Howell Forgy who was aboard the heavy cruiser USS New Orleans during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. He was heard to proclaim "praise the Lord and pass the ammunition" in an effort to boost morale and encourage the men as chaos reigned around them. The song even goes so far as to claim that the Chaplain was actually manning one of the anti-aircraft guns, but this is now believed to be apocryphal. The song is a powerfully patriotic song and is certainly one of the most well known to emerge out of the Second World War.

Der Fuehrer's Face (1942)

Leave it to one of the most manic and inventive musicians of the 20th century, Spike Jones, to stick it to Adolf Hitler in such a hilarious way. This song was originally written for a Walt Disney cartoon which was to be titled *Donald Duck in Axis Land*, but the title was changed to *Der Fuehrer's Face* in 1943 when Jones' recording of the song became a big hit (it went to #3 on the Pop charts towards the end of 1942). Some even believe that the target of the parody, Adolf Hitler, heard it – his reaction was not recorded! Musically, the song is a typical Spike Jones record, as it features out of this world sound effects, crazy instruments, shouted vocals and an overall sense of insanity! For those who had to endure the misery created by Adolf Hitler, a song like this would have brought some much needed humor.

During the Second World War, all of America helped out with the war effort. Even artists who could not make the trip overseas infused their songs with a sense of patriotism and sentimental fervor. Popular recordings of the day reflected the national pride and heartfelt emotions found in almost every citizen touched by the war. Artists and songwriters such as Woody Herman, Tommy & Jimmy Dorsey, Irving Berlin and Louis Jordan, put the wartime flavor into their compositions of the era. The original recordings collected here on this collection are a testament to the fighting spirit that helped move and entertain a nation during its darkest hour.