



# A BERLIN AIRLIFT SONG IS BORN

Show To Play  
WSBN, Berlin,  
F'berg, Celle

*Written for and dedicated to  
The men of the Air Lift  
Irving Berlin*

*Xmas - 1948*

HO CALTF, Dec. 22 - Vittle men had a song all their own today — a song completed by Irving Berlin while riding a C54 Skymaster from New York to Wiesbaden AFB to take part in the airlift "Christmas Caravan" show at the Wiesbaden Opera House Christmas Eve.

The thought of a special song for Vittle men struck Berlin, one of the greatest names in contemporary American music, while he was pondering the question of an appropriate Christmas recognition of the contribution being made by airlift men to the welfare and happiness of 2,500,000 Berliners.

Tex McCrary had given Berlin a briefing on the job being done by the Vittle men, pointing out that the pilots were converted from their glamorous role as wartime fighters into freight carriers.

Tested today on a group of 300 airlift men, the song was approved enthusiastically, leading to the suggestion that it be presented immediately to Vittle men throughout the theater through the medium of TASK FORCE TIMES.

The final verse of the song was finished in Wiesbaden and is being held in reserve as a special treat for airmen in attendance at the "Christmas Caravan"

shows in Wiesbaden, Berlin, Fassberg and Celle.

Berlin asked that men planning to attend the show save their copies of TASK FORCE TIMES and bring them along so they will have the words and music of "Operation Vittles" for community singing.

"I hope the men of the airlift like this song," Berlin said. I dedicate it to them in recognition of the swell job they are doing and will continue to do."

Announcement was made late today by Special Services that Jane Russell and her football star husband, Bob Waterfield, were prevented from making the "Christmas Caravan" tour by last-minute movie commitments.

## XMAS CHOPPING

FASSBERG, Dec. 22 — Lt. Col. Conway S. Hall, CO of the 513th Air Base Gp here, believes in showing his Christmas spirit.

The colonel went into the forest and cut a 24-foot tree, which has been set up in the base headquarters building.

## DISK GREETINGS

The list of Vittle men who will hear Christmas greetings from their wives will be published in the Christmas edition of TASK FORCE TIMES tomorrow.

## EVERYBODY SING!

### VERSE

NOT LONG AGO  
A GROUP WE CALLED THE AIR CORPS  
HELPED WIN THE WAR AND TOOK A BOW  
NOT LONG AGO  
WE CHEERED THE FIGHTING AIR CORPS  
LET'S SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM NOW

### CHORUS

OPERATION VITTLES  
WE'LL SOON BE ON OUR WAY  
WITH COAL AND WHEAT AND HAY  
AND EVERYTHING'S OKAY  
OPERATION VITTLES  
AS IN THE SKY WE GO  
WE WON'T FORGET TO BLOW  
A KISS TO UNCLE JOE  
WE'RE GROWING FONDER  
OF "THE WILD BLUE YONDER"  
MAKING A BUCK  
FLYING A TRUCK  
NO ONE HERE BELITTLES  
THE JOB THAT MUST BE DONE  
ALTHOUGH THE WAR WAS WON  
WE'LL BE THERE  
EARNING STRIPES AND BARS  
IN OUR OLD FREIGHT CARS  
TILL THE AIRLIFT GETS THE AIR.

**BRING THIS TO THE SHOW!**



Chorus

O- PER- A- TION VIT- TLES we'll soon be on our way — with coal and wheat and

*Pmp - mf*

hay — and eve- ry- thing's o- Kay O- PER- A- TION VIT- TLES as

in the sky we go — we won't for- get to blow — a kiss to un- cle

Joe We're grow- ing fon- der — of "The wild blue yon- der"



Mak-ing a buck fly-ing a truck No one here be-

lit-tles the job that must be done - al-though the war was won we'll be there —

— earn-ing stripes and bars in our old freight-cars till the

air-lift gets the air air.



Irving Berlin

# OPERATION VITTLES

Words and Music by  
IRVING BERLIN

Moderato

PIANO

Musical notation for the piano introduction, featuring a treble and bass clef with a 6/8 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Moderato' and the dynamics are 'mp'. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef.

## VERSE

Not long a-go — A group we called the air corps Helped win the

Musical notation for the first line of the verse, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

war and took a bow — Not long a-go — we cheered the fight-ing

Musical notation for the second line of the verse, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

air corps Let's see what's hap-pened to them now. —

Musical notation for the third line of the verse, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

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