

Modern History Sourcebook: Max Schneckenburger: The Watch on The Rhine, 1870

This was a favorite song of the German soldiers during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

Now the song is probably most famous as the song sung by Nazi soldiers in Rick's Bar in Casablanca.

*A VOICE resounds like thunder-peal,
Mid dashing waves and clang of steel:
The Rhine, the Rhine, the German Rhine!
Who guards to-day my stream divine?
Chorus: Dear Fatherland, no danger thine;
Firm stand thy sons to watch the Rhine!
They stand, a hundred thousand strong,
Quick to avenge their country's wrong;
With filial love their bosoms swell,
They'll guard the sacred landmark well!
Chorus: Dear Fatherland, no danger thine;
Firm stand thy sons to watch the Rhine!
The dead of an heroic race
From heaven look down and meet this gaze;
He swears with dauntless heart, "O Rhine,
Be German as this breast of mine!"
Chorus: Dear Fatherland, no danger thine;
Firm stand thy sons to watch the Rhine!
While flows one drop of German blood,*

*Or sword remains to guard thy flood,
While rifle rests in patriot hand,
No foe shall tread thy sacred strand!*

*Chorus: Dear Fatherland, no danger thine;
Firm stand thy sons to watch the Rhine!*

*Our oath resounds, the river flows,
In golden light our banner glows;
Our hearts will guard thy stream divine:
The Rhine, the Rhine, the German Rhine!*

*Chorus: Dear Fatherland, no danger thine;
Firm stand thy sons to watch the Rhine!*

Source:

From: Eva March Tappan, ed., The World's Story: A History of the World in Story, Song and Art, 14 Vols., (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1914), Vol. VII: Germany, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, pp. 249-250.