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: