

Why don't the bands play our Merchant Marine song at patriotic events? They don't have the sheet music. Lets take care of that.

By Bob Ulrich, Pres. Sacramento Valley Chapter

Today I would like to tell you about a grievance I have harbored for a long time. I have expressed my displeasure about this in the past but pardon me if I do it again. Memorial Day comes along, then the 4th of July and Veterans Day celebrations and the same old thing happens that has happened for sixty some years now. We are totally overlooked in the ceremony. As a Merchant Mariner this just down right pisses me off. Pardon me folks but that is putting it as mild as I can put it. When I attend an event to honor our nations heros and it concludes without so much as a mention of the Merchant Marine I want to scream. I mean. I really want to scream. Were you to ask my wife Nancy she would tell you that she has had to calm me down and hold me back to keep me from storming the bandstand and screaming into the microphone “**Hey. Havn't you forgotten something. like the Merchant Marine. Duh**”. Her objections are probably well grounded as it is an after the fact objection and folks have a tendency to be a bit negative about that behavior especially at a patriotic event. **Hey. We have a right to be mad as hell and I don't think we ought to take it anymore.** It just never changes. You may know that famous World War II composer and bandmaster Jack Lawrence died on March 15th.. He wrote “Heave Ho” while serving as bandmaster of the MM band at Sheepshead Bay. He said he wrote our song because we didn't have one and all the other branches did. **Partly as a tribute to Lawrence we should push this song to bandmasters all over the country. Most of all however, we should do this for ourselves. Our song is like our flag. Our flag should fly and our song should be heard at any event that praises our nations heros of world war II. Your chapter can help this to happen.**

Each chapter should inquire until they determine which band might be performing at any upcoming patriotic event. The chances are that even if they have heard of “Heave Ho” they won't have the music. Then take away their very legitimate excuse. Provide them with the sheet music for the entire band. The music consists of about 30 pages. Capt. Force who is Bandmaster at Kings Point tells us we do not to need concern ourselves about the copyright for Heave Ho so you may print it and distribute it at will. I have done so to several bands in our area but it is a work in progress and I have more work to do. Captain Force says that Lawrence copyrighted the music to the U.S. Merchant Marine. I am making a CD that will contain each page of the music which then may be printed on a computer or taken to a copy shop like Kinko's and printed for about 10 cents a sheet. You can make a complete set of all parts for band for about 3 dollars. Who can't afford that. My chapter will accept the expense of making the CD and mailing it to any chapter who wants it. It is then up to you to print it and pass it out.

I have found that the bandmasters are very interested and will gladly accept the music and I think most will play it. By providing it to them you will help make it happen. Let me know if you want a CD which will be your master copy. Please contact me with a mailing address and I will get one to you. The CD's should be ready by the time this goes to print.

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To print the music go to the folder “Heave Ho Master for printing” where you will see a list of pdf files. Each of these files music for a specific band instrument. If you go to pdf file Z you can print all parts at once. You might wish to use a paper which is a little heavier than normal to provide a little better stability on the music stand. Bob.