

Jack Lawrence, Writer of Hit Songs and Heave Ho, Dies at 96. *by Bob Ulrich*

Lawrence wrote Heave Ho, The Merchant Marine song while serving as director of the Merchant Marine band at Sheepshead Bay. He wrote it he said, because the Merchant Marine, didn't have a song. We Merchant Mariners appreciated it, but the world probably had a greater love for his dreamy, romantic songs which included the following:

"If I Didn't Care." He wrote both music and lyrics in 1939. The Ink Spots hit.

"All or Nothing at All" A hit by Frank Sinatra and Harry James Orchestra 1943.

"Linda." Lawrence wrote the music and lyrics. 1947 Buddy Clark. 1963 Jan and Dean.

And "Tenderly," when sung by Sarah Vaughn in 1947 and again in 1952 when it would reignite Rosemary Clooney's career.

Although he had no musical training he wrote his first published song, Play Fiddle Play, the same year he he became a Podiatrist. He said he went to Podiatry school because of parental pressure.

Captain Ken Force who is the Bandmaster of the Kings Point Academy Regimental Band knew Lawrence and I asked him for his thoughts.

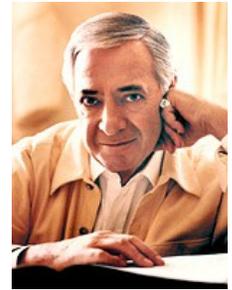
"Jack Lawrence was a superb musical professional who's many compositions and lyrics to songs including "All or Nothing At All," "Tenderly," "Linda," "Sleepy Lagoon," "Beyond the Sea," and "Moonlight Serenade," to name just a few, will live on in the American Songbook for many future generations. I visited him at his home in West Redding, Connecticut to present the well-deserved Honorary Doctorate from the US Merchant Marine Academy for his composition written during World War II of "Heave-Ho My Lads, Heave Ho"---the Song of the Merchant Marine. He was a true gentleman and a gracious individual. He was proud of his service at the Sheepshead Bay Brooklyn Maritime Training Base (Now Kingsboro Community College) and pointed out that Nelson Riddle, Frank Sinatra's famous arranger played trombone in Jack's USMS band. He also noted that Phil Lang, the Dean of Broadway Show arrangers "Annie," "42nd Street," "Camelot" etc. was also under his guidance at the base. Jack lived in an era of greats: Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen....the list goes on. Surely on that list is Jack Lawrence, a person who added so much to American Music and left American Merchant Mariners with a song worthy of their noble seafaring tradition."

Captain Ken Force, USMS Director of Music USMMA Kings Point, N.Y.

Others in AMMV knew Lawrence or had been in touch with him including former AMMV President Hank Cap.

"Years ago I contacted Lawrence and he told me to use it (Heave Ho) with out worrying about copywrite. He also sent me a list of about 30 songs he had written. Imagine having that talent and no one really knew about it. He wrote Heave Ho because he said all other services had their song and we did not." Hank Cap.

Lawrence left a legacy of wonderful music and we Merchant Mariners owe him a debt of gratitude for writing a song that is as Captain Force says. "Worthy of a nobel seafaring tradition."



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