

The Aviator's Hymn

As sung by John Galusha
Tune: Variant of Blue Mountain Lake

With steady rhythm ♩ = 68

1. Come all you bold heroes, wherever you are, Who
fight for your freedom on land, sea or air; Come
listen, I'll sing you a song once again Of those
bold, dash-ing, dare-dev-ils, go-get-ter men; Derry
down, down, down, derry down.

2. When the sun it goes down and darkness appears
We will load up with bombs and for Germany steer
For to blast Hitler's Nazis again and again
Till we're rambling rakes of go-getter men
Derry down, down, down derry down.

3. We will land in the morning and merrily sing
Drink up our grog and go on a bing [binge]
When we're ready to gamble with death once again
For we're rambling rakes of go-getter men
Derry down, down, down derry down.

4. At the shadows of evening, we'll hike for the skies
And meet the damned Heinies and fight till we die
For we value our freedoms 'till death doth it end
For we're rambling rakes of go-getter men
Derry down, down, down derry down.

5. And now to conclude and finish my song
About those bold heroes that fight brave and strong
Who follow their foes so persistent and long
Through the gilt-edge of hell or their planes will go down
For they're rambling rakes of go-getter men!
And ready to die with their flying boots on!
Derry down, down, down derry down

+ Please note that the key is D dorian, a variant of the standard minor key. The sixth note of the scale is sung as B natural rather than B flat.

* Sing the sixteenth notes on verses 3 & 4.

** Sing the quarter note/eighth note pattern on verses 2 & 5.

*** On verse 3, sing the quarter note as a dotted quarter note; on verse 4, sing it as written stems down.

**** Sing the stems down rhythms on verses 2, 3 & 4.

On verse 5, sing the fifth and sixth lines to the music of the third and fourth phrases (with the necessary adjustments).