

SONGS OF THE AIR FORCE

The entire history of the United States Air Force is no longer than the span of one lifetime. There are still fliers of World War I who hold reunions (not too often anymore). During this time, mankind has progressed from the *Gallant Beginning* of flight to vehicles that fly in space. In the not-too-distant future, the name *Air Force* will be an anachronism. It is already beginning. The *Space Command* is one of the major commands of the U.S. Air Force. It is a short flight in time before we see a name change to the United State Air and Space Forces.

Air Force Life-and death - is on the fast track; faster than the speed of sound, and rapidly approaching the speed of light. The Air Force has hardly had time to develop its own traditions. When you are moving that fast, it is difficult to keep track of where you are, let alone where you have been. Having been forged from the Army (a 1920 Army directive admonished fliers not to wear spurs when flying), the Air Force borrowed traditions from the Army, the Navy and the Royal Flying Corps. Among those early, borrowed traditions, the fledgling fliers adoped and adapted music and songs. As one Air Force general put it, "*The songs sung by men in uniform down through the ages are a part of the heritage of the profession of arms.*" In a sense, the songs in this album are a history of the United States Air Force and that history is inextricably woven into the history of the airplane.

The majority of songs in this album are hilarious, a tribute to the airman's ability to turn a nightmare of war into a night of merriment. Other songs are boasts or barbs about organizations, individuals, aircraft, women, the enemy, allies and a host of other subjects. But, *the underlying emotions are always the same; the joy of slipping freely through the boundless sea of air; the pride of being America's best; the sadness of remembering friends who died before their time; and the unspoken thought that you, too, may be the next to go.*



SONGS OF THE AIR FORCE (VOLUME I)

SIDE 1

Songs Originating in World War I

1. We Loop In The Purple Twilight
2. Parodies Based Upon *The Dying Hobo*
3. A Poor Aviator Lay Dying

Songs Originating Between The Great Wars

4. Come And Join The Air Corps
5. Wreck Of The Old 97
6. Squadron Song

Songs of World War II

7. Liberator Blues (The B-17 - We Love You)
8. The Man Behind The Armor-Plated Desk
9. I Wanted Wings
10. Co-pilot's Lament
11. Save A Fighter Pilot's Ass

SIDE 2

Songs From The Korean War

12. Fighter Pilot's Lament
13. On Top Of Old Pyongyang
14. Will You Go Boom Today?
15. Itazuke Tower (Air Force 801)
16. The MIG

Songs From The Vietnam War

17. The Ballard of Robin Olds
18. Thud Pilot
19. Wolf Pack's Houseboy
20. Blue Four

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