

Vera Lynn's "We'll Meet Again"

We'll Meet Again By Vera Lynn

Audio

[embed]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHcunREYzNY>[/embed]

Lyrics

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day...

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day
Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say hello
To the folks that I know
Tell them I won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singing this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Til the blue skies
Drive the dark clouds far away
So will you please say hello
To the folks that I know
Tell them it won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singin' this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Theme and Message

Vera Lynn's We'll Meet Again, was one of the most popular songs during World War II in Britain. The song was written in 1939 by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles. "We'll Meet Again" has a soft soothing rhythm that gave people hope that things will get better and that eventually sadness will come to an end. Lynn's wartime song was used as propaganda

to “Boost the morale” of the people of Britain by sending the message of faith. The message was directed to the soldiers and families that had to endure agony from departing during World War II. Even though this was a difficult and painful time with the soldiers departing and leaving their loved ones behind, Lynn says, “Tell them it won't be long” meaning that they will return to their families and the good times will come back soon. Although it was evident that many soldiers did not survive the war, Lynn was still able to motivate listeners and audiences to think positive. The specific lines of the song, “But I know we'll meet again, some sunny day, keep smiling through, just like you always do, till the blue skies drive the dark clouds, far away,” expresses encouraging and optimistic thoughts, where people, especially couples, should be strong through the separation and believe that they will see each other again. These lines literally depict the war; for instance, the dark skies from the bombings. Lynn was able to inspire people that the sorrows of the war will fade away just as how dark clouds clear up after a storm. War and violence will expire and the bright days with peace shall return. Lynn's song had a crucial role to play for those at home and those at the war because they needed something to help them escape their miseries. "We'll Meet Again" came out in a time of need and this was one of the main reasons why so many people greatly appreciated her influential lyrics.

Impact, Success, and Legacy

“We'll Meet Again” was also the title of a musical film, starring Vera Lynn herself in the lead role in the year 1943. Her song has been featured in other films; such as, “The closing music for both Stanley Kubrick's Cold War satire, *Dr. Strangelove* and Dennis Potter's musical, *The Singing Detective*” (“BBC”). In addition, even after the war ended "it was earmarked by the BBC's Wartime Broadcasting Service (WTBS), designed to provide public information and morale-boosting broadcasts for 100 days after a nuclear attack, as a key part of their playlist" ("BBC").

Vera Lynn's, "We'll Meet Again" had an everlasting effect on people, especially soldiers. The song served a great purpose during the war and gave soldiers what they probably needed the most which was hope to keep fighting through their emotional and physical pain due to the war. In addition, Lynn's song was able to cheer up the soldiers and captivate their hearts. Soldiers listened to her on the radio and she had a great part to play in keeping up their morale. Lynn did not just sing in a recording studio, she actually sang live for soldiers in places not far from battles and bombings. “By 1944, she was entertaining troops in person, singing at a camp in Burma not far from where a battle raged against the Japanese” (Barbash). She went to meet the British soldiers, sang a number of her songs, and gave autographs.

Lynn With Soldiers in the Far East During WW2





There was a lot of love and respect for Vera Lynn during World War II. A veteran named Roy Welland talked about Lynn's magical presence as he watched her perform live. He says, "She tried to leave the stage, but the men were clapping and cheering. She sang three more songs but still they went on cheering. She started to sing again but whenever she tried to stop, they yelled the name of another tune. She sang until her make-up was running in dark furrows down her cheeks, until her dress was wet with sweat, until her voice had become a croak" (Barbash). Lynn was a dedicated singer that fulfilled her duties, not only for her fans, but for her country.

This is a picture of Lynn as Dutch sailors and soldiers gather around her for autographs after singing with "members of the Dutch Forces Choir in a broadcast from Hilversum, Netherlands, on Dec. 9, 1954" (Barbash).



Lynn was so breathtaking that people could not get enough of her voice. Lynn said, “my songs reminded the boys of what they were really fighting for, ‘precious personal things rather than ideologies’ (Rennell). Soldiers were able to recognize their purpose towards the war because Lynn was that spark that opened their eyes.

After the release of "We'll Meet Again," Lynn has received much appreciation because of her contribution to the war effort. Now a 100 years old and still alive, Lynn has recently released “a new collection of her songs which made her the oldest living artist to get a top 20 album in the United Kingdom” (Barbash). Vera Lynn will always be remembered for her inspirational song that boosted and brightened the public's minds, hearts, and lives during World War II.



Works Cited

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