

= Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning =

" Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " is a song written by Irving Berlin in 1918 that gives a comic perspective on military life . Berlin composed the song as an expression of protest against the indignities of Army routine shortly after being drafted into the United States Army in 1918 . The song soon made the rounds of camp and became popular with other soldiers , partly because hatred of reveille was universal .

The commanding officer of Camp Upton in eastern Long Island took an interest in Berlin 's talents and assigned him to write and produce a fundraising benefit to raise funds for a new visitors ' center at the base ; the show was entitled Yip , Yip , Yaphank after the Camp Upton locale in Yaphank , New York .

Although Berlin initially wrote " Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " without commercial intent , it eventually appeared in three different Broadway shows , including Ziegfeld Folies of 1918 , and the film This Is the Army . More than any other Irving Berlin song , it became the one most associated with Berlin as a performer .

= = Background = =

Irving Berlin was born in the Russian Empire in 1888 , either in Tolochin or Tyumen , and had moved with his family to New York City in 1893 . He acquired United States citizenship in early 1918 with the expectation that his medical history would exempt him from his final year of draft eligibility . So it came as an unpleasant surprise that within months Berlin was drafted and serving as a private at Camp Upton at a salary of \$ 30 a month , far below his usual earnings . Although as a civilian he employed a private valet , as an Army private he was compelled to perform unskilled labor in support of camp operations . " There were a lot of things about army life I didn 't like " , said Berlin , " and the thing I didn 't like most of all was reveille . "

During World War I , Berlin was drafted into the United States Army 's 152nd Depot Brigade shortly after he became a naturalized United States citizen in 1918 . By the time he entered the service the war was in its final months and prospects for victory were steadily improving . He was assigned to a camp on eastern Long Island that was mainly an interim station for infantry troops headed overseas .

According to the New York Times ,

Commentators on Berlin 's life agree that he cannot read music , does not know the instruments of the orchestra and plays the piano in a solitary key . He has a piano which is equipped with a shifting device which enables him to play in that key while the piano transposes . His melodies are " dictated " to a music assistant .

= = Composition = =

The incident that inspired Berlin to write " Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " was an occasion when a colonel wanted a group of buglers to play George M. Cohan 's " Over There " . The buglers were unable to comply because it exceeded the range of their instruments , so the oblivious officer ordered them to practice Cohan 's song . He wrote it as " a thin little sergeant . "

Berlin 's civilian work schedule had been that of a hardworking night owl , generally writing material until two or three in the morning . His efforts to adjust to military life and become a good soldier included springing out of bed obediently each morning , which earned him the resentment of fellow soldiers because he concealed his hatred of reveille too well and appeared eager to wake up in the mornings .

So during an era when popular songs about war praised its heroism , Berlin instead gave voice to the subversive impulses shared by ordinary soldiers . The lyrics begin with a mundane recounting of a newly recruited soldier 's camp life and progress to hyperbole as he describes a series of increasingly absurd plans to escape from morning reveille .

" Someday I 'm going to murder the bugler ,

Someday they 're going to find him dead ;
I 'll amputate his reveille
and step upon it heavily ,
and spend the rest of my life in bed . "

Berlin would later describe the song as " a protest written from the heart out , absolutely without the slightest thought that it would ever earn a cent " . He wrote the song before any plans for a larger production were underway and it soon gained popularity around the camp .

= = Production = =

The camp 's commanding officer Major General J. Franklin Bell called Berlin into his office and asked the showman to raise funds for a new community house to lodge families of service members who visited the camp . The projected expense of the project was \$ 35 @, @ 000 . At first , Berlin called in favors from civilian colleagues to visit and put on local performances to boost morale , but news of a Navy fundraising show on Broadway called Boom Boom inspired Berlin to request permission to write and stage a full Broadway production of their own .

The songwriter not only obtained permission for the show , but also received General Bell 's personal permission to return to Berlin 's normal creative working schedule and a special exemption from reveille . Civilian musician Harry Ruby joined Berlin in camp to transcribe and arrange the music and collaborate on the show .

= = Alternate Verse = =

During World War II , school children in New York City sang the verse as :

" Someday I 'm going to murder the bugler ,
Someday they 're going to find him dead ;
And then I 'll get that other pup ,
the guy that wakes the bugler up ,
and spend the rest of my life in bed . "

= = Parodies = =

Berlin 's song " inspired a dozen parodies . " An uncredited parody was recounted in the New York Times :

Oh , how I hate to go into the mess hall !
Oh , how I long for the foods at home !
For it isn 't hard to guess
Why they call the meals a mess-
You 've got to eat beans , you 've got to eat beans ,
You 've got to eat beans in the Army .

= = Performances = =

The song was performed in soldier revues including 1918 's Yip Yip Yaphank , and Ziegfeld Follies of 1918 , as well as in 113 Broadway performances of This Is the Army in 1942 . Jack Haley sang " Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " in the 1938 movie Alexander 's Ragtime Band and in 1938 Alice Faye and Ethel Merman also sang the song at the Roxy Theatre in New York City . It was sung at a 1941 war rally against the America First Committee by New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia in Philadelphia .

= = = Yip Yip Yaphank = = =

The song appeared in two shows of 1918 : Yip Yip Yaphank and Ziegfeld Follies of 1918 . Yip Yip

Yaphank opened on August 19 and Berlin made his entrance late in the show , being dragged from a pup tent by two other soldiers as he pretended to be asleep on his feet to sing " Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " . The song was a centerpiece of the show ; both it and Berlin 's performance received favorable reviews . According to reviewers , Berlin 's voice was thin but his timing was perfect and he presented a hilarious stage persona . 24 years later , the New York Times declared Yip " an immediate hit . "

George M. Cohan may have conveyed the spirit of the aggressive patriotism in his rousing " Over There " , but it was Berlin who caught the more human emotions of the lowly soldier in such poignant pieces as " Oh , How I Hate to Get Up In the Morning " and " Kitchen Police " ...

The show was extended twice and exceeded its fundraising goal of \$ 35 @, @ 000 . Estimates of the proceeds range from \$ 83 @, @ 000 to over \$ 158 @, @ 000 , but the planned visitor center was never built because the war ended shortly afterward and Berlin was never informed what happened to the money . Berlin received no financial benefit beyond his ordinary sergeant 's pay , but he was well compensated in publicity . He was recognized as a Broadway star wherever he went after he returned to civilian life . Along with the acclaim , however , he also " received a death threat and a kidnapping threat " , which he took seriously enough to purchase a bulletproof limousine and hire a bodyguard / chauffeur .

= = = This Is the Army = = =

Berlin also performed " Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " in the 1942 stage play This Is the Army , which ran for 113 performances on Broadway and was adapted as a Warner Brothers musical the following year . It was declared the " modern version of Yip , Yip , Yaphank , " and contained " all @-@ new music " except for two or three songs . Twenty @-@ five years after the original show , he was still dark haired and wiry , but his face was strained . More importantly , his voice ? which had never been strong ? was weakened from months of recent stage touring . The number was filmed in late afternoon when he expected his voice to be at its best , but an internal studio memo still reported , " Irving Berlin is no singer . " Berlin wrote about the filming in an April 10 , 1943 letter :

Today they finished shooting my portion of the picture and I am certainly glad it 's over with . All I do is sing " Hate to Get Up in the Morning " as I did in the show , but the camera is a severe judge and I am afraid even with the great amount of care and fuss they can 't improve what the Fates decreed to be a homely face . As for my voice , I made a recording . When the record was first played on the set , one of the electricians , who didn 't know whose voice it was , said , " If the guy who wrote that song could hear the record , he would turn over in his grave " --which gives you a fair idea . However I am hoping it won 't be too bad .

In May 1988 The Tonight Show Band honored Irving Berlin 's one hundredth birthday by playing " Oh ! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning " as part of a medley in tribute to the songwriter at the close of a show .

In 2016 , June and earlier , the song was used in ads by McDonald 's restaurants for the breakfast menu .

= = External Links = =

[View the sheet music cover and a song MP3 here .](#)