

Lili Marleen – why I am touched with the song

Millions on both sides of the frontlines in World War II and in the home countries heard this song. A symbol of the yearning for love and freedom.

So it was only a question of time when the nazi regime was going to forbid this song. But no way. The protest against that was too strong.

Anyway, Lale Andersen, the first female interpreter of this song, didn't like to be instrumentalised for the political ends of Hitler. She refuses being part of „sightseeing“ the Warsaw Ghetto.

Same time the Nazi regime realized that she had contacted Jewish emigrants in Switzerland. So she should go to concentration camp.

Fortunately the BBC was broadcasting a false report that she were already captured. So the Nazi regime had to submit strongly a denial and so she was saved.

I was singing this song on my guitar for Karl Lindquist and his Carol as we've had a tea party in our house in Touraine last summer. Karl was one of the highest-decorated GIs in World War II and was helping to liberate Europe as 19 year old soldier.

You can read his fascinating story: <https://www.amazon.com/Youth-Interrupted-Karl-Lindquist/dp/1480178608>.

It was very touching for me when I was hearing him singing in German with me. He hadn't forgotten a single verse. He died last year in December.

Tavant, July 2017