

I Am Going to Fight Mit Sigel

The following was a light hearted song that was popular in the Union ranks. After the death of Gen. Lyon, Franz Sigel was a leading candidate for Lyon's replacement. Ethnic tensions rose when the job was handed to Samuel Curtis of Iowa. While it makes fun of the German volunteer, it was written by John F. Poole as a humorous attempt to defuse the situation. It was written to the same tune, as another popular song of the Union Army, "The Girl I Left Behind Me,":



Ive come shust now to tells you how I goes mit regimentals;
to schlauch dem voes of liberty like dem old Continentals,
Vot fight mit England long ago to save the Yankee Eagle,
Un now I gets miner soldier clothes, I'm going to fight mit Sigel.

CHORUS

Yah, daus is true, I shpeaks mit you. I'm going to fight mit Sigel.

Ven I comes from der Deutsche Countree, I vorks somedimes at baking,
Und den I runs a beer-saloon, und den I tries shoe-making.
But now I march mit musket out to safe dot Yankee Eagle,
Dey dress me up in soldier's clothes to go and fight mit Sigel.

CHORUS

Yah, daus is true, I shpeaks mit you. I'm going to fight mit Sigel.

I gets ein big tam rifle gun und puts him to mine shoulder,
Den I march around like a big jackhorse or maybe someding bolder;
I goes off mit de volunteers to save der Yankee Eagle;
To give dem Rebel vellers fits, I goes to fight mit Sigel.

CHORUS

Yah, daus is true, I shpeaks mit you. I'm going to fight mit Sigel.

For rations dey gives salty pork. I dinks dat vas a great sell;
I petter likes der sauerkraut, der Schnitzel-kase und bretzel.
If Fighting Joe will give us dem, ve'll save der Yankee Eagle,
Und I'll put mine vrou in breech-a-loons to go and fight mit Sigel.

CHORUS

Yah, daus is true, I shpeaks mit you. I'm going to fight mit Sigel.

Dem Deutschen mens mit Sigel's band at fighting got no rival;
Und ven Cheff Davis mens ve meet, ve schlauch em like de devil.
Der's only von ting vot ve fear ven pattling for der Eagle,
Ve vont get not no lager beer ven ve goes to fight mit Sigel.



This bronze statue of General Franz Sigel (1824–1902) was designed and funded by the Sigel Monument Association “to remind future generations of the heroism of German-American patriots in St. Louis and vicinity in the Civil War of 1861–1865.”

It was sculpted by Robert Cauer, the artist and was cast in Lauchhammer, Germany.

Born in Sinsheim, Baden, Germany, Sigel was a military leader in the unsuccessful Revolution of 1848 in Germany and went into exile after defeat.

When the Civil War broke out, Sigel was a leader of the pro-Unionist immigrants and was commissioned colonel of the 3rd Missouri Infantry, commanding a large contingent of German-Americans. His most successful contest was the Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas, after which he was promoted to major general. He saw military service in both this area and the eastern fronts, and after the war he returned to New York where he was active in politics and publishing. Hundreds of Civil War veterans who “*fought mit Sigel*” attended the dedication of his monument in June 1906.