When The War Was On

Blind Willie Johnson

CHORUS: Everybody would help, when the war was on, (3x)
Well, they registered everybody, when the war was on.Well, it's just about a few years, and some months ago,
United States come and voted for war.Sammy called the men from the East and the West:
"Get ready boys, we've got to do our best."CHORUSWell, President Wilson, sittin' on his throne,
Makin' laws for everyone.
Didn't call the black man, to lay by the white,
[guitar replaces words].CHORUSPrice on the letter, begin to raise,
Gettin' no better, but the same old thing.
Eight cents on the dollar, ride the train,
Ratess gettin' cheaper, take a ride again.CHORUSFirst, you measure your boiler, measure your wheat,
Half a pound of sugar for a person a week. Folks didn't like it,
they blamed Uncle Sam,
I've got to save the sugar for the boys in France.CHORUSWell, boys whupped the Germans, home at last,
Would have brought the kaiser, but he run too fast.
Couldn't blame the kaiser for a-leavin' the land,
Sammy, he had to save the skin of a most evil man.CHORUSTax gettin' heavy, have to pay,
Helped the boys, over across the sea.
Mud and water up to their knees,
Faced the kaiser for you and me.CHORUS