Begin

GRETL

(holding up a bandaged finger) I've got a sore finger.

MAX kisses her finger as the CAPTAIN enters.

LOUISA

We need Fräulein Maria.

CAPTAIN

We do not need Fräulein Maria.

The CAPTAIN takes the guitar from FRIEDRICH.

You can sing just as well with me.

FRANZ enters from the house.

FRANZ

Herr Detweiler, you have a long distance call from—

MAX

Now who could be calling me?

FRANZ exits.

CAPTAIN

Max, this isn't the first call you've had from Berlin.

\mathbf{MAX}

Georg, you know I have no political convictions. And anyway, the Germans have promised not to invade Austria.

CAPTAIN

And if they don't keep their promise?

MAX

Then I want to have some friends among them.

MAX exits.

CAPTAIN

Now, what would you like to sing?

KURT

Fräulein Maria always started with—

CAPTAIN

We are not to mention Fräulein Maria. Louisa, did you play any of your tricks – any of your jokes – on Fräulein Maria?

LOUISA

Only those she liked and laughed at.

END