

# Synopsis « The Blitz Wolf » Tex AVERY 1942

Before watching: What exactly had happened before 1942 ?

*Attack of Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941 by the Japanese; the USA entered WW2.*

Title: Blitz Wolf. Explain the word Blitz (German, meaning lightning; Blitzkrieg = war based upon speed and surprise)

Screen: The wolf in this photoplay is NOT fictitious. Any similarity between the Wolf and that jerk Hitler is purely intentional !

P.S. The auto tires used in this photoplay are fictitious (but a car, braking, can be heard)  
AND WE AIN'T KIDDIN' BROTHER

Worksheet: Complete what's written on the screen and comment this text

Narrator: Once upon a time, there were 3 little pigs.

Pig 1: "I built my house of straw."

Pig 2: " I built my house of sticks."

Narrator: "But the smartest little pig built his house of .....

Worksheet:

Pig 3: name ? (Sergeant Pork) - what does he look like ? (soldier) - what's his house like ? (more or less a bunker)

Song pig 1 + 2 "You're in the army now " 1941 USA Military Comedy

<http://ingeb.org/songs/youreint.html>

You're in the army now  
You're not behind the plow (plough)  
You're digging a ditch (WW1)  
You're in the army now

- Sergeant Pork: "You fellows can laugh, but you'd better stop kidding around and get down to work. Buy bonds. Help support the National Defence programme, so you'll be prepared to the big, bad wolf." ???
- Newspaper headlines:
  - Wolf set for Blitz
  - Uncle Sam says: "If he dood it, he get a whipping !"

Invasion Map Pigmania.

Swastika = 2 sausages = Hitler's party's emblem

2 pigs: We *don't* care; he *won't* hurt us; we've got a *treaty* programme."

○ Screen + read: **Non-aggression Pact (voir doc)**

My dearest sweet little friendly neighbours,  
This is the truth, for which I stand,  
I promise not to invade your land,  
With your freedom I will not tinker,  
Signed Adolf Wolf, colossal stinker.

Sergeant Pork, holding the pact: “ ?????? ” → bombing heard

Worksheet:

1. Complete the text
2. What do you know about this non-aggression Pact ? when ? who between ? Result ?

*After the German-Russian Non-Aggression Pact was signed (August 23 1939) Hitler was able to concentrate on his attack of Poland. This attack marks the official start of the Second World*

*War.* →

- Flamethrower with sign saying: “I don’t want to set the world on fire !”

Worksheet :

1. What is it ?
2. Complete the sign.
3. Explain the pun ( = jeu de mots)

*To set on fire = to cause it to begin burning ; to start a world war*

- The Führer’s arrival; written on his car: Der Fewer (der better)

Worksheet :

1. What’s the proverb in English ? The more the better
2. Explain this pun. The fewer (opposite of “more” Führers / dictators there are, the better it is.

Wolf with a German accent, with both a military Adolf-like march (music) and wolf’s approach, walks to pig 3’s bunker-like house.

“ Open up the door,  
or I’ll huff, and I’ll puff  
and I’ll blow your house in.”

(as in “One Ham’s Family”)

Blue pig: “ But Adolf, don’t break our treaty. You’re a good guy. Why, you hate war. You wouldn’t go back on your word.”

Wolf: “Are you kidding ?”

Worksheet :

1. Complete this dialogue between Adolf and the pig
2. Comment with your knowledge of the real historical events

- Der mechanized Huffer and Puffer
- Screen: Gone with the wind (oral comment)

Corny gag, isn't it ?

1. straw house blown up by the wind
2. Gone with the wind = film (1939) taking place during the American Civil War

Blue pig: Knocking at the wooden house, which is immediately bombed and burnt down = WW2 has started "The wolf is coming."

Sergeant Pork's house, looking like a real bunker, with on the left-hand side a sign, saying "No (dogs) JAPS allowed."

Worksheet :

1. Copy the sign on Sergeant Pork's house
2. Comment this sign (Pearl Harbor's attack on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941)

→ "Japs" has disappeared on Tex Avery's DVD which have come out a few years ago.

German bombs are sight gags: visualised literally = self-reflexive gag (oral comment)

- Scream bomb starts screaming
- Incendiary bomb: lights Adolf's boot with a match

Wolf: "You missed me, you missed me. You didn't even touch me."

Now that WW2 has started since September 1939, the 3 little pigs are dressed as soldiers.

## Attack of Tokyo

Sun, looking like this flag <http://www.united-states-flag.com/japan-rising-sun.html> disappears as well into the sea; also a sign saying "Doolittle dood it"

*The April 1942 air attack on Japan, launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet and led by Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle, was the most daring operation yet undertaken by the United States in the young Pacific War. Though conceived as a diversion that would also boost American and allied morale, the raid generated strategic benefits that far outweighed its limited goals.*

→ no sign of this attack on DVD, because today it's politically not correct to criticise Japan.

Pig lures Hitler's bomb, with a picture of a sex-bomb (music same style); bomb is going back to fetch his bomb-mates.

Sight gags:

- pigs with listening detector = 3 huge ears
- pigs' home becoming a "secret weapon"
- with bombs with "defense bonds" written on them

Wolf: "Call for Dr. Kildare."

**Dr. James Kildare** was a fictional character, the primary character in a series of American theatrical films in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

The cartoon ends with Adolf landing far below the ground in hell.

Wolf: "Where am I ? Have I been blown into ?

Devils: "Yeah, that's a possibility."

Last picture:

The end of Adolf

If you'll buy a stamp or bond, we'll skin that skunk across the pond.

Your money coming from these stamps and bonds will enable the US, to cross the Atlantic ocean (= pond) to put an end to (= skin) this dictator (= skunk)

Worksheet :

1. copy what's written on the screen and comment
2. find the French translation for *skin - skunk - pond*
3. now comment what you've copied

This cartoon is a propaganda film: complete this §

In the wake of ..... Harbor on December ..... 1941 by the..... , the U.S. government asked for ..... aid in promoting..... , creating informational ..... for military personnel and even telling those on the home front that they could support the ..... by saving bacon fat.

*7<sup>th</sup> - films - Hollywood's - Japanese - patriotism - Pearl - war effort*

1 scene and 1 word have disappeared on the DVD; can you guess which they are ... and try to explain why