

ARTHUR McBRIDE

**OH ME AND MY COUSIN, ONE ARTHUR McBRIDE
AS WE WENT A-WALKING DOWN BY THE SEASIDE
NOW MARK WHAT FOLLOWS AND WHAT DID BETIDE
FOR IT BEING ON CHRISTMAS MORNING**

**AS FOR RECREATION WE WENT ON A TRAMP
AND WE MET SERGEANT GRABBER AND CORPORAL CLAMP
AND A LITTLE WEE DRUMMER INTENDING TO CAMP
THE DAY BEING PLEASANT AND CHARMING**

**"GOOD MORNING, GOOD MORNING!" THE SERGEANT DID CRY
"AND THE SAME TO YOU, GENTLEMEN!" WE DID REPLY
INTENDING NO HARM BUT TO LET THEM PASS BY
FOR IT BEING ON CHRISTMAS MORNING**

**BUT SAYS HE "MY FINE FELLOWS, IF YOU WILL ENLIST
IT'S TEN GUINEAS IN GOLD THAT WE'LL SLIP IN YOUR FIST
ANBD A CROWN IN THE BARGAIN FOR TO KICK OFF THE DUST
AND DRINK THE KING'S HEALTH IN THE MORNING!**

**"FOR A SOLDIER, HE LEADS A VERY FINE LIFE
AND HE ALWAYS IS BLESSED WITH A CHARMING YOUNG WIFE
AND HE PAYS ALL HIS DEBTS WITHOUT SORROW OR STRIFE
AND ALWAYS LIVES PLEASANT AND CHARMING**

**"AND A SOLIDER HE ALWAYS IS DECENT AND CLEAN
IN THE FINEST OF CLOTHING HE'S CONSTANTLY SEEN
WHILE OTHER POOR FELLOWS LIVE DIRTY AND MEAN
AND SUP ON THIN GRUEL IN THE MORNING..."**

**"WELL," SAYS ARTHUR, "I WOULDN'T BE PROUD OF YOUR CLOTHES
FOR YOU WON'T GIVE A LEND OF THEM, AS I SUPPOSE
AND YOU DARE NOT CHANGE THEM AT NIGHT FOR YOU KNOW
IF YOU DO YOU'LL BE FLOGGED IN THE MORNING!**

**"AND ALTHOUGH THAT WE ARE SINGLE AND FREE
WE TAKE GREAT DELIGHT IN OUR OWN COMPANY
AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE STRANGE FACES TO SEE
ALTHOUGH THAT YOU ROBBERS ARE CHARMING**

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**"AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO TAKE YOUR ADVANCE
ALL HAZARDS AND DANGERS WE BAR TO RUN CHANCE
FOR YOU WOULD HAVE NO SCRUPLE FOR TO SEND US TO FRANCE
WHERE WE WOULD GET SHOT WITHOUT WARNING!"**

**"OH NOW!" SAID THE SERGEANT "I'LL HAVE NO SUCH CHAT
AND I NEITHER WILL TAKE IT FROM SPAILPIN OR BRAT
FOR IF YOU INSULT ME WITH ONE OTHER WORD
I'LL CUT OFF YOUR HEADS IN THE MORNING!"**

**AND THEN ARTHUR AND I, WE SOON DREW OUR HODS
AND WE SCARCE GAVE THEM TIME FOR TO DRAW THEIR OWN BLADES
WHEN A TRUSTY SHILLELAGH CAME OVER THEIR HEADS
AND BADE THEM TAKE THAT AS FAIR WARNING**

**AND THEIR OLD RUSTY RAPIERS THAT HUNG BY THEIR SIDE
WE FLUNG THEM AS FAR AS WE COULD IN THE TIDE
"NOW TAKE THEM, YOU DEVIL!" CRIED ARTHUR McBRIDE
"AND TEMPER THEIR EDGE IN THE MORNING!"**

**AND THE LITTLE WEE DRUMMER, WE FLATTENED HIS POW
AND WE MADE A FOOTBALL OF HIS ROWDY-DOW-DOW
THREW IT IN THE TIDE FOR TO ROCK AND TO ROLL
AND BADE IT A TEDIOUS RETURNING**

**AND WE HAVING NO MONEY, PAID THEM OFF IN CRACKS
AND WE PAID NO RESPECT TO THEIR TWO BLOODY BACKS
FOR WE LATHERED THEM LIKE A PAIR OF WET SACKS
AND LEFT THEM FOR DEAD IN THE MORNING**

**AND SO TO CONCLUDE AND TO FINISH DISPUTES
WE OBLIGINGLY ASKED IF THEY WANTED RECRUITS
FOR WE WERE THE LADS WHO WOULD GIVE THEM HARD BLOWS
AND BID THEM LOOK SHARP IN THE MORNING!**