

PAT REILLY

IT WAS ON A MONDAY MORNING, IT BEING OUR PAYDAY
WE MET SERGEANT JENKINS AT OUR GOING AWAY
SAYS HE TO PAT REILLY "YOU ARE A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
COME UP TO JOHN KELLY'S WHERE WE CAN GET A DRAM!"

AND AS WE SAT THERE BOOZING AND DRINKING OUR DRAM
SAYS HE TO PAT REILLY "YOU ARE A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
I'D HAVE YOU TAKE THE BOUNTY AND COME ALONG WITH ME
TO THE SWEET COUNTY LONGFORD
STRANGE FACES THERE YOU'LL SEE ..."

"OH NO, KIND SIR, A SOLDIER'S LIFE WITH ME WOULD NOT AGREE
NOR AM I READY TO BIND MYSELF DOWN FROM MY LIBERTY
I LIVE AS HAPPY AS A PRINCE - MY MIND DOES TELL ME SO
SO FARE THE WELL, I'M JUST GOING OUT
MY SHOT FOR TO THROW ..."

"WELL ARE YOU IN A HURRY, OR ARE YOU GOING AWAY
OR WON'T YOU STOP AND LISTEN TO THESE WORDS I'M GOING TO SAY?
PERHAPS NOW, PAT REILLY, YOU MIGHT DO SOMETHING WORSE
THAN TO LEAVE YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY
TO ENLIST IN THE BLACK HORSE ..."

WELL IT'S THERE I TOOK THE BOUNTY - WHEN THE RECKONING WAS PAID
THEY CAME WITH ALL THEIR RIBBONS NOW TO TIE IN MY COCKADE
AND IT'S EARLY THE NEXT MORNING WE ALL WERE MADE TO STAND
IN FRONT OF OUR GENERAL, OUR HATS ALL IN OUR HANDS

SAID THE GENERAL TO PAT REILLY "YOU ARE A LITTLE TOO LOW
WITH SOME OTHER REGIMENT I FEAR YOU'LL HAVE TO GO!"
"I MAY GO WHERE I WILL - I HAVE NO ONE TO MOURN
FOR MY MOTHER IS DEAD, MY BOYS, AND NEVER WILL RETURN ..."

AND IT'S NOT IN THE MORNING THAT I DO SING MY SONG
BUT IN THE COLD EVENING AS I DO MARCH ALONG
WITH MY GUN UPON MY SHOULDER IT'S BITTERLY I WEEP
AS I THINK OF MY TRUE LOVE WHO NOW LIES FAST ASLEEP

MY BLESSINGS ON MY MOTHER WHO REARED ME NEAT AND CLEAN
BUT BAD LUCK TO MY FATHER WHO MADE ME SERVE THE QUEEN
FOR HAD HE BEEN AN HONEST MAN AND TAUGHT TO ME A TRADE
I NEVER WOULD HAVE 'LISTED NOR WORN THE WHITE COCKADE!