

ARTHUR McBRIDE  
(Paul Brady version)

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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

"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!

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