

## BUILDING UP AND TEARING ENGLAND DOWN

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WELL, I'VE EARNED A HERO'S NAME WITH McALPINE AND COSTAIN  
FITZGERALD, MURPHY, ASHE, AND WIMPEY'S GANG  
I'VE BEEN OFTEN ON THE ROLL ON THE WAY TO GET THE DOLE  
WHEN THERE WAS NO MORE TO DO FOR JOHNNY LAING  
I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT THAT GOD MADE THE SHOVEL, PICK, AND HOD  
SO PADDY COULD KNOW HELL ABOVE THE GROUND  
I'VE HAD GANGERS BIG AND TOUGH TELL ME TEAR IT ALL OUT ROUGH  
WHEN I'M BUILDING UP AND TEARING ENGLAND DOWN!

I REMEMBER CARRIER JACK, WITH HIS HOD UPON HIS BACK  
HOW HE USED TO THINK HE'D SET THE WORLD ON FIRE  
BUT HIS FACE WE HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE HIS SHOVEL IT CUT CLEAN  
THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF A BIG HIGH-TENSION WIRE  
AND I SAW OLD BALLS McCALL FROM A BIG FLY-OVER FALL  
INTO A CONCRETE MIXER SPINNING ROUND  
THOUGH IT WAS NOT HIS INTENT, HE GOT A FIND HEAD OF CEMENT  
WHEN HE WAS BUILDING UP AND TEARING ENGLAND DOWN

IT WAS ON THE HYDRO-DAM THAT OLD MICHAEL JOHN McCANN  
GOT THE BETTER OF HIS STAMMER IN A WEEK  
HE FELL FROM A SHUTTERING JAMB, AND THE POOR OLD STUTTERING MAN  
WAS NEVER EVER MORE INCLINED TO SPEAK  
NO MORE THROUGH CRICKLEWOOD WILL HE ROAM LIKE ROBIN HOOD  
OR DANCE AMONG THE PUBS IN CAMDEN TOWN  
BUT LET NO MAN COMPLAIN, PADDY'S DEATH IS NEVER VAIN  
WHEN HE'S BUILDING UP AND TEARING ENGLAND DOWN!

IN A TUNNEL UNDERGROUND A YOUNG LIMERICK MAN WAS FOUND  
HE WAS BUILT INTO THE NEW VICTORIA LINE  
AS THE BONUS GANG THEY PASSED, STICKING THRU THE CONCRETE CAST  
WAS THE FACE OF LITTLE CHARLIE JOE DEVINE  
AND THE GANGER MAN McGURK SAID "BIG PADDY EATS THE WORK!"  
AS A GAS MAIN BURST AND BLEW HIM OFF THE GROUND  
WELL, THEY SWEAR HE SAID "DON'T SLACK! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I'M  
BACK -  
JUST KEEP ON BUILDING UP AND TEARING ENGLAND DOWN!"

SO COME ALL YOU NAVVIES BOLD, YOU WHO THINK THAT ENGLISH GOLD  
IS JUST WAITING TO BE PICKED UP ON EACH SOD  
FOR THE LIKES OF YOU AND ME WILL NEVER EARN AN O.B.E,\*  
OR A KNIGHTHOOD FOR OUR SERVICE TO THE HOD -  
THEY'RE A CONCRETE-LOVING RACE, AND THEY'LL PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE  
WITH A GANGER MAN TO KICK YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN  
IF YOU EVER TRY TO TAKE MORE THAN THEY THINK YOU OUGHT TO MAKE  
WHEN YOU'RE BUILDING UP AND TEARING ENGLAND DOWN!

\* O.B.E. = ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

- Dominic Behan