

The Soldier Boy

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Soldier Boy'. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Come all your fair young soldier boys, I pray you lend an ear It it a mournful story I mean to let you hear. It is of a tender mother Who had an only son Who was shot as a deserter, When the cruel war was done.'

Come all your fair young sol - dier boys, I — pray you lend an ear It
it a mourn - ful sto - ry I mean to — let you hear. It is
of a ten - der moth - er Who had an on - ly son Who was
shot as a de - ser - ter, When the cru - el war was done.

The morning that I went away, she these words to me did say,
“‘Tis the breaking of my very heart to see you go away,
May God protect and guide you, don’t leave me here alone,
But send the absent soldier back to his native home.”

It happened the next morning while standing in the field
A letter was brought to me and blackened was the seal.
I quickly broke it open, these words they met my eye,
“Oh, come and see me, Jimmie, once more before I die.”

I scarce had time to embrace her when a heavy step was heard
And turning round to see the cause, an officer there stood.
He says, “You cowardly rascal, now from the field you’ve run
You’ll be shot as a deserter when the cruel war is done.”

I turned around to face him. “Take care, sir, what you say
While my poor dying mother on her deathbed she doth lay.
I care not if you shoot me; I can not leave her so
Until she does recover or to her grave does go.”

He called his men about him; they marched me right away
Before I had time to defend myself or have a word to say.
They took me to the guardhouse where thousands had been before,
And my poor dying mother I never did see more.

The Soldier Boy

The officer who took me he swore away my life
Because he wanted Mary who was going to be my wife,
Because she was so true to me, as faithful as the sun,
And was going to be a soldier's wife when the cruel war was done.

More the soldier would have said, but the officer he came.
He says, "You cowardly rascal, now from the field you've run."
He fired and shot the soldier boy; the bullet pierced his heart,
And from his own dear Mary on earth he had to part.

The officer next morning to Mary he did go,
Which proved his deep misfortune and fatal overthrow.
She says, "You've shot my soldier boy, now this shall be your bride."
And with a loaded pistol she shot him by her side.

Note: I heard my oldest brother sing this song to my mother when I was a little girl.
I have never heard it elsewhere.