

# World War I in Song

## “It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary”

Up to mighty London came  
An Irish lad one day,  
All the streets were paved with gold,  
So everyone was gay!  
Singing songs of Piccadilly,  
Strand, and Leicester Square,  
'Til Paddy got excited and  
He shouted to them there:  
It's a long way to Tipperary,  
It's a long way to go.  
It's a long way to Tipperary  
To the sweetest girl I know!  
Goodbye Piccadilly,  
Farewell Leicester Square!  
It's a long, long way to Tipperary,  
But my heart's right there.  
Paddy wrote a letter  
To his Irish Molly O',  
Saying, "Should you not receive it,  
Write and let me know!  
If I make mistakes in "spelling,"  
Molly dear," said he,  
"Remember it's the pen, that's bad,  
Don't lay the blame on me."

It's a long way to Tipperary,  
It's a long way to go.  
It's a long way to Tipperary  
To the sweetest girl I know!

Goodbye Piccadilly,

Farewell Leicester Square,  
It's a long, long way to Tipperary,  
But my heart's right there.  
Molly wrote a neat reply  
To Irish Paddy O',  
Saying, "Mike Maloney wants  
To marry me, and so  
Leave the Strand and Piccadilly,  
Or you'll be to blame,  
For love has fairly drove me silly,  
Hoping you're the same!"  
It's a long way to Tipperary,  
It's a long way to go.  
It's a long way to Tipperary  
To the sweetest girl I know!  
Goodbye Piccadilly,  
Farewell Leicester Square,  
It's a long, long way to Tipperary,  
But my heart's right there.

*Extra Verse, From World War One*  
That's the wrong way to tickle Marie,  
That's the wrong way to kiss!  
Don't you know that over here, lad,  
They like it best like this!  
Hooray pour le Francais!  
Farewell, Angleterre!  
We didn't know the way to tickle Marie,  
But we learned how, over there!

1. When was this song written?
2. Was it before or after World War I started?
3. Why do you think this song was sung during World War I?
4. Where was Tipperary?
5. Who wrote it?

## “Over There”

Johnnie, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun,  
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run,  
Hear them calling you and me, ev'ry son of liberty  
Hurry right away, no delay, go today  
Make your daddy glad to have had such a lad,  
Tell your sweetheart not to pine, to be proud her boy's in line

Over there, over there!  
Send the word, send the word, over there!  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,  
The drums rum-tumming ev'rywhere!  
So prepare, say a prayer, send the word, send the word to beware!  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back 'til it's over Over There!  
Johnnie, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun,  
Johnnie show the Hun you're a son of a gun!  
Hoist the flag and let her fly,  
Yankee Doodle do or die  
Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit

Yankees to the ranks from the towns and the tanks  
Make your mother proud of you and the old Red White and Blue  
Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word, over there!  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,  
The drums rum-tumming ev'ry where  
So prepare, say a prayer, send the word, send the word to beware  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back 'til it's over Over There!

1. What did the writer mean by “ev'ry son of liberty”?
2. Who were the Yanks?
3. Why did the writer say: “Make your Daddy glad to have had such a lad, tell your sweetheart not to pine, to be proud her boy's in line”?
4. What was a Hun?
5. Why do you think this song was written?
6. What year was it written?
7. Who wrote it?

## “Smile, Smile, Smile!”

PRIVATE PERKS IS A FUNNY LITTLE CODGER  
WITH A SMILE, A FUNNY SMILE.  
FIVE FEET NONE, HE'S AN ARTFUL LITTLE DODGER,  
WITH A SMILE, A FUNNY SMILE.  
FLUSH OR BROKE, HE'LL HAVE HIS LITTLE JOKE,  
HE CAN'T BE SUPPRESSED.  
ALL THE OTHER FELLOWS HAVE TO GRIN,  
WHEN HE GETS THIS OFF HIS CHEST, HI!

PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG,  
AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE!  
WHILE YOU'VE A LUCIFER TO LIGHT YOUR FAG,  
SMILE, BOYS, THAT'S THE STYLE!  
WHAT'S THE USE OF WORRYING?  
IT NEVER WAS WORTH WHILE.  
SO, PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG,  
AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE!  
PRIVATE PERKS WENT A-MARCHING INTO FLANDERS,  
WITH A SMILE, HIS FUNNY SMILE.  
HE WAS LOV'D BY THE PRIVATES AND COMMANDERS  
FOR HIS SMILE, HIS FUNNY SMILE,  
WHEN A THRONG OF BOSCHES CAME ALONG,  
WITH A MIGHTY SWING,  
PERKS YELL'D OUT, "THIS LITTLE BUNCH IS MINE!  
KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN, BOYS AND SING", HI!

PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG,  
AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE!  
WHILE YOU'VE A LUCIFER TO LIGHT YOUR FAG,  
SMILE, BOYS, THAT'S THE STYLE!  
WHAT'S THE USE OF WORRYING?  
IT NEVER WAS WORTH WHILE.  
SO, PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG,  
AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE!  
PRIVATE PERKS HE CAME BACK FROM BOSCHE SHOOTING,  
WITH HIS SMILE, HIS FUNNY SMILE.  
ROUND HIS HOME HE THEN SET ABOUT RECRUITING,  
WITH HIS SMILE, HIS FUNNY SMILE.  
HE TOLD ALL HIS PALS, THE SHORT, THE TALL,  
WHAT A TIME HE'D HAD,  
AND AS EACH ENLISTED LIKE A MAN,  
PRIVATE PERKS SAID "NOW MY LAD," HI!

PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG,  
AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE!  
WHILE YOU'VE A LUCIFER TO LIGHT YOUR FAG,  
SMILE, BOYS, THAT'S THE STYLE!  
WHAT'S THE USE OF WORRYING?  
IT NEVER WAS WORTH WHILE.  
SO, PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD KIT BAG,  
AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE!

## Questions for “Smile, Smile, Smile!”

1. What was a kit bag?
2. What did “while you’ve a lucifer to light your fag” mean?
3. Where was Flanders?
4. What were Bosches?
5. What was Private Perks sent to do when he went back to his hometown?
6. Why do you think they sent him to do that?
7. What was the purpose of this song?
8. What year was it written?
9. Who wrote it?

**“How ‘Ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down On The Farm  
(After They’ve Seen Paree?)”**

"REUBEN, REUBEN, I'VE BEEN THINKING," SAID HIS WIFEY DEAR,  
"NOW THAT ALL IS PEACEFUL AND CALM,  
THE BOYS WILL SOON BE BACK ON THE FARM."  
MISTER REUBEN, STARTED WINKING, AND SLOWLY RUBBED HIS CHIN;  
HE PULLED HIS CHAIR UP CLOSE TO MOTHER,  
AND HE ASKED HER WITH A GRIN:  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM, DOWN ON THE FARM,  
AFTER THEY'VE SEEN PAREE?  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM AWAY FROM BROADWAY,  
JAZZIN' A'ROUN' AND PAINTIN' THE TOWN?  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM AWAY FROM HARM,  
THAT'S A MYSTERY!  
THEY'LL NEVER WANT TO SEE A RAKE OR A PLOW,  
AND WHO THE DEUCE CAN PARLEY-VOUS WITH A COW?  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM,  
AFTER THEY'VE SEEN PAREE?

"REUBEN, RUEBEN, YOU'RE MISTAKEN," SAID HIS WIFEY DEAR;  
"ONCE A FARMER, ALWAYS A JAY,  
AND FARMERS ALWAYS STICK TO THE HAY."  
"MOTHER RUEBEN, I'M NOT FAKIN', THO' YOU MAY THINK IT STRANGE;  
BUT WINE AND WOMEN PLAY THE MISCHIEF,  
WITH A BOY WHO'S LOOSE WITH CHANGE."  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM, DOWN ON THE FARM,  
AFTER THEY'VE SEEN PAREE?  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM AWAY FROM BROADWAY;  
JAZZIN' A'ROUN' AND PAINTIN' THE TOWN?  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM AWAY FROM HARM,  
THAT'S A MYSTERY;  
IMAGINE REUBEN WHEN HE MEETS HIS PA,  
HE'LL KISS HIS CHEEK AND HOLLER "OO-LA-LA!"  
HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM,  
AFTER THEY'VE SEEN PAREE?

1. What year was this song written?
2. Who wrote it?
3. How does the song relate to the time frame of the war?
4. From the song what were most soldiers before they went off to war?
5. What kind of things were young men exposed to in Europe?
6. Why does the father in the song ask: "How 'ya gonna keep 'em, down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?"