

# Dubliners, The Gentleman Soldier

It's of a gentlemen soldier as a sentry he did stand  
He saluted the fair maid be a wavin' of the hand  
So boldly then he kissed and he passed it off as a joke  
He drilled her up in the sentry box, wrapped up a the soldiers coat  
And the drums did go with a rat-ta-ta-tat and the fifes did loudly play,  
Fare thee well Polly me dear I must be going away

All night they tossed and tumbled till daylight did appear  
The soldier rose, put on his clothes, said fare thee well me dear  
For the drums they are a pounding and the fifes did sweetly play  
If it weren't for that dear Polly, then along with you I'd stay  
And the drums did go with a rat-ta-ta-tat and the fifes did loudly play,  
Fare thee well Polly me dear I must be going away

Oh come you gentlemen soldier, "Won't you marry me?"  
"Oh no me dearest, Polly. Such things never can be."  
"I've a wife already and children I have three  
Two wives are allowed in army but one is too many for me."  
And the drums did go with a rat-ta-ta-tat and the fifes did loudly play,  
Fare thee well Polly me dear I must be going away

If anyone comes a courtin' you, you can treat them to a glass  
If anyone comes a courtin' you, you can say you're a country lass  
You don't have to tell them that ever you played this joke  
That you were drilled in the sentry box wrapped up in the soldier's cloak  
And the drums did go with a rat-ta-ta-tat and the fifes did loudly play,  
Fare thee well Polly me dear I must be going away

Oh come you gentlemen soldier, when you tell me so  
Me parents will be angry when this they come to know  
And when nine long months had come and past, the poor girl she brought shame  
She had a little militia boy and she didn't know his name  
And the drums did go with a rat-ta-ta-tat and the fifes did loudly play,  
Fare thee well Polly me dear I must be going away