

## The Bold Black and Tans

Says Lloyd-George to Mac - Pher - son, "I give you the sack, To  
up - hold law and or - der you hav - en't the knack, I'll  
send o - ver Green - wood, a much strong - er man, And fill  
up the Green Isle with the bold Black and Tan."

1. Says Lloyd-George to Macpherson, "I give you the sack,  
To uphold law and order you haven't the knack,  
I'll send over Greenwood, a much stronger man,  
And fill up the Green Isle with the bold Black and Tan."
2. He sent them all over to pillage and loot  
And burn down the houses, the inmates to shoot.  
"To re-conquer Ireland, he said, is my plan  
With Macready and Co. and his bold Black and Tan."
3. The town of Balbriggan they've burned to the ground  
While bullets like hailstones were whizzing around;  
And women left homeless by this evil clan.  
They've waged war on the children, the bold Black and Tan.
4. From Dublin to Cork and from Thurles to Mayo  
Lies a trail of destruction wherever they go;  
With England to help and fierce passions to fan,  
She must feel bloody proud of her bold Black and Tan.
5. Ah, then not by the terrors of England's foul horde,  
For ne'er could a nation be ruled by the sword;  
For our country we'll have yet in spite of her plan  
Or ten times the number of bold Black and Tan.
6. We defeated Conscription in spite of their threats,  
And we're going to defeat old Lloyd-George and his pets;  
For Ireland and Freedom we're here to a man,  
And we'll humble the pride of the bold Black and Tan.

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"The Bold Black and Tans" is an Irish song from the Irish War of Independence, a guerrilla war fought in Ireland from 1919 to 1921 between the Irish Republican Army and British forces: the British Army, along with the quasi-military Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and its paramilitary forces the Auxiliaries and Ulster Special Constabulary.

The Black and Tans (Irish: *Dúchrónaigh*) were constables recruited into the Royal Irish Constabulary. Recruitment began in Great Britain in January 1920, and about 10,000 men enlisted during the conflict. The majority were unemployed former British soldiers from England, Scotland and Wales who had fought in the First World War. Some sources count Irish recruits to the RIC from 1920 as "Black and Tans".

The Black and Tans had a reputation for brutality; they committed murder, arson and looting and became notorious for reprisal attacks on civilians and civilian property.

The melody is another variation of "Villikins and His Dinah", a music hall song of the 1850s (and in America as "Betsy from Pike"). It is also the melody for "The Old Orange Flute" and the bawdy song "The Thrashing Machine". It is related to the jig tune "Paddy Whack".