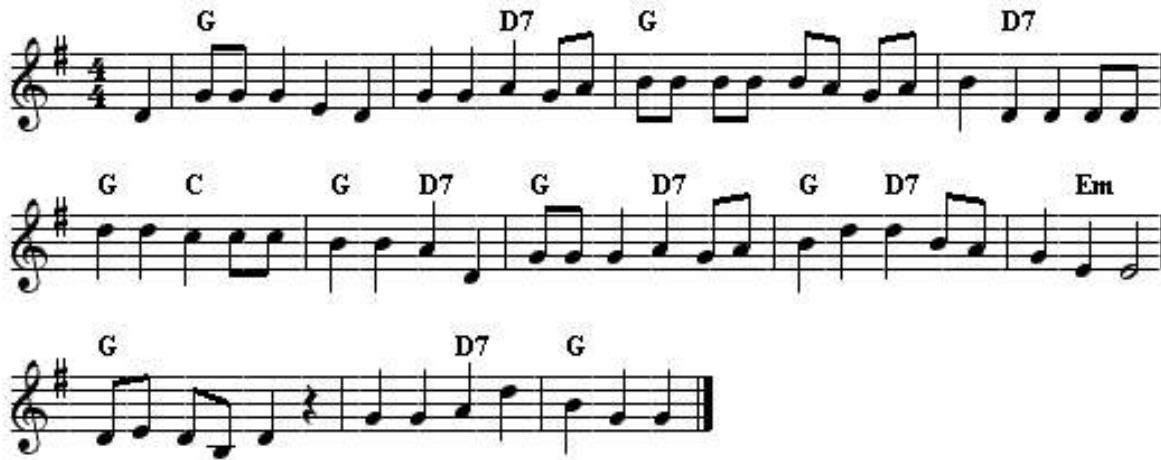


Mrs. McGrath



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| <p>1. "Oh, Mrs. McGrath," the sergeant said,
"Would you like to make a soldier out of your son,
Ted?
With a scarlet coat, and a big cocked hat,
Sure, Mrs. McGrath, wouldn't you like that?"</p> <p>Chorus:
With your too-ri-ay, fol the diddle day,
Too-ri-you-ri too-ri-ay.</p> | <p>5. "Oh were ye drunk, or were ye blind
That ye left your two fine legs behind?
Or was it while walkin' upon the sea
Wore your two fine legs from the knees away?"
Chorus</p> |
| <p>2. Now Mrs. McGrath lived by the seashore
For the space of seven long years or more;
Till she saw a big ship sail into the bay,
"Here's my son, Ted, will ye clear the way!"
Chorus</p> | <p>6. "Well, I wasn't drunk and I wasn't blind
When I left my two fine legs behind.
But a cannon ball, on the fifth of May,
Tore my two fine legs from the knees away."
Chorus</p> |
| <p>3. "Oh, Captain, dear, where have ye been?
Have you been in the Meditereen?
Will ye tell me the news of my son, Ted?
Is the poor boy livin', or is he dead?"
Chorus</p> | <p>7. "Oh, Teddy, me boy," the old widow cried,
"Yer two fine legs were yer mammy's pride,
Them stumps of a tree won't do at all,
Why didn't ye run from the big cannon ball?"
Chorus</p> |
| <p>4. Ah, well up comes Ted without any legs
And in their place two wooden pegs,
Well, she kissed him a dozen times or two,
Saying "Glory to God?, sure it isn't you!"
Chorus</p> | <p>8. "Well, all foreign wars I do proclaim
Between Don John and the King of Spain,
Bejasus, I'll make them rue the time
That they swept the legs from a child of mine."
Chorus</p> |

"Mrs. McGrath" (also known as "Mrs. McGraw", "My Son Ted", "My Son John", and "The Sergeant and Mrs. McGrath") is an Irish folk song set during the Peninsular War of the early 19th century. Along with "Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye", it is one of the most graphic of all Irish folk songs that deal with sickness and injuries caused by warfare. Irish folk song collector Colm Ó Lochlainn described "Mrs. McGrath" as "known to every true born citizen of Dublin". It was very popular among the Irish Volunteers in the years leading up to the 1916 Rising. Although the song probably dates from the time of the Peninsular Wars between 1807 and 1814, the earliest written account of it in Ireland was in 1876. It is believed to have been popular with soldiers during the American Civil War (1861-1865). The song was recorded by Burl Ives, Tommy Makem, Peg and Bobby Clancy, The Clancy Brothers and others.