**YER ILL-SPUN YARN**

This old Scottish song has an interesting prescription for the young man whose girl is in a family way: Enlist and see the world. If you don’t care for the dialect, it is perfectly appropriate to sing the conventional English words. Most are easy to figure out. “Owsen wis tae rin” means “Oxen was to run”. A bairn is, or course, a baby. You can hear this song performed by **The Corries** at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsv6HW1VM4g>, or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at <http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html>.

**TWA RECRUITING SERGEANTS**

**D Em**

O twa recruiting sergeants cam' fra the Black Watch  
 **G D A**

Thru' mairkets and fairms, some recruits for tae catch.  
 **G D G** **Bm**

But a' that they 'listed was forty and twa',  
 **D G D**

Sae list, bonnie laddie, and come awa'.

**CHORUS:**

**D Em**

For it's over the mountains and over the main  
**G D A**

Thru' Giber-alter tae France and Spain.  
 **G D G Bm**

Wi' a feather tae yer bunnet and a kilt abune yer knee  
 **D G D**

Sae list, bonnie laddie, and come awa' wi' me.

O laddie, ye dinna ken the danger that ye're in,  
If yer horses wis tae take fright, and yer owsen wis tae rin.  
That greedy auld fairmer wadna pay yer fee,  
Sae list, bonnie laddie, and come awa' wi' me.

**CHORUS**

For it's oot o' the barn and intae the byre,  
This auld fairmer thinks ye'll never tire.  
It's a slavery o' a life o' low degree,  
Sae list, bonnie laddie, and come awa' wi' me.

**CHORUS**

Noo, laddie, if ye hae a sweetheart wi' bairn,  
Ye'll easily get rid o' yer ill-spun yarn.  
Twa rattles o' the drum, aye, and that'll pey it a',  
Sae list, bonnie laddie, and come awa'.

**CHORUS X2**