

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, of course, a baby. You can hear this song performed by **The Corries** at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsv6HW1VM4g>.

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