

“I’d Feel at Home If They’d Let Me Join the Army”

Composer: Albert Gumble

Lyricist: Jack Mahoney

Performers: Billy Murray

Date Recorded: 1917

Verse 1

Some men are getting married so they won’t be call’d to war.
But if they want to dodge it what do they get married for?
It takes about a year or more to train a soldier right.
A year of married life will make them all know how to fight.

Chorus

Oh give me a gun and away I’ll run to fight the foreign foe.
I’m not afraid the shot and shell will harm me.
For ever since I took a wife I’ve been in battles all my life,
And I’d feel at home if they’d let me join the army.

Verse 2

They’ll have to force the single men to go to war I fear.
The married men all want to go they always volunteer.
It takes the bravest of the brave to bear the battle’s brunt.
That’s why they always find the married men way out in front.

Chorus

Oh give me a gun and away I’ll run to fight the foreign foe.
The sound of rattle fire would not alarm me.
For since my wife had twins you see each night I lead the infantry,
And I’d feel at home if they’d let me join the army.

Verse 3

Since I got married my wife charges everything to me.
But I’d reverse the charges and I’d charge the enemy.
I’m always on the firing line of that there is no doubt.
When she invites her company I’m always muster’d out.

Chorus

Oh give me a gun and away I’ll run to fight the foreign foe.
A trip up in an aero-plane would charm me.
Since I got married I declare I’ve always been up in the air,
And I’d feel at home if they’d let me join the army.

Verse 4

My house is a recruiting station for her family.
They’re first in war and first in peace and first for lunch you see.
Now I treat them to anything and ev’rything I get.

But I like a gallant army they have not retreated yet.

Chorus

Oh give me a gun and away I'll run to fight the foreign foe.

The life out in the trenches wouldn't harm me.

They're small but I am used to that I'm living in a Harlem flat,

And I'd feel at home if they'd let me join the army.