

## Fair Warning

### "The Deserter"

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As I was a-walking down Radcliffe highway  
A recruiting party came a-beating my way  
They enlisted me and treated me till I did not know  
And to the Queen's barracks they forced me to go

When first I deserted, I thought myself free  
Until my cruel comrade informed against me  
I was quickly followed after and brought back with  
speed  
I was handcuffed and guarded, heavy irons put on me

Court martial, court martial, they held upon me  
And the sentence passed upon me, three hundred and  
three  
May the Lord have mercy on them for their sad cruelty  
For now the Queen's duty lies heavy on me

When next I deserted, I thought myself free  
Until my cruel sweetheart informed against me  
I was quickly followed after and brought back with  
speed  
I was handcuffed and guarded, heavy irons put on me

Court martial, court martial, then quickly was got  
And the sentence passed upon me, that I was to be  
shot  
May the Lord have mercy on them for their sad cruelty  
For now the Queen's duty lies heavy on me

Then up rode Prince Albert in his carriage and six  
Saying "Where is that young man whose coffin is  
fixed?  
Set him free from his irons and let him go free  
For he'll make a good soldier for his Queen and  
country

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