

Arthur McBride

Ireland

earliest date: before 1867 (Ballad Index)

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1. I had a first cou-sin called Ar-thur Mc-Bride, he and I took a stroll down— by the sea— side, a -
seek-in' good for-tune and what might the tide, 'twas just as the day was a - dawn— - ing. Then—
af - ter rest-ing we both took a tram, we met Ser-geant Har - per and Cor-po - ral— Cram, be -
sides the wee drum-mer who beat up for camp with his row-dy-dow-dow in the morn - ing.

2. He said, "My young fellows, if you would enlist, / five guineas in gold you shall have in your fist,
and besides a crown for to kick up the dust, / and drink the king's health in the morning.
Had we been such a fool as to take the advance, / with the wee bit of money we'd have to run chance.
"Do ye think it no scruples for to send us to France, / where we would be killed in the morning."
3. He said, "My young fellows, if I hear but one word, / I instantly now will pull out my sword,
and into your bodies as strength will support, / so now, my gay devils, take warning.
But before they had time to draw out their blades, / our whacking shillelaghs came over their heads.
We soon let them see that we were their blades / that could temper their pows in the morning.
4. As for the wee drummer we tempered his pow, / and made a football o' his row-dy-dow-dow,
and kicket it into the ocean to row, / and take a bit bathe in the morning.
And as for the rapier that hung by his side, / we took them and pitched them far out in the tide.
"May the devil gae wi' them", said Arthur McBride, / "if ever we see them returning."