

Well I quickly escaped, and I thought myself free; 'til my cruel companions, they informed against me. I was quickly followed after and brought back with speed. In chains I was hung, heavy irons on me.

Court martial, court martial they held against me, And the sentence they give me was three hundred and three. May the Lord have mercy on their souls for their sad cruelty, For now the King's duty lies heavy on me.

So again I escaped, and I thought myself free; But my cruel sweetheart, she informed against me. I was quickly followed after and brought back with speed. In chains I was hung, heavy irons on me. Court martial, court martial I very soon got, And they quickly passed sentence that I should be shot. May the Lord have mercy on their souls for their sad cruelty, For now the King's duty lies heavy on me.

So if ever you're a-walking all along Ratcliff Highway And the recruiting party come a-beating the drum, Don't be listed or attested into the King's army, Or else the King's duty will lie heavy on thee.