

Living Well - A Tale to Tell...

Bye mother

(Joe Mills)

Bye mother, I won't be long, says the young man
With dreams in his head, he boarded the train in Sion
With the unforgiving war in front of him, sure it will all go to plan
Not knowing what he will encounter, but he had the courage of a lion.

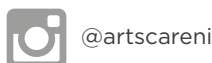
He is at the docks now, men to each side of him,
'We will be home by Christmas as they all sang a Hymn,
All armed and kitted out, a sense of joviality in the air,
All aboard was the shout, as each stepped forward with freshly cut hair.

The day was long aboard the ship, food aplenty and a wee dram too,
Where are you from, was a common question,
me and me mates are from a wee village called Sion,
Ah sure ye wouldn't know it, cause we don't know you,
Oh I do says he, I am called Gallagher from outside Blacklion.

They disembarked, all in Platoons, upright and steady,
Soon they arrived in their Barracks, relaxed and ready,
As they had marched off, the Band struck up, leading onward,
Tomorrow it all begins, we will march sunward !!

Unto the boats, crammed ever so tightly,
They could hear shooting, as the sun shone brightly.
The nerves now were visible, they prayed with the team,
Its now their turn to go, my God is this only a dream .

They arrived at the Front, a maze full of trenches,
As the shout to go over rang out as did whistles,
They stretched out to each side, men lined shoulder to shoulder,
The men scrambled up and marched like no one bolder.



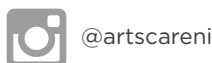
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Bullets shot past them, some they did not,
As friends fell silent, as they had been shot.
We could hear screams as others got wounded,
We dived for cover, to quickly get grounded.

The Captain shouted forward, forget the live bullets,
So many men, their young lives of the purest,
So many men in those hours lost their lives,
So many men had left behind wives.

The war to end wars, was what it was said,
and so many men already lay dead.
At the end of it all, just rows of white crosses
And those who have lived, continue their losses.



Here & Now
The Art of Ageing Well

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