

## The Stoutest Man in the Forty-twa

*Tom learned this song from Jimmy McBeath, who's animated performance was wonderful. Trying to trace it's origin was difficult, but Adam McNaughtan came to the rescue with his amazing knowledge of Music Hall songs. It was written by Alexander Crawford (alias Harry Linn) sometime after 1877, and was originally called "The Fattest Man in the Forty-Twa".*

*While searching the web for information on the song, I found a beautiful howler which states the last verse refers to an actual incident in which the whole regiment was hung! ("The Royal party grabbed their sticks, and aa began tae streech/craan their necks")*

Behold, I am a soldier bold, I'm only twenty-five years old  
A finer warrior ne'er was seen fae Inverness tae Gretna Green  
When I wis young, my faither said he'd pit me tae a decent trade  
But I didnae like the work ava, sae I went and jined the Forty-Twa

Chorus:

The wind may blaw, the cock may craw  
The rain may rain, and the snaw may snaw  
But ye winna frighten Jock McGraw  
The stoutest man in the Forty Twa

The sergeant faa enlisted me, he slapped my back and then says he  
A man like you sae big and tall could ne'er be killed by a cannon ball  
The colonel then faan he cam roon, he looked me up and he looked me doon  
Then he winked at me and said, I guess ye must be the beastie fae Loch Ness

At oor last fecht across the sea the general mannie sent for me  
Faan I got there wi' my big gun the battle wis as good as won.  
For the enemy aa ran awa faan they saw the size o Jock McGraw  
A man like me sae big and neat, ye ken yersel could ne'er be beat.

The King then held a grand review, we numbered a thousand and sixty-two  
The kiltie lads cam marchin past and Jock McGraw cam marchin last  
The royal party grabbed their sticks an aa began tae craan their necks  
The King he cried, "Wye bless my soul, I thocht that man wis a telegraph pole"

aa=all  
ava=at all  
awa=away  
blaw=blow  
cam roon=came  
round  
cam=came  
craan=stretch  
craw=crow  
didnae=didn't  
doon=down  
faa=who  
faan=when  
fae=from  
faither=father  
fecht=fight  
jined=joined  
ken=know  
mannie=man  
pit=put  
sae=so  
snaw=snow  
tae=to  
winna=will not  
wis=was  
yersel=yourself