

SONG OF THE ROOKIES



WORDS AND MUSIC BY
RANSOM JUDD POWELL

MARCHING SONG

To my only son, himself a rookie in the National Army; to the 88th Division, N. A., in which many of my young friends are serving; and to all their brother rookies everywhere,

THIS SONG IS DEDICATED,

with the hope that it may serve to lighten the drudgery of the soldier's life, and to stimulate the saving sense of humor that keeps us sane.

3. When we were measured, the things that we treasured
were taken away and hid.
We thought it was rough and rather tough
to treat us the way they did.
They put us in uniform, fashioned in uniform,
banded our legs in spats,
And they sent us out with
girdles around our hats.
People shout when we turn out,
and dogs and children run about,
While all the girls, they greet us
with a smile of joy.
They hand us strings of socks and things,
and every one a sweater brings,
While all around they're yelling: "Atta Boy!"
4. They sent us to camp, and we had to revamp
all our previous views of things.
We thought it immense to live in tents,
and have the free life it brings.
But in spite of our hunches, they took us in bunches
and herded us into shacks,
Then they sent us out to
dig up the railway tracks.
Doctors we had hoped to shun,
but there we found them every one;
The pills and squills they fed us
was an awful shame;
They vaccinated us with dope,
inoculation made us mope—
But we began to like it just the same.
5. The Sergeant who drilled us, with merriment filled us,
to see the cute way he had
Of swinging his hands to give commands,
and cussing when he was mad.
We learned to maneuver, and also to "Hoover,"
to fight and to be prepared.
And you should see us
"dig in" when we are scared.
We can cook and handle tools,
and also shoe the army mules,
While every man has tinkered
with a lot of things.
Afternoons we sail balloons,
and also whistle all the tunes,
Of all the pieces everybody sings.
6. We were put in a company, where they could dump any
kind of a man they found.
We had Russians and Medes and Poles and Swedes,
and men from the Norton Sound.
There were Irish crusaders and far-away traders
from Greenland and Trinidad,
But they could fight whenever
you got them mad.
Some were clumsy in their gaits,
and few could talk United States,
But they were with us
to the bitter end, you know.
Though we could not understand,
We gladly took them by the hand.
And soon a common spirit seemed to grow.
7. They gave us our chance, when they sent us to France,
with a Captain who knows no fear.
He is canny and wise and always tries
to cheer us when danger's near.
When the enemy shells us, our Captain just tells us
to "dig in" and lie down flat.
But you can bet he's
there where the danger's at.
He was never known to swear,
but he will lead us anywhere.
To strike our mighty enemy
his greatest joy,
In a fight, 'tis his delight
to cheer his men with all his might,
And do it while he cares for every boy.
8. One day we were digging and patching and rigging
a road, when a gang of Huns
Came over the top, and tried to mop
the earth with your Uncle's sons.
Each threw down his shovel, and fought like the devil—
they "beat it" for safety soon.
And we camped right in their
trenches that afternoon.
Every Hun, he dropped his gun,
and Holy Moses! How he run!
While all around the cannon
roared on every hand.
Through the battle's awful blast,
we beat the Boches back at last
And then sat down to listen to the band.
9. When they told us to "Hop," we went over the top
with a whoop, and away we ran.
The Boches said: "Wait! And let's debate
till we fix up a peace again."
We answered: "Nay, nay, Fritz, we cannot delay,
for we're after your Kaiser's crown."
And we marched in to Berlin
as the sun went down.
Everybody on the street
came crowding in for things to eat.
While all they had to offer
was a hearty song.
The Kaiser brought his sons and things,
and said: "Behold the coming Kings!"
But we said: "Get your hats and come along!"

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Hun tried to squeeze Un-cle Sam from the seas, He was fool-ish as fools can
day we en-list-ed, a doc-tor as-sist-ed by med-i-cal men ga-

be. Our weakness, he said, would make us dread the an-ger of Ger-man-
lore, En-deavored to find out ev-'ry kind of things we had had be-

y. ——— They tho't that be-cause we re-gard-ed the laws, we were fore. ——— They stood us in rows and they count-ed our toes, and they

cowards and would not fight. So they went right out to sink ev-'ry-thing in stripped us from foot to head, And you should have heard the things that those doc-tors

sight. Then old Un-cle Sam got mad and called for all the said. "Here's a Mutt, a per-fect Nut;" "He's much too fat," and

boys he had. And all the ships and guns and things from ev-'ry-all of that. While all the ships and guns and things from ev-'ry-a-round us those doc-tors chased us to and

where. He sent the Reg - u - lars to France, and gave the Na - tion's
fro. They pulled our tongues and swelled our lungs, and tried our eyes in

Guard a chance, And then he yelled for us, — and here we are! —
ev - 'ry size, And then they said: "You're it, and you can go!"

CHORUS.

We are the Rook - ies bold, the Na - tion - al Ar - my

men. — We come from ev - 'ry - where, you know, We are the boys to

send. For we can "Hay foot," "Straw foot," han- dle and shoot a

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 's', an eighth note 'e', a quarter note 'n', and a quarter note 'd'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

gun. — We'll nev - er quit till "Bill" is It, And the war is

The second system continues the vocal line with a quarter note 'g', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'n', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'w', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'v', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'r', a quarter note 'q', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'b', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 'h', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'w', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'r', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 's'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

done. — Last time.

The third system shows the vocal line with a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'o', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'e', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'e'. The piano accompaniment includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the system.

The fourth system consists of piano accompaniment in the lower two staves, with the vocal line in the upper staff being empty. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic and harmonic patterns as the previous systems.

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