

Alto

# Three Tommies (The Burning Question)

Composer's note: please sing as a jaunty ballad, tell the story: the words must be heard.

Anon from Wiper Times 1917

Emily Feldberg

$\text{♩} = 110$   
*mf*

Three Tom-mies sat in the trench one day dis - cus - ing the war in the us - ual way They  
6 talked of the mud and they talked of the Hun of what was to do and what had been done —  
10 — They talked ab - out rum, and though it tis hard to be - lieve they  
15 ev - ven found time to talk a - bout leave, but the point which they ar - gued from  
18 post back to pil lar — was whe - ther Notts coun - ty could beat As - ton Vil - la  
21 **A**  
25 The night sped a - way and ze - ro drew nigh, E - quip - ment made rea - dy, all  
lips get - ting dry, and watch - es con - sul - ted with each pass - ing min - ute till  
28  
32 five more to go, then t'would find them all in it — find them all  
36 in it — The word came a - long down the line to "get rea - dy!" The ser - geants ad - mon - i - shing  
*f*  
all to keep stea - dy. But out rang a voice get - ting shrill - er and shrill er —

Alto

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41 **B**

The earth shook and swayed and the ba-r-rage was on as they leapt 'oer the top with a

45

rush and were gone A - way in - to Hun - land, through mud and through wire,

48

stab-ing and drag-ging themselves through the Mire. Through mud and through

52

wire. No time to heed those fall - en on route till, stopped by a strong point they

56

lay down to shoot, Then through the din came a voice:

61 **C**

The strong point has gone and for-wards they press to-wards their ob-ject-ive in

65

num-bers grow-ing less, They reach it at last, and pre-pare to re-sist the

68

coun-ter a-ttack which will come through the mist through the mist of the

73

rain fall-ing stead-i ly: Dig and hang on. The word for su-port back to H. Q. has gone The

77

air charged with mo-ment grows still - er and still er -

81 **D**

Two "Bligh ties a struggle through the mud to get back to the old A. D. S. down a

85

rough duck board track, a has-ty field dress-ing, a ride in a car, a wait in a C. C. S. then

89

there we\_ are\_\_\_\_\_ and here we\_ are packed side by side in a

94

clean Red Cross train, Ha-ppy in hopes to see Bligh-ty a gain, Still through the band-age muff -

98 **E**

-led Five Tom-mies sat in the trench one day dis

104

cus-sing the war in the us - ual way They talked of the mud and they talked of the Hun of

108

what was to do and what had been done\_\_\_\_\_ They talked ab-out rum, and

113

though it is hard to be-lieve they ev-ven found time to talk a-bout leave, but the

117

point which they argu - ed ov - er and ov - er was

119 *rall* *a tempo*

whe-ther Mine - head Town could beat Bris - tol Ro - vers