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## **HALLOWED GROUND**

Above the barren fields of winter  
The sullen-grey rain clouds brood  
Misty melancholy weather,  
To match my melancholy mood  
The road ahead turns black and shiny  
As the rain comes tumbling down  
But today I'll end this lone pilgrim's journey,  
And stand once more on hallowed ground  
Through Amiens, then turn east off the highway,

Down a winding half-remembered road  
Where I once walked hot, tired and thirsty,  
One summer's day thirty years ago  
In the long years since I first sat down with you  
I've become a sorry shadow of the man I was back then  
But at least unlike you I was given the chance to  
Grow old and weary and let the passing years condemn

### Refrain:

It's time again to try to comprehend and understand  
War's brutal bloody cost  
Time again to walk amongst the ghosts of No Man's Land  
On this foreign soil where their bones were tossed  
All for a few yards gained or lost

And there you are, you and your companions  
The boys who died all those years ago  
The Glorious Dead's proud battalions  
Row upon row upon row upon row  
Gleaming through the dusk of winter  
The crosses standing stark and white  
From where I stand seem to go on and on forever  
But maybe it's the mist and the fading light

### Refrain:

Oh, boys, how I'd like to tell you everything has changed  
But that would be a lie  
All in all this world is much the same  
Old men still talk and argue while young men still fight and die  
And I still don't know why

This graveyard tells no stirring story  
Of war's vain glory or romance  
But words like courage, honour and duty  
Echo still in this green field of France  
It's those echoes that I'll take home with me  
When I walk way from your graveside  
To stir and whisper in my memory

When I think of you, Private Willie McBride.