

# It Took Every Soldier

*Soldiers line up at the station  
Soon to fight for their nation  
Wheels greased and engines fired  
Duckling carriages warned of mire  
All in uniform, harsh and stiff  
Polished boots, new leather, no give  
What awaits they do not know  
Only to defeat the foe*

*Soldiers line up at the station  
Soon to fight for their nation  
Glancing up and down the line  
All this will end by Christmas time  
The train begins to pull away  
Oh, how she wishes he could stay  
No letter, no whisper, no sign of return  
Heart for her hero begins to yearn*

*Soldiers line up at the station  
Soon to fight for their nation  
Hissing engines, coaches sway  
Taking soldiers on their way  
King and Country, proud to serve  
But wartime is a learning curve  
Flag-waving children watch in awe  
They can't understand the truth of war*

*Soldiers line up at the station  
Soon to fight for their nation  
While young men go to join platoons  
This platform fills with children soon  
"Mummy, where did daddy go?  
Are we going to get him?" "No."  
Families divided by sorrowful partings  
To mobilise, evacuate. Wartime starting  
Brings fears unknown and country life  
Far from bombs, but not from strife*

*Soldiers line up at the station  
Soon to fight for their nation  
"Last time I was here was with our Peggy  
Getting the Sunday train to Skeggy."  
"How do you think it'll be when we arrive?  
You don't think there's a chance we won't  
come back alive?"  
"Nah, mate, over by Christmas, we'll be fine.  
You'll be back on the train to the seaside next  
summer, having a lovely time."*

*Soldiers lined up at the station  
Humans, machines; all fought for this nation  
For families ripped apart by war  
The railway station: the guardian's door.*

A collaboration by creative writer Olivia Macnab, EMR Station Adopters, Staff and Community Rail Partners to commemorate the vital role the railway industry has played in times of conflict and the sacrifices made by railway staff around the world.

Poem written by

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