

THE SONGS THEY SANG IN THE TRENCHES

The songs they sang in the trenches
Are the songs that I long to hear.
The dear old songs that the soldiers sang
Are music to mine ear.

The songs they sang in the trenches,
The songs of the brave and true,
The stirring songs of the homeland,
I'd hear them, boys, from you.

The glorious songs of Britain,
The peerless queen of the wave,
I'd hear you sing of your island home
Of the land that you died to save.

When the moonlight fell on the trenches,
In accents tender and mild,
I'd hear the sweet-voiced poilu
As he sang of his wife and child.

Oh, the wonderful songs of the Yankees
That they sang when the flag was unfurled!
The song that was echoed from heaven,
The song that was heard round the world.

Oh, the prayerful songs of the trenches
That the soldiers sang when they died!
We'll join them again in the chorus
When we sing on the other side.

Oh, the beautiful songs of the trenches,
Murmur them softly and low!
Many heroes that sang in the trenches
Are moldering under the snow.

Captain John Robert Hume,
23d Infantry.