

Joe McDonnell (Key D)

D D G D
Oh my name is Joe McDonnell from Belfast town I came

G D A A
That city I will never see again

D D G D
For in that town of Belfast I spent many happy days

G D A A
I love that town in oh so many ways.

Em G D G Em G D
For it's there I spent my childhood and found for me a wife

Em G D A A
I then set out to make for her a life.

D D G D
But all my young ambitions met with bitterness and hate

G D A A
I soon found myself inside a prison gate.

Chorus

Em G D G
And you dare call me a terrorist

Em G D
While you look down your gun

Em G D A A
When I think of all the deeds that you have done,

D D
You have plundered many nations

D D
Divided many lands

G G
You have terrorized their people

G A
You ruled with an iron hand

D D A A
And you brought this reign of terror to my land.

Though those many months internment in the Maidstone and the Maze
I thought about my land throughout those days
Why my country was divided why I was now in jail
Imprisoned without crime or without trial.

And though I love my country I'm not a bitter man
I have seen cruelty and injustice at first hand.
Then one fateful morning I shook bold freedom's hand
For right or wrong I tried to free my land.

Chorus

Then one cold October's morning trapped in the Lion's Den
I found myself imprisoned once again
I was committed to the H blocks for fourteen years or more
On the blanket the conditions there were poor
Then a hunger strike we did commence for the dignity of man
but it seemed to me that no one gave us a damn
and now I am a saddened man I've watched my comrades die
but no one seemed to care or wonder why.

Chorus

May God shine on you Bobby Sands for the courage you have shown
May your glory and your fame be widely known.
And Francis Hughes and Ray McCreesh you died unselfishly
And Patsy O'Hara and next in line is me
And all who lie behind me may your courage be the same
And I pray to God my life is not in vain.
Oh but sad and bitter was the year of 1981
For everything I've lost and nothing's won.