

Press Gang

1. It came upon a summers night a ship sailed in the bay
To press the local fishermen and take them all away
To go and fight their foreign wars with the criminals and scum
And lead a life of misery at the mercy of the gun

Chorus.

Go back to your floating prison
Go back to your ship of war
to hell with your pressing mission
your not worth fighting for
If you think we'll join your navy
Well we'll never mark these words
If you come for us we'll take you on
And put you to the sword

2. A boat it landed from the ship with 30 men or more
They were led by a lieutenant who marched them up the shore
Two smugglers when passing by had seen them to alarm
They went to warn the fishermen to keep them safe from harm
3. There was an able fisherman called William Maclean
He said "go home and arm yourselves and come back here again
For fear had turned to anger on this dark and fateful night
And fifty men and boys returned all ready for the fight
4. The pressing gang came up the hill and broke a cottage door
The women and the children were battered to the floor
But William's men on hands and knees the house they did surround
We'll teach you thugs a lesson and put you underground
5. The signal it was given and to their feet they sprang
They jumped the startled gangers and a battle then began
The air was filled with shouting and the screams of dying men
And in less than 30 minutes the gangers were all slain
6. so William went up to the laird sir Archibald Maclean
And told him what had taken place on him would be the blame
The laird said leave this island and settle a new life
And nobly gave him money for his children and his wife
7. The captain stood upon the rocks and on his men did wait
Sir Archibald came to meet him and tell of their fate
These Godless hordes of murderers I'll shoot them one by one
I'll never leave this island until the job is done

8. Sir Archibald so cool and calm said “ catch them if you can “
You'll have to take this island on and fight them every man
For they are all my kith and kin and they'll serve me to the end
And if you're going to do it you'll need a thousand men