

Why Aye Man

Mark Knopfler

We had no way of staying a float
We had to leave on the ferry-boat
Economic refugees
On the run to Germany
We had the back of Maggie's hand
Times were tough in Geordie land
We got wor tools and working gear
And humped it all from Newcastle to here

Why aye man, why aye, why aye ma
Why aye man, why aye, why aye man (x2)

We're the nomad tribes, travelling boys
In the dust and the dirt and the racket and the noise
Drills and hammers, diggers and picks
Mixing concrete, laying bricks
There's English, Irish, Scots, the lot
United Nation's what we've got
Brickies, Chippies, every trade
German building, British-made

Why aye man, why aye, why aye ma
Why aye man, why aye, why aye man (x2)

Nae more work on Maggie's farm
Hadaway down the autobahn
Mine's a porta cabin bed
or a bunk in a Nissan hut instead

There's plenty Deutschmarks here to earn
And German tarts are wun derschoen
German beer is chemical- free
Germany's alreet with me
Some times I miss my river Tyne
But you're my pretty Fraulein
Tonight we'll drink the old town dry
Keep wor spirit levels high

Why aye man, why aye, why aye ma
Why aye man, why aye, why aye man (x2)

Some times I miss my river Tyne
But you're my pretty Fraulein
Tonight we'll drink the old town dry
Keep wor spirit levels high (2x)