

# Smashing of the Van

Chumbawamba

Attend you gallant Irishmen and listen for a while  
I'll sing to you the praises of the sons of Erin's Isle  
It's of those gallant heroes who voluntarily ran  
To release two Irish shamrocks from an English prison van

My lads for freedom, let's all join heart and hand  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys that helped to smash the van

On the eighteenth of September, it was a dreadful year  
When sorrow and excitement ran throughout all Lancashire  
At a gathering of the Irish boys they volunteered each man  
To release those Irish prisoners out of the prison van

My lads for freedom, let's all join heart and hand  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys that helped to smash the van

In Manchester one morning those heroes did agree  
Their leaders, Kelly and Deasy, should have their liberty  
They drank a health to Ireland and soon made up the plan  
To meet the prisoners on the road and take and smash the van

My lads for freedom, let's all join heart and hand  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys that helped to smash the van

With courage bold those heroes went and soon the van did stop  
They cleared the guards from back and front and then smashed in  
the top  
But in blowing open of the lock, they chanced to kill a man  
So three men must die on the scaffold high for smashing of the  
van

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So now kind friends I will conclude, I think it would be right  
That all true-hearted Irishmen together should unite  
Together should sympathize, my friends, and do the best we can  
To keep the memories ever green of the boys that smashed the van