

## Joe McDonnell

The Wolfe Tones

O me name is Joe McDonnell from  
Belfast town I came  
That city I will  
never see again  
For in the town of Belfast  
I spent many happy days  
I love that town in oh so many ways  
For it's there I spent my childhood and found  
for me a wife  
I then set out to make  
for her a life  
But all my young ambitions met with bitterness and hate  
I soon found myself inside a prison gate  
And you dare to call me a terrorist  
while you looked down your gun  
When I think of all the deeds that you had done  
You had plundered many nations divided many lands  
You had terrorised their peoples you ruled with an iron  
hand.  
And you brought this reign of terror to my land  
Through 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 am not a bitter man  
I've seen cruelty and injustice at first hand  
So then one fateful morning I shook bold freedom's hand  
For right or wrong I'd try to free my land  
And you dare to call me a terrorist  
while you looked down your gun  
When I think of all the deeds that you had done  
You had plundered many nations divided many lands  
You had terrorised their peoples you ruled with an iron  
hand.  
And you brought this reign of terror to my land  
Then one cold October morning trapped in a lion's den  
I found myself in prison once again  
I was committed to the H-blocks for fourteen years or  
more  
On the Blanket the conditions they were poor  
Then a hunger strike we did commence for the dignity of  
man  
But it seemed to me that no one gave a damn  
But now, I'm a saddened man I've watched my comrades  
die  
If only people cared or wondered why  
And you dare to call me a terrorist  
while you looked down your gun  
When I think of all the deeds that you had done  
You had plundered many nations divided many lands  
You had terrorised their peoples you ruled with an iron  
hand.  
And you brought this reign of terror to my land  
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 who died  
unselfishly  
And Patsy O Hara and the next in line is me  
And those who lie behind me may you're courage be the  
same  
And I pray to God my life is not in vain  
Ah but sad and bitter was the year of 1981  
For everything I've lost and nothing's won.