

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

John McCutcheon

**D - D/C# D/B-D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 OH MY NAME IS FRANCIS TOLIVER; I COME FROM LIVERPOOL  
**A7 G/B - A/C# G - D/F# D**  
 TWO YEARS AGO THE WAR WAS WAITIN' FOR ME AFTER SCHOOL  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 FROM BELGIUM AND TO FLANDERS, TO GERMANY TO HERE,  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 I'VE FOUGHT FOR KING AND COUNTRY I LOVE DEAR  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 IT WAS CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES WHERE THE FROST SO BITTER HUNG  
**Bm Bm/A G - D/F# A7s -A7**  
 THE FROZEN FIELDS OF FRANCE WERE STILL; NO CHRISTMAS SONGS WERE SUNG  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 OUR FAMILIES BACK IN ENGLAND WERE TOASTING US THAT DAY  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 THEIR BRAVE AND GLORIOUS LADS SO FAR AWAY  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 WELL I WAS LYIN' WITH MY MESSMATES ON THE COLD AND ROCKY GROUND  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 WHEN ACROSS THE LINES OF BATTLE CAME A MOST PECULIAR SOUND  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 SAYS I, NOW LISTEN UP ME BOYS, EACH SOLDIER STRAINED TO HEAR  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 AS ONE YOUNG GERMAN VOICE SANG OUT SO CLEAR  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 HE'S SINGIN' BLOODY WELL YOU KNOW, MY PARTNER SAYS TO ME  
**Bm Bm/A G - D/F# A7s - A7**  
 SOON ONE BY ONE EACH GERMAN VOICE JOINED IN IN HARMONY  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 THE CANNONS RESTED SILENT AND THE GAS CLOUDS ROLLED NO MORE  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 AS CHRISTMAS BROUGHT US RESPITE FROM THE WAR  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 AS SOON AS THEY WERE FINISHED AND REVERENT PAUSE WAS SPENT  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN STRUCK UP SOME LADS FROM KENT  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 THE NEXT THEY SANG WAS STILLE NACHT - 'T WAS SILENT NIGHT SAYS I  
**A7 G/B - A/C# D D**  
 AND IN TWO TONGUES ONE SONG FILLED OUT THAT SKY  
**A7 G/B- A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 THERE'S SOMEONE COMIN' TOWARDS US THE FRONT LINE SENTRY CRIED  
**Bm Bm/A G - D/F# As - A7**  
 ALL SIGHTS WERE FIXED ON ONE LONE FIGURE TRUDGING FROM THEIR SIDE  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 HIS TRUCE FLAG LIKE A CHRISTMAS STAR SHONE ON THAT PLAIN SO BRIGHT  
**A7 G/B - A/C# D D**  
 AS HE BRAVELY STRODE UNARMED INTO THE NIGHT  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 SOON ONE BY ONE ON EITHER SIDE WALKED INTO NO-MAN'S LAND  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 WITH NEITHER GUN NOR BAYONET WE MET THERE HAND TO HAND

**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 WE SHARED SOME SECRET BRANDY AND WE WISHED EACH OTHER WELL  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D**  
 AND IN A FLARE-LIT SOCCER GAME WE GAVE 'EM HELL

**A7 G/B -A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 WE TRADED CHOCOLATES AND CIGARETTES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HOME  
**Bm Bm/A G - D/F# A7s - A7**  
 THESE SONS AND FATHERS FAR AWAY FROM FAMILIES OF THEIR OWN  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 YOUNG SANDERS PLAYED HIS SQUEEZE-BOX AND THEY HAD A VIOLIN  
**A7 G/B - AY/C# D D**  
 THIS CURIOUS AND UNLIKELY BAND OF MEN  
**D - D/C# D/B-D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 SOON DAYLIGHT STOLE UPON US, FRANCE WAS FRANCE ONCE MORE  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 WITH SAD FAREWELLS WE EACH BEGAN TO SETTLE BACK TO WAR  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 THE QUESTION HAUNTED EVERY HEART THAT BEAT THAT WONDEROUS NIGHT  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 WHOSE FAMILY HAVE I FIXED WITHIN MY SIGHTS  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 'T WAS CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES WHERE THE FROST SO BITTER HUNG  
**Bm Bm/A G - D/F# A7s - A7**  
 FROZEN FIELDS OF FRANCE WERE WARMED WHEN SONGS OF PEACE WERE SUNG  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 THE WALLS THEY KEPT BETWEEN US TO EXACT A WORK OF WAR  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 HAD CRUMBLD AND WERE GONE FOREVER MORE  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 OH MY NAME IS FRANCIS TOLIVER; IN LIVERPOOL I DWELL  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# G - D/F# D**  
 EACH CHRISTMAS COMES AS WORLD WAR I HAS LEARNED ITS LESSONS WELL  
**D - D/C# D/B - D/A G - D/F# Em**  
 BUT THE ONES WHO CALL THE SHOTS WON'T BE AMONG THE DEAD AND LAME  
**A7 G/B - A7/C# D D**  
 AND ON EACH END OF THE RIFLE WE'RE THE SAME

The artist related that while he was playing a gig in Germany, there were six really old guys who came each evening, and left after he did this song. He finally caught up with one, and got an interpreter, to find out who the old guys were. Those old guys were THERE!!!

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