

When Will This Battle Be Over?

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "When will this bat-tle be o-ver - , When will the war e-ver end? — When will I meet you and when will I greet you, And when will I see you a-gain? — The war was quite slow in the ma-king, — We all hoped that peace would pre-vail: — But take two proud na-tions, both lack-ing in pa-tience, and wait for the peacetalks to fail. — At first we were full of good spi-rit, — We thought of it just as a game. — But then came the kill-ing, and we weren't so will-ing, We all looked for some-one to blame. —"

*When will this battle be over;
When will the war ever end?
When will I meet you, and when will I greet you,
And when will I see you again?*

The war was quite slow in the making,
We all hoped that sense would prevail;
But take two proud nations, both lacking in patience -
And wait for the peace talks to fail.
At first we were full of good spirit,
We thought of it just as a game.
But then came the killing, and we weren't so willing;
We all looked for someone to blame.

At times when the guns they fell silent,
We'd smoke as we talked of the fight.
And often we wondered which leader had blundered,
And where he'd be dining that night.
The sights that we saw were revolting;
We wondered how long we'd keep sane.
But as we dug deeper, our lives became cheaper -
With few of us left to complain.

We fired a hundred shells daily,
And got back a hundred and one.
Although we were tiring, we couldn't stop firing
For all sense of reason had gone.
As months turned to years we stopped thinking
Of life as we knew it before.
Each day left us reeling, bereft of all feeling,
The poor living dead of war.



Another Case of Trench Foot



World War I Medals