

Tenor

Three Tommies (The Burning Question)

Composer's note: please sing as a jaunty ballad, tell the story: the words must be heard.

Anon from Wiper Times 1917

Emily Feldberg

$\text{♩} = 110$

Three Tom-mies sat in the trench one day dis - cus-ing the war in the us-ual way They

6 talked of the mud and they talked of the Hun of what was to do and what had been done—

10 — try it or go up an octave!
They talked ab-out rum, and though it tis hard to be-lieve they

15 ev - ven found time to talk a-bout leave, but the point which they ar-gued from

18 post back to pil lar— was whe-ther Notts coun-ty could beat As-ton Vil-la

21 **A**
The night sped a-way and ze-ro drew nigh, E - quip-ment made rea - dy, all

25 lips get-ting dry, and watch - es con-sul - ted with each pass-ing min-ute till

28 five more to go, then t'would find them all in it— find them all

32 in it— The word came a-long down the line to "get rea - dy!". The ser-geants ad-mon-i-shing

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36 *f*

all to keep stea-dy. But out rang a voice gett-ingshrill-er and shrill er__

41 **B** *f*

The earth shook and swayed and the ba-rage was on as theyleapt 'oer the top with a

45

rush and were gone A - way in - to Hun-land, through mud and through wire,

48 *alto*

stab-ing and drag-ging themselves through the Mire____ Through mud and through

52

wire. No time to heed those fall - en on route till, stopped by a strong point they

56 **2**

lay down to shoot, Then through the din came a voice:

61 **C**

The strong point has gone and for-wards they press to-wards their ob-ject-ive in

65 staggered breathing here plee

num-bers grow-ing less, They reach it at last, and pre-pare to re-sist the

68 *pp* no breath

coun-ter a-ttack which will come through the mist____ through the mist____ of the

73 *sf*

rain fall-ing stead-i__ ly: Dig and hang on. The word for su-port back to H. Q. has gone The

77 **2**

air charged with mo-ment grows still - er and still-er -

81 **D** *f*

 Two "Bligh ties a struggle through the mud to get back to the old A. D. S. down a

85

 rough duck board track, a has-ty field dress-ing, a ride in a car, a wait in a C. C. S. then

89

 there we__ are_____ and here we__ are packed side by side in a

94

 clean Red Cross train, Ha-ppy in hopes to see Bligh-ty a gain, Still through the band-age muff -

98 **E**

 -led Five Tom-mies sat in the trench one day dis

104

 cus-sing the war in the us - ual way They talked of the mud and they talked of the Hun of

108 *alto*

 what was to do and what had been done_____ They talked ab-out rum, and

113

 though it is hard to be-lieve they ev-ven found time to talk a-bout leave, but the

117

 point which they argu - ed ov - er and ov - er was

119 *rall* *a tempo*

 whe-ther Mine - head Town could beat Bris - tol Ro - vers_____