

# St Patricks Battalion

## The Wakes

My name is John Riley  
I'll have your ear only a while  
I left my dear home in Ireland  
It was death, starvation or exile  
And when I got to America  
It was my duty to go  
Enter the Army and slog across Texas  
To join in the war against Mexico

It was there in the pueblos and hillsides  
That I saw the mistake I had made  
Part of a conquering army  
With the morals of a bayonet blade  
and in the midst of these poor, dying Catholics  
Screaming children, the burning stench of it all  
Myself and two hundred Irishmen  
Decided to rise to the call

From Dublin City to San Diego  
We witnessed freedom denied  
So we formed the Saint Patrick Battalion  
And we fought on the Mexican side  
we formed the Saint Patrick Battalion  
And we fought on the Mexican side

We marched 'neath the green flag of Saint Patrick  
Emblazoned with "Erin Go Bragh"  
Bright with the harp and the shamrock  
And "Libertad para Mexicana"  
Just fifty years after Wolfstone  
Five thousand miles away  
The Yanks called us a Legion of Strangers  
And they can talk as they may

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We witnessed freedom denied  
So we formed the Saint Patrick Battalion  
And we fought on the Mexican side  
we formed the Saint Patrick Battalion

And we fought on the Mexican side

We fought them in Matamoros  
Where their volunteers were raping the nuns  
In Monterey and Cerro Gordo  
We fought on as Ireland's sons  
We were the red-headed fighters for freedom  
Amidst these brown-skinned women and men  
Side by side we fought against tyranny  
And I daresay we'd do it again

From Dublin City to San Diego  
We witnessed freedom denied  
So we formed the Saint Patrick Battalion  
And we fought on the Mexican side  
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We fought them in five major battles  
Churobusco was the last  
Overwhelmed by the cannons from Boston  
We fell after each mortar blast  
Most of us died on that hillside  
In the service of the Mexican state  
So far from our occupied homeland  
We were heroes and victims of fate

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Lyrics Submitted by Kalithia Smith

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