

I'll Go

Jerry Early

I'll Go - Jerry Early and Kevin Gallagher

Not tonight of any night said the coxswain to the crew

The chances of survival on a night like this are few

December 1940 on the coast off Donegal

Came a great north wind that could have been the cruelest of them all

Fourteen men were missing, eighteen more in great distress

Jack Boyle held their future, in his hands they'd come to rest

He knew a man who knew the sea if any man would know

Will you show the way without delay, O'Donnell said I'll go

(Chorus)

Their neighbors watched them gather and they cast a worried eye

And wondered how that lifeboat crew could possibly survive

They all agreed, that some at least the greatest price would pay

And old men shed a tear and knelt down on the ground to pray

While standing on the pier with his hand-picked squad of men

Jack told them that they might never see their homes again

He told them that there'd be no shame if this time they said no

Each traced a cross upon his brow, stepped up and said I'll go.

(Chorus)

Against the storm, against the gale, against the mighty waves

Those men were rightly honored as the bravest of the brave

And let everyone salute them and thank god for men like these

Who'd risk their lives for strangers and peril on the sea.

O'Donnell, Ward and Gallagher, remember these names well

With the Boyles and the Byrnes and Rogers, they faced the seas from hell

With the waves above them crashing down and a heaving mass below

God bless them everyone when they vowed to say I'll go

(Chorus)

Now this volunteer lifeboat crew sailed from Arranmore

They faced the biggest storm that they had ever seen before

They brought them eighteen sailors home and left them on the land

Now they're safe and well and home again by the grace of god's own hand

Now their spirits soar above the waves in their eternal rest

And surely if thereâ€™s justice, they are seated with the best
And Iâ€™d like to think in that last hour god whispered soft and low
And welcomed home the eight brave men whoâ€™d made the vow to go

Chorus -

Iâ€™ll go and do the best I can, Iâ€™ll do what must be done
Iâ€™ll go cause Iâ€™m a lifeboat man, I am my fatherâ€™s son
Iâ€™ll go and do the best I can, Iâ€™ll do what must be done
Iâ€™ll go cause Iâ€™m a island man, I am my fatherâ€™s son

(Chorus after last verse - sung twice)

Iâ€™ll go and do the best I can, Iâ€™ll do what must be done
Iâ€™ll go cause Iâ€™m an island man, I am my fatherâ€™s son
Iâ€™ll go and do the best I can, Iâ€™ll do what must be done
Iâ€™ll go cause Iâ€™m from Arranmore, I am my fatherâ€™s son

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