

Ludlow Massacre

Jack Elliott

It was early spring time that the strike was on
They moved us miners out of doors
Out from the houses that the company owned
We moved into tents at old Ludlow I was worried bad about my children
 Soldiers guarding the railroad bridge
 Every once in a while a bullet would fly
Kick up gravel under my feet We were so afraid they would kill our children
 We dug us a cave that was seven foot deep
 Carried our young ones and a pregnant woman
Down inside the cave to sleep That very night, you soldier waited
 Until us miners were asleep
 You snuck around our little tent town
Soaked our tents with your kerosene You struck a match and the blaze it started
 You pulled the triggers of your Gatling guns
 I made a run for the children
 But the fire wall stopped me
Thirteen children died from your guns I carried my blanket to a wire fence corner
 Watched the fire 'til the blaze died down
 I helped some people grab their belongings
While your bullets killed us all around I will never forget the looks on the faces
 Of the men and women that awful day
 When we stood around to preach their funerals
And lay the corpses of the dead away We told the Colorado governor to call the President
 Tell him to call off his National Guard
 But the National Guard belong to the governor
So he didn't try so very hard Our women from Trinidad they hauled some potatoes
 Up to Walsenburg in a little cart
 They sold their potatoes and brought some guns back
And put a gun in every hand The state soldiers jumped us in a wire fence corner
 They did not know that we had these guns
 And the redneck miners mowed down them troopers
You should have seen those poor boys run We took some cement and walled that cave up
 Where you killed those thirteen children inside
 I said, "God bless the Mine Workers' Union"
 And then I hung my head and cried