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 LudlowI 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 feetWe 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 sleepThat very night, you soldier waited
Until us miners were asleep
You snuck around our little tent town
Soaked our tents with your keroseneYou 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 gunsI 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 aroundI 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 awayWe 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 hardOur 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 handThe 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 runWe 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

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