

The Smashing of the Van  
By:Chumbawamba  
an Irish folk song

Attend you gallant Irishmen  
And listen for a while.  
I'll sing to you the praises  
Of the sons of Erin's Isle.  
It's of those gallant heroes  
Who volunlar'ly ran  
To release two Irish shamrocks  
From an English prison van.

The Eighteenth of September,  
It was in that dreadful year,  
When sorrow and excitement  
Ran throughout all Lancashire.  
At a gath'ring of the Irish Boys,  
They volunteered each man  
To release those Irish prisoners  
Out of the prison van.

Hurrah, my lads, for freedom!  
Let's all join heart and hand!  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys  
Who helped to smash the van!

In Manchester, one morning,  
Those good heroes did agree  
Their leaders, Kelly and Deasy,  
Should have their liberty.  
They drank a health to Ireland  
And soon made up a plan  
To meet the prisoners on the road  
And take and smash the van.

Hurrah, my lads, for freedom!  
Let's all join heart and hand!  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys  
Who helped to smash the van!

With courage bold, these heroes went  
And soon the van did stop.  
They cleared the guards from back and front  
And then smashed in the top.  
But in blowing open of the lock,  
They chanced to kill a man.  
So three men must die on the scaffold high  
For smashing of the van.

Hurrah, my lads, for freedom!  
Let's all join heart and hand!  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys  
Who helped to smash the van!

So now, kind friends, I will conclude  
I think it would be right  
That all true-hearted Irishmen  
Together should unite.  
Together should sympathize, my friends,  
And do the best we can  
To keep the memories ever green  
Of the boys who smashed the van.

Hurrah, my friends, for freedom!  
Let's all join heart and hand!  
May the Lord have mercy on the boys

**Who helped to smash the van!**