The Last Roll Call - song lyrics

THE LAST ROLL CALL.
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Written and Composed by Charles Osborne.

Fifty years ago last Friday, on a wild and stormy day.
I was fighting for our colors, many thousand miles away;
Tho' we were but one to twenty, still we beat them—yes, they lost!
We were victors, heroes all; but what a price that vict'ry cost!

Chorus.
Side by side, like a crimson tide, in the days of long ago,
On we dash'd, and our sabres crash'd, till we conquered ev'ry foe;
But one by one, ere the fight was done, I saw my comrades fall,
And I was the only one left to answer the Last Roll Call!

Fifty brave and stalwart soldiers thrashed a host of deadly foes,
Fifty sabres flashed like lightning ere the shout of vict'ry rose;
Like an avalanche of thunder on we swept—Hurrah: they run:
Then I rode back home in silence, all had fallen there but one.—Cho.

By the dim and ghostly torchlight, there we sought them where they fell,
They who'd saved their country's honor, they who'd fought & died so well;
Who is this, beneath those shadows? Halt! lads, gently raise his head;
Turn the light this way, men-silence, Jack, my own twin brother, dead.
-Cho.

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