

Old Sam

It occurred on the evening before Waterloo
And troops were lined up on Parade,
And Sergeant said he'd an important announcement
From the Duke, which had to be made.

It had come from the old Duke of Wellington's lips,
So he'd made it all up for hissen;
'Twas a delicate matter, or so Sergeant said,
But 'twas best to be frank, men to men.

"Tomorrow we're going to win famous fight,"
Said Sergeant, "'Tis no idle hope."
Asked a private, "How can tha be so ruddy sure?"
"'Twas in "News of the World" horoscope."

"So after the battle you'll want to relax,
And perhaps have a bit of a do.
There'll be smoked salmon, caviare, lots of champagne -
And bottles of Old Ale too.

"And after tha's got a few under thy belt,
Tha'll get up to all kinds of pranks.
Not to mention the locals what we have set free
- They'll be wanting to show us their thanks.

"And if celebrations should go to tha' head,
There'll be many temptations to face,
And happen that some of you want to succumb,
Tha'd better have these, just in case."

So saying, the Sergeant gave wave wi' his stick
And corporals arrived, carrying crates.
They opened 'em oop, and began to hand round
Little packets on which was writ "Mates".

The soldiers took packets, but with puzzled frowns
And asked what these "Mates" might be for.
One or two thought they knew cos they'd read Marie Stopes,
But they weren't entirely sure.

Said one private, "Now how do you use these 'ere "Mates?"
"We think that we ought to be told."
Said the Sergeant, "I'll not put one on for thee now -
Not out 'ere, cos it's too ruddy cold."

So the privates all pocketed packets of "Mates",
Which they learnt were called also French Letters
Or condoms; though some thought that such fancy stuff
Was really designed for their betters.

ŠAll excepting one man who was in the front rank,
A man by the name of Sam Small.
Despite the example of all the men round
He wouldn't touch condoms at all.

"Pick 'em oop," said the Sergeant, abrupt-like but cool,
But said Sam, wi' a frown, "Ruddy hell!
I came to this battle to beat oop the French,
I'm not writing them letters as well."

"Sam, Sam, pick oop tha condoms,"
The Sergeant exclaimed, going red.
Sam said, "If tha wants 'em, then wear 'em thasen
I'll not have one of those on me head."

The sound of high words very soon reached the ears
Of an officer, Lieutenant Bird,
Who says to the Sergeant, "Now what's all this 'ere?"
And the Sergeant told what had occurred.

"Sam, Sam, pick oop tha condoms,"
Said Lieutenant. "Tha'll need them in bed."
"Nay, lad," said Old Sam, "If I'm feeling the cold
I'll have hot-water bottle instead."

It caused quite a stir when the Captain arrived
To find out the cause of the trouble.
And everyone there, excepting Old Sam,
Was full of excitement and bubble.

"Sam, Sam, pick oop tha condoms.
They've been thoroughly tested - by Law,"
Ordered Captain. But Sam said, "I'm not using those
If a Policeman has used 'em before."

The same thing occurred when the Major and Colonel
Both tried to get Sam to see sense.
But when old Duke of Wellington came into view,
Well, the excitement was tense.

The Major and Colonel explained to the Duke
That Sam had refused prophylactics.
He looked at the condoms, and then at Old Sam,
And said, "Happen we'll try different tactics."

"Sam, Sam, pick oop tha condoms,"
The Duke said as quiet as could be.
"Sam, Sam, pick oop tha condoms -
Come on, lad, just to please me."

Full five minutes Duke whispered into Sam's ear
Till Sam's face was blushing bright red,
Then Duke asked, "Art sure that tha understands now?"
And Sam grumbled that nobody'd said.

"Alright, Duke," said Old Sam, "just for thee I'll oblige,
And to show no irreverence was meant."
So Sam picked them up. "Gradely, lad," said the Duke,
"And after we've won, if that's still in doubt - Look,
Tha can practise with me in my tent."