

The Writing of Silent Night

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(Yesterday's Men)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Nine - teen four - teen and Saxe - Co - burg is King. What will the fut - ure now bring? And what will he do if we go fight the Hun For a Ger - man's a Ger - man when all's said and done But ne - ver for - get that your three score and ten Be - longs - to Yes - ter-day's Men Oh, Be - longs to Yes - ter-day's Men".

- 1 1914 and Saxe-Coburg is King
What will the future now bring
And what will he do if we go fight the Hun
For a German's a German, when all's said and done
But never forget that your 3 score and ten
Belongs to Yesterday's Men
Oh, it belongs to Yesterday's Men
- 2 Lord Kitchener told us: your Country needs you
Or else we'll be all in a stew
So Tommy MacDonald has gone off to war
And every one asks - What are we fighting for?
For where we have one man I'm sure they have ten
And we're fighting for Yesterday's Men
Oh, fighting for Yesterday's Men
- 3 Over by Christmas - or that's what they said
Soon be back safe in your bed
So they gave him a tin hat, they gave him a gun
Told him - Now Tommy, just go fight the Hun
For King and for Country, then come home again
And you'll get to be Yesterday's Men
Oh, you'll get to be Yesterday's Men

- 4 Now the Kaiser is wiser when it comes to a fight
 He keeps us awake half the night
 He fires all his canons and throws his big bombs
 He scares the wits out of us Aussies and Poms
 While he's safe at home in his snug little den
 'Cause he's one of Yesterday's Men
 Oh, he's one of Yesterday's Men
- 5 The Sergeant he tells us we're no bloody good
 He makes it quite clear understood
 The Colonel just sits there - he's reading the Times
 They say he's a Banker, or something that rhymes
 But he tells us just what to do, how, where and when
 'Cause he's one of Yesterday's Men
 Oh, he's one of Yesterday's Men
- 6 Autumn's now over, and Winter's to stay
 And it's first light upon Christmas Day
 The guns yet are silent, the Sergeant don't nag
 Across in the far lines a man waves a flag
 First there was one man and then there was ten
 And they all sang like Yesterday's Men
 Oh, they all sang like Yesterday's Men
- Coda Silent Night, Holy Night
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round the Battlefield all is still
 Peace on Earth to men of good will
 So sleep in Heavenly Peace
 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 7 Handshakes were shaken, a cup of tea shared
 Smiles all around, no-one cared
 A football was kicked on the Saviour's birth
 And everyone wished for his own Peace on Earth
 Once more we shook hands, then they went back again
 Goodbye to Yesterday's Men
 Oh, goodbye to Yesterday's Men
- 8 The very next day, and the fight's under way
 Gas clouds are coming my way
 We fought and we killed just the same as before
 Till victory at last brings an end to the War
 For a few years of peace, then it started again
 All thanks to Yesterday's Men
 Oh, all thanks to Yesterday's Men
- Coda Silent Night, Holy Night
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round the graveyard no flags any more
 Oh, what's become of this War to end War
 Who can sleep in Heavenly Peace?
 Who sleeps in Heavenly Peace?
 Who sleeps in Heavenly Peace?