

E.W. McLean

her → H.P. Rasmussen, McLean/1

Egypt! Land of sand and sunsets
Where my footsteps pause a while
Where the dirty sore-eyed Arab
Barter's fruit with native goods,
Half the world we've crossed to reach you
Hearts were light & hopes were high
Thinking that we'd come for fighting
But we're only "standing by"

Maybe when our limbs are feeble
and our heads are bending low
we will tell our children's children
of the days of long ago
How with patriotic fervor,
men came in from far and nigh
Answering the call of freedom
(This includes the "standing by")

Uniform and web equipment
Rifle, pull through, haversack,
Epsom, One Tree Hill and Parose
Watching out, and marching back

Company, Platoon and Section
Always drilling, wet or dry
Till they'd made a little army
Suitable for "Standing by"

Sickness, inoculation.

Tropic heat and horsey smell,

All the incidents of travel,
Though we stood them rather well
Trains and transports, field manoeuvres
Bivouac beneath the sky.

Fitting us for active service
~~And perhaps for~~
"Standing by"

Trouding like a loaded camel
'neath the ~~sun~~ sun the whole day through
Skirmishing to Beit-el-Sherati

Marching out to No 2

Land of corn and land of Can-can
Land of Wasi, tell us why!

Have we a little patience
Will they stop this "Standing by"

Dreamt last night I was in heaven
Things were similar up higher
Routine Orders by St Peter's
Colonel of the Massin choir
"Polish up your harps and halos
(Mind the flannellette is doxy)
We may want you in a fortnight
Carry on with 'Standing by'"

E. W. McLellan
Machine Gun Section