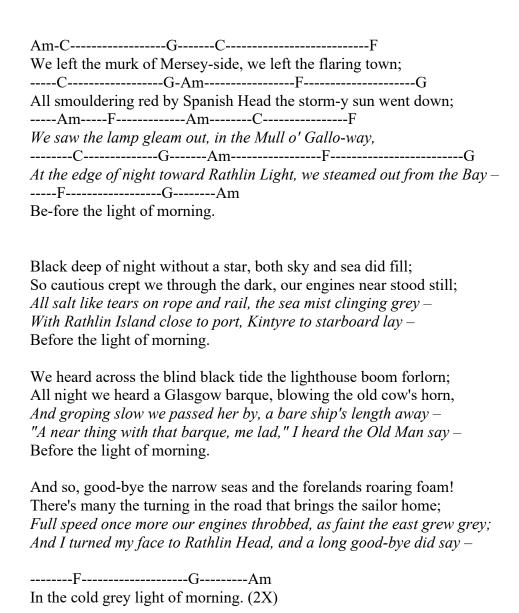
**Key:** E (4/C)

### Rathlin Head-3



#### Notes:

From **Songs and Chanties: 1914-1916**, edited by Cicely Fox Smith, published by Elkin Mathews, London, UK, © 1919, pp. 95-97.

"Rathlin Light" is located on Altacarry Head, Rathlin Island, North Channel, Northern Ireland, while "Kintyre" is a peninsula in western Scotland.

**Key:** C (7/F)

## **Rathlin Head-2**

GCF
We left the murk of Mersey-side, we left the flaring town;
C
All smouldering red by Spanish Head the stormy sun went down;AmFF
We saw the lamp blink out in the Mull o' Gallo-way,
G
And at dead of night to Rathlin Light a long good-bye did say –
FG
Be-fore the light of morning.
Black deep of night without a star, both sky and sea did fill;
So cautious crept we through the dark, our engines near stood still;
All salt like tears on rope and rail the sea mist clinging grey
And Rathlin Island close to port, Kintyre to starboard lay – (CHO)
We heard across the blind black tide the lighthouse boom forlorn;
All night we heard a Glasgow barque blowing the old cow's horn;
And groping slow we passed her by, a bare ship's length away –
"A near thing with that barque," I heard the Old Man say – (CHO)
All houseless stretch the unfenced fields that cold and green do roll,
Where the winds do herd the berg and floe that calve about the Pole;
Oh, peace be on the small green fields in a land that's far away,
And on the little farms therein, folks a-sleeping lay – (CHO)
And, oh, good-bye the narrow seas and the forelands loud with foam!
There's many the turning in the road that brings the sailor home;
Full speed once more our engines throbbed as faint the east grew grey,
And I turned my face to Rathlin Head, and a long good-bye did say –
FGAm
In the cold grey light of morning.

### **Notes:**

From **Songs and Chanties: 1914-1916**, edited by Cicely Fox Smith, published by Elkin Mathews, London, UK, © 1919, pp. 95-97.

"Rathlin Light" is located on Altacarry Head, Rathlin Island, North Channel, Northern Ireland, while "Kintyre" is a peninsula in western Scotland.

# **Rathlin Head**

We left the murk of Merseyside, we left the flaring town; All smouldering red by Spanish Head the stormy sun went down; We saw the lamp blink out and in the Mull o' Galloway, And at dead of night to Rathlin Light a long good-bye did say –

> On a bitter cold night in the morning watch, A little before the day!

Black deep of night without a star both sky and sea did fill; So cautious crept we through the dark our engines near stood still; All salt like tears on rope and rail the sea mist clinging grey . . . And Rathlin Island close to port, Kintyre to starboard lay –

On a bitter cold night in the morning watch, A little before the day!

We heard across the blind black tide the lighthouse boom forlorn, All night we heard a Glasgow barque blowing the old cow's horn; And groping slow we passed her by a bare ship's length away – "A near thing with the barque," was all I heard the Old Man say –

On a bitter cold night in the morning watch,

A little before the day!

All houseless stretch the unfenced fields that cold and green do roll Where winds do herd the berg and floe which calve about the Pole; Oh, peace be on the small green fields of a land that's far away, And on the little farms therein where folks a-sleeping lay –

On a bitter cold night in the morning watch,

A little before the day!

And oh, good-bye the narrow seas and forelands loud wi' foam!

There's many a turning in the road that brings the sailor home;

Full speed once more our engines throbbed as faint the east grew grey,

I turned my face to Rathlin Head, a long good-bye to say –

On a bitter cold night in the morning watch, A little before the day!

#### Notes:

From **Songs and Chanties: 1914-1916**, edited by Cicely Fox Smith, published by Elkin Mathews, London, UK, © 1919, pp. 95-97.

"Rathlin Light" is located on Rathlin Island, North Channel, Northern Ireland, while "Kintyre" is a peninsula in western Scotland. Rathlin Island is an L-shaped island with

the "L" opening to the south-west. The Island therefore has headlands at the southeast point, the northwest point, and where the two legs of the "L" meet to the northeast, There is a lighthouse at each location. A lighthouse is mentioned in the song three times as the ship travels from the Irish Sea through the North Channel and then out into the North Atlantic, each a different lighthouse.