

ARMY WIFE

HIM/ Mary believes the best possible life
Is the life of a regular officer's wife.

HER/ Peter believes that I've loved every minute
I hate it. The Army and everything in it.

HIM/ What we've loved most is the chance to explore
I love to travel, but she loves it more.

HER/ Aldershot, Belfast and Catterick (twice)
Doesn't to most people spell paradise.

HIM/ We've never been tied down by mortar and bricks
So every two years it's goodbye and up sticks.

HER/ I long for a hovel where I can knock down
A wall, and paint everything purple and brown.
It may not appear very much of a dream
To want to live somewhere that isn't all cream.

HIM/ The kids went to boarding school when they were small
They've so many chums we don't see them at all.
They're quite self-sufficient - they hardly need us
And Mary agrees. Well - she's not made a fuss.

HER/ I didn't have children to send them away
And to see them to argue with each Christmas Day.
The closest I get is a peck on the cheek
And laundry in bin-liners sent home each week.

HIM/ She's been such a brick - shown such utter devotion.
I know it'll help when I'm up for promotion.

HER/ Oh, Peter, poor Peter; he thinks that next year
Instead of retirement he'll make Brigadier.
I couldn't face that, so I've written today
An anonymous letter implying he's gay.

HIM/ Mary believes the best possible life
Is the life of a regular officer's wife.

HER/ Mary believes - oh, what does it matter?
Mary believes we'll grow older and fatter.
And Mary does not want to grow old alone
But it helps now and then just to have a good moan.