

# OLD SOLDIER (RED HAIRD BOY)

Traditional Irish and American Reel or Breakdown; **DATE:** Bunting's 1840: A Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **RECORDING INFO- REDHAIRD BOY:** Doc Watson; Tony Rice; Norman Blake; **OTHER NAMES:** Red Haired Boy; "The Duck Chews Tobacco;" "The First of May"; "Gilderoy" "Johnny Dhu;" "The Little Beggarman" "The Old Soldier with a Wooden Leg" **NOTES:** "Old Soldier with a Wooden Leg" from the Civil War period, is a US version of the "Red Haired Boy" tune popular at bluegrass and fiddle conventions. The song is quite common as "The Little Beggarman" throughout the British Isles.

O there was an old sol-dier and he had a wood-en leg, He  
 had no to-bac-co but to-bac-co he could beg. A noth-er old sol-dier, as  
 sly as a fox, He al-ways had to-bac-co in his old to-bac-co box.

© 2006 by Mel Bay Publications, Inc. BMI  
 All Rights Reserved.

Oh, there was an old soldier and he had a wooden leg.  
 He had no tobacco but tobacco he could beg. Another old soldier, as sly as a fox,  
 He always kept tobacco in his old tobacco box.

Said one old soldier, "Won't you give me a chew?"  
 Said the other old soldier, "I'll be hanged if I do,  
 Just save up your money and put away your rocks,  
 And you'll always have tobacco in your old tobacco box."

Well, the one old soldier, he was feeling mighty bad,  
 He said, "I'll get even, I will begad!"  
 He goes to a corner, take a rifle from the peg,  
 And stabs the other soldier with a splinter from his leg.

Now there was an old hen and she had a wooden foot,  
 And she made her nest by the mulberry root,  
 She laid more eggs that any hen on the farm,  
 And another wooden leg wouldn't do her any harm.