

Barret's Privateers

Oh, the year was 1778, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
A letter of marque came from the king to the scummiest vessel I'd ever seen
God damn them all!

I was told we'd sail the seas for American gold, We'd fire no guns, shed no tears
I'm a broken man on a Halifax pier, The last of Barrett's Privateers

Oh, Elcid Barrett cried the town, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
For twenty good men all fishermen who would make for him the Antelope's crew

The Antelope sloop was a sickening sight, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
She'd a list to the port and her sails in rags and the cook in scuppers with the staggers and the jags

On the King's birthday we put to sea, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
We were 91 days to Montego Bay pumping like madmen all the way

On Christmas Eve in the afternoon, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
With maggots in meat and weedmully bread and watery rum we'd be better of dead

And Barret worked us to the bone, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
An Amerivan sloop came into view and Barret cried so hard: "Heave to!"

He came along side to get onboard, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
Then the Yankee ship open up broadside and I lost one leg and most of me eye

On the 96th day we sailed again, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
When a bloody great Yankee hove in sight with our cracked four pounders we made to fight

The Yankee lay low down with gold, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
She was broad and fat and loose in the stays but to catch her took the Antelope two whole days

Then at length we stood two cables away, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
Our cracked four pounders made an awful din but with one fat ball the Yank stove us in

The Antelope shook and pitched on her side, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
Barrett was smashed like a bowl of eggs and the Maintruck carried off both me legs

So here I lay in my 23rd year, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
It's been six long years since we sailed away and I just made Halifax yesterday

And when they brought me home from sea, *I wish I was in Sherbrooke now*
No work for one legged jack they say and I cursed Barrett on my dying day