



# *Hurrah for the CRE*

the  
**Corps of Royal Engineers Song**



*Good Morning Mr Stevens and windy Notchy Knight,  
Hurrah for the CRE*

*We're working very hard down at Upnor Hard,  
Hurrah for the CRE*

*You make fast, I make fast, make fast the dinghy,  
Make fast the dinghy, make fast the dinghy,  
You make fast, I make fast, make fast the dinghy,  
Make fast the dinghy pontoon.*

*For we're marching on to Laffan's Plain,  
To Laffan's Plain, to Laffan's Plain,  
Yes we're marching on to Laffan's Plain  
Where they don't know mud from clay.*

*Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,  
Ooshta, ooshta, ooshta, ooshta,  
Ikona malee, picaninny skoff,  
Ma-ninga sabenza, here's another off.*

*Oolum-da cried Matabele,  
Oolum-da, away we go.  
Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,  
Shush ..... Whoow!*



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*Hurrah for the CRE* originated among Royal Engineers units, possibly the 4<sup>th</sup> or 54<sup>th</sup> Field Companies, during the Anglo-Boer war (1899-1902).

The lyrics are partly English and partly Zulu and are sung to the tune of the traditional South African song *Daer de die ding*.

- **CRE** - Commanding Royal Engineer
- **Mr Stevens** - Chief Clerk in the Chief Instructor's Fieldworks Office
- **Windy Notchy Knight** - ex-Warrant officer instructor in the School of Military Engineering Workshops
- **Upnor Hard** - Wet bridging site, on the River Medway at Upnor, Kent
- **Laffan's Plain** - Training area at Aldershot, named after Captain Laffan RE
- **Ooshta** - South African native working cry
- **Ikona malee** - No money (Matabele)
- **Picaninny skoff** - Little food (Matabele)
- **Ma-ninga sabenza** - Lots of work (Matabele)
- **Oolum-da** - South African native working cry