

# THE FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER

*One cold and bitter Thursday in Munich Germany  
Eight great football stalwarts conceded victory  
Eight men will never play again who met destruction there  
The Flowers of English football the Flowers of Manchester*

*Matt Busby's boys were flying home returning from Belgrade  
This great United family all masters of their trade  
The pilot of the aircraft the skipper Captain Thain  
Three times they tried to take off and twice turned back again*

*The third time down the runway disaster followed close  
There was slush upon that runaway and the aircraft never rose  
It ploughed into the marshy ground it broke it overturned  
And eight of the team were killed as the blazing wreckage burned*

*Roger Byrne and Tommy Taylor who were capped for England's side  
And Ireland's Billy Whelan and England's Geoff Bent died  
Mark Jones and Eddie Colman and David Pegg also  
They all lost their lives as it ploughed on through the snow*

*Big Duncan he went too with an injury to his brain  
And Ireland's brave Jack Blanchflower will never play again  
The great Matt Busby lay there the father of his team  
Three long months passed by before he saw his team again*

*The trainer, coach and secretary and a member of the crew  
Also eight sporting journalists who with United flew  
and one of them Big Swifty who we will ne'er forget  
the finest English 'keeper that ever graced the net*

*Oh England's finest football team its record truly great  
its proud successes mocked by a cruel turn of fate  
Eight men will never play again who met destruction there  
the Flowers of English football the Flowers of Manchester*

Author: Eric Winter (1958)

