

Bold and Reckless Gardiner

The Morning of the Fray

Poem attributed to Gardiner in Charles McAlister's Old Pioneering Days in the Sunny South. This is Bert Lloyd's setting. Gardiner's supporters had his sentence modified from 32 years to exile but it brought down the government of the day.

It's all a - bout Frank Gard - ner, with the de - vil in his eye - - ,

He said: "We've work be - - fore us, lads, we've got to do or die - - .

So black - en up your fac - es - - - be - - fore the dead of night,

And it's o - ver by Eu - - gow - ra Rocks we'll eith - er fall or fight."

"We'll stop the Orange escort with powder and with ball.
We'll shoot the coach to pieces and we'll down the peelers all.
We'll lift the diggers' money, we'll collar all their gold,
So mind your guns are killers now, my comrades true and bold."

So now off go the rifles, the battle has begun.
The escort started running, boys, all in the setting sun.
The robbers seized their plunder so saucy and so bold,
And they're riding from Eugowra Rocks encumbered with their gold.

And so with loaded saddle packs we left that fatal place,
We knew the traps from Bathurst town would soon be on the chase!
The bold and reckless Gardiner shouted as we rode away
I think we've made our fortunes at Eugowra Rocks today!"