

A Digger's Lament

Words from the Newcastle Sun Anzac Day 1922 and set to the 'Lament For The Death of Archie Beaton' by David Johnson 2019.

A musical score for the song 'A Digger's Lament' in 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major/D minor). The lyrics are: 'A ___ long the drear - y path of life, I plod my wear - y way.' The chords above the staff are Am, Dm, Am, and G. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'Each ___ day is full of bit - ter strife, and sor - rows ev - er stay.' The chords are Am, F, Em, and Am. The third staff has lyrics: 'The ___ path was decked with ros - es fresh. But now the thorns re - main;' and the chord is Am. The fourth staff has lyrics: 'They ___ tear and scratch my ten - der flesh caus - ing a - gon - is - ing pain.' and the chords are Am, G, and Am. The score ends with a double bar line.

My blistered feet are bruised and sore by jagged stones below.
The boots I've worn twelve months or more are minus heel and toe.
My ragged clothes are worn threadbare, they've lost their style and cut:
Yet for my clothes I would not care if I could fill my gut.

Still on in search of work I plod, rebuffs give me the blues;
It seems I've lost all faith in God, and in old Billy Hughes.
Where are the promises he made, while we fought across the seas,
One by one we've watched them fade like clouds upon the breeze.

Now like a hungry, beaten whelp, I throw away my pride,
And ask you one and all to help the men you've cast aside.
The men who thought you'd take good care of all they held so dear;
They starved in trenches over there, and now they're starving here.