

Fifty-Six-O-Three

Death Where Is Thy Sting

A rogue steam locomotive was hard to work and harder to fix. This story was written by locomotive driver Wifred C Knight and published in 'The Locomotive Journal', 1930. John Dengate suggested the traditional tune 'Old Bullock Dray'.

G C

You may talk a - bout your tri - als and your troub - les at the war

D G

And your flam - in' trips to Esk - bank on E - lev - en - sev - en - ty - four

G C

But if you want real hard - ship you can take it straight from me,

C G D7 G

Just do a trip with Ding - bat on the Fif - ty - Six - O - Three.

You may talk about your trials and your troubles at the war,
 And your f lamin' trips to Eskbank on the Eleven-seventy-four,
 But if you want real hardship you can take it straight from me,
 Just do a trip with Dingbat on the Fifty-Six-O-Three.

The drivers book her "Steaming dull", the fitters say she ain't!
 They say they've searched her innards, and can't find her complaint;
 They swear they've searched the elements, and other parts that be
 But can't locate the trouble on Fifty-Six-O-Three.

Now there's fitters, would-be fitters and leading fitters too,
 And boiler-makers by the score, with nothing else to do
 But talk about the cricket scores, and the football soon to be,
 But don't you raise the subject of Fifty-Six-O-Three.

And still she battles on her way, with bangs and knocks galore
 It's really quite apparent she will not last much more,
 So when she falls to pieces, 'twill fill our hearts with glee,
 No more she'll shake our innards out, Crock Fifty-Six-O-Three.