

Sergeant Small

A song that reflected the difficulty unemployed men had trying to find work in the country.
Verses by Terry Boyle, chorus by Tex Morton, setting by Brad Tate

Verse

Capo 2

Musical notation for the first verse, consisting of four staves. Each staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are written on a five-line staff, and the lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "I went broke in west-ern Queens-land, in nine-teen thir - ty one. No - bod - y would em - ploy me, so my swag-carr-ying days be - gun. I start - ed out through Chart - ers Tow - ers, through all the west-ern towns, I was on my way to Rom - a; dest-in - a - tion Dar - ling Downs."

(Chorus from after 2nd verse)

Musical notation for the chorus, consisting of two staves. Each staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are written on a five-line staff, and the lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Well, I wish I was a-bout twen - ty stone, and onl - y sev-en feet tall. I'd go back to west - ern Queens-land and beat up Ser - geant Small."

My pants were getting ragged, my boots were getting thin,
And as I came into Mitchell, the goods train shunted in.
I could hear the whistle blowing and, looking out I could see
She was on her way to Roma, it was quite plain to me

And as I sat and watched her, inspiration's seeds were sown,
I remembered the Government slogan; " Use the railways that you own".
As the sun was a'getting lower and night was coming nigh,
I shouldered my belongings and I took her on the fly.

As I came into Roma, I kept my head down low,
I heard a voice say "Any room, mate?", I answered "Plenty, beau".
"Come out of there, my noble man", said the voice of Sergeant Small,
"I have caught you very nicely, you've been riding for a fall".

The old judge was very kind to me; he gave me thirty days,
Said "Maybe this might help to cure your rattler jumping ways",
So if you're down and out in the outback, boys, I'll tell you what I think;
You steer clear of Queensland goods trains, they're a short cut to the clink.