

The Tea and Damper Song

Words by Alexander Forbes and set to music and published in 'Songs of the Australian Balladists' by Graham Jenkin.

Verse

In the bush of Aust - ra - lia you all are a - ware
There are plen - ty of hard - ships and pret - ty rough fare,
But with flour, salt and wa - ter you all will a - - gree
A man can knock up some nice dam - per for tea.

Chorus

Don't I like dam - - per. Lot's of nice dam - - per
Plen - ty of dam - per with black bil - ly tea.

Now the English like mutton, the Scots like burgoo
And Paddy delights in 'rale ould Irish stew'.
But George, Pat and Sandy will all say with me
There are many things worse than nice damper for tea.

One day to my grief I got lost in the bush
While attempting for home by a near way to push,
And I thought as the sun going down I could see
'Well there's no chance tonight for some damper for tea.'

Two days and three nights there I wandered forlorn
My legs were quite tired and my clothes were all torn,
My trousers were tattered right up to the knee
But the thing grieved me most was no damper for tea.

At length safe and sound I got back to my home,
Took bloomin' good care for some time not to roam,
But that night you can bet that I pitched in with glee
To a flamin' good feed of nice damper for tea.