

What A Life!

Words by Guy Eden published in his collection of 'Bush Ballads' (1906) with a tune by David Johnson 2005.
 Guy Ernest Morton Eden (1864 – 1954) was born in Queensland 1864 where his father held various official posts.
 The family returned to England where his musical talent was put to writing for the London stage late 19C and early 20C.

Am G Am G Am G Am
 Ris - ing ear - ly with the dawn, Feel - ing drag - gled and for - lorn,
 Em D Em D Em D Em
 Mess - ing round for grub to eat, Damp - er, tea and leath - 'ry meat.
 Bm A Bm A Bm A Bm
 Curs - ing at the day a - head, Wish - ing you were snug - ly dead
 Chorus
 D C D C D
 Heat, and sweat, and toil, and strife, Oh what a life!

Driving from the day begun
 Neath a broiling, blazing sun
 Stock exhausted, nearly beat,
 Not a blade of grass to eat.
 Water holes all parched and dry,
 Heifers lying down to die,

Shearing till you're stiff and sore,
 Payment, four and six a score,
 Practice seems no sort of use,
 Tomahawking like the deuce.
 Flies collect from near and far,
 Sheep all hacked, and yells for tar,

Shepherding when things are bad,
 Work enough to drive you mad:
 Dogs won't work, oh luckless plight,
 Cussed sheep do nothing right.
 Wethers rush fresh feed to find,
 Ewes and crawlers left behind,

Digging gold it's off you go,
 Spirits high, exchequer low,
 Dig a hole five feet by two,
 Blistered hands and backache too:
 Bottom it, then have to drive,
 Final exit, half alive.