

Butchered to make a Dutchman's Holiday

In prison cell I sadly sit,
A dammed crestfallen chappie,
And own to you I feel a bit--
A little bit—unhappy.

It really ain't the place nor time
To reel off rhyming diction ;
But yet we'll write a final rhyme
While waiting crucifixion.

No matter what end they decide
Quick-lime? or boiling oil? sir
We'll do our best when crucified
To finish off in style, sir !

But we bequeath a parting tip
For sound advice of such men
Who come across in transport ship
To polish off the Dutchmen.

If you encounter any Boers
You really must not loot 'em,
And, if you wish to leave these shores,
For pity's sake, don't shoot 'em.

And if you'd earn a D.S.O.,
Why every British sinner
Should know the proper way to go
Is: Ask the Boer to dinner.

Let's toss a bumper down our throat
Before we pass to heaven,
And toast: "The trim-set petticoat
We leave behind in Devon."

Butchered version:

*In prison cell I sadly sit,
A d_d crest-fallen chappie!
And own to you I feel a bit-
A little bit - unhappy!*

*It really ain't the place nor time
To reel off rhyming diction -
But yet we'll write a final rhyme
Whilst waiting cru-ci-fixion!*

*No matter what "end" they decide -
Quick-lime or "b'iling ile," sir?
We'll do our best when crucified
To finish off in style, sir!*

*But we bequeath a parting tip
For sound advice of such men,
Who come across in transport ship
To polish off the Dutchmen!*

*If you encounter any Boers
You really must not loot 'em!
And if you wish to leave these shores,
For pity's sake, DON'T SHOOT 'EM!!*

*And if you'd earn a D.S.O.,
Why every British sinner
Should know the proper way to go
Is: "ASK THE BOER TO DINNER!"*

*Let's toss a bumper down our throat, -
Before we pass to Heaven,
And toast: "The trim-set petticoat
We leave behind in Devon."*

At its end the manuscript is described -
The Last Rhyme and Testament of Tony Lumpkin -
First published in The Bulletin, 19 April 1902.

Sometimes published under the alternate title --"In a prison cell I sadly sit"

the D.S.O. refers to a British medal The Distinguished Service Order. It is a middle ranking medal somewhere in importance lower than the VC but higher than a campaign medal. It is not necessarily a combat medal. © by owner. provided at no charge for educational purposes

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What are all the references to Dutchmen, particularly a Dutchman's Holiday?

5 years ago



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Morant was well published as a poet in Australia prior to departing for the South African (Boer) War. Termed a "bush" poet, his work has been compared to that of the British-Canadian northern frontier poet Robert W. Service, noted for *The Shooting Of Dan McGrew* and *The Cremation Of Sam McGee*.

A good summary here by Seasinger, but the British (and Empire) troops were into

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- From guest graham mckenzie (contact)

iam reciting this poem anzac day this year at bald hills qld

6 years ago