

## Nine Miles from Gundagai



1. I'm used to driving bullock teams  
Across the hills and plains.  
I've teamed outback these forty years  
In blazing droughts and rains.  
I've lived a heap of troubles through  
But hang me till I die,  
But I can't forget what happened to me  
Nine miles from Gundagai.
2. Twas getting dark the team got bogged  
The axle snapped in two.  
I lost my matches and my pipe.  
Ah what was I to do?  
The rain came on twas bitter cold  
And hungry too was I  
And the dog shat in the tucker box  
Nine miles from Gundagai.
3. Some blokes I know have all the luck  
No matter how they fall,  
But there was I lord luvva duck  
No flaming luck at all.  
I couldn't make a pot of tea  
Nor get my trousers dry  
And the dog shat in the tucker box  
Nine miles from Gundagai.
4. I can forgive the bloody team;  
I can forgive the rain.  
I can forgive the dark and cold  
And go through it again.  
I can forgive my rotten luck  
But hang me till I die,  
I can't forgive that bloody dog  
Nine miles from Gundagai.
5. But that's all dead and past and gone  
I've sold the team for meat,  
And where I got the bullocks bogged  
Now there's an asphalt street.  
The dog, ah well, he took a bait  
And reckoned he would die.  
I buried him in that tucker box  
Nine miles from Gundagai.

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This song is from Australia. Gundagai is a town in New South Wales, Australia. It is located 240 miles south-west of Sydney. Before automobile transportation and the development of motorways goods had to be carted from the coast by drovers in bullock drawn wagons. The trip took several days and drovers packed their provisions for the trip (tucker) in a "tucker box". They typically took a dog with them both for company and protection from wildlife. The point of the story has been cleaned up to a degree that has the dog sitting on the tucker box guarding it. The point of the song, however, is what the dog did IN the box. A statue of a dog sitting on a tucker box was made in 1932 and was installed at the five mile post outside of Gundagai. It has become the focus for a "back to Gundagai" festival celebrating the pioneers since 1992. The original poem "Bullocky Bill" was written by an otherwise unknown poet who used the pen name "Bowyang Yorke" and was first printed in 1857. The later poem is by Jack Moses and was published in The North Queensland Register, 14 January 1924. I learned the song from a recording of Michael Cooney.

