

Tunnels of Lone Pine

2018

A D A A D A
D A D/F# D A E A

1. In Tassie's green and pleasant land Where southern breezes played
I followed as my father had The timber cutter's trade/the timber cutter's trade

2. And there I led a happy life Until at twenty-one
I handed in my logging gear For a bayonet and gun

3. Off we went, our eager band Across the scarlet sea
To try our luck with Johnny Turk In far Gallipoli

Chorus:

How goes the nighttime, Watchman,
How goes the scarlet sea?
And what's the go when whistles blow
For Johnny Turk and me?

D A
D A
A D A D
D/F# D/A E A

4. Some of us fell at the water's edge Or further up the line
And these were spared the hellish work In the tunnels of Lone Pine

5. Hand to hand and blade to blade In the tunnels of Lone Pine
I pushed an empire toward the Turk And he pushed his toward mine

6. Hand to hand and blade to blade A fog of foes and friends
And the bayonet a weapon With a worker at both ends

Repeat chorus

7. In a day's truce to bury the dead We traded smokes and tea
Until the guns coughed up again Their dreadful symphony

8. A thousand lads went in the dark At the whistle's call
Cut down and stacked like timber Against the tunnel wall

9. A thousand lads went in the dark A thousand were cut down
As tea was served in Istanbul And in London town/pretty London town

Repeat chorus
Repeat verse 1

The monstrous tragedy of Gallipoli. The bayonet with a worker at both ends was a pacifist motif in World War I. I wrote this for the birthday of my brother Ed, who has lived in Tasmania for many years and who introduced me to Australian antiwar songs.