

## FOR KING AND COUNTRY LYRICS

### **THE BLOODY DOTTED LINE**

I used to dream in color and I wished away the days  
Waiting on the slightest chance that I would get to play  
A guilded harp, a silver horn with a bonny tune to sing  
A place inside a golden hall to prance around the king  
When I was young I wished to be  
Up to my neck in a fantasy  
Why did I sign on that bloody dotted line?  
Let the devils hold it over me

Is it a crime to live when you cannot afford the means?  
Is it a crime to walk the earth like ravenous machines?  
Is there a way to bridge a gap across a great divide?  
Is it a secret thrill to know the gods are on your side?  
When I was young I wished to be  
A landed man with a back forty  
Why did I sign on that bloody dotted line?  
Let the devils hold it over me

The smoke still clouds my wits  
The stink still fills my pores  
From the night they kicked down the door  
The blood still stains my lips  
The grief still chafes my soul  
My pride was raked through the coals  
Yonder prison walls  
They own my flesh and bones  
But my thoughts are mine alone

## WHISTLE AND A GRIN

I'm what you'd call a bettin' man  
And I live from pay to pay  
I'm a high card stud of mongrel blood  
And a zero on the day  
Well I'm no sage nor soothsayer nor arbiter of truth  
I'm high on risk and low on temper  
And long in the tooth

I'm wide awake on the losing end of it  
Better check my pride and take it on the chin  
With a Whistle and a Grin  
With a Whistle and a Grin

A buxom belle with a surefire tell  
Was barking up my tree  
I couldn't take her money  
She was making eyes at me  
Oh so fine with a low neck line  
Reckless fast and loose  
She giggled as she drew me in  
And tightened up the noose

I used the brain between my legs  
Threw in the kitchen sink  
That painted up bamboozler  
left me staring in my drink  
To plumb the depths inside my head  
but I can't seem to find  
The morale of the story  
or a little piece of mind  
Just a little piece of mind.

## MARINER'S GRAVE

Once upon a time my existence  
Was defined by ambition and trade  
Now it's gone just like this  
The remnants of the exodus  
At a loss, all alone and afraid

The fire has left me long ago  
Once I was bristlin and brave  
Now I'm destined to wither  
On an errand of fools  
And to lie in a mariners grave

I was worn with the stress  
And the weight of progress  
In the foremost uncertain of days  
Comatose, dark & still  
Have the means but lost the will  
To take the fight to imposing ways

Once I was branded in gold  
Now I'm abandoned and sold  
Servant, sentinel and slave  
Doomed to lie in a mariners grave  
Once I was a summer domain  
Now only winter remains  
Drawn, quartered and flayed  
Doomed to lie in a mariners grave

## **HARD MILES**

Steady as she goes on a western run  
You turned your back to the rising sun  
You just fuelled up, the weather looks good  
And the game is on

May the lines no longer pass you by  
Hard miles, taking you from your prize  
Hard miles

You're bouncing around like a loose pinball  
You're thinking too much about nothing at all  
You miss your bed and you miss your girl  
And you're a'ways from home

Mr. Man, your day is done  
You strained your eyes on the setting sun  
But you count your blessings  
And look forward to another night alone

## VERMILION RIVER

Well I got my welding tickets  
Set out on the road  
To a place I never heard of  
About two years ago  
I wonder what they're doing  
Back home in Sunnybrae?  
I'm in Vermilion River  
They're a million miles away

What would they say if I went back empty handed?  
They won't know who I am for all I know  
But I know they'd compare me to my brothers  
And laugh behind my back if I went home

I tried my hand at farming and on the oil fields  
Hell I've done my share of drinking  
to forget about how I feel  
Once there was a lady, she set my heart in flames  
I'm in Vermilion River, she's a million miles away

What would she say if I went back empty handed?  
She has another man for all I know  
But I know, she'd compare me to her lovers  
And pretend we never met if I went home

Before I go I have to make a confession  
Between me, you, Jesus and the wall  
I burnt down a house, and no one knows about it  
So now Vermilion River is my home

## **A FREE COUNTRY**

My wish is my command  
I demand the things I see  
I don't know where they come from  
But they are next to free  
I have what I have  
Cause I have the right to have it  
To hell with all the consequences  
I don't need to see  
Thank god I live in a free country

I don't think much of strangers  
Much of you or of your kind  
You best fit in or you're free to find  
A better place to be  
I say what I say  
Cause I have the right to say it  
To hell with all the differences  
It's all greek to me  
Thank god I live in a free country

It's great to live in a wonderland  
Where no one needs a helping hand  
An arms length from a trusted brand  
And sheltered from the world  
The world's turned to a scary place  
For the top end of the human race  
Oh plastic god in outer space  
Wrap me in your warm embrace  
We're winning wars and losing face  
But half the fun is in the chase  
And the bleeding hearts are  
wasting precious time on bold face lies

I don't care about the noise  
I don't care about the numbers  
This wonderland is mine to run  
and I'll do what I please  
I do what I do, cause I have the right to do it  
To strip from post to pillar  
from the mountains to the sea  
Thank god I live in a free country

## **SON OF A LANDLESS MAN**

He spends all his weeks in the bread line  
He spends all his weekends in jail  
He spends all his money on dead ends  
And always has something for sale  
He doesn't know how to do different.  
He lives with his head in the sand  
Playing his role  
Stuck on the dole  
The son of a landless man  
No one never called him ambitious  
He never pretended to be  
He bummed around the  
pool halls to kill time  
When he dropped out of school at sixteen  
It was there that he met his ex-wife  
It should have ended before it began  
She batted her eye lids and had a few kids  
With the son of a landless man

The wife and the kids are gone now  
He don't have a clue where they are  
As one night he pulled out a rifle  
In an argument he took too far  
Now someone says he cant see them  
It'll be a long time before he can  
His three little girls, all giggles and curls  
and the son of a landless man.

Another son of a landless man

## UP THE MOUNTAIN

I still feel the wind blowing on Dunvegan shores  
I still taste the brine in the air  
High upon a hill  
Far away from the lights of town  
Well I'm going up the mountain  
And I'm never coming down

I can barely remember the nights full of whiskey, cheer and song  
We were messing up the words to Shady Grove  
Cutting through the still  
Far away from the lights of town  
Well I'm going up the mountain  
And I'm never coming down

Oh I wish that I could get away  
From these foreign fields I roam  
There's a colour in the sky today  
It's reminding me of home  
Up the mountain

I can still feel the wind blowing on Dunvegan shores  
I miss an easy life without a care  
High upon a hill  
Far away from the lights of town  
Well I'm going up the mountain  
And I'm never coming down



## **THE BATTLE OF NOWHERE**

T'is the loathsome right of lions and lords  
To visit their might upon lambs  
Oh butcher and beast, tyrant and cabal  
I am a lion no longer

For empire and flag, for captain and king  
I offered no quarter nor mercy  
Spurred by the rage of a thousand vengeful gods  
And blinded by men of ambition

Such industry is violence and war!  
And how the ends are not all they claim  
Righteous crusades bear bullion and control  
And garnish the blood of a nation

So beware the promise of exotic frontiers  
Where the battle of nowhere is waged  
Where patriot sons are put to the sword  
And lost in the strains of an anthem