

# The Wallaby Brigade

Traditional

## Chorus



Oh its tramp tramp tramp a-cross the bord— er. The swag-men are



roll-ing up I see.—— When the shear-ing's at an end, we'll go whal-ing in the



## Verse 1

bend, and hoo-ray for the Wall-a-by Brig-ade.—— Now you off' have been



told of arm-ies brave and bold, but we are the fin-est ev-er made.——



We are-called the rag tag band and we ral-ly in Queens land. We're the



mem-bers of the Wall-a-by Brig-ade.——

# The Wallaby Brigade

*Chorus: It's tramp, tramp, tramp across the border.  
The swagmen are rolling up, I see.  
When the shearing's at an end, we'll go whaling in the bend,  
And hooray for the Wallaby Brigade.*

1. Now you oft' have been told of armies brave and bold,  
But we are the finest ever made.  
We're called the rag-tag band and we rally in Queensland.  
We're the members of the Wallaby Brigade.

*Chorus*

2. When you're leaving camp, you must ask some brother tramp,  
If there are any jobs to wield the blades;  
Or what sort of a shop that station is to stop,  
For a member of the Wallaby Brigade.

*Chorus*

3. You must ask if they need men, you must ask for rations then.  
If they don't stump up, a warning should be made,  
And to teach them better sense burn down their bloody fence!  
That's the war-cry of the Wallaby Brigade.

*Chorus*

4. Now the squatters thought us done, when they fenced in all the runs,  
But a prettier mistake was never made;  
You've only to flash your dover and knock a monkey over,  
That's cheap mutton for the Wallaby Brigade.

*Chorus*

5. And when the shearing's in, then our harvest will begin,  
Our swags then for a spell down will be laid.  
And when our cheques are drained, we will take the road again,  
Lime-burners in the Wallaby Brigade

*Chorus*

Bush men worked in concert to achieve acceptable working conditions. They expected fair treatment from station owners and retaliated if it was not proffered. As a result of such pushes for workers rights, the fledgling immigrant nation of Australia, for a time, was a model egalitarian society that captured the imagination of the world. I hope we gain that status once again.

## Glossary

**whaling:** slang for fishing for Murray Cod

**stump up:** produce some rations

**Dover:** a brand of pocket knife

**monkey:** slang for a sheep in the paddock

**lime burner:** slang for someone with a very dry throat

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Source

Bill Scott, *The Complete Book of Australian Folklore*, Lansdowne Press, 1976