

# The Auchengeich Disaster

Words: Trad  
Music: Nigel Harbron

Bm A Bm A C#m  
In Auch - en - geich there stands a pit, The wheel a - bove is - n't  
D Bm D Bm Bm A Bm  
tur - ning, For on one grey Sep - tem - ber  
A C#m D Bm D Bm  
morn, The flames of Hell be - low were bur - ning.

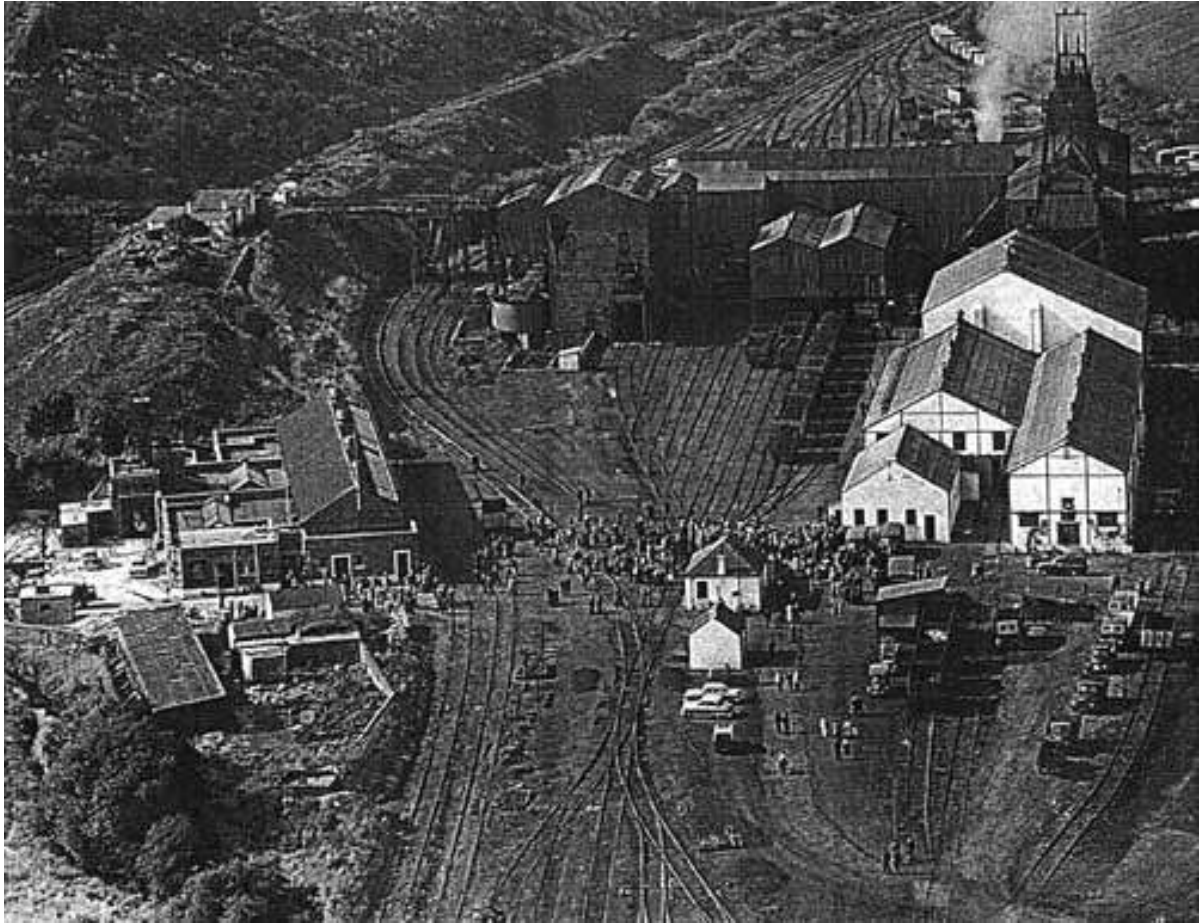
In Auchengeich there stands a pit,  
The wheel above isn't turning,  
For on one grey September morn  
The flames of Hell below were burning.

Though in below the coal lay rich  
It's richer now for all that burning.  
And forty seven brave men are dead  
To wives and sweethearts never returning.

The seams are thick in Auchengeich,  
The coal is black and glistening.  
But, oh, its cost is far over dear  
For human lives there is no reckoning.

Oh, coal is black and coal is red,  
And coal is rich beyond treasure.  
It's black with work and red with blood -  
It's richness now in lives we measure.

Oh, better though we'd never given  
Those years of work and grieving.  
The coal is black like the mourning shroud  
The women left behind are weaving.



*Auchengeich is in Lanarkshire, and the disaster occurred as late as 1959, when faulty equipment caught fire underground. In order to put the fire out, the decision was taken to flood the pit - not a move welcomed by the gathering throng of relatives and friends of the miners still trapped underground.*

*In 2009, Alex Salmond unveiled a life-sized bronze statue of a miner at the site to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the disaster. Two months later, some kind soul “.... apparently using sophisticated machinery....” stole it, leaving the community shocked and angry. Doesn't it make you so proud to be British?*



*Fortunately, the memorial itself is still in place.*

*Dick Gaughan has recorded a version of the song, using the original tune.*