

Waltzing my Matilda

Eric Bogle

G C G Em
 When I was a young man I carried my pack
 G D G
 And I lived the free life of a rover
 G C G Em Em
 From the Murrays green basin to the dusty outback
 G D G
 I waltzed my Matilda all over
 D C G
 Then in nineteen fifteen my country said Son
 D C G
 It's time to stop rambling 'cause there's work to be done
 G C G Em
 So they gave me a tin hat and they gave me a gun
 G D G
 And they sent me away to the war
 G C G
 And the band played Waltzing Matilda
 G D
 As we sailed away from the quay
 C G Em Em
 And amidst all the tears and the shouts and the cheers
 G D G
 We sailed off for Gallipoli

G C G Em
 How well I remember that terrible day
 G D G
 When the blood stained the sand and the water
 G C G Em Em
 And how in that hell that they called Suvla Bay
 G D G
 We were butchered like lambs at the slaughter
 D C G
 Johnny Turk he was ready, he primed himself well
 D C G
 He shot us with bullets, he rained us with shells
 G C G Em Em
 And in five minutes flat he'd blown us all to hell
 G D G
 Nearly blew us right back to Australia
 G C G
 And the band played Waltzing Matilda
 G D
 As we stopped to bury our slain
 C G Em Em
 We buried ours and the Turks buried theirs
 G D G
 And it started all over again

G C G Em
 Now those who were living did their best to survive
 G D G
 In that mad world of blood, death and fire
 G C G Em
 And for seven long weeks I kept myself alive
 G D G
 While the corpses around me piled higher
 D C G
 Then a big Turkish shell knocked me arse over head
 D C G
 And when I woke up in my hospital bed
 G C G Em Em
 And saw what we had done, I wished I was dead
 G D G
 Never knew there were worse things than dying
 G C G
 For no more I'll go waltzing Matilda
 G D
 To the green bushes so far and near
 C G Em Em
 For to hang tent and pegs, a man needs two legs
 G D G
 No more waltzing Matilda for me

G C G Em
 they collected the wounded the cripples the maimed
 G D G
 And they shipped us back home to Australia
 G C G Em Em
 The legless, the armless, the blind, the insane
 G D G
 Those proud wounded heroes of Suvla
 D C G
 And as our ship pulled into Circular Quay
 D C G
 I looked at the place where my legs used to be
 G C G Em
 And thank Christ there was nobody waiting for me
 G D G
 To grieve and to mourn and to pity
 G C G
 And the band played Waltzing Matilda
 G D
 As they carried us down the gangway
 C G Em Em
 But nobody cheered, they just stood and stared
 G D G
 Then turned all their faces away

G C G Em
 And now every April I sit on my porch
 G D G
 And I watch the parade pass before me
 G C G Em
 I see my old comrades, how proudly they march
 G D G
 Reliving the dreams of past glory
 D C G
 I see the old men, all twisted and torn
 D C G
 The forgotten heroes of a forgotten war
 G C G Em
 And the young people ask me, "What are they marching for
 G D G
 And I ask myself the same question
 G C G
 And the band plays Waltzing Matilda
 G D
 And the old men still answer the call
 C G Em Em

But year after year their numbers get fewer

G D G
 Some day no one will march there at all

G C
 Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda
 G D
 Who'll go a waltzing Matilda with me

G D
 And their ghosts may be heard
 G C
 As they march beside the billabong
 G D G
 Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

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