

The Retreat
Elton John

verse 1

F **C/E** **Bb/D** **F**
They laid beneath the pine trees with their caps over their eyes

Bb **F** **G** **C**
They were drunk with home and mama as they brushed away the flies

F **C/E** **Bb** **F**
In an instant before the sunrise they had gunned the rebels down

Bb **F** **C** **F**
As their flags were torn at half mast in the ruins of the town

verse 2

F **C/E** **Bb/D** **F**
There were white sails on the water for the crippled on the beach

Bb **F** **G** **C**
There was a lack of ammunition so the cause was incomplete

F **C/E** **Bb** **F**
When the bugle blew at breakfast and they knew their ships were in

Bb **F** **C** **F**
Signs of grand assurance were carried on the wind

F **C/E** **Dm** **F/C** **Bb** **F**
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

Gm **C** **Bb** **C**
Came the message from the front

F **C/E** **Dm** **F/C** **Bb** **C/A**
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

Gm7 **C** **Bb** **F**
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

verse 3

F **C/E** **Bb** **F/C**
They just chalked it down in history but they kept their uniforms

Bb **F** **G** **C**

They put their medals on the sideboards and they went back to their farms

F C/E Bb F
For it was just a mere reminder that they stood beside the best

Bb F C F
That God had saved the chosen few and the devil took the rest

F C/E Dm F/C Bb F
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

Gm C Bb C
Came the message from the front

F C/E Dm F/C Bb C/A
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

Gm7 C Bb F
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

verse 4

F C/E Bb/D F
On the planes above the rock face where the sculptured eagles swoop

Bb F G C
There s a haunted yell for action among the spectres of his troops

F C/E Bb F
It was silent on the coastline as the crazy angels danced

Bb F C F
With the sound of retreating footfall from his military camp

F C/E Dm F/C Bb F
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

Gm C Bb C
Came the message from the front

F C/E Dm F/C Bb C/A
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

Gm7 C Bb F
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks