

**The Retreat**  
**Elton John**

*verse 1*

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

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

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

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

*verse 2*

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

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

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

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

**F#** **C#/E** **Ebm** **F#/C** **B** **F#**  
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

**G#m** **C#** **B** **C#**  
Came the message from the front

**F#** **C#/E** **Ebm** **F#/C** **B** **C#/A**  
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

**G#m7** **C#** **B** **F#**  
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

*verse 3*

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

**B** **F#** **G#** **C#**

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

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

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

F# C#/E Ebm F#/C B F#  
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

G#m C# B C#  
Came the message from the front

F# C#/E Ebm F#/C B C#/A  
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

G#m7 C# B F#  
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

*verse 4*

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

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

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

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

F# C#/E Ebm F#/C B F#  
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

G#m C# B C#  
Came the message from the front

F# C#/E Ebm F#/C B C#/A  
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

G#m7 C# B F#  
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks