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
```