

The Retreat
Elton John

verse 1

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

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

E **B/E** **A** **E**
In an instant before the sunrise they had gunned the rebels down

A **E** **B** **E**
As their flags were torn at half mast in the ruins of the town

verse 2

E **B/E** **A/D** **E**
There were white sails on the water for the crippled on the beach

A **E** **F#** **B**
There was a lack of ammunition so the cause was incomplete

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

A **E** **B** **E**
Signs of grand assurance were carried on the wind

E **B/E** **C#m** **E/C** **A** **E**
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

F#m **B** **A** **B**
Came the message from the front

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

F#m7 **B** **A** **E**
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

verse 3

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

A **E** **F#** **B**

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

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

A E B E
That God had saved the chosen few and the devil took the rest

E B/E C#m E/C A E
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

F#m B A B
Came the message from the front

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

F#m7 B A E
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

verse 4

E B/E A/D E
On the planes above the rock face where the sculptured eagles swoop

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

E B/E A E
It was silent on the coastline as the crazy angels danced

A E B E
With the sound of retreating footfall from his military camp

E B/E C#m E/C A E
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

F#m B A B
Came the message from the front

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

F#m7 B A E
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks