

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

*verse 1*

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

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

**G** **D/E** **C** **G**  
In an instant before the sunrise they had gunned the rebels down

**C** **G** **D** **G**  
As their flags were torn at half mast in the ruins of the town

*verse 2*

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

**C** **G** **A** **D**  
There was a lack of ammunition so the cause was incomplete

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

**C** **G** **D** **G**  
Signs of grand assurance were carried on the wind

**G** **D/E** **Em** **G/C** **C** **G**  
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

**Am** **D** **C** **D**  
Came the message from the front

**G** **D/E** **Em** **G/C** **C** **D/A**  
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

**Am7** **D** **C** **G**  
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

*verse 3*

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

**C** **G** **A** **D**

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

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

C G D G  
That God had saved the chosen few and the devil took the rest

G D/E Em G/C C G  
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

Am D C D  
Came the message from the front

G D/E Em G/C C D/A  
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

Am7 D C G  
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks

#### *verse 4*

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

C G A D  
There s a haunted yell for action among the spectres of his troops

G D/E C G  
It was silent on the coastline as the crazy angels danced

C G D G  
With the sound of retreating footfall from his military camp

G D/E Em G/C C G  
Take it home, take it low, take responsibilities

Am D C D  
Came the message from the front

G D/E Em G/C C D/A  
For the captains, captains quarters must retreat

Am7 D C G  
Pack the compass, pack the tents, take the bunks