

The Band Played Waltzing Matilda

[Verse]

When I was a young man I carried me pack
And I lived the free life of a rover
From the Murray's green basin to the dusty
Outback
I waltzed my Matilda all over
Then in 1915 me country said, Son
It's time you stopped rambling there's work to be
done
So they gave me a tin hat, and they gave me a gun
And they marched me away to the war

[Chorus]

And the band played Waltzing Matilda
When the ship pulled away from the quay
And amidst all the tears, flag-waving and cheers
We sailed off for Gallipoli

[Verse]

And how well I remember that terrible day
When our blood stained the sand and the water
And how in that hell that they call Suvla Bay
We were butchered like lambs at the slaughter
Johnny Turk he was ready, he primed himself well
He rained us with bullets, and showered us with
shells
And in 5 minutes flat he'd blown us all to hell
Nearly blew us back home to Australia

[Chorus]

D G D

And the band played Waltzing Matilda
When we stopped to bury our slain
We buried ours, and the Turks buried theirs

D A D Dsus4 D
Then we started all over again

[Verse]

And those that were left, we tried to survive
In that mad world of blood, death and fire
And for ten weary weeks I kept myself alive
While around me the corpses piled higher

Then a big Turkish shell knocked me arse over
head
And when I awoke in me hospital bed
And saw what it had done, well, I wished I was
dead
Never knew there was worse things than dying

[Chorus]

So no more I'll go Waltzing Matilda
All around the green bush far and near
To hump tent and pegs a man needs both legs
No more Waltzing Matilda for me

[Verse]

So they gathered the wounded, the crippled, the
maimed
And they shipped us back home to Australia
The armless, the legless, the blind, the insane
Those proud wounded heroes of Suvla
And when the ship pulled into Circular Quay
I looked at the place where me legs used to be
And thanked Christ there was no one there waiting
for me

D A D
To grieve and to mourn and to pity

[Chorus]

D G D
And the band played Waltzing Matilda
When they carried us down the gangway
G Em D
But nobody cheered, they just stood there and
Bm
stared
Then they turned all their faces away
D A D Dsus4 D

[Verse]

D G D Bm
So now every April I sit on my porch
D A D
And I watch the parade pass before me
G D Bm
I see my old comrades how proudly they march
D A D
Renewing old dreams of past glory
A G
And the old men march slowly, all bones stiff and
D
sore
A G D
They're tired old heroes from a forgotten war
G D
And the young people ask, "What are they marching
Bm
for?"
D A D
And I ask myself the same question

[Chorus]

D G D
And the band plays Waltzing Matilda
And the old men still answer the call
G Em D Bm
But year after year their numbers are fewer
D A D Dsus4 D
Someday no one will march there at all

[Verse]

D G
Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda
D A
Who'll come a-Waltzing Matilda with me?
D A Bm
And their ghosts may be heard as they march by
G
the Billabong
G D A7 D
Who'll come a-Waltzing Matilda with me?