

THE BAND PLAYED WALTZING MATILDA

Eric Bogle

G **C** **G** **Em**
NOW WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN I CARRIED A PACK
 G **D7** **G** **G**
AND I LIVED THE FREE LIFE OF A ROVER
 G **C** **G** **Em**
FROM THE MURRAY'S GREEN BASIN TO THE DUSTY OUT-BACK
 G **D7** **G** **G**
WELL I WALTZED MY MATILDA ALL OVER
 D **D** **G**
THEN IN NINETEEN FIFTEEN THE COUNTRY SAID,
G **D** **D** **G** **G**
"SON, IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED ROVING, THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE."
 G **C** **G** **Em**
SO THEY GAVE ME A TIN HAT AND THEY GAVE ME A GUN
 G **D7** **G** **G**
AND THEY SENT ME AWAY TO THE WAR
 G **C** **G** **G**
 AND THE BAND PLAYED "WALTZING MATILDA"
 G **C** **D7** **D7**
 AS THE SHIP PULLED AWAY FROM THE QUAY
 C **C** **G** **Em**
 AND 'MIDST ALL THE TEARS, THE FLAG WAVING AND CHEERS
 G **D7** **G** **G**
 WE SAILED OFF TO GALLIPOLI
G **C** **G** **Em**
HOW WELL I REMEMBER THAT TERRIBLE DAY,
 G **D7** **G** **G**
HOW THE BLOOD STAINED THE SAND AND THE WATER
 G **C** **G** **Em**
AND HOW IN THAT HELL THAT THEY CALLED SUVLA BAY
 G **D7** **G** **G**
WE WERE BUTCHERED LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER
 D **D** **G** **G**
JOHNNY TURK HE WAS WAS WAITING, HE'D PRIMED HIMSELF WELL,
 D **D** **G** **G**
HE RAINED US WITH BULLETS AND SHOWERED US WITH SHELLS
 G **C** **G** **Em**
AND IN TEN MINUTES FLAT HE'D BLOWN US ALL TO HELL
 G **D7** **G** **G**
NEARLY BLEW US RIGHT BACK TO AUSTRALIA
 G **C** **G** **G**
 AND THE BAND PLAYED "WALTZING MATILDA"
 G **C** **D7** **D7**
 AS THE SHIP PULLED AWAY FROM THE QUAY
 C **C** **G** **Em**
 AND 'MIDST ALL THE TEARS, THE FLAG WAVING AND CHEERS
 G **D7** **G** **G**
 WE SAILED OFF TO GALLIPOLI
G **C** **G** **Em**
AND THOSE THAT WERE LEFT, WELL WE TRIED TO SURVIVE
 G **D7** **G** **G**
IN THAT MAD WORLD OF DEATH, BLOOD AND FIRE

G C G Em
 AND FOR TEN WEARY WEEKS I KEPT MYSELF ALIVE
G D7 G G
 THOUGH AROUND ME THE CORPSES PILED HIGHER;
D D G G
 THEN A BIG TURKISH SHELL KNOCKED ME ARSE OVER HEAD
D D G G
 AND WHEN I WOKE UP IN MY HOSPITAL BED
G C G Em
 I SAW WHAT IT HAD DONE, AND I WISHED I WAS DEAD,
G D7 G G
 NEVER KNEW THERE WERE WORSE THINGS THAN DYING
G C G G
 FOR I'LL GO NO MORE WALTZING MATILDA
G C D7 D7
 ALL AROUND THE WILD BUSH FAR AND FREE
C C G Em
 TO HUMP TENT AND PEGS, A MAN NEEDS BOTH LEGS
G D G G
 NO MORE WALTZING MATILDA FOR ME
G C G Em
 THEN THEY GATHERED THE WOUNDED, THE CRIPPLED, THE MAIMED
G D7 G G
 AND SENT US BACK HOME TO AUSTRALIA
G C G Em
 THE ARMLESS, THE LEGLESS, THE BLIND AND INSANE
G D7 G G
 THE BRAVE WOUNDED HEROES OF SUVLA
D D G G
 AND WHEN OUR SHIP PULLED INTO CIRCULAR QUAY
G D D G G
 I LOOKED AT THE STUMPS WHERE MY LEGS USED TO BE
G C G Em
 AND THANKED CHRIST THERE WAS NOBODY WAITING FOR ME
G D G G
 TO GRIEVE, TO MOURN, AND TO PITY
G C G G
 AND THE BAND PLAYED "WALTZING MATILDA"
G C D7 D7
 AS THEY CARRIED US DOWN THE GANGWAY
C C G Em
 BUT NOBODY CHEERED, THEY JUST STOOD THERE AND STARED
G D7 G G
 THEN THEY TURNED THEIR FACES AWAY
G C G Em
 SO NOW EVERY APRIL I SIT ON MY PORCH
G D7 G G
 AND I WATCH THE PARADE PASS BEFORE ME
G C G Em
 AND I SEE MY OLD COMRADES HOW PROUDLY THEY MARCH
G D7 G G
 REVIVING OLD DREAMS OF PAST GLORY
D D G G
 THE OLD MEN MARCH SLOWLY, OLD BONES STIFF AND SORE
D D G G
 TIRED OLD MEN FROM A FORGOTTEN WAR

G **C** **G** **Em**
THE YOUNG PEOPLE ASK: "WHAT ARE THEY MARCHING FOR?"
G **D7** **G** **G**
AND I ASK MYSELF THE SAME QUESTION.

D **C** **G**
AND THE BAND PLAYS "WALTZING MATILDA"
G **C** **D7** **D7**
THE OLD MEN STILL ANSWER THE CALL
C **C** **G** **Em**
BUT AS YEAR FOLLOWS YEAR, MORE OLD MEN DISAPPEAR
G **D7** **G** **G**
SOME DAY NO ONE WILL MARCH THERE AT ALL

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