

I Was Only Nineteen

Redgum



[D] [F] [C] [G] [D] [C] [D] [D] (the first two lines)

[D]Mum and Dad and [F]Denny saw the [C]passing out [G]parade
at Pucka-[D]-punyal (It was [C]long march from [D]cadets)
The [D]sixth battalion was the [F]next to tour

and it was [C]me who drew the [G]card.
We did [D]Canungra and Shoal- [C]water before we [D]left. [D]

And [A]Townsville lined the footpath as we [G]marched down to the [D]quay.
This [A]clipping from the paper shows us [G]young and strong and [D]clean.
[Bm]And there's me in my [A]slouch hat with my [G]SLR and [D]greens.
God [A]help me, [A] [A] I was [A]only nine- [G]teen [G] [G] [G]

From [D]Vung Tau riding [F]Chinooks to the [C] dust at Nui [G]Dat,
I'd been [D]in and out of [C]choppers now for [D]months.
But we [D]made our tents a [F]home. V.B. and [C]pinups on the [G]lockers,
And an [D]Asian orange [C]sunset through the [D]scrub. [D]

And [A]can you tell me, doctor, why I [G]still can't get to [D]sleep?
And [A]night time's just a jungle dark and a [G]barking M.six- [D]teen?
And [Bm]what's this rash that [A]comes and goes,
can you [G]tell me what it [D]means?
God [A]help me, [A] [A] I was [A]only nine- [G]teen [G] [G] [G]

A [D]four week oper- [F]ation, when each [C]step can mean your [G]last one
On two [D]legs: it was a [C]war within your- [D]self.
But you [D]wouldn't let your [F]mates down 'til they [C]had you dusted [G]off,
So you [D]closed your eyes and [C]thought about something [D]else. [D]

Then [A]someone yelled out "Contact", and the [G]bloke behind me [D]swore.
We [A]hooked in there for hours, then a [G]God almighty [D]roar.
[Bm]Frankie kicked a [A]mine the day that [G]mankind kicked the [D]moon.
God [A]help me, [A] [A] he was [A] going home in [G]June. [G] [G] [G]

[D]I can still see [F]Frankie, drinking [C]tinnies in the [G]Grand Hotel
On a [D]thirty-six hour [C]rec. leave in Vung [D]Tau.
And [D]I can still hear [F]Frankie, lying [C]screaming in the [G]jungle.
'Till the [D]morphine came and [C]killed the bloody [D]row

And the [A]Anzac legends didn't mention [G]mud and blood and [D]tears.
And [A]stories that my father told me [G]never seemed quite [D]real
I [Bm]caught some pieces [A]in my back that I [G]didn't even [D]feel.
God [A]help me, [A] [A] I was [A]only nine- [G]teen [G]

And [A]can you tell me, doctor, why I [G]still can't get to [D]sleep?
And [A]why the Channel Seven chopper [G]chills me to my [D]feet?
And [Bm]what's this rash that [A]comes and goes,
can you [G]tell me what it [D]means?
God [A]help me, [A] [A] I was [A]only nine- [G]teen [G] [G] [G]

[D] [F] [C] [G] [D] [C] [D slowing] [D >]