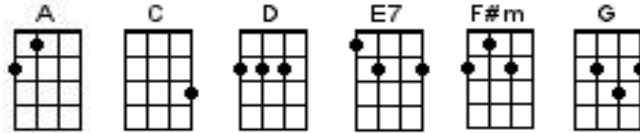


I Was Only Nineteen

Written by Redgum

Time

Strum: D Du Udu



Intro: [A] [C] [G] [D] [A] [G] [A] [A]

Verse 1

[A] Mum and Dad and [C] Denny saw the [G] passing out par-[D]ade at Pucka-[A]punyal,
It was [G] long march from [A] cadets.

[A] The sixth battalion was the [C] next to tour and It was [G] me who drew the
[D] card.

We did [A] Canungra and Shoal-[G]water before we [A] left.

Chorus

[E7] And Townsville lined the footpath as we [D] marched down to the [A] quay.

This [E7] clipping from the paper shows us [D] young and strong and [A] clean.

And [F#m] there's me in my [E7] slouch hat with my [D] SLR and [A] greens.

[E7] God help me, [E7] [E7] I was only nine-[D]teen.

Verse 2

From [A] Vung Tau riding [C] Chinooks to the [G] dust at Nui [D] Dat,

[A] I'd been in and out of [G] choppers now for [A] months.

[A] But we made our tents a [C] home, V.B. and pin[G]-ups on the [D] lockers,

And an [A] Asian orange [G] sunset through the [A] scrub.

Chorus 2

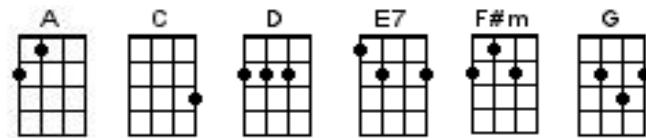
[E7] And can you tell me, doctor, why I [D] still can't get to [A] sleep?

[E7] And night time's just a jungle and a [D] barking M-[A]16?

[F#m] And what's this rash that [E7] comes and goes, can you [D] tell me what it
[A] means?

[E7] God help me, [E7] [E7] I was only nine-[D]teen.

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Verse 3

[A] A four week oper-[C]ation, when each [G] step can mean your [D] last one
On two [A] legs: it was a [G] war within your [A] self.

[A] But you wouldn't let your [C] mates down 'til they [G] had you dusted [D] off,
So you [A] closed your eyes and [G] thought about something [A] else.

Chorus 3

[E7] But then someone yelled out "CONTACT", and the [D] bloke behind me [A] swore.

[E7] We hooked in there, for hours, then a [D] God almighty [A] roar.

[F#m] Frankie kicked a [E7] mine the day that man-[D]kind kicked the [A] moon.

[E7] God help me, [E7] [E7] He was goin' home in [D] June

Instrumental [A] [C] [G] [D] [A] [G] [A] [A]

Verse 4

[A] I can still see [C] Frankie, drinking [G] tinnies, in the Grand [D] Hotel

On a thirty-[A]six hour [G]rec-leave in [A] Vung Tau.

[A] And I can still hear [C] Frankie, lying [G] screaming in the [D] jungle.

'Till the [A] morphine came and [G] killed the bloody [A] row

Chorus 4

[E7] And the ANZAC legends didn't mention [D] mud and blood and [A] tears.

[E7] And the stories that my father told me [D] never seemed quite [A] real

[F#m] I caught some [E7] pieces In my [D] back that I didn't even [A] feel.

[E7] God help me, [E7] [E7] I was only nine-[D]teen.

Chorus 5

[E7] And can you tell me, doctor, why I [D] still can't get to [A] sleep?

[E7] And why the Chanel 7 chopper [D] chills me to my [A] feet?

[F#m] And what's this rash that [E7] comes and goes, can you [D]tell me what it
[A] means?

[E7] God help me, [E7] [E7] I was only nine-[D]teen.

Outro: (Slowing) [E7] God help me, [E7] [E7] I was only nine-[D]teen [D/]

See: [Link to song](#)