

# I Was Only Nineteen

Redgum

[Am] [C] [G] [D] [Am] [G] [Am] [Am] (the first two lines)  
[Am] Mum and Dad and [C] Denny saw the [G] passing out [D] parade  
at Pucka-[Am] -punyal It was [G] long march from [Am] cadets  
The [Am] sixth battalion was the [C] next to tour  
and it was [G] me who drew the [D] card.  
We did [Am] Canungra and Shoal- [G] water before we [Am] left. [Am]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Am] [C] [G] [D] [Am] [G] [Am slowing ] [Am > ]