

PARTS: Soprano-Alto Tenor-Bass All Harmonise

bold = first beat of bar ^ = rest Underline = triplet backing vocal = [text] notes = (softly)

237 - When Billy Came Back

Reference audio <https://youtu.be/jLs8p8niwVE>

INTRO - 4 bars

CHORUS 1

When I knew Bill he was an old man.
His head was high, his heart was strong.
Remembrance Day I wore his medals.
When he came back to carry on.

VERSE 1

Now Billy was a boy in 1914.
Grew up working the farm at Diamond Creek
Rode his horse to school across the ranges
Gave him memories his heart would keep.

PRE-CHORUS 1

And when the Lighthouse gave the call
No he didn't have to think at all.

CHORUS 2

(B + T harmony) When Billy came back he was a
young man.

His head was high, his heart was strong.

There were the things he never spoke of.

When Billy came back to carry on.

VERSE 2

Never mind the pain and hopeless slaughter
Never mind the days that have no end
Three years of looking back across the water

In a world of pain and death and men

PRE-CHORUS 2

But the tale he would always tell
Was their pity as the horses fell.

CHORUS 3

(B + T harmony) When Billy came back he was a
young man.

His head was high, his heart was strong.

The poison gas, his lungs were broken

When Billy came back to carry on.

INSTRUMENTAL

(Soprano harmony) Ah – Ah – Ah Ah – Ah – Ah

Ah – Ah – Ah Ah – Ah – Ah

VERSE 3

Down amongst the dark and muddy trenches

Billy wrote his letters to his home.

His mother kept them bound in silken ribbon

Til the day when marching home he'd come

PRE-CHORUS 3

He said they put on quite a show

But the truth I would never know

CHORUS 2 REPEAT

(Soprano, and B+T harmony) When Billy came back he
was a young man.

His head was high, his heart was strong.

There were the things he never spoke of.

When Billy came back to carry on.

PRE-CHORUS 4

But this could not destroy

the loving heart of a country boy

CHORUS 3 REPEAT

(Soprano, and B+T harmony) When Billy came back he
was a young man.

His head was high, his heart was strong.

The poison gas, his lungs were broken

When Billy came back to carry on.

CHORUS 2 SECOND REPEAT

(Soprano, and B+T harmony) When Billy came back he
was a young man.

His head was high, his heart was strong.

There were the things he never spoke of.

When Billy came back to carry on.

INSTRUMENTAL

(Soprano, and B+T harmony) Ah – ah – ah Ah – ah –
ah

Ah – ah – ah Ah – ah – ah

*Words and music by Wayne Burt and Greg Champion,
1999. Performed by Leslie Avril.*