

## **Eric Bogle**

# **"Welcome Home"**

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"Welcome Home"

-Eric Bogle

Now when the boys came home, Annie cried and Annie  
cheered

She'd been on her own for a long and lonely year  
Living for his letters from far away Vietnam  
And dreading the official telegram

So she was waiting at the station when his train came  
rolling in

She ached with anticipation of holding him again  
And suddenly he was standing there in his crumpled  
uniform

In a heartbeat she was in his arms

Welcome home, boys, welcome home  
Don't you know, you've been gone too long  
Did you wonder, over there,  
when you were tired, when you were scared,  
if your country really cared, welcome home

When a nation goes to war, everyone's a casualty  
Some are maimed and scarred, most have wounds you  
cannot see

So in place of the man that she had known,  
Annie found instead, a sick and troubled stranger in  
her bed

But she was stubborn, she was lovin', so she stayed all  
through the years

The hard times and the drinking, the nightmares and  
the tears

For where hate is muddy quicksand, love is tempered  
steel

Annie waited for his wounds to heal

Welcome home, boys, welcome home  
Don't you know, you've been gone too long  
We're just so glad that you're alive  
And only you will wonder why

You lived when others died, welcome home

So on a sunny Sydney morning, I heard old war drums  
beat  
and watched the boys come marching, down the city  
street\*  
To claim their place in the nation's heart  
that their blood and pain had earned  
A nation that rejoiced in their return

And if the day helped to heal some wounds is a matter  
of debate  
For some it had come none too soon, for others far too  
late  
But I found myself hoping, as the boys went marching  
past  
That for them the war was over, at last

Welcome home, boys, welcome home  
Don't you know, you've been gone too long  
What you went through in Vietnam, we can't begin to  
understand  
But to each and every man, welcome home

Welcome home, boys, welcome home  
Don't you know, you've been gone too long  
May the years bring you release, as the memories  
decrease  
May you find some kind of peace, welcome home  
May you find some kind of peace, welcome home

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NOTES:

ANZAC Day Parade. ANZAC Day is Australia's version of  
Memorial Day in the US and Canada

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