

# "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die-Rag"

**Creator:** Joe McDonald

**Date:** 1965

**Source type:** Song

**Introduction:** This song was written by navy veteran Joe McDonald. McDonald was involved in protests for black civil rights and against the Vietnam War. He formed a band called Country Joe and the Fish, which recorded "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die-Rag" in October 1965. The **satirical** song, while never a commercial success, became a powerful **anthem** of the anti-war movement.



Well, come on all of you big strong men,  
 Uncle Sam needs your help again.  
 He's got himself in a terrible jam  
 Way down yonder in Vietnam,  
 So put down your books and pick up a gun,  
 We're gonna have a whole lotta fun.

(CHORUS)

And it's one, two, three,  
 What are we fighting for?  
 Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,  
 Next stop is Vietnam;  
 And it's five, six, seven,  
 Open up the **pearly gates**,  
 Well there ain't no time to wonder why,  
 Whoopee! we're all gonna die.

Now come on Wall Street don't go slow,  
 Why man this war is a go-go,  
 There's plenty good money to be made,  
 Supplying the Army with the tools of the trade.  
 Just hope and pray that if they drop the bomb,  
 They drop it on the Viet Cong.

Now come on generals, let's move fast,  
 Your big chance has come at last,  
 Gotta go out and get those **reds** —  
 The only good **commie** is the one that's dead.  
 You know that peace can only be won  
 When we've **blown 'em all to kingdom come**.

Now come on mothers throughout the land,  
 Pack your boys off to Vietnam.  
 Come on fathers, don't hesitate,  
 Send your sons off before it's too late.  
 You can be the first one on your block  
 To have your boy **come home in a box**.

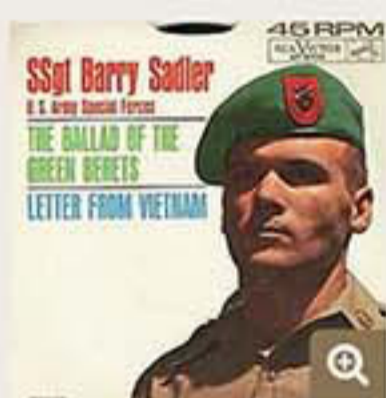
# "Ballad of the Green Berets"

**Creator:** Robin Moore and Barry Sadler

**Date:** 1966

**Source type:** Song

**Introduction:** In the 1950s and early 1960s, the U.S. army sent Special Forces (known informally as "[Green Berets](#)") to train the South Vietnamese army. Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler wrote this song with another songwriter while Sadler was recovering from a leg wound suffered in Vietnam. The song, performed by Sadler, was immensely popular when it was released in 1966, becoming a number one hit on the Billboard Charts.



Fighting soldiers from the sky  
 Fearless men who jump and die  
 Men who mean just what they say  
 The brave men of the [Green Beret](#)

(CHORUS)

[Silver wings upon their chest](#)

These are men, America's best

[One hundred men will test today](#)

[But only three will win the Green Beret](#)

Trained to live off nature's land  
 Trained in combat hand to hand,  
 Men who fight by night and day  
 Courage take from the Green Beret

Back at home a young wife waits  
 Her Green Beret has [met his fate](#).  
 He has died for those [oppressed](#)  
 Leaving her his last request

Put silver wings on my son's chest  
 Make him one of America's best  
 He'll be a man they'll test one day  
 Have him win the Green Beret