

## Waist Deep in the Big Muddy

Pete Seeger

II-126

Capo 2 -> *Bm*

Esus4: 922200

**Am bass progression:** Am/A Am/G Am/F Am/E

Am

It was back in nineteen forty-two, I was part of a good platoon.

We were on maneuvers in Louisiana,

E7

One night by the light of the moon.

Am

The captain said, "We've got to ford the river",

D

E7

That's where it all began.

Am

We were knee deep in the Big Muddy,

Esus4

E7

Am/A

Am/G

Am/F

Am/E

And the big fool said to push on.

The Sergeant said, "Sir, are you sure,  
This is the way back to the base?"

"Sergeant, I once crossed this river

Not a mile above this place.

It'll be a little soggy but we'll keep slogging.

We'll soon on dry ground"

We were waist deep in the Big Muddy

And the big fool said to push on.

"Captain, sir, with all this gear

No man'll be able to swim."

"Sergeant, don't be a Nervous Nellie,"

The Captain said to him.

"All we need is a little determination;

Follow me, I'll lead on."

We were neck deep in the Big Muddy

And the big fool said to push on.

All of a sudden, the moon clouded over,

All we heard was a gurgling cry.

A second later, the captain's helmet

Was all that floated by.

The Sergeant said, "Turn around men!

I'm in charge from now on."

And we just made it out of the Big Muddy

With the captain dead and gone.

We stripped and dived and found his body  
Stuck in the old quicksand.I guess he didn't know that the water was  
deeper

Than the place where he'd once been.

For another stream had joined the Muddy `

A half mile from where we'd gone.

We were lucky to get out of the Big Muddy

And the big fool said to push on

Well, you might not want to draw  
conclusions

I'll leave that to yourself

Maybe you're still walking, maybe you're still  
talking

Maybe you've still got your health

But every time I hear the news

That old feeling comes back on;

We're waist deep in the Big Muddy

And the damn fool's yelling to push on.

Knee deep in the Big Muddy

And the damn fools keep yelling to push on

Waist deep in the Big Muddy

And the damn fools keep yelling to push on

Waist deep! Neck deep! We'll be drowning  
before too long

We're neck deep in the Big Muddy

And the damn fool's yelling to push on.