

# Ballad of the Alamo

Marty Robbins

**Dm** **C**  
In the southern part of Texas, in the town of San Antone  
**Dm**  
There's a fortress all in ruins, that the weeds have overgrown

**Dm** **C**  
You may look in vain for crosses and you'll never see a one  
**Dm** **C** **F**  
But sometimes between the setting and the rising of the sun

**C** **F** **C** **F**  
You can hear a ghostly bugle, as the men go marchin' by  
**C** **Dm**  
You can hear them as they answer to the roll call in the sky

**C** **F** **C** **F**  
Colonel Travis, Davy Crockett, and a hundred eighty more  
**E7** **A7** **E7** **A7**  
Captain Dickinson, Jim Bowie, present and accounted for

**Dm**  
Back in eighteen thirty-six, Houston said to Travis  
**Dm** **C** **Dm**  
Get some volunteers and go, fortify the Alamo

**F** **C**  
Well the men came from Texas and from ol' Tennes see  
**F** **C** **F** **C** **A7**  
And they joined up with Travis, just to fight for the right to be free

**Dm**  
Indian scouts with squirrel guns, men with muzzle loaders  
**Dm** **C** **Dm**  
Stood together heel and toe, to defend the Alamo

**F** **C**  
You may ne'er see your loved ones, Travis told them that day  
**F** **C** **F** **C**  
**A7**  
Those who want to can leave now, those who'll fight to the death, let 'em stay

**Dm**  
In the sand he drew a line, with his army saber  
**Dm** **C** **Dm**  
Out of a hundred and eighty-five, not a soul to cross the line

**F** **Dm** **F** **C**  
With his banners a dancin', in the dawn's golden light  
**F** **C** **F** **C** **A7**  
Santa Anna came prancin', on a horse that was black as the night

**Dm**  
Sent an officer to tell Travis to surrender  
**Dm** **C** **Dm**  
Travis answered with a shell, and a rousin' rebel yell

**F**                      **Dm**                      **F**                      **C**  
 Santa Anna turned scarlet, "Play Deguello" he roared  
**F**                      **C**                      **F**                      **C**                      **A7**  
 I will show them no quarter, every one will be put to the sword

**Dm**  
 One hundred and eighty-five, holdin' back five thousand  
**Dm**                                              **C**                      **Dm**  
 Five days, six days, eight days, ten, Travis held and held again

**F**                      **Dm**                                              **F**                      **C**  
 Then he sent for replacements, for his wounded and lame  
**F**                                              **C**                                              **F**                      **C**                      **A7**  
 But the troops that were comin', never came, never came, never came

**Dm**  
 Twice he charged and blew recall, on the fatal third time  
**Dm**                                              **C**                      **Dm**  
 Santa Anna breached the wall, and he killed them one and all

**F**                      **Dm**                                              **F**                      **C**  
 Now the bugles are silent, and there's rust on each sword  
**Dm**                                              **C**                                              silent **F**  
 And the small band of soldiers, lie asleep in the arms of the Lord

**Dm**

**Dm**                                                                                              **C**  
 In the southern part of Texas, near the town of San Antone  
**Dm**                                              **Dm**  
 Like a statue on his pinto, rides a cowboy all alone

**Dm**                                                                                              **C**  
 And he sees the cattle grazin', where a century before  
**Dm**                                              **C**                                              **F**  
 Santa Anna's guns were blazin', and the cannon used to roar

**C**                                              **F**                                              **C**                                              **F**  
 And his eyes turn sorta misty as his heart begins to glow  
**C**                                              **Dm**  
 And he takes his hat off slowly...to the men of Alamo

**C**                                              **Dm**                                              **Dm**  
 To the thirteen days of glory...at the siege of Alamo