

Intro: Bm

D Bm  
 My name is Dodge but then you know that  
 August Forty-Nine, North Montana,  
 Gauged the fire I'd seen bigger  
 Sky had turned red, smoke was boiling  
 Then when I rose like the phoenix

G D A  
 It's written on the chart there at the foot end of the of the bed  
 the hottest day on record and the forest tinder dry  
 So I ordered them to side hill we'd fight it from be-low  
 Two hundred yards to safety; death was fifty yards be-hind  
 In that world reduced to ashes, there were none but two sur-vived

D Bm  
 They think I'm blind that I can't read it  
 Lightning strikes in the mountains  
 We'd have our backs to the river  
 I don't know why, I just thought it  
 I stayed that night and one day after

G D A  
 But I've read it every word and every word it says is death  
 I was crew chief at the jump base I pre-pared the boys to fly.  
 We'd have it licked by morning even if we took it slow  
 I struck a match to waist high grass running out of time  
 Carried bodies to the river wondering how I stayed a-live

Bm G D  
 So con-fession, is that the reason that you came?  
 Pick the drop zone; C forty seven comes in low  
 But the fire crowned, jumped the valley just a-head  
 Tried to tell them step in-to this fire I've set  
 Thirteen stations of the cross to mark their fall

\*The song tells the story of the Mann Gulch Fire in 1949, North Montana from the point of view of "Dodge", the foreman – who is dying of Hodgkin's disease in a hospital bed about 5 years after the fire. He was blamed for the deaths of his men. Recorded by "Cry Cry Cry", as well as the author James Keelaghan.

Bm G A  
 Get it off my chest before I check out of the game  
Feel the tap upon your leg that tells you go  
 There was no way down headed for the ridge in-stead  
We can't make it this is the only chance you'll get  
 I've had my say, I'll con-fess to nothing more

Bm G D  
 Since you mention it, well there's thirteen things I'll name  
See the circle of the fire down be-low  
 Too big to fight it, we'd have to fight that slope in-stead  
But they cursed me, ran for the rocks above in-stead  
 I'll join them now, those they left me long be-fore

Em Em/F# G A Bm  
 Thirteen crosses high above the cold Missouri waters  
Fifteen of us dropped above the cold Missouri waters  
 Flames one step behind above the cold Missouri waters  
I lay face down and prayed above the cold Missouri waters == =>  
 Thirteen crosses high above the cold Missouri waters - - - ->

Em Em/F# G A Bm D  
 Thirteen crosses high above the cold Missouri shore