

THE BIG FOOL SAID TO PUSH ON

I heard this song before I knew it was by Pete Seeger, It could be taken as "political." Or not. I took it as a pretty cool piece of music, and a good cautionary tale, and still do. You can hear Pete perform this song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXnJVkEX8O4>.

WAIST DEEP IN THE BIG MUDDY

■ Pete Seeger

Am

It was back in 1942.

E7 Am

I was a member of a good platoon.

We were on maneuvers in Lou'siana

Dm E7

One night by the light of the moon.

Am

The Captain told us to ford a river.

Dm E7

That's how it all begun.

Am F

We were knee deep in the Big Muddy,

Am E7 Am

And the big fool said to push on.

The Sergeant said, "Sir, are you sure
This is the best way back to the base?"
"Sergeant, go on, I've forded this river
About a mile above this place.
It'll be a little soggy, but just keep sloggin'.
We'll soon be on dry ground."
We were waist deep in the Big Muddy,
And the big fool said to push on.

The Sergeant said, "Sir, with all this
equipment,
No man will be able to swim."
"Sergeant, don't be a Nervous Nelly,"
The Captain said to him.
"All we need is a little determination.

Men, follow me. I'll lead on."

We were neck deep in the Big Muddy,
And the big fool said to push on.

All at once the moon clouded over.
We heard a gurglin' cry
A few seconds 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 he'd once before been.
Another stream had joined the Big Muddy
About a half mile from where we'd gone.
We were lucky to escape from the Big
Muddy
When the big fool said to push on.

Now I'm not going to point any moral —
I'll leave that for yourself.
Maybe you're still walking, you're still
talking,
You'd like to keep your health.
But every time I read the papers,
That old feeling comes on,
We're waist deep in the Big Muddy
And the big fool says to push on.

Waist deep in the Big Muddy,
The big fool says to push on.
Waist deep in the Big Muddy,
The big fool says to push on.
Waist deep, neck deep,
Soon a tall man is over his head.
We're waist deep in the Big Muddy,
And the big fool says to push on.