

Cold Missouri Waters

James Keelaghan

(Original key = capo on 5th)

Intro - G-Em-C-G-D ... Am-C-D ... Am-C-Gsus - G

G Em
My name is Dodge - but then you know that
C G D
It's written on the chart there at the foot end of the bed
G Em
They think I'm blind - I can't read it
C G D
I've read it every word and every word it says is death
Em C G
So confession - Is that the reason that you came
Em C D
Get it off my chest - before I check out of the game
Em C G
Since you mention it - well there's thirteen things I'll name
Am G6 C D Gsus G
Thirteen crosses high above the cold Missouri waters

Em C G D
August 49 - North Montana - The hottest day on record - the forest tinder dry
G Em
Lightning strikes - in the mountains
C G D
I was crew chief at the jump base I prepared the boys to fly
Em C G Em C D
Pick the drop zone - C47 comes in low - Feel the tap - upon your leg that tells you go
Em C G Am G6 C G Gsus G
See the circle - of the fire down below - Fifteen of us dropped above the cold Missouri waters

Em C G D
Gauged the fire - I'd seen bigger - So I ordered them to side hill - we'd fight it from below
G Em C G D
We'd have our backs - to the river - We'd have it licked by morning even if we took it slow
Em C G
But the fire crowned - jumped the valley just ahead
Em C D
There was no way down - headed for the ridge instead

Em C G
Too big to fight it - we'd have to fight that slope instead
Am G6 C D Gsus G
Flames one step behind above the cold Missouri waters

Em
Sky had turned red - smoke was boiling
C G D
Two hundred yards to safety death was fifty yards behind
G Em C G D
I don't know why - I just thought it - I struck a match to waist high grass running out of time
Em C G
Tried to tell them - step into this fire I've set
Em C D
We can't make it - this is the only chance you'll get
Em C G
But they cursed me - Ran for the rocks above instead
Am G6 C D Gsus G
I lay face down and prayed above the cold Missouri waters

Em
Then when I arose - like the phoenix
C G D
In that world reduced to ashes there was none but two survived
G Em
I stayed that night - and one day after
C G D
Carried bodies to the river wondering how I stayed alive
Em C G
Thirteen stations - of the cross to mark their fall
Em C D
I've had my say - I'll confess to nothing more
Em C G
I'll join them now - those that they left me long before
Am G6 C D G
Thirteen crosses high above the cold Missouri waters
Am G6 C D Gsus G Gsus G
Thirteen crosses high above the cold Missouri shore