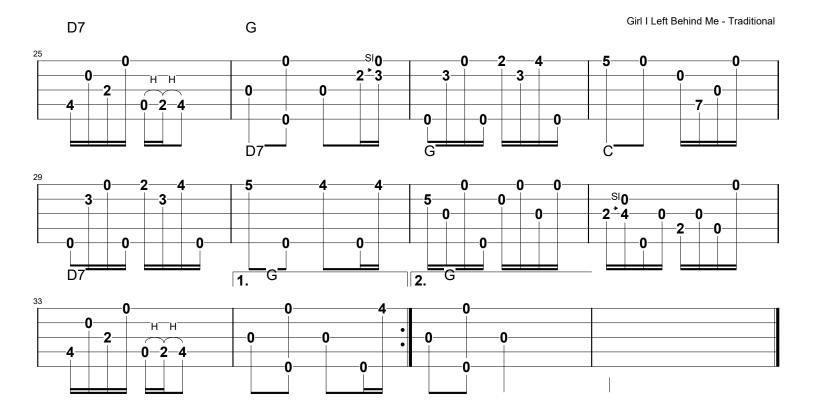
Girl I Left Behind Me

Traditional

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The Girl I Left Behind Me was an old English folk song that goes back to the Elizabethan era, and was said to have been sung by soldiers and sailors going off to war. It was a popular marching song in the U.S. military since the early 19th Century. Below are the words the Tennessee Ernie Ford sang when he recorded it back in the 50s.

The hour was sad, I left the maid,
A lingering farewell taking.
Her sighs and tears, her steps delayed,
I thought her heart was breaking.
In hurried words, her name I blessed,
I breathed the vows that bind me,
And to my heart in anguish pressed,
The girl I left behind me.

Then to the south we bore away,
To win a name in story,
And there where dawns the sun of day,
There dawned our sun of glory.
Both blazed in noon on freedom's height,
Where in the post assigned me.
I shared the glory of that fight,
Sweet girl I left behind me.

Full many a name our banners bore, Of former deeds of daring. But they were days of seventy six, In which we had no sharing. But now our laurels freshly won, With the old ones shall entwine thee. Still worthy of our sires, each son, Sweet girl I left behind me.

The hope of final victory,

Within my bosom burning, Is mingling with sweet thoughts of thee, And of my fond returning.
But should I ne'er return again, Still worth thy love thou't find me.
Dishonors breath shall never stain, The name I left behind me.