



A Soldier Is Down

*The light has just begun,
It chases away the dark.
Men in a line, snaking through first light,
From the silence of sleep into the day.*

*What lies ahead,
Nobody knows.
They leave the safety of base camp,
In single file they move.*

*A stream is gently burbling its song,
They enter and cross the stream.
Emerge in an open field,
High on alert they walk into war.*

*What waits to their front is all unknown,
They trust in their comrades.
They remember families and friends,
Those far away from here and safe in their homes.*

*These brave young men walk into the unknown,
Unknown to them now but not for so long.
A rubber plantation producer of raw product and more,
It is this plantation that some will today call a final home.*

*The first shot rings out and blast from the front,
The captain calls him forward and asks for some fire.
Fire from the big guns awaiting his call,
Fire that may help bring them all safely home.*

*And still they walk on,
The smell is so strong of gun powder and smoke,
The enemy is close and causing them pain,
One soldier falls another is there in his vacant place.*



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Continued ...

*A call from his boss and the captain stops to talk,
The conversation is short but the consequences long.
The pause was near a trail in that rubber plantation,
The enemy was near, they watched and they waited.*

*Now the air is hot as it rushes past,
There is the sound of the blast.
Dirt and more now fill the air,
He feels a throb in his leg but sees more to his front.*

*The captain turns toward him,
The leader's expression is clear, he is feeling no pain.
He falls to the ground without so much as a cry,
The end of a life, a good man is down.*

*What can equal the pain that will be felt far from here,
Who can explain to the loved ones why a soldier is gone?
A void is created a family will mourn,
The soldiers there with him will fight their way home.*

*As the day comes to an end,
Again they cross the bubbling stream.
This time it's to safety,
But fewer return.*

*Another day will come soon,
Another soldier will fall.
All this for a cause most don't understand,
But they fight there together – once a boy now a man.*

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