



## The Last Roll Call

A row of young soldiers stood and faced their God which to all must come to pass.  
They hoped their boots were shining just as brightly as their brass.

The Lord God looked down upon them and began to speak,  
"Step forward now, young soldiers, how shall I deal with you."  
Then he asked of them, "Have you always turned the other cheek,  
And to My Church have you been true?"

The soldiers stood at attention their shoulders straight and true,  
"No Lord unfortunately we have not" they replied with no restraint.  
"Because those of us who carry guns in defence of the weak and the few  
Can't always carry themselves like a saint."

"We've had to work most Sundays and at times our talk was tough.  
There were times we had to be violent but your world can be awfully rough."  
"But we never passed a cry for help, and there were moments we've shook with fear.  
There were times and God, please forgive us, we've even wept an unmanly tear."

"We know we don't deserve a place, amongst the people here.  
They never seemed to care about us unless we were needed to calm their fear."  
"Lord we don't need much, just a place to lay our heads and it needn't be too grand.  
We've neither expected nor had too much, so if you can't, we'll understand."

Then a great silence fell all around the throne, where saints had often trod,  
And the soldiers stood there quietly awaiting the judgment of their God.

Finally the Lord spoke, "Come forth unto me, young soldiers"  
And with precision they formed up at his feet.  
"There is no one here or on earth who can say that you haven't earned the right  
To walk in peace here on Heaven's streets."

Then as God looked down upon them he slowly began to weep,  
"Through all the pain that you have suffered you've stood tall and borne these burdens well."

"So lay here next to me and sleep a peaceful eternal sleep."  
"There is no doubt my children; you are welcomed here in heaven  
As you've done your time in Hell."

Written with a heavy heart by a fellow Soldier