

My Moon - Remembrance (Lest We Forget)

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I look out the window
And gaze at the full moon
I know what's ahead of me
In my freedom I swoon.

The peace and tranquility
I know I can't replace
Only my destiny
Will change that space.

Yes, I have a love affair
With that full moon
For what follows it
Will change before noon.

The Sun is rising
I have not slept much
I am ready for action
My weapons I clutch.

We are all on parade
My comrades and I
Before our last brief by Sir –
And, perhaps our last goodbye.

Sir appears before us
And briefs our mission
But underneath his armour
His heart is full of passion

The last words of his every brief
He encourages his troops
To be careful and safe
And don't forget to look out for your mates!

We board the big bird
Her engines roar
We all take our places
And into the heavens we soar.

I look at their faces,
Each and every one
I know what they're thinking
One hundred to one.

No one speaks
We are all saying our prayers
As the big bird rumbles
Through the daylight air.

We are all safe in the big bird's womb
But that's not for long
As we soar over sea and dunes
Into the enemy's song.

Roped up and hooks on the line
We dive out of the belly of the big bird in flight
As vulnerable as dandelions
We float to the earth well into the night.

Thud, crunch
Dirt in my mouth
Oh shit! Says one of my buddies
Landed in a tree and upside down facing
South!

Glory be,
There is always one that gets into trouble
I unhook my chute
And scrambled to his bubble.

Gun shots in the distance
Forget about that
Just get to your mate
And get him out of the hatch!

I fumbled for my knife to cut him free
From the tangle of the branches that grew from
the tree
A spray of bullets and mortar flew from beyond
I was too late as his blood poured like rain - on
me.

No time to think, no time to waste,
I scrambled through the dirt
To the rest of my mates
I will never forget the look on each face.

Horror, sadness, disbelief
We carried out our mission like a herd of boars
Followed all the rules of engagement
That embraces all wars.

Mission complete
Back on the big bird – less one
I knew what they were thinking
One hundred to none.

Under the full moon
On the tarmac beside the big bird
We stood on parade
Waiting for the debrief by Sir.

The tears in my heart were as heavy as hell
The mortar, the napalm, the blood of my mate
On my body and up my nostrils
I could still smell.

Sir appeared
He could see I was angry and I was mean
At the loss of a mate
Because of political greed.

Comrades, he softly said, he hesitated with
abate
You have done your duty
Mission accomplished
Get some rest and admire freedom's beauty.
Squadron dismissed – I stood for sometime
Left alone on the tarmac in the swirling mist
I felt a gentle hand on my shoulder – It was Sir
I looked into his eyes, A tear I did not miss

The silence was private
Between Sir and I
I could feel his heart open just like a gate
He said, Ma'am. I know you looked after your
mate.

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