

Isaac Exum

He was my brother
He was my friend
Together we explored
Parts of Vietnam

A Georgia boy
A proud dirt farmer
Of those I served with
No heart was warmer

He loved to laugh
And have a beer
Talk some BS
With nary-a-care

Not very bright
Always a kidder
I once sent him looking
For a hand grenade silencer

He came back furious
Really quite mad
But as we laughed
He knew He'd been had

I hardly knew him
He hung with another
The Lord arranged
Our trip together

The XO appeared
That look on his face
Said Oh-No
Not that place

I need a gun
On the pad in 15
Bring lots of ammo
Maybe a canteen

I looked all around
For an ammo bearer
But all I could find
Filled my heart with terror

Exum, I said
Strap lots of ammo on
I'm not going to kid you
We're going to Khesanh

No-Jerry-No
Tell me it ain't so
I wish I could
I don't want to go

Only three or four days
Or so they they said
Till replacements arrive
Which never did

Two weeks later
He came to me
I've got a problem
I'm starting to bleed

What do you mean ?
Have you been shot?
No, He said
It's hemorrhoids I got

I wanted to laugh
To find some humor
But Khesanh's a place
For Bullets and Rumor

I called for a medic
Send Isaac back
No If's, Ands or Buts
The next chopper in fact

No problem, He said
So we parted there
Back to Sharon
For some tender care

I recounted those days
Forty years later
At our only reunion
Things should have been better

He had called earlier
To say he couldn't wait
For us all to arrive
He'd be at the gate

Jerry-Hey Jerry
He could hardly speak
Mostly he just cried
And wiped tears from his cheek

I Love You Man!
I Love You!
I Love You Too!
I Love You Too!

We Cried together
Few words were spoken
Together we returned
The tears were a token

We had formed a bond
That few men know
Together at Khesanh
We dug a deep hole

How I regretted
He wasn't there
For the Bronze Star
The rest of us shared

I am thankful to God
For the time we had
Three hours on his porch
The next day-He'd be Dead

His Son said He waited
For us to arrive
Before He Died
And Became Alive

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Rest in Peace Exum. I will never forget you. I am looking forward
To our next Reunion.

Jerry L. Long—— May 21, 2010