

A DAY IN MAY

I stood today amidst the graves and heard the bugles sound,
in honor of the heroes lying there in hallowed ground.

And as I looked at those who came to pay respect and pray,
I couldn't help but wonder – Is there any other way?

For man – God's best creation – to live some how in peace.
To love thy neighbor, as thyself – maybe wars would cease.

The world might live in harmony – make the enemy, a friend.
Our differences we'd learn to share – and never to offend.

That's the thought that crossed my mind when a Gold Star Mother cried
If only we could find a way, to lay the guns aside?

And then I seemed to hear a voice resounding through the years, it said:

I'm honored that you came – I'm grateful for your tears,
I'm so peaceful now – the battles all are won.
My medals heavy on my chest – my days of duty done.

But I asked for every victory – why this price to pay?
Why so many young and brave – must now beside me lay?

And so I too am made aware of why today you're here.
Your remembrance – a reminder of this land we hold so dear.

I'm sure I've found the answer – now so plan you see,
A man can accomplish anything – if that man is free!

Yes, I am an American soldier.
Don't ever say I died in vain.
For if I were alive, and my country called,
I'd do it all over again!

*Dorothy Bitner
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