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### Poetry; At the Fort

Howard Kratzke

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## AT THE FORT

On Sacred holidays, the soldiers  
stand  
In a formation that outlines the  
Cross  
Of their redemption. Sunlight on  
the land  
Steals from their hearts and the  
shadow of home's  
loss.  
Sustained by faith, they face  
whatever comes  
The Chaplains voice is healing as  
he prays.  
My sweetheart stands there, and in  
my heart the drum  
Of fate are beating in fantastic  
ways.  
The Cross extends to every sweet-  
hearts door.  
She is the witness as not tears  
confess  
Her secret misery. In every war  
The hardest Cross to bear is  
loneliness.