

I Can't Write Left-Handed

Bill Withers

We recorded this song on October the 6th
Since then, the war has been declared over
If you're like me, you'll remember it like anybody remembers any war - One big drag
A lot of people write songs about wars and government
Very social things
But I think about young guys who were like I was when I was young
I had no more idea about any government or political things or anything
And I think about those kind of young guys now
Who all of a sudden, somebody comes up, and they're very law-abiding
So if somebody says "Go" they don't ask any questions, they just go
And I can remember not too long ago seeing a young guy
With his right arm gone, just got back
And I ask him how he was doing
He said he was doing alright now but he had thought he was going to die
He said getting shot at didn't bother him
It was getting shot that shook him up
And I tried to put myself in his position
Maybe he cried, maybe he said...

I can't write left-handed
Would you please write a letter, write a letter to my mother?
Tell her to tell, tell her to tell, tell her to tell the family lawyer
Trying to get, trying to get a deferment for my younger brother
Tell the Reverend Harris to pray for me, Lord, Lord, Lord
I ain't gonna live, I don't believe I'm going to live to get much older

Strange little man over here in Vietnam I ain't, I ain't never seen
Bless his heart, ain't never done nothing to
He done shot me in my shoulder

Boot camp we had classes
You know we talked about fighting, fighting every day
And looking through rosy, rosy colored glasses
I must admit it seemed exciting anyway
Oh, but something that day overlooked to tell me, Lord
Bullets look better, I must say
Brother, when they ain't coming at you
But going out the other way
And please call up the Reverend
Call up, call up the Reverend Harris
And tell him to ask the Lord to do some good things for me
Tell him I ain't gonna live, I ain't gonna live
I ain't gonna live to get much older
Oh Lord

Strange little man over here in Vietnam I ain't never seen
Bless his heart ain't never done nothing to
He done shot me in my shoulder

Thank you