



WE WERE SOLDIERS

That's the way it is, that's what we were.

We put it simply, without swagger, without brag, in those three plain words.

We speak them softly, just to ourselves, just for ourselves.

Speak those three words anywhere in the world, and many who hear will recognize their meaning.

Listen, and you can hear voices echoing through them: "I solemnly swear to protect and defend."

Other words that sprang white-hot from bloody lips, shouts of "Medic," whispers of "Oh God,"

Forceful words of "Follow Me," and "What's the matter, soldier, you want to live forever?"

Laughing words, and words as cold as January ice, words that when spoken, were meant.

The echoes of "We Were Soldiers."

If you can't hear those echoes, you weren't; if you can, you were.

You can hear the cadences of Gettysburg, or Arlington honoring not a man, but a Soldier, perhaps forgotten by his nation, but not by his Brothers.

You can hear those echoes as you walk your post, go to "The Wall," visit a VA hospital, hear the mournful sounds of Taps, or gaze upon the white crosses, row upon row.

But they aren't just words; they're a way of life, a pattern of living, or a way of dying. They gave you the right to hope, to dream, to pray; the obligation to serve.

These are some of the meanings of those three words, meanings we don't tally, or even list.

Only in the stillness of a moonless night, or the quiet of a Sunday afternoon, or in the thin dawn of a new day, when our world is close about us, do they rise up in memories and stir in our sentient hearts.

And, we are remembering Anzio, Normandy, The Bulge, Wake Island, Iwo Jima and Inchon, Chosin, Pork Chop and Heartbreak Ridge, and Chu Lai, Tet and the Triangle, and many other places long forgotten by our civilian friends.

They're plain words, simple words.

You could carve them on stone; or you could carve them on the mountain ranges.

You could sing them to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

But you needn't. You needn't do any of those things, for those words are graven in the hearts of Veterans, they are familiar to 24,000,000 tongues, every sound, every syllable.

If you must write them, put them on my Stone.

But when you speak them, speak them softly, proudly, and we will hear you, for "We were Soldiers."

~author unknown~

- How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?
21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
- How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?
21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.
- Why are his gloves wet?
His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
- Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not?
He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face, and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
- How often are the guards changed?
Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year
- What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?
For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".

Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit two years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

Their shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, (the most decorated soldier of WWII) of Hollywood fame. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty

FTW

Summer Pig Roast & Poker run

Saturday, July 31st 2004

+ Rain or Shine
+ Bikes, Cars, Trucks, Camels, Mopeds



- Poker Run Registration 11:00-1:00 pm
- \$12.00 per person or \$20.00 a couple donation includes...Beer, Band, & Pig! 6:00 pm
- \$5.00/poker hand - maximum 3 hands
- 100% payout, Poker hands check in 5:00-6:00 pm
- Winners drawn 7:00 pm

Free Food
Free Beer
Music by.... "The Psyclones"

Registrations at:....
 TOP GUN Saloon - 1100 s. 60th St. Milwaukee, WI. 414-431-0420 OR
 Linda's Black Duck - W145 S8016 Schuitz Lane. Muskego, WI. 414-4229851


Poker Run & Party Ends at Linda's Black Duck.

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