

*On being someone other —
imagining another's
thoughts...*

Soldier

'It's getting dark and the grass is wet.
I have been sitting here for hours
And I am getting worried as I hear strange noises.
All that's going through my mind is,
Are they coming? Am I going to survive?
Will I see my family?
I want to cry and go hide in a nearby hut.
The only thing that calms me down is my puff from my cigar.
I say to myself, 'I'm going to make it'
But there is always that piece of doubt at the back on my mind
Pushing its way forwards.'

By Sammy Bain

(after a photograph of a soldier in Vietnam by Donald McCullin)

Soldier

'I don't want to be here.
I have been in the army a while now and still don't know
whether I could kill anyone.
Being a machine gunner is boring.
I would rather be somewhere warm.
I hope I don't get attacked.
I don't know what is so important
about the farm I'm protecting.'

By Erland Ross

(after the same photograph)