

Lord, if I am the last man standing
allow me time to thank my brothers
who to you marched before.

We left our families, friends and homes
for unknown lands in troubled times
and stood on distant shores.

We became a band of brothers.
We marched through hardship and pain
while learning how to pray.

Many brothers we lost back then,
we still see the faces even now
as names and details slip away.

Suddenly it seems we survivors dwindled
from millions of young to much older few,
beaten down by trials and years.

For now I'm left alone with memories aplenty,
but brothers none with which to share,
please Father ignore my tears.

If it's my time to answer your call
I hope to find the loving arms
of my band of brothers all.

Jim Alkek (9/13/23), MACV Advisory Team 46, Khanh Hoa Province, Dien Khanh District, 1968-1969