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Ten Years Ago Today

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Ten Years Ago Today

Cover Page Footnote

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Ten years ago today

*My brother Tommy
Carried me on his soulders
And kissed my skinned knees
I still have childhood scars
But Tommy is buried in the dust.*

*We had to fight, he told me,
As we dried each other's tears.
He had to march with a gun.
He hugged me as he promised
He'd be home for my birthday.*

*Tommy missed my birthday by a month.
I cried for the last time
The day we buried his broken body.*

*Now they're telling me to sign my name —
They say there'll be no war;
But they want my name on their list
Just in case.*

*Tommy, you thought you were right.
You believed war was just
But Tommy
I cannot kill somebody's brother.*

KATHLEEN A. DALY