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Nothing Uplifting About Uplift

11/13/03

{AKA: The Armpit of the Armpit}

[Was defense counsel for a 19 yr old kid with a 7th grade education that was always wandering off – 19 times.
General discharge in exchange for a guilty plea. They were afraid he'd get someone killed someday.]

There's nothing uplifting
About Uplift – You see
As barren an LZ
'Long the length of
The South China Sea
You can find.

The margins are green
On Nam's Number One;
As the highway plays tag
With headland and beach;
Tall are the grasses
And taller the palms;

Save at Uplift...
A grayness to the green,
A dimming drab dullness
Of scraggly scrub surrounds
The neutered notch
Between the two cones...

And tents sprawl their khaki
In the smothering dust
By the steep barren sides
Of the mini mounts' bases,
Antenna sprouting shacks
Adorn the taller peak.

And I'm led to wonder
'Bout the boy I'm to defend
Why in hell would he go
AWOL... 'round here
Of all places - just wandering
In the wastes that fill my sight.

~Gerald A. Ney