



World War II and Korean War
Boeing B-29 Superfort
70 tons gross weight
10 ton bomb load
23.5 ton fuel load
[6,400 gallons]

KILLING FOR SCORE

In the dark of night,
 when love's to be made,
 sneak we --
to fly our shoran arc
 five miles up.

Let there be light !
 Behold the earth below
 bright with luminous flux

 from our plunging brownie flash --
so we may be scored
 upon return.

Behavior mod --
 for the "best" bombing crew --
A bottle of booze,
 the kind distinguished people choose. We never see the red
blood ooze
 we've left behind

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5/27/78

An Explanation of some terms in this poem --

“shoran” was the type of B-29 bombing system used in North Korea during the latter phases of that killing exercise.

“brownie flash” refers to the “pre” and “post” strike photoflash bombs that were dropped to permit photography of the target and determination of the accuracy of the bomb drops -- the word “brownie” is the name of small inexpensive photo-flash camera that I owned and used as a child growing up in rural N.E. Montana in the 1930’s.

“behavior mod” refers to a psychological conditioning technique called “behavior modification” in which rewards and punishments are used to change human behavior.

NIGHT VISIONS

Penetrating black voids

in night ahead

brightened with

july fourth-like

works of fire –

Steady on course

into colored holocausts

become hard metal

with rockets red glare –

While below

bombs burst everywhere –

our gifts to “gooks”

and our flag was still there.

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*Korean War B-29 combat pilot;
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