



## A Price of Soldiering

For Rene and Wilson

The day has been long and shadows fall  
I hear a distant beckoning call

A reminder that it's the winter of my life  
Many past years of good fortune and few trials so rife

An oath to King and country I did swear  
A life of duty, honour and loyalty to proudly bear

Such service to Nation was expected before any other  
No matter who, be it wife, children or mother

I captured and lived each and every day  
I drank and feasted life's journey on the way

So many times to love, laugh, and now and then cry  
I dared, I strived, tasted fear yet never asked why

I climbed many high mountains and some I passed by  
I bounced off numerous brick walls but always I did try

Sometimes there were victories with garlands as well  
Yet so many comrades with far greater deeds I could tell

Countless glorious times and a complete life  
Even more fortunate was to have you as my beautiful wife

You and I together, albeit for such short times  
I was yours and you were mine

Now as my sun begins to set  
There is but one unforgettable regret

You waited for me until your last sigh of adieu  
But duty called and I wasn't there to tell of my deep love for you

George Mansford © January 2015