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Oh God...(The Replacement)

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OH GOD... (THE REPLACEMENT)

Oh God, I feel so cold. I wish I had a heavier jacket. Nobody else seems to be cold. They're all walking around without their jackets. Why am I so cold? I wish I had eaten some chow. I was afraid I would throw up if I ate anything but maybe I wouldn't be feeling so cold if I had something in my stomach. I wish my teeth would stop chattering and my knees would stop shaking. I hope I'll be able to get up when we get ready to move out. Oh God, I feel so cold.

Oh God, I feel so lonely. The truck just dropped me off last night and drove away. I wish I had just one buddy that I could talk to. Why did they just leave only me with this outfit? Why couldn't they have left just one of my buddies from my training outfit with me? I wonder if anybody here even knows my name. The Sarge just looked at my papers and brought me over here. "You can sleep over there," he said. "The guy who dug it won't be needing it anymore." None of the other guys talk to me. They don't seem to be talking much to each other either. I wish somebody would tell me what I'm supposed to be doing. Oh God, I feel so lonely.

Oh God, I feel so scared. I hear we're supposed to take a hill or something. I heard that they've tried three times already. What am I supposed to do? Maybe I should clean my rifle again. I wonder if there's time? What if it doesn't work? It sure looks beat up. I wonder who had it before me? I wonder why he doesn't have it now? What if I can't shoot when I have to? What if I can't kill someone whose trying to kill me? What will I do if I see someone get killed?

I've never seen a dead man before, except in a casket. What if I just get up right now and run away? Will they come after me and shoot me or will they throw me in the stockade? Oh God, I feel so scared.

Oh God, don't let me be killed today. Maybe later when I have some friends or least when someone knows my name. I don't want to be killed on my first day in combat. Nobody will know who I am. What if I get hit by a shell and my tags get blown off. Who will they notify? Oh God, don't let me be killed today.

Oh God, let me die clean. If I have to die today, don't let me die hurt. Don't let me lose my legs or my arms. Don't let me lie in the mud and bleed. Oh God, let me die clean.

Oh God, I want my mommy. I wish she were here right now. She would know what I'm supposed to do. She would hug me and I wouldn't be cold anymore. She'd watch over me and I wouldn't get hurt. Oh God, I want my mommy.

Oh God, IT'S TIME. The Lieutenant is blowing his whistle. Oh God, IT'S TIME.

Oh God, don't let me be a coward today. Oh God, don't let me be a coward.....

(Dedicated to all those who in any war, died on their first day of battle.)

— Sam Sato