

ADAM KIRSCH

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## Knowing that some Army engineer

Knowing that some Army engineer  
Was charged with calculating how to stack  
For maximum efficiency the soldiers'  
Corpses in the plane that brings them back;  
That someone requisitioned all these flags  
Tied diaper-like around each cedar box,  
And drew up estimates for body-bags  
And must revise them after each attack;  
That someone seated on a forklift caught  
Each coffin roughly in its iron prongs,  
And dropped it on the pile; and that a guard  
Is sealed up with the dead the whole flight long;  
Knowing that all of these and hundreds more  
Collaborate to help each soldier die,  
Who could declare the necessary war?  
Ignorance is responsibility.