

“War Our Only Business—Death Our Only Product”

blared the large banner
mounted near the hanger in Da Nang.
He was a Marine pilot
on his second tour.
With his H-34 helicopter
he strafed jungles, delivered supplies,
rescued downed pilots and transported generals.

But this flight was different,
with three prisoners
shackled in the cargo hold.
“Marine Intelligence”
could not get them to talk,
so the General decided to offend freedom.

At an altitude of five-thousand feet,
with the chopper hidden in a dark cloud,

a question was asked—silence.
First prisoner shoved out.

Question asked again—silence.
Second prisoner shoved out.

Question asked again—silence.
Third prisoner, out.

Silence.