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| **TELL ME WHAT IT WAS REALLY LIKE** |
| by Lachlan Irvine  |
| What was it like over there? Come on, tell me all about it; But don't spoil any of my preconceptions, 1. What is the speaker of this poem like? What seem to be his/her values, understanding of the world and war? Just tell me what it was really like. Don't use words like "service" and "sacrifice", That's not what I want to hear; Tell me about burning villages, Tell me what it was really like. There you go, talking about mateship, Talking about courage and fear; Tell me about the drugs, man, Tell me what it was really like. What's all this about booby traps, tunnels, Jumping jack mines and mortar attacks? Did you rape any women? Tell me what it was really like. 2. What role does the soldier play in this poem? You go on about the heat and the mud, The hard work and the lack of sleep; Did you pick up a dose on R and R? Tell me what it was really like. You talk about cas-evac and dust-off, I don't even know what that means; Did you kill any children? Tell me what it was really like. It's getting hard to talk to you, You don't seem to communicate; You get upset too easily, I only asked what it was really like**.** |