

MARTIN OTT

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## Soldiers in the Dark

The first time I saw two soldiers  
kissing was in the Army First Aid  
Manual, illustrations for resuscitation  
nestled among splints and tourniquets.  
Of course, soldiers are loved ones:  
this is the definition of family,  
protecting someone with blood  
and limb. Fear is a hug under  
water in a hole barely big  
enough to hold two tired  
men huddling for warmth,  
lips pressed into rifle barrels,  
hoping the night doesn't light.

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A former US Army interrogator, **MARTIN OTT** is the author of four books—*Captive* (C&R Press, 2012), *Poets' Guide to America*, coauthored with John F. Buckley (Brooklyn Arts Press, 2012), *The Interrogator's Notebook* (Story Merchant Books, 2013), and *Underdays* (Notre Dame University Press, 2015). His blog for writers—<http://writeliving.wordpress.com/>—has been read by thousands in more than 75 countries.