

Jim Ed Brown

"Good Brother John"

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(Good brother John)

On the express bus to the Boot Camp John came down
the isle

All I could see in the inky black night was a warm but
weary smile

He said friend could I sit here by you I cussed him as
he sat down

Because everything anybody talk me made me hate
this stranger John

John my brother John my friend I cussed him once and I
cussed him again

John stood by me to the very end good brother John

Two GI's on an airplane headed for a distant place
John was honest and friendly till I cussed him and spit
in his face

Well I thought I'd be a dead man before John turned
loose of me

He said you're nothin' but a tomfool whiteman but I
swear I'm gonna make you see

John my brother John my friend he never borrowed
more than he could land

John stood by me to the very end good brother John

Two months later in the battle in the place that I
couldn't even name

John laid beside me with a rifle and I hated him just the
same

Then the earth flew up beneath me in a second my
eyes were gone

Then a hand fell on my shoulder and a voice said it's
me John

(Good brother John good brother John)

I said get away boy who needs you he said frind you're
comin' with me

Now that somebody's made you blind maybe you can
learn to see

Then he picked me up on his shoulders and lifted me
off of the ground

But when he stood up straight as a pine tree somebody
shot him down

John my brother John my friend gave up his soul to the
jumble wind

John stood by me to the very end good brother John
Now I make my way in the darkness but one thing I
clearly see
God's good world is full of fine men and they don't all
look like me
That lesson cost John his poor life while I can't
stumbling back
Lord if I'd've been blind from the very first I'd never
known John was black
John my brother John my friend I cussed him once and I
cussed him again
John stood by me to the very end good brother John
John my brother John my friend he never borrowed
more than he could land
John stood by me to the very end good brother John
Good brother John good brother John good brother John

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