

## John Gorka

### "Where No Monument Stands"

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This is the field where the battle did not happen,  
where the unknown soldier did not die.  
This is the field where grass joined hands,  
where no monument stands,  
and the only heroic thing is the sky,  
and the only heroic thing is the sky.

Birds fly here without any sound,  
unfolding their wings across the open.  
No people killed-or were killed-on this ground  
hallowed by neglect and an air so tame  
that people celebrate it by forgetting its name.

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where the unknown soldier did not die.  
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where no monument stands,  
and the only heroic thing is the sky,  
and the only heroic thing is the sky.

\*based on a poem by William Stafford (January 17,  
1914 - August 28, 1993)\*

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