

# **A Soldier's Night Before Christmas**

**Author Unknown**



**Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone I had come down the chimney with presents to give, And to see just who in this home did live.**

**I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand, On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, A sober thought came through my mind.**

**For this house was different.**

**It was dark and dreary.**

**I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.**

**The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, Not how I picture a United States Soldier.**

**Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?**

**Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?**

**I realized the families that I saw this night, Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to  
fight.**

**Soon around the world, the children would play, And grown-ups would celebrate a bright Christmas  
day.**

**They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here. I  
couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone, On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.**

**The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.**

**The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry.**

**This life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.**

**My life is my God, my Country, the Army."**

**The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep.**

**I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.**

**I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.**

**I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night, This guardian of honor, so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas  
Day. All is secure."**

**One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas, my Friend, and to all a Good  
Night."**