I AM
The American Soldier.

For the American people,
my family, my fellows, my sons to come - I carry on.
Born of explorers, colonists, hunters in deer skins;
schooled in the wilderness; fighting for our continent -
I carried on for the rights of man.
Wherever I was needed, whenever I was called,
I stood and delivered. I came through. I was America
on the march. And now today here I come again,
marching again at the same old job - same old,
brand new job - marching again with all free men.
I am the ring of steel around Democracy; the ramparts
that you sing about; I am the Citizen Soldier;
the Nation in Arms. I am the eyes of the cannon,
the marching refrain, the brains of the tank,
the nerves of the plane, the heart of the shell.
I am the Liberty Bell; the salt of our youth.
I am the fighting man of every outpost from
Alaska to Hawaii to Korea and beyond;
from Panama to Puerto Rico to Iceland and beyond.
Whatever the need -
for the spirit of Liberty, for the future we're making -
I, the American Soldier, am the shield.