

## Semper Fi

Peter, Paul and Mary

My father met Eleanor Roosevelt  
In nineteen forty-five  
The war was finally over then  
And they were still alive

Her husband was the president  
'Til he ran out of time  
Her Franklin D. was history  
And they put him on the dime

My father joined the leathernecks  
To stay out of the mine  
The new marine was just sixteen  
In nineteen thirty-nine

There were medals and malaria  
The South Pacific War  
Through jungles that were paradise  
And were paradise no more

Soldiers fight and soldiers die  
Soldiers live to wonder why  
Semper fi, fe-fo-fum  
Look out peacetime, here we come

Some of the men who did survive  
Were not the lucky ones  
War is only good for those  
Who make and sell the guns

My father lay recovering  
The hurt was all inside  
Sometimes the wounds that never heal  
Are the easiest to hide

When Eleanor came bearing gifts  
To San Francisco Bay  
She gave my dad a blanket  
In the hospital that day

That blanket meant a lot to him  
My mother has it still  
Some forget the kindnesses  
That others never will

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Soldiers live to wonder why  
Semper fi, fe-fo-fum  
Look out peacetime, here we come