LEAVING THE INDUCTION CENTER

DOUG RAWLINGS

We were now
all riders
on those olive drab
government buses

trying to make some sense
out of this thing
they called military justice.

Still a bunch
of minors
digging about
in our own little ruins

burrowing through
the dangerous trash
of our own silly illusions.

We were all of us
just drifters
caught up in
a dirty little war

left to ride it out
alone on our own
thin little prayers.

Doug Rawlings was drafted out of graduate school in 1968 and ended up in Vietnam from July of 1969 to August of 1970 with the 7/15th artillery in the central highlands. In 1985, he helped co-found Veterans For Peace. He lives in Maine.

Cobalt Poets Series # 657 ~ April 15, 2025