For the lost crew of the Wasa Wasa

Your last morning awash with angels
cries and shouts
sad sounds of waves
an angry voice forbidding prayer.

Twilight at sea.

A sound of home

knocking on blackness
babies comforting worried arms.

You screamed wildly. The storm

Voices shrill. Hushed by the wild winds

No dignity in death.

Silver fins pass light upon a glazed eye.

Twilight at sea.

A sound of home

knocking on blackness
babies comforting worried arms.

You lie with fishes.

Moving gently in a salt sea weeping. Waiting for the call to sail to home.

On your battlefield
no wars are won
no medals adorn your wet wearied breath
as you wait sadly through the centuries.

The Wasa Wasa was an old ship that sailed out in a storm and sank. The crew never returned.

Patrick Craddock March 97