



daiquiris of course  
for three years I slept in barracks  
that had been occupied by Nazi officers  
did guard duty in their towers  
surrounded by barbed wire  
20 years after their defeat  
a Jew in their quarters  
it was too much  
my head was swimming with all this shit  
I decided to buy a typewriter at the BX  
& learn how to write

on leave

I was tanned & fit  
Melvin was on the way out  
he was 25  
my mother had taken him in  
when he was 16  
now cirrhosis was taking over  
he died just before I left for NY  
I had one week left  
since my plane to Italy left from NY  
I decided to see my father  
for the first time in 3 years  
meet his new wife  
they took me to Toots Shors  
Radio City  
where I saw Johnny Carson taping his show  
my last night  
they took me to see Streisand live  
in Funny Girl  
there was a young woman sitting next to me  
who offered me some of her candy  
she was alone & play hopping  
my father kept nudging me to go with her  
he thought she was some celebrities' daughter  
I never asked  
it was probably the best visit with him  
I ever had

survival technique

never let your mind kick you  
in the butt