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D16 Give them their Life ...

16.1 1944 Air Force Poetry, Edited by John Pudney and Henry Treece, John Lane, The Bodley

Head, London, p 13.

16.2 1964 A Moment in Time (A 100), p (5)

In A Moment in Time(A 100), p (5)

In A Moment in Time line 4 reads 'Young-eyed', changed from 'Young-winged' as printed in Air Force Poetry.

GIVE THEM THEIR LIFE ...

Give them their life:
They do not know how short it grows;
So let them go
Young-winged, steel-fledged, gun-furious,
For if they live they'll live,
As well you know,
Upon the bitter kernels of their sweet ideals.

Give them their wings:
They cannot fly too high or far
To fly above
The dirty-moted, bomb-soured, word-tired world.
And if they die they'll die,
As you should know,
More swiftly, cleanly, star-defined, than you will ever feel.