

BECALMED

ALAN REID

I HAVE NOT GAINED THE JUST REWARDS THAT I DESERVE  
FOR I HAVE FOUGHT AND BROUGHT GREAT HONOUR TO THE COUNTRY THAT I SERVE  
FOR I AM THWARTED AND OPPOSED AT EVERY TURN  
BY POLITICIANS AND A HOST OF SCHEMING MEN  
AND WAYS OF INTRIGUE I COULD NEVER EVER LEARN  
I'LL NEVER LEARN

IN PARIS SALONS I AM FETED AND ADMIRERD  
KING LOUIS GAVE TO ME A MEDAL AND A GOLDEN HILTED SWORD  
BUT HIS LIEUTENANTS SMILE AND WAVE THEIR OILY HANDS  
THEIR HONEYED WORDS I TRUST NO MORE THAN SINKING SANDS  
FOR THEY CONSPIRE TO KEEP ME STRANDED ON DRY LAND  
I AM BECALMED

I TOLD BEN FRANKLIN HOW I MUST RETURN TO SEA  
AND I ASKED HIM FOR THE FUNDS TO HELP PROCURE A SHIP FOR ME  
AND THOUGH HE TRIED HIS BEST IT WAS TO NO AVAIL  
FOR THERE WERE THOSE WHO MADE DAMNED SURE THAT WE WOULD FAIL  
NOW I AM HELPLESS HERE IN FRANCE WITHOUT A SAIL  
NO SHIP TO SAIL

ACROSS THE OCEAN ALL MY ENEMIES COMBINE  
TO KEEP ME HIDDEN OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF MIND  
THEY SAY I'M ARROGANT, IMPRACTICAL AND VAIN  
AND SO I BRISTLE HERE FRUSTRATED AND INCLINED TO GO INSANE  
I'LL NEVER LEARN

AND NOW IT SEEMS AS IF THIS WAR IS AT AN END  
AND ALL MY DREAMS TO BUILD A NAVY DISSIPATED IN THE WIND  
BECAUSE AMERICA IS HAPPY NOW SHE'S FREE  
AND NO MORE BATTLESHIPS ARE NEEDED NOW AT SEA  
SO WHAT IS THERE NOW FOR A RESTLESS MAN LIKE ME  
A CASTAWAY ADRIFT UPON THE LAND AND NOT THE SEA  
I AM BECALMED  
I'LL NEVER LEARN  
I'LL NEVER LEARN