

These I Have Known

In my autumn of life, I look back in pride
These I have known, friends far and wide.

A Padstow bound boat, smashed by an error
Matchwood and souls in a cauldron of terror
 A Mayday call shatters the day
A Port Isaac fisherman robs the sea of its prey
 His Dad, a gentle soul that I knew,
With his 'bright-as-a-button' Winnie the Pooh.

A lady who made tea for firefighting crews
And wept bitter tears at the dawn's early news
For a lad with his name on a plaque by the shore
And his smile is etched on my heart evermore.

Lifeboatmen and coastguards, I knew them so well
Put their lives on the line in a Bossiney hell.

A climber who nearly entered death's door
Smashed by a fall on a cathedral floor
Between life and death, a division so fine
He clawed back to life with the heart of a lion.

Memories made, friendships that last
 Some in a war half a century past
Now in this village, this harbour so brave
Young folk and old, light my day with a wave
As mortals, of course, one day we'll be gone
But your courage and love will always live on.

Eric Stokes