THOSE WHO WENT TO LONDON

Those who went to London
Did not take the coward's way
Though they feared the invaded house
And the searching strangers
And the child's stare
And the long silence of the cell.

They have lost the folded hills And the black skies And the seas And the long silence of the land.

But those who did not go
Are not brave
Though they stay to speak or not to speak
And forget the child's stare
And the searching strangers
And the friend within the cell.

They will live through each day's lie And will lose their laughter And their talking with the child And the friend's word,

Save those who weep.

Jacob Stern.