

5-1-2016

Uncle Leo

Rudy McCallister

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Recommended Citation

McCallister, Rudy (2016) "Uncle Leo," *Forces*: Vol. 2016 , Article 27.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2016/iss1/27>

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UNCLE LEO

Rudy McCallister

Dad made the coffee before the morning sun.
He put in his two sugars as was his custom.
He brought down the double barreled shotgun from over the front door.
And laid it on the rug resting on the ancient floor.
The oiled felt smelt so good, so warm, and so absent of homesickness.
He cleaned the inside barrels with rods and brass bristles from his grandpa's kit.
He stroked the oiled cloth along the smooth barrels in a delicate, familiar way.
He took the gun and slugs to the lean-to where old Uncle Leo had moved into
During his month of despair.
Dad noted that the moon was neither new nor full.
He thought that to be good.
Dad said, "Please forgive us of our thankless tasks,"
And fired the slugs into Leo's vacant head.
Dad went back to the house and made more coffee
And biscuits and cranberries for Grandma.

SNOWY SUNRISE Gilbert K.D. Hu

