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The Wall, Reminder of the First Living-Room War

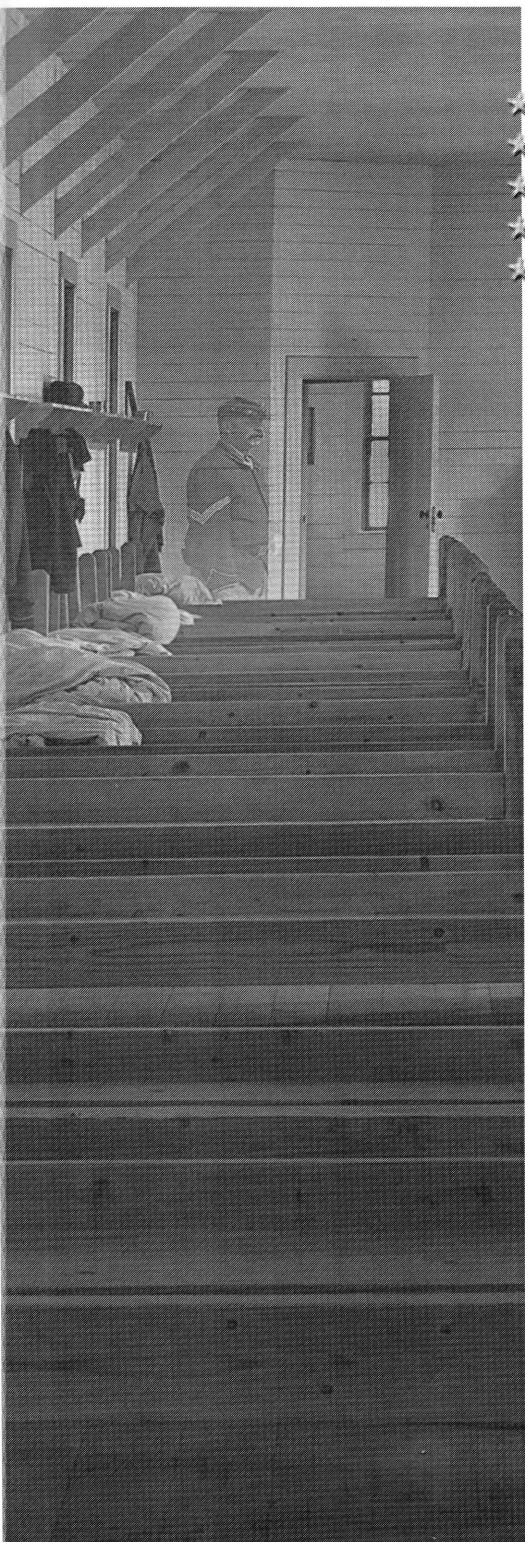
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The Wall, Reminder of the First Living-Room War

SYLVIA ROJAS VAUGHN

Do amputees dressed
in fatigues see past
their reflections
in the names marching
across polished stone,
hear something other than
hushed voices of the crowd?
Father says on one mission
he heard only
mechanical sounds.
Chopper blades.
Machine gun fire.
Not like in the movies.
If anyone shouted Charge!
no one heard it.
I wondered every day
if I would see Father
on a stretcher on TV.
In tonight's broadcast
from the VFW,
the retired sergeant's
voice catches
as he reads the names
of local MIAs, KIAs.
The announcer interrupts.
Will it rain? Stay tuned.

INTEGRITY FIRST SERVICE BEFORE SELF EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO
THIS WE WILL DEFEND *** HONOR COURAGE COMMITMENT
*** ALWAYS FAITHFUL *** ALWAYS READY ***