

Always first

Daniel,

A year and a half we spent together,
And during that time we endured through a lot,
From inspections and making short times and very long hikes,
To songs, a lot of laughs, and sometimes also fights,
But during the best, and during the worst,
What I remember is that you were always the first.
First to be serious, first to snort,
First to rest, and first to work,
The first to do your best, and give from the heart,
First to insist that you be given your part.
The first to laugh, and make others laugh with you,
And the first to make our sergeant pissed at you.
You were the first in patrols with your sharpshooter weapon,
Walking in the lead with your eyes always open.
And even at times when the days wouldn't end,
You were always the first to be there to help a friend.

And when we finished our training and you got your "Negev" gun,
The heavy machine gun from which the enemy would run,
We knew you would work hard and do your best,
To become good with the Negev and put your limits to the test,
Because we knew you wouldn't have it any other way,
You were the first, and the first you will stay.

And later on when the war had started,
You were the first, who to his position darted,
You took your Negev, standing so high,
And we crossed over the border, under a fiery sky.

And then when we were assigned to do a sweep,
Scan the surface, and look for those hiding deep,
You were the first, once again, out of all,
With your faith, and your Negev, and your usual calm.
You went in the front and watched everyone's back,
And you served an example for the rest of the pack.
And then when the terrorists shot in a burst,
Even then, you were the first.
You were the first hit by the enemy troupe,
And because of your sacrifice our force could regroup.
They shot back at the terrorists, and destroyed them instead,
And because of the price you paid there weren't many more dead.

And I'm sure that when you went up and looked down on us all,
From the throes of the heavens to what now seemed so small,
You were the first to the lord to turn,
And offer a prayer for our safe return.

Daniel, you were the first and the first you will always remain.

Your friend forever,
Omri