

Pirbright

Tina Bass



nowt press

Pirbright_i

inside each one plastique

mould round parquet flaw

electric sheened

in keeping time

sofas & women bound -

bright orange flower

arrangements

night-time glints

military jeeps

they've come to take...

no, not him tonight - someone

else stepped out of line

beat his wife

too noisily

so quiet

so quietly glass skitters over nylon

another window broken

blame the manufacturers

for not building strong enough

British Standard used to mean

something

you know

back then

when?

when

MP'sⁱⁱ like Frank

in Sierra Leoneⁱⁱⁱ

dealt justice to terrorists

so they'd understand

he hung one by its ankles

put it on slow burn

while still alive

it died

tenderising memories now

his Thai soon-bride-to-be (32)

she knows that he could get

much younger if he tried but

he never screws young girls

or swears - no loud tattoos

quickenings

moves closer to Gotama every day

Notes

- i Pirbright is a British army camp which contains a large number of residential houses for army families
- ii Military Police
- iii The reference here is to the British intervention in the Sierra Leone Civil War which has been widely hailed as a humanitarian success. Indeed, as a result of the intervention Tony Blair went on to secure the tabloid headline title 'Chief of Peace' and even now is in regular contact with President Koroma whom he strongly supported in securing his second term of office. Anecdotal evidence might suggest that there has been some elision of facts and that British Troops may have secured peace using more brutal methods than has been officially documented. It is widely believed that by 2017 Sierra Leone will be a significant producer of oil in the region.