

# AN AMERICAN ARMY ..

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The times seem to call for an updating of the well-known acrostical war-horse "The Siege of Belgrade". I have kept the lines as in the original--omitting J, and ending with a second A.

An American army, aptly arrayed,  
 Boldly, by Bosnia, beleaguered Belgrade;  
 Clinton's commanders carrying charts,  
 Dealing democracy's deadliest darts.  
 Every endeavor, enlightened essay,  
 For fame, for foggy Freedom, far away.  
 Generals goad generals, grasping good:  
 Heartland hails heroic hardihood.  
 Insular Izetbegovic irony-instilled:  
 Knotty knowledge--kindly kinsmen killed.  
 Labyrinthine land learning life's long lore:  
 Mines midst mortars; Milosevic murders more.  
 NATO's neighbors: nonconforming nations,  
 Out of ordinary order, overdone orations.  
 Paris pact promises peace--pols persevere:  
 Quickly qualified, quixotic, queer.  
 Reason recoils, religious rancor rules--  
 Serbia shells Srebrenica's schools.  
 Tudjman thinks, then talks timely truce:  
 Ubiquitous UN umbrella unloose.  
 Virtue's valorous victims verify;  
 Washington's warriors walk whilst wond'ring why.  
 X-rated xenophobic Xanadu:  
 Yugoslavia! Young Yanks yell, yearn; you  
 Zillion zealots--zigzaggy zooney zone:  
 An ancient ardor aches, almost alone.