

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.