

You died today

By Scott Casey¹

You died today.

It was the perfect ambush.

We had all walked down that trail before, spotted the area,

and knew it was the perfect place to set up an ambush.

The cover was so good that it could harbour all the power of a platoon's worth of hate,

And no one would see it coming.

And that's exactly what happened.

You walked right into it.

What the fuck is wrong with you?

We went over this a thousand times, how not to get greased.

When you're on point, or alone, you need to know, to feel, and then react without
hesitation, to survive.

But more importantly, you're not supposed to be alone.

Everyone knows this now.

But there it is.

Your lifeless body lying there.

Cold, stark and unfeeling.

Oh, you'll get all kinds of RIPs, "Rest Easy Soldier," and "Until Valhalla Brother,"

¹ Scott Casey, born in Surrey British Columbia, Canada. Casey moved to 100 Mile House with his parents where he lived until he joined the Canadian Armed Forces. At the age of 17 he signed his first Will & Testament as an infantryman with the Royal Canadian Regiment. The next 10 years would provide him with some interesting adventures; some scenic, others harrowing, dangerous, and tragic. In 1992, he served as a peacekeeper in Croatia and Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. He was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Unit Commendation for actions while in Sarajevo. Those times etched a pathway to a life after service which include, becoming the President of Military Minds Inc., the world's largest PTSD peer support organization for combat veterans and first responders. Casey is also the founder of The Rolling Barrage. An annual cross Canada motorcycle rally also in support of veterans and first responders living with the effects of trauma. A published author, Casey penned the biography, *Ghostkeepers*, which enjoyed two #1 publishing awards, in Canadian Military History and Historical Biography in Canada. With his knowledge of PTSD, his work as a veterans advocate, and author, he is often called upon for public speaking engagements. He continues his writing work as a monthly columnist for Pro Trucker Magazine. Tongue in cheek – in his spare time – he has a full time job as a heavy equipment for a Canadian mining company. Casey lives in Merritt, BC with his spouse, Leslie. When not working they enjoy riding motorcycles, golf, and sport shooting.

comments.

. . . But you're still dead as fuck. . . .

My heart is broken.

Shattered actually, by how you were half-steppin' and wound up dead.

It's your own fault, isn't it?

You knew better.

All of us know how to defeat the enemy, don't we?

But the fact you had all the knowledge, doesn't change the burn on the rest of us,
does it.

You had all the tools, the firepower at your disposal.

With all of the incoming fire it's not difficult to see how you got pinned down so hard.

You had comms with all of us, but you never called for backup. WTF?!

Your secondary in your hand, and a single empty casing on the ground near you.

Even with all of that, there it is, your blood in the sand of this forsaken country.

An ambush so perfect you died on your home soil, in your hometown,

In your own backyard.

You died today.