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**Synopsis:** Geddes uses the deaths ot two soldiers of the Royal Canadian Regiment, 3rd Battalion to examine the demanding conditions in which Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan operate. This article is particularly revealing because of the use of language evoking the frontier imagery of the wild west. There are constant reminders of the lack of infrastructure and the backwardness and the rugged nature of the troops posted in Afghanistan.

An example of this is a quote by Major General Andrew Leslie, the top ranking soldier of the regiment that they are in “Bad Guy Country.”

**Quotes:**

“The road they died on could hardly even be called one. Maj.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, the top-ranking officer of the Canadian task force in Kabul, said it was really more of a "sandy track" that his troops were patrolling in the hills just outside Afghanistan's capital when their jeep-like Iltis vehicle was blown up by what appears to have been a powerful land mine. "Bad-guy country," Leslie laconically called the area where it happened -- and there can be little doubt about that assessment.”

“But there will be no cutting and running. "The Taliban and al-Qaeda want us to retreat to our camps or run away," Leslie said. "And neither, of course, is an option for our soldiers." The imperative to stay put, though, goes well beyond a soldier's honour.”

“Hampson points to the absence of "rudimentary elements of civil society" inside Afghanistan, and, along its borders, unhelpful neighbours, like Pakistan and Iran, willing to exploit its instability. So far, he says, there is no sign of a big enough Western commitment of military might and economic aid to overcome those daunting obstacles.”

“From the troops on the ground, as last week's tragedy showed, what's needed is all that, and bravery too.”