

In the Hearts Of Green Birds

Sheikh Abdullah ibn Yusuf Azzam

Stories of Shuhadaa . . .

ABUZ-ZUBAIR AL-MADANI

Madinah Al-Munawwarah

Killed during a military operation to defend Sarajevo Airport against the Serbs, in October 1992. Aged 24. 1st/ 2nd Hand Account. Present on [the audio cassette] "In the Hearts of Green Birds". Video footage of him in action at the end of this page [visit Azzam publications, jihad stories section]

Born and brought up in Madinah, the love of Islam occupied his youth and he spent many years learning and spreading the Deen of Allah. A very popular brother in Madinah, he travelled to Afghanistan to join his brothers fighting in the Way of ALLAH. He was with them when Jaaji, Jalalabad and Kabul were captured.

After the Conquest of Kabul he returned to Madinah and stayed there for a few months. He was blessed with a beautiful voice, and he used it to make his famous audio cassette about his brothers killed in Afghanistan. The name of this cassette was 'Qawaafil-us-Shuhadaa' (Caravans of Martyrs). He always used to speak and think about one thing, that was Martyrdom.

Once he was asked, " Why do you hurry for Martyrdom, whereas you have not yet done much for Islam?" And he replied, "What did my brothers give for Islam, who were killed before me. Our souls are the most valuable things that we can give."

In the summer of 1992 he heard about the oppression of his brothers and sisters in the Balkans and travelled with his brother from Madinah, Abul-Abbas, to Bosnia. Two months they stayed there until they fought in the defence of Sarajevo Airport. The fighting was severe and many fighters fled the battle field, except Abu Zubair and Abul-Abbas. Abu Zubair and Abul-Abbas stayed there and fought to defend Sarajevo Airport against the Egyptian United Nations until they fell down Shaheed.

We ask ALLAH (SWT) to accept them from amongst the Shuhadaa and to enter them into the Paradise Most High amongst the Prophets, the martyrs, the pious and the truthful.

[Visit the site to view, at the bottom of this page Abuz-Zubair Al-Madani on Mount Igman, Bosnia, a few weeks before he was killed, with his own Nasheed playing in the background]

ABU SAIF ASH-SHAHRANI & ABU HAMAD AL-OTAIBI

Saudi Arabia

Killed during a military operation to defend a Muslim town against the Serbs, in 1993. Aged in their early twenties. 1st Hand Account. Present on In the Hearts of Green Birds.

"They loved each other in this World, and they shall love each other in the Next. "

Abu Saif was a soldier in the Saudi Arabian Army. One day his mother was sitting at home and she saw the news on the television reporting the genocide of the Muslims in Bosnia. When she saw this she said to Abu Saif, "My son get up and go! Look what they are doing, they are raping our sisters and killing our brothers. My son get and go and I don't want to see you again!"

Abu Saif travelled to Riyadh where he met his travelling companion, Abu Hamad Al-Otaibi. Together they travelled to Bosnia. They arrived at the camp of the Mujahideen on a Wednesday, after a long and difficult journey. By this time they had become very close friends. And all the Mujahideen soon came to know about the love between Abu Saif and Abu Hamad. They finished training and arrived in the front line village Biala-Bucha, on a Wednesday.

During their first night on the frontier, Abu Khalid Al-Qataree (RA) describes what happened, "Abu Hamad came to me at One O'clock in the middle of the night, woke me up and said to me, 'Abu Khalid, wake up! One prayer in this night is better than this whole world and everything in it.' I got up and went to make Wudu. When I returned, I looked for Abu Hamad but could not find him, and then I entered a small room in the corner of the house where the weapons were kept. I entered this room and I saw Abu Hamad in prayer, crying, 'Allahumarzuqni - Shahadah, Allahumar - zuqni - Shahadah, (O' ALLAH bless me with martyrdom! O' ALLAH bless me with martyrdom!)"

Abu Hamad came to Bosnia despite a severe medical problem, that would cause him intense pain and keep him up at night. Some brothers even heard him crying and banging on the walls in the middle of the night. Abu Hamad always used to bring water from the wells for his brothers, whether it was his duty or not.

One night the Serbs launched an attack on the village. So the Mujahideen went out to fight them. Abu Saif was in the front of the group and Abu Hamad was near the back. A 120mm shell came and landed near Abu Hamad. It took off his mouth and throat. Abu Hamad fell to the floor and raised his right index finger three times, keeping it up on the last time before ALLAH took his soul. All of the Mujahideen agreed not to tell Abu Saif that his friend Abu Hamad had been killed as he would surely be very sad and grief stricken upon hearing the news.

When Abu Saif met the rest of the brothers after the explosion, he asked them where Abu Hamad was. The brothers replied to him that Abu Hamad had to return to the village, but he sent a PK machine gun for Abu Saif. Abu Saif was very happy and took the PK. In the operation, Abu Saif was at the front and he killed many Serbs with his PK before he was shot, with two bullets to the head and one to his heart. Abu Saif looked around for something in the sky for a few moments. The brothers were puzzled as to why he was doing this and then Abu Saif fell down into prostration, still holding Abu Hamad' s PK. He stayed in this position for a few seconds, saying, "ALLAHU AKBAR! ALLAHU AKBAR!" Someone tried to take his gun from his him, but he was holding it too tightly. He did not release his gun until his soul left his body.

Abu Saif and Abu Hamad were buried together in one grave, on a Wednesday, just like the two companions who were killed Shaheed in a battle at the time of the Messenger of ALLAH (SAWS). Rasoolullah (SAWS) commented, saying, "They loved each other in this world and they shall love each other in the Next."

ABU KHALID AL-QATARI

A member of the Qatar National Handball team, he came to Bosnia at the end of 1992. He used to love doing double guard duty shifts for 4 hours in the cold weather. He was a very humble and very pious brother. He was of black descent but brothers described his face like a glowing lamp because of the shine and Noor on his face. He had two large marks of prostration on his face due to prolonged prostration, as he used to pray all night long. Once he was asked,

"When will you return back to your country, Abu Khalid?" And he replied,

"I want to be Shaheed here." Abu Khalid once said to a brother,

"Back in Qatar, I bought some fighting clothes to go and fight in Afghanistan, but my mother prevented me from going. But, insha-Allah, this time, with these same clothes, I will be killed in Bosnia."

Before one operation against the Croats, as soon as he was picked by the Ameer, he said to the brother next to him, "Insha-Allah, this time ALLAH will take me as Shaheed."

As he was travelling in a car with five other brothers, of them Wahiudeen al-Misree, the Ameer of the Mujahideen (RA), they took a wrong turning and ventured 7km into enemy territory. The Croats shot at the car with anti-aircraft weapons and it blew 20 feet into the air. All of the five brothers got out and fought until they were killed. When their bodies were returned to the Mujahideen after two months, the brothers were able to identify four of them but they could not identify the body of Abu Khalid Al-Qatari. When the Bosnian army general said to them, "This is your last man.", they looked at the body and saw that this body was that of a white person with a white face, and they replied,

"This is not our brother: our brother had black skin."

Upon looking carefully at this body, they pulled down his shirt and noticed that from below the neck downwards, its skin was black. They pulled up his sleeve and they found that above the elbows it was black and below the elbows it was white. Then they pulled up his trousers, where they found that his feet were white but the skin above his ankles was black. One of the brothers commented on this, saying that as the Hadith of Rasoolullah (SAWS) goes about the signs of the believers on the Day of Resurrection, the marks of Wudu were shining white on the body of Abu Khalid al-Qatari. May ALLAH (SWT) accept him amongst the Shuhadaa'.

JAMALUDDIN AL-YEMENI

During an operation against the Croats, Jamaluddin's Kalashnikov rifle jammed so with his pistol he killed two enemy soldiers. During the shelling which followed the victory of the Muslims, a mortar bomb landed next to him and killed him, blowing away half of his body. After the operation the Mujahideen went to collect the bodies of their brothers who had been killed. They found all of the bodies except the body of Jamaluddin. Three days went by and there was anxiety in the whole camp of the Mujahideen, as maybe the Croats had got the body of

Jamaluddin and were mutilating it. This went on for three days and then, before Salat-ul-Fajr, the Ameer of the Mujahideen at that time, Wahiudeen Misree (RA) had a dream in which he saw himself speaking to Jamaluddin.

He asked him, "Jamaluddin! Jamaluddin! Where is your body, we have been looking for it for three days."

Jamaluddin replied, "ALLAH is taking care of my body."

Wahiudeen asked him, "Where have you been Jamaluddin?"

Jamaluddin replied, "I have been speaking with ALLAH (SWT)"

"What did he you say to you.", Wahiudeen asked him.

Jamaluddin replied, "ALLAH (SWT) asked me, 'Why did you come to Bosnia, Jamaluddin?' and I said to him, 'O' ALLAH, I came here only to please you,' and then ALLAH (SWT) said to me, 'This day I forgive you all of your sins and you may go in Paradise wherever you please.'"

ABU UMAR AL-HARBI

Madinah

Abu Umar Al Harbi came from Madinah Al-Munawarrah to the land of Jihad in Bosnia, after leaving a life of luxury and affluence behind him. Once he arrived at the Front-Line Base Camp, he never went back to the main city. Almost two years he spent at the Front-Line Base Camp, but he never ever wanted to return to the city where there were the worldly attractions, shops and restaurants. He spent all his time in the Camp or in the bunkers on the mountain-tops. Even when he wanted something from the city or from the headquarters, he would tell the brothers to get this from here, get this from his bag which he had in the store room there, or get this and that.

Al-Harbi always used to make the brothers laugh and enjoy themselves. He would create a merry atmosphere wherever he went and thus, he was much loved and very popular amongst all the brothers. If one was to look at him, he would seem like a joker, but during the battles he was like a lion. Although he had a good sense of humour, he had a lot of feelings for the Muslims. When the massacre of the Muslims in Srebrenica, 1995, took place, he was very upset, more than other brothers and it pained him a lot.

In Operation Miracle, Harbi was made the commander of a special unit of six brothers. The task appointed to these brothers was to capture three Serb bunkers in the most dangerous terrain on the battlefield. The first Serb bunker in this location was at the top of a large open minefield, unscreened by any trees or bushes. There was only one avenue of approach to this bunker, and that was head on, from the front, as opposed to other bunkers that were usually shielded by trees or steep mounds of earth.

The attack plan was for one brother to fire RPG rockets at the bunker from one side of the field and then the rest of the group would storm the bunker. As the brothers took their positions, a few minutes before the attack was scheduled to begin, the Serbs opened fire across the line, as if they knew that the Mujahideen were about to attack. All the brothers in this unit panicked and whilst, they were

thinking about what to do, Al-Harbi began sprinting across the open field towards the Serb bunker, in the face of direct, oncoming fire. The rest of the brothers hesitated before running and shouted to him, 'Are there any mines?' He shouted back:

'ALLAHU-AKBAR!' and carried on running. Upon seeing their leader run, the rest of the brothers began running towards the bunker as well. Al-Harbi reached the opening of the Serb bunker until he was at a distance of 2m from the two Serbs inside the bunker. He was firing straight at them and they were firing straight at him. Just as he killed one Serb, the other one shot Al-Harbi in his forehead, and he fell down shaheed.

The next day, one of the brothers saw Al-Harbi in a dream. His face was extremely white and shining. The brother asked him:

"What happened to you?"

Al-Harbi replied, "The night before the attack, we were in the bunker on the mountain and I fell asleep. During this sleep, I experienced the state of janaba (impurity requiring a bath). When I woke up, I realised that there was no way that I could have a bath in the bunker up on the mountain. So I went into the Operation in a state of Janaba."

He knew that in this situation, one just makes tayammum (ablution with soil), prays and goes, because the Jihad is more important than to return from the mountains to have a bath. Furthermore, he was the Ameer of the whole group and for him to delay the Operation so that he could have a bath was out of the question. Al-Harbi carried on:

"As I was at the Serb bunker, firing inside at them, I felt something tap me on my forehead and then, immediately, I felt two beings take me from beneath each arm and raise me straight up, very fast, into the sky. There, the Angels gave me a bath."

This incident was similar to the incident at the time of the Prophet (SAWS) when his companion Handhala, was shaheed on the day after his wedding night, before he had time to have a bath. The Prophet (SAWS) commented that the Angels bathed Handhala.

AL-BATTAR AL-YEMENI

Yemen

Tank specialist. Killed during Operation Miracle on 21st July 1995. Aged mid-twenties. 1st hand account. Present on In the Hearts of Green Birds.

Al-Battaar was in the Communist army of Yemen and they sent him to Cuba because he liked tanks. They sent him there to train in tanks. He learnt the ins and outs of tanks until he knew every thing about them. When he returned to Yemen, he became a good practising Muslim and, instead of returning to the Communist Army, he went to Afghanistan and fought there for some time. After that he returned to Yemen. When he heard about the Jihad in Bosnia, he travelled there. He had the opportunity to go and he took it. In Bosnia, he set about training all the brothers about tanks. He taught the brothers how to lie under a

moving tank, in order to build their confidence whilst dealing with the Serb tanks on foot. His ultimate dream was to take a tank in the fighting as booty (ghanima) and use it against the enemy. He wanted to be the first one to capture a tank for the Mujahideen. In Operation Miracle the brothers caught a tank and they called him on the radio. He was injured in his hand at the start of the operation but, with his hand bandaged, he still went to the first-line at the top of the mountain, jumped in the tank and took it right from under the Serbs' noses. The Serbs were trying to destroy this tank, because they knew that even though they had lost it, they did not want the Mujahideen to take it.

Battaar took the tank from right beneath the noses of the enemy, drove it out from there and took it back to the Mujahideen lines where it would be safe. After dropping off the tank, he returned to the battle. He did not go away, he did not rest but he went back with his injury back to the front line. While helping to remove an injured brother from an enemy bunker, Allah took him as shaheed when a mortar bomb exploded next to him. One brother who brought back the tank with Battaar described what happened when they reached the Mujahideen lines at the bottom of the mountain. They had miraculously taken a tank from the hands of the Serbs and were still alive, so this brother said,

"O Battaar! We do not deserve martyrdom. We are not good enough to be shaheed."

As this brother was injured as well, he decided to go back and have his injury tended to because he thought that the fighting and operation was now over. But Battaar said

"No, I want to go back,"

and he went back up to the top of the mountain. When they entered the bunker to rescue one of the injured brothers, a mortar bomb landed right inside the bunker and Battaar was killed four hours after he left his companion.

ABU MU`ADH AL-KUWAITI

(Adil Al-Ghanim)

Kuwait

Commander of the Foreign Volunteers. Killed during Operation Miracle, 21st July 1995: a military operation to recapture Muslim land occupied by the Serbs. Aged in his late twenties. 1st Hand Account. Present on In the Hearts of Green Birds . Audio recording of his voice and video footage of him in action available at the end of this page.

The son of a Kuwaiti Governor and an Olympic athlete, holding national records for Kuwait, he went to Afghanistan to join his brothers and stayed there on and off for six years. Every few months, he would return to Kuwait in order to raise money and awareness about the Jihad in Afghanistan. He would stand up after the prayers in the Kuwaiti mosques and deliver speeches to the congregation reminding them of their duty to assist their brothers in Afghanistan. He arrived in Bosnia on 04 May 1994 and soon became the commander of the Foreign fighters, due to his previous military and organisational experience from Afghanistan. He was a very humble and pious brother. In Operation Miracle, July 1995, he was not placed in the attack group due to his senior rank and that made him very sad. After the operation was successful, Abu-Muadh went to the top of the mountain and began to organise the groups. He was then hit by a bullet to his upper leg

and fell down Shaheed. Four days later one brother from Madinah Al-Munawarra, in Bosnia at the time, saw him in a dream where Abu-Muadh came back to the mosque of the Mujahideen in the Front-Line Base Camp.

The brother narrates,

"I saw Abu-Muadh meeting all the brothers and everyone was happy at seeing him. He had a bandage on his upper leg in the same place as he was shot. Now I became angry at how Abu-Muadh is here when he is supposed to be Shaheed? So I went up to him, shook his hand and asked him,

'Abu-Muadh, why are you here? Are you Shaheed or not?'

He turned away and did not want to say anything. Then, when no-one was looking, he began to make his way to the exit of the mosque. I knew he was going to try and leave, so I waited for him at the door of the mosque. He left the mosque and went outside. Then I saw a plate under him which began to lift him up into the sky. I then ran up to him, grabbed his leg and said,

'Abu-Muadh! Please tell me what is happening! Why are you here? Are you Shaheed or not?'

He replied, 'Yes, I am Shaheed.'

I asked him, 'What is martyrdom like?'

He replied, 'On the day of the operation a window opens in the sky from Paradise and all the Mujahideen that are going to be killed that day pass through this window straight into Paradise.'

I then asked him, 'What does the actual martyrdom feel like?'

He replied 'You do not feel a thing. As soon as you are killed, you see two beautiful blonde-haired girls who accompany you up to Paradise.'

I asked him 'What is the Paradise like?'

Abu-Muadh replied, 'It is not one Paradise but it is many Paradises!'

I said, 'What about enjoyment and pleasures?'

He replied, 'Every day and in every place.'

Abu-Muadh then said, 'Now let me go.'

So I said to Abu-Muadh, 'Just one last question. Can you tell me when I am going to be Shaheed?'

Abu-Muadh said, 'I cannot tell you that.'

So I asked him, 'Can you at least tell me by coming to me in a dream a few days before I am killed?' and Abu-Muadh said,

'I will try. Now let me go.'

A brother who knew Abu Muadh personally, narrates:

"A very rich man from Kuwait but he still knew the obligation of Jihad. He spent six years in Afghanistan and after Afghanistan finished, he came to Bosnia. This brother used to speak very fast but when he spoke he used to give us Islamic lessons and news of what was going in Bosnia. And when he would speak, he would make you feel so good. Even if it was the worst news that he was giving you, it would make you feel so happy to hear it. Because of his good manners and his organisational skills, the brothers chose him to be the Commander of the Foreign Mujahideen section. A gift that Allah had given him was the tafseer (interpretation) of dreams. So the brothers would go to him and tell him their dreams and he would tell them what they meant. And very often they would come true with pinpoint accuracy. This brother would work night and day in the service of the Deen and the rest of the brothers. And in Operation Miracle, Allah took him as shaheed."

Whilst he was alive, Abu Muadh once said jokingly, 'If I am killed, if Allah accepts me from the Shuhadaa', then take a picture of my face from the left and the right, so that the people can see whether this is an Arab or not!' He meant to say this as a joke to answer those people in the world who were denying the existence of Foreign Mujahideen in Bosnia. Abu Muadh's soul left his body with a clearly distinct smile on his face and video recordings were made of his face from all angles to prove to the people two things: (i) that this was a Foreign non-Bosnian fighter and (ii) it is true that some martyrs are actually found with smiles on their faces, after they have been killed.

May Allah keep you smiling O Abu Muadh and bring you to the ranks of the Prophets together with your Mujahideen brothers that were killed before you. Ameen.

[Visit the site to hear Abu Muadh speaking before Operation Black Lion, May 1995, giving general advice to the Mujahideen before the Operation and praying to Allah for Victory. The words are in Arabic but an English text translation is given below each graphic. Also to see photos of Abu Muadh.]

ABU HAMMAM AN-NAJDI

Saudi Arabia

Commander of the 'Lion's Den' Front-Line Base Camp. Killed during an ambush by the Croatian Military during peace-time whilst he was travelling with three other commanders from the Mujahideen Headquarters, Zenica, to the Lion's Den Camp, Zavidovic. Zepce, 14 December 1995. Aged 24. 1st Hand Account. Present on Under the Shades of Swords audio cassette. Photograph of him moments after he was martyred available at the end of this page.

A university graduate from Saudi Arabia, educated and a good speaker of the English language, he entered Bosnia in the summer of 1994 together with Abu Ziyaad An-Najdi (RA). His good dealings with all the brothers and his way of making every brother seem special and important, gained him a lot of respect amongst all the Mujahideen and soon he was appointed the Commander of the Front-Line Base Camp.

He worked very hard in the service of the brothers, trying his best to arrange the affairs of the Base to make things as easy for the brothers as he could. When someone saw him, they would not see a commander or an ameer, but rather they would see a friendly individual to whom they could go up to with their day-to-day problems and discuss them like friends. He was much loved for this unique quality of his. He was the commander who ordered a search party to go and look for Abu Mujahid Al-Brittani, the brother who was killed in Operation Badr of Bosnia.

On the 14 December 1995, he was one of the five brothers who were ambushed by the Croats in Zepce. He was killed instantly by point-blank machine-gun shots to the head, to be martyred and join his four brothers who were killed with him. Abu Hammam and his friend, Abu Ziyaad, entered the land of Bosnia together, they left it together and we ask Allah (SWT) that they remain together in the Gardens of Eternity in the company of their Lord Most High.

ABU THABIT AL-MUHAJIR

Egypt

Military commander and Ameer of the front line. Killed during Operation Badr Of Bosnia on 10th September 1995. Aged early thirties. 1st hand account. Present on In the Hearts of Green Birds.

Abu Thabit was very experienced soldier in the Egyptian army. He spent six years in Afghanistan, training the brothers and fighting. He was a very experienced fighter. He came to Bosnia early in the war in 1992 and he was made the Ameer of the Front-Line, This brother was so tough and so brave that when he fought, he would not even duck from the bullets, that is how fearless he was. Even though he was the commander, he had such a strong character that everyone loved him as if he was their favourite friend. He used to make everybody feel as if he was their favourite friend and his character was such that when one looked at him, one would think that one is looking at a Companion of the Prophet (SAWS). In the first few minutes of Operation Badr, he was shot twice but he did not make a single noise in pain. He carried on fighting, until he was shot by a third bullet in his heart. Without making any expressions of pain, he turned around to the brothers behind him, smiled, and said: 'My brothers, I have been hit.' then he closed his eyes, to be followed by his soul.

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