

The Day the Soldiers Came

By Dave Mason

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<https://davemasonmusic.bandcamp.com/track/the-day-the-soldiers-came-song-for-ukraine>

The earth was shaken by despair
A growl like thunder in the air
And I wondered then and there where I might be tomorrow
I packed a suitcase in the dark
A crowd had gathered in the park
Then I walked out of this life that had once been mine to borrow

CH: War is never just a game
With tanks that crush and shells that maim
This song I sing is for Ukraine
The day the soldiers came....

I hurried down a city street
Panicked shouting, running feet
Told myself to stay calm - that I should not be too hasty
I saw the damage, bleak and stark
I heard a dog's grief-stricken bark
As a thought flew through my mind - would we both get to safety

CH: War is never just a game
We point the finger, lay the blame
Watch the newsreels frame by frame
The day the soldiers came....

No more for us sweet summer rains
Spring flowers only on our graves
Far beyond the barren ruins of this senseless armageddon
For, we never heard nor did we see
Death high above the cruel debris
Life just ceased for us all in one shining second

CH: War is never just a game
Every time we fight it ends the same
Libya, Iraq now Ukraine
Why must my freedom be your pain
I wonder why things never change
History repeats itself again
I sit heartbroken filled with shame
While armies stand up and take aim
Your heroes wither in the flame
The day the soldiers came....

The atrocities of war and the killing of innocent people - men, women and children, especially, who are victims of man's ultimate cruelty. I feel that the war in Ukraine is somehow being portrayed in a different light compared to the wars we have recently seen in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Libya - as if some wars are good and others bad depending on who is the aggressor. However, more than one million killed in Iraq, 50,000+ in Libya, 600,000 killed in Syria (estimated 6.7 million refugees) over 200,000 in Afghanistan - all in the 21st century.

