

Gordon Brown's Speech to Troops in Afghanistan

On his recent flying visit to Afghanistan, the Prime Minister made a speech to the troops, before the offensive on Moshtarak, which was reported as well-received.

We give below the text of the speech which listeners noted was largely based upon the famous speech in Shakespeare's historical drama, Henry V.

We also give the sotto-voce comments heard from the ranks.

"Men. I'm proud to be with you today.
This day is called the day of Moshtarak;
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will be a lucky sod!
Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named
And rouse him at the name of Moshtarak.
And drink hisself stupid.
He that shall live this day and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,
Other way about, hopefully.
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,
Yeah, like my mate in the Snatch,
And say these wounds I had at Moshtarak,
Who lost both his legs and his bloody arm,
But he'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day.
Hope to Chrissake I get a gun that works, this time.
And Moshtarak, Afghanistan and all
Shall ne'er go by, but we in it shall be remembered,
We? Us, mate! The poor bloody infantry!
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers,
He's been watching telly.
For he today who sheds his blood with me,
Christ! He's not coming with us, is he? We don't want this jinxed.
Shall be my brother.
Not bloody likely, mate.
And gentlemen in England now a-bed,
Talking about his rich mates in Parliament.
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here."
We'd be bloody cursed if they were.

"GIVE US THE RIGHT GEAR AND WE'LL DO THE JOB, YOU STUPID GIT!"

"Put that man under arrest, Sergeant! And quick about it!"
"Yessir!"

