

1989

Chinese Order Slaughter, Thousands Dead

By Star Reporter Alexis Jobinovski

On June 4th, 1989 an estimated 3000 students were massacred. These events were the result of about 6 weeks of peaceful demonstrations. "It was horrible, people getting killed all around you and witnessing all of it" says Alex Jackson, a teenager who was in Tian An Men square doing some reporting at the time of the slaughter.



A protester is rushed off the scene after getting in a fist fight with an armed soldier.

In Beijing at the same time the President of Russia was visiting. The Chinese government was embarrassed and didn't want to give off the idea that they weren't in control of their country. Alex Jackson, son of Ted Jackson, CBC camera man, was in the area doing reconnaissance with his dad and co worker Eddie, CBC reporter. During the ordeal there were many different reporters from various tv stations. When they started covering what they thought were innocent college demonstrations they never knew that they were going to be a part

of an historical event in Chinese history.

It all started with these gatherings in the Square demanding democracy. These events eventually evolved into huge protests accompanied by hunger strikes. When the government took action they brought in the People's Liberation Army but the P.L.A didn't succeed. The second effort was to bring in the 27th light infantry of the P.L.A who were notoriously violent and cruel and to put China under martial law. These things actually drove the protesters out of the square because the original barricades were breaking. These protesters were not easily discouraged and were back very soon and started protesting more than ever. While Jackson was doing some freelance reporting he saw his chinese tour guide, Lao-Xu murdered and then he saw people all around him dying. Jackson was hit by one of the AK-47 bullets right in the foot



A young girl gives flowers to the monuments to the People's Heroes in the Square.

and was rendered unconscious. When he came too he was lying on a brick bed in a strangers house (who turned out to be one of the college students he had talked to about the protests a couple of times).

At this point in time China was very dangerous, with people kneeling on the street with an AK-47 pointed at their neck. Others decided to try to make a break for it but not many succeeded with most of them getting shot down in their tracks. While Jackson attempted an escape from the country his friend that saved him was shot. Jackson later escaped and managed to smuggle some videotapes too. One month later the Chinese government



A brave protester defies oncoming tanks.

came out with a statement that claimed that not one person died during the whole operation.

We all hope that other governments around the world will know how to handle protest in a peaceful non-violent way and that nothing of this sort ever happens again.

If you wish to learn more about this tragedy you

*should go online or get
information from your
local library.*