

In the Shadow of the Poppy Harvest

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Acrylic on Canvas (2013), 20 X 16 in., from the art collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA

Description:

Lance Corporal Mulherron and his tracking dog, “Boone,” during a patrol pause outside of Forward Operating Base Geronimo in the battle-torn Garmsir Province of Afghanistan’s Helmand Province. Around them are freshly harvested opium poppy fields and they rest under the shade of trees beside piles of dried sheaves of poppies. The Marines of Weapons Platoon of the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment would find themselves during the ensuing months battling the profits made by the Taliban from the harvest, in the form of newly purchased rocket-propelled grenades and 102mm Chinese rockets.