

Author A.C. Frieden Follows Che Guevara's Trail in Bolivia

VALLEGRANDE, Bolivia (Nov. 22, 2007) -- Author A.C. Frieden traveled to Bolivia to research Che Guevara's 1960s revolutionary movement in order to complete his upcoming novel *Where Spies Go To Die*. Arriving in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest city and one of the transit points for Che Guevara and his rebels in 1966, Frieden visited many of the city's key sites and interviewed a number of locals in preparation for his journey south.



Above: Monument dedicated to Che Guevara located in the center of the tiny village of La Higuera, in south-central Bolivia, where the guerrilla leader was executed in 1967.

After visiting Samaipata, he went on to Vallegrande to see various sites related to Che Guevara. In particular, Frieden visited the Señor de Malta hospital, where Che's body was flown to after his execution in La Higuera. Frieden toured the airfield and nearby grounds where Che's remains and those of his most loyal comrades were secretly buried in 1967.

For several days Frieden ventured south from Vallegrande across rugged mountain roads to visit remote villages and trails connected to Che Guevara's doomed rebellion. After visiting the town of Pucara, Frieden arrived in La Higuera and toured the schoolhouse where Che was executed by CIA-backed Bolivian troops shortly after his capture in the nearby canyon called Quebrada de Yuro. In La Higuera, Frieden interviewed a village elder who had witnessed Che's arrival into the village 40 years earlier. Frieden returned to Samaipata, where he toured *El Fuerte*, an archeological site (designated a world heritage site by UNESCO) that was inhabited by three populations over several centuries: the Amazonian, Inca and Colonial civilizations.

Frieden's research in Bolivia will complement his recent trip to Caracas, Venezuela, the principal location for scenes in Frieden's upcoming novel *Where Spies Go To Die*. The information on Che Guevara will shape the back story of the main character and the main plot. Furthermore, Frieden's

research will also be used in non-fiction articles relating to Latin America's resurgent leftist political movements and the resulting changes in relations with the United States.



Above: Frieden observes the *Plaza de 24 Septiembre*, the main square in downtown Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest city and where Che Guevara secretly transited in 1966.



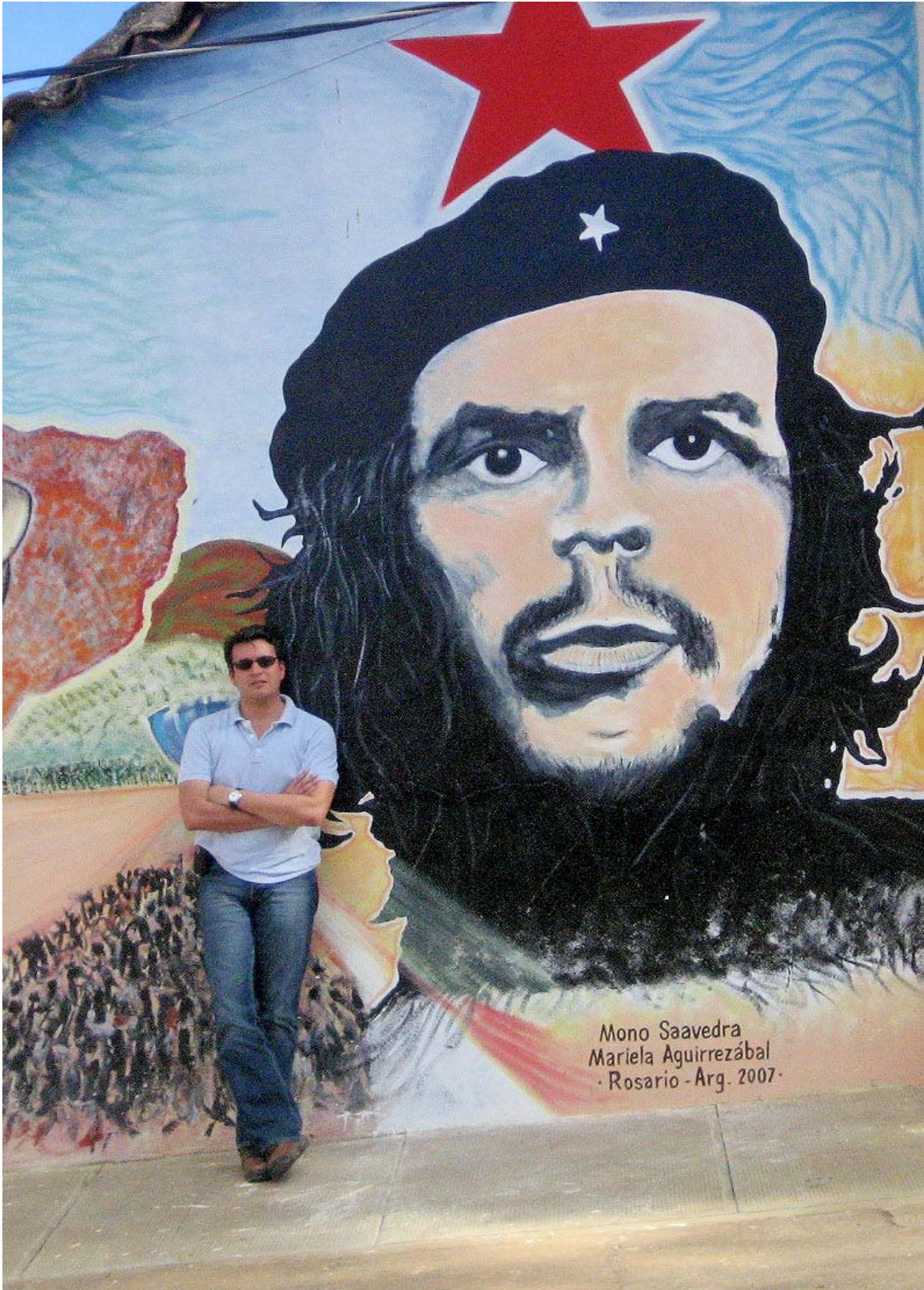
Above: A.C. Frieden in the highlands heading toward Samaipata, Bolivia.



Above: The archeological ruins of *El Fuerte*, designated a world heritage site by UNESCO.



Above: A.C. Frieden in the mountains heading toward the village of Pucara, Bolivia.



Above: A mural commemorating Che Guevara at the Señor de Malta hospital in Vallegrande.



Above: Frieden stands next to the tub of the laundry room of Señor de Malta hospital in Vallegrande, where Che Guevara's body was put on display shortly after his execution.



Above: Adjacent to the airfield in Vallegrande, a memorial was built over the once secret burial site of Che Guevara and several of his fellow rebels. In 1997, the site was revealed by former military personnel and the bones unearthed and examined by forensics experts and returned to Cuba.



Above: Frieden's guide, Don Gilberto, stands above the site where the remains of Che Guevara and six of his comrades, "Willy" Simon Sarabia, Orlando Tamayo "Antonio", Aniceto Reynago Gordillo "Aniceto", Rene Martinez Tamayo, Alberto Fernández Moises de Oca "Pacho" and Juan Pablo Chang Navarro, were secretly buried in 1967.



Above: Frieden points to Quebrada de Yuro, a rugged canyon a short distance north of La Higuera, Bolivia, where Che Guevara's group was ambushed by the Bolivian military on October 8, 1967.



Above: The school in La Higuera, Bolivia, where Che Guevara was held captive for one day before being summarily executed on October 9, 1967, on the orders of CIA-backed military commanders.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian mystery novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. His diverse background as an attorney, molecular biologist, martial artist, professor, pilot and army marksman, as well as his experiences abroad, comes together in his political and espionage novels, including his latest, *Tranquility Denied*, set in Moscow and New Orleans. He is currently working on two political thrillers, including one set in Latin America. For more information about A.C. Frieden, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

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