

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Toy Soldiers"

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1/3/96 (White)
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1/10/96 (Blue)

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Toy Soldiers"

CAST

VANESSA DAMPHOUSSE
COOPER HAWKES
MCQUEEN
SHANE VANSSEN
PAUL WANG
NATHAN WEST
COMMODORE ROSS

NEIL WEST
JAMES HERRICK
TIE MILLER
MATTHEW EICHLER
RANDY DONOVAN
YOUNG NATHAN
YOUNG NEIL
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

1/10/96 (Blue)

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SETS

INTERIORS

MARINE FACILITY	/	AUDITORIUM
SARATOGA	/	LOADING BAY BUNK ROOM ORIENTATION ROOM
HIDE-SPOT	/	32ND POSITION 58TH POSITION

EXTERIORS

FOOTBALL FIELD PLANET MORS	/	SAND STONE WALL
APC AIRLOCK DOORS		

TEASER

A1 QUOTATIONS OVER BLACK SCREEN:

A1 (X)

"The youth had been taught that
a man became another thing in
battle. He saw his salvation in
such a change."

Stephen Crane
The Red Badge of Courage

Over black, a muted WHIRRRR...

FADE IN:

1 INT. MARINE FACILITY - ELECTRIC RAZOR

1

glides over the head of a young man. The hair falls away.
Over the WHIRRRR, a YOUNG MAN'S VOICE, solemn, respectful,
begins "The United States Marine Corps Oath of Enlistment."

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)
I do solemnly swear...

WIDEN TO REVEAL THE YOUNG MAN, nineteen, in civilian T-shirt
and jeans, sitting before a mirror. He is receiving a
regulation Marine Corps brush cut. DARK EYES reflect in the
mirror -- THE EYES, somber, purposeful, stare back.

(X)

YOUNG MAN (V.O.) (CONT.)
that I will support and defend
the constitution of the United
States of America and it's Allied
Earth Forces

2 INT. MARINE FACILITY - THE YOUNG MAN

2

beneath a cold WHITE LIGHT, hand raised, lips moving as if in
prayer to a sacred oath.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.) (CONT.)
against all enemies, foreign and
domestic; and that I will bear
true faith and allegiance to the
same...

CLOSE - WHITE GLOVED HANDS

remove a DRESS BLUE HAT from a clear plastic bag.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)
and that I will obey the orders
of the President of the United
States...

CLOSE - THE YOUNG MAN

places the hat with great care so it rests just above the eye
brow line.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)
and the orders of the officers
appointed over me...

3 INT. MARINE FACILITY - AUDITORIUM - THE YOUNG MAN

3

poses for an official graduation photo. He wears full dress
blues. In them, he looks like a boy of twelve.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)
according to the regulations and
uniform code of military
justice...

CAMERA PUSHES IN FRAMING HIM AT THE WAIST.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)
So help me God...

THE FLASH EXPLODES in his face...WHITES OUT FRAME...

WHITE IN:

4 INT. SCVN SARATOGA - LOADING BAY - CLOSE - NATHAN

4

Face dirty and bloodied, fatigues blackened from battle smoke,
stands amidst the hustle of post battle debriefing.

WIDEN TO INCLUDE the rest of the 58th, sans Shane, standing
with him. Like Nathan, they are all dirty and exhausted. In
the background, MEDICS evacuate the wounded, CREWMEN inspect
damaged ships, weary SOLDIERS load body bags onto a waiting
I.S.S.C.V.

Shane enters FRAME.

SHANE
Command sent down orders. We're
shippin' out again.

The weary Marines are furious.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

COOPER
We just got in.

SHANE
Mission Brief's in forty mikes.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE
Not even time to hit the showers.

WANG
Let 'em send someone else.

SHANE
Lose that, Wang. 47th never made
it back from Ceres.

There is a saddened pause, they have heard too much of fallen
comrades. Cooper looks up.

COOPER
Check it out. New meat.

The rest of the 58th turns, follows Cooper's gaze.

58TH'S POV - APC AIRLOCK DOORS - WHOOSH OPEN

A DOZEN NEW RECRUITS stand inside. THE YOUNG MARINE GRADUATE
is among them.

The recruits step out of the TRANSPORT APC and into the madness
of the post battle debriefing. Their crisply starched uniforms
and fresh faces a stark contrast to the war weary soldiers
around them.

WANG
Look at 'em...they have no
idea...

DAMPHOUSSE
God, they look so young.

WANG
Did we ever look that young?

DAMPHOUSSE
We must have that thousand meter
stare.

SHANE
Yeah, look how they're looking at
us.

COOPER
Like we know somethin'.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON NATHAN. Anger suddenly washes over his face. He charges out of FRAME.

WIDE

Nathan SPINS A MARINE GRADUATE around, glaring angrily at the young man.

NATHAN
YOU THINK YOU'RE BAD, PRIVATE?

The young Marine is startled, but speaks with conviction.

YOUNG MARINE
SIR, I DO, SIR!

NATHAN
YOU THINK YOU'RE MEAN?

YOUNG MARINE
SIR, THE MEANEST!

NATHAN
YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA KICK SOME
CHIG ASS?

YOUNG MARINE
SIR, YES SIR!

NATHAN
LOOK AROUND, PUKE! WHATTA YOU
SEE?!

The young Marine pauses, unsure where this is going...

NATHAN (CONT.)
TELL ME!

YOUNG MARINE
I SEE BAD ASS LIFETAKERS AND
HEARTBREAKERS, SIR!

NATHAN
YOU SEE BLOOD! YOU SEE SWEAT!
YOU SEE BELIEVERS COMIN' HOME IN
MUMMY SACKS!

The rest of the 58th catches up. Shane steps forward, puts her hand on Nathan's shoulder...speaks gently...

SHANE
Nathan, take it easy...

(CONTINUED)

= 4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

The others look to one another, puzzled. "What's gotten into him?" Nathan shakes off Shane. He glares angrily at the new recruit, gestures towards the body bags.

NATHAN
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THOSE GLAD
BAGS, BOOT, CAUSE CHIG BASTARDS
ARE GONNA CUT YOUR CABLE AND
YOU'RE GONNA BE IN ONE, SEEIN' IT
FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

The young Marine bristles. The two stare at each other in silent stand off, then Nathan turns abruptly and storms off. The young Marine takes an angry beat, then leaves in the opposite direction. Cooper looks after them both -- not sure what just happened.

COOPER
What the...?

SHANE
Let him go.

Coope: turns to her as if to say "what?"

SHANE
That kid's not just some cherry.
He's Nathan's brother.

Off the 58th's surprise...

FADE OUT:

END TEASER

ACT ONE

5 INT. SCVN SARATOGA - BUNK ROOM - CLOSE - PHOTOGRAPH

5

TWO DARK HAired BOYS, 12 and 8, clad in jeans and T-shirts, arms slung over each other's shoulders, smiling into camera, a football held between them.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

Didn't he know his brother
enlisted?

WIDEN TO REVEAL the photograph hanging on the wall over Nathan's bunk. PULL BACK FURTHER TO REVEAL Nathan, laying on his bunk, staring at the photo.

CAMERA ADJUSTS to find Damphousse, Shane, Wang and Cooper, still wearing dirty battle fatigues, talking in hushed tones as they unload their gear.

SHANE

He knew, but what were the
chances of running into Neil in
the middle of all this?

WANG

Thank God my brother's not old
enough to sign up.

Damphousse falls silent as...

NEIL WEST

enters the bunk room. He carries a manila envelope, pausing at the threshold, awkward.

WIDE

Shane steps forward, holds out her hand.

SHANE

Neil...

Neil shakes it. Nathan gets off his bunk. Stands silently looking at Neil.

(X)
(X)

SHANE (CONT.)

Shane Vansen. I met you before
the war...came home with Nathan
on leave...

NEIL

How could I forget?

She turns to Cooper.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

SHANE

This is Lieutenant Hawkes...

Cooper nods "Hi." Shane gestures to the others.

SHANE (CONT.)

Lieutenant Damphousse, Lieutenant Wang...

DAMPHOUSSE

Welcome aboard, Neil.

WANG

Got your bird legs yet?

NEIL

Yeah, good to be back in standard gravity.

There is another awkward beat.

SHANE

Well, Mission Brief's in a couple mikes. We gotta head out.

(X)

Everyone moves out, leaving the brothers alone. An uncomfortable, unsure, moment hangs in the air. Nathan hops off his bunk, his expression hard; he reaches out and takes his brother in his arms and holds him close. Neil's eyes close with an expression of relief in seeing Nathan again.

(X)

Nathan pulls away. With a sense of sadness...

(X)

NATHAN

What the hell are you doin' here?

(X)

(X)

NEIL

I came to explain...

NATHAN

You can't.

NEIL

Mom and Dad weren't happy either, but they respect my decision...

NATHAN

I told you to finish college. The war might've been over by then.

NEIL

You joined.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

NATHAN

I joined to become a Colonial
Sentry. The chance to get to
Tellus. Then the war broke out.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I had no choice.

NEIL

I have a choice! It's to fight!

(CONTINUED)

= 5 CONTINUED: (4)

5

NATHAN

What the hell do you know about
"fightin'?"

NEIL

The Chigs are a dark hearted
enemy. They'll stop short of
nothin' less than total
annihilation. It's not about
losin' a way of life, it's about
losin' life.

Nathan looks at his brother. The propaganda he once believed
sounds strange to him now. He softens.

NATHAN

That sounds good, and all...but
once you're out here...it's got
nothin' to do with that...

The two brothers stare at each other, silently aware of a
distance between them, a distance born of separation and the
dark cloud of war. Neil hands Nathan the manila envelope.

NEIL

I wanted you to have this.

Nathan takes the envelope. Neil abruptly turns and walks out,
leaving Nathan alone.

NATHAN

his eyes drop down to the manila envelope as he opens it.

INSERT: It is the graduation photo taken in the teaser -- a
dress blues shot of Neil, smiling proudly into camera.

RETURN

Nathan takes an emotional beat. His eyes lift, drift to...

THE PICTURE -- NEIL AND NATHAN

Taped over Nathan's bunk. The two young boys smiling into
camera...

DISSOLVE TO:

6 EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY - EXTREMELY WIDE

6

Hopefully, it is a cold gray day. Perfect football weather.
The image should be the stuff of memory; nothing but the sky,
a field and goal posts and two brothers.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

EXTREMELY CLOSE - A FOOTBALL

Muddy and worn, the ball is held by an equally muddy and sweaty TWELVE YEAR OLD NATHAN WEST.

YOUNG NATHAN

Next touchdown wins.

He tosses the ball to his brother NEIL, EIGHT YEARS OLD. The younger West appears angry.

YOUNG NEIL

NO! The game is to five! You're ahead four to one.

YOUNG NATHAN

I don't want to play when you get all mad. Next touchdown wins.

The older brother watches as Neil runs downfield about forty yards. A cold wind blows as Nathan seems to weigh a decision with an edge of frustrated anger.

YOUNG NEIL

Come on!

Nathan hustles off toward his own goal line.

EXTREMELY WIDE

The two boys stand forty yards apart. Neil punts the ball to Nathan, then runs like hell downfield. As the deep man catches the ball...

NATHAN

catches the ball. His expression turns hard as he charges straight up the field toward...

NEIL

looks like a tiny Butkus as he runs, arms extended toward Nathan.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The two boys collide. The older, bigger brother barrels right through the younger brother, sending him sailing onto his ass.

Nathan begins to laugh as he keeps running. This isn't rubbing it in or mean, it's a laugh celebrating the age...the moment. He keeps running.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

NEIL

his bell clearly rung, gets up, dazed. He starts running downfield after his brother with total determination.

EXTREMELY WIDE

Two brothers at play. A moment which the young do not understand how quickly it passes. Nathan begins zigzagging around the field, laughing, as Neil nears.

NATHAN AND NEIL

As Neil approaches, Nathan quits goofing around and heads toward the end zone. He allows Neil to catch him. The younger brother jumps on Nathan's back, trying to bring him down.

Nathan runs a few more feet, although he could clearly carry Neil the remaining yards.

CLOSE - BALL

Nathan, clearly, intentionally coughs it up.

NATHAN AND NEIL

The ball rolls free on the ground.

NATHAN

FUMBLE!

The two boys race after the ball. Nathan elbows his brother, who pushes back as they near the football. Nathan makes a perfunctoral grab at the loose ball, but allows Neil to recover the ball and head back toward Nathan's end zone.

Neil is running as fast and determined as his little legs will take him. Nathan runs after him. Again, he could clearly catch Neil, but allows him to eat up yards.

Near the end zone, Nathan reaches out and grabs Neil by the shirt. Nathan pulls, but doesn't use enough force to tackle Neil, who digs deep and keeps running. Finally the shirt tears, freeing Neil who runs for a touchdown.

Nathan catches his breath as Neil hustles back to him.

NATHAN

Good run. I almost had you though.

Neil is furious.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

NEIL
You fumbled on purpose.

NATHAN
No, I had the ball...

NEIL
You let me win! You always let
me win!

Nathan drops the charade.

NATHAN
Whatta you want, if I beat you,
you get mad. If I let you win,
you get mad.

NEIL
If you're gonna win, just let me
lose.

Not mean, just matter of fact...

NATHAN
But then, you'd always lose. You
can't beat me.

The younger brother glares at the older brother, knowing this
is true. Neil angrily throws the ball at Nathan. It soars
over Nathan's head. Neil walks off.

EXTREMELY WIDE

The sky. The field. The two brothers.

HERRICK (V.O.)
GENTLEMEN, CAN YOU TASTE VICTORY?

CUT TO:

7 INT. SARATOGA - LOADING BAY - CLOSE - LIEUTENANT JAMES HERRICK 7

early twenties, short, fiery, M-590 slung over his shoulder,
pacing, running battle drill like a football coach pumping the
team for playoffs.

ROOKIES (V.O.)
SIR, YES SIR!

HERRICK
HOW'S IT TASTE?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

REVERSE ANGLE - THE FIFTH FORCE RECON

(X)

CAMERA PANS THE FACES OF THE ROOKIE MARINES, NEIL WEST, quiet, respectful, TIE MILLER, nervous rodent, MATTHEW EICHLER, intellectual, RANDY DONOVAN, cocky, reckless.

ROOKIES
MMM. MMM. GOOD!

HERRICK
TELL 'EM WHO WE ARE!

ROOKIES
FIFTH FORCE RECON! HIGH-LY MOT-
I-VATED! TRU-LY DED-ICATED.
ROMPIN'. STOMPIN'. UNITED
STATES MARINE CORP!

(X)

Herrick walks down his line of men. As he passes each one...

HERRICK
EICHLER, WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

EICHLER
KILL! KILL! KILL!

(X)

HERRICK
MILLER, WHO DO WE KILL?

MILLER
CHIGS! CHIGS! CHIGS!

HERRICK
DONOVAN, HOW DO WE KILL CHIGS?

(X)

DONOVAN
SWIFT! SILENT! DEADLY!

(X)

THE 58TH

still in dirty battle fatigues, stand at the entrance of the loading bay, watching. Nathan's pissed. The others are amused.

(X)

COOPER
What's with semper psycho?

WANG
I got the scoop on Herrick. He's
with 5th Force Recon. Second
Lieutenant. Drafted right out
of Dartmouth. Honors graduate
of OCS and TBS.
(more)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

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12A.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

WANG (CONT'D)
Military occupational speciality,
Infantry.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

DAMPHOUSSE

Feels like one'a those textbook
shake and bakes, gets command
before he's done time in the
thick.

SHANE

How can such a pogue get command
when he's never even seen a Chig?

(X)

COOPER

Seems more interested in gettin'
a silver star then gettin' his
men home in one piece.

NATHAN

A look of anger washes over his face.

HERRICK

pacing, his face now red from exertion.

HERRICK

SITUATION! ENEMY SOLDIERS
CARRYING ASSAULT WEAPONS ARE DUG
IN FIFTY CLICKS FROM OUR
POSITION! THEY ARE PLANNING TO
INTERRUPT OUR CONVOY OF
SUPPLIES...

Herrick stops before Miller...

HERRICK (CONT.)

MILLER, WHAT'S OUR MISSION?

MILLER

SEEK AND DESTROY, SIR!

Herrick moves on...

HERRICK

EXECUTION! SURROUNDING TERRAIN
IS A TRIPLE CANOPY JUNGLE! ENEMY
SOLDIERS ARE DUG IN AT UNKNOWN
POSITIONS!

He stops before Neil.

HERRICK (CONT.)

WEST, WHAT DO WE DO?

NEIL

CALL IN ARTILLERY, SIR!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (4)

7

Herrick pauses. This is not the answer he expects.

HERRICK
"ARTILLERY?" ARE YOU A CAKE BOY,
WEST?

NEIL
SIR, NO SIR.

HERRICK
YOU TALK LIKE ONE!

Herrick brings his M-590 up in a quick movement. Neil involuntarily winces...

HERRICK (CONT.)
WE'RE OUT IN THE JUNGLE STARING
DOWN THE BARREL OF AN M-590 AT A
BATTALION OF BLOOD THIRSTY CHIGS!
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE! WE
DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ARE OUT
THERE! WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO
CALL IN ARTILLERY! WE GOTTA
START BLOWIN' THEIR HEADS OFF
'FORE THEY START BLOWIN' OURS ALL
OVER THE DAMN JUNGLE! IS THAT
CLEAR, WEST?

NEIL
SIR, YES SIR!

THE 58TH

appalled at Herrick's position, they roll their eyes. Nathan can't take seeing his brother treated like this. He starts forward.

A HAND

ENTERS FRAME. CLAMPS DOWN ON Nathan's shoulder. Nathan turns.

MCQUEEN

stands behind him, holding him back.

MCQUEEN
Stand down, West.

NATHAN
That guy's a rock!

(X)

MCQUEEN
He's Private West's commanding
officer. It's not your place.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (5)

7

McQueen gestures to the 58th.

MCQUEEN (CONT.)
Mission Brief's in the
orientation room. Move out.

(X)

Nathan takes an angry beat, then moves off with the rest of the 58th. McQueen waits until they are gone, then approaches Herrick.

MCQUEEN
Lieutenant?

Herrick turns, attentive.

MCQUEEN
Gimme your rifle.

(X)

Herrick, caught off guard, hands McQueen his M-590. McQueen simply eyes the gun, eyes Herrick, hard.

MCQUEEN
Don't you like me, Herrick?

HERRICK
Yes, sir.

MCQUEEN
You tryin' to get me killed?

HERRICK
No, sir.

MCQUEEN
What's the first rule of General
Rifle Safety?

Herrick stumbles, then...

HERRICK
Consider every weapon loaded
until proven otherwise.

(X)

(X)

MCQUEEN
If you can read it, Herrick, why
can't you EXECUTE it?

McQueen checks the chamber.

MCQUEEN
An unloaded weapon shoots the
loudest.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (6)

7

McQueen hands the rifle back to Herrick and moves off. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON HERRICK, humbled, but pissed.

8 INT. SARATOGA - ORIENTATION ROOM - A POINTER

8

points to a map of the galaxy -- it is positioned on a small planet...

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

This one's a recon mission.
Strictly intel gathering.

(X)
(X)

MCQUEEN

stands at the center of the room, pointing to the map. Ross sits to one side with several intelligence officers and staff aides, who take notes. There is an aura of tension and secrecy in the room.

MCQUEEN (CONT.)

You will be deployed to the planet Mors, here. You will be dropped behind enemy lines where you will remain undetected until extraction.

(X)
(X)

THE ROOM

CAMERA PANS the faces -- twenty young men and women -- representative of five squadrons -- sit at attention. They are trim, fit, and confident -- high school heroes, college jocks. Among them are the 58th and 5th squadrons.

(X)
(X)
(X)

MCQUEEN (CONT.)

Your mission will be observation and information gathering. You should not engage the enemy unless under attack. You will take digital photographs, mark coordinates of enemy facilities, document reports of any transport activity, including ammunition convoys and artillery batteries.

(X)

RETURN

McQueen looks out at the Marines.

MCQUEEN (CONT.)

The directives of this mission are not to leave this room.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

HERRICK

Sir, how can we be certain we're achieving our objectives when we don't know the greater plan?

The 58th exchange bemused glances.

MCQUEEN

The greater plan isn't your concern, Lieutenant.

McQueen pulls down another map and points to it.

MCQUEEN (CONT.)

The 14th, 19th and 33rd squadrons will be deployed in the Eastern region of Mors, the 58th will be deployed to the North.

(X)

Ross looks up.

ROSS

Colonel, that leaves the 58th uncovered to the East.

(X)

(X)

MCQUEEN

We don't have any choice. The 47th squadron was expected to be part of this mission, Sir. They didn't make it back from Ceres. Right now, there's a shortage of available men.

(X)

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

A MERG Satellite could provide the fifth position.

ROSS

No. I want eyes on target.

(X)

Herrick stands.

HERRICK

Sir, I volunteer Fifth Force.

(X)

All eyes turn to Herrick. McQueen does not look pleased.

MCQUEEN

Your team has an assignment Lieutenant, in the rear with the gear.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

HERRICK
(to Ross)
With all due respect Sir, you
want eyes on the ground. We've
got ten to spare.

Nathan bolts up.

NATHAN
Sir, the Fifth Force isn't ready
for this mission.

(X)
(X)

HERRICK
Sir, we're Marines. We're born
ready!

(X)

Ross considers before addressing Herrick.

ROSS
Lieutenant, this is a "sensitive"
maneuver. One wrong move and the
entire mission could be
compromised.

(X)
(X)
(X)

NEIL (V.O.)
Sir, if I may speak freely.

All eyes turn.

NEIL WEST

stands at attention. It is highly unusual for a Marine of his
low rank to speak. The tension in the room reflects this.
Nathan turns on his brother, furious.

NATHAN
Sit down, private!

ROSS
Let him speak.

Neil takes a beat.

NEIL
Sir, on behalf of Lieutenant
Herrick. He graduated from OCS
and TBS with top honors.

(X)
(X)

The 58th roll their eyes. "Big wow." Neil notices their
amusement, which causes him to become stronger.

(X)
(X)

(CONTINUED)

= 8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

NEIL (CONT.)
He's tough. He's smart. He's
got impeccable instincts. We'd
follow him anywhere.
(more)

(X)
(X)
(X)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (4)

8

NEIL (Cont'd)
I know I speak for all of us when
I say we didn't come out here to
sit on our packs! We want to get
into this war!

Ross takes a long beat.

ROSS
Sit down, Private.

He turns to Herrick, saddened by what he is about to say.

ROSS (CONT.)
Alright, I'll allow the Fifth
Force to provide the fifth eye.

Herrick cannot contain his excitement.

ROSS (CONT.)
However, I do so under the
condition the Fifth Force is sent
down strictly as a supporting
element to the 58th.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

HERRICK
Yes sir, thank you sir.

Ross walks closer to Herrick -- stares into his young eyes
burning with enthusiasm.

ROSS (CONT.)
Don't be in such a hurry to die,
Lieutenant. You'll get your
chance. Dismissed.

(X)
(X)

He exits the room as the others disperse. McQueen notes
Nathan's anger.

MCQUEEN
West...

McQueen looks at Nathan hard.

MCQUEEN (CONT.)
This is the Commodore's decision.
Now you've got a problem and I
know what it is, but I also know
your responsibility to this
mission comes first.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (5)

8

MCQUEEN (Cont'd)
If you allow your personal agenda
to influence your conduct as a
Marine you jeopardize yourself
and every man in this unit!

McQueen takes a final beat.

MCQUEEN (CONT.)
Like the Commodore said, this is
a sensitive maneuver. Get in. Do
the job. Get out. We're not
lookin' for heroes.

(X)

McQueen exits. Nathan looks across the room to Neil.

EXTREMELY WIDE

The two brothers stand alone in the room staring at each other
in silent stand off. They hold for a beat, then Neil turns and
exits. OFF THE SOUND of the door SLAMMING SHUT.

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

A9 OVER BLACK:

A9 (X)

"For God's sake, give me the
young man who has brains enough
to make a fool of himself."

Robert Louis Stevenson

CUT TO:

9 EXT. MORS - BLACK SAND SURFACE - THE APC

9

ROCKS DOWN, whipping black sand into a fiery halo.

10 EXT. MORS - APC AIRLOCK DOORS - WHOOSH OPEN

10

LOW ANGLE -- BOOTS

some weathered, some new, POUND through FRAME. WIDEN TO REVEAL (A)
the 58th and 5th squadrons crouch running from the APC, wearing (X)
supply packs, weapons ready. (X)

The Marines hit the deck; M-590's turning:

58TH'S POV - SURROUNDING AREA - LOW ANGLE

CAMERA PANS a black sand desert -- dark lava rocks rise
ominously at sparse intervals. The only SOUND is the WHISTLE
of the bleak atmospheric wind. Chalky black sand blows PAST
FRAME in billowy clusters -- it's consistency similar to smoke.

RETURN

CAMERA MOVES ACROSS THE TENSE FACES OF THE 58TH AND 32ND
SQUADRONS...Dampousse checks the HOMING DEVICE...

DAMPOUSSE

Designated coordinates for hide-
spots are six, four, niner, two,
zero, eight, seven, niner...

(X)
(X)

Shane squints against the driving sand.

SHANE

Fall in behind me! Column
formation! Move out!

CAMERA MOVES LOW ANGLE with Shane, on point, as she leads the
two squadrons up the side of a rolling sand dune, weapon ready.
She CLEARS FRAME. As the others move through FRAME:

TIME DISSOLVE TO:

11 EXT. MORS SURFACE - NIGHT - SAND - FILLS SCREEN

11

Through the dense veil, the 58th and 5th squadrons appear, heads bent, M-590's shoulder slung, barrels down. Damphousse checks her HOMING DEVICE.

DAMPHOUSSE

This is where we dig in.

Everyone drops their packs, then pulls out their entrenching tools. Shane turns to the others.

SHANE

58, we're diggin' hide-spots
thirty meters West of this ridge.
Fifth recon, you're diggin'
thirty meters East. Let's do it!

(X)
(X)
(X)

The Fifth Force hustles energetically out of FRAME. The 58th watch after the rookies, reacting to their energy, which is in stark contrast to their own. Cooper shrugs, as if to excuse...

(X)

COOPER

Fresh legs.

The 58th moves slowly into position. They professionally start digging their foxholes. As they dig wearily...

TIME DISSOLVE TO:

12 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - CLOSE - SHOVELS

12

BURYING INTO SAND. WIDEN TO REVEAL THE 58TH, still digging. They are five feet deep. As Nathan and Wang move to secure the thatched roof at the top of the foxhole,

Herrick's VOICE comes over their headsets.

HERRICK (V.O.)

Bravo one, this is Alpha two.
Our position is secured.

The 58th are stunned. Damphousse rubs her soar hip.

DAMPHOUSSE

Maybe we're losin' it.

Nathan is pissed.

NATHAN

There's a lot more to good
command than diggin' a fast
foxhole.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

Suddenly, from O.C. the SOUND of a ROAR. Nathan and Wang hurry to secure the roof. Shane grabs binoculars and hustles to look out.

SHANE'S POV -- BINOC MATTE - TWO ALIEN ATTACK JETS

Fly overhead...clearly not aware of their presence.

SHANE (V.O.)
Just Chig jets on patrol...

THE POV SHIFTS DOWN as Shane repositions the binoculars. The MATTE now FRAMES a 20 foot steel structure with a satellite dish on top.

SHANE (V.O.)
Wait a minute! I see
somethin'...

13 INT. HIDE-SPOT - FIFTH FORCE'S POSITION - HERRICK

13 (X

He is listening to Shane over his headset. He picks up his own binoculars and looks out.

SHANE (V.O.) (CONT.)
Looks like a Chig Three C tower.

HERRICK
(into headset)
Roger one, I see it.

14 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - SHANE

14

SHANE
Wang, get the ETC monitor. Pin point the position. Air command can take it out in the next strike.

15 INT. HIDE-SPOT - FIFTH FORCE'S POSITION - HERRICK

15 (:

HERRICK
I say we go out now. Blow that puppy sky high!

16 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - SHANE

16

SHANE
Negative. We're here for recon. Not to engage the enemy.

17 INT. HIDE-SPOT - FIFTH FORCE'S POSITION - HERRICK

17 (X)

HERRICK

We don't have to engage. We set
off a C670, Chigs'll never know
what hit it.

(X)

18 INT. 58TH'S HIDE-SPOT - SHANE

18

SHANE

Negative! That's not our
mission!

19 INT. FIFTH FORCE'S HIDE-SPOT - HERRICK

19 (X)

HERRICK

Our mission is to win this war!
We blow that tower up, we
probably take out communications
in half the Bacchus region!

20 INT. 58TH'S HIDE-SPOT - SHANE

20

SHANE

Negative, Herrick! That's an
order!

This fuels Nathan's anger. He crosses to the T-140 field
radio, pops open the bottom chamber and violently rips out the
transistor. Cooper reacts.

COOPER

Whoa, West, what the hell's with
you?

Nathan SWITCHES ON his headset and speaks into it.

NATHAN (CONT.)

Three Alpha, we need a spare T-
140 transistor.

Eichler's VOICE COMES ON.

EICHLER (V.O.)

Roger that.

NATHAN

Rendezvous in between. Send
West.

Nathan takes off. The others look to one another, now
understanding his actions. They don't seem thrilled.

- 21 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - CLOSE - THE TWO BROTHERS 21
- crawl towards each other, eyes squinted against the driving sand. Each wear their battle helmets, indicator lights are ON. Neil hands over the transistor. Nathan takes it, then, experienced, SWITCHES OFF his indicator light. Neil, inexperienced, does not. (X)
(X)
(X)
- NATHAN
- Neil...
(a beat)
Look, watch your six with Herrick. (X)
- Neil looks at Nathan, angry. He has been waiting for this...
- NEIL
- First you tell me not to enlist!
Now, you're telling me what to do!
- NATHAN
- The guy thinks he's John Wayne! (X)
- NEIL
- Who? (X)
(X)
(X)
- 22 INT. HIDE-SPOT - FIFTH FORCE'S POSITION - HERRICK 22 (X)
- His indicator light is ON. He can hear the brothers.
- NATHAN (V.O.)
- I've seen his kind. Long gone
Gung Ho without anything to back
it up except a squad of men. (X)
- 23 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - NATHAN AND NEIL 23
- NEIL
- He's my C.O. (X)
- NATHAN
- That doesn't mean he knows what
he's doin'.
- NEIL
- How do I know you know what
you're doin'? The only fight
I've ever seen you in was with
Craig MacPherson for asking Kylen
to the Winter dance. (X)
(X)
(X)

(CONTINUED)

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25A.

23 CONTINUED:

23

NEIL
I may a cherry, but one look
around and I can see this ain't
no Winter dance.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

NATHAN
I've been through it all, Neil.
Herrick's never even seen combat.
He's got a lot to learn. Don't
be his guinea pig. He'll learn
it with your life, my life, the
life of every one 'a your
buddies!

24 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - SHANE

24

Her indicator light is ON. She is listening, her expression
sympathetic for Nathan, whose VOICE is more FAINT than Neil's
over the Radio.

(X)
(X)

NEIL (V.O.)
You've been in the corps twice as
long as Herrick and some girl's
quarterbackin' your team.

NATHAN (V.O.)
She's ten times the Marine
Herrick'll ever be!

(X)

Shane smiles slightly at Nathan's defense of her.

25 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - NATHAN AND NEIL

25

NEIL
I guess we'll find out.

NATHAN
I'm trying to keep you from
getting killed.

(X)
(X)
(X)

NEIL
Why don't you just let me lose?

(X)

Nathan looks at his brother, recognizes the irony in Neil's
words.

(X)
(X)

NATHAN
I kicked MacPherson's ass, you
know.

(X)
(X)
(X)

NEIL
Nath, Mom could have taken that
doof.

(X)
(X)
(X)

NATHAN
Mom could take on an entire Chig
division and send 'em packing.

(X)
(X)
(X)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Neil laughs. He reaches out and holds his brother's shoulder. (X)

NEIL
I'd give anything to have us both
home now, getting chewed out for
coming home late.

(X)
(X)

Nathan nods. Niel eyes him.

NEIL
Bro, Herrick's a good Marine.
I'll be okay.

(X)

The two brothers stare at each other for a moment, then Neil
turns and moves off. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON NATHAN, concerned. (X)
(X)

26 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - DARKNESS

26

FILLS SCREENS. A BEAT, then Nathan falls into FRAME.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Cooper, Wang and Damphousse watching,
sympathetic as Nathan drops into the foxhole and crosses to a
corner. Shane approaches. Nathan looks up.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

SHANE

Nathan, if that were any other Marine over there besides Neil, you wouldn't've pulled that stunt with the radio. You would've come to me.

NATHAN

Herrick's trouble, Shane. You know it.

SHANE

Herrick hasn't done anything wrong. I can't condemn him cause you're afraid you're losin' your brother to him.

(X)

Nathan looks at her, furious.

NATHAN

The guy's a loose canon! He'll get us all killed!

SHANE

This isn't about Herrick, it's about you.

This silences Nathan. Shane takes a beat. Her voice softens.

SHANE (CONT.)

You've frozen Neil in time. I know how it happens, I did it to my sisters. One of 'em's married, I still look at her like she's twelve. Neil's not a kid anymore.

NATHAN

Nathan looks at her, "no." Shane smiles at his response.

SHANE

Brothers... sisters... only see the differences in each other. Its easy to forget they came from the same place.

(more)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

SHANE (Cont'd)
Neil...he's loyal, dedicated,
stubborn. A lot tougher than he
looks.

(X)

NATHAN
And that's a description of me?

(X)

(X)

Shane nods. She looks to Nathan...as if she was his sister.

(X)

SHANE
Nathan...Neil's either gonna
learn how to make it or not. You
can't control what happens and
you can't follow him through the
whole war. Let him go.

(X)

(X)

Nathan looks at her.

NATHAN
If I do....I might lose him.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

SHANE
If you don't, you'll lose him
anyway.

Off Nathan, hearing her, knowing she is right...

27 INT. HIDE-SPOT - FIFTH FORCE'S POSITION

27 (X)

The new Marines sit in their position, as anxious as they are bored.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON HERRICK as he looks about his dulled troop. Herrick glances over to Neil, seems to get an idea, moves over, sits next to him.

HERRICK
He only said what he did cause
he's worried about you.

NEIL
He's a control freak.

HERRICK
No, problem is he doesn't trust
you as a warrior. But he will.

Neil looks up. Herrick continues...his voice raised a bit.

HERRICK (CONT.)
Rookies gotta prove themselves,
go through a baptism before
they're respected.

The others are listening, just as Herrick wanted.

HERRICK (CONT.)
Look, you think you're alone in
this? We all got the same
problem. We all gotta prove we
can cut it. Until we do, 58th
won't accept us as one of them.
Nobody will,

DONOVAN
How we gonna prove anything?
We're on damn recon. All we get
to do is avoid the enemy.

HERRICK
You gotta be creative, Donovan.

Herrick looks at the young Marines, his eyes burning with excitement.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

HERRICK (CONT.)

You all remember Dan Daly. He was a Sergeant in World War I, the most brutal war ever, and he was the meanest mother in the Valley! They called him the "fighten'est Marine they ever knew," and man, he deserved it! He single handedly wiped out all those German machine gun nests, he lead charges against the enemy and always, every time, he'd beat the hell out of 'em!- He'd go into battle yellin' "come on you sons of a bitches! You wanna live forever?!"

(X)

(X)

CAMERA PANS THE FACES OF THE ROOKIE MARINES, listening attentively.

HERRICK (CONT.)

He was awarded The Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, two Purple Hearts, the French Victory medal with four clasps!

(X)

CAMERA ARCS AROUND to Herrick.

HERRICK (CONT.)

Now, we all know he didn't get those medals sittin' around in foxholes! He earned 'em thinkin' for himself, takin' initiative! He got creative and he got rewarded for it!

The rookies nod.

HERRICK (CONT.)

Our chance to make a difference has arrived. It's time for us to take initiative!

Herrick pauses dramatically and looks at the young Marines.

HERRICK (CONT.)

There's a Chig satellite tower out there. I say we take a C670 and blow the crap out of it!

(X)

(CONTINUED)

=
27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

Neil looks unsure...

NEIL

We were told not to leave our
positions.

(X)

(X)

Herrick turns on Neil scornfully.

HERRICK

"Told to do?" Marine Corps
doesn't want robots. They want
thinkin' men!

(X)

(X)

(X)

Neill shuts up. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON HERRICK, driving it home.

HERRICK (CONT.)

Daly sure wasn't a robot! And
look what happened? A hundred
years later, they're still
talkin' about him! We play our
cards right, a hundred years from
now, they'll be talkin' 'bout us!

(X)

He looks at his men. His voice rises in excitement.

HERRICK (CONT.)

Come on you son's of a bitches!
You wanna live forever?!

OFF THE ROOKIES, pumped...

TIME DISSOLVE:

28 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - ELECTRONIC TARGETING
COORDINATER

28

BLINKING. WIDEN TO REVEAL WANG, positioned at the edge of the
hide-spot, taking an electronic survey of the satellite tower.
He looks up...

WANG

Target's acquired.

Shane turns to Nathan.

SHANE

Call the Fifth Force. Have 'em
establish the Cypher Link to
triangulate and confirm its
position.

(X)

Nathan CLICKS ON his headset.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

NATHAN
Two Alpha, engage ETC Cypher
Link...

NOTHING. Nathan tries again.

NATHAN (CON.T)
Two Alpha, come in Two Alpha...

Nothing. Nathan is alarmed.

NATHAN (CONT.)
No one's responding...

COOPER
Where the hell did they go?

29 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - CLOSE - HERRICK

29

crouch crawling through heavy ground mist. He pulls himself to
a stop.

(X)

HERRICK
This is it...

LOW ANGLE -- DONOVAN, MILLER, EICHLER AND NEIL
crawl into FRAME. Look up...

THEIR POV -- THE SATELLITE TOWER

steel girders climb skyward, disappear into the mist.

RETURN - THE FIVE MARINES

Herrick's exhilarated. The others look nervous.

HERRICK (CONT.)
Let's blow this baby!

NEIL
Sir, there's been no prior
intelligence mission in the area.

(X)

(X)

Herrick quickly eye balls the area.

HERRICK
I know. We're it. We're just
adding a little...initiative.

(X)

(X)

Herrick turns to Donovan and Eichler.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

HERRICK (CONT.
Donovan, Eichler locate the
control box. I'll attach the
C670. West and Miller, stay
here...keep an eye out.

(X)
(X)

Donovan, Eichler and Herrick crawl out of FRAME. CAMERA PUSHES
IN ON Neil and Miller, tense, standing guard, weapons ready.

CLOSE - HANDS

FUMBLING over steel girders.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Eichler groping a steel column. He looks
confused.

EICHLER
There's no control box.

Donovan crawls into frame, also confused.

DONOVAN
None over here either. There's
gotta be electronics.

Eichler taps the girding, listens to the empty echo.

EICHLER
Wait a minute! This thing isn't
even operable! It's bogus!

HERRICK
What?

EICHLER
It's a dummy, you know, like
those fake planes the British
used in World War II to trick the
Germans...

Suddenly, a PHOSPHORESCENT LIGHT WIPES FRAME. A deafening
EXPLOSION sends the Fifth Force flat to their bellies.

(X)
(X)

NEIL
INCOMING!

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON THE Fifth Force, crouched together,
terrified.

(X)

30 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - WANG

30

at the edge of the hide-spot, looking out through binoculars.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

WANG
Holy...there's incoming out by
the satellite tower!

WIDEN TO REVEAL THE REST OF THE 58TH. The Marines exchange nervous glances.

COOPER
Who's in a fire fight?

Shane pales.

SHANE
Herrick!

Shane turns to Damphousse.

SHANE (CONT.)
Our position's compromised! Get
McQueen on the radio! Tell him
we've got a broken arrow!

(X)
(X)

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON NATHAN, rocked by the realization that it is Neil who is being shelled.

SHANE (CONT.)
The Fifth Force is under heavy
fire. The 58th is in no position
to provide support. Fifth force
needs immediate extraction. This
is condition black. Repeat,
condition black. We got a real
situation here.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

A31 QUOTATIONS OVER BLACK SCREEN:

A31 (X)

"He conceived persons with torn
bodies to be particularly happy.
He wished that he too had a
wound, a red badge of courage..."

The Red Badge of Courage

OVER BLACK, a BURST OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE...

HERRICK (V.O.)
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!

FADE UP:

31 EXT. MORS - CLOSE - HERRICK

31

racing across the sand surface, artillery fire ERUPTING!

HERRICK (V.O.)
GET DOWN OR GET YOUR ASSES SHOT
OFF!

WIDE

The Fifth Force squadron heaves themselves over a stone wall,
artillery fire chasing them. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON Herrick as he
crouches behind the wall. He CLICKS ON his radio helmet and
yells into the headset. (X)

HERRICK
ALPHA TWO TO BRAVO ONE! COME IN
BRAVO ONE...

A WHISTLING OVERHEAD. A MORTAR EXPLODES!

32 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - DAMPHOUSSE

32

on the T-140 field radio, urgent.

DAMPHOUSSE
Wild Cards to Queen Six, Broken
Arrow...repeat...Broken Arrow. (X)
Request immediate extraction... (X)
repeat...immediate extraction... (X)

As Damphousse continues...CAMERA ARCS AROUND to Shane, who is
receiving Herrick's transmission -- over her filtered mike, the
amplified SOUND of ARTILLERY FIRE.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

SHANE
HERRICK, FALL BACK! THAT'S A
DIRECT ORDER!

33 EXT. MORS - STONE WALL - THE FIFTH FORCE

33 (X

M-590's prone on the wall, laying out covering fire. The rookies are terrified -- this is their first taste of war. Herrick, exhilarated, yells into his headset.

HERRICK
THESE BASTARDS JUMPED US! WE'RE
NOT FALLIN' BACK 'TILL WE GET
PAYBACK!

34 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION

34

The 58th is incredulous.

NATHAN
(alarmed)
No way they can hold that
position!

Shane shouts into her headset, furious...

SHANE
HERRICK, YOU'RE IN VIOLATION OF
THE DIRECTIVES OF THIS MISSION!
GET BACK HERE!

35 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - HERRICK

35

HERRICK
I didn't seek engagement, I was
fired upon!

He looks out of a crevice in the wall...

HERRICK'S POV -- CHIG RIFLE MUZZLES

seven or eight, emitting FLASHES of light into the mist.

RETURN - HERRICK

HERRICK
I can see 'em. There's only
seven or eight of 'em...we can
take 'em!

36 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION

36

Suddenly, the T-140 field radio sputters WHITE STATIC.
Dampousse reacts as WHITE STATIC gives way to a frequency.

DAMPOUSSE
I'm receiving transmission!

MORE WHITE STATIC...then the VOICE of McQueen...

MCQUEEN (V.O.)
Wild Cards, this is Queen Six.
Broken Arrow received. Air cover
has been deployed, will reach
your position in forty mikes.
Request coordinates for
rendezvous.

DAMPOUSSE
Rendezvous at six, two, niner,
seven, zero, eight, six, niner,
north northwest of bull's-eye.

(X)

(X)

MCQUEEN (V.O.)
Roger that.

Shane screams again into her radio mike.

SHANE
HERRICK, AIR COVER'S GONNA BE
HERE IN FORTY MIKES! HERRICK...

No answer...

SHANE (CONT.)
HERRICK...!

37 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL

37

CLOSE - HERRICK

FIRING, exhilarated, his entire body vibrating with rifle
kickback. He lets out a battle cry as he makes a kill.

HERRICK
HOOH-YA!! CAPPED ONE!

WIDEN TO REVEAL the rest of the Fifth Force. Donovan,
exhilarated, mirrors Herrick's excitement. Neil, Miller and
Eichler seem nervous. Miller moves to each member of the
squad, asking...

(X)

MILLER
Ammo check. Ammo check.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

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36A.

37 CONTINUED:

37

Each man looks to the weapon and belts and reports. Neil turns toward Herrick, yells over the din.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

NEIL
We've held 'em off. Its a window
to fall back!

(X)

HERRICK
Forget it West! We can do this!
We can take 'em!

MILLER
Sir, we only got about twenty
rounds per man...

(X)

(X)

Herrick screams at his men, determined.

HERRICK
Then that's what we use.

Neil is sickened, scared...but not of the enemy.

38 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION

38

Shane looks up, frustrated.

SHANE
He's not responding!

Nathan can't take it anymore. He gets up, grabs his M-590,
starts to exit the foxhole. Shane looks up.

SHANE (CONT.)
Nathan!

Nathan stops, turns.

SHANE (CONT.)
You know better. Air cover's on
the way to these coordinates.

Nathan knows she is right. Shane speaks into her headset.

SHANE (CONT.)
Alpha two, this is Bravo
one...come in Alpha two...

39 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - THE FIFTH FORCE

39 (

The Fifth Force squadron freezes as there is a sudden cease
fire. The air hangs with an eerie silence. Herrick falls out
of FRAME.

(X)

HERRICK
GET DOWN!

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

LOW ANGLE - THE FOUR MARINES

crouch down, huddle with Herrick against the wall. They are all breathing hard, hearts pounding. Miller's eyes dart about, frightened by the silence.

MILLER

Why'd they stop firin'?

HERRICK

Probably re-loading...

Shane's VOICE continues over their headsets.

SHANE (V.O.)

ALPHA TWO...RESPOND...NOW!

Herrick ignores her.

40 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - SHANE

40

SHANE

SON OF A BITCH!

41 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - THE FIFTH FORCE

41 (X)

Herrick looks at his men, the football coach again but this time, with new excitement...this isn't a drill...

HERRICK

This is it, men. The baptism!
The 58th wants us to put our
tails between our legs and run!
I say we get our asses up on that
wall and fight! Hit these
bastards right between the
running lights!

(X)

(X)

(X)

42 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - SHANE

42

SHANE

(into headset)

Don't even think about it,
Herrick!

43 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - THE ROOKIES

43

Miller's eyes bug out.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

MILLER
You wanna charge 'em straight on?

44 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - NATHAN
Panicked. He shouts into his headset.

44

NATHAN
Do the right thing, Neil!

45 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - NEIL
Hears his brother. He turns to Herrick.

45

NEIL
We're in violation of the
mission.

Herrick turns on Neil, furious.

HERRICK
So now you're listenin' to him?
Your brother's cowerin' a hundred
yards back in a foxhole! We're
the one's out here tryin' to make
a difference!

Neil shuts up. Herrick looks at the rest of the unit.

(X)

HERRICK (CONT.)
This ain't a democracy! I'm your
commanding officer! We do this,
we're heroes.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Herrick barks into his headset.

HERRICK (CONT.)
58, this is the Fifth Force.
We're makin' a direct assault on
the enemy.

(X)

46 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - NATHAN
shouts into his headset.

46

NATHAN
LISTEN TO ME! NOT JUST NEIL!
ALL OF YOU!

47 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - BEHIND STONE WALL - THE ROOKIES

47

They can all hear Nathan on their headsets.

NATHAN (V.O.)
GO OVER THAT WALL, YOU'RE DEAD!

Herrick moves into FRAME.

HERRICK
Don't go over that wall, you're
cowards!

Herrick moves in close to Neil.

HERRICK (CONT.)
Right now, you've got no brother,
West! Right now, we're your
brothers! "We few. We happy
few. We band of brothers."

NATHAN (V.O.)
Don't listen to him, Neil! All
that matters is your life! The
lives of your friends! You go
over that wall, you all die
foolishly!

Herrick puts his hand over his radio mike and speaks to Neil.

HERRICK
Show him what you can be.

Neil decides. He looks at Herrick.

NEIL
Let's do it.

48 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - NATHAN

48

Closes his eyes, his face goes ashen.

49 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - CLOSE - HERRICK

49

eyes to the crevice in the wall, raking the terrain outside.

HERRICK'S POV -- THE SURROUNDING AREA

is quiet. No sign of the Chigs.

RETURN

Herrick turns to the others, signals, "move out!"

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

DONOVAN

wipes the sweat from his brow, heart pounding, adrenaline pumping...

MILLER AND EICHLER

ready their weapons, eyes terrified...

NEIL

COCKS his rifle, quiet, concentrated...

WIDE

Herrick suddenly rises, races several yards back from the wall, then turns towards camera. Herrick postures for the charge as the rest of the Fifth Force joins him in a horizontal line. (X)
(X)

ALL SOUND FADES OUT save for HERRICK'S HEAVY BREATHING and the BEAT of his pounding heart.

CLOSE - HERRICK

lets out a battle cry. He rushes forward like Achilles, towering in his rage, OPENS FIRE, FLASHING MUZZLE LEADING INTO FRAME.

CLOSE - HERRICK'S BOOT

scaling the stone wall.

CLOSE - HERRICK'S HAND

pulling his body onto the wall.

CLOSE - NEIL

letting out a battle cry, racing into FRAME.

CLOSE - MANY DARK FORMS

emerging from the sand dunes...

CLOSE - HERRICK

rising up on the wall...

CLOSE - CHIG RIFLES

OPENING FIRE...

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

CLOSE - HERRICK

shocked as the bullets hit...

CLOSE - NEIL

sees Herrick hit...horrified...

CLOSE - HERRICK

falling backwards, pushed by the blistering bullets...

CLOSE - NEIL

catching Herrick, stunned...

HERRICK'S HELMET -- FLIES THROUGH THE AIR.

Tumbles end over end until it bounces on the sand surface, hits the ground with a THUD. The LOUD THUD ECHOES in the silence. CAMERA PUSHES IN ON THE HELMET HEADPHONE as the SOUND FADES BACK UP...all hell breaks loose...the deafening ROAR OF ARTILLERY FIRE...

50 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - THE 58TH

50

listens in horror as, over their filtered mikes, they hear the SOUND of ARTILLERY FIRE. Nathan, panicked, suddenly moves to his M-590 and grabs it. He races to exit the foxhole.

SHANE

NATHAN!

Cooper and Wang intercept him. Nathan struggles to free himself, but they wrestle him to the ground. They hold him down as he screams, agonized, helpless...

NATHAN

NEIL! NEIL! OH GOD! NEIL!

51 EXT. MORS SURFACE - CLOSE - RIFLE MUZZLE - FILLS FRAME

51

YELLOW SPARKS emit FLASHES OF LIGHT. CAMERA PULLS BACK like a shot. Neil is FIRING the rifle.

CAMERA CONTINUES TO PULL BACK REVEALING Miller, Eichler and Donovan, also firing their rifles. Herrick is slumped against the wall, eyes closed. Blood stains his fatigues. The SOUND of artillery is deafening. The Marines are terrified...

MILLER

THEY'RE COMIN' OUTTA COVER!

(X)

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

DONOVAN
WEST WAS RIGHT! HERRICK SHOULD'A
CHECKED 'EM! CHIG BASTARDS WERE
HIDIN' THE WHOLE TIME!

(X)
(X)

Neil shoots a look down at Herrick.

NEIL
IS HE...?

Eichler reaches down to check Herrick, who is moaning. His
MOANS are barely audible.

EICHLER
NOT DEAD! WOUNDED! LOOKS BAD!

A sudden BURST of automatic weapons fire from the right sends
Donovan and Neil swiveling their guns into the attack.

NEIL
THEY'RE FLANKIN' OUR RIGHT!

DONOVAN
NO WAY TO OUTFLANK 'EM! NOT WITH
JUST A COUPLE GUYS!

(X)
(X)

A MORTAR EXPLODES. Sand SPRAYS them. Miller starts to panic.

MILLER
OH GOD! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

NEIL
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT! IF YOU
TALK LIKE THAT, WE WILL DIE!

Neil SWITCHES his radio on and SHOUTS INTO HIS HEADSET.

NEIL (CONT.)
NATHAN...THIS IS NEIL...

(X)

52 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - NATHAN

52

A wave of relief washes over his face at the sound of his
brother's VOICE.

NATHAN
NEIL! NEIL! I HEAR YOU MAN!
WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?

53 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - STONE WALL - NEIL

53

NEIL
WE'RE TAKIN' CASUALITES!
HERRICK'S HIT! WE'RE ALMOST
OUTTA AMMO! CHIGS ARE COMIN' AT
BOTH OUR FLANKS...

54 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION

54

Nathan YELLS INTO HIS HEADSET...

NATHAN
NEIL...NEIL...LISTEN TO ME...I
NEED YOUR POSITION...

55 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - ON THE STONE WALL

55

Neil, Eichler, Miller and Donovan are FIRING into the mist...

NATHAN (V.O.)
GIVE ME YOUR POSITION!

Suddenly, a WHISTLING OVERHEAD. The Marines duck, then cringe as a MORTAR SHELL LANDS, showering them in sand. The mortar hits close to Donovan, blows him into the air. Donovan CRASHES DOWN, his limp body hitting the ground. Miller starts screaming hysterically.

MILLER
OH GOD! DONOVAN'S HIT! HE'S
BLEEDING! HE'S BLEEDING!

Eichler quickly reaches down and checks for a pulse as Neil screams into his headset, panicked...

NEIL
DONOVAN'S DOWN!

56 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION - NATHAN

56

The desperation in Neil's voice rips through him. He can hear the savagery of the battle in the SOUNDS that come over the headset...

NEIL (V.O.)
HE'S DEAD! OH GOD! OH GOD!

(X)

NATHAN
NEIL, LISTEN TO ME! I NEED YOUR
POSITION!

57 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - STONE WALL - NEIL

57

NATHAN (V.O.)
GIVE ME YOUR POSITION!

Neil fights to hold it together.

NEIL
WE'RE...WE'RE...BEHIND A
WALL...WEST OF THE...THE THREE C
TOWER...

58 INT. HIDE-SPOT - 58TH'S POSITION

58

Nathan looks at Shane, speaks to her as he speaks to Neil.

NATHAN
IT'S ALRIGHT, MAN! HOLD ON!
WE'RE COMIN' TO GET YOU!

Nathan is now talking to the 58th as much as he is the Fifth Force.

(X)
(X)

NATHAN (CONT'D)
DO YOU READ ME? WE'RE GOING OUT
AFTER YOU!

The Wild Cards look to one another. Without any debate, they move for their weapons.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS HOLD YOUR
POSITION! WE'RE MOVIN' OUT AFTER
YOU! HOLD ON!

As the 58th grabs their weapons and moves out, Nathan whispers to himself as he picks up his rifle.

NATHAN
Hold on...

As he marches out with his squadron toward the firefight...

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

A59 QUOTATIONS OVER BLACK SCREEN:

A59 (X

"We are all dead men on leave."

Eugene Levine
Men In Dark Times

Over BLACK, the SOUND of ARTILLERY FIRE...

FADE UP:

59 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - CLOSE - THE 58TH

59

CHARGES through the mist, M-590'S pointed into the charge. As they WHIP PAST FRAME, TRACER FIRE ARCS THE SKY.

SHANE

Illuminated by the strobing light. ARTILLERY FIRE erupts the air. She DROPS OUT OF FRAME.

SHANE

GET DOWN!

LOW ANGLE - THE 58TH

HITS INTO FRAME, kissing the ground.

60 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - CLOSE NEIL

60

tears in his eyes, shells pounding around him...

NEIL

(panicked)

Nathan...Nathan...I'm sorry...I'm
sorry...

61 EXT. MORS SURFACE - 58TH'S POSITION - CLOSE - NATHAN

61 (

NATHAN

Nothin' to be sorry about, man!
This is not the time! Just hold
it together! We're on our way!

62 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - BEHIND STONE WALL - NEIL

62

his voice cracks...the tears come...

NEIL

I'm so scared...I'm so scared...

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

Suddenly, a BURST OF ARTILLERY FIRE shatters the air. Neil spins out. FALLS OUT OF FRAME.

63 EXT. MORS SURFACE - 58TH'S POSITION - NATHAN

63 (:

The radio goes dead. Nathan's face goes ashen.

NATHAN
NEIL! NEIL!

64 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - BEHIND STONE WALL - A HELMET

64

LABELED "WEST," rolls in the sand, a bullet hole pierced through the crown.

TWO HANDS

reach into FRAME. Pick the helmet up.

NEIL

places the helmet on his head -- wipes his eyes. Miller looks at him.

MILLER
Chig bastards almost took your head off!

Neil straightens himself. COCKS his M-590.

NEIL
You heard him! They're on the way! We gotta hold our position till they get here!

(X)

Miller and Eichler nod, COCK their rifles, ready themselves. Neil lets out a WAR CRY, heaves himself up and throws himself against the base of the wall. Miller and Eichler FOLLOW.

THE MARINES
AHHHHHHHHHHH!

The three Marines OPEN FIRE -- their bodies tremble from the kickback. The ROAR of spitting MACHINE GUNS raise the air...

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON THE YOUNG MARINES, their faces dirty and bloodied. Gone are the innocent lines of youth -- they now wear the grim expressions of battle hardened Marines.

65 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - LOW ANGLE - THE 58TH

65

Nathan is beside himself. He yells over the deafening roar...

NATHAN

We gotta get over there!

Shane turns to Cooper.

SHANE

Cooper, we're first team...see if
we can get to that Shoal...

Cooper nods his understanding. Shane signals.

SHANE (CONT.)

GO!

SHANE AND COOPER

Rise, dash up an embankment and zigzag along the barbed wire.
SHELLS SCREAM overhead. They don't know where to run. They
dive OUT OF FRAME.

LOW ANGLE -- COOPER AND SHANE

HIT INTO FRAME. There is an apparent lull. Shane looks back,
gestures to Nathan.

NATHAN

Nods to Shane, then turns to Damphousse and Wang.

NATHAN

GO!

NATHAN, DAMPHOUSSE AND WANG

Rise. They dash up the same embankment and zigzag along the
barbed wire. Heavy artillery erupts the air. A MORTAR
EXPLODES, shaking the ground. The three Marines drop crawl...

LOW ANGLE - SHANE AND COOPER

Nathan, Damphousse and Wang CRAWL INTO FRAME. Shane turns to
Nathan.

SHANE

No way we can charge 'em straight
on!

Damphousse checks her watch.

DAMPHOUSSE

Air strike should be here in five
mikes...

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

COOPER

What do we do for five mikes?

NATHAN

Make 'em think we got more guns
than we do.

SHANE

Lay down covering fire. We'll
hit the Chigs on their left flank
and catch 'em in a crossfire.

(X)
(X)
(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

Good. Then the Fifth Force can
fall back to a supplementary
position.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

Everyone nods their understanding.

SHANE (CONT.)

Let's move!

They split and crawl out of FRAME.

66 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - STONE WALL - THE THREE ROOKIES

66

FIRING MADLY. Suddenly, Eichler's weapon jams. His hand moves
down to the feed cover when suddenly, his body stiffens. His
expression is startled, he looks down...

EICHLER'S SHIRT

stained with blood.

EICHLER

Drops down behind the wall...

EICHLER

I'M HIT!

NEIL

turns...horrified...

NEIL

EICH!

Neil crouches down next to his friend, who looks numb. He
grabs the Marine's hand, yells over the din...

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

NEIL (CONT.)
You'll be okay, you'll be okay,
just hang in there man...hang
in...They're on their way...

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (2)

66

EICHLER
Man I never thought I'd get hit,
I was...

(X)
(X)

He breaks off, gagging...

NEIL
Stay cool. Air strike's comin',
we're gonna carry you out...

Suddenly, Eichler's eyes widen, then FREEZE. Neil screams and
shakes him...

NEIL
EICH! EICH!

Neil looks up at Miller, who is still firing.

NEIL (CONT.)
OH GOD! HE'S DEAD!

MILLER

looks down, then up, sweat pouring from his face...

MILLER
KEEP FIRING!

NEIL

raises himself, furious. He aims, OPENS FIRE...anger spilling
with every bullet...

67 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - NATHAN

67

Crawls into FRAME. Crouches next to the barbed wire fence.
The mist clings to the sand dunes, eerie, unnerving. Then, a
flicker of movement, sound.

Nathan hears it, tightens.

HIS POV - AT FIFTY YARDS

An evanescence of black armour uniforms moving towards him very
fast, scurrying. In the thick ground mist, they look like
headless ghosts.

NATHAN

speaks low into his headset radio.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

NATHAN
This is West, I've got 'em in my
sight...

(X)
(X)

68 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - CLOSE - COOPER AND DAMPHOUSSE
in their position behind a dune, rifles pointed INTO CAMERA.

68

COOPER
(into headset)
Hawkes and 'Phousse, good to
go...

(X)

69 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - SHANE AND WANG
in their position, rifles pointed INTO CAMERA...

69

SHANE
(into headset)
Vansen and Wang, good to go...

(X)

70 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - CLOSE - NATHAN

70

NATHAN
(into headset)
FIRE!

He opens fire.

71 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - DAMPHOUSSE AND COOPER
open fire.

71

72 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - SHANE AND WANG
open fire.

72

73 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - NATHAN
a racket of sound.

73

NATHAN'S POV - THE DARK FORMS

scramble, confused. One of the forms seems to go down, then
another, and another...making it possible for...

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

NATHAN

to crouch crawl forward. As he crawls out of FRAME...

74 EXT. MORS - BEHIND STONE WALL - NEIL AND MILLER

74

FIRING MADLY. They are now firing pistols. Suddenly, Miller's (X)
pistol jams. He reaches for Eichler's weapon, it's empty. He (X)
shouts to Neil.

MILLER

WE'RE ALMOST OUTTA AMMO!

Suddenly, Miller is HIT. He spins out, falls from FRAME.

NEIL

terrified, bends down to check Miller's pulse. (X)

NEIL

MILLER!

But Miller is dead. Probably before he hit the ground. Anger
washes over Neil. He casts around with his hand.

NEIL'S HAND

finds Herrick's discarded pistol. (X)

WIDE

Neil pulls the pistol up. He places it alongside his own. (X)
With a blistering anger, he opens fire, the two pistols (X)
spitting fire into the mist. (X)

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON NEIL as he lets out a savage battle CRY...

75 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - COOPER AND DAMPHOUSSE

75

at their position, FIRING INTO CAMERA.

THEIR POV - DARK FORMS

now covered behind sand dunes, the muzzle FLASHES pounding
bullets at Cooper and Damphousse's position...

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

RETURN - COOPER

COOPER
(into headset)
They're feelin' our fire! They
know we don't got enough guns to
hold 'em!

76 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - SHANE AND WANG

76

SHANE
(into headset)
Hold your position as long as you
can, then fall back!

Wang checks his extra ammo clip.

WANG
I'm almost outta ammo.

SHANE
Damn! Where's air cover?

77 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - NATHAN

77

crouched, gunfire pounding overhead...watching...

NATHAN'S POV - THROUGH DRIFTING MIST - THE STONE WALL

FLASHES OF FIRE pelt the air like rain.

RETURN - NATHAN

fenced in by the gunfire, unable to move, separated from Neil
by the wall of lead.

78 EXT. MORS - PLANET SURFACE - STONE WALL - NEIL

78

FIRING ONE PISTOL. Suddenly, he ducks down behind the wall,
checks the ammo clip, almost empty. He checks Miller's, (X)
Eichler's, Donovan's...all guns are empty. (X)

Frightened, he pulls himself in, pistol clutched to his chest. (X)
He puts his head down, covers his ears, helpless, as bullets
split the air above him.

79 EXT. MORS - SAND SURFACE - NATHAN

79

starts forward, a BURST of artillery fire forces him back.

80 EXT. MORS - STONE WALL - CLOSE NEIL

80

He looks up, suspecting something in that very moment. The artillery shell sounds too close. It is getting bigger and bigger and bigger on the horizon. Too big...too loud. Panic on his face. Then...a whistling...the SOUND of an explosion...screen wipes to WHITE:

WHITE IN:

81 EXT. MORS SURFACE - SHANE AND WANG

81

Illuminated by STROBING LIGHTS. Over the din of ARTILLERY, the ROAR OF ENGINES. Shane looks up.

SHANE'S POV - HAMMERHEADS

zoom overhead, spraying covering fire.

RETURN

Shane yells into her headset.

SHANE
AIR COVER!

82 EXT. MORS SURFACE - COOPER AND DAMPHOUSSE

82

Duck as bullets from the hammerheads RIDDLE the ground.

83 EXT. MORS SURFACE - NATHAN

83

paces forward through the strike. Shells EXPLODE around him. (X)
LIGHTS STROBE. Suddenly, a powerful EXPLOSION BLOWS Nathan to (X)
the ground.

84 EXT. MORS SURFACE - SHANE AND WANG

84

cower as debris from the mortar falls upon them.

85 EXT. MORS SURFACE - NATHAN

85

The last of the debris falling upon him. An eerie silence engulfs the air. Nathan looks up.

NATHAN'S POV - THROUGH DRIFTING SMOKE - THE STONE WALL

Heavy battle smoke obscures the base of the wall.

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED: (2)

85

NATHAN

rocks Neil's body in silent pain. AS CAMERA PUSHES IN ON
Nathan rocking...the screen slowly fades to black...

NATHAN (O.S.)

No...no...no...no...no...

(X)

(X)

86 QUOTATIONS OVER BLACK:

86 (X)

"So it came to pass that as he
trudged from the place of blood
and wrath his soul changed..."

Stephen Crane
The Red Badge of Courage

FADE OUT:

THE END