

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Pearly"

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Director:
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Episode 3s18
Story 4544
2/14/96 WHITE
2/14/96 BLUE
2/16/96 PINK

2/14/96 WHITE

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Helper of Heroes"

Cast

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

LOUIE FOX
CYRIL MACKENDRICK
FELICITY OH
ELROY EL
MARINE

2/14/96 (White)

SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Helper of Heroes"

SETS

INTERIORS

TANK - DAY
CYRIL'S BUNKER

EXTERIORS

PLANET MINERVA DAY /

FIELD
GRAVESITE
COUNTRY
WOODED AREA
TANK BATTLE AREA
RENDEZVOUS POINT

TANK - DAY
BUNKER - DAY

TEASER

1 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - DAY

1

BOOM! An EXPLOSION fills the screen.

THE 58TH

are crouched together against a long trench. A ringside seat in hell. The intensity level is HIGH, DESPERATE!

DAMPHOUSSE

(into field radio)

Bravo one, this is Alpha two.

Under heavy fire, taking casualties, request extraction...

McQueen taps Nathan on the helmet. The two of them jump up FIRING at the Chigs. BAM! BAM! BAM! Nathan and McQueen return to the hole. The 58th look to one another, scared.

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)

Alpha two, this is Bravo one.

Fall back. Extraction at alternate rendezvous Designation. Over.

DAMPHOUSSE

We're a hundred klicks away from the ARD without any cover!

COOPER

We're gonna get spammed.

McQueen looks around, sizing up the desperate situation. He spots something, O.S.

MCQUEEN

We got cover.

He points towards...

AN ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIER

Large, 21st Century, heavily armored. It looks like a tank.

WANG

Now we'll be spam in a can.

McQueen eyes them. Everyone settles, no more flak. McQueen nods to Cooper, who understands his role. Cooper readies his M590 and nods "ready." McQueen gestures, "now!" Coop stands, spraying the oncoming Chigs with gun fire as he runs backwards.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

McQueen leads the 58th toward the tank, across a battlefield strewn with bodies. Damphousse carries the radio. They're all close to the tank when...

BOOM! A Chig grenade EXPLODES in front of them. The 58th hits the dirt as shrapnel is strewn everywhere.

Shane is hit with flying metal and crumples to the ground. Damphousse falls from the explosion. The radio is sent flying and smashes on a rock. Broken in pieces.

NATHAN

runs to Shane, MOANING in severe pain. Her leg is bleeding. Nathan puts Shane in a fireman's carry across his back.

THE TANK

McQueen is first to reach the tank. He turns back, SHOOTs at the Chigs, providing cover for the others. Damphousse climbs onto the vehicle and helps up Wang. As Nathan lifts Shane, Cooper arrives and helps lift her up onto the vehicle. Damphousse opens the tank's top hatch and climbs down. The others follow.

2 INT. TANK - DAY

2

Damphousse crawls in and looks around - a high tech computerized control panel, four seats. It looks like a miniture submarine. Cooper drops down and helps lower Shane into the tank.

McQueen is last inside and SLAMS the hatch shut as, O.S., BULLETS RIDDLE the tank.

3 INT. TANK - DAY

3

The EXPLOSIONS are getting closer as Damphousse frantically flicks and turns every switch and knob on the panel. Suddenly, a RYTHMIC POUNDING ON THE OUTER HATCH. It could be "bullet" hits, but its too definate.

WANG

Chigs are on target.

COOPER

Sounds like someone knocking.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Again, the pounding. Instinctively, all level their weapons at the hatch.

VOICE (V.O.)
OPEN THE FREAKIN' HATCH!!

McQueen opens the hatch. LOUIE FOX climbs down. Three days beard growth, a cigar butt in his mouth, black leather tanker boots, and a New York attitude. He holds a power cell.

LOUIE
Man, was that hairy! My butt's
never gonna unpucker. Outta my
way!

Louie quickly replaces the power cell.

LOUIE
Louie Fox, Sergeant First Class
7th Calvary. From Custer's Last
Stand to here, if there's a
massacre, we're in it.
(turns to Damphousse)
Hey, Babe, get the hell out of
there!

Damphousse is quick to jump out of the driver's seat. Louie hops right in. Louie hurridly flicks some switches. Chig weapons FIRE PINGS off the tank. He slowly, seductively, rub some knobs.

LOUIE (CONT'D)
Who loves ya, baby? Come on,
Pearly...you know its your
Louie...

The 58th have a beat to eye each other as if "huh?" But the APC VROOOMS to life. Louie spits out his old cigar butt, pulls out new stogie and removes its wrapper.

LOUIE (CONT'D)
Hey diddle, diddle, right up the
middle!

He strikes a match, lights the cigar and puts her in gear. As he begins to sing "Garryowen" the theme song of the calvarymen...

4 EXT. TANK - DAY

4

Pearly the Tank makes tracks out of there... BOOM! A Chig bomb hits where the tank just was.

(CONTINUED)

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4.

4 CONTINUED:

4

The tank picks up speed and hightails it out of hell.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

6 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - DAY

6

The tank motors across the countryside. A trail of dust in her wake. The penultimate armored fighting vehicle.

CLOSE - THE TANK'S FRONT ARMOR

"PEARLY" is painted in colorful WWII-like lettering.

7 INT. TANK - DAY

7

The 58th, exhausted and dirty catch some shut eye. McQueen checks the bandage on Shane's leg as she sleeps.

MCQUEEN

She needs medical attention.

LOUIE

I'll pull off at the next exit.

MCQUEEN

Listen, Sergeant, my people are important to me so don't give me any of your lip. Just drive the APC.

LOUIE

Hey, my entire crew got greased right in front of my eyes, so don't go boo hooing about "your people". Besides, you might think I'm just some Army dogface but Pearly is my tank and when you're inside her I can spout whatever I damn well want.

Louie defiantly puffs on his cigar. Not happy, McQueen pulls out a small computer map screen and points to a position.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MCQUEEN
Our alternate rendezvous
designation.

Louie checks McQueen's map.

LOUIE
Two days easy. More with the
Chigs on our tail.

MCQUEEN
That's cuttin' it close,
Extraction is in two days. We'll
need to radio for another
location.

(X)
(X)
(X)

LOUIE
Pearly took some bad hits back
there, radio is long gone. And
its drainin' her power cells. I
only got one to spare. The one
I risked my ass for while you
bogarted my tank. We'll just
have to get there.

(X)
(X)

(X)

McQueen eyes the Sergeant, not liking him. Louie notes this,
eases.

LOUIE
Sorry, there, Colonel...

Like an 18 wheeler truck driver, Louie reaches down and pulls
out some MREs, tossing some on the dash.

LOUIE(CONT'D)
I'm a bit testy without my
mornin' coffee.

Louie rips open a plastic bag of freeze dried coffee and pours
it straight into his mouth. McQueen grimaces. Through a full
mouth of grinds... Louie notices something out through the
driver's hatch.

LOUIE
Uh oh! Hold onto your skivvies!

8 EXT. TANK - DAY

8

The tank's fast approaching a raised, dirt mound. It makes a
hard left, narrowly avoiding the dirt mound.

9 INT. TANK - DAY

9

The 58th are all tossed to on one side, smashed up against each other. Louie, meanwhile, beams proudly.

LOUIE

Damn Chigs! Got the whole planet
booby trapped. But me and
Pearly...we got this simpatico
thing, don't we..?

(caressing the control
panel)

Oh, Pearly...you know what I
like.

Cooper and Nathan exchange looks that reflect they think Louie is a freak.

LOUIE(CONT'D)

Yes, you know how to treat a man
right.

And at that the entire tank TIPS DOWN as if it's falling. The 58th all slide down in the other direction.

10 EXT. TANK - DAY

10

The Tank is sliding head first down a deep, open ditch. It hits bottom. BAM! Dust clouds engulf the vehicle.

11 INT. TANK - DAY

11

Everyone but Louie is piled on top of each other.

COOPER

Looks like your APC are out of
simpatico.

Louie stands up, turns to Cooper, furious.

LOUIE

TANK!

Everyone tenses, especially Cooper who eyes McQueen.

MCQUEEN

No need to get ugly here,
Sergeant.

(X)

LOUIE

She's not an Armoured Personnel
Carrier...she's a tank. Call
Pearly an APC again and I'll use
your guts to grease her treads.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Wang is checking on Shane. He looks up to McQueen.

WANG

Sir, Vansen's wound just opened
up. Her fever is increasing and
I think the infection is
spreading.

Louie digs in his pocket, pulls out a bottle of pills and
tosses it to Wang, who reads the label.

WANG

You had ampicillin all along?!

LOUIE

I didn't think she'd make it.
Didn't want to waste them.

The 58th don't like Louie's actions, but they understand.

MCQUEEN

What we can't waste is any time
getting her to the rendezvous
point.

LOUIE

Let's get motivated.

Louie climbs up and out of the hatch. McQueen turns to
Damphousse.

MCQUEEN

Keep an eye on her.

McQueen climbs out. As the remaining 58th prepare to exit...

12 EXT. TANK - DAY

12

Louie climbs out onto the turret. The others climb out.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

LOUIE
Damn tank ditch. Stinkin' Chigs
got 'em everywhere!

Louie hops down, checking the damage while chomping on his
stogie. He immediately moves to an external supply box.

LOUIE
NO! A broken tread! I know
all's fair in love and war but
COME ON!

McQueen inspects the camouflaged tarp that covered the ditch.
Lou breaks out some chains and passes them to Cooper, Wang and
Nathan.

LOUIE
You jarheads attach these to the
back. I'll start in on the
tread.

The three members of the 58th do as they are told. After they
leave, McQueen looks about uneasily.

MCQUEEN'S POV - OUTLYING AREA

a good distance away, obscured by the brush...movement. Two
indistinguishable forms, head back into hiding.

RETURN

As McQueen looks off, Lou begins work on the tank.

LOUIE
Still bein' followed?

McQueen looks to Louie, impressed, but concerned.

MCQUEEN
You saw them?

LOUIE
Yep. Don't know who it is, but
they been trackin' us since we
turned tail and ran.

(X)

As McQueen looks out...

COOPER, WANG AND NATHAN

CAMERA FOLLOWS them around the back end of the tank REVEALING
MAJOR CYRIL MACKENDRICK of the 8th British Calvary.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

Shocked to see a form, the Marines reflex is to pull their sidearms. Cyril reacts by beaming proudly.

CYRIL

Good show! It worked rather well, wouldn't you say?

NATHAN

Identify yourself.

CYRIL

Major Cyril Mackendrick of His Majesty's Cold Stream Guards. Yanks, eh? Perhaps you might spare a touch of gin...

Cooper, Nathan and Wang exchange suspicious glances.

NATHAN

Colonel!

CYRIL(CONT'D)

Just to... bury the hatchet over the Boston Tea Party.

McQueen appears around the tank with Louie. He freezes as he sees Cyril, who salutes easily, palms out.

CYRIL

Many apologies, this trap was meant for the Chigs. You see, I constructed that anticline to resemble an enemy land mine. The thought being they would avoid it and turn right into this trap, however you did.

MCQUEEN

Are there others with you? We need to reach a rendezvous point and could use some help.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

CYRIL

My entire battalion was killed at
the battle of Madrake Hill.

MCQUEEN

That was eight months ago.
You've been here alone all that
time?

Cyril pauses, sadly, nods.

CYRIL

Alone...quite alone.

(beat)

Are there any women travelling
with you?

MCQUEEN

Yes. And she needs medical
attention. Do you have supplies?

Cyril studies them, as if suspicious, or at least weighing if
he will help them. McQueen reads the hesitation.

MCQUEEN

We'll return the favor by taking
you back with us.

Cyril considers. His expression clearly indicates he's not too
thrilled by that idea.

MCQUEEN

There a problem with that?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (4)

12

The 58th look at one another, suspicious of the Major. Cyril sighs, decides.

CYRIL
I shall return directly.

Cyril starts to walk off. McQueen moves up and grabs him by the arm. Cyril looks down at McQueen's hand, then looks up as if "please remove your hand if you wish to speak with me." McQueen does so.

MCQUEEN
How do I know you'll come back?

CYRIL
You have my word.

MCQUEEN
Your "word" means nothing to me until I've seen it backed up with actions.

The two officers glare at one another, but Macendrick understands.

MACENDRICK
Can the girl be moved? My camp is... well just over there.

(X)
(X)

McQueen considers, then nods.

MACENDRICK
Right. Follow me.

And he begins to walk off. McQueen returns to the 58th.

MCQUEEN
Get Vansen, we'll take her to his camp.

LOUIE
I'm stayin' here to fix my baby.

Louie walks off around "Pearly." The others look in the direction of MacKendrick.

NATHAN
Earth Forces have been on planet for ten months. He could have gotten out of here.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (5)

12

COOPER

Seems like he don't want to.

McQueen nods and looks in the Colonel's direction.

WANG

You're not thinkin' he could be
working with the enemy?

MCQUEEN

(considers, shrugs)

Keep an eye on him.

MCQUEEN'S POV - MAJOR MACENDRICK

As he walks off...alone.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Keep an eye out for any odd
behavior.

CUT TO:

13 INT. CYRIL'S HIDEOUT - DAY - CLOSE - CYRIL

13

plunges a spoon into an MRE and wolfs it down, chewing rapidly
and with sheer bliss. Its rather odd.

CYRIL

This is scrummy. Can't recall
the last time I ate something
other than a berry or a leaf. I
rather liked the gelatinous
substance over the layer of
chunked beef.

He checks the can.

CYRIL (CONT'D)

MRE. What does that stand for?

WIDER

Wang is attending to Shane, awake but weak, resting on the
floor. Damphousse is not in the room.

Cyril's hideout is cavelike, built into a concave ground
formation. A heavy fabric flaps over the entrance.

A radio sits on a box in the corner, silently purring static.

WANG

Meals Rejected by the Enemy.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

CYRIL
(a letch)
Perhaps Venessa should join us.

MCQUEEN
She's on watch.

Cyril is disappointed. Wang hands Shane a cup of water. Cyril looks over to them.

CYRIL
Remember, only a half cup of
water each. I know the Captain,
the lovely Captain...is ill,
still we must conserve.

O.S., the Tank RUMBLES, approaching.

Nathan is looking around the room. He checks out a classy map of the United Kingdom hanging on "the wall." He curiously notes something and looks behind it to find a poster of a girl in a bikini holding a power drill. Nathan raises his eyebrows.

CYRIL (CONT'D)
I thought I would die of thirst
in the first few weeks. Luckily
I came across an abandoned Earth
Forces camp and found a URN41
Urine purification system. And
that's where I get this water.

This line is timed just as Shane takes a sip. She lets it dribble out of her mouth. The others simply set their cups down.

McQueen peeks out the flap, checking the area. He eyes the Major and begins subtly questioning him. O.S., the tank engines turn silent.

MCQUEEN
And you've seen no one for eight
months?

CYRIL
Not a soul.

MCQUEEN
I see a radio over there. Did
you signal for help?

Cyril is aware he's being questioned and tries to hide his annoyance.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

CYRIL

It cannot transmit. I only can
receive transmissions.

MCQUEEN

Like troop movements? Earth
Forces positions..?

CYRIL

Right.

MCQUEEN

Any trouble keeping
yourself..."busy?"

Cyril stands, begins to make himself busy, cleaning up the
hideout.

CYRIL

Of course! However, I make it a
point to stick to a strict
schedule. Make three cups of
water a day. Brush my teeth
twice a day. And a daily
constitutional. Two, on a good
day. If you stop taking pride in
your personal appearance and
hygiene you might as well be
dead.

(X)

(X)

Louie enters from beneath the flap, covered with grease. The
cigar is in his mouth.

LOUIE

Fixed the tread, layed down some
traction and Pearly hopped right
out of there.

CYRIL

Right. Then you best be on your
way. I've marked a path on your
map that directs you through an
area light with enemy activity,
a Chig no man's land

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Cooper and Wang share a suspicious glance, while Nathan eyes
McQueen.

NATHAN

Maybe the Major should come with
us.

Cyril is flustered.

(CONTINUED)

"Pearly" 3S18 2/16/96 PINK

15A.

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

MCQUEEN
Gather your gear, Major.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

CYRIL

I don't...I don't care to leave.

MQUEEN

You can't just choose to stay
here, Major. That's desertion.

The Major becomes furious.

CYRIL

You cause me great insult,
Colonel. I have not, nor would
I EVER, desert...

Suddenly, O.S., from the radio, an ODD SOUND. Static, beneath
which, lies eerie CLICKS and WHISTLES.

Major Mackendrick freezes in mid-sentence, listening. His
expression turns to panic.

CYRIL

Chig attack jets!

(X)

The 58th don't quite understand what is happening.

COOPER

I don't hear nothin'!

(X)

(X)

13 CONTINUED: (5)

13

CYRIL

They've locked on a target!

Cyril continues to listen to the ODD SOUNDS over the radio.
His panic intensifies.

CYRIL

They must have spotted the tank.

Take cover! DAMPHOUSSE GET
INSIDE!

Damphousse hustles into the room, confused. Major Mackendrick
moves to the back of the room and finds cover. The 58th are
unsure of his behavior.

CYRIL

Everybody take cover! DO AS I SAY!

Suddenly...finally...the SOUND of approaching JETS is heard.,
O.S. Now, the 58th take him seriously and move for cover.

LOUIE

I ain't takin' cover if they're
after "Pearly."

Louie starts to head out.

LOUIE

Those double fifty calbs'll take
down any Chig planes.

(CONTINUED)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

13 CONTINUED:

13

The CHIG PLANES APPROACH. Louie takes off. McQueen stands and (X)
moves to the doorway.

A14 EXT. CYRIL'S BUNKER - DAY

A14

Louie races out of the bunker to the tank.

(X)

MCQUEEN
Get back inside, Sergeant!

THE CHIG PLANES

(X)

swoop down over the area.

LOUIE

(X)

engages the machine gun and gets ready to fire. He pulls out
a new cigar and pops it in his mouth. He begins singing (X)
"Garryowen." (X)

Louie lets them have it. BAM! BAM! BAM! The recoil in the
machine gun thrusts him back against the turret.

At the same time the Chig Planes STRAFE THE TANK. POW! POW! (X)
POW!

(X)

The Chigs' weapons fire riddles the tank with bullets...

(X)

HITTING LOUIE BROADSIDE ACROSS THE CHEST. Louie slumps over
his gun, dead.

(X)

15 OMITTED

15

A16 EXT. FIELD/BUNKER - DAY

A16

McQueen opens up the bunker door and steps out, carrying his rifle. He sees the Chig planes fly off in the distance.

He scans the area as Nathan, Wang, Cooper, Damphousse and Cyril follow him out. All on guard, their rifles leveled, ready for Chigs.

McQueen steps up onto the tank. He nudges Louie's body back. His chest is covered in blood.

McQueen looks around, irritated by Louie's actions and their outcome. He puts his hand on the tank. (X)

McQueen then turns to Cyril, who appears sad for Louie. McQueen studies the Major. (X)

MCQUEEN
None of us heard the enemy
planes. How did you know they
were coming? (X)
(X)

Cyril turns to McQueen, very matter of factly. (X)

CYRIL
"They" told me. (X)
(X)

The 58th exchange suspicious, incredulous glances. Cyril however looks back to Louie's body. (X)

As the desert wind blows... (X)

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

17 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - FIELD - NEXT MORNING

17

A mound of dirt is under a tree. Louie's rifle is stuck bayonet first into the ground with his helmet on the butt. A shovel full of dirt is tossed on the grave.

McQueen and Cyril are burying Louie. McQueen looks up and studies Cyril. Something catches the Colonel's eye in the distance.

MCQUEEN'S POV - A RIDGE

just over the ridgeline, a small cloud of dirt lifts above the hill. Someone is behind it.

RETURN

McQueen takes a beat to uneasily acknowledge the presence, then again looks to Cyril, questioningly.

18 EXT. BUNKER/TANK - MORNING - LATER

18

Cooper fixes the satellite dish.

(X)

COOPER

Like that?

NATHAN

Lemme check his manual.

Nathan produces a huge, torn up and greasy APC manual and thumbs through it.

COOPER

We only have one spare power cell.

As Nathan looks through the manual, he pauses, noting something odd in the book.

NATHAN

What the hell is this?

As he continues to read...

19 OMITTED 19

20 EXT. TANK - DAY 20 (X)

Wang and Damphousse return some treads to their storage position in the front of the tank. They are a greasy mess. As they walk away, CAMERA HOLDS on the grease dripping down the front of the armored vehicle, over the headlights. (X)

A21 EXT. GRAVESITE - PLANET MINERVA - DAY A21 (X)

Cyril throws the last bit of dirt on Louie Fox's final resting place. He pauses, catching his breath and looking at the grave. (X)
(X)
(X)

CYRIL (X)
If the Chigs come across the grave, they'll dig it up and mutilate the body.

Both men look at the grave, considering. (X)

CRYRIL (CONT'D) (X)
Fascinating that such technologically advanced beings maintain primitive superstitions. Do you realize they had no conception of a "life after death" until they heard it from us? My theory is they believe half of us are living dead. An army of Zombies.

MCQUEEN (X)
Somedays I think that.

CYRIL (X)
One derives an interesting viewpoint of one's own culture when another so misunderstands.
(beat)
For example, they remove the heart believing it is the mechanism of thought, not the brain.

Cyril looks to McQueen, proposingly. McQueen nods. (X)

MCQUEEN (X)
Imagine...if we believed that.

(CONTINUED)

A21 CONTINUED:

A21

CYRIL

Right. I suppose if I were a
Chig looking to remove the organ
of thought, I'd be wandering
about cutting off men's "Old
Chaps!"

(X)
(X)

MCQUEEN

(eyes him, then...)

Right.

(beat)

Major, did "they" "tell" you
this, also?

Cyril sighs, impatiently.

CYRIL

The theories of burial are
derived from study and
observation of their behavior.
Knowing they were going to attack
the tank is derived solely from
hearing their communications over
the radio for an extended period.
The chigs emit clicks and
whistles at various frequencies,
similar to cetacea, dolphins and
such. I've heard them long
enough to discern various
echolocation patterns of Chigese
and associate them with subsequent
events, such as the strafing...

McQueen's stoic expression stops the Major cold.

CYRIL

You believe I've been out here
too long.

MCQUEEN

What I believe is that we have to
get moving in order to reach our
rendezvous point. And
yes...you're going with us.

Cyril looks to the grave, pouting. McQueen calls to the
others.

MCQUEEN

Let's do this and move out.

With the exception of Shane, still recovering in the tank, the
58th squadron assembles over the grave. Cyril begins the
ceremony from memory.

(CONTINUED)

A21 CONTINUED: (2)

A21

CYRIL
Through Thy infinite love and
mercy graciously grant to the
soul...

(X)

NATHAN
Sir?

(X)

(X)

Cyril stops. Everyone looks to Nathan who holds up the manual.

(X)

NATHAN
Since we're short of time, I
think Sergeant Fox would have
preferred this. I found it
written in his APC manual.

(X)

Cyril is puzzled. McQueen shrugs "go ahead." Nathan looks to
the manual.

(X)

(X)

NATHAN
(reading, a bit
bemused)
Pearly...what can I write that
hasn't been said?

(X)

In the pause, everyone eyes one another, still believing Louie
to be a freak.

(X)

NATHAN (CONT'D)
I never understood those techno
obsessed geeks who care more
about their computer than another
human being. But on this day
when...my crew..my friends...four
lives were lost...you saved mine.

(X)

The Marines and the Major turn sad and understanding. As
Nathan continues to read, CAMERA MOVES AWAY from the ceremony
toward the parked tank.

(X)

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(sincere)
I've never been able to trust
anyone, believe in something, as
much as you. And, I know you're
only a tank, and all, but it
feels like you believe in me.

(X)

(X)

(X)

CAMERA CONTINUES toward Pearly.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

A21 CONTINUED: (3)

A21

NATHAN (CONT'D)

(X)

It gets me mad that there is no
 way to repay you for this...
 except to change your power cells
 when you're low, keep you
 supplied with frags when you're
 out...and grease your treads,
 when you feel like you can't go
 on.

CAMERA SETTLES on the lifeless tank, the dripping grease
 obliquely, subtly, appearing like dark tears easing from the
 eyes-like headlights.

(X)

DISSOLVE TO:

21 OMITTED
 22 OMITTED
 23 OMITTED
 24 OMITTED
 25 OMITTED
 26 OMITTED
 27 OMITTED

21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27

28 EXT. COUNTRY - DAY - LATER

28

The tank drives on slowly. Cyril rides atop the turret.
Nathan, Wang, Cooper and McQueen walk alongside, guns ready. (X)

MCQUEEN

scans the horizon through binoculars. He pauses, then moves
along the tank and hops off the back.

He walks along with Cooper, Nathan and Wang. McQueen produces
a map.

MCQUEEN

Don't react when I tell you this,
but we've been followed since our
retreat at the battle.

The two Marines, react without reacting.

MCQUEEN(CONT'D)

We can't lose time by stopping.
But ahead, the tank has to go all
the way around this land
formation. I want you to quietly
fall back, see what information
you can gather and cut across the
hill to meet us on the other
side.

COOPER & WANG

Yes, sir.

MCQUEEN

I'll have Damphousse goose it...
you vanish in the dust.

McQueen walks up ahead as Wang and Cooper's pace slows down.
After a beat, O.S., Pearly's engine ROAR. DUST is KICKED UP
over the three Marines. They use the cloud to hustle OUT OF
FRAME and covertly disappear.

CUT TO:

A29 EXT. OUTLYING AREA - DAY

A29 (X)

With the tank far in the b.g., Nathan, Cooper and Wang walk along the area, quietly searching. Nathan pauses. The others look to him. Nathan gestures as if "you two fan out to the right and left, I'll go up the middle." Wang and Cooper nod. The three move out.

(X)

29 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - WOODED AREA - DAY

29

Wang walks with his gun leveled. Eyes open, on guard, searching for signs of the enemy. The woods are silent. The only sound being his own BOOTS CRUNCHING dried leaves.

Wang stops suddenly, thinking he heard something. He quickly looks around in all four directions. Nothing. Only trees.

Satisfied it was nothing he continues on. But he cocks his gun, more wary than before. He's ever alert when...

A DARK FIGURE

drops down from a tree and lands on top of him. THUD!

They both hit the ground and fight, rolling down a hill in the leaves. The Dark Figure finally overtakes Paul, a strong hand holding Paul's face in the diry.

(X)

(X)

CAMERA RISES UP THE OPPRESSING arm to REVEAL on ELROY EL MODEL, with an angry sadistic expression, accentuated by the cross haired eyes.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

ELROY EL
May I...see your Hall Pass?

(X)
(X)

Wang struggles to get free, but Elroy's mechanized strength keeps him pinned.

(X)

WANG
Let me up!

(X)

ELROY EL
Say the magic word. I'll give
you a hint...it's "master."

(X)

Another pair of legs appears behind the pinned Marine.

ELROY EL
"Please Master Elroy," let me up.
Say it! SAY IT!

(X)

WANG
Go to hell!

(X)

FELICITI OH
Can't you just kill anyone
without all the theatre?

(X)

Elroy's expression alters as he looks up to Felicity OH. It's full of affection, yet never abandoning the sadistic edge.

(X)
(X)

ELROY EL
Oh no no no, Felicity, my dream,
my desire, my happiness. We need
him to get the part that will
make you well.

(X)

WANG
You'll never get anything out of
me again!

(X)

The two A.I.'s look to Wang curiously.

ELROY
"Again?"

(X)

Elroy pulls Paul's head up by the hair for a closer look.
CAMERA MOVES IN on ELROY'S EYES. ELECTRONIC BLIPS and WHIRS
indicate the A.I. memory recall is functioning.

(X)

A30 INT. ELROY EL'S MEMORY - (FROM "CHOICE OR CHANCE")

A30

Distorted and digitized as Elroy would recall it...

WANG is upright in a chair, spouting his coerced confession.

(CONTINUED)

A30 CONTINUED:

A30

WANG
I killed non-combatants. I
dropped bombs on civilian
populations.

ELROY L
Are you guilty of war crimes?

WANG
Yes.

ELROY L
And how does what you've done
make you feel?

WANG
I feel shame...

The MEMORY FLASHBACK CLICKS TO A STOP. RETURN TO...

31 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - WOODED AREA - DAY

31

Elroy's expression is overtaken by an especially sadistic pleasure.

ELROY EL

(X)

Well, my darling, my everything,
fate has presented us with a
fortuitous circumstance. Another
Elroy El model has broken this
Carbonite in the Kazbek penal
colony. Confessed to war crimes!
(smiles)
Oh, you're friends will think
that's a very bad thing.

FELICITI OH

(X)

Get him up!
(to Wang)
Hands on your head!

Wang is roughly raised by Elroy EL. Wang places both hands on his head while Felicity frisks him. Not checking the interlocking hands on Wang's head, Felicity does remove a gun from a back holster and a knife in a hidden leg sheath.

As she throws them into the dirt, Felicity becomes mechanically woozy and stumbles to her knees. Elroy moves quickly to her, his gun remains trained on Wang.

ELROY EL

Sweetness, my pearl...are you
alright..?

FELICIT OH

Just shut up get the damn
battery!

Wang is quite puzzled by what he is seeing. Felicity remains on her knees, weak. Elroy moves to Wang.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

ELROY EL
May I...confide in you?

Wang doesn't react. He hates the A.I.

ELROY EL
Felicitati Oh and myself were
cutoff from our Silicate Patrol.
She's been wounded by stray
weapons fire. Her power is
decreasing.

(X)

He looks back at her sadly.

ELROY EL
I'm sick as well. Perhaps it is
a silicate virus. Perhaps its
just Spring, but I've
developed...feelings for the
Felicitati OH unit...which I am not
programmed to understand. I feel
quite run down and empty upon
projecting her...termination.

(X)

He looks back at Wang.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

ELROY EL (CONT'D)
So, I'm prepared to take a
chance...if you are.

Wang does not want to listen, but is all ears.

ELROY EL
A power unit from the APC could
restore her to 83.4 percent
capacity. Bring back one of the
cells and I'll internally erase
the memory disk of your
confession. I'll wipe it out
from all A.I. memory banks.
Your mistake will never have
happened.

Wang considers, torn. Elroy senses he needs to close the deal.

ELROY EL
If you don't, I'll make certain
that disk is played loud and
clear for your fellow Marines,
your family and all the folks
back home...

CLOSE - WANG

confused. Torn. Guilty.

CUT TO:

32 OMITTED

32

33 EXT. TANK - DAY - LATER

33

The tank stops. McQueen and Cyril ride atop the turret. (X)
Cooper has already returned and is atop the tank Wang jogs up (X)
to join the tank. McQueen looks down at him as Wang climbs
aboard.

WANG
Nothing to report, sir.

Wang disappears inside the vehicle.

A34 INT. TANK

A34

Damphousse drives as Nathan attends to Shane, who is groggy. (X)

(CONTINUED)

A34 CONTINUED:

A34

SHANE
Where are we?

(X)

NATHAN
The planet Minerva.

(X)

(X)

SHANE
Minerva? What is that the Greek
goddess of old ladies that play
penochle?

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Wang moves to the rear of the tank. He looks about, feigning catching some rest.

WANG'S POV - THE TANK

Damphousse drives. West watches the recovering Vansen.

WANG

knowing its clear, he appears sick. He makes a gutwrenching decision...and reaches down for the spare power cell. He quickly places it in his pack. As the tank continues and Paul doesn't feel good about himself...

DISSOLVE TO:

34 EXT. TANK - LATER

34

Pearly rolls along. Suddenly it sputters, slows and stops. Cyril and Damphousse ride atop it, keeping watch.

A35 INT. TANK - DAY

A35

Now driving the tank, Nathan checks the guages. He turns to the others.

NATHAN
Power cell died. Pop in the last
spare.

(X)
(X)
(X)

Cooper moves to the rear of the tank. CAMERA PUSHES into WANG, as Cooper passes. Wang appears sick, knowing full well Cooper will not find it.

(X)
(X)

COOPER
It's gone! Who moved it?

(X)

Everyone shrugs, as if "not me." McQueen moves to the storage area.

(X)
(X)

MCQUEEN
You sure, Hawkes?

(X)

COOPER
I put it right here.

(X)

MCQUEEN
We're screwed without it.

(X)

WANG
Could it have been Chigs?

(X)

MCQUEEN
If they made it this close they
wouldn't steal a power cell when
they could just as easily wax us.

(X)

A pause as they all exchange a look. Feeling guilty for just thinking it. All except Wang, who's guilt exceeds that.

(X)

NATHAN
It's got to be Mackendrick.

(X)

COOPER
He never wanted to leave.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

A35 CONTINUED:

A35

SHANE
The guy speaks Chigese, for God's
sake. Little too close to the
enemy for me.

(X)

WANG
We all trust each other. It has
to be him.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Silence as they contemplate this. They head out of the tank.

B35 EXT. TANK - DAY

B35 (X)

Cyril and Vanessa stand at the foot of the tank as the others
climb out.

(X)

(X)

CYRIL
What seems to be the problem?

(X)

(X)

The 58th have anything but friendly faces trained on him.

(X)

NATHAN
You tell us?

Cyril doesn't follow.

(X)

MCQUEEN
The tank is missing a spare power
cell, Major.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

B35 CONTINUED:

B35

(X)

A beat as Cyril looks around. It's sinking in... He laughs.

CYRIL

(X)

You all think I stole your
blasted power cell? I should
strand us out in the middle of
bloody nowhere when just as
easily I could have done it back
where my bunker would give us
shelter? Why would I steal this
power cell anyway?

SHANE

(X)

You could be working with the
Chigs.

(X)

(X)

CYRIL

I'm a human being for God's
sakes! There's no double agents
in this blasted war! Colonel,
are you going to allow your men
to insult me like this?

They all look to McQueen. A beat...

MCQUEEN

Major, the 58th has been through
too much together, we know each
other too well...

(CONTINUED)

B35 CONTINUED: (2)

B35

CYRIL

I've lived through eight months
of hell only to face a kangaroo
court of wet behind the ears
grunts? Not bloody likely! You
want loyalty? I can trace my
family's service in my very
regiment back to the Cold Stream
Guards fighting for Cromwell!

Cyril grabs his rifle and levels it. As he does the entire
58th levels their guns at him. Six against one.

MCQUEEN

Major, your firearm, please...

Cyril can't believe it. Hundreds of years of tradition and
honor, but no respect... He silently seethes with anger.

McQueen nods. Cooper and Nathan take Cyril's rifle and
unbuckle his gun belt. They frisk him down and nod to McQueen
he's clean.

McQueen grabs the tank's coil of rope and tosses it to...

WANG

In this beat he knows he's become Cyril's judge, jury and now
makeshift executioner. Causing more damage with silence than
with a gun.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Colonel, you are under arrest by
order of the United States
Marines.

Wang ties Cyril's hands behind his back with the rope. Cyril
remains silent, fuming with hate. Wang pulls the knot tight.

CLOSE - WANG

His eyes fill with guilt as he allows this all to happen.

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 EXT. TANK - DAY

35 (X)

Pearly sits motionless in the vast charred landscape. McQueen, (X)
Nathan, Damphousse and Wang are working outside of her. (X)

CLOSER (X)

Damphousse connects some wires to a beaten up solar array panel (X)
and strings them along toward the tank. (X)

DAMPHOUSSE (X)
We need about two hours of
sunlight to recharge enough juice
to reach the rendezvous point.

NATHAN (X)
Minerva's sun sets at 23:35 hours
our time. That's only 85
minutes.

Everyone considers, worried.

MCQUEEN (X)
And we got cloud cover forming.

WANG (X)
Can we make it in time on foot?

MCQUEEN (X)
(shakes his head)
No way. If we had that power
cell, we'd make it with time to
spare.

Wang tries to cover his guilt. He subtly checks his watch as (X)
Vanessa attaches the wires to the tank. She pats the armour. (X)

DAMPHOUSSE (X)
I guess all we can do is put our
faith in Pearly.

As Lieutenant Wang sighs, tense. (X)

36 INT. TANK - DAY

36

Cyril is tied up in the back of the tank, quite angry and (X)
feeling humiliated.

Cooper guards Cyril while handing an MRE to Shane, who is (X)
sitting up. She pushes the food away.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

SHANE

Hawkes, MINCED HAM? That's worse
than the gunshot wound.

(X)

Cooper looks to Cyril, pleased.

(X)

COOPER

She's feeling better. She's
starting to bitch again.

(X)

CYRIL

(sarcastic)

Jolly good! Wonderful how you
can demonstrate such care and
concern for one human being while
unjustly turning on another.
Bravo!

(X)

Cooper studies Cyril, questioningly.

(X)

COOPER

You know, Sedgewick...

(X)

CYRIL

Mackendrick!

(X)

COOPER

I've spent alot of time alone.
I don't know what you think is so
great about it.

(X)

CYRIL

(angry)

To begin, when alone, one rarely
tie oneself up and holds oneself
prisoner!

(X)

Cooper thinks.

COOPER

For me...bein' so alone was like
bein' a prisoner. You know?

(X)

Cyril eases upon feeling Cooper's underlying sadness and open
honesty.

(X)

(X)

CYRIL

Yes. Yes, Lieutenant that's
true.

(X)

COOPER

Then why do you want to stay here
so bad that you'd take the power
cell and leave us stranded?

(X)

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

CYRIL

I didn't take the blasted cell!

(X)

Cooper just eyes him. Cyril sighs, slumps.

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

Lieutenant Hawkes...the entire time in his Majesty's service I was assigned as, what you young Americans would call, a pencil pushing geek. Supply. Support. And every year, on the anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, I would request a transfer to a unit that would taste the sting of battle so that I may do my part to serve my country...my planet. And every year I was turned down.

Cooper listens, checks on Shane.

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

Eight months ago, at the battle of Mandrake Ridge, the Chigs hit our supply lines and I finally felt battle's sting.

(pauses, sadly)

I saw men and women...so dear to me...so mutilated...they were...

It becomes difficult for him to continue.

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

Unrecognizable as human forms, let alone as people I loved.

(sighs)

I'm sure you know.

Cooper nods, sadly, knowing all too well.

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

No, I don't like being alone, Mister Hawkes. But it has offered me the chance to study our enemy, learn his tactics and some of his language to a degree, I'm certain, no other human has achieved. And one day...I will return with what I've learned, alone, and that information will help defeat this horrible enemy that massacred my friends.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (3)

36

Cooper looks at Cyril a bit differently. Cyril seems to speaking to himself now.

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

If I were to return now...they'd have me be back on inventory of packaged foods and blankets while completing forms one, eight, stroke, seven, nine.

(beat)

And although I realize the vital importance of that role. Its not enough. For me...for those friends I've lost...its not enough.

Cyril looks up to Cooper, regaining his fury.

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

But in the meanwhile, I'm perfectly fine suffering this indignity at the hands of my allies!

Cooper looks at the MRE. He offers it to the Major.

(X)

COOPER

(X)

Minced ham?

CYRIL

(X)

Will you untie me so that I may not suffer the further humiliation of being spoon fed?

Cooper shoots him a look as if "sorry, won't happen."

(X)

CYRIL

(X)

Then BUG OFF!

CUT TO:

A37 EXT. TANK - DAY

A37 (X)

Wang cleans his rifle. It's not that dirty, he just needs to do something to keep his mind off of what he's done. He checks his watch.

(X)

From his tense, yet subtle, reation...its time. He stands, nonchalant.

(X)

(X)

WANG

(X)

I gotta go to Congress. Where's the latrine?

(CONTINUED)

A37 CONTINUED:

A37

MCQUEEN

This planet is one big Head.

(X)

Wang moves to gather his gear. The backpacks are by Nathan, sitting on the ground.

(X)

(X)

WANG

You got my copy of "Stars and Stripes?"

(X)

NATHAN

Yeah...

(X)

Nathan moves to reach for his bag.

(X)

Suddenly, Paul's eyes go wide and he hustles to the bags, grabbing the one Nathan reaches towards. They grab the same bag at the same time.

(X)

WANG

(easy)

This's mine.

(X)

Nathan, reacts to the bag's weight, but let's it go. Nathan then reaches for another pack and produces a rolled up newspaper. Wang takes it and moves off.

(X)

MCQUEEN

Don't make it last, Wang.

(X)

CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN ON NATHAN, thinking. Once Wang has moved off, Nathan grabs his rifle.

(X)

NATHAN

I'm goin'too.

(X)

And Nathan walks off toward the perimeter...

(X)

CUT TO:

"Helper of Heroes"

3S18

2/14/96

WHITE

35-37.

37 OMITTED
38 OMITTED
39 OMITTED
40 OMITTED
41 OMITTED
42 OMITTED
43 OMITTED

37
38
39
40
41
42
43

44 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - CLEARING IN WOODS - DAY 44

Wang approaches the clearing. He looks over a small hill. O.S., he hears small SPARKS and the warped distorted SOUND of a dying A.I. (X)

WANG'S POV - FELICITI OH AND ELROY EL (X)

lies motionless, appears dead. Elroy kneels over her, not crying, but definitely grieving. (X)

ELROY EL (X)

Death, that hath sucked the honey
of thy breath/Hath had no power
yet upon thy beauty...

WANG

filled with hate...

WANG (X)

Guess there's no more need for
the power cell.

Elroy grabs his weapon, angry fire burning in his cross haired eyes. He moves toward Wang. (X)
(X)

ELROY (X)

Hands on your head.

Wang sets down the backpack. He puts his hands on top of his head as Elroy frisks him. He's clean. (X)
(X)

ELROY (X)

If she's dead, you're dead.

Elroy brings his gun butt down across the back of Wang's head, knocking him to the ground, groggy but battling to maintain consciousness. (X)
(X)

Elroy reaches into his backpack and removes the power cell. He hustles to Felicity OH and begins hooking up some wires to the AI's body. (X)
(X)

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

WANG

(X)

on the ground, his expression turns mean as he looks to the two AIs.

WANG'S POV - ELROY AND FELICITI

(X)

This is wide, so we do not have to see the specifics, however, the SOUND of the A.I. recharging breaks through the clearing. Felicity begins to twitch to back to life.

(X)

(X)

ELROY

Return, my love.

(X)

WANG

(X)

slips his right hand into his left sleeve where a HAND-GUN is hidden. He grabs the gun and slowly slides it out.

(X)

(X)

RETURN

(X)

Wang levels the gun, aiming it at Elroy's head. Elroy instinctively spins around. Before Wang pulls the trigger, Felicity OH kicks Wang where the knee meets the shin.

(X)

Wang yelps with pain as Elroy leaps up and KNOCKS Wang over.

(X)

45 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - DIFFERENT AREA - DAY

45

Nathan hears the SOUND. He darts off toward the area.

(X)

46 EXT. PLANET MINERVA - CLEARING IN WOODS - DAY

46

Wang voraciously punches at Elroy. He overpowers Elroy and roll on top of him. Straddling his chest.

Wang grabs the heavy power cell and raises it above his head. He's just about to plunge it down when...

FELICITI

kicks Wang in face. BAM! Wang is thrust back, still clutching the power cell. Felicity drops to one knee, drained from this action. Elroy L jumps up, and steadies her. He's ready to deal with Wang when they hear...

NATHAN (O.S.)

(X)

WANG! WANG!

Elroy takes Felicity by the arm and quickly helps her out of there. They're over the hill and gone when...

NATHAN

comes over the opposite hill, wielding his rifle. He sees Wang on the ground and dashes over to him.

NATHAN

(X)

Paul, what the hell happened?

Wang is on the ground, out of breath, the power cell at his side. He looks like he's been in a fight - dirty, hair disheveled and blood trickling down from his mouth.

WANG

Yeah... I just found the power cell.

NATHAN

Where? Here?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

WANG

(X)

(covering up)

Yeah... I was, uh, walking and I heard something. I ran toward the noise and came over the hill, rifle ready and I, man, I ate it on that branch.

NATHAN

It was right here on the ground?

WANG

(X)

Yeah... whoever took it must have freaked out and took off when they heard me coming.

Nathan helps Wang to his feet. Wang pats down his hair and cleans himself up throughout the following. Nathan looks at him, curiously.

WANG

(X)

'least we got it back. Let's move out.

Nathan is confused, silently suspicious. Wang starts off toward the tank, ahead of Nathan. On the ground, Nathan spots...

(X)

(X)

NATHAN'S POV

a samll amount of wires and circuitry.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

NATHAN

bends down and picks it up. Looks like A.I. inerds to him.

47 OMITTED

47

48 EXT. TANK - DAY

48 (X

The entire group is around the tank. Cyril remains bound, sitting against the tank. Shane is on the tank as Cooper attends to her wounds. McQueen and Damphousse check the solar arrays.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

Nathan and Wang approach from the wooded area.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

(X)

Hey, Wang found the power cell.

The two are congratulated, especially Wang as they reach the tank. Wang hands the power cell to Damphousse, who takes it over toward some instruments by the solar arrays.

(X)

MCQUEEN

(X)

Where'd you find it?

WANG

(X)

Long story, I was on my way to the head, heard a noise and it was just sittin' there in a clearing. I fell trying to get to it.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (3)

48

As Wang leans against the tank, tired, Nathan doesn't stop. He silently strides right toward Cyril, who's on the ground, sitting against the tank.

WANG

Now we can get out of here,
right?

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

Wrong. This cell is empty.

(X)

The hopeful air is harder to breathe. Cooper's expression turns puzzled as he looks off toward Nathan.

(X)

COOPER

West, what are you doing?

(X)

Nathan drops his gun then leans down and starts untying Cyril.

NATHAN

The Major didn't take the power
cell...

(X)

Nathan finishes untying Cyril's hands. West looks to Wang.

(X)

Paul slumps, guilty and overwhelmed with remorse.

NATHAN

Tell 'em who did, Paul.

(X)

And yet, with no emotion...

(X)

WANG

I did it...

(X)

McQueen, Shane, Cooper and Damphousse appear shocked. They turn to Wang.

(X)

CLOSE - WANG

(X)

Their looks are arrows making direct hits into his conscience. He averts his eyes, guilt engulfing him. He looks off in the distance.

WANG'S POV - THE HORIZON

(X)

Minerva's sun is close to setting behind the horizon.

WANG

(X)

For him, its already gone down.

"Helper of Heroes"

3S18

2/14/96

WHITE

45A.

49 OMITTED
50 OMITTED
51 OMITTED
52 OMITTED

49
50
51
52

FADE OUT

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

53	OMITTED	53
54	OMITTED	54
55	OMITTED	55

56	EXT. PLANET MINERVA - DUSK	56
----	----------------------------	----

The tank is parked, hidden under the cover.

57	EXT. TANK - DUSK - CLOSE - A.I. PART	57
----	--------------------------------------	----

Wang's hands close around the Silicate's electronic part, which Nathan picked up. Somehow, the mechanism remains "alive." A small red indicator light blinks mockingly.

WIDER

Paul looks up to see the 58th, their faces filled with emotions he had hoped to never see - disappointment and suspicion. Cyril sits behind the squad members, rubbing the circulation back into his limbs.

Wang looks away from their accusing eyes. Sighs. CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY AROUND HIM...

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

WANG

(X)

One time...I was in a car accident. It was my fault. The light went from yellow to red...and I gunned it. And a guy in a truck was making a left and I rammed into him.

He pauses, sighs, as if in a confessional.

(X)

WANG

(X)

And, what I always remember is how fast your mind works. In a second...less than a second...I thought...I should of hit the brakes. I even remember thinking...I wish I could have that second back, so I could stop. And that's when I hit the other car.

He can't bring himself to look at the others.

WANG (CONT'D)

(X)

Imagine that moment...that feeling, gnawing at you every minute of your life. Only the consequences of your actions were much more life effecting.

(searching for examples)

Someone who didn't take a moment to lock the gun cabinet and their child dies. Some kids who didn't take a second to use a rubber and a teenager ends up pregnant. A Marine, who didn't stop to think he was betraying...the Corp, his country.

Wang becomes quite emotional. The others listen.

(X)

COOPER

(X)

Wang, those AIs tortured you, man. What else could you do?

WANG

(X)

I could have let them kill me!

(beat)

Rather than let you down.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2)

57

SHANE

(X)

Paul, nobody ever believes those
confessions everyone knows you're
not a war criminal...

WANG

(X)

That's not the point of them!
The point is to show they can
break your spirit.

(furious)

Why couldn't my body have broken
down before my soul? They may as
well have cut off a hand or a
leg...because they took something
from me that I can never get
back.

He tries to collect himself, but as he talks, the effect is
purging.

(X)

(X)

WANG

(X)

It so obsessed me...
so...possessed me...that when the
chance arose to erase it without
anyone knowing...I took it. I
swear I never... NEVER...
intended to give the cell to
them. I just wanted the optical
disc with the confession. I
thought I could get back what
they took. I needed it back.

Wang feels sick, he breathes heavy.

(X)

WANG

(X)

Even at the risk of your lives.
Lives that mean more to me
than...

(a realization)

than my own. I'm sorry.

As Wang cries the others look to one another, understanding and
forgiving, yet concerned and accusatory for the current
situation. The silence is awkward.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

(X)

It's getting dark.

MCQUEEN

(X)

We have no choice but to see how
far the partially recharged fuel
cells can take us by morning.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (3)

57

The awkward silence remains. McQueen looks about.

(X)

MCQUEEN

(X)

For what its worth, Paul...I've
been were you're at. And I know
you feel more alone than...well,
Cyril. But you've got people
around you to help you find what
you've lost.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (4)

57

Wang looks about his friends, backing up McQueen's statement.
Wang gets up and moves to Cyril.

(X)

(X)

WANG

(X)

Major... I'd like to apologize
for not coming forward when you
were accused... I'm the one who
can't be trusted.

CYRIL

(X)

Lieutenant, apology accepted.
Now, If we've learned anything
here its to not compound one
mistake with another. If you
people insist on taking me back,
I say we don't waste another
moment in group counseling and
drive on to the rendezvous point!

As Cyril stands and climbs onto the tank, the other get up and
quickly get in motion.

(X)

(X)

Wang, however, seems slow to respond, still immobilized with
guilt.

(X)

(X)

CUT TO:

58 OMITTED

58

59 INT. TANK - NIGHT

59

Everyone is inside. Damphousse studies the tank's manual on the computer monitor. She hits some buttons and engages some switches.

The 58th squadron and invited guest silently cheer for Pearly to come to life. The tank rumbles for a moment. Everyone "cheers" and "hoo-yahs" before the tank sputters and falls silent.

Damphousse tries again. Before hitting the last button, she leans in close to the control panel, seductively stoking the instruments. With a low whisper...

DAMPHOUSSE
Come on, Pearly...who loves ya?
Huh? You know its me, baby.

The vehicle THUNDERS TO LIFE with a SOUND that indicates there will be no stalling this time. Damphousse turns to McQueen.

DAMPHOUSSE
That weirds me out on so many
different levels.

CYRIL
DRIVE ON! Be prepared... this
upcoming area is heavy with Chig
activity.

(X)
(X)
(X)

Damphousse turns and throws the beast in gear.

A60 EXT. MINVERVA - NIGHT

A60

The tank leaves the area, roaring off toward the rendezvous point.

DISSOLVE TO:

B60 EXT. MORE MINERVA - NIGHT

B60

Pearly races across the barren dark landscape.

DISSOLVE TO:

C60 EXT. BEST OF MINERVA - NIGHT

C60

The tank continues through the night, however, it seems to begin to slow down.

"Pearly" 3S18 2/16/96 PINK

51AA

D60 INT. TANK - NIGHT

D60

Suddenly, the tank's lights start flickering.

(CONTINUED)

D60 CONTINUED:

D60

DAMPHOUSSE
I think the power cell's fading.

(X)

PHFFFFT! The power and lights dim.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE
Not now, Pearly, sunrise is only
thirty minutes away.

(X)

WANG
Quiet. You hear something?

(X)

The 58th look to Wang, unsure of his command. A beat of
silence. Then... in the distance, the faint RUMBLE of heavy
machinery.

WEST
I hear it.

CYRIL
That's a Chig T-77 tank. If we
had a radio I could figure out if
they were heading toward us.

(X)

MCQUEEN
If we keep the main power off,
they may not find us.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE
We have no choice, to engage them
would probably spend the
remaining power.

(X)

McQueen signals to Cooper who kills the power.

The 58th, illuminated only by their flashlights, sit silently,
waiting. CAMERA MOVES next to Wang, SETTLING on the A.I. part
from Felicity OH. As the indicator light blinks in the dark...

60 OMITTED
61 OMITTED

60
61

A62 EXT. MINERVA - NIGHT

A62 (X)

The tank sits still in the darkness. O.S., ALIEN LAND CRUISERS
RUMBLE.

(X)

(X)

62 INT. TANK - NIGHT

62

Cyril and the 58th wait silently in the dark. The RUMBLE of the enemy tank grows closer...

SHANE

We can't sit around blind. Let's open her eyes.

Damphousse nods. She flips a switch.

CLOSE - COMPUTER SCREEN

The monitors blink on. A lone BLIP appears on the screen... heading straight for them.

WIDER

Damphousse jolts up. Nathan crowds over her shoulder.

DAMPHOUSSE

No way...

NATHAN

It's moving like it knows exactly where we are.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Wang as he realizes...

WANG'S POV - THE A.I. PART

blinking.

RETURN

Wang's boot SMASHES the Silicate part to bits. Everyone turns to him, startled.

WANG

(RE: part)

That's how they're homing in.

DAMPHOUSSE

500 meters to range solution.

COOPER

Do it, if the tank stops we'll run our asses off to the rendezvous point.

(X)

(X)

Sounds like a good idea, until everyone collectively seems to recall Shane and her injury. She seems to take offense that she would be responsible for holding them back.

(X)

SHANE

LET'S MOVE!!

(X)

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

Cooper flips the toggle for the main power. As Pearly ROARS to life...

CUT TO:

63 OMITTED

63

64 EXT. TANK BATTLE AREA - NIGHT

64

An EXPLOSION rocks Pearly as the 58th RUMBLE away.

65 INT. TANK - NIGHT

65

Nathan is driving. Damphousse sits before the control panel.

DAMPHOUSSE

I'm on the Battlesight Range
Input. I need a gunner, topside
on the twin 50's!

CYRIL

On it.

SHANE

I'm behind the scope.

Shane moves behind the periscope. Cooper is stationed by the rockets. Only Wang is without an "assignment."

WANG

Who's going to Frag up?

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

DAMPHOUSSE
No loader, it's automatic.

Wang sits, and for the first time feeling like he's not a part of the 58th.

SHANE
(looking through
periscope)
Chig seventy-five meters at noon.

COOPER & CYRIL

put on their helmets with intercom headsets. They begin spraying hot lead.

CYRIL
IT'S A BLOODY BALLS UP!

66 EXT. TANK BATTLE AREA - NIGHT (CGI)

66

Bullets ricochet off the Chig tank armor harmlessly.

67 INT. TANK - NIGHT

67

Damphousse flips a couple switches. The targeting display flashes on her console.

CLOSE - COMPUTER SCREEN

"THERMAL IMAGING SIGHT (TIS)" is on the screen. A large heat outline of an advancing tank's exhaust comes up.

RETURN

Damphousse centers the CHIGS in the computer's scope.

COMPUTER VOICE
Heat up!

CLOSE - SCREEN

"HIGH EXPLOSIVE ANTI-TANK WARHEAD" lights up.

RETURN

DAMPHOUSSE
(into headset)
Hold on, guys!

Damphousse squeezes the palm grip and FIRES.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

COMPUTER VOICE
This beer's on you, Chiggie man!

Cooper and Cyril rock back as the canon FIRES HEAT!

68 EXT. THE LARGE CHIG TANK - NIGHT (CGI)

68

KABOOM! The Chig tank disappears behind a ball of flame.

69 INT. TANK - NIGHT

69

SHANE
Direct hit!

The 58th CHEER! Shane blanches as she continues looking out through the periscope.

SHANE'S POV - CHIG TANK

ROARS through the fire and smoke, unharmed.

SHANE (CONT'D) (O.S.)
But still coming.

RETURN

CYRIL
Chig T-77 has a high density
ceramic frontal armor. We must
to get a side shot with a SABOT!

(X)

(X)

NATHAN
I got the wheels, you just tell
me where to go...

70 EXT. TANK BATTLE AREA - NIGHT

70

Pearly drives toward the right as EXPLOSIONS surround her.

THE CHIG TANK (CGI)

FIRES it'S OWN WARHEAD. WOOSH! IT ZOOMS right at Pearly.

BANG! It hits Pearly in the rear as she was driving off. Not a direct hit, but enough to cripple.

71 INT. TANK - NIGHT

71

Rocked by the hit. Lights flicker.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

DAMPHOUSSE

We got a power loss. There's no
way we can out maneuver it.

Wang gets up, grabs a bazooka like rocket launcher, then moves
to the hatch.

SHANE

Paul!

WANG

Just keep moving. You'll get the
side shot.
(beat)
Trust me.

72 EXT. TANK - NIGHT

72

The hatch flies open. Wang climbs out, then drops down to the
ground, tumbling away from the moving tank.

73 INT. TANK - NIGHT

73

SHANE

(looking through
periscope)

Ten degrees North. Closing.

Cooper and Cyril continue to fire desperately on the predator.

DAMPHOUSSE

It's locking on us!

74 EXT. TANK BATTLE AREA - NIGHT

74

Wang sprints full out in front of the tank, with no regard for
personal safety as explosions rock around him.

75 INT. TANK - NIGHT - CLOSE - BATTLESIGHT RANGE MONITOR

75

BEEPS ominously as the Chig closes to point blank range.

Nathan rocks the tank controls, trying desperately to maneuver
away.

NATHAN

Can't shake him!

(X)

76 EXT. TANK BATTLE AREA - NIGHT

76

Wang drops into a CLOSE UP. The rocket launcher on his shoulder. He sights down the barrel, almost calm.

CHIG TANK (CGI)

As the large turret turns toward CAMERA, ready to fire.

WANG

launches his rocket. A plume of flame BLASTS from the rocket launcher.

CHIG TANK (CGI)

The SABOT warhead penetrates the side of the tank. Beat. The enemy EXPLODES, disintegrating.

WIDER

Wang is blown back by the force of the explosion. His expression is a mixture of relief and exaltation as he struggles to get up. Then, from behind him... A powerful kick sends Wang onto his back. Dazed, he looks up at Elroy and Felicity both with guns trained on the Marine. (X)

ELROY EL

If that tank can get us to Las Vegas, we'll let you be best man at our wedding. (X)

As Felicity tightens her finger on the trigger... (X)

FELICITY OH

Always a bridesmaid never a...

CLOSE - WANG

closes his eyes, resigned to the inevitable. BLAM! Wang flinches from the SOUND. Beat. His face registers surprise before he slowly opens his eyes. (X)

LOW ANGLE - WANG'S POV - PEARLY

moves through a shroud of smoke, stopping over him. It's forward 50's gun smoking.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

WIDER

Shane and the rest of the 58th climb out of the tank and approach Elroy El. The Silicates lie smoldering on the ground. As Nathan and Damphousse help Paul to his feet, Shane reaches down, to the A.I.'s body. She produces an optical hard drive. (X) Shane turns to Paul, the disc in her hand. She gestures for him to take it.

DAMPHOUSSE

It the optical hard drive. It'll
have your..."confession." on it.

Wang hesitates, then shakes his head. Shane looks to the others, then drops the disk to the ground.

CLOSE - DISK

As Shane's boot SMASHES the evidence...

RETURN

Shane looks to Paul.

(X)

SHANE

Hope that get's some of it back,
Paul.

As Wang reacts, it certainly helps.

CUT TO:

77 OMITTED

77

78 CONTINUED:

78

The ship begins to rumble. McQueen looks around.

MCQUEEN
Wait. Where's Major Mackendrick?

No one seems to know. O.S., Pearly ROARS to life. The 58th look out of the portholes...

AA79 EXT. EXTRACTION SITE - NIGHT

AA79 (X)

58TH'S POV - THE TANK

Cyril's head sticks out of the hatch. At first he salutes, then thumbs his nose as he disappears into the tank.

A79 INT. I.S.S.C.V. - DAY

A79

The squadron look to one another.

COOPER
Let him go. In a couple more months, he'll be our best weapon.

Everyone looks to Cooper, not quite understanding. The ISSCV begins to lift off the ground.

B79 EXT. MINERVA - DAY

B79

The ISSCV lifts off the ground and arcs around as it lifts into the sky toward Space. AS CAMERA PANS to FOLLOW, Pearly TEARS INTO FRAME. CAMERA now follows the tank as it drives off, God knows where, into the sun.

79 OMITTED

79

FADE OUT

END ACT FOUR