

THE PRICE OF WAR

Written by

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GENRE: World War 2 Drama

SUPERIMPOSE ON BLACK SCREEN: BASED ON A TRUE STORY.

FADE IN:

EXT. FARMLAND - IOWA - DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: 1935

The morning sun floods waving fields of wheat, illuminating them in gold. A farmer, BOB SMITH, works a tractor through its morning routine. He pulls up to a barn where his son, BOB JR., aka "SMITTY", throws baseballs into a haystack, one after another. Smitty is twelve years old.

BOB

Hey son, I told you that you can practice your pitching only after your chores are done.

The boy whizzes a pitch into the hay.

SMITTY

All done, Pop.

BOB

You feed the chickens?

SMITTY

Yes, Pop.

Whizzes another pitch.

BOB

And the pigs?

SMITTY

Yes, Pop.

And another.

BOB

And you milked the cows?

SMITTY

And fed them and watered the garden and cleaned out the barn.

Whizzes another pitch and looks at his father as he is approaching him.

BOB

Then you better start working on your curveball.

Bob puts his arm around his son as they walk to the house.

SMITTY

I know how to throw one, I have
to learn how to hit one!

BOB

I'll show you after breakfast.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Bob's wife, SUSAN, sets up the breakfast table. A one-year old, TOMMY, and seven-year old, SHAWN, sit at the table.

BOB

Smells good Suzie, nothing like a
good breakfast.

SUZIE

Hurry and sit, your eggs are getting
cold.

Bob and Smitty sit at the table. Smitty rubs Shawn's head as Bob kisses Tommy. Smitty pours two glasses of milk hands one to Shawn.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Smitty, make sure you take your
lunch today, I don't want you hungry
at school.

SMITTY

I will, Ma.

SUZIE

I don't want anyone thinking I don't
feed my boys.

She kisses his forehead and proceeds to feed Tommy in his high chair.

SHAWN

Smitty, you gotta show me how
to throw a screwball after school
today.

SMITTY

I show you everyday.

SHAWN

But you throw it the best!

SMITTY

Look at this arm, Shawn. Best arm in Iowa! In a few years I'll get a scholarship to Iowa State, then get drafted by the Yankees!

SUZIE

As long as you keep your grades up!

SMITTY

They're always up, Ma!

BOB

Don't worry about the Yankees, just get an education, that's the important thing!

SMITTY

Not if I'm making fifteen thousand a year for the Yanks!

SHAWN

Wow! Fifteen thousand, Smitty, you can buy Iowa!

BOB

Son, how many times have I said it before, an education is something--

SMITTY

(finishing)

That no one can take away from you.

Suzie giggles.

BOB

That's it Suzie, encourage him, make him believe in fairytales. He gets that from you!

SUZIE

Just keep your grades up, son.

Suzie winks at Smitty.

SMITTY

Yes, Ma.

EXT. FARM - OUTSIDE PARIS, FRANCE - DAY

JACQUE, a 50 year-old Frenchman, digs in his field while his wife, MONIQUE, helps him. A car pulls up and a SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, a RABBI and RAY, Jacque and Monique's 17 year

old son, exit the vehicle. Jacque and Monique walk over to the car.

JACQUE

Hello Rabbi. I'm going to assume this is not a good news visit.

Ray stares at the ground.

RABBI

Unfortunately, no. Can we speak privately?

JACQUE

Raymond, go into the house.

Ray walks away and goes inside.

JACQUE (CONT'D)

What now?

RABBI

He was caught stealing test answers to distribute to his friends.

JACQUE

What does that mean for him? What are the ramifications?

RABBI

That's why we are here. In the hope that I could talk some sense to him, and get you involved.

SUPERINTENDENT

Listen, Ray is a brilliant student. However, the board is leaning toward expulsion. We cannot tolerate fighting, cheating... It's unacceptable. It's not fair to the other students.

JACQUE

I understand.

SUPERINTENDENT

However, I disagree with the board's recommendation. And I have the final say. Ray is at the top of his class and doesn't need to cheat. He was only trying to help his friends.

(MORE)

SUPERINTENDENT (CONT'D)

Now, you must understand that this can never happen again. And you must stress this to him in the clearest language...

JACQUE

Of course.

SUPERINTENDENT

But we may be able to overlook this. Your son has been accepted to Ecole des Ponts et Chausse'es in Paris. It is one of the most prestigious schools in the country. It would be a waste for him to lose that opportunity for such an indiscretion. But it must be impressed upon him that this behavior cannot continue. If it happens again, I will not be able to intervene.

JACQUE

Understood. It will not happen again, you have my word.

SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you.

MONIQUE

Thank you so much, Rabbi.

RABBI

You are welcome. I like Ray a lot. I think he is destined for great things if he can stay on the right track.

Jacque shakes their hands and they drive off. Jacque and Monique look at each other knowingly and head back to the house.

CUT TO:

INT HOUSE - CONTINUING

MARIE, early 20s, Ray's older sister, sits at a table feeding her baby, as Jacque enters. Marie's husband, GERARD, works on garden tools at a table. Marie looks at her father and pleads with him.

MARIE

Please go easy on him, Poppa. He was only trying to help his friends. He's young, he doesn't know any better.

JACQUE

He'll know better when I get through with him.

MARIE

He's just tired of being poor, Poppa.

JACQUE

Mind yourself, Marie.

Jacque heads to a back bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Ray sits on his bed as Jacque paces back and forth.

JACQUE

How do I get it through your head, Raymond? One more slip up and that's it, you're gonna be expelled. And you will have squandered everything you've worked for. First the fighting and now stealing? What are you thinking, son?

RAY

Dad, when the rich snobs call me and my friends peasant farmers, what do you expect me to do? Just swallow their insults?

JACQUE

That's not what we're talking about now.

RAY

Yes it is, you just brought it up.

JACQUE

I was using it as an example.

RAY

Well, it was a bad example. I haven't been in a fight in months.

JACQUE

That's enough!

Ray goes silent.

JACQUE (CONT'D)

Raymond, your mother and I work very hard to provide our children with opportunities.

(MORE)

JACQUE (CONT'D)

I need your word that incidents like
this will never happen again.

RAY

You have my word, Father.

INT. DORMITORY - JUNKERSCHULE BAD TOLZ - GERMANY - DAY

A 17 year-old JOACHIM PEIPER, dressed in a military uniform, stares out a window. Outside, a German Shepard stalks a cat that is eating a bird it just killed. Peiper is mesmerized by the dog. His older brother, HORST, enters the dorm and sees his brother and calls for him.

HORST

Joachim!

No answer. He calls again, but Joachim is transfixed by the dog. In one swift move the Shepard pounces and latches onto the cat by its neck, breaking it instantly.

HORST (CONT'D)

Joachim!!

Peiper turns to see Horst and a smile comes across his face.

PEIPER

Horst, good day brother.

HORST

(looks out the window)

Not for the cat! Hurry we'll be late.

Another MILITARY STUDENT sits on a bed near Joachim and Horst.

MILITARY STUDENT

Are you and Horst really going to take
the SS oath today?

PEIPER

We have been waiting to take this oath
since we started in Hitler Youth.

He puts his arm around his brother.

HORST

If we don't hurry, we'll be late.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Nazi flags hang from the stage. Peiper and Horst attend a ceremony with hundreds of other young men where they pledge

allegiance to the Nazi Party.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Peiper stands in front of a metal barrel with a fire burning in it. He plays with the fire with a tree branch. Horst sees him.

HORST

Where were you? You weren't at mess.

PEIPER

Here.

Horst approaches the barrel.

HORST

You have loved fire ever since you were born.

Peiper lifts the stick from the fire pulling out the dead cat, burned to a crisp.

HORST (CONT'D)

Why do you keep burning things?

Peiper has a blank expression on his face as he twirls the stick, fixated on the cat. He adjusts his gaze and looks at Horst with lifeless eyes.

PEIPER

For... purification.

Peiper tosses the cat back into the fire.

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND, IOWA HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1939

The bases are loaded. Kids cheer in the bleachers. Susan and Shawn are seated next to a bunch of teenage girls.

The scoreboard reads:

HOME: 3 VISITORS: 1

INNING: 7TH BTM

OUTS: 2

KELLY, a teenage girl, sits next to Shawn and cheers.

KELLY

C'mon Smitty! Finish'em off!!

Shawn sees this and joins in.

SHAWN

Finish'em off Smitty! You can do it!

Smitty on the mound looks over at his little brother in the stands and tips his cap. He then looks at Kelly and she winks at him. He smiles. OZZIE, the team's first baseman walks to the mound to talk over strategy with Smitty, the CATCHER and HARRY, the team's manager.

HARRY

What the hell you smilin' at?! All we need is one more out and we go to the state playoffs!

Smitty looks at the coach.

SMITTY

I'm not smiling coach.

HARRY

Get your head outta your ass and into the game! Now get this next palooka out and let's go home!

SMITTY

Yes, sir!

Harry and the catcher walk away.

OZZIE

C'mon Smitty, get this guy out and we can get any girl in town we want!

Ozzie pats Smitty on the butt.

SMITTY

Just get back to first.

The BATTER comes to the plate. He is a big, muscular boy. The kind that bashes homeruns. He glares menacingly at Smitty.

Smitty settles in, checks the catcher for his sign, nods, winds up and throws a heater that the batter just stares at.

The UMPIRE thrusts out his right arm.

UMPIRE

Steerike!

The crowd cheers. The Batter looks back at Smitty.

BATTER

Throw that shit again! I wanna see if
you got the guts!

Even though the batter is a senior and Smitty is a sophomore, he is not intimidated by him. Smitty looks back at the batter and winks at him. The Batter is furious. He squeezes the handle of the bat. Smitty nods to the catcher, winds up and throws another fastball that the hitter almost catches up to, but fouls off. The crowd cheers louder.

UMPIRE

Steerike two!

The catcher takes a ball from the umpire and throws it back to Smitty.

CATCHER

Atta boy Smitty! One more, that's
all, one more!

BATTER

That's it Smitty, one more! Throw that
slop again, I'll hit it to Wyoming!

Smitty looks at his mother and brother in the stands. Shawn can't contain himself. He idolizes Smitty.

SHAWN

C'mon Smitty! Get'em, you can get
this big lug!

Smitty tips his hat again to him. Kelly sees this and hugs Shawn. She has a big crush on Smitty.

Smitty picks up the rosin bag, throws it down and wipes away sweat from his forehead. He steps back on the mound, refocuses on the catcher, nods, and winds up.

BATTER

Bring that heater.

Smitty unfurls a looping curveball that starts at the batter's head and breaks right over the plate, buckling the batter's knees and freezing him in amazement. The sound of the ball popping in the catcher's glove shatters the silence.

UMPIRE

Steerike three! You're out!

The stands erupt in cheers as the players rush the mound and jump all over Smitty. Shawn, Susan and Kelly are all cheering and hugging each other. Shawn is ecstatic.

SHAWN

I knew he could do it! I knew it!

After the players are done celebrating, Smitty walks over to his mom, Shawn and Kelly. Susan and Shawn run to hug him.

SUSAN

That's my boy! My baby!

She kisses Smitty.

SMITTY

(embarrassed)

Aww, Ma.

SHAWN

Best arm in Iowa! The best!!

After they are done hugging him Kelly walks up to Smitty and plants one right on the mouth. They both look at each other, stunned.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Ewww!

Susan sees this and is astonished.

SUSAN

Oh, my God! Did I just witness my baby's first kiss?

SHAWN

What'd you go and do that for?

KELLY

I don't know, but it felt right.

SUSAN

What a day! I can't wait to tell your father!

SMITTY

No Ma! Don't you dare!

They all laugh at him. Kelly slips her hand into Smitty's and they all walk off the field together.

INT. HEINRICH HIMMLER'S OFFICE - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Peiper walks in and approaches the secretary, SIGURD 'SIG' HINRICHSON, early 20s.

SIG

Hello, may I help you?

PEIPER

Yes, I am here to see Heir Himmler.
(hands her his papers)
Here are my orders.

SIG

Ah yes, Heir Peiper, he is expecting
you, let me see if he is busy. Please
have a seat.

She gets up and walks into Himmler's office. Joachim takes a
seat. A few moments go by as she walks out of the office.

SIG (CONT'D)

Heir Himmler will see you now.

Peiper walks to the office while Sig holds the door open for
him. They make eye contact and both are attracted to each
other. HEINRICH HIMMLER, mid-30s, sits behind his desk.

HIMMLER

Joachim, come in.

Peiper stands at attention and raises his right arm.

PEIPER

Heil Hitler!

HIMMLER

(raises his arm)
Heil! At ease, Joachim.
(to Sig)
Some coffee, please.

PEIPER

Thank you, Heir Himmler.

Sig leaves to fetch coffee.

HIMMLER

As you know Joachim, I've been
following your career for a while now.

PEIPER

Yes, sir.

HIMMLER

You took the oath in '35 and
completed Junkeschule in '36.

PEIPER

Yes.

HIMMLER

And you are now attending the University.

PEIPER

Yes sir, I shall finish next year.

HIMMLER

With honors, no doubt.

PEIPER

I shall try my best, sir.

HIMMLER

You always do, Joachim, that is why you are here. I would like you to be my adjutant.

PEIPER

(stands at attention)

I would be honored, Heir Himmler.

Sig carries in a tray of coffee and strudel. She pours two cups and hands one to Himmler, then looks at Peiper.

SIG

How do you take your coffee, sir?

PEIPER

Black, and you may call me Joachim.

She stares into his eyes as she hands him the cup.

SIG

Strudel?

PEIPER

Yes, please.

Himmler notices they are attracted to each other. Sig serves him and leaves.

HIMMLER

So it is set, you shall start after the weekend.

PEIPER

Yes, sir.

HIMMLER

First, we shall celebrate. I am having a party at my Chalais in Rottach. You must come to get to know my staff.

PEIPER

I shall be there, sir.

HIMMLER

You can drive up with Sig and her friend, Hedwig. Since you two will be working closely together, it will give you a chance to get to know each other better.

PEIPER

Whatever you wish, Heir Himmler

HIMMLER

Excellent. Go see your office, introduce yourself to the staff and get settled in. I'll see you tomorrow night.

Joachim stands at attention.

PEIPER

Good day, sir. Heil Hitler!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Ray sits in his desk as the PROFESSOR writes on the chalkboard. Ray's friend, FRANCOIS, sits next to him.

FRANCOIS

(whispers)

Ray, how do you think we did on the exam?

RAY

I did well. You, I don't know about.

PROFESSOR

Read the following chapter and have your summaries completed before next class. Some of you can use the refresher after this past exam.

He turns around to the teacher's table where there is a pile of exam papers.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Some did well, most not so well. You shall find out shortly into which category you landed. Collect them as you are leaving.

FRANCOIS

(to Ray)

I think I did well too.

RAY

Stop worrying. I tutored you all week.

The bell rings and the students rush to the table. Ray sees his paper. It has an A+ on it. Fran sees his D-, but he is happier than Ray.

FRANCOIS

Look Ray, I passed!

RAY

I told you not to worry.

The Professor walks over to them.

PROFESSOR

Fran, if you would do a little more studying and a little less women and wine, you will do much better.

FRANCOIS

But what is life without women and wine?

PROFESSOR

Nice job, Ray. Can you help your friend here?

RAY

I did sir, how do you think he passed?

PROFESSOR

Good, keep up the good work.

FRANCOIS

And now, time for women and wine!

EXT. PARISIAN CAFÉ - DAY

Ray and Francois enter a café to meet his girlfriend, LUCI, and her friend, Bridgitte. Luci is an enchanting, young French woman who attends the same school as Ray and Fran. Bridgitte is a student also. Ray and Fran join them at a table.

RAY

My sweet Luci!

LUCI

How are you, my dear?

He kisses her on both cheeks.

LUCI (CONT'D)

This is Bridgitte. She lives in my dorm.

RAY

Nice to meet you, Bridgitte.
This is my friend, Francois.

FRANCOIS

(kisses her hand)
Enchanted my darling.

BRIDGITTE

(enchanted)
Very nice to meet you both. Ray, I've heard so much about you I feel like I know you already.

Ray sits snugly next to Luci and grabs her hand. Francois does the same to Bridgitte.

FRANCOIS

What has Luci said about me?

BRIDGITTE

(pulls hand away slowly)
That you love wine, women and song more than your studies.

FRANCOIS

You only live once, mon cherie.
If it was not for women, there would be no wine or song.

Ray stifles a laugh. Luci sees this and starts mimicking Fran. She rubs Ray's hand and looks at him.

LUCI

(manly voice)
Without you there would be no wine or song.

They all laugh heartily. Just then, TWO STUDENTS approach the table and hand money to Ray.

STUDENT #1

Thanks, I couldn't have passed without it.

STUDENT #2

You are a life saver.

RAY

The pleasure is mine, thank you.

LUCI

Do I ask what that is for?

RAY

The costs of an education are always rising, my love.

The students leave.

FRANCOIS

You give those two the answers, but you make me study?

RAY

Because you my friend I have confidence in. Those two, not so much.

The girls laugh.

FRANCOIS

Laugh if you must Bridgitte, but my heart grows founder of you with every breath I take.

Bridgitte sighs, falling for Fran's charms. Ray and Luci are amused that Bridgitte is charmed by Fran.

RAY

Then for the poor girl's sake, stop breathing!

Luci laughs.

FRANCOIS

Say what you will Raymond, but all I ask from life is to have what you and Luci have.

RAY

(playfully)
What's that?

Luci smacks his arm.

FRANCOIS

(looks into Bridgitte's eyes)
Undying love, to know someone lives and breathes for a sweetheart.
(kisses her hand.)
Do you agree, Bridgitte?

BRIDGITTE

Oui!

RAY

(to Luci)

I rarely agree with him, but you do know that is how I feel about you, my darling?

LUCI

And I of you, my sweet.

They kiss.

INT. HIMMLER'S CHALAIS - NIGHT

A live band plays as waiters serve food and drinks. Partygoers dance and enjoy themselves. When the song is over, Himmler stands in front of the band to make a speech.

HIMMLER

Thank you all for coming, but you must also thank the man who is the reason for our celebration. He is an iron-willed young man, dedicated to Germany. He shall be my new adjutant. I introduce Joachim Peiper.

The partygoers applaud. Horst, standing next to his brother, claps proudly. Peiper joins Himmler in front of the crowd.

PEIPER

Thank you, Heir Himmler. Thank you all, I don't know what to say, but I am grateful for this wonderful opportunity. I shall dedicate my life to you and the Fatherland. Heil Hitler!

Himmler stands at attention, as do the partygoers with arms raised. In unison they reply, "Heil Hitler!"

EXT. HIMMLER'S CHALAIS BALCONY - NIGHT

A sprawling balcony with a beautiful view of the lake and forest, lit by moonlight. Peiper talks with Horst.

HORST

Adjutant Peiper! You lucky bastard! What I would do to be in your shoes.

PEIPER
 Hard work and discipline, brother.
 (puts his arm on Horst's
 shoulder)
 If it wasn't for you guiding me, I
 would not be here.

HORST
 Thank you, Joachim.

PEIPER
 I've always looked to you for strength
 and guidance.

Sig, dressed in a beautiful ball gown, walks over to the two
 men.

SIG
 Aren't you going to ask me to dance?

PEIPER
 Horst is a much better dancer than I.

HORST
 She wasn't asking me.

Horst walks away, leaving them alone.

PEIPER
 I'm not very good.

SIG
 You cannot be bad at anything.

She takes his hand and they start dancing.

PEIPER
 Tell me after the song how many
 of your toes I have crushed.

Sig smiles and they dance the night away.

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL, IOWA - DAY

Players practice on the baseball field. Some boys and girls
 are watching from the stands. Kelly sits with her friend LIZ,
 who is Ozzie's girlfriend.

Harry the Manager screams at Ozzie from the dugout.

HARRY

Hey Ozzie, get your head into baseball
or your gonna be running laps for the
rest of practice!

OZZIE

Yes, Coach.

But Ozzie keeps looking over at Liz. She blows him a kiss and
he catches it with his glove and places it on his heart.
Harry sees this.

HARRY

That's it, Ozzie! Start running!

OZZIE

But Coach, I didn't do anything!

HARRY

You're playing kissy-poo with
your little girlfriend over there!

OZZIE

No I wasn't!

HARRY

Start running or I'll bench your ass!

Smitty and the other players are laughing. This infuriates
Harry even further.

HARRY (CONT'D)

What are you guys laughing at?!
That's the problem with you teenagers,
you take everything for granted!

SMITTY

No we don't, coach.

HARRY

Don't give me any lip, boy! If you
would've had baseball on your
minds last year, we woulda won the
finals! Stop thinkin' about girls!

Ozzie running laps, passes by, near Harry.

OZZIE

Man cannot live on bread alone, Coach!

The girls in the bleachers start giggling. Harry throws a
glove at Ozzie and it hits him in the head. Giggling grows
louder from the boys and girls.

HARRY

That's it girls, you gotta go!
 (waves the girls off the
 bleachers)
 No more girls at practice.

KELLY

Coach, you can't do this.

HARRY

The hell I can't! My team, my field!
 Get out!

KELLY

(to Liz)
 Look at what you did.

LIZ

What? I didn't do anything!

The girls reluctantly begin to leave the bleachers.

KELLY

(mocking her)
 I didn't do anything, I didn't do
 anything... You sound just like
 Ozzie! No wonder you two are an
 item. Now we have to wait in the
 parking lot!

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

Smitty and Ozzie walk over to the girls. Ozzie is drenched in sweat. Smitty puts his arm around Kelly and kisses her. Liz goes to kiss Ozzie.

OZZIE

Wait, I can't even breathe! If you
 wanna put your lips on mine, you'll
 have to give me mouth to mouth
 resuscitation!

LIZ

Stop crying you big baby or I won't
 let you take me to the dance.

She kisses him anyway.

SMITTY

Speaking of the dance, who's taking
 you Kelly?

She punches him in the belly.

KELLY

Coach Harry! That'll teach ya!

OZZIE

Smitty, did your Dad say we can use the car?

SMITTY

Yea, but I had to promise him that I won't drink.

OZZIE

What?! Not even a little?

SMITTY

Not a drop.

OZZIE

Then I'll drink for both of us!

KELLY

Yea, like you did at Liz's birthday party last month.

They all laugh.

LIZ

The vomit was shooting out of his mouth like a fire breathing dragon!

OZZIE

Because that was cheap booze!

KELLY

Poor Billy, he had it all over him. We had to throw him in the horse troth to wash it off!

SMITTY

I'd have killed you if that was me!

OZZIE

Don't worry, this time I'm getting the good stuff, no more cheap crap!

SMITTY

It doesn't matter what you get, I made my Pa a promise that I'm not touching the stuff.

OZZIE

Suit yourself. What time you gonna get me?

SMITTY

I'll get you around seven, then we'll go pick up the princesses in my chariot at seven thirty.

KELLY

Come at eight, I want to make sure I'm ready.

SMITTY

Then, we'll pick you up at eight thirty. I want you to be the prettiest girl at the dance.

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A large banner hangs over the main entrance of the school:

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL SPRING DANCE 1939

Teenagers file in by the dozens. Smitty, Kelly, Ozzie and Liz get out of the car. Ozzie pulls out a pint of whiskey from his jacket, opens it and takes a swig.

OZZIE

Ohhh, that's the good stuff! Anybody want a taste?

SMITTY

I told you, none for me. Just take it easy, I don't want you becoming a complete mess!

LIZ

Or we'll leave you in a ditch somewhere. I'm not cleaning you up again.

KELLY

Hide that bottle, Coach is chaperoning. If he sees it, he'll break it over your head.

OZZIE

Everybody calm down, I'm gonna pace myself. I'm gonna cut a mean rug tonight.

Ozzie dances his way to the entrance. They're all laughing as they follow him in.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - CONTINUOUS

The gym is converted to a dance hall with streamers and

balloons. Big Band music blares while as teenagers dance.

Coach Harry stands at the front doors of the gym.

HARRY

Hey fellas, how'd you gorillas get
two pretty girls to accompany you
to the dance?

OZZIE

Charm and wit, Coach.

HARRY

Ozzie, you have neither.
(To Liz and Kelly)
What's the catch, girls?

KELLY

Just here for some fun with your
two best players.

LIZ

Who wouldn't want to be here with
Errol Flynn?

She squeezes Ozzie's arm.

HARRY

(rolls his eyes)
Well, have fun and don't spike the
punch Ozzie!

Harry winks at Ozzie as the couples enter the dance. They
spot their friends.

KELLY

There goes Michelle and Mildred!
Let's go say hello.

OZZIE

You two go over, we'll be right
there, I gotta show Liz my new
dance moves.

LIZ

Here we go, now I'm with Fred
Astaire.

Ozzie pulls Liz onto the dance floor.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Don't step on my shoes, they're
my sister's. She'll kill me!

Ozzie spins her and she laughs giddily. Smitty and Kelly walk over to MICHELLE and MILDRED, red-headed twins, who are accompanied by their dates, RONNIE and TED, who are also on the baseball team. They all greet each other.

TED

Hey Smitty, you ain't gonna believe it.

SMITTY

What?

TED

I got accepted to Texas Tech, full scholarship. Have you heard anything yet?

RONNIE

Every school in the country has gotta be beating down your door.

SMITTY

Yeah, but I want to stay close to home.

MICHELLE

Isn't that sweet Kelly, he can't leave you for a second!

KELLY

I think it's more for his momma than me.

MILDRED

Can't cut those apron strings Smitty?

SMITTY

No, Kelly's gonna go to Iowa State so I'm waiting on them.

TED

Smitty, the scouts were at all our playoff games last year and this year, you're a shoo-in.

RONNIE

Anybody got any booze?

SMITTY

Not me, not tonight, but...

He turns his head and nods to Ozzie and Liz jitterbugging on the dance floor.

SMITTY (CONT'D)

I'm sure Bojangles has some.

They all laugh. Smitty grabs Kelly by the hand and takes her on the dance floor.

EXT. FARM BARN HOUSE - NIGHT

Smitty and Kelly are making out. He's trying to get from second base to third, then hopefully home. She stops him.

KELLY

Whoa stallion, hold up!

SMITTY

C'mon Kelly, you know you want to.

KELLY

I do, but I keep hearing my father's words in my head.

SMITTY

Which ones?

KELLY

You know, "No boy will buy the cow when they get the milk for free." If something happens, he'll tar and feather both of us!

SMITTY

(looking around)

I don't see your father.

KELLY

I know.

SMITTY

We've gone further than this before. You're my girl, why stop now?

KELLY

Because I'm your girl, not your wife.

SMITTY

You sound like your father.

KELLY

What am I supposed to sound like? I'm his daughter.

SMITTY

Don't worry honey, I'm gonna marry you as soon as we're done college.

KELLY

So you want me to make love to you on that flimsy promise?

SMITTY

Ozzie already thinks we've done it. He's done it with Liz.

KELLY

I'm not Liz. I want to make sure we're together forever.

SMITTY

I promise you, I love you. I only want you.

KELLY

What happens when we get to college and all the girls are swooning over you when you're the big baseball star? You'll forget about me at the drop of a hat.

SMITTY

Never. I'll never drop you. I want my kids to look just like you. I never want another girl. Here, take my ring, it's my most valued possession.

He takes off his school ring and hands it to her.

KELLY

Oh, Smitty, I've been waiting for this.

She puts it on her finger.

SMITTY

It's a down payment until I get you a real ring. I want to marry you, I want a life with you, no one else.

He kisses her.

KELLY

I want that too, but we're still not going all the way.

She kisses him.

EXT. CHURCH - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Peiper and Sig exit the church as rice is thrown at them. Horst and Himmler are in attendance.

HORST

Let me be the first to kiss the lovely
bride!

Horst kisses Sig.

SIG

Thank you, Horst.

Himmler looks at his watch and sees a motorcade driving down
the street.

HIMMLER

I too shall kiss the beautiful bride.

He kisses her.

SIG

Thank you, Heir Himmler

HIMMLER

I have two surprises for you, my
dear. The first is arriving now.

The motorcade stops in front of the church, blocking the
street. Nazi soldiers stand guard as a large Mercedes-Benz
limousine adorned with swastikas comes to a stop.

Out of the limo comes ADOLF HITLER. The churchgoers all raise
their right arms to salute him. He salutes back to the crowd
and walks over to Himmler. They turn to the couple, who are
in awe.

HIMMLER (CONT'D)

Mein Führer, this is the couple I
told you about. Joachim and Sigurd
Peiper.

HITLER

(shakes Peiper's hand)
I've heard very good things about the
both of you from Heir Riechfuhrer
Himmler. You are the building blocks
of the future of our Fatherland.

PEIPER

Thank you, Mein Führer.

HITLER

(to crowd)
This young couple is exactly what we
need!

(MORE)

HITLER (CONT'D)

What we are trying to build here!
German bloodlines for generations to
come!!

The crowd erupts.

SIG

We shall try our best, Mein Führer.

HITLER

I am sure you will. I wish the best of
luck to you in your career and your
marriage.

Hitler kisses Sig on both cheeks and shakes Peiper's hand
again. The crowd cheers again.

PEIPER

Thank you, Mein Führer.

Himmler walks with Hitler over to his limousine. The
motorcade drives away. Himmler walks back to the couple.

HIMMLER

Did you enjoy your first surprise?

SIG

Yes, Heir Himmler, very much so.

HIMMLER

My second surprise is not as glorious,
but I shall try.

PEIPER

Sir, a chest of gold could not match
that.

HIMMLER

No chests of gold. Only that you
honeymoon at my chalais in Ruttach.

SIG

Oh, sir!

PEIPER

I don't want to inconvenience you.

HIMMLER

It is no inconvenience, my son. You
shall stay for the week and not
another word.

PEIPER

We do not know how to thank you for such a wondrous day.

HIMMLER

You have already thanked me with your unwavering loyalty and commitment. Arrangements have already been made, so go enjoy yourselves.

PEIPER & SIG

Thank you.

They get into a car and leave.

INT. CHALAIS BEDROOM - NIGHT

A fire roars in the massive fireplace. Peiper and Sig lie nude on a large, white, polar bear rug, having just finished making love. Champagne is on ice as Peiper rises to pour it.

SIG

Oh Joachim, what a storybook day.

She rubs him as he hands her a glass and lies back next to her.

SIG (CONT'D)

Everything was perfect. The flowers, the church, the chalais. And the Führer himself wishing us luck.

Peiper becomes fixated on the fire.

PEIPER

It was a stupendous day, for Himmler to open his home to us, for the Führer to take time out of his schedule, to say those marvelous words to us. I would walk through the fires of hell for the both of them.

SIG

And I would follow you anywhere.

She kisses him passionately.

INT. HIMMLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Sig escorts Peiper into the office. Waiting for him are Himmler and JOSEF "SEPP" DIETRICH, Commander of the 6th Panzer Army and a personal friend of Adolf Hitler. A map of Poland is on the wall.

PEIPER
(stands at attention)
Heil, Heir Himmler.

HIMMLER
Heil, Joachim. At ease.

Peiper makes eye contact with Dietrich.

PEIPER
(salutes him)
Heil, Heir Commandant.

DIETRICH
Heil, Joachim. Good to see you again,
my boy. It's been too long.

PEIPER
Thank you sir, and I you.

DIETRICH
I'm sorry to have missed your wedding.

PEIPER
I understand, sir.

HIMMLER
The Commandant was just going over
details of the current operation, Fall
Weiss, and he insisted on you being
present.

DIETRICH
Yes, I remember at Junkerschule, you
were one of my best students.

PEIPER
One has to be prepared, sir. When is
the start of the invasion?

HIMMLER
Soon, very soon.

PEIPER
If I may ask, Heir Himmler, will I be
joining the invasion?

HIMMLER
No, you shall stay behind and
correspond with the Commandant. You'll
be providing progress reports on the
operation.

PEIPER

But sir, I would be of much better use on the battlefield.

HIMMLER

You'll get your chance, Joachim, but the Führer himself requested you personally. He knows of your relationship with Commandant Dietrich; he trusts you with the precise updates.

DIETRICH

I spoke to the Führer today and advised him how I know you since the Hitler Youth Program. I want him to trust you like I do. I know you are one of the best young tank commanders we have.

PEIPER

Precisely why I belong in a tank, not behind a desk. Following you, sir.

HIMMLER

The spirit of youth. You must learn the art of politics as you know the art of war, young man.

DIETRICH

You will get your chance. I promise you, Joachim.

PEIPER

I appreciate your confidence, but I want to be in a tank serving the fatherland.

DIETRICH

You will. Show loyalty here first and then you shall command any battalion you desire. Now come over to the map and I'll show you our first steps.

PEIPER

Do I know anyone going with you?

HIMMLER

Yes, the Commandant said if he couldn't have you in the field, he requested your brother, Horst.

PEIPER

Fine choice, sir. He will serve you well.

INT. LOUVRE MUSEUM - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1940

Ray, wearing a military uniform, and Luci, admire art work when they bump into his Professor.

PROFESSOR

Ray, Luci, nice to see you. How's military life treating you?

RAY

Well, I joined as an engineer, so it's interesting.

PROFESSOR

They should be glad to have you. You were one of my finest students. Do they think we'll have any problem with Germany?

RAY

With Hitler, you never know.

LUCI

I don't trust him. Just look at what they did to the Poles.

PROFESSOR

After the Great War, I think the defense of the Maginot Line will protect us.

RAY

I have my doubts, Professor. The Maginot Line has multiple vulnerabilities. I informed the Army of my opinions but they are closed-minded.

LUCI

Maybe when de Gaulle's man hears you out, if you explain it to him correctly, perhaps you can change some minds.

PROFESSOR

de Gaulle's man?

RAY

I have a meeting with him today,
that's why I'm in Paris. His name is
Jean Moulin.

PROFESSOR

Yes, Marie, I know him well. He was
also a student of mine. He's a
loyalist, a fine man.

LUCI

That's what we've heard. We're hoping
Ray can help our cause in explaining
our weaknesses. We don't want France
to end up like Poland.

PROFESSOR

Let's hope not. Ray will do a fine
job. Moulin is open-minded. He will
listen.

RAY

I think so also.

PROFESSOR

Well, let's get something to eat so
you won't go to the meeting hungry. My
treat, its the least I can do for my
country.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE ON BLACK SCREEN: 1940

CUT TO:

EXT. FRANCE - BATTLEFIELDS - MONTAGE

The German blitzkrieg runs through France.

They blow through, around and over the Maginot Line and take
France in two weeks.

German soldiers and nazi flags dominate the streets of Paris.

The Vichy Regime is in command of France. They work hand in
hand with the Germans. They also help finding and rounding up
Jews.

They are in all cities and towns looking for them, marking
their houses and businesses for them to be picked up.

Trains packed with prisoners depart for concentration camps.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Jacques and Monique's farmhouse has a Star of David marking the front door. They are inside, frightened.

MONIQUE

What are they going to do with us?

JACQUES

They said they were going to gather us all up and put us on a train.

MONIQUE

To where?

JACQUES

I don't know, but we're going sometime today.

MONIQUE

I'm afraid, what if they find out about Marie? She is watching Ray's baby, Simone.

JACQUES

They won't, she's married to a Catholic. They think she's Catholic too.

MONIQUE

What about the baby? If they find out about her, who knows what they'll do.

Jacques hugs his wife to comfort her.

JACQUES

Please try not to worry. Everything will be fine.

There is a light knock on the back door. It is Marie. Monique opens the door, but she does not come in.

MARIE

Momma, Poppa!

(hugs both of them)

Where are you going, how will I be able to get in contact with you?

JACQUES

Please don't worry, dear. We will do as we're told. There shouldn't be any problems. Once we get there, we'll find a way to contact you.

MARIE

Oh Poppa!

JACQUES

You must be strong, Marie. We need you to be strong. For the sake of your family. Try not to make any contact with Ray and Luci because they'll find out you're Jewish. They'll execute you and your family if they find out you're related to a high ranking official in the Resistance.

MONIQUE

We'll try to get word to you as soon as possible. Be safe my child, your father and I love you very much.

They hug and kiss Marie good-bye, who then she sneaks away from the house.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

Is it true that Ray was caught? If it's true will we be put with him?

JACQUES

I hope not but if he was he'll be put in a POW camp. That's different than where we're going.

MONIQUE

I hope he's safe.

A loud knock on the front door startles them. Jacques opens it to see German SS SOLDIERS.

SS SOLDIER

Jacques and Monique Aubrac?

JACQUES

Yes.

SS SOLDIER

Come with us. Quietly.

JACQUES

Where are we going?

SS SOLDIER

You will find out when you get there.

Jacques and Monique clasp hands and walk out together.

EXT. TRAIN YARD - DAY

A group of prisoners are shackled together. Ray and Francois are among them. An SS OFFICER is going over papers on a clipboard with another SS SOLDIER.

SS OFFICER

These prisoners are going on "B" train. They are high priority. Have they all been checked?

SS SOLDIER #2

Yes, sir!

OFFICER

No weapons?

SS SOLDIER #2

Nothing sir, just the clothes on their back and cigarettes.

OFFICER

Then you may load them as soon as they're done loading the train with ammunition.

SS SOLDIER #2

Yes, sir!

While they are waiting, Ray takes out his cigarettes and lights one.

FRANCOIS

Ray, give me one.

He hands Francois the pack. SOLDIER #2 sees this and walks over.

SS SOLDIER #2

No talking!

He takes the pack from Francois and takes one of the cigarettes out.

SS SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

(to Ray)

Give me a light.

Ray lights his cigarette and the German takes a drag.

SS SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

Ew! French cigarettes taste like shit!
Get in line! Let's go!

The prisoners walk next to the train in single file. As they pass the ammunition car, Ray pulls the book of matches out of his pocket. He puts his lit cigarette in the book of matches and tosses them in the open car door, landing on the straw covered bottom. They file up three cars away.

SS SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

In here! Move it!

They get in the car. Moments later the train pulls out. The train drives through the French countryside. Two soldiers keep watch.

FRANCOIS

I hear SS interrogations are a piece of cake.

RAY

I was hoping we would miss that part.

FRANCOIS

How?

RAY

I made a little time bomb and threw it in one of the cars. I guess it didn't work.

FRANCOIS

At least you tried.

SS SOLDIER #2

I said shut up!

BOOM! The ammunition car explodes. The shock from the blast lifts the train in the air, derailing it. The train is a wreck. The car Ray is in on its side. One soldier is dead, the other is semi-conscious. Ray gets behind him quickly and puts his wrist shackles around his neck. He strangles him. He checks for a key.

RAY

See if the other one has any keys.

Francois frisks the dead soldier and finds keys to free the men. They take the guns and ammunition from the dead Germans.

RAY (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here quick!

They crawl out of the wreck and head down the tracks.

INT. HIMMLER'S OFFICE - DAY

In the office with Himmler is WERNER GROTHMAN. Peiper enters and salutes them.

PEIPER

What can I do for you, sir?

HIMMLER

Joachim, you know Werner.

PEIPER

Yes.

HIMMLER

We were just discussing your job.

PEIPER

Is there a problem, sir?

HIMMLER

Werner here is taking your place as my adjutant.

PEIPER

Am I not doing a good job, heir Himmler?

HIMMLER

I told you before you would get a chance, Joachim. Now you must seize it!

PEIPER

You mean...

HIMMLER

Yes, you are going to get your first command.

Joachim is elated, but he must contain himself.

PEIPER

Thank you sir, I shall not disappoint you for giving me my chance.

HIMMLER

I have all the faith in you, my son. Now let us discuss Operation Barbarossa.

PEIPER

Barbarossa? Where am I going, sir?

WERNER

You will be assigned to the First SS
Division Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler
under Commandant Dietrich.

HIMMLER

You are going to Russia, Joachim.
Dietrich wants you at the front, near
the Black Sea. The towns are here.

Himmler points on the map showing Russia and the offensive
that is being planned.

HIMMLER (CONT'D)

Mariupol and Rostov-on-Don. You will
do well there for your first taste of
action. But this is no easy task
Joachim, the Russian soldier is
willing to fight to the death.

PEIPER

I know sir, I will make you proud.

HIMMLER

Here are your orders.

PEIPER

Thank you.

WERNER

Congratulations on your promotion.

HIMMLER

(puts both hands on Joachim's
shoulders)
Be safe Joachim, and happy hunting.

INT. BASEMENT - OUTSIDE PARIS - DAY

In an underground room, men work on a printing press. Ray,
Luci, who is pregnant, Francios, and JEAN MOULIN, leader of
the French resistance, are huddled at a small table. Ray
looks over the paper the men are printing.

MOULIN

Nice, very nice.

FRAN

It had better be, there's a lot of
blood in that ink.

RAY

That's why we need more presses. If the Germans find this one, we won't be able to print.

LUCI

How can we get more presses? You know how hard it was to get this one?

MOULIN

General DeGaulle has contacted me. He has provided me with towns that the Germans don't go near that have presses. We'll be able to print there.

RAY

These presses never stop! We must show the people that there is hope; without hope you have nothing.

MOULIN

You should have a name for this paper.

LUCI

A name is not as important than the truth. The Germans are killing Jews by the thousands. We have to show the world these atrocities!

MOULIN

It's not only Jews, Luci, they kill anyone in their way.

LUCI

I know, but they specifically go after Jews, even if they cooperate with them to save their families.

RAY

That's what we must tell everyone, the lies, the horrors that the Germans want for the rest of the world, not only Europe.

FRANCOIS

I don't want to live under a dictatorship. No one will have any freedom.

LUCI

Liberation!

They all look at Luci and say it in unison.

ALL
Liberation!

RAY
There's your name, Jean! Viva La
France!

Everyone together.

ALL
Viva La France!

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - RUSSIAN FRONT, MARIUPOL - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1941

Peiper peers out of a Panzer IV tank. Shells explode around him as German soldiers are blown up.

PEIPER
(into radio)
Forward! Don't stop till they're all
dead!

Peiper drops down into his tank. The town is fortified with Russian troops, tanks, anti-tank cannons and mortars.

Peiper's tank takes out several Russian tanks. His other tanks take the anti-tank cannons. The Russians fight on.

Peiper looks through his periscope he eyes a machine gun nest. He notices a 12 year old boy dodging bullets as he runs ammo to the nest. Peiper admires this. The boy pops out of the nest and throws a grenade at the oncoming Germans.

PEIPER (CONT'D)
Fire!

You see the nest explode, bodies fly in the air. Peiper scans the battlefield for his next target. He spots another tank. Gives coordinates.

PEIPER (CONT'D)
Fire!

The tank explodes. You hear screams as the tank bursts into flames. Soldiers try to get out, but can't and are burned alive. A satisfied smile comes across Peiper's face.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - MARIUPOL - LATER

Joachim's battalion has won the town. His commanding officer has called him to his makeshift office in a partially

destroyed house. Russian prisoners are being held by German soldiers across the street. COLONEL VON WEIR greets Peiper.

VON WEIR

Captain Peiper, please sit down. May I offer you some coffee?

PEIPER

Yes, thank you Sir.

VON WEIR

Wonderful job today, Captain. You really took charge. I just contacted HQ and told them I'm requesting a medal for your leadership on the field of battle.

PEIPER

I'm honored, sir, but my men deserve the credit.

VON WEIR

That's why they follow you, Captain. You always put your men first.

PEIPER

It is good soldiers who make good commanding officers, Heir Colonel.

VON WEIR

Truer words have never been spoken. Get some rest tonight, tomorrow we leave for Rostov-on-Don. You and your men will need to be well rested.

PEIPER

What shall we do with the POWs?

VON WEIR

Do with them what you will.

Peiper leaves the office and walks across the street to inspect the POWs. He notices the boy from the machine gun nest.

PEIPER

What's your name, boy?

The boy doesn't answer, keeping his head down.

PEIPER (CONT'D)

(sternly)

I said, what is your name?

The boy looks up and spits on Joachim. A German soldier smacks the boy down to the ground as Joachim wipes the spit away.

PEIPER (CONT'D)
You have balls kid, I'll give you that.

He then pulls out his Luger and shoots the boy in the head, killing him instantly.

PEIPER (CONT'D)
Put the rest in that house.

The soldiers put the remaining POWs in the house, locking the doors and windows.

PEIPER (CONT'D)
Now burn it to the ground! If anyone tries to get out, shoot them!

Three men with flame throwers light the house aflame. You hear screaming; the POW's that try to escape are shot.

INT. DORMITORY - IOWA UNIVERSITY - DAY

Smitty is on the phone with his father.

BOB
Hey son, how's school?

SMITTY
Fine, Dad. How are Mom and the boys?

BOB
Everyone's good. It's so good to hear your voice.

SMITTY
Dad, I've got some good news.

BOB
What's that?

SMITTY
There was a scout from the Yankees up here and he worked out me and Ozzie.

BOB
Get out! Sue, a scout from the Yankees went to go see Schmittty! What did he say?

SMITTY

They want us both and here's the best part. They'll sign us with a \$2,000 bonus and we can start playing in Kansas City next month!

BOB

Next month! What about school? I want you to get an education.

SMITTY

I can always come back to school, Dad. How many chances will I get to play for the New York Yankees?!

BOB

What does Kelly have to say about that? I thought you two wanted to get married after school.

SMITTY

She is fine with marrying a major league baseball player.

BOB

Your mother will be upset. Promise me you'll go back to school.

SMITTY

I promise, Dad. And I know, an education is something no one can ever take away from me.

BOB

Okay son, I'll talk to you soon.

INT. MARIE'S HOUSE - BAUGNEZ - DAY

Luci holds her baby. Ray sits at a table with Marie.

MARIE

Did you find out anything about Mamma and Poppa?

RAY

Only that they are in a concentration camp somewhere in Germany.

MARIE

Which one?

LUCI

We don't know yet. They have so many,
we're lucky just to find out that it's
in Germany.

MARIE

Dear God, I hope they're okay.

LUCI

Has anyone questioned you?

MARIE

Yes, but they don't know that I'm
Jewish. The records show that my
maiden name is Aubrac.

RAY

They don't know you were born here?

MARIE

No, they think I'm from Saint Vith.
Gerard's family is from there, they
doctored records for me.

RAY

Good. Has the baby given you any
trouble?

MARIE

(rubs the baby's head)
Just teething, but she's a joy.

LUCI

I can't thank you enough. If we ever
get caught, who knows what they'd do.

MARIE

Get caught?
(to Ray)
Do you think you'll get caught?

RAY

You never know. Smuggling people,
getting arms and ammo, printing the
papers...

LUCI

We're always being watched.

GERARD comes in the front door carrying wine and food.

RAY

What did you find out?

GERARD

The Germans aren't actively looking for anyone in this area, so we should be safe for at least a few more hours.

RAY

Good news.

GERARD

Seeing you with your baby makes me happy.

RAY

With death all around us, it is a gift to be reminded of the miracle of life.

Gerard grabs a bottle of wine and pours four glasses.

GERARD

To the miracle of life.

They all clink glasses to drink.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1942

Smitty and Ozzie sit in an office with baseball executives, the OWNER, GENERAL MANAGER and MANAGER.

OWNER

So, you boys went and enlisted without letting us know?

SMITTY

Sorry, sir.

OWNER

You should have talked to someone.

OZZIE

We figured if we did, you guys would've talked us out of it.

GENERAL MANAGER

We understand you wanting to serve your country.

SCHMITTY

After Pearl Harbor, we thought it was the right thing to do.

MANAGER

Kid, we get it, that was a terrible, terrible thing. But I was in France for the last war. And let me tell you, war is hell.

OZZIE

With all due respect sir, we've thought about this long and hard.

SCHMITTY

We're young and fit, and we think it's the right thing to do.

OWNER

Your patriotism is admirable, but you have your whole lives ahead of you.

GENERAL MANAGER

What we're trying to say is that we can make a few calls and pretend this never happened.

Smitty and Ozzie look at each other.

OZZIE

I don't think so, sir. Once I do something, I do it all the way.

MANAGER

(to Smitty)
You too, kid?

SCHMITTY

I want to do my part. If we don't have a free country, how will I be able to do what I love best?

OWNER

Okay boys, but remember, the door here is always open. When you're done your service, give us a call.

Smitty and Ozzie thank the men and shake their hands.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Ray and Moulin look over the paper, "Liberation". Fran and Luci care for several REFUGEES.

MOULIN

Ray, you are doing a fine job with this paper.

FRANCOIS

After people read it, morale is sky high. Everyone wants to help.

MOULIN

I have another job for you, but if you take it, you'll have to give up smuggling refugees.

RAY

What is it?

MOULIN

DeGaulle wants you to head the underground paramilitary branch.

RAY

Why me? I enjoy my cat and mouse games with the Germans, smuggling refugees makes me feel intoxicated.

MOULIN

But it is very dangerous. We can't afford to lose you if you get caught. You already run arms, we just need you to overlook all the distribution.

RAY

(holds up paper)
What about the Liberation?

FRANCOIS

We'll do it, like we always do.

MOULIN

Leave the refugees to me and Marie.

INT. HIMMLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Peiper walks into the reception area where Sig looks through papers. She sees him and is overjoyed. She runs into his arms.

SIG

Oh, my darling! No one told me you were coming. Are you okay?

PEIPER

Yes, I told Heir Himmler not to say anything. I wanted it to be a surprise.

SIG

Hurry, come in, he will be very happy to see you. He speaks very highly of your command.

They both go into Himmler's office.

HIMMLER

Joachim! How are you my boy?

PEIPER

Fine Heir Himmler, how are you?

HIMMLER

Things could be going better. Our forces are spread too thin, but seeing my Aryan warrior brings me much joy! Dietrich has told me of your victories. We are so very proud of you!

PEIPER

Thank you, sir.

SIG

All of Germany is proud of you!

HIMMLER

(opens a box)

Let me give this to you, you've earned it!

Himmler takes out a medal and pins it on Peiper's chest.

HIMMLER (CONT'D)

I am sure this will be the first of many.

INT. SMITTY'S HOME - DAY

The family is eating. Kelly is helping serve the table with food. Shawn is sitting next to Smitty.

SHAWN

Do you really want to give up baseball?

SMITTY

Just for a little while. I have to help first.

SHAWN

When are you leaving?

SMITTY

Next week we head for Louisiana.

SHAWN

Louisiana? I thought you were gonna go fight the war?

BOB

He has to train first, Shawn.

SHAWN

Like baseball! Is Ozzie going with you?

SMITTY

Yes, Mr. Ott made a phone call for us to stay together.

SUSAN

That was nice of him.

KELLY

God forbid, Laurel and Hardy have to be apart for five minutes.

SHAWN

What are you gonna do in Louisiana?

SMITTY

Six weeks of basic training, then we're gonna learn tanks and artillery.

SHAWN

Tanks? Wow!

SMITTY

They're making a brand new outfit. The Seventh Armored.

BOB

Can't you use your education to get a desk job in Washington instead of driving a tank?

KELLY

He didn't finish, so he's going in as a buck private.

BOB

Then see if you can be in artillery. They're not near the front lines. You'll be safe back there.

SMITTY

I'll try, Pa.

KELLY

Let's talk about something more cheerful. You wanna tell them, or should I?

SMITTY

Go ahead.

KELLY

Since Smitty is leaving, we figured we would get married before he left.

SUSAN

A wedding! Wonderful!
(she jumps up and hugs Kelly)
When?

KELLY

We talked to the preacher earlier and he said we can do it Saturday.

BOB

I always knew Kelly would make an honest man of you.

He hugs Kelly, Shawn hugs Smitty, everyone is happy.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The yard has tables set up with food and guests. A three piece band is playing country music. Everyone is happy. Smitty dances with Kelly.

KELLY

You make me so happy.

SMITTY

I'm glad you're happy.

KELLY

I'm gonna miss you so much while you're gone.

SMITTY

I'll give you a picture of Ozzie and you can think of me!

KELLY

That's what I do when we're alone together anyway.

He dips her.

SMITTY

Oh yeah!

They both see Ozzie on the dip. He's swigging from a homemade jug. He's drunk.

SMITTY (CONT'D)

He's all yours!

KELLY

(gets serious)

I've never wanted anyone but you. I love you, Smitty.

SCHMITTY

And I never wanted anyone but you, Kelly.

They kiss. Bob, Susan and everyone cheer.

BERLIN - JOACHIM AND SIG'S HOUSE

They just finished making love when a knock on the door startles them. Joachim answers half naked. It's Horst.

HORST

Bad time, brother?

PEIPER

Never a bad time for you, brother! Come in.

Sig puts on a robe and comes downstairs.

SIG

Horst! What a pleasant surprise!

PEIPER

I thought you were in Poland?

HORST

Yes, a little R&R. The General gave me a two week furlough.

PEIPER

Me too.

SIG

He set this whole thing up and you two fell for it.

HORST

We must send him a bottle of champagne.

PEIPER

Are you hungry, Horst? We'll get something to eat.

HORST

Dealing with the Polish rebels, I just want to dance and drink. You game, Sig?

SIG

Oh, I'm game. Let me get dressed.

Peiper pours drinks.

PEIPER

To my big brother.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Luci knocks at a door; Bridgitte answers, peering out of the crack.

LUCI

Bridgitte, where is Francois?

BRIDGITTE

Here, come in.

Francois comes out of the bathroom.

FRANCOIS

Luci, what are doing here?

LUCI

It's Ray. He and Moulin have been captured!

FRANCOIS

Sit down. Take a breath and tell me what happened.

LUCI

Marie called last night, she said that they were going to come for Moulin's family.

FRANCOIS

Who told her?

LUCI
Our connection with the Vichy guard.

BRIDGITTE
The Vichy are traitors!

LUCI
No, he was the one who told us they
got captured.

FRANCOIS
Did he say where they were holding
them?

LUCI
At the police station.

FRANCOIS
Good; we know a few men that work
there; they'll help us.

LUCI
How? They're gonna kill him if they
find out his name is Samuel, not
Aubrac. They'll know he's Jewish.

BRIDGITTE
(pours sherry)
Drink this, try to clam down. Fran
will help you.

FRANCOIS
Try to relax. Don't do anything
irrational, we don't need them
catching you too.

LUCI
But I must do something, Fran.

FRANCOIS
Leave it to me, you stay here. If I
can get him out, I'll get him out.

INT. DIETRICH'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1943

Dietrich greets Peiper.

DIETRICH
Joachim, I've called you for a vital
assignment.

PEIPER

At your command, sir.

DIETRICH

You will lead the 3rd Battalion behind enemy lines to rescue the 320th Infantry Division.

PEIPER

Where are they, sir?

DIETRICH

(points on map)

Kharkov, they are surrounded and are facing massacre.

PEIPER

That's forty-eight kilos away. How will we get out?

DIETRICH

There's only one bridge to support your tanks, here on the Udy River.

PEIPER

I shall prepare at once, Commandant.

DIETRICH

This will be as close to the bowels of hell as you will get. Good luck, Joachim.

PEIPER

I will get them out, sir. Heil Hitler!

EXT. ARTILLERY RANGE - DAY

Smitty and Ozzie are firing an M101 Howitzer. They hit all the targets. A SERGEANT and LIEUTENANT watch through binoculars.

SERGEANT

I told you, sir, they're good.

LIEUTENANT

You weren't shittin', Sarge.

SERGEANT

Smith, Myers! Get your butts over here!!

The boys run over, salute the Lieutenant and Sergeant.

LIEUTENANT

Boys, pack your stuff, you're going to Georgia.

They look at each other, puzzled.

SMITTY

Georgia, sir?

LIEUTENANT

Yes, I am heading the Battery of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. I'm only taking the best of the best and I want you two.

OZZIE

What's in Georgia, sir?

SERGEANT

Hey maggot, if the Lieutenant tells you to crawl back in your momma's vagina, you do it! Got me?!

OZZIE

Yes, sir!

SMITTY

What I think he meant to say was is there special equipment we must learn?

LIEUTENANT

No, you're going for additional training. From there, we go to New York and ship out to England.

OZZIE

Yes, sir! Dying for some action, sir.

SERGEANT

Be careful what you wish for. This ain't no movie, boys.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - RUSSIA - DAY

Joachim is talking to his tank commanders.

PEIPER

Men, the 320th is in a tremendous struggle. They're cold, hungry and dying. Our mission is to go and get them. We will not fail!

The commanders all stand at attention and salute. They run to

their tanks and move out. A screaming, flaming skull is on the side of each tank to represent Peiper's outfit.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - LATER

Peiper's tank battalion crushes the Russians. Buildings are set aflame by Peiper's men with flame throwers. They come upon the 320th. Peiper meets the COMMANDING OFFICER.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Heil Hitler!

PEIPER

Heil! Prepare your men to go. We have no time to waste.

COMMANDING OFFICER

We've been ready, sir. Once they told us you were coming for us, Captain Peiper, we have been hopeful. We knew we would be saved.

PEIPER

We're not clear yet. We still have fifty kilometers to go before we're safe.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Whatever you need Captain, the 320th is at your command.

PEIPER

Get them ready, we move out in five minutes.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Yes, sir.

He runs off.

The battle ensues. Peiper's tank is deadly; whatever he shoots at he hits. He sees a Russian getting ready to shoot a bazooka at one of his tanks.

PEIPER

Three o'clock, hurry!

DRIVER

Yes, sir!

The two Russians operating the bazooka are fixated on the one German tank. They don't see Peiper's tank coming at them.

PEIPER

Run them down!

The tank comes up to the soldiers, who are caught off guard. The tank's right track lands on the shooter's head, squashing it like a melon. The other soldier, trying to get away, has the other track land on him, mid-torso, cutting him in half.

They make it to the Udy River. They face heavy resistance and blast everything in their path. German tanks and infantry cross the bridge, but Peiper stays back providing cover for his troops. He's making sure he leaves last. He tells the flame throwers to hold back with him.

PEIPER (CONT'D)

(to flamethrowers)

Let's leave our calling card. Burn it to the ground!

The flame throwers run to buildings and torch everything.

INTERROGATION ROOM - FRANCE - DAY

GERMAN OFFICERS and SOLDIERS are torturing Ray and Moulin. They want their true identities and information. Soldiers beat up Moulin. They are electrocuting Ray.

GERMAN OFFICER

So, what is your real name?

RAY

(breathing heavily)

Raymond Aubrac, born in Paris, 1917.

GERMAN OFFICER

We know this is not true.

He nods to a soldier, who electrocutes Ray again. Ray screams.

RAY

I told you, Raymond Aubrac.

OFFICER

(pulls Ray's head up by his hair)

Lies! Tell the truth and you may be allowed to die quickly.

RAY

Okay.

(he breaths; officer awaits his answer)

Raymond Von Schmidt!

He spits at them. The officer slaps him forcefully.

OFFICER

Okay, we'll do this the hard way.

The Officer nods to the soldier who zaps Ray again. Ray screams.

INT. FRANCIOS'S APT - DAY

Francois, Bridgitte and Luci are huddled around a table.

FRANCOIS

The only thing I know for sure is that Moulin is dead.

LUCI

What about Ray?

FRANCOIS

Our man has seen him, but that was yesterday.

BRIDGITTE

Well he could be...

LUCI

Go ahead, say it Bridgette. Dead.

FRANCOIS

No Luci, we don't know that. I have an idea, but it's a long shot.

INT. CELL - NIGHT

Two German soldiers carry Ray and throw him in a cell. The officer follows behind.

SOLDIER

He's near death, sir. Should we just take him out back and shoot him?

OFFICER

No, we got some information out of the other one. This one is just stronger.

SOLDIER

If we leave him here, he'll die for sure. He'll be useless.

OFFICER

Have him transported to the hospital.
Keep him alive for another round of
questioning.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

An ambulance backs into the station. Ray is laying on the sidewalk with the two soldiers watching the ambulance. Ray is badly hurt. The back doors of the ambulance open and out comes Francois dressed as an EMT.

SOLDIER #1

Papers, I want to see all your papers.
How many are you?

FRANCOIS

Three. Me, the driver and a nurse.

SOLDIER

Tell the driver to get out.

They show the soldier their papers. They carry Ray into the ambulance. The soldiers follow.

FRANCOIS

Sorry sir, only medical personnel.

SOLDIER

Step aside before you are shot! This
man is important. My orders are to
stay with him.

FRANCOIS

Then please sit over there. I need
room to work on him.

The doors shut and the ambulance pulls away.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUING

The soldiers eye Francois carefully. He examines Ray and places a rag across his forehead. The soldiers relax as Fran works on Ray. In an instant, Francois pulls a pistol out of his medical bag and shoots one soldier dead, but the other lunges at him and struggles with Francois. Luci grabs a scalpel and plunges it into his neck. Blood spurts all over.

The ambulance speeds through the streets, sirens blaring, and speeds past the hospital.

INT. PIEPER'S FIELD TENT - ZHYTOMYR, RUSSIA - NIGHT

Peiper is now a major; he is leader of the 1st SS Division

Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler. He is discussing with his tank commanders, artillery and infantry about the next battle.

PEIPER

Intelligence says the Russians are planning an offensive here (MAP). But they don't know we'll have the jump on them. When they move forward here (MAP), the artillery will stop them. We pour in the infantry and our tanks will come up on them completely surrounded. Have your men ready at 0900 hours.

The men leave.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - MORNING

0900 hours. The Russians run into a wall of artillery, wiping out tanks and men. Peiper's tanks come up in the rear, where they kill Russians by the thousands. Afterward, German soldiers gather Russian POWs.

INT. PEIPER'S FIELD TENT - DAY

Peiper walks into his tent and his valet takes his things. An officer comes in.

OFFICER

Congratulations Major Peiper, your strategy worked splendidly!

PEIPER

What are our number of dead and wounded?

OFFICER

Forty-three dead, double that wounded.

PEIPER

Make sure the men are taken care of. Extra rations at their next meal.

OFFICER

They'll be happy to hear that, heir Peiper.

PEIPER

How many prisoners are there?

OFFICER

(reading from the paper)
Over three thousand.

Just then, a courier comes into Peiper's tent. He salutes Peiper.

COURIER

Sir, this is straight from heir
Himmler's office. It's urgent.

He hands the paper to Peiper.

URGENT - BERLIN

HIMMLER'S OFFICE TO MAJOR PEIPER

My dear Joachim,

It is with deepest regret that I inform you of the death of your brother Horst in Poland. Russian and Polish military seized his platoon and killed all. I am ordering you back to Berlin at once.

Himmler

Peiper has fury in his eyes. He crumbles the paper, picks up a chair and smashes it on a table. He screams.

Peiper comes out of the tent to see the crowd of Russian POWs. The officer from the tent catches up to him.

OFFICER

Major Peiper, what's wrong? Are you
alright?

Peiper looks at him with rage.

PEIPER

Line them all up and have them shot.

OFFICER

But sir, there are more than three
thousand of them.

PEIPER

Did you not hear me, or do you want to
be one of them?!

OFFICER

At once, sir.

Peiper stands there as all the POW's are lined up. The Germans move in place with rifles and machine guns. Once everything is in place, they start firing, massacring all of them.

INT. APARTMENT - FRANCE - DAY

Luci tends to Ray, who is recovering. Francois comes in.

FRANCOIS

How is he?

LUCI

He's still in and out of
consciousness.

FRANCOIS

Was the doctor here?

LUCI

Yes, but he couldn't stay long.

FRANCOIS

We have to take what we can get.

Ray moans, half awake.

LUCI

Ray, it's me Luci, wake up my darling.

Ray opens his eyes, sees Luci.

RAY

I've got to get to Marie, the baby.

LUCI

Why? You didn't tell them anything, did
you?

RAY

No, but I don't know what Moulin told
them. I must...
(he tries to get up)
get to...

Ray falls back on the bed, and passes out.

FRANCOIS

Don't worry Luci, I'll get to Marie.
Take care of him. I'll be back in a
few days.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

A DOCTOR examines Ray who is fully awake. Luci is there.

DOCTOR

You have a strong man here. I really wasn't sure if he was going to pull through.

LUCI

Is there anything else for me that I can do?

DOCTOR

Just keep doing what you're doing. You would have been a fine nurse. Keep cleaning his wounds and changing his bandages. Lots of water. He should be up and about in a couple of weeks.

LUCI

I can't thank you enough, Doctor.

DOCTOR

No, I can't thank you and Ray enough for all the good you have done. Take care.

He leaves. Luci sits next to Ray's bed.

RAY

Any word from Francois?

LUCI

Yes, he said everyone is safe.

RAY

Good. Now I must make you safe.

LUCI

I'm not going anywhere but by your side.

RAY

I'll arrange for you to go to England as soon as I'm well.

LUCI

We have too much to do here.

RAY

I cannot lose you Luci, you are my light. You will go to England and I will go back home to watch the baby and Marie. If I can get them out, I'll have them sent to you in England.

LUCI

I love you, Ray.

RAY

I love you, my sweet Luci.

INT. ADOLF HITLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Peiper, Dietrich, Himmler and Hitler stand in the center of the room. Peiper stands at attention as Hitler pins a medal on him.

HITLER

Major Peiper, for your leadership and valor in battle, I hereby award you the Knight's Cross, the highest award I can bestow. Wear it proudly, my son.

They all shake Peiper's hand congratulating him.

HITLER (CONT'D)

And for your next assignment, you are headed to Northern Italy. We need to teach the Italians a lesson about loyalty.

DIETRICH

The Italian Rebels are becoming problemsome. First they want to fight with us. Now against us.

PEIPER

I shall take care of it, sir!

EXT. SHIPYARD - ENGLAND - DAY

Smitty and Ozzie board a ship bound for France.

SATELLITE VIEW OF THE SHIP'S PATH FROM ENGLAND TO FRANCE

SUPERIMPOSE: JULY, 1944

EXT. NORMANY BEACH, FRANCE - DAY

Smitty, Ozzie and hundreds of other soldiers land on the beach at Normandy which has already been taken by the Allies the previous month. There are thousands of men, tanks, trucks, all working towards the push to Germany.

SATELLITE VIEW OF EUROPE AS THE BATTALION ADVANCES TOWARD GERMANY

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - VARIOUS SHOTS

Smitty and Ozzie in battle.

Smitty and Ozzie firing a bazooka.

Smitty and Ozzie in a fox hole firing rifles.

The 7th Armored Division pushes close to the German border, stopping at Baugnez, Belgium.

The men settle in to a camp. It's snowing.

EXT. TOWN STREET - BAUGNEZ, BELGIUM - NIGHT

Ozzie and Smitty walk through the town, looking for activity. They spot a house with lights on and knock on the door. Marie answers.

MARIE

Can I help you?

OZZIE

It's freezing out here. Me and my buddy would like to know if you would sell us a bottle of wine?

(he pulls out money)

I have American.

MARIE

Yes, come inside.

INT. MARIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gerard is sitting at a table feeding a baby. Marie grabs a bottle of wine, hands it to Ozzie, who pays her.

OZZIE

Something sure smells good. Are you willing to sell us a meal?

MARIE

Sure, sit down, please.

They take off their coats and Marie serves them hot stew.

SMITTY

Thank you. This is nice. Feels a little like home.

GERARD

You're not from some big city, like New York?

SMITTY

No, we're from a small farming town like this. In Iowa, USA.

OZZIE

Gets just as cold there as it is here.

MARIE

We're so happy that you are here. The last few years have been horrible.

OZZIE

Were the nazis bad?

GERARD

Not as bad as the Vichy. The Germans, you understand, but your own countrymen!

SMITTY

I guess I see how you feel; I wouldn't like that one bit.

OZZIE

No more worries now, we're here and we ain't stopping till we get to Berlin!

Out of the floor comes Ray, who surprises Schmitty and Ozzie. Schmitty and Ozzie reach for their 45's.

RAY

No need. I just needed to know if you were of good intentions.

They put their pistols away.

OZZIE

Of course we're of good intentions! I paid for this meal.

RAY

(shakes their hands)
My name is Ray Aubrac. This is Gerard and my sister Marie. I am French Resistance.

SMITTY

Pleasure to meet you Ray. Will you sit and have some wine?

RAY

Yes, I will.
(sits and pours a glass)
How long are here for?

OZZIE

We move out tomorrow..

SCHMITTY

If it wasn't for the snow, we'd be gone already.

RAY

Stay warm tonight, sleep on the floor, be our guests.

OZZIE

A few more bottles of this wine and we may go AWOL.

They laugh.

INT. DIETRICH'S OFFICE - DAY

Peiper and Dietrich are going over the Ardennes offensive.

GENERAL

Time is of the essence. We are low on fuel and fighting men. We need to cut through the allies and separate them. When you make it to Antwerp, it will buy us time.

PEIPER

Time for what?

GENERAL

Time to save Germany! Joachim, for all intents and purposes, this war is over. The allies own the air and now the ground. We need leaders like you to save the fatherland from invasion. We have the Russians on the East and the Americans and the English on the West. If we cut them in half here,
(points on map)
we might have an armistice by February.

PEIPER

I don't have enough fuel to get to Antwerp.

GENERAL

Here are the locations where we think the allies have depots. You must be precise on your orders.

PEIPER

I will, sir.

GENERAL

Commence at 1300 hours. Surprise is your friend. Time and land, your foe. Good luck, Joachim.

PEIPER

Heil Hitler!

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

A sign for Malmedy hangs on a post.

Bunkers, trenches and machine gun nests mark the landscape.

Smitty and Ozzie are huddled over a small fire in a trench. Snow falls.

OZZIE

I'm freezing my ass off!

SMITTY

Quit your bellyaching.

OZZIE

The army is all screwed up!

SMITTY

Why's that?

OZZIE

We were trained for artillery and we're stuck in a trench! How'd that happen? What pencil pusher arranged this?

SMITTY

I bet he's warm.

In the background we hear tanks approaching. Ozzie pops his head out of the trench.

OZZIE

Are they our tanks?

SMITTY

I sure hope so.

OZZIE

Command never said anything about tanks coming through.

SMITTY
(peers through binoculars)
They ain't ours!
(yells)
Enemy tanks!! Everybody ready!

German tanks smash through woods and are upon the 285th. The men fight valiantly, but are overmatched and surrender. Smitty and Ozzie are among the prisoners. The Germans gather the POWs in a field. Peiper is commanding from his Tiger II tank. A soldier talks to him.

SOLDIER
Little resistance, sir. We are holding
the prisoners there.

PEIPER
Did you find any fuel?

SOLDIER
A little, sir, but no depot.

PEIPER
Distribute it to who needs it.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - CONTINUING

Smitty and Ozzie are among the American POWs.

OZZIE
What do think they're gonna do with
us?

SMITTY
Ship us off to some POW camp.

OZZIE
And they told us we might be going
home for Christmas.

SMITTY
Who said that, your pencil pusher?

OZZIE
Let's hope that camp is warm.

SMITTY
I'm sure it's like the Waldorf.

The soldier returns to Peiper, who is checking his map and watch.

PEIPER

Tell the men we are behind schedule.
we're leaving in 5.

SOLDER

What shall we do with the prisoners.

PEIPER

Shoot them all!

Peiper disappears into his tank.

German soldiers have the POWs clustered together in a field. Machine gun fire erupts. Bullets rip through flesh, men scream and fall everywhere. Smitty is hit and falls to the ground. Ozzie runs in a circle. A man is hit next to him and falls on Ozzie, knocking him down. The dead body is his shield.

He stays under the body until the Germans leave. He's covered in the man's blood. He looks for Smitty. He finds him, alive; he carries him to the woods for cover.

Peiper's men and tanks blaze through to the town of Baugnez. They find a fuel depot and refuel.

Smitty and Ozzie are working their way through the woods, one step behind the Germans. They come upon the town and hunker down. There's someone approaching them. It's Ray, crawling to them.

OZZIE

It's you, thank God.

RAY

How is your friend?

OZZIE

Hurt bad. Those mother fuckers took us prisoner then shot everyone. I hid under a dead body and played dead.

RAY

Do you have any weapons?

OZZIE

No, they took them.

RAY

Here, take this pistol. Take these grenades. Stay quiet, I'll see if I can get a doctor for your friend.

Ray crawls away.

The Germans are settled in the town. Peiper has set up an office in a church. A soldier comes in.

SOLDIER

All tanks refueled Colonel, but we have a problem.

PEIPER

What's that?

SOLDIER

Some French Resistance have taken TWO officers prisoner. They say they'll hand them over unharmed if we leave the town.

A priest comes in.

PRIEST

I will help you get them back as long as you hurt no one.

PEIPER

I was leaving anyway, Father, but to make sure they are true to their word and no sabotage, I want everyone in your church when we leave.

PRIEST

Just give me a little time to talk to them.

PEIPER

Sergeant, round up the towns people.
(to priest)
Father, you have an hour.

The priest hurries out.

Towns people are filing into the church. Ray is hiding, lurking about the town. He sees Marie, Gerard and the two children waiting to enter the church. He runs back to Ozzie and Smitty.

RAY

Are you two able to fight?

OZZIE

I can, but I don't know about him.
Why?

RAY

The Germans are putting everyone in the church. I don't trust them.

Smitty struggles, but stands up.

SMITTY

Then let's go.

They move toward the town.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The priest is at the front of the church with the two German officers that were captured. He pleads with Peiper.

PRIEST

You have your officers back, please don't do anything to anyone. These aren't the people you are fighting. They're farmers, quiet towns folk.

PEIPER

I told you I was leaving Father, just stay in here till we're gone.

He walks away, gives orders to a soldier.

PEIPER (CONT'D)

Stay behind with your men. If anyone tries to leave, shoot them. After we pull out, burn it to the ground.

Peiper gets into his tank and commands to the rest.

PEIPER (CONT'D)

Forward to the River Amblive!

The Germans pull out. The soldier points to the flame throwers to start burning the church. They light it, screaming ensues.

Ray, Ozzie and Smitty see this. They attack.

Smitty shoots a flame thrower tank, it explodes, engulfing the soldier in flames.

Ozzie shoots and kills another and another.

Smitty sees three Germans ready to shoot Ozzie; he pulls out a grenade, pulls the pin and with a perfect throw lands the grenade right in the middle of them, killing all three. Ozzie turns to look at Smitty.

SMITTY
Best arm in Iowa!

Then a German soldier shoots Schmitty.

SLOW MOTION

Smitty falls to the ground.

OZZIE
NOOOOOOOO!

Ozzie shoots the German dead and runs to Smitty.

Ray runs to the church, shoots out a glass window. He starts pulling out people, some still on fire. He sees his daughter. Her shirt is on fire; he grabs her and puts out the flame by rolling her on the floor. He grabs his sister.

RAY
Marie, give me the baby!

She hands him the baby just before a bullet hits her right between the eyes. Marie is dead. Ray turns and shoots the German, who falls. Ray helps out Gerard, who is on fire. He is rolling Gerard to die him out when the German lands a grenade next to them. It explodes. Ozzie runs up to kill him and the other remaining Germans. Ray is hunched over Gerard's body. The kids are screaming and crying.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY - CONTINUING

American P-47 air bombers attack Peiper's group, knocking out the tanks. The planes blow up bridges so Peiper and his men cannot cross.

PEIPER
(yells)
Move those tanks! We're sitting ducks.

SOLDIER
Sir, they are out of fuel.

PEIPER
Gather everyone to get back over the bridge before we're surrounded!

SOLDIER
They blew the bridge!

The soldier runs away. Peiper grabs his radio.

PEIPER

Leave your vehicles! Get on foot! We need to get back to Germany!

Peiper and his men flee. They walk through the snow and woods in retreat. Allied soldiers cut them off and the Germans surrender. Peiper has been defeated.

FADE OUT.

INSERT VARIOUS SHOTS OF NEWSPAPERS AND VIDEO FOOTAGE OF VICTORY BY THE ALLIES AND CELEBRATIONS IN THE STREETS FOLLOWING GERMANY'S SURRENDER.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE ON SCREEN: 1946, ONE YEAR LATER

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Peiper has been jailed for almost a year for war crimes. In the room are two U.S. SOLDIERS. Peiper is handcuffed to a metal chair. LIEUTENANT WILLIAM PERL enters the room. The soldiers salute him.

PERL

At ease, men. So what do we have here, another murderous Nazi?

PEIPER

I'm a patriotic, hard-fighting German. What did you do during the war? Sit behind a desk?

One of the soldiers backhands Peiper. He spits blood in defiance.

PERL

Now now, we won't have any of that unless it's called for.

PEIPER

I'm used to it, your men have been doing it for months.

PERL

You're not telling us what we need to know. Why don't you and Dietrich just admit what you did. Kill unarmed American soldiers and French civilians.

PEIPER

We've done no such thing. I hate to shock you Lieutenant, but men die during war.

PERL

Men do. The killing of unarmed civilian women and children are a different story. Would you approve us handing your wife and children over to the Russians? I'm sure they'll treat them as well as you've treated their wives and children. Just admit what you did you Nazi piece of garbage and you'll make it easier on everyone.

A knock on the door is heard. A soldier answers it. LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIS EVERETT, Peiper's defense lawyer, comes in.

EVERETT

What's going on here with my client, Lieutenant?

PERL

Just asking some questions, sir.

EVERETT

Without his attorney present?

PERL

It was nothing of substance, sir.

EVERETT

This is what nazis do Lieutenant, not us.

PERL

Sir, if I may speak freely.

EVERETT

You may.

PERL

Sir, this man's reputation precedes him. All allies on this continent know all too well about his maniacal, homicidal ways. The nickname of his command was the Blowtorch Battalion for Christ sake!

EVERETT

Should we just hang him now?

PERL

It would be my pleasure, sir.

EVERETT

We are not nazis, Lieutenant. We adhere to higher standards. We follow laws, abide by principles. If we do not, this war will have been fought in vain.

PERL

With all due respect sir, if you get this cock-a-roach off, just to make a name for yourself, you'll have the same blood on your hands as his.

EVERETT

Is that all?

PERL

Yes, sir.

EVERETT

From this point forward, no more beatings or threats to him or his family. It ends now. You are dismissed.

Perl and the soldiers leave. Everett sits down, across from Peiper.

PERL

SS Standarlen Fuhrer Peiper. Or should I just call you Colonel Peiper.

PEIPER

My friends call me Joachim.

EVERETT

Then Colonel Peiper it is. Shall we discuss what comes next?

PEIPER

Does it matter? I just want my wife and children to be safe.

EVERETT

The International Military Tribunal here and at Nuremburg has charged you with a list of war crimes, which I may be able to construct a defense against. But the charges for Malmedy are a different matter entirely.

PEIPER

I did nothing wrong.

EVERETT

Colonel, your battalion, at your command, killed innocent civilians, including women and children, unarmed prisoners of war, and, do you want me to read the whole charge?

PEIPER

Proceed.

EVERETT

Colonel Joachim Peiper did, at or in the vicinity of Malmedy, Honsfeld, Bullingen, Liganville, Sloumont, LaGleize, Cheneux, Petit Their, Trais Points, Starelet, Wanne and Lulre Bois, all in French-Belgium, at sundry times between 16 December 1944 and 13 January 1945, willfully, deliberately and wrongfully permit, encourage, aid, abet and participate in the killings, shootings, ill treatment, abuse and torture of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, then at war with the then German Reich, who were then and there surrounded and unarmed prisoners of war in the custody of the then German Reich, the exact names and numbers of such persons being unknown, aggregating several hundreds and of unarmed civilian nationals, the exact names and number of such persons being unknown.

Peiper stares off blankly.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

You're looking at up to 749 POWs and over 90 civilians.

PEIPER

I was just following orders.

EVERETT

From whom? Dietrich? If it was him, you may just get life.

PEIPER

It's so long ago now even I don't know.

(MORE)

PEIPER (CONT'D)

If I had ever known it, I have long forgotten it. What I do know is that I am taking the blame as a good commanding officer should and am being punished accordingly.

EVERETT

That's a brilliant defense. Why didn't I think of that? Maybe if Himmler had come up with that excuse he wouldn't have chewed on a cyanide capsule.

PEIPER

I stand by my men and their actions. They died for me and now perhaps it is my time to die for them.

EVERETT

All right Colonel, as you wish. But if you don't help me, it makes it much more difficult for me to help you. And if you haven't noticed, you don't have many supporters around here.

EXT. SMITH FAMILY FARM - IOWA - DAY

Bob rides a tractor as a car pulls up to the house. Ozzie gets out and is greeted by Susan, Shawn, Tommy and Kelly. Bob hops off his tractor.

BOB

Hey Oz, good to see you. When did you get back?

OZZIE

Good to see all of you. I was discharged a few weeks back. Liz met me in New York and we spent a few days there before we came home.

SUSAN

You look good, Oz.
(starts crying)
You're a grown man.

Ozzie hugs her.

SHAWN

Can you tell us anything about how Schmittty...

OZZIE

Your brother saved my life. I thought I was a goner.

KELLY

He didn't suffer, did he?

OZZIE

No, Kelly. It was quick.

BOB

Did he serve his country well? Was he a good soldier?

OZZIE

Mr. Smith, I will always think of Smitty with a smile. He was a true American hero.

He hands Kelly Smitty's dog tag and belongings.

OZZIE (CONT'D)

These belong to you, Kelly.

She takes them, sobbing.

SHAWN

Did he kill a lot of Germans?

OZ

Enough, but the three I remember the best was when he saved my life. He only had a tiny spot to put the grenade when he threw it. And he threw it where only he and maybe three other guys in this world could put it.

SHAWN

The best arm in Iowa!

Ozzie turns his head quickly to Shawn; his eyes swell with tears.

OZZIE

That's what he said before...

Susan and Kelly hug Ozzie.

INT. DACHAU COURTROOM - DAY

The trial is almost over. Peiper sits with Everett. The seven panel members walk in and sit down in the jury box. Patrons

stand for the judges, then sit and talk amongst themselves.
The JUDGE bangs the gavel.

JUDGE

Order, order! Does the defense have anything to say before sentencing?

EVERETT

(stands)

Yes, your Honor. I would like to reiterate on the record that whatever sentence is dispensed, we shall appeal with the War Crimes Review Board due to the torture of my client while he was in custody before his trial.

JUDGE

Duly noted, Lieutenant. Joachim Peiper you are hereby sentenced to death by hanging. While you are waiting for your sentence to be executed, you shall be housed at Landsberg Prison. May God have mercy on your soul.

The judge bangs the gavel ending the proceedings.

INT. COURTROOM - LATER

Everyone has left except Everett and the prosecutor, LIEUTENANT BURTON COLONEL ELLI.

ELLI

Will, why are you going to appeal?

EVERETT

Because he was tortured for almost a year.

ELLI

Why waste our time? The guy was a madman. He deserves worse than hanging.

EVERETT

I'm only doing what I think is right.

ELLI

Will, you're a good defense lawyer, you were dealt a bad hand here. Make the most of it and move on.

EVERETT

He shouldn't have been tortured, Burton. No one deserves that.

ELLI

Let it go Will, you're gonna hurt your career more than help it with this guy. He's a pariah. Just let them hang him.

EVERETT

Worry about your guys and I'll worry about mine, Burton.

ELLI

Do what you want, Will, but this is a no-win situation.

Burton walks out.

INT. JAIL - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1954

Everett shows up to see Peiper who has aged from several years behind bars. They greet each other and shake hands.

EVERETT

Good news, Joachim! They finally overturned your sentence, but you're not out of the woods yet.

PEIPER

What does that mean?

EVERETT

The War Crimes Review Board decided that the testimony of you and your men were made inadmissible because you were tortured.

PEIPER

Does this mean I will get out?

EVERETT

No. You get life instead of death. But because your verdict was overturned, the Military Governor of the American Zone has issued a Simpson Commission to review your case.

PEIPER

Simpson Commission?

EVERETT

The Secretary of the Army, Kenneth C. Royall, has ordered a commission led by the Honorable Judge Gordon Simpson to review it and report back to Royall.

PEIPER

Will I get a chance to finally see my family?

EVERETT

Maybe. There is a small chance that you may be able to be with your family one day.

Peiper is enthusiastic, hoping for freedom.

FADE OUT.

EXT. JAILYARD - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1959

Peiper and Dietrich walk around the yard, sharing a cigarette.

DIETRICH

So, is it true?

PEIPER

Yes, Everett said we will be paroled in about a month.

DIETRICH

I can't believe it, Joachim, we'll finally be free.

PEIPER

Yes, thanks to Mr. Everett and the Simpson Commission.

DIETRICH

I thought we'd die in here. I must begin to write some letters so we can have employment when we get out.

PEIPER

I don't even know what I could do. My whole life was the military and we've been here for eleven years.

DIETRICH

Don't worry about that Joachim, I have numerous connections in the automotive industry. You can start there and see if you like it.

INT. DIETRICH'S FUNERAL, BERLIN - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1966

The church is packed. Six thousand of his men have shown up for the funeral. A large, framed photograph of Dietrich, in full military uniform, sits on an easel in the center of the altar. Peiper, who is now a 51 year-old man, and Sig are sitting in the front pew.

SIG

I can't believe how many men have shown up.

PEIPER

He was loved by all his men.

He bows his head, Sig clutches his hand.

SIG

Are you alright, Joachim?

PEIPER

Life is too short, Sig. I've missed so much with the war and afterwards.

SIG

Joachim, we're still young. We have three grown beautiful children. You have work, what more could we ask for?

PEIPER

I want to leave Germany.

SIG

Leave? Why?

PEIPER

I loathe my job at Porsche. I've been offered a job as an interpreter for Auto, Motor and Sport Publications. They want me, us, to move to France.

SIG

Can we discuss this later?

PEIPER

On our wedding night, you once
promised me that you would follow me
anywhere.

SIG

Yes, I did and I still would, but we
have family here; you just want to
uproot?

PEIPER

I have already purchased a chalais in
Traves. It's beautiful, peaceful. You
will love it. It reminds me of
Rottach, where we first fell in love.

SIG

I want to keep the home here, I want
to see the grandchildren.

PEIPER

Yes, we will. Whatever makes you
happy, my dear Sig.

INT. CHALAIS - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1975

Peiper is sitting alone having breakfast on the terrace. His
butler, PAUL, interrupts.

PAUL

Sir, Miss Simone Duvall to see you.

A stunning, svelte business woman in her early 30's, SIMONE,
walks onto the terrace. Peiper is struck by her beauty. He
stands up and pulls out a chair for her to sit.

SIMONE

Thank you, Monsieur Peiper.

PEIPER

Can Paul get you anything, Mrs.
Duvall?

SIMONE

Miss Duvall, and yes, some tea would
be nice, thank you.

PEIPER

I didn't expect you to be so young.

SIMONE

(laughs)

I hear that often, but I graduated university early and jumped right into the family business. But don't be fooled by my exterior. I'm a slave driver, Mr. Peiper. When I have a deadline, I expect results.

PEIPER

Then we have something in common already.

SIMONE

I'm sure we have plenty, Mr. Peiper.

PEIPER

Please, call me Joachim.

She pulls papers from her briefcase and hands them to Peiper.

SIMONE

Here is your first assignment, Joachim. It needs to be completed in two weeks. Then I'll be delivering them on the first of the month on a monthly basis.

PEIPER

Two weeks?

SIMONE

Yes, so we can have ready for publishing by the third week and have them out by the first.

PEIPER

So I shall get to see you twice a month?

SIMONE

Yes. I'll stay at the hotel in town when I need to see you.

PEIPER

Forgive me if I'm being too forward Miss Duvall, but you can stay here in my guest house. I have plenty of room.

SIMONE

Let's see how this works out first. I'm sure your wife would mind me staying.

PEIPER
(tries to brush it off)
We're business associates, not lovers,
Miss Duvall.

SIMONE
By the look in your eye, let's try to
keep it that way.

INT. PEIPER'S STUDY - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE ONSCREEN: 1976, ONE YEAR LATER

Simone knocks lightly and comes in. Peiper is sits behind his desk. Over the past year, he has fallen deeply in love with Simone.

SIMONE
(hands him papers)
How are you, Joachim?

PEIPER
Better, now that you are here my dove.

SIMONE
Joachim, I've told you before I'm a
professional woman. I do not mix
business with pleasure.

PEIPER
You don't understand Simone, my heart
waits for the very moment you come
here.

SIMONE
I'm very fond of you Joachim, but not
in that way.

PEIPER
Can you at least try?

SIMONE
I have something to tell you. I wanted
to do it face to face.

PEIPER
What is it?

SIMONE
I'm going to be married.

PEIPER
When? To whom?

SIMONE

Soon; we just haven't figured where yet.

PEIPER

Who is this lucky man? You never mentioned him before.

SIMONE

My fiancé, Victor. I've mentioned him before to you. Perhaps you didn't want to believe it.

PEIPER

Don't do it, Simone. Leave him and come live with me, here.

SIMONE

What would your wife say to that?

PEIPER

She is never here to say anything. She prefers Germany. It is you I love, Simone; It is you I want to be with.

SIMONE

I am so happy you said that, finally. Now I know you'll do anything for me.

Simone kisses him passionately.

PEIPER

You've made me the happiest man in the world.

SIMONE

Let me go upstairs. Get ready to come up when I call you.

PEIPER

I am waiting...

Simone leaves. Peiper pours himself a glass of Cognac and stands in front of the fireplace with a smile on his face.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Peiper comes in the bedroom, lit only by the fireplace. Simone lays in bed, wearing a negligee. The sheets cover her up to her breasts. Peiper sits on the edge of the bed next to her.

PEIPER

Simone, you are so beautiful.
 (kisses her)
 I've been waiting so long for this
 moment.

SIMONE

As have I.

Peiper pulls the covers down revealing her severely scarred torso.

PEIPER

My dear! What happened?!

SIMONE

It happened during the war, when I was
 a child.

PEIPER

How?

SIMONE

My family was living in Baugnez. We
 were ordered into a church...

Shock overtakes Peiper's face. He stands to recall his orders and actions.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

That was locked and set on fire.

The bedroom door opens. Ray and Gerard enter. Ray walks with a cane. Peiper is stunned. He looks back at Simone.

PEIPER

Simone, how could you?

SIMONE

No Colonel Peiper, how could you?

RAY

I've been waiting for this moment for
 thirty years. I wanted to see the look
 on your face, you murderer!

PEIPER

I've served my time. I've paid my
 price for the war!

RAY

The price for all the innocent people
 you killed? My sister? Her child?
 You've paid nothing!

PEIPER

What do you want? I'll pay you.

RAY

You'll pay with your blood.

PEIPER

What are going to do to me?

Simone pulls out a gun and shoots Peiper in the legs, so he cannot escape.

PEIPER (CONT'D)

(screams in pain)

AHHHHHH!!

Gerard slaps a handcuff on one of Peiper's wrists and shackles the other end to the massive bed. Ray walks over.

RAY

I'm going to do to you what you did to many others all those years ago. I'm going to burn this place with you in it, and listen to your screams.

PEIPER

No, please, you can't! I beg you.

RAY

I can and I will. You should have swung from a rope years ago, but somehow you slipped through legal loopholes alive. Now I'm here to carry out your real sentence.

PEIPER

(screams)

Paul! Help!! Help me!!

RAY

Your screams won't help you, Peiper. Paul was a resistance fighter also. He works with us. There's no one to save you. No one to hear you scream, except us.

Gerard pours gasoline on the bed and around the bedroom. He then pours a little on Peiper's legs.

GERARD

This is just enough so the flames crawl up to your face, like they did to my wife.

PEIPER

Noooo!!

As Simone, Ray and Gerard leave, Simone turns and looks Peiper in the eye. He shakes his head "no" to her, still pleading for his life.

SIMONE

Burn in hell where you belong, Colonel Peiper.

She strikes a match and tosses it on the floor, igniting the gasoline. The bedroom is ablaze quickly. The flames creep to curtains, the bed and then to Peiper as his legs catch fire. He shakes them, but to no avail as he catches on fire.

PEIPER

(yells)
AHHHHH!

EXT. CHALAIS - NIGHT (CONTINUING)

Simone, Ray and Gerard watch the chalais burn. Peiper's screams are heard as flames engulf the house.

SIMONE

It's finally over Papa.

RAY

Yes, my love, it is. Let's go visit your mother.

THE END.