

**RECALL**

EXT. PARADE FIELD - DAWN

The deserted parade field, empty bleachers, a CANNON nearby.

MAJOR DAMRON (V.O.)  
Our training policy here at the  
academy is based on a simple  
theory,..and that is, that  
improvement and progress are in  
direct proportion to the effort  
expended by both the student and  
the teacher.

Super:( "FEBRUARY, 1961")

EXT. MIAMI MILITARY ACADEMY - ARCHWAY

A LOGO...An EAGLE straddles an oblong world which encloses  
the symbol of a palm tree and an open book. Underneath is  
the motto,

*Hodie pueri postridie viri*  
(Boys Today, Men Tomorrow)

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL it as the emblem and the  
keystone of the archway.

*Miami Military Academy Est. 1923.*

MAJOR DAMRON (V.O.)

Each boy associates with the other  
boys in an atmosphere of... courage  
and optimism.. He learns the  
virtues of fair play...

CUT TO:

INT. MAJOR DAMRON'S OFFICE - EARLY MORNING

MAJOR DAMRON (50 southern, unctuous) is addressing a new  
boy, STEPHEN LISHINSKY, a bright eyed sixteen year old.  
Behind him sit his parents.

## MAJOR DAMRON (CONT'D)

I might add here, that as a boy, some of my hardest times were trying to answer a question while the girls were always tee-heeing at my answers. We don't have that problem here.

MR.LISHINSKY stifles a yawn, earning a glare from his wife. Looking through a window, he sees a battered jeep approach the archway.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD - MORNING

A Rooster crows from atop a quonsit hut. ARTHUR LINDQUIST, an odd looking boy of indeterminate age, peers through a cyclone fence at the deserted Parade Field. Inside the hut we see Arthur's mother passed out in squalor on a ratty couch. He watches as the battered jeep pulls through the archway entrance and stops in front of the Administration Bldg.

COMMANDER CLAIR PATTERSON, USN Retired (60),sits behind the wheel of the jeep. The two boys in the rear seat are in full dress uniform. They appear to have been through a minor war and have gotten the worst of it. They are:

ANTHONY"SLOUCH"ZANFARDINO (17) Brooklyn,rough,handsome and

ARMANDO"BEBOP"SEROPENEDA(18),Cuban patrician lean,angular;named for his distinctive stride.

SLOUCH

C'mon Commander, Why can't you let us out here.

BEBOP

Yeah, Commander give us a break, sir.

PATTERSON ignores them

An eleven year old, LT. HAROLD WHEELER of middle-aged temperament runs toward the jeep. He is in full dress uniform with a sword, too large, that bangs at his heels.

WHEELER

Commander, you got'em! Where'd you find'em? Spic city, right?

BEBOP

Watch your mouth tourist.

SLOUCH

We were on the road, punk. What are you, the permanent O.D. around here?

WHEELER

Yeah, and your asses are grass.

PATTERSON

Where's Colonel Barnes, Lieutenant?

SLOUCH

Aw hell, Commander, please give us a break sir. We can't afford this.

WHEELER

Morning prayer's started. But leave it to me sir, I'll make sure they get to the Colonel.

PATTERSON

You man enough to handle these characters Lieutenant?

WHEELER salutes and springs into action.

WHEELER

Alright, you two motherhumpers, out of that jeep and fall in... I SAID FALL IN! ON THE DOUBLE..ON THE DOUBLE!!

The two boys shake their heads but follow the orders.

WHEELER

Right face. Forward march. Left, right, left, right. Column right turn. Detail halt! Right face.

The two cadets are now standing with their backs toward the huge HOWITZER CANNON overlooking the parade field and bay.

WHEELER walks behind the boys and takes a set of HANDCUFFS from his pouch. He swiftly snaps the cuffs around SLOUCH's right wrist, through the recoil of the cannon and onto BEBOP'S left wrist. The boys are now firmly handcuffed to the HOWITZER.

SLOUCH

Wheeler, what the f...

WHEELER

You can go to prayer now Commander.

PATTERSON smiles drives off down the company street.

SLOUCH

Aww Why do ya encourage him  
sir!...Commander!

EXT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - DAY

MAJOR DAMRON comes out of the building accompanied by  
STEPHEN LISHINSKY and his parents.

MR. LISHINSKY

Well, son. Keep your nose clean...  
Try not to solve everything with  
your fists.

MRS. LISHINSKY

(Holding back tears)  
Our plane doesn't leave until  
Friday....

MAJOR DAMRON

(Interrupting)  
It's custom at the Academy to  
impose a restriction on leave and  
visitation for new cadets for a two  
week period.

She throws her arms around her embarrassed son.

MAJOR DAMRON

(To Mr. Lishinsky)  
..to ease the emotional strain on  
the changeover from home to school  
life.

MR. LISHINSKY

Let him be Marian. He'll be home  
soon enough.

SLOUCH (O.S.)

WHEELER, GODDAMIT! Just because you  
got rank doesn't mean you ain't a  
PISSANT!

DAMRON turns and sees LT.WHEELER walking away from the  
cannon.

DAMRON

Excuse me for a moment,... minor rebellion.

Turns and walks to cannon with controlled anger

DAMRON

(to Slouch)

Looking for an E-5 Pottymouth..Hmm?

(then)

Lt. Wheeler, report?

WHEELER

A couple of A.W.O.L's sir. Nothing that won't keep.

SLOUCH

Sir.. We were just..

DAMRON

Talk later Gentlemen.

(motioning to LISHINSKY to join them)

This is Stephen Lishinsky, a new cadet. He's going to bivouac with "A" Company. I want you to take him over there now to Captain Jenkins on the double.

(He hands the file folder to Wheeler)

WHEELER

Yes sir.

(To LISHINSKY)

Follow me.

DAMRON

(all smiles returning to the parents)

They're rambunctious but healthy. Boys are boys. I'm sure Steven will fit right in. I'll see you to your car.

The not so sure parents follow DAMRON to the parking lot, WHEELER takes LISHINSKY in tow. They pass SLOUCH and BEBOP shackled to the cannon.

SLOUCH

(To Wheeler)

Listen you PUNK MUTANT PISSANT!

(MORE)

SLOUCH (CONT'D)  
 You let us out of here right now or  
 I'm going to kill you!

WHEELER  
 I doubt it.

BEBOP  
 We mean it NOW!

WHEELER  
 Eeeewwww I'm shakin..I'll deal  
 with you two twats later. I gotta  
 dump the blonde number at prayer.

WHEELER and LISHINSKY continue across the parade field  
 toward the Gymnasium.

LISHINSKY  
 Why are those guys handcuffed to  
 that gun?

WHEELER  
 Where are you from boy?

LISHINSKY  
 Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

WHEELER  
 Maybe you call it a gun in  
 Pottsville, but here it's a  
 Howitzer, my man.. A five inch, long  
 range field artillery. When they  
 set it off at morning formation,  
 those two butt-cracks ain't likely  
 to feel like going A.W.O.L for  
 awhile.

LISHINSKY  
 What did they do?

WHEELER  
 You'll know soon enough. They're in  
 your company. "A" Company.... "A"  
 for Assholes.

EXT. PARADE FIELD (CANNON) - DAY

SLOUCH and BEBOP struggle with the handcuffs.

BEBOP  
 Now we got the bullring this  
 weekend.

SLOUCH

Nobody asked for your help.

BEBOP

Hey *stupido*. Those people are serious. You shoot your mouth off and they believe you. How you going to get a bazooka out of here.

SLOUCH

I'll get it.

BEBOP

You'll get us killed! This ain't no war games man. This is for real. You shoot your mouth off, you get us killed.

SLOUCH

Keep watching. Maybe you'll learn something.

BEBOP shakes his head in disbelief.

SLOUCH

Take it easy. Ain't I always got your back?

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM ENTRANCE - DAY

The door cracks open spilling a shaft of morning sunlight across the shorn, furry, bowed heads of THE BOYS OF MIAMI MILITARY ACADEMY. About 200 boys in all.

They are being led in the cadet prayer by COLONEL MOROCCA, cadet battle group commander. He is an overweight Cuban senior with a deep baritone voice, (17 years old).

MORROCA (AND 400 OTHERS)

*Oh God, our Father, thou searcher of men's hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural...*

WHEELER nudges LISHINSKY to bow his head and they stand at the entrance listening to the prayer.

The two boys have moved in next to EDWIN BOVA(16)slight and cynical, won't ask, won't tell, don't care.

BOVA  
(To Lishinsky)  
You are?

LISHINSKY  
Stephen Lishinsky.

BOVA  
That's a marvelous head of hair.

The prayer continues in a rumble. We catch a word here and there as we pan the faces of the boys,featuring "A" COMPANY.

BOYS  
*....Encourage us to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong. Help us in our work and in our play to keep physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, that we may better maintain the honor of the Corps, untarnished and unsullied. All this we ask in the name of the great friend and Master of men.*

BOVA  
Welcome to Oz, Dorothy.

BOYS  
*AMEN.*

In the silence of the hall ,a slight man, walks toward the podium and looks out over the sea of boys' faces. He is COL. DARRYL BARNES (64) ,the Commandant of the school and he is not well. As he reaches the rostrum:

MORROCA  
(Bellowing)  
Group!

Simultaneously all respond:

FEATURING "A" COMPANY (we'll meet them soon)

CAPT.BAHAMA MAMA  
Company.

MASTER SGT SAULLO  
Platoon.

SFC BRADFORD "SEA COW" HAMLEY  
Squad.

MORROCA  
Attenhut!

The crash of boot heels echoes through the gym as COL BARNES grips the podium.

BARNES  
At ease...  
A latrine.. is not a battleground  
for gang warfare... We are not  
animals here. I have no idea what  
happened in  
the McKibbon barracks latrine  
last night.., but I do know that  
Pvt. Hartsford Andrews is in the  
Dade County Hospital with a  
fractured skull this morning... You  
didn't have to be there with his  
mother. She asked me "What kind of  
school are you running Colonel? A  
School for a bunch of animals?..  
And I couldn't answer that....

BARNES seems to direct his speech toward "A" COMPANY.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD (CANNON)- DAY

SLOUCH and BEBOP have been joined at the cannon by the  
BUGLER(HARGRAVES)16 and TWO FLAG RAISERS.

Major DAMRON steps in.

DAMRON  
Now, what's going on?

HARGRAVES  
We can't set off the cannon sir!

SLOUCH and BEBOP raise their chained arms.

SLOUCH  
Lt. Wheeler, sir.

DAMRON  
 (To the Bugler)  
 Hargraves, get Wheeler. On the  
 double.

CUT TO:

INT.GYMNASIUM-DAY

BARNES (CONT.)  
 I hold you all  
 responsible..Violence of this  
 heinous nature will not be  
 tolerated... Gentlemen's  
 disagreements are settled in a  
 boxing ring, or on some other field  
 of honor. We do not sully that  
 honor in such a despicable,  
 distasteful, disgusting way...IN A  
 LATRINE!! Slippin and sliden in  
 your own filth. Crackin heads on  
 CEMENT FLOORS! I tell myself we  
 are not animals here,.. or are  
 we?... ARE WE??

GROUP  
 NO SIR!!!

BARNES  
 (Anger building)  
 ARE WE??

GROUP  
 NO SIR!!!

(....then a lone cow  
 bellows)

MAWOOOOOO...

(then a sheep bleats)

Baaa... Baaaaaah!

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - (LATER)

The cadets are standing at full attention as MOROCCA gives the orders.

MORROCA

Group. Ready to form up on Company Street for morning formation....  
And "A"COMPANY!... I want the barnyard comedians. ....DISMISSED.

"A" COMPANY begins to file out through the wide doors.

WHEELER

(To Sgt. Saullo)  
I got a new man for "A" Company.

MASTER SGT SAULLO,(17) from Yonkers, is yelling at BOVA.

SGT. SAULLO

Bova, you walk up to the Colonel and you say 'Sir, I don't want the entire Company to be punished because I moored.' You tell him, 'Sir, I'm the moorer.'

WHEELER hands the clipboard to SAULLO for him to sign.

WHEELER

I got.....

He is interrupted by SAULLO

SGT. SAULLO

Shut up, midget..."sir"  
(To Bova) So you go to him and say 'I'm the moorer.'

BOVA

Whaterya talkin about? I ain't the moorer.

SGT. SAULLO

Then who is the moorer?

BOVA

I don't know. *Othello*. How the fuck should I know? Maybe it's the new kid.

WHEELER

Sargent. I ain't got all day.

FIRST CADET  
Yeah, Bova's the mooer. We heard..

SECOND CADET  
Why'd'ya moo, motherfucker.

BOVA  
It was Bear.

BEAR(LI'L ABNER AT 16)  
No it wasn't.. I just did the sheep  
part.

HARGRAVES THE BUGLER enters the gym.

HARGRAVES  
The KEYS Wheeler!, Damron wants the  
keys to the handcuffs!

SGT. SAULLO  
Both a youse... Youse go tell him.  
NOW! Or I'll put a baseball bat up  
yer asses and check yer erl! That's  
an ORDER!

BEAR smacks BOVA who mumbles to himself as they head out the  
door. SAULLO takes the clipboard from WHEELER and signs it.

SGT. SAULLO  
Second Platoon, Third Squad. Sea  
Cow take him.

SAULLO motions Lishinsky toward DAVID(SEA COW)HAMLEY(17)

SEA COW  
(To Lishinsky)  
Fall in.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

The boys file out into the sunshine with Lishinsky now  
trying to fall in step behind SEA COW HAMLEY.

EXT. COMPANY STREET - DAY

"A" Company marches down the Company street toward  
formation. With fatherly concern, SEA COW is marching beside  
LISHINSKY helping him into step.

SEA COW  
That's it. Left, right, left,  
right. Where you from?

LISHINSKY  
 Uh... Pennsylvania... Pottsville...  
 Pottsville, P.A.

SEA COW  
 You'll like it here, I hope.

LISHINSKY  
 It's not like Pottsville.

LISHINSKY is still trying very hard to fall into the cadence of the step. He unwittingly treads on the heels of the boy in front of him.

COOMBS (ALL NOSE)16  
 Just keep off my heels, pisspot.

TRENCHER (16) SLIGHT  
 Jeeesus will ya get a load of those  
 two..

We are not privy to the conversation that is going on between BOVA, BEAR and CADET COL. MOROCCA as they walk along the Parade Square Parallel to the Company Street.

BEAR is still, but BOVA is gesturing energetically back and forth between MOROCCA and "A" COMPANY.

SGT. SAULLO (V.O.)  
 What's that dipshit sayin' anyways.

COMBS  
 I better not be looking at an E5  
 this weekend, or Bova's gonna' be  
 lookin' at my fist.

TRENCHER  
 I doubt it.

He points toward the cannon.

SEA COW  
 Look, Slouch and BeBop are back.

SGT. SAULLO  
 OK I give up...

EXT. PARADE FIELD (CANNON) - DAY

DAMRON  
 These are the wrong keys!

WHEELER

I got them down on Flagler Street, sir and they only cost two bucks. I guess he gypped me.

DAMRON

Who told you to do this, Lieutenant?

WHEELER

Commander Patterson, sir. They're A.W.O.L's. He found them down in Little Havana whoring around again.

BEBOP

That's a lie Punk!

SLOUCH

We just missed the last bus sir. That's all.

DAMRON

(Shaking his head)  
Commander Patterson, eh?

HARGRAVES

I'll get the hacksaw from supply, sir.

EXT. COMPANY STREET - DAY

The entire school is forming up for morning inspection. Out of the front of "A" Company barracks comes a mountainous white Bahamian boy, DUDLEY JENKINS (BAHAMA MAMA) 17: he is most often absent.. sleeping or eating, cadet captain in charge of "A" COMPANY. Most everything is delegated to Master SGT SAULLO. 1st Lt. SCHNUPP (17 ) and 2nd Lts. FISHER and QUIRT are also mainly window dressing. BAHAMA MAMA yawns expansively, then lumbers past the assembled group to the front of the ranks.

SEA COW is demonstrating proper attire to LISHINSKY, using ROGER COOMBS as an example.

SEA COW

Now these here are your brass pieces on your lapels. Gotta shine like mirrors for morning inspection or it's an A-6. I use Brasso... Squeaky clean. I have some you can use. Just remember, they have to be shined every day... Shoes too, spit shined. We usually have time for that after recall.

(MORE)

SEA COW (CONT'D)  
I'll show you that tonight. Squeaky  
clean or it's an A-6...

As BAHAMA MAMA reaches the front of the ranks:

BAHAMA MAMA  
Good morning, gentlemen.

ALL  
Good morning, sir.

BAHAMA MAMA walks over to SGT.SAULLO standing between the  
two platoons.

LISHINSKY  
(To Sea Cow)  
What's an A-6?

SEA COW  
Improper uniform.

He pulls out a small blue book from his back pocket, and  
hands it to LISHINSKY.

SEA COW  
Learn it by heart. It's the bible.  
Use mine 'til you're outfitted.

SAULLO reports to BAHAMA MAMA.

SGT. SAULLO  
Got a new man, sir. Name's  
Lishinsky. I put him in Sea Cow's  
squad.

BAHAMA MAMA turns and looks at LISHINSKY.

SGT. SAULLO  
Slouch and BeBop are back, sir.

BAHAMA MAMA  
They get caught?

SAULLO points off toward the cannon. Obviously..

EXT. PARADE FIELD - DAY

Col. BARNES and Commander PATTERSON are walking toward the  
formation from the gymnasium.

BARNES  
Where were they this time? Flagler  
Street?

PATTERSON

They were on the road. Probably the  
uncle again..your old pal with the  
"Pedro Pans"..Raoul... Chrissakes  
Darryl,I told ya not get involved  
with those damn orphans. BeBop's  
more trouble than he's worth.

BARNES

Army subsidy Pat..Our landlord's by  
the way, as you keep seeming to  
forget. Their arms, their land,  
..their ordinance...whole shebang.  
(pointing to three large mounds by  
the bay)  
Besides, he's a good kid.

PATTERSON

Not sayin he aint ...but the army  
don't own these kids...Cubans yeah  
maybe ..not our boys. Can't you  
make a call or somethin?

BARNES

Not your concern Pat. Need to know  
basis.

PATTERSON

Wish you'd be straight with me for  
once,Darryl.

BARNES

Clean up. You look like hell.

PATTERSON just shakes his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMPANY STREET - DAY

The entire school is formed up for morning report. The Cadet  
Battle Group Commander MORROCA takes charge of the  
Formation.

MORROCA

Group.

The companies, Platoons and Squads answer.

MORROCA

Report.

VOICE

H and S companies all present and  
accounted for sir.

There is silence.

MORROCA

"A" Company report.

SGT. SAULLO

42 present. Two indisposed, sir.

MORROCA

Indisposed...? Explain.

SGT. SAULLO

Ahh.....

EXT. PARADE FIELD (CANNON)- DAY

SLOUCH pulls himself up as close to attention as he can.

SLOUCH

All present and accounted for, sir!

A rousing cheer goes up from "A" Company. The remaining  
Companies report in descending order of age.

VOICE

"B" Company all present and  
accounted for, sir.

VOICE

"C" Company all present and  
accounted for, sir.

VOICE

"D" Company all present and  
accounted for, sir.

The last Company to report is "E" Company. The voice is  
high pitched coming from a ten year old.

VOICE

"E" Company all present and  
accounted for, sir.

EXT. PARADE FIELD (CANNON)- DAY

HARGRAVES

(Sawing at the handcuffs)  
I'll have them apart in a minute,  
sir.

The TWO CANNONEERS load a charge into the breech of the cannon.

The HACKSAW breaks through the HANDCUFFS.

The CANNON is fired.

COL. MORROCA

Group.

The companies, Platoons and Squad respond.

COL. MORROCA

Present Arms!

The boys salute as the flag is raised and BUGLER HARGRAVES plays Call to Colors.

The HANDCUFFS dangle from SLOUCH'S salute.

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS - DAY

TRENCHER is chastising BEAR

TRENCHER

You didn't have to crack his head on the floor like that. Nobody asked you to.

BEAR

You were all yelling for me to do it. You said he was the Razor Fiend, Trencher.

TRENCHER

So what was he doing in there at three o'clock in the morning?

BEBOP is gathering his books from his locker between the bunk beds.

BEBOP

Probably taking a leak. What were you doing in there?

SLOUCH

We know what TRENCHER was doin' in there.

SEA COW is still hovering over LISHINSKY

SEA COW  
 (Confidentially)  
 Watch the soap when you wash.  
 Somebody's puttin' razor blades in  
 it.

LISHINSKY nods to the information.

BAHAMA MAMA has finished his morning breakfast tray and signals to QUIRT ,who obviously operates as his valet, to remove it.

Sgt. SAULLO hands LISHINSKY a note.

SGT. SAULLO  
 Class assignments. Any questions,  
 ask the ranking officer in class.  
 (To Hamley)  
 Sea Cow, get him a bunk.

BOVA bursts through the door in a rage. BEAR follows.

BOVA  
 An E-5! A fucking E-5! And I gotta  
 apologize! For nothin!  
 I didn't even moo.

TRENCHER  
 What about us?

BOVA  
 (He throws a piece of  
 paper on the floor)  
 A blanket B-11 for the company.

LISHINSKY is thumbing through the Blue Book.

SEA COW  
 (Over his shoulder)  
 That ain't bad, it's only five.

COOMBS  
 Shit, with the ten I got already, it  
 puts me in the bullring for the  
 weekend.

LISHINSKY looks at SLOUCH lying in the bottom bunk. Starts to unroll the top mattress.

LISHINSKY  
 This okay?

SLOUCH could give a rat's ass.

A BELL rings in the distance.

SGT. SAULLO

Slouch, take Lishinsky over to the  
PX and get him outfitted.

Slouch glares up at Lishinsky.

SLOUCH

Lets go... Stop dawdlin.

CUT TO:

INT. PEREZ' PX

CAPTAIN JOSE PEREZ, a squat Cuban in his late fifties, is measuring LISHINSKY's waistline. The PX is a gathering place for the boys in their off time...Pinball machine, soda counter, drugstore etc. Perez offers therapy and drugstore philosophy. Now he measures Lishinsky as his assistant writes on a pad.

PEREZ

(measuring)Viente ocho.

SLOUCH and LISHINSKY watch the ceiling mounted TV. WALTER CRONKITE does the news.

CRONKITE

Today, two years after Fidel Castro's troops marched into the Moncada Army Barracks, effectively seizing control of the island nation, the United States severed all diplomatic relations with Cuba. At the U.N., Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev lucidly spoke of news that "aggressive American monopolists are preparing a direct attack on Cuba".

(a veneer of matching newsreel footage follows ; Castro entering Havana, Khrushchev haranguing the U.N. etc.)

SLOUCH

Goin on the invasion Jose?

PEREZ  
 (Glares, then)  
 Cabeza. Siete y siete ocho.

SLOUCH  
 I'll get him the hat, I know where  
 they are.

SLOUCH walks down the rows of coats and shirts to the back of the room. He looks back to see Perez ,distracted by the TV. He goes to the bottom right drawer. He takes a key that reads 'Bunker 3' on the circular tab attached, and pockets it. LISHINSKY sees this. SLOUCH takes a hat off the shelf and walks back to the front of the PX.

CUT TO:

EXT. FENCE

LINDQUIST, the odd boy, still in his pajamas, climbs the fence and creeps toward the classroom window. He peers through the window at CAPTAIN MILLER's chemistry class.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS -DAY

CAPTAIN MILLER  
 (Mystically)  
 If we were to peer through the  
 mists of time, with our mind's eye,  
 we would see primitive man,  
 struggling against the forces of  
 nature...

As MILLER yammers on, BEBOP and SLOUCH, lab partners, busily work over fuming test tubes. LISHINSKY tries to move the Bunsen burner from under the foaming retort tube.

SLOUCH  
 Keep your mitts off.

LISHINSKY pulls back.

LISHINSKY  
 Your flames too high...  
 So.. what's the key for?

SLOUCH  
 I said back off asshole.

MILLER walks among the experiment tables watching each of the boys work.

CAPTAIN MILLER  
 ...to construct some meaningful  
 system about him that would explain  
 the universe in a rational way ...

SLOUCH smiles out the window at LINDQUIST. He drinks from a test tube and does a Dr. Jekyll to amuse the boy.

CAPTAIN MILLER  
 ...that gave birth first to  
 mythology and then to formalized  
 scientific study.

MILLER'S timer sounds an alarm.

CAPTAIN MILLER  
 Secure your experiments and return  
 to your desks for a quick quiz.  
 The new boy, what's your name?

LISHINSKY  
 Lishinsky, sir.

CAPTAIN MILLER  
 You won't be graded on this but at  
 least we can find out where we are.

The boys are seated and begin writing. LISHINSKY writes answer after answer while SLOUCH is struggling.

The retort tube bubbles.

SLOUCH starts to cheat off LISHINSKY who lets him. SLOUCH smiles at LISHINSKY for the first time.

THE RETORT TUBE EXPLODES.

LINDQUIST runs from the window in terror across the Parade Field.

CAPTAIN MILLER has a fire extinguisher in hand putting out the flames.

BEBOP  
 (to Slouch)  
 Your flame's too high.

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL- DAY

The school is assembled for lunch. Boys move along the line through the stainless steel steam trays and sit at tables. SLOUCH and BEBOP huddle conspiratorially.

LISHINSKY comes into the mess hall after everybody else has been served. He picks up a tray and goes to the steam tables. BOVA and BEAR are in the midst of argument.

BOVA

It's not that you didn't have anything to say, it's just that...well you always do it.

BEAR

Do what?

BOVA

It's just that sometimes you frighten people.

BEAR

I know. I shouldn't have grabbed your shirt.

BOVA

Well...yes. That's not a debate Smith.

LISHINSKY comes over to the table and sits down near SLOUCH and BEBOP.

BEBOP

Hey Lishinsky, How you like bein a soldier so far?

LISHINSKY

O.K. I guess.  
(looking at his tray)  
What are these?

SLOUCH

Rock gamish corn holes.

BEAR

(continuing the discussion)  
But you wouldn't listen. You just kept shaking your head. I mean, BOVA, sometimes you make a person really want to clock you.

BOVA

It was my turn to speak! That's the way it works in a debate. Understand? A debate. My turn. Then your turn.

BEAR

You didn't even give me a chance. You wouldn't shut up... I mean, with that "my learned colleague" crap.

BOVA

Yes, I had the floor, for God's sake. You have to wait YOUR TURN to debate. According to *Robert's Rules of Order*, you're supposed to wait your turn, not use your hands. You tore my shirt, BEAR! You ripped the sleeve.

BEAR

Okay, I'm sorry. I'll fix it. Tell Boggs I'm sorry.

BOVA

It's too late. You're off the debating team. He says you have nothing to contribute.

BEAR

So fuck y'all. I'll try sailing. Least then I can sail out of this jail once in a while.

WHEELER appears from nowhere and stands next to Slouch.

WHEELER

Three volunteers to police the Parade Field.

(he points to SLOUCH,  
BEBOP and LISHINSKY)

You, you and you.

SLOUCH

Ah, c'mon Lieutenant, we just started eating.

WHEELER

Take your time. You got two minutes.... or do you want a D5?

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD- DAY

SLOUCH places his barely eaten mess plate at the foot of a mango tree. LINDQUIST scurries down from his perch in the tree and scarfs up the remains. SLOUCH joins BEBOP, and LISHINSKY who are policing the Parade Field in the heat of the midday sun, Lt. WHEELER oversees the operation.

BEBOP

...*Cienfuegos*, it's on the South coast.

SLOUCH

Yeah, before Castro, he used to be spic royalty. Before they popped his old man.

LISHINSKY

Really?

SLOUCH

Yeah, he had a chauffeur and everything.

WHEELER

Slouch! You walked right by that piece of paper.

SLOUCH

Sorry, Lieutenant.

WHEELER stabs a loose piece of paper with his sword, and exhibits it for the others.

LISHINSKY

So what are you doing here?

BEBOP

A friend of my father got me to Miami; a *Soldado Cubano*. He says, 'Be a soldier. Honor your family. Defend your name.' Someday soon we take back our country.

LISHINSKY

...I wanted to come here.

SLOUCH

You volunteered?

LISHINSKY  
I liked the brochure.

SLOUCH  
Ha! Everybody's trying to get out of this place. I've been trying to get out for eight years. And you volunteered!

LISHINSKY  
This place sure doesn't look like the brochure. It sucks.

SLOUCH  
He volunteered. Hah Hah!

LISHINSKY  
How long do you think it'll take me to get some rank?

BEBOP  
It takes at least a year, but you got a special problem.

SLOUCH  
Yeah, there ain't gonna be no next year.

BEBOP  
See that?

He points to the HIGH RISE CONSTRUCTION going on near the north border of the school.

BEBOP  
This time next year, ain't gonna be a school. It's gonna be a retirement village.

LISHINSKY  
I just got here.

BEBOP  
This place is an old army ammo dump...old, man,... obsolete. They only lease it to Barnes.

SLOUCH  
They're gonna take their shit back...soon. Barnes...he knows.. There ain't a chance of saving this place.

LISHINSKY

How do you guys know so damn much?

BEBOP

Obvious ..Even to a *turista* no?

LISHINSKY

They let me sign up here knowing that?

SLOUCH

Yeah, he still needs all the sucker cash he can get. And you're a first class one. You *volunteered*.  
Ha, ha.

LISHINSKY turns and punches SLOUCH squarely in the mouth. SLOUCH is quick to retaliate with a flurry of punches of his own. BEBOP merely stands and watches the action.

WHEELER sees the fight and drops his sword.

WHEELER

(screaming)

Break it up!

He rushes in to the fray.

BEBOP

Let them have it out Lieutenant.

WHEELER jumps in anyway.

WHEELER

I said 'break it up.'

He catches a stray fist from SLOUCH on his nose.

WHEELER

AAAAWaaaaooah.

SLOUCH stops fighting and comes to WHEELER.

SLOUCH

Jesus, Wheeler, I'm sorry.

WHEELER

(crying)

Who hid by dose!.

LISHINSKY

I did Lieutenant. I'm sorry.

WHEELER  
 (through his tears)  
 Dat's a D-2.

VOICE (O.C.)  
 DON'T YOU WALK AWAY FROM ME!

HONKING off camera.

ANOTHER ANGLE EXT. GATEWAY

We see SALLY BARNES, a pert 17, the colonel's prodigal daughter, seated in a dilapidated Volkswagon bus, blaring the horn. Her path is blocked by the gate barrier. The young cadet in charge of gate-keeping is walking away.

SALLY  
 OPEN THE GODDAMN GATE! DO YOU KNOW  
 WHO MY FATHER IS??

GATEKEEPER  
 Sorry, Ma'am, gotta check with the  
 office. (Walking away)

Sally throws it in first gear and slams the Volks through the flimsy barrier. She drives across the parade field, nearly running down Lishinsky and comes to a stop in front of the COLONEL'S house. The boys cannot take their eyes off this whirlwind as she gets out of the jeep and storms on to the porch.

SALLY  
 THE DESERTER'S BACK!..REPORTING FOR  
 DUTY,SIR..NO EXCUSE SIR!

As she kicks the screen door open and goes inside.

INT. BARNES' HOUSE

BARNES is seated in his living room chair frantically trying to remove and hide his OXYGEN MASK attached to a large metal bottle. NORIKO enters from the kitchen. She takes one look at Sally, starts to speak then darts out the door.

SALLY  
 You two guys still bangin your  
 nurse?

BARNES  
 Mouth on you like your  
 mother.

SALLY  
 So where can I put my stuff?

BARNES

Where do you think.(nods to a  
bedroom door)

Sally goes to the door looks in on the empty room she left long ago. A teddy bear on the stripped cot. And on the desk an old picture of her mom,dad and Patterson raising their beers in a toast.

DISSOLVE TO :

INT. ENGLISH CLASS -DAY

The boys are seated in CAPTAIN SHELDON CURRY's English class. SLOUCH and SAULLO standing at the head of the class are reading aloud from SHAKESPEARE, but it sounds like really bad Long Island dinner theater.

SGT. SAULLO

*.... I'll not fight with thee.*

SLOUCH

*Then yield thee coward, and live to  
be the show and gaze of the time.*

The class cheers SLOUCH.

SGT. SAULLO

*I will not yield to kiss the ground  
before young Malcolm's feet though  
Birnam Wood be come to Dunsinane,*

SLOUCH mugs for the class.

SGT. SAULLO

*Before my body, I throw my warlike  
shield. Lay on MacDuff and damned  
be him that first cries hold  
enough.*

With a quick thrust SLOUCH grabs SAULLO by the throat and they wrestle each other to the floor.

SGT. SAULLO

(gasping)  
As you were goddamit.

SLOUCH

*Exeunt fighting. Alarums.*

There is a rousing cheer for SLOUCH's victory.

CAPTAIN CURRY  
 (trying to break them  
 apart)  
 Boys, boys.

SGT. SAULLO  
 That's a D-2, SLOUCH.

SLOUCH  
*Alarums. Retreat. Flourish.*

CAPTAIN CURRY hopelessly tries to pull the boys apart.

CAPTAIN CURRY  
 Be seated. Be seated.

SAULLO finally slams SLOUCH into his seat.

CAPTAIN CURRY  
 We will read the remainder from our  
 seats.

SLOUCH  
 But sir, it says I gotta re-enter  
 with his head.

The class laughs. Shakespeare is fun.

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS DAY

It is the beginning of the recreation period. The boys are standing in front of their lockers and each is changing into gym trunks and exercise togs. SLOUCH is sitting on his bunk and watching SEA COW instruct LISHINSKY.

SEA COW  
 You fold up your socks then flip  
 them like this. You stow them with  
 the slit up like this.  
 (he folds the sock and  
 puts it into the locker)  
 Your underwear has to be folded  
 three ways, like this.

SLOUCH  
 (from across the room)  
 Hey Sea Cow, c'mere a minute.

SEA COW waddles over to the locker.

SLOUCH  
I want you to inspect my locker.

SEA COW  
You nuts?

SLOUCH opens his locker with a finger (note: a small picture of Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* is taped to his door.) He pulls a box of 'BUTTERFINGER'S CANDY BARS from the folded socks..

SLOUCH  
I'll let you confiscate them if you'll forget, say...ten demerits.

SEA COW  
Maybe I'd just better confiscate them anyway.

SLOUCH  
(yells)  
SGT.SAULLO!

SAULLO turns toward the sound of the yell.

SEA COW  
Okay. Okay.

He flips through the pages of his clipboard.

SEA COW  
Zanfardino.. Here we are.

Sea cow hands SLOUCH a demerit slip. SLOUCH wads up the slip and pops it in his mouth and chews it. SEA COW pockets the chocolate bars.

SLOUCH  
(to Lishinsky)  
You got an activity?

LISHINSKY  
No.

SLOUCH  
Better stick with us. Wanna try sailing?

LISHINSKY  
Sure.

EXT. LAGOON- DAY

It is more like a large pond. The boys are dressed in their short pants and sneakers in the red and white of the school. There are two boys to each of the small sailing dingys as they circle the inside of the lagoon. On one side of a narrow canal leading out onto Biscayne Bay, are THREE ANCIENT MUNITIONS BUNKERS.

LISHINSKY and BEBOP occupy one of the boats. PATTERSON and BEAR occupy the lead boat.

PATTERSON  
(Washington crossing the  
Delaware with a bullhorn)  
Hargraves, come about. Bova,  
tighten up on that line there.

PATTERSON is standing up in the bow of what is apparently the lead boat. The sail is a brilliant red with the eagle of the school emblem emblazoned in gold on the face of it.

PATTERSON  
Hooper, spill some wind out of that  
sail. Pay attention man.

EXT. MUNITIONS BUNKER- DAY

SLOUCH is hovering around the door of the far munitions bunker and fiddling with the lock. He inserts a key into the rusted lock and pries it open. He enters.

INT. MUNITIONS BUNKER- DAY

There are rows of wooden , olive drab crates containing M-1 rifles, grenades, 30 calibre ammunition, and crates marked EXPLOSIVES. Slouch flicks his Zippo lighter illuminating a case marked DANGER-HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

SLOUCH pries open a wooden case and takes out a bazooka.

EXT. LAGOON- DAY

PATTERSON  
(through a bullhorn)Now we'll take  
'em out single file and form the  
triangular pattern we practiced  
when the last man, that's you  
Coombs, boat number 10. Eisendorf,  
turn that radio off and listen for  
my command. When the last sailing  
craft passes through the channel,  
you wait for my command to assume  
the triangular formation.

EXT. BOAT DOCK- DAY

SLOUCH is running along the boat dock with the BAZOOKA broken down and wrapped with a life jacket. He makes a running leap off the dock into the boat with BEBOP at the helm.

PATTERSON  
Zanfardino, what the hell are you  
doing?

SLOUCH  
(holding up the jacket)  
Life jacket for the new man sir.

LISHINSKY is looking wide-eyed at the BAZOOKA in the bilge.

PATTERSON  
What are three men doing in a two  
man sailing craft?

SLOUCH  
We'll be fine sir.

PATTERSON  
Get that man up to the bow.

LISHINSKY is puzzled as to what to do. He sits.

PATTERSON  
In the bow. The bow.

BEAR  
Coming about, sir.

PATTERSON wheels to BEAR to see what he has said.

PATTERSON  
What?

As PATTERSON Turns, the boom of the boat comes about and smacks him in the nose.

BEAR  
(too late)  
Duck sir...oh.

PATTERSON wipes the blood from his nose with this handkerchief.

SLOUCH  
Can we be of any assistance, sir.

PATTERSON is not hearing. He is holding his nose and glaring at BEAR.

BEAR  
I'm sorry sir, I was just coming about. Didn't you hear me say 'coming about', sir?

PATTERSON  
(into the bullhorn)  
Watch the lead boat. Listen for my command. Alright, move out.

LISHINSKY is still staring down at the BAZOOKA lying in the boat.

LISHINSKY  
(softly)  
Jesus.

HARGRAVES, in BOVA's boat, plays '*the Sloop John B*' on a banjo as the tiny crafts thread their way through the channel and out onto Biscayne Bay.

EXT. SAIL BOAT BISCAYNE BAY- DAY, MUSIC OVER

LISHINSKY  
If you guys got plans, you can just drop me off on the dock.

SLOUCH  
Too late. You're in or you're dead. You chickenshit?

LISHINSKY  
No.

SLOUCH  
Then get up in the bow.

LISHINSKY hesitates a moment.

SLOUCH  
The front. And keep your eyes open.

LISHINSKY moves to the bow.

SLOUCH  
Heads up. Ready to tack to starboard.

HARGRAVES plays. The dingy comes about and SLOUCH and BEBOP shift to the opposite side.

SLOUCH  
(to Lishinsky)  
Shift to starboard. Jesus.

LISHINSKY  
Maybe I should write some of this down.

BEBOP  
Don't worry. The captain'll take care of us. Right captain?

SLOUCH ignores him.

BEBOP  
He knows all about the sea. Him and the Commander. "Ole Windbags".

SLOUCH  
Don't knock the old man. He done his part. You never had a torpedo up your ass.

LISHINSKY  
Torpedo?

SLOUCH  
Yeah. Samuel B Roberts motherfucker...Leyte Gulf..then Navy Special Forces or Seabees or something.. I can never get it straight.. Purple Hearts..lotta salad..Big hero. Don't pay any attention to his yellin...just breakin wind. Hell, I was Wheeler's age when I got here and he was the only one who gave a shit. I didn't have no old lady cry over my ass when I was dumped here.

BEBOP  
(to Lishinsky)  
Slouch is motherless...A bird shit him out over Fort Lauderdale.

SLOUCH  
Least *mi madre* ain't hookin in Havana. And you don't want me to get started on your aunt, do you?

BEBOP

(To SLOUCH) What are you, my historian.?. (to LISHINSKY).You'll like my aunt. But she's not too crazy about bed-wetters...right Slouch?

SLOUCH

...with those perfect tits..

BEBOP

Fat lip...two seconds.

SLOUCH lifts the end of the bazooka and points it in BEBOP'S face. *click*..then at LISHINSKY..*click*.

EXT. BISCAYNE BAY- DAY ANOTHER ANGLE

A SMALL MOTOR LAUNCH lies moored to an anchor buoy in a quiet part of the bay.

EXT. SAILBOAT BISCAYNE BAY -DAY

SLOUCH

(Indicating the motor launch)

There!

The sailboat heads for the launch and comes about to lie dead in the wind.

BEBOP

Hola!.

A beautiful CUBAN GIRL has been sunning herself in the bottom of the boat. She raises her head and peeks out from under her sunglasses. She is ANITA TORRES.

ANITA

HOLA!

(The dialogue between ANITA and BEBOP is in Spanish)

BEBOP

Anita, what the hell are you doing here.

ANITA

UNCLE RAOUL sent me to meet you.

BEBOP

Where's UNCLE RAOUL?

ANITA

He's busy. Why can't you talk to me. Don't you like me anymore?

BEBOP

I was expecting UNCLE RAOUL.

ANITA

Well, he's not coming. He said you had something for me.

SLOUCH takes the BAZOOKA from the bottom of the sailboat and hands it over to ANITA.

SLOUCH

You tell them I'm as good as my word. Tell Raoul there's a lot more where this came from. We pull our own weight.

ANITA nods to SLOUCH and starts the engine of the launch. She winks coyly at LISHINSKY. She revs the engine and peels away..

SLOUCH

(Shouting over the engine)  
You tell your uncle to count us in.  
YOU TELL EM WE GOT THE HUEVOS!

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS -NIGHT

SLOUCH and LISHINSKY are sitting on the bottom bunk spit shining their shoes. It is study hall time. Some of the boys are sitting at their fold-out desks doing their homework.

LISHINSKY

(Handing a shoe to Slouch)  
How's this?

SLOUCH

You got a long way to go. They gotta look like this.

He shows LISHINSKY his boot.

SLOUCH

Like mirrors. Watch.

SLOUCH lights a match to his wax can to heat the polish.

ANOTHER ANGLE

BEAR is reading a paperback, *NUCLEAR WINTER WAR BRIDES* aloud to TRENCHER and others. SGT. SAULLO is patrolling the length of the barracks slapping a flyswatter at snoozing cadets.

BEAR

*Slowly he reached out and grabbed  
the back of her dress. She moaned,  
He moaned. The cataclysmic surges  
of earth and time stood still.*

SAULLO smacks him on top of the head with the flyswatter.

SGT. SAULLO

No stroke books! This is time to  
study. Bear. Try and find something  
that won't dissipate you so much.

ANOTHER ANGLE

SEA COW HAMLEY is opening a Valentine present. The card reads, *'Thinking of you, with love from Mommy and Dad.'* Sea Cow shakes the package.

BEBOP

It sounds like a *Whitman's Sampler*,  
Sea Cow.

TRENCHER grabs the package from SEA COW and shakes it vigorously. SEA COW grabs it back from him and rips open the covering.

TRENCHER

Writing paper. Tough luck.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROGER COOMBS is leaning forward with his head buried inside his locker. He is holding a crumpled letter in his left hand and a transistor radio in his right. The radio is silent, but an ear plug in COOMBS' ear. He is crying. We can hear the sounds of the song "*Raindrops*" coming from his radio earplug. He is staring at a crumpled picture of a girl lying on the bottom of the locker.

COMBS

(Under his breath)  
Bitch.

ANOTHER ANGLE

TRENCHER

Hey where's BOVA with the hooch. I thought we were going to have a Valentine's party.

SGT. SAULLO

He'll be here.

Lt. WHEELER comes through the front door followed by his ever-present sword.

SGT. SAULLO

Barracks, ten-hut.

WHEELER

As you were.. Happy Valentine's Day, gentlemen....  
Lishinsky, Crow wants you. Come with me.

LISHINSKY gets up from his shoe shining and moves to follow WHEELER out.

BOVA

Save us a lock.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMPANY STREET -NIGHT

WHEELER and LISHINSKY walk along toward the Rotunda near the Mess Hall.

LISHINSKY

Is your nose feeling any better  
Lieutenant?

WHEELER

(Points to a door)  
In there, pisspot.

LISHINSKY heads toward the lighted door of the small building in front of him.

INT. CROW'S BARBER SHOP -NIGHT

LISHINSKY ,seated, watches CROW THE BARBER run the electric hair clippers over the head of a CADET who is indifferent to the fact that he is being clipped nearly bald.

LISHINSKY

(to Crow)

Do you know of any phone around here I can use?

CROW

Nope.

LISHINSKY looks around the harshly lit room. It is bare except for a table with a few barbering tools and a chair holding the victim. The floor is thick with a carpet of hair left by the cadets.

The CADET is finished with his hair cut and gets down from the chair.

CROW

So long, Wendell.

The CADET doesn't reply. He walks to the door and exits. CROW stands by his chair waiting for LISHINSKY.

LISHINSKY

I'm probably not gonna be here for long, so if you could just take a little off the sides, and the rest I can leave long under my hat.

CROW

What's the matter, you don't like it here?

LISHINSKY

It's not that. It's only I don't think I'm gonna be here that long, so if you just take a little off the sides, I can leave the rest long under my hat, like this.

He pulls his hair back with both hands to show how it can be done.

LISHINSKY

See.

CROW

Okay.

And with a gesture invites LISHINSKY to the chair.

As LISHINSKY gets into the chair he hears the *hummm* of the clippers. The first sudden stroke zooms down the center of his head leaving a barren stretch of bristle.

LISHINSKY

NO!!!

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS -EVENING

BOVA bursts through the door leading from the latrine. He is frenzied and out of breath carrying a brown paper bag of booze.

BOVA  
(Urgent)  
Somebody take this.

Sensing the danger at helping BOVA, nobody comes to his aid.

BOVA  
C'mon will ya?

BOVA runs over to his locker and throws open the door. He tosses the bag into the bottom of the locker.

CMDR.PATTERSON lunges, wheezing through the latrine doors in hot pursuit of BOVA. He sees BOVA standing in front of his locker.

PATTERSON  
Not fast enough, BOVA.

BOVA  
What are you talking about, sir.  
I'm working on this term paper  
here.

PATTERSON nods and looks at the locker. BOVA feels the end is near.

BOVA  
Do you know anything about the  
Punic Wars, sir?

PATTERSON opens the locker door.

BOVA  
How about Giotto, sir? Ever hear of  
Giotto in your travels?

PATTERSON bends down and lifts the bag out of the locker.

BOVA  
I have no idea how that got there,  
sir.

PATTERSON  
You're sure?

BOVA  
Yes, sir.

PATTERSON  
Underage drinkin...Because if it is  
yours, it's an E-5.

BOVA  
It ain't mine, sir. Somebody's  
tryin' to frame me.

PATTERSON looks into the bag.

PATTERSON  
Jim Beam. Gilby's. Well whosever it  
is, it's contraband. Way too young  
for this sort of behavior.

PATTERSON folds the top of the bag and starts for the door.  
PATTERSON stops and looks in the bag again. He pulls out a  
brown bottle.

PATTERSON  
Cocoanut rum?

BAHAMA MAMA  
Sir, it's Valentine's Day. Wouldn't  
you like to stay and join us for  
just a nip?

PATTERSON  
(Shaking his head)  
Now what kinda protocol would that  
be? Cocoanut rum...? You boys  
should be eatin candy. Lights out  
in 15 minutes. As you were.

As he walks to the front door, he places the bottle on a  
ledge near the exit. He leaves.

As PATTERSON leaves, the boys converge on the bottle of....  
tonic water.

BEAR  
Nice going, lard ass.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT DOCK -EVENING

From a MANGO TREE overlooking the boat dock, LINDQUIST watches PATTERSON lying by the shed. Downing the last of the Gilby's Gin, PATTERSON throws the empty into the bay. He looks up at the silhouette of the high rise apartment buildings under construction. He looks back at the school. He musters his courage and stands up. He takes a deep breath and staggers forward across the Parade Field.

PATTERSON  
 (Mumbling)  
 Left, left, I had a good dame but  
 she left.

EXT. NORIKO'S FIRST AID STATION, -NIGHT

PATTERSON is outside a lighted window. He taps clumsily on the pane.

PATTERSON  
 (Loud whisper)  
 Noriko. Ssssst.

The nurse we have seen at morning prayer and whom to boys refer to as MADAME BUTTERFLY (NORIKO YAKAMOTO)50, comes to the window.

NORIKO  
 What?

PATTERSON  
 (Fondly)  
 Noriko.

NORIKO  
 What you want?

PATTERSON  
 Well.... I.... I was thinking.  
 Today is Valentine's Day.

NORIKO  
 Go home Pat, you're drunk.

PATTERSON  
 I want a KISSSS.

NORIKO  
 Ssssh. You're drunk.

PATTERSON  
 I want a kiss for Valentine's Day.

NORIKO  
I give you a kiss, you go home?

PATTERSON  
Yes.

NORIKO  
Your word as an officer and a  
gentleman.

PATTERSON  
AWWW Norikooo... Why always with  
the tests?.

Noriko reaches out the window and pulls PATTERSON'S head in  
through the frame. She kisses him gently.

NORIKO  
Drinking won't solve your problems,  
Pat.

PATTERSON  
Hold me Blossom.. s'gonna be a  
rough night.

He tries to swing his leg up on the sash in an attempt to  
get inside. Finally relenting, NORIKO Starts to help him in.  
He is halfway through the window when..

WHEELER (O.C.)  
Commander!

PATTERSON  
Wheeler go to bed.

WHEELER  
Commander, the new chicken's AWOL  
already.

PATTERSON  
You take care of it, Wheeler.

WHEELER  
They busted my handcuffs! Sir, if  
you could just...

PATTERSON climbs down.

PATTERSON  
Where is he?

WHEELER

Just walked through the damn gate.  
Waitin' for the J-bus...  
Probably misses his mommy.

CUT TO:

EXT. ACADEMY GATE -NIGHT

WHEELER is helping PATTERSON weave across the parade ground and through the gate.

We see LISHINSKY sitting on a bench crying. He is without hair, bloody nicks in his head. PATTERSON flops down next to LISHINSKY. WHEELER stands at attention.

WHEELER

(sotto to Lishinsky)  
What's the matter Candy-ass, can't take it?

PATTERSON

As you were, Wheeler. Get to your bunk.

WHEELER salutes and does an about face, then rattles away sword clacking behind. There is silence ..LISHINSKY discreetly trying to wipe his tears.

PATTERSON

Where're ya headed son?

LISHINSKY

Don't know. Home I guess.

PATTERSON

This is your home now. Ain't it?

LISHINSKY

I hate it here.

PATTERSON

Heard you volunteered... So why'd ya come here then.?

LISHINSKY

I read the brochure. The guy on the cover had a hat on. I didn't know they hacked your head up.

PATTERSON

Well now, there's a reason for that Lishinsky.

LISHINSKY

Yeah, to make ya feel like hell.

PATTERSON

Hygiene..To make ya look like a soldier. Get rid of the excess baggage. Trim ya down.

LISHINSKY

That explains the food.

PATTERSON

Well, it may not be the Ritz, but it's nutritious.

PATTERSON takes a bottle from his pocket and drinks.

LISHINSKY

(Fighting tears) .I just want to go home...

PATTERSON offers him the bottle. LISHINSKY takes a slug.

PATTERSON

...So get the bus. Go home. Shame your parents. Is that what you want to do?

LISHINSKY

No sir, I just hate it here.

PATTERSON

Well, you're not the first. But it ain't always about what you hate and what you don't hate. Why not sit tight for a while. Who knows...maybe you'll change your mind about what's important. That's what men do..boys just run...Can't always run home to momma. In my experience, if you're in a storm it's best to sit tight..Once I was on this beach....Anzio. You heard of Anzio?

LISHINSKY

No, sir.

PATTERSON

Where the hell ya been?..Invasion of Italy. Amphibious landing. We made it up the beach and we holed up in this area. It was raining like a son of a bitch. Our company's objective was to take this town Netunno. We were gettin nothin' from communications. But we had this objective, see. Take Netunno. But, seeing as how it was rainin' on us like elephant piss, nobody knew where the hell we were. So what the hell, we just dug in for the night...Sat in the muck. Morters dropping and so on. mornin comes .., the rain had stopped and we finally found the town, but the Germans had left.

The J-BUS pulls up to the stop in front of the bench and opens it's door. Nobody moves, the door closes and moves off.

PATTERSON

The goddamn *heiniies* had pulled out during the night. We marched into town without a shot being fired. Objective accomplished.

LISHINSKY

Sir, I thought you were in the Navy.

PATTERSON

Merchant Marines..story for another night, son. Now are you gonna head back to your unit or do I turn you over to Wheeler as a deserter?

LISHINSKY

No, sir.(swigs the pint)

LISHINSKY gets up from the bench.

PATTERSON

Wait a minute, gimme that bottle. How old are you anyway?

LISHINSKY

Seventeen...well almost..

PATTERSON

Too young for despair, son.  
 ..sixteen. And goin' at it full  
 bore. Just let it idle a bit. And  
 don't forget, inspection tomorrow.  
 "A" Company better look sharp or  
 I'll have the entire Company in the  
 Bullring.

LISHINSKY walks away

PATTERSON

Sleep on it.

PATTERSON sits alone on the bench.

ANGLE

LISHINSKY passes close to Colonel BARNES'S house. SALLY  
 BARNES is painting by flashlight, putting the finishing  
 touches on her VW Van, now army green with a red cross  
 insignia. She sees LISHINSKY and stops. They stare at each  
 other for a moment.

LISHINSKY

(tipsy) Nice job. Need any help?

She smiles, gives him the finger, then heads into the house.  
 LISHINSKY watches for her to return and she doesn't. He  
 backs away toward his barracks trying to catch sight of her  
 again.

ANGLE (LINDQUIST in the MANGO TREE, watching)

FADE TO:

INT. BARRACKS -MORNING

WHEELER

Barracks, tennn huuuuttt. Order of  
 the day. "A" Company will police  
 the parade grounds at 0915,  
 immediately following morning  
 announcements.

SGT. SAULLO

First platoon, that means you.

Groans from one side of the barracks.

WHEELER

As you were.

He does an about face and heads for the door. One of the boys grabs WHEELER'S hat on the way out the door, and they laughingly pass it down the bunks.

WHEELER  
(continuing)  
Give me that.

The hat passes to BEAR, who is just waking up. WHEELER, in a rage, points to BEAR

WHEELER  
(continuing)  
You want a report, fella?

BEAR sheepishly hands the hat back to WHEELER.

BEAR  
No, sir.

WHEELER snaps on his cap.

WHEELER  
(smartly)  
Fifteen minutes till formation.

He marches out. SAULLO gets out of bed and counts down the rows.

SGT. SAULLO  
All right, you heard the elf. Get  
in front of your beds. It ain't  
Dade Country Club. Let's count the  
boners. Sound off.

The boys are still asleep at attention in front of their bunks as Saullo comes down the rows, counting heads, and tapping the beds of the late risers with his bat. They count off in roll call until they come to 32. There is a brief lapse and a VOICE tries to cover.

VOICE  
Thirty-two.

SAULLO is on the ruse.

SGT. SAULLO  
Wait a minute Cheatham, where the  
hell is Coombs?

CHEATHAM  
No excuse, sir...girl trouble.

SGT. SAULLO  
Shit! He better be back for  
inspection at 1400 hours.

BEAR is looking sheepish.

TRENCHER  
He wet the bed again, sarge. Can I  
have the top bunk from now on?

SGT. SAULLO  
Pleasant dreams, Smith?

BEAR  
Gators in the Bayou, sargent sir.

SGT. SAULLO  
How did you ever find your way out  
of the swamp, Smith?

BEAR  
Air boat.

SGT. SAULLO  
I see.

BEAR  
I dreamt I was hanging on the back  
end of this cypress tree. The water  
was really warm like soup...

SGT. SAULLO  
Spare me, Smith. All right, fifteen  
minutes, everybody look sharp.

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS -MORNING

The boys make their beds, hospital style, and dress.  
Somebody has a RADIO on. Johnny Mathis' "What Will My Mary  
Say" is playing.

INT. LATRINE -MORNING

The First Squad, BEBOP, SLOUCH, HAMLEY,, LISHINSKY and BOVA  
are standing at a row of sinks in their undershorts. Another  
Squad from "B" Company is on the other side of the wall.  
HAMLEY walks along the sinks doing fingernail inspection.

SEA COW

Make sure the corners where all the dirt collects are as clean as the other part of your fingernails.

LISHINSKY looks into the mirror at his butchered head.

BEAR

It'll grow back.

He sprays shaving cream into his hands.

BOVA

(To SLOUCH)

I talked to Boggs.

BEAR

What'd he say?

BOVA

He'll give you one more chance.

BEAR

Great. I knew it.

BOVA

But he says one more ungentlemanly gesture and you're out on your ass. That means no hands. You touch your opponent and you're out.

BEAR

Thanks.

BOVA

And you have to replace my shirt.

ANOTHER ANGLE

TRENCHER

Hell, I don't know. Last time I saw him, he had his head in his locker crying.

BEBOP

Yeah, he got that letter from his sweetie. Combs is a romantic man.

From the toilet stall behind SLOUCH and BEBOP comes the voice of TRENCHER.

TRENCHER

If we get grounded, he's gonna be a dead romantic.

BEAR stands at the sink next to BEBOP. He is beginning to wash up. Bova is hurrying to finish.

BOVA  
(To SLOUCH)  
That's my toothpaste SLOUCH.

SLOUCH  
Yeah, so lend me your Brasso after lunch.

BOVA gathers his kit and exits quickly. TRENCHER talks to BEAR.

TRENCHER  
Bear, you gotta give me top bunk.

BEAR  
Yeah, okay. Lend me some clean sheets.

TRENCHER  
What the hell...!

The soap foam in BEAR'S hands is turning red with blood.

SEA COW  
Razor fiend.

And it echoes around the Latrine.

TRENCHER  
(screaming)  
Son-of-a-bitch. SONOFABITCH!.

SGT. SAULLO  
Get him over to Madame Butterfly.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD -DAY

BEAR, hands bandaged at attention with the rest of "A" Company. SAULLO addresses the assembly.

SGT. SAULLO  
(wielding baseball bat)  
If it's anybody in this company, I swear to God..I don't even want to think about what's gonna happen to him. But when we find out and we're gonna find out, somebody's gonna be gator food.

TRENCHER

It's those extortionist bastards in  
"B" Company, sir. Bet ya anything.

SGT. SAULLO

Anybody seen Coombs?

SLOUCH

Not yet, sir.

SGT. SAULLO

I ain't gonna cover for that idiot.  
Staff has been spot checkin' heads.

SLOUCH

(Seeing Lindquist in mango  
tree)

I got an idea, sir.

SGT. SAULLO

Let's hear it.

SLOUCH points to LINDQUIST hanging from his perch high in  
the mango tree.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD -DAY

"A" Company is attempting to march. The boy, LINDQUIST, now  
in uniform, is at the end of the formation. Boys stumble  
over each other.

SGT. SAULLO

(shouting orders)

Double to the left flank. Double  
to the right flank. Double to the  
rear. Hut. Pathetic. You know  
your trouble, ya got no esprit de  
corp.

SLOUCH

We're marching to a different  
drummer.

SGT. SAULLO

Okay, who knows a song? Trencher?

TRENCHER

(singing)

*OUR DAY WILL COME*

SGT. SAULLO

No, no a marching song. Bova?

BOVA  
 (trying to make a marching  
 song out of Johnny  
 Mathis)  
*My heart is showing, I must be  
 going I HAVE TO HURRY AWAAAY. WHAT  
 WILL MY MARY SAY?*

SLOUCH  
 Take a Bromo, homo.

SGT. SAULLO  
 Not quite, Bova. Bear, you know  
 any good swamp hits?

BEAR  
 Yeah.  
 (singing)  
*DID YA EVER GO TO MEETIN UNCLE JOE,  
 UNCLE JOE. DID YA EVER GO TO  
 MEETIN UNCLE JOE, UNCLE JOE. DID  
 YA EVER GO TO MEETIN UNCLE JOE,  
 UNCLE JOE. DON'T MIND THE WEATHER  
 WHEN THE WIND DON'T BLOW.*

The platoon leader comes to a halt along the edge of the lagoon. The boys see PATTERSON and SALLY BARNES, the girl from the porch, sailing out onto the bay.

LISHINSKY  
 (to Slouch)  
 What's her name?

SGT. SAULLO  
 Sally Barnes. Steer clear.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCKSIDE BISCAYNE BAY- DAY

Commander PATTERSON and SALLY BARNES are taking in the late afternoon breeze.

PATTERSON  
 So, how's your mom makin' out?

SALLY  
 She liked your letter... In spite  
 of the news. You still care about  
 her don't you?

PATTERSON is silent...

SALLY  
Well, don't you?

PATTERSON  
As you were, Sally.

SALLY  
Don't you 'as you were, Sally' me.  
I'm not one of your criminal  
orphans.

PATTERSON smiles at her defiance.

SALLY  
Anyway, she's fine I guess.. She's  
a boring zombie, she drives me  
crazy, but she's fine. She can't  
stand me and I can't stand her.

PATTERSON  
..It hurts me to hear you talk that  
way about your mother...

SILENCE

SALLY  
...You're the only one she ever  
loved, Pat... Why didn't you save  
her...? You were her Lancelot.  
When she gets drinking she talks  
about her Lancelot. And that  
sorry son of a bitch never even  
knew.

PATTERSON  
He knew.

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS - DAY

The boys are pulling old uniform pieces out of their lockers  
and handing them to SEA COW who dresses LINDQUIST in the  
salvaged parts.

TRENCHER  
The guy that guesses the exact  
number of days we can keep  
Lindquist disguised as  
Coombs...wins the pot.

SLOUCH holds up a large glass cookie jar.

SLOUCH  
Put yer dollars in here. Let's  
have 'em.

The boys ante up as SLOUCH passes among the bunks.

SEA COW  
And that includes the parade and  
the Dade County Fair, right?

SLOUCH  
Right.

LISHINSKY is at the window of the barracks looking out onto  
Biscayne Bay through a pair of BINOCULARS.

LISHINSKY  
Barnes daughter, huh?

SLOUCH(TO LISHINSKY)  
When we were both kids, she used to  
live over there...Lot's of yellin'.  
...Gentlemen! Ante up!

A bottle of coconut rum is passed around the bunks among the  
boys.

ANGLE

BAHAMA MAMA holds up a brass coin.

BAHAMA MAMA  
This gold coin goes to the first  
man that nails the white maiden.  
Barnes' daughter - and lives to  
tell the tale- in front of  
witnesses naturally.

BOVA  
And brings the honor to "A"  
company.

ALL  
Hurray.

TRENCHER  
(ala Moby Dick)  
I'll be the first ta spear the  
white whale. I'll, I'll...

And he falls off his bunk drunk. They laugh.

ANGLE ON LISHINSKY as he still looks through BINOCULARS out the window at the distant SALLY..

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. BOAT DOCK - DAY

PATTERSON and SALLY are sitting on Pat's bench by the bay.

SALLY

Anyway, we were getting on each others nerves and I have to decide what to do about college. Maybe after he dies I'll head out to California.

PATTERSON

College wouldn't be a bad idea for now, ..But you and your dad... maybe you could take this time to patch some fences...

SALLY

Maybe pigs whistle. It isn't like I haven't tried, Pat. He doesn't know me from....(shakes her head)

PATTERSON

Maybe you shouldn't give up yet.....Getting late.

SALLY

So ....are you my father?

PATTERSON

(He stares at the bay a long time.He's been dreading this one.. finally) Sally..I uh..I really can't answer that one.

SALLY

Oh bullshit.

PATTERSON

No Sally... I mean I really don't know . It's a question I can't answer. It's possible I guess.

SALLY

You guess?

PATTERSON

I mean it's a question that blew us all apart a long time ago. None of us can be sure. It's just...

SALLY

Shoulda coulda woulda..

PATTERSON

Yeah I guess.. (pause)..anyways you're here.. You're back. And we're glad ...

He's happy you're here now.

SALLY

Bullshit how the hell do you know anything you wifefucker?...

Patterson is silent . finally...

SALLY

I'm sorry.

PATTERSON

Me too kiddo. More than I can say. I mean not about you being here an all.

SALLY

Well..so ... here I am... Ain't you guys fuckin lucky...

PATTERSON

Anyways, It's good you're back. He needs you here.

SALLY

Oh give us a break. He doesn't give a shit and he never did.

PATTERSON

You couldn't be more wrong.

SALLY

Right.... ya think?

PATTERSON

I know.

SALLY

SO... Who am I Pat?.....

PATTERSON  
(long pause...finally)

You're the best of us

They watch the setting sun.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD - DAY

"A" Company is marching in formation. LINDQUIST is in love with his rifle as he tries to keep in step with the others.

CUT TO:

EXT.LAGOON -DAY

"A" Company is assembled on the grass outside of PATTERSON'S hutch. In the background, SEA COW Hamley is talking through the cyclone fence to MRS. LINDQUIST.

PATTERSON  
Mr. Trencher,..Describe the tactics  
and techniques of a successful  
amphibious landing.

TRENCHER  
Uh...No Excuse sir.

PATTERSON  
Gimme ten.

TRENCHER gets down and does ten push-ups.

ANGLE- CYCLONE FENCE

SEA COW and MRS. LINDQUIST. PATTERSON can be heard in background.

MRS. LINDQUIST (HUNG OVER)  
Well, if you're sure it'll be  
alright.

SEA COW  
Let's just try it for a couple of  
days and see how it works out.  
(MORE)

SEA COW (CONT'D)  
 It ain't the Ritz but the food's  
 pretty nutritious. What's the  
 harm.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
 ..Well, Arthur's always wanted to  
 be a soldier.

She indicates LINDQUIST sitting at the edge of  
 PATTERSON's class.

SEA COW  
 Okay, Mrs. Lindquist, just so it's  
 our secret.

ANGLE PATTERSON

He sees SEA COW at the fence.

PATTERSON  
 Mr. Hamley!

SEA COW double-times back to class.

EXT. MUNITIONS BUNKER- DAY

SLOUCH and BEBOP are hidden from Patterson's class.  
 SLOUCH fits his key into the locked door.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON- DAY(CONTINUED)

PATTERSON diagrams on blackboard. Boys sit on the grass.

PATTERSON  
 The first wave takes about twenty-  
 five minutes to hit the shore. At  
 two minute intervals, the next  
 three waves arrive. The second  
 wave contains the other rifle and  
 weapons companies of each  
 battalion. The third, a tank  
 company and support units. The  
 fourth, more support units. In  
 eight minutes, over three thousand  
 men and more than one hundred and  
 fifty armored vehicles are ashore.

BOVA  
 Sir, one simple question?

PATTERSON  
What is it, BOVA?

BOVA  
Sir, these three thousand men. How  
you gonna get 'em in the boats?

PATTERSON  
Good question. The success of the  
entire MAF hinges on the ability of  
these two dozen LVTP's to get  
ashore and back in one piece and...

BOVA  
No sir, what I mean is 'why the  
hell would they want to get in the  
boat?

PATTERSON  
Come again?

BOVA  
Who's gonna get in those boats?  
Infantry right?

PATTERSON  
Primarily.

BOVA  
It's my understanding, sir, the  
odds of serving in the infantry and  
being not being wounded or killed  
in this century are less than one  
in three.

PATTERSON  
Where'd you hear that?

BOVA  
I read it, sir.

PATTERSON  
Stuff and Nonsense. That's world  
infantry. Ruskies, Gooks, Japs..  
all those kinds of undisciplined,  
untrained *bushido* bastards...  
cannon fodder. I'm talking U.S.  
Infantry. The most effectively  
prepared army in the world. The  
best equipment, training and  
leadership this country has to  
offer.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUNITIONS BUNKER- DAY

SLOUCH and BEBOP toss a large canvas bag into a storage bin outside the bunker. They run to rejoin the class. LINDQUIST who has been watching from a distance approaches the bin. He tentatively opens the bag and pulls out an object. He holds a *30cal.M-1 clip* in his hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON- DAY

PATTERSON is lecturing...still.

PATTERSON

And I'll tell you something else mister, the infantry is the premier branch of the Armed Forces. The most noble calling and the most respected and patriotic service one can render one's country.

BOVA

So I guess getting killed is the highest form of patriotism.

PATTERSON

Look, BOVA, you don't fight a war to get shot. You fight to win. Sometimes they shoot back. That's a fact of life.

BOVA

I still don't know what would compel me to get in the damn boat...sir.

PATTERSON

(exasperated)

Class, can anyone give BOVA a good reason for getting in the boat?

BEAR

Cause if we don't, they'll come GET US an rape our sisters?

BOVA

I don't have a sister.

SLOUCH

(Having rejoined the group)

Because it's your duty..

(MORE)

SLOUCH (CONT'D)

I watch your back, you watch mine..  
and if I get in the boat and you  
don't, I'm gonna blow yer fuckin'  
head off.

BOVA

That's a good reason.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

COL. BARNES is in a wheelchair now. DAMRON lowers the mike  
for him at the podium. The boys are in their dress whites.  
They are just ending the morning prayer.

BOYS

*...All of which we ask in the name  
of the Great Friend and Master of  
men. Amen.*

BARNES

Before your leave commences at 1300  
hours today, there are a few words  
I would like to say. As we are all  
aware, the Dade County Fair is in  
two weeks.

A loud cheer from the assembly.

BARNES (NEARLY A WHISPER)

And this is the first occasion in  
the two years that the school has  
been invited back to participate.  
I trust that our appearance at this  
function will not see a repetition  
of the melee that occurred the year  
before last. I know how difficult  
it is dealing with the taunts of  
the Townies, but reacting with undo  
force is not our way of building  
character.... Boys working off  
major punishments will be allowed  
three hours special leave from 1800  
to 2100 hours that afternoon to  
attend the Fair.

Hip-Hip Hooray cheer from the boys.

BARNES (SMILING)

I hope I don't live... to regret  
this uncharacteristic display of  
generosity...Make me proud...

(MORE)

BARNES (SMILING) (CONT'D)  
 And now I think that Miss Yakamoto  
 has an announcement to make about  
 the Salk polio vaccine booster  
 shot.

NORIKO stands at the podium and addresses the audience  
 shyly.

NORIKO  
 The United States Armed Forces has  
 provided us with this blessing.  
 Please come to the dispensary  
 beginning at 0800 hours this  
 morning for your shots. Thank you.

BARNES  
 Thank you, Miss Yakamoto.  
 Colonel Argemenos ..dismiss the  
 corps...

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT GATE - DAY

The boys are making their exits for the weekend. SLOUCH and  
 BEBOP are furtively lugging a heavy dufflebag through the  
 gate. LISHINSKY remains inside the perimeter.

SLOUCH  
 Don't worry, Lishinsk, ya ain't  
 missin' much.

BEBOP  
 Yeah, just the beautiful women out  
 there. You ain't missin' nothin'.  
 We'll take care of it for you.

SLOUCH  
 Yeah . Save it up for the Fair.

BEAR joins them.

BEAR  
 The Wild Mouse ride in two weeks!  
 Hope they have the Wild Mouse ride  
 this year.

SLOUCH (WHISPERS TO BEAR)  
 Gonna need your boat again. Is it  
 in the same place?

BEAR  
Yeah, but fill her up this time.

SAULLO  
Lishinsky. Keep an eye on Lindquist  
in case Coombs shows up.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY

BEBOP and SLOUCH are watching the road for a car.

SLOUCH  
Why'd he leave her. Jeez, with  
those tits, he's gotta be crazy.

BEBOP  
Can it. Don't you say a word about  
him leaving her. I'm sure she  
feels bad enough without you asking  
a lot of stupid questions.  
And no funny stuff. She's my aunt.

A car pulls up near the gate with a very attractive CUBAN  
WOMAN driving. She waves to BEBOP.

BEBOP  
(to SLOUCH)  
Behave yourself.

SLOUCH  
Okay, just so she don't give me a  
boner.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD - DAY

LISHINSKY walks around the quiet school. It is deserted...  
Except for WHEELER in the distance, banging on a mango tree  
with his sword. He shouts up into the tree.

WHEELER  
Hey mister, come down here. That's  
an order.

A LARGE MANGO flies out of the tree and bonks WHEELER on the  
head.

WHEELER

Goddammit, Arthur, get out of that tree.

LINDQUIST throws another MANGO.

CUT TO:

INT. AUNT SELENA'S KITCHEN - DAY

BEBOP and SLOUCH making sandwiches. AUNT SELENA(40s) in a LOW cut dress puts more food out for them.

AUNT SELENA

I didn't know for sure whether you'd be alone this time Mando, or if your friend Antonio would be with you.

SLOUCH

I hope it's alright, Mrs. Seropeneda.

AUNT SELENA

Of course it is Antonio. You're welcome here anytime.

SLOUCH

Thank you.

AUNT SELENA

Anyway, I stopped at the Farmer's Market ..I got the steaks you like Mando... and Antonio...I got some Lebanon baloney. I couldn't remember if you like it thick sliced or thin sliced, so I got both. Better safe than sorry. Then I couldn't decide if you like American cheese or Swiss cheese. But I only had the Swiss cheese sliced thin and the American sliced thick. The man at the counter was very rude. I hope you don't mind.

SLOUCH

Uh-huh...Is that a new dress Mrs. Seropeneda?

AUNT SELENA

Oh, this old thing.

SLOUCH  
It certainly shows off your  
uh..figure there.

BEBOP  
(scraping the last of an  
empty jar)  
You're outta mayonnaise.. C'mon  
Slouch, we got errands to run.

CUT TO:

INT. J-BUS - DAY

SLOUCH and BEBOP huddle with their large duffle bag on a bus seat. A gun barrel is peaking out the top of the duffle, a gas can on the floor. One of the PASSENGERS, a cretinous civilian looks them over.

CIVILIAN  
Are you familiar with correct  
military procedure?

SLOUCH tries to ignore the guy.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A Pretty BLACK WOMAN carrying a child makes her way to the back of the bus. She jostles a WHITE WOMAN along the way.

WHITE WOMAN  
(loudly)  
Animal!

ANGLE SLOUCH AND BEBOP

CIVILIAN  
I said, 'are you familiar with  
correct military procedure'?

BEBOP  
What's that?

CIVILIAN  
Removing your hat on a bus.

SLOUCH  
Are you familiar with your teeth?

BEBOP (RISES)  
This is our stop.

SLOUCH (TO WHITE WOMAN)  
 Speakin of animals,lady, you're the  
 dog's ass,

CONTINUED-

They stumble off the bus, the duffle with the bazooka clanking against the door. ANITA TORRES waits by a tree nearby.

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS DAY

It is empty except for Lishinsky lying on his bunk listening to the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

"..and don't miss the Kingston Trio next week at the Dade County Fair". *Tom Dooley* plays

CUT TO:

INT. MAJOR DAMRON'S OFFICE - DAY

MADAME BUTTERFLY is with WHEELER and LINDQUIST.

WHEELER

Excuse me, Miss Yakamoto, is Major Damron around?

NORIKO

Nobody here now.

WHEELER

Where's the officer of the day?

NORIKO

He's gone. Nobody here now.

WHEELER

Well, I'll take him over to Col. Barnes.

NORIKO

No NO! ...Sleeping!... Everybody gone.

WHEELER

Well, I got an imposter here.

NORIKO  
 (recognizing Lindquist)  
 Hello, Arthur. Are you soldier  
 now?

LINDQUIST smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. EVERGLADES OUTPOST - DAY

SLOUCH and BEBOP and ANITA TORRES motor up to a dock in Bear's air boat. SLOUCH is blindfolded. BEBOP drives. ANITA sits next to SLOUCH, playfully stroking his cheek, a pistol on her lap. There are assorted Cubans and Cuban Americans gathered on the landing dock. Anita signals a man on the dock who lowers his rifle. He is MIGUEL SANCHEZ.

BEBOP (SPANISH)  
 Where's Raoul?

SANCHEZ  
 On a recon.

BEBOP  
 Guatemala again?

SANCHEZ  
 No more questions. What do you  
 have for us?

CUT TO:

INT. SHACK

The room appears to be an arsenal and command center. BEBOP empties the duffle's contents onto a dimly lit table. Out falls a Browning 50 cal machine gun and stand, AMMUNITION and several HAND GRENADES.

MIGUEL SANCHEZ (SMILING)  
 Muy bien.

SLOUCH (STILL BLINDFOLDED)  
 El gusto es mio. Now can we come  
 along?

ANITA  
*Americano* .. You think this going  
to be a vacation?

CUT TO:

EXT. ARMORY WINDOW - DAY

WHEELER and LINDQUIST

WHEELER  
You wanna be Coombs, mister?  
Coombs it is.

WHEELER Grabs the dog tags around LINDQUIST'S neck and reads as Lindquist stands at the armory window. He is, at least more ready than his earlier attempt.

WHEELER  
(under the window)  
Coombs. A-25732

LINDQUIST mouths the words and holds his arms ready for the rifle. His calculations are a bit off and the rifle soars out the window past his waiting hands into the dirt. Wheeler cringes.

CUT TO:

EXT. BULLRING - DAY

The bullring is a white gravel courtyard separating the classroom buildings. It is hot. LINDQUIST attempts to march to WHEELER'S commands. He's not doing that well.

WHEELER  
Alright Mr. Coombs, you owe me  
fifteen demerits and that's before  
you went AWOL. Seems your ass is  
grass Mr. Coombs. Let's start with  
a little double time. Left, right,  
left, right.

LINDQUIST has no idea what WHEELER is yelling about.  
WHEELER pokes at him with his sword.

WHEELER  
Left, right. C'mon get 'em up  
mister. Move it.

LINDQUIST dances to avoid the sword, then waddles away.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Tippi Hedron is on screen running from *The Birds*. It is the gas station scene where the car blows up.

SEA COW, captivated, is alone in a near empty theatre

CUT TO:

INT. SHACK- DAY

SLOUCH , blindfolded hears the men laughing.

SLOUCH  
What's the joke.

BEBOP  
They're just glad to see us.

MIGUEL SANCHEZ speaks to BEBOP in Spanish, then gives a quick command. BEBOP takes SLOUCH and leads him out on to the porch.

BEBOP  
He wants to talk to me for a minute. You stay put right here.

SLOUCH  
This is bullshit. (Starts to remove the blindfold)

BEBOP  
DON'T be stupid! And stop playin around.

CUT TO:

INT. SHACK - DAY

As MIGUEL explains something to BEBOP in Spanish, a MAN about 45, American dressed in a business suit comes out of the back room.

MAN (CIA)  
So, this is the young man from CIENFUEGOS?

BEBOP is silent. MIGUEL nods assurance to him. BEBOP then nods affirmation.

The man points to a spot on the map of Cuba laid out on the table. The southern port city of *CIENFUEGOS*.

MAN (CIA)

Then I guess you know the *Bahia de Cochinos*...

BEBOP

Bay of Pigs?.Si. Not the best for surfing.

MAN

Want to go home?

BEBOP smiles

BEBOP

Only if my amigo comes too.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRBOAT - DAY

SLOUCH, BEBOP and ANITA returning through the glades. Anita is finally removing SLOUCH'S blindfold.

ANITA

OK, Now I don't have to kill you .

SLOUCH

Yeah, so?

BEBOP

They figure you know too much already .. and I told them you're indispensable...and a Pedro Pan, so you're in...for now.

SLOUCH

Great, that's great. When do we go?

BEBOP

We wait. Study your espanol. Maybe you'll learn something.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIAMI BEACH - DAY

AUNT SELENA and SLOUCH are in conversation while building a sand castle. She is in a hot turquoise bikini.

BEBOP sits under a coconut palm reading a book with *PATTON* on the cover.

AUNT SELENA

He didn't seem too happy around Christmas time. So anyway, a month ago last Tuesday, he went to the Piggly Wiggly for a pack of Camels and never came back.

SLOUCH catches a glare from BEBOP, but ignores it.

AUNT SELENA

And you want to know something, Antonio? In my heart, I was deeply relieved.

SLOUCH is in lust.

AUNT SELENA

I mean, I love him, I guess, but I never really like the sonofabitch most of the time.. God forgive me. Pardon my French. Anyway, after two weeks, I called his mother who hates me. She informs me that he is in Columbia or Guatemala or God knows where and it is no importante to ask so many questions and that her little prick of a son would let me know when it was my business. Momma's boy, a Goddamn momma's boy. The son-of-a-bitch. If only he would have the decency to call me. The goddamn son-of-a-bitch. Pardon ..

SLOUCH

..your French.

AUNT SELENA

I mean to sneak out the back door.. again! . . . for cigarettes. I'm sick of it.

SELENA'S eyes are moist as she kneels in the sand near the water's edge.

SLOUCH

He'll be back. Raoul's a soldier. He's got his duties.

AUNT SELENA

I know ...Duty, Honor and  
Country... and the American Dream!  
All you *militaristas* are the same.  
Such macho nonsense.

SLOUCH

Maybe you shouldn't oughta be here  
if you think like that. Maybe you  
shoulda stayed in Cuba.

AUNT SELENA

What, *Americano de Mierda!* You  
Know Nothing!!

SLOUCH

I Know Mierda ain't french.

AUNT SELENA

You think you know all about my  
life?

SLOUCH

You maybe not noticed, but you got  
everything goin' for ya. You're a  
dental hygienist with a good income  
in America!.. If you were in Cuba  
your teeth would be falling out...  
You got a fridge full of  
groceries,  
a TV,.....(then, softer).. and if  
ya pardon me sayin' so, ya got a  
terrific personality and bod...You  
can name your ticket. Things ain't  
so bad for you here are they?

AUNT SELENA

You have a smart mouth, no?...But  
you're right..things are good here.  
But we gave up a lot to get here...  
A lot....(silence..then) ..You have  
Lebanon Balony.. I eat too much.  
You think I still have a *good bod*?

SLOUCH

Are you kidding or what?.. you're a  
knockout.

AUNT SELENA

What are you... all of seventeen?

SLOUCH  
I been around.

She gets up and walks backward seductively.

AUNT SELENA  
I bet you have...So you think I  
still have a *nice bod*?

SELENA backs into the waves.

SLOUCH  
Ya know what you look like standin'  
there? A Botticelli.

She looks blankly at him as she stands in the surf.

SLOUCH  
Venus. You are *The Birth of Venus*.

It registers with SELENA. She becomes the painting, placing one hand over her breasts and the other over her delta. She backs into the sea beckoning SLOUCH to follow.

CUT TO:

INT. PEREZ' PX -DAY

Dave Brubeck's '*Take Five*' plays on the jute box as WHEELER enters with his sword banging through the doorway. LINDQUIST follows. He is sweating profusely from his marching.

WHEELER  
(To Lindquist)  
Want a chocolate coke?

They sit at the COUNTER.

WHEELER  
(To Jose Perez)  
Two chocolate cokes, Jose. Heavy on  
the chocolate.

Perez has been watching Walter Cronkite on the evening news.

CRONKITE  
.....A Buddhist Monk sacrificed  
himself today in Saigon.  
(MORE)

CRONKITE (CONT'D)  
 Another grisly act that continues  
 the ever increasing protests  
 against the rule of President Diem  
 and his first lady, Madame Ngu.

ANGLE THE TV

As the picture flashes to a BUDDHIST MONK setting himself  
 aflame. WHEELER and LINDQUIST stare at the screen.

WHEELER  
 Dollars to doughnuts, the Commies  
 are behind that.

Behind them, SALLY BARNES enters the PX. WHEELER sees her.

WHEELER  
 Commies or that damn Dragon Lady.  
 One of the two. You know, one of  
 the most important things about  
 this school is you can get yourself  
 a decent education without girls  
 tee-heeing at you all the time.  
 I've seen 'em come and go here and  
 behind every major problem is a  
 woman.

SALLY overhears and smiles to herself.

WHEELER  
 (Continuing)  
 Take Coombs. The way I heard it, he  
 knocked up some bimbo in Orlando.  
 The end of a fine military career.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON- LATE AFTERNOON

SALLY BARNES is alone on the boat dock talking to herself.

SALLY  
 (Aloud, to the bay)  
 You idiot. You self-serving,  
 pompous fool.  
 (She mimics the Colonel)  
 'Take the truck, you want to go to  
 the fair, take the truck.'  
 (As herself)  
 I don't want the truck. I don't  
 want anything from you, you son-of-  
 a-bitch... I DON'T EVEN WANT TO BE  
 HERE!!

She is startled by a voice behind her.

LISHINSKY (O.S.)  
Neither do I.

SALLY  
(Angry ,choking on her  
tears)  
What are you doing here, mister?  
This is off limits. That's a D-5 as  
I recall. Get out of here. Get away  
from me.

LISHINSKY  
Are you alright?

SALLY  
I said FUCK OFF!

LISHINSKY  
I heard you talking to somebody.

SALLY  
I was talking to myself, you nosy  
asshole... What's the matter,  
didn't you ever talk to yourself?

LISHINSKY  
All the time, but it's usually a  
pretty boring conversation.

SALLY  
Can't a person get any privacy in  
this goddamn fishbowl.

LISHINSKY  
I've been asking myself the same  
question. You know when I talk to  
myself. I say 'Lishinsk,'You come  
to this place ya get kicked out of  
bed at five o'clock in the morning  
and ya get fed shit on a shingle.  
Ya wanna barf in yer bunk, but  
that's an D-6. Then they shave my  
head so I look like Mortimer Snerd.  
Then they march me around in  
circles for days carrying a ten  
pound rifle in a hundred and ninety  
degree heat with an eleven year old  
Hitler screaming in my face. Then I  
meet this beautiful girl who tells  
me to get lost. ..So..here I am  
..talkin to you.

SALLY  
 ...you're right...You ARE boring.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIAMI BEACH -DAY (DUSK)

SLOUCH is on the beach with BEBOP. AUNT SELENA is in the water while BEBOP and SLOUCH argue.

SLOUCH  
 Just give me the towel.

BEBOP  
 (Infuriated)  
 No.

SLOUCH  
 C'mon, it wasn't me, it was the wave. A wave came along and pulled them right off her.

BEBOP  
 You think I'm blind. You think I didn't see you copulating in the ocean like a couple of care free sperm whales? The entire beach saw.

SLOUCH  
 Copulating? What is that some spic word? So, what are you so mad about?

BEBOP  
 You have the culture of a pig.

SLOUCH  
 Just gimme the goddamn towel.

BEBOP throws the towel in SLOUCH's face. SLOUCH hurries to assist AUNT SELENA who is rapidly turning blue.

SLOUCH  
 Ain't you ever been in love?

SLOUCH takes the towel out into the surf and wraps it around AUNT SELENA.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD -EVENING

WHEELER walks across the Parade Field with his family chauffeur, EDISON.

EDISON

On Tuesday, I received a communication saying she would be sailing from Athens to Cap D'Antibes and was curious to know whether you would be able to join her for the summer in Crete.

WHEELER

Is she still with that grease-ball?

EDISON

As far as I know.

WHEELER shakes his head in disgust as they approach the front gate.

EDISON

I was wondering if you were still interested in seeing *Ben Hur* this weekend. You had expressed some previous interest.

WHEELER

Not this weekend, Edison. Duty calls.

EDISON

Very good, sir. Are you in need of any cash?

WHEELER

No.

Outside the gate, WHEELER opens the driver's door to a very long black limousine and ushers EDISON inside.

WHEELER

I'll check with you on Thursday.

EDISON hands WHEELER a CARDBOARD BOX.

EDISON

Your shirts, sir. Lighter on the starch this time.

CUT TO:

INT. PATTERSON'S HUT -EVENING

The COMMANDER is asleep in his bunk while the radio plays *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*. Through the window, we see SALLY and LISHINSKY untying a boat and pushing it off into the Lagoon.

CUT TO:

EXT. BISCAYNE BAY- AFTERNOON

SALLY and LISHINSKY hoist the sail and head off toward Captain Kidd's Island.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAPTAIN KIDD'S ISLAND -LATE AFTERNOON

SALLY is digging in the sand under a palm tree. LISHINSKY sits and watches her.

LISHINSKY  
Why California?

SALLY  
I want to go to UCLA. Study Poly Sci. Marry Troy Donahue. I don't know. I need to get as far away from this graveyard as possible.

LISHINSKY  
It's not just a graveyard.

SALLY  
Look around you. This is where everybody comes to die, or haven't you noticed. Miami Beach- the last sunset.

LISHINSKY  
Your Dad's pretty sick, huh?

SALLY  
Yeah, pretty sick.

LISHINSKY  
What's gonna happen here if he....  
Uh, you know?

SALLY  
Well, if he uh, "you knows",.. it's not my department. If I was you, I'd think about jumping ship real soon.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)  
You could come with me to  
California. You could marry Sandra  
Dee. But you'd have to change that  
bohunk name of yours.

LISHINSKY rolls over in the sand and stares at the sky.

LISHINSKY  
Charles Bronson's name is Charlie  
Bushinsky.

SALLY  
No foolin'?

LISHINSKY  
This is a neat hideout.

SALLY  
It was better before there were so  
many buildings out there. Just the  
Fontainebleau and a couple of  
others. This was my island  
paradise. I used to run around  
naked and wait to be rescued.

LISHINSKY  
And here I am.

SALLY  
And here you are.

LISHINSKY  
I could stay here forever...

SALLY points to the sailboat drifting away.

SALLY  
We might have to.

LISHINSKY  
We gotta swim back??.

SALLY  
These waters are infested with  
barracudas.

LISHINSKY  
Are you serious?

SALLY sits next to him in the sand.

SALLY  
Don't you believe me?

LISHINSKY  
So..We're stuck here?

SALLY  
Till we're rescued.. Afraid of the  
dark ?

Maybe...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNES HOUSE -NIGHT

Commander PATTERSON knocks on the door. He turns to WHEELER and LINDQUIST and dismisses them. MADAME BUTTERFLY comes to the door.

NORIKO  
Come in Commander.

PATTERSON  
Hiya Blossom, how's the Colonel?

NORIKO  
Not good.

PATTERSON enters.

INT. BARNES HOUSE -NIGHT

MADAME BUTTERFLY ushers PATTERSON into BARNES room. It is awash with oxygen bottles, intravenous injections and all the accoutrements of a death watch.

PATTERSON  
I'll only stay a minute.

NORIKO and PATTERSON watch the sleeping figure of BARNES in his bed. She looks at PATTERSON and leaves the room. PATTERSON walks around looking at military souvenirs and memorabilia. He sits for a moment and watches the Colonel's frail breathing. His eyes scan the photos of the Colonel and SALLY as a child. There are Photos of the Colonel's wife, a photo of PATTERSON, A buxom blonde, and the COLONEL drinking beer. They are all dressed in World War II uniforms. PATTERSON opens a box of cigars, smiles and closes it.

BARNES (NOW AWAKE)  
Take 'em.... Romeo and Juliets.  
Morroca got 'em from Havana.

PATTERSON  
How ya feelin Darryl?

BARNES  
You seen Sally?

PATTERSON  
Not tonight. We had a nice talk the other day.

BARNES  
She's a handful.

PATTERSON  
What'd ya expect. She's your daughter.

BARNES  
Keep an eye on her, Pat. Honey to the bees.

PATTERSON  
Guess so.. Lotta bees around...(Then) You gotta talk to her Darryl. It's why she's here.

BARNES  
Nothin left to say hasn't been said. Your turn being daddy...her mother would like that.

PATTERSON  
(Silence., Then changing the subject)...I was down on the range this afternoon checkin' out the new A.R.-5's.

BARNES  
Very flexible weapon.

PATTERSON  
Make the boys a lot happier than those M-1's. They're only six pounds. Fire power you wouldn't believe... jamming problems though they need to work out.

BARNES  
Pat... I need your... Army's calling in their chips soon.

PATTERSON  
What chips.

BARNES

Whole shebang... disbanding the farm...Property,... ordinance, everything...they're takin us down.

PATTERSON

Jeesus... What about...

BARNES

...The boys... Afraid it's over. nothing left here... I need you to John Hancock when the time comes. Need you to sign the papers over there. Pat... Don't think I can make it. Damron will notarize the damn thing.

Patterson goes to the dresser and looks at the papers.

PATTERSON

You can't do this Darryl. I don't want it. Give it to Damron he's almost a damn lawyer.

BARNES

Ever notice..He always looks like he just sucked a lemon,.. This place'll be a high-rise in three months anyway. Need you to button her up Pat. Better you than Sally. (points to dresser)The envelope's for her.

PATTERSON

Nice of you to let me know.

BARNES

Need to know basis,Pat... now you know.

PATTERSON

Thanks... little goddam late for that now...you're a damn fool to think I can do this.

BARNES

(Whispers) No choice Pat...shhhh..you ..need to start thinkin...ahead. Button her up....Sorry... Never been very good at...contingencies...but the caissons keep rollin...

## PATTERSON

Where they gonna go? Still just babies most of em....(silence)....This was your dream ya selfish bastard!... Not mine..

There was a time I coulda done more than just clean up your shit..... helped....

there was a reason for respect.. trust at this place...it was you....what do I do now?.. only home most of em know.

(long silence, then through tears)...gonna die on me now ya goddam coward?

The Colonel hasn't heard. He's asleep or drifting towards another place.

FADE TO:

INT. AUNT SELENA'S HOUSE -DAY

Dawn. BEBOP is asleep on the living room sofa. The TV is blaring away with a *Yogi Bear* cartoon. The front door opens and a Man enters carrying a *pink stuffed alligator*. He sees BEBOP on the sofa and places the alligator next to him. The man takes off his shoes and Hawaiian shirt and tiptoes upstairs.

INT. SELENA'S BEDROOM -DAY

SELENA and SLOUCH are asleep like two spoons. Golden morning sun coming through the curtains. You can almost hear the bluebirds.

INT. LIVING ROOM -DAY

BEBOP wakes up at the sound on the stairs.

BEBOP  
(Shocked)  
UNCLE RAOUL, you're home.

The man on the stairs turns and tries to quiet BEBOP. He is, of course, UNCLE RAOUL.

UNCLE RAOUL  
Sssssssh. I Want to surprise your  
aunt.

BEBOP  
(Much louder this time)  
UNCLE RAOUL, you're HOME!

INT. SELENA'S ROOM

SLOUCH bolts upright in the bed and looks at SELENA who is all eyes as well.

BEBOP (O.S.)  
She's not in there. She had to go  
to the grocery store.

UNCLE RAOUL (O.S.)  
At 6 o'clock in the morning, are  
you kidding.

BEBOP  
For smokes... FOR CIGARETTES!

SLOUCH and AUNT SELENA in a panic grabbing at clothing as they scurry around the room.

INT. THE STAIRWAY -DAY

UNCLE RAOUL is mounting the stairs.

BEBOP  
UNCLE RAOUL! WAIT!

The bedroom door at the top of the stairs bursts open and SLOUCH runs out naked. He is carrying his clothes and a blanket that he throws over UNCLE RAOUL.

SLOUCH  
(Screaming)  
Yaaaaaaaahhhh.

As UNCLE RAOUL tumbles down the stairs, SLOUCH grabs the stuffed alligator from BEBOP and smacks UNCLE RAOUL with it.

BEBOP and SLOUCH charge out the front door and down the street.

ANGLE- AUNT SELENA

At the top of the stairs holding a sheet up to her otherwise naked body. She looks down at RAOUL.

AUNT SELENA  
Well, where the hell have you been?

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SCHOOL -DAWN

HARGRAVES sounds Reveille.

PATTERSON by the docks spots the empty drifting dingy.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS DAY

The boys are preparing for inspection. SEA COW dresses LINDQUIST in dress whites. SLOUCH is trying to borrow a pair of pants.

SLOUCH  
C'mon SEA COW, be a pal. We'll all  
be stuck here if I got no pants.

SEA COW throws his pants at SLOUCH.

SLOUCH  
Thanks.

CUT TO:

ANGLE SEA COW AND LINDQUIST

SEA COW  
If anybody asks you anything at  
all, just say 'no excuse sir'. Can  
you all say that?

LINDQUIST  
(Nods Yes)

SEA COW  
Hopeless...

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS DAY

BOVA is looking out the window at the lagoon. He grabs Saullo's binoculars and looks at something out the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON- DAY

Through the binoculars, we see PATTERSON, SALLY and LISHINSKY returning to the Lagoon in a dingy.

BOVA (O.S.)  
Here comes Lishinsky. Looks like  
he gets the gold coin.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON- DAY

SALLY sees the boys of a company watching through binoculars and whooping it up on shore calling "way ta go Lishinsk!" etc..

She looks at LISHINSKY blankly, her feelings of humiliation lost in a greater pain.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON -DAY

SAULLO snatches the binoculars from BOVA as the boys rush to get a look.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT DOCK- DAY

As soon as the dingy lands SALLY runs towards her father's house.

ANGLE PATTERSON AND LISHINSKY

PATTERSON  
Get to your barracks and keep your  
mouth shut about the Colonel.

LISHINSKY  
(Shouting after her)  
Sally!

PATTERSON  
On the double son.

LISHINSKY heads off in the direction of the barracks.

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS DAY

As LISHINSKY enters, a loud CHEER goes up from the boys.  
LISHINSKY is stunned and silent as he stands at the door.

BOVA  
Well, well, well Lishinsky. Never  
knew you had it in you.

BEAR  
Neither did she.

BAHAMA MAMA drapes a sheet over his shoulders and raises the  
makeshift LAUREL WREATH above his head.

SGT. SAULLO  
Barracks. Ten-hut.

The boys snap to attention as BAHAMA MAMA waddles through  
the bunks toward the stunned LISHINSKY. The gold coin is  
held high above his head for all to see.

BAHAMA MAMA  
Private Steven Lishinsky has won  
the coveted award for spearing the  
white whale, Sally Barnes has  
received the Honorable Semen Award.

BAHAMA MAMA rests his arm on LISHINSKY'S shoulder.  
LISHINSKY knocks it away.

LISHINSKY  
Get your hands off me shit can..

SLOUCH  
Hey, what's wrong with you?

BOVA  
What's the matter, didn't she like  
to ride the baloney pony?

BEAR  
(Chuckling)  
"Baloney pony." Ha-ha-ha-ha!

LISHINSKY punches BEAR in his huge laughing face and the whole barracks is into it.

CUT TO:

ANGLE MAJOR DAMRON

He enters the Barracks.

SAULLO  
BARRACKS TEN HUT!

DAMRON  
Inspection before the parade will be conducted by a representative of the U.S. Army this weekend. So I need not stress the importance of being on our best behavior... As you were.

He exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNES PORCH- DAY

A porch light is still on.

SALLY opens the door to her father's room. BARNES lies covered. PATTERSON and NORIKO come up behind her as she stands motionless.

NORIKO

I called Peabody's ...They pick him up when you say to.

PATTERSON  
We'll make the announcement when the boys get back from the parade tomorrow. No sense alarming anybody right now. After they leave we can go down and make the arrangements.

NORIKO

I'm so sorry babygirl.

SALLY  
I'm okay. Just give me a minute.

She closes the door behind her. She looks at the pictures on the dresser (a little girl salutes her daddy), She sits in the bedside chair, holds her father's cold hand . She won't cry.

SALLY  
(Whispers)  
Who's the deserter now?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD -DAY

PATTERSON stands at the podium overseeing the inspection. A U.S. ARMY COLONEL and two Cuban civilians look on. The platoons are lined up with the Squad Leaders checking the boys.

SGT. SAULLO  
Inspection, Haaarms.

The boys release the bolt mechanisms of their weapons. As they do, a .30 calibre bullet flies up and hits SAULLO in the chest then falls to his feet. SAULLO reaches down and picks up the shell at the feet of LINDQUIST.

SGT. SAULLO  
(To Lindquist)  
Where in the hell did you get this?

LINDQUIST smiles and points to his name tag which reads "COOMBS"

SGT. SAULLO  
Jesus.

But before SAULLO can pursue an investigation...

BAHAMA MAMA  
Company.Ten-Hut

The Company comes to attention as a distracted PATTERSON and the ARMY COLONEL rush through a haphazard inspection of "A" Company. As they move on to "B" Company the COLONEL talks quietly to the Cubans, gesturing toward the ammo dumps....

SLOUCH  
That was easy

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PATTERSON -LATER

The inspection is over

PATTERSON

We'll be proceeding down 135th  
Street until we reach the  
Fairgrounds. We will follow the  
Fort Lauderdale Majorettes...

A loud CHEER from the assembled boys.

PATTERSON

As you were. We will then proceed  
with our drill.

ANGLE TRENCHER

TRENCHER

I'd like to drill them majorettes.

PATTERSON

Following the drill, you will have  
three free hours at the Fair. At  
1800 hours we will reform at the  
parking lot where buses will bring  
us back to the school. Anybody not  
at the parking lot at the appointed  
hour will be considered AWOL and  
will be given a subsequent E-5. I  
look forward to honorable behavior  
from each of you gentlemen.  
Alright, Colonel, move them out.

ARGEMENOS shouts from the podium

MOROCCA

Group.

BAHAMA MAMA

Company.

SAULLO

Platoon.

SEA COW

Squad. Right face.

And the parade marches off through the gate. The Drum and Bugle Corps plays the *Stars and Stripes*.

EXT. MIAMI STREET -DAY

Parade Montage. The boys march along the streets of Miami. It's a spectacular sight. Ribbons and banners adorn the roofs of the building. Everywhere is the glint of brass and the sound of MARCHING BANDS.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET -DAY (DUSK)

UNCLE RAOUL is standing among the spectators lining the street. He searches the faces of the boys in the parade as the Miami Military Academy passes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FAIRGROUNDS -DAY (DUSK)

An ANNOUNCER is poised on a SCAFFOLDING overlooking the fairgrounds.

ANNOUNCER

Entering the fairgrounds is the  
Upper Dania High School Marching  
Band.

The Band marches smartly through the arch over the Fairground entrance. They perform *Sousa* badly.

ANNOUNCER

Followed by the Druger Department  
Store Saurkraut Band.

CUT TO:

EXT. FAIRGROUND PARKING LOT -DAY

The Miami Military Boys are in a holding pattern outside the Fairgrounds. They are marking time behind the Fort Lauderdale Majorettes.

BEAR

Which one of you lucky ladies'd  
like to ride the Wild Mouse. Who's  
it gonna be? Wild Mouse?

A Majorette, LENORE is disgusted with BEAR

LENORE

Don't be disgusting. I wouldn't want to even look at your Wild Mouse. It's probably diseased.

BEAR

No, it's a ride.

MAJORETTE

Some ride. I'll bet.  
(To her friend)  
Turd brains.

MAJORETTE #2

He's kinda cute, Lenore.

LENORE

You never seen them without their uniforms. They look like Pillsbury Doughboys. All white and fuzzy.

ANNOUNCER

And now, the Fort Lauderdale Majorettes.

And the GIRLS begin to move out and into the Fairgrounds.

BEAR

Hey, Lenore. I like your moustache.

Without losing a beat, LENORE catches BEAR in the groin with her baton. He writhes in pain as LENORE puts on her biggest smile for the crowd. He drops his rifle and doubles up.

MOROCCA

Company. Ten-Hut. Forward march.

ANNOUNCER

And back by popular request, the Miami Military Academy.

There is a resounding BOO from the spectators.

SLOUCH

I think they're gettin' to like us.

CUT TO:

INT. FAIRGROUNDS -DAY

The Boys march through the gate to the tune of *Stars and Stripes*.

They perform their varied military manoeuvres in front of the Grandstand, BEAR managing as best he can with an exploding nutsack.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDWAY -DAY

The games of chance, rides and amusements. The boys are at play. SLOUCH and BEBOP are sharing merry-go-round with a couple of Majorettes.

EXT. THE STOCKYARDS -DAY

Sea Cow and Lindquist are taking in the animal husbandry exhibits. People grooming sheep, cows, and goats. A MILK MAID is grooming a prize JERSEY COW.

SEA COW

That's a good lookin' Holstein.

MILK MAID

It's a Jersey.

SEA COW

That's right. Holsteins have the longer horns.

MILK MAID

(Smiling)

I don't think so. Jersey's are brown and Holsteins are usually black and white. Another thing, Jerseys give about twelve percent more butterfat.

CUT TO:

ANGLE LINDQUIST

As he wanders away from SEA COW and the MILK MAID over to the sheep exhibit. He watches the sad face of a sheep straddling a shearing block.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDWAY -DAY

The CLANG of a bell. A wider angle reveals BEAR, SAULLO, BOVA and HARGRAVES all smoking fat CIGARS and laughing like fools. A disgruntled CARNEY is trying to discourage BEAR from taking another swing with the HAMMER.

BARKER  
Ten's the limit. Gimme the hammer.

HARGRAVES  
Says who?

BOVA  
Yeah? Where's the sign, Adolf?

BARKER  
Gimme that hammer. One prize to a customer.

All the while, BEAR is pounding away with the huge hammer and the bell at the top of the pole keeps ringing. They attract a crowd. The spectators BOO as the Barker tries to get the hammer from BEAR. Finally, BEAR just tosses the hammer on the ground and walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDWAY (WHEELER AND PATTERSON)

As they stroll along past the RING TOSS and other GAMES OF CHANCE. An announcement comes over the P.A. System.

ANNOUNCER  
In five minutes, the fabulous Kingston Trio will be appearing at the Grandstand. The Kingston Trio in five minutes.

WHEELER  
Wow, the Kingston Trio. Let's go Commander.

PATTERSON  
Naw, I hate that rock and roll stuff.

WHEELER  
Not rock and roll. The Kingston Trio. C'mon.

He tugs at the COMMANDER, pulling him in the direction of the Grandstand.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDWAY WILD MOUSE RIDE -DAY

LENORE

I apologize. I thought you were just being rude, David. Can you walk okay?

BEAR

No big thing...I mean it's fine..I mean you just caught one of em ..other one's fine ..I'm...not like crippled or nothin.

LENORE

Maybe you should sit in front.

BEAR

O.K...I been lookin forward to this all year.

CUT TO:

INT. SHEEP PEN -DAY

LINDQUIST releases the catch on the pen and watches the sheep roam out onto the Midway. He herds them out of the tent and claps to stampede them..

MAN

Hey Boy, stop them sheep. Stop that.

Several people try to intercept the sheep as they escape. LINDQUIST looks proud. The man grabs LINDQUIST by the neck

CUT TO:

EXT. GRANDSTAND -DAY

PATTERSON and Wheeler are leaving the stands

WHEELER

Great music huh Commander.

PATTERSON

Where's Arthur?

WHEELER

He's with Sea Cow lookin' at the animals. I'm allergic to animals..  
..all animals.

PATTERSON

We better check.

CUT TO:

MIDWAY (BEBOP AND SLOUCH)

They are eating COTTON CANDY and smoking CIGARS like Pinocchio and Lampwick at Pleasure Island.

MIDWAY ANOTHER ANGLE CONVERGING

WHEELER (ARRIVING)

Hey YOU! Get yer hands off him!

BEAR, BOVA, SAULLO and HARGRAVES see the scuffle with LINDQUIST who is pinned face first in the dirt by the irate MAN

SGT. SAULLO

Let's GO!

Wheeler rushes up and gets another fist to the nose. Suddenly, BEAR jumps in and heaves the man into a popcorn stand. A CARNEY jumps on BEAR which brings SAULLO and BOVA into it. SLOUCH and BEBOP dive in. HARGRAVES puts his bugle to his lips and blows 'Call to Arms'

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The SHEEP stampede the Midway heading into the fight. Townies, cadets, sheep, farmers, carneys..all into it now ..Chaos reigns...A beefy CARNEY is pummeling BOVA and is about to deal him a serious blow when a large arm reaches in and swirls the Carney around. The Arm punches the CARNEY and sends him sprawling among the puzzled sheep.

It's PATTERSON who has become John Wayne.

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. ARMY BUS -NIGHT

PATTERSON is leading the convoy, driving with WHEELER and LINDQUIST also in the front. Behind them in the rows, we can see the rest of the boys from A Company. BOVA holds an ice pack to his cheek. BEAR has one on his crotch.

WHEELER

So what d'ja like best at the Fair,  
Commander?

PATTERSON

Oh, the music, I guess.

WHEELER

Yeah, the Kingston Trio, they're  
alright.

PATTERSON

That old Woody Guthrie song they  
did was something else.

WHEELER

No, no. They write all their own  
stuff. They got an album and  
everything.

PATTERSON

*The Reuben James.* That's an old  
song Woodie wrote.

(He sings)

*What were their names, tell me what  
were their names.*

*Did you have a friend on the good  
Reuben James?*

WHEELER

No foolin'

PATTERSON

'S fact. I knew a fella on the  
Reuben James. Two fellas actually.  
The Cisco brothers. Johnny and  
Billy Cisco. He and his brother  
used to come up to the cabin I had  
in Stockbridge. We were the first  
nudists up there.

WHEELER

(Nodding off)

Uh-Oh...

PATTERSON

We were in the Merchant Marines together. Me and Billy and Johnny. Then the two of them got stationed on the destroyer, the Reuben James. Johnny was killed when they got torpedoed off Iceland. First casualty of the war, even before Pearl was hit. Another ocean away. Johnny was in the engine room when they got it and Billy was on deck. That's the ways I heard it anyway. Billy kept jumping out of the lifeboat and near drowned trying to dive down and save his dead brother.

BEAR

Jesus...sounds cold....brrrr

PATTERSON

They had to sit on him to keep him from jumpin' out of the boat.... I ran into Billy in a bar up in Stockbridge after the war, in '48 or '49. We'd been drinkin' a lot and toastin' a lot and I got up and said: 'To the memory of one of the finest men ever to die in the war, Johnny Cisco.' Well, Billy decked me. I was out cold for long time and when I came to, he was bendin' over me and crying and sayin' he was sorry. Then we drank some more. But to his dyin' day he never believed that Johnny drowned. Thought in his mind, that he was a prisoner somewhere I guess.

WHEELER is asleep in LINDQUIST'S arms.

PATTERSON

(To Lindquist)

He okay?

LINDQUIST nods and holds WHEELER like a Teddy Bear. SLOUCH smiles to himself. Bebop is lost in thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD -DAY

In the early morning, The flag at half-mast. The entire school is assembled on the parade field. "A" COMPANY is immaculate except for their black eyes, welts, and split lips. Commander PATTERSON presides over the ceremony for Colonel BARNES. SALLY seated at the podium

PATTERSON

Colonal Morocca, would you lead the corps. in the cadet prayer.

MORROCA (AND ALL)

OH GOD, our Father, Thou searcher of men's hearts....(Continuation of the cadet prayer)...

OVER:

ANGLE LISHINSKY

As he watches SALLY from the ranks. The band begins to play *DOWN THE ROAD*. A long look passes between them.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARRACKS-NIGHT

It's dark except for a light from the doorway. The school is asleep.

CUT TO:

INT -LATRINE- NIGHT

Lt. WHEELER sits on the can. He's in his pajamas yet still wearing his sword.

The SOUND of footsteps entering the darkened latrine. A shadow moves along the wall and stops at the sink.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT -THE SINK

A HAND comes in and picks up the soap. Another hand imbeds a RAZOR BLADE deep into the bar of soap.

CUT TO:

WHEELER

Sitting quietly in the stall watching the figure at the sink. WHEELER picks up his flashlight and aims the light on the figure at the washstand. It is CROW THE BARBER..

WHEELER  
Crow, what're you doin'?

CROW fumbles the razor blades and they fall on the white tile floor. He bolts for the door.

WHEELER  
(Screaming)  
RAZOR FIEND! RAZOR FIEND!

He tries to get his pants up as CROW runs out the front door of the latrine. WHEELER in hot pursuit, leaps onto the back of the fleeing CROW.

CUT TO:

EXT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS -NIGHT

The entire barracks is awake and running to see what is happening outside. WHEELER is on CROW'S back and trying to bring him down like a steer. Crow gets tangled in WHEELER'S sword and they tumble to the ground.

EXT. PARADE FIELD -NIGHT

CROW has managed to get WHEELER'S SWORD away from him and is about to slice him in half when a SHOT rings out. CROW yelps, grabs his arm, dropping the sword and topples to the ground.

ANGLE MANGO TREE -NIGHT

We see LINDQUIST sitting in the tree cradling his smoking rifle. He's terrified.

CUT TO:

EXT. INFIRMARY -NIGHT

PATTERSON is talking to the EARL THE AMBULANCE DRIVER as he closes the back of the AMBULANCE. NORIKO stands by.

PATTERSON  
He left me no choice, Earl.. It was either him or one of my boys.

EARL

He's always had a screw loose, Pat.  
Can't say you weren't warned. Knew  
he'd try something if you let him  
come back here.

PATTERSON

Earl... about writin' this up..

EARL

Forget about it..for all our  
sakes... We'll patch him up and  
they'll keep their mouths shut if  
they know what's good for em. He's  
not hurt all that bad.

EARL signals to his sidekick.

EARL

C'mon, Hector... another cowboy for  
the ranch.

CROW is in the back of the Ambulance.

CROW

Don't make me go back Commander ...  
I'm so sorry.

PATTERSON

I think it's best John. They can  
take better care of you there than  
we can.

CROW

Commander, please.

PATTERSON

Can't have you hurting the  
boys, John.

HECTOR and EARL get into the ambulance. CROW huddles up to  
the window behind the cab.

NORIKO

Ethel will take good care of you  
Johnny.

CROW

Is Ethel still there?

HECTOR

Yeah, she's been asking about you.

Both the DRIVERS chuckle.

Outside the ambulance, the boys are peering in the windows at CROW.

SLOUCH  
 (to LISHINSKY)  
 He's an old boy. I remember when he graduated..

WHEELER  
 Why'd ya do it, Crow? What did ya do it for?

CROW  
 (Softly)  
 Because sometimes boys have to be disciplined... The ones who have lost the way.  
 (He smiles)

The boys are pressing to get a last look at CROW as the ambulance pulls away, .

BOVA  
 Back to Kansas, Dorothy.

CROW  
 (See ya later)  
 VERMIN!!!

NORIKO places a hand on PATTERSON'S shoulder.

NORIKO  
 Sorry Pat. Sometimes you must let boys go.

SLOUCH  
 Well, no more haircuts.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING -DAY

WHEELER is talking on the PAYPHONE. SLOUCH and BEBOP are rushing him to get off.

WHEELER  
 (on the phone)  
 Put a sock in it Edison and listen for a minute. We're travelling light.

(MORE)

WHEELER (CONT'D)  
 If she wants us to wear them  
 greaseball civvies, she can buy us  
 each a wardrobe when we get there.

SLOUCH and BEBOP check their watches as they listen to  
 WHEELER drone on.

WHEELER  
 His name is Arthur Lindquist. I  
 sent you the picture so get mom to  
 take care of the passport... Hell, I  
 don't know,.. she did it for the  
 goombah ,she can do it for me.  
 Twelve hundred hours sharp. Monday

He hangs up the phone.

WHEELER  
 (To LINDQUIST) Ever been to the  
 Antibes?

SLOUCH (O.S.)  
 Tough gettin' good help these days,  
 huh Wheeler?

WHEELER  
 If it ain't the gonorrhoea twins.  
 Get lost.

BEBOP  
 Turista Pequenito.

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS -NIGHT

Boys are in STUDY HALL sitting on folding chairs at their  
 desks. Leslie Gore's "It's My Party" plays on the RADIO.

BEAR is reading a stroke book to LINDQUIST.

BEAR  
*She walked through the door wearing  
 a negligee that looked like a  
 week's work for a small spider. She  
 had a deep throaty laugh like the  
 sound a dog makes before it throws  
 up.*

SAULLO grabs the book from Bear.

SGT. SAULLO  
Study something.

BEAR  
Nothin left to study. I finished  
all my tests.

SGT. SAULLO  
Find something.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING -NIGHT

BEBOP on the PAYPHONE. SLOUCH huddles next to him.

BEBOP  
.... Digame...si...Muy bien.(hangs  
up,then to SLOUCH) We're going in  
as recon. I grew up on the beaches.  
You're my "aide". A *Soldado Cubano*  
now.. No going back...

SLOUCH  
So ..Here we go.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNES FRONT PORCH-NIGHT

SALLY sits on the steps. LISHINSKY joins her.

SALLY  
Get lost.

LISHINSKY  
I am lost. I was wondering if you  
could help me find the bay so I  
could jump in.

SALLY  
You're not lost; you're a loser.  
You come up here to win another  
medal? I think you're a pig.

LISHINSKY  
Sally ... as God as my witness ...

SALLY  
Scarlett O'Hara now?

LISHINSKY

I'm sorry...for everything.. You..  
your dad...Everybody seemed to..you  
know...respect him..

SALLY

JUST.. SHUT.. UP.. You're all so  
useless! Please..just go away.

LISHINSKY

I can't do that...I won't.

She lets out a sob...Then the dam bursts...LISHINSKY sits helplessly beside her for a long time. Finally, she folds into his arms.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BOAT DOCK- NIGHT

PATTERSON sits on the bench and lights up. After a moment he sees SLOUCH and BEBOP. There is an open fishing boat tied up nearby. The two boys pull their duffles out of the bushes and sling them on their shoulders. UNCLE RAOUL, MIGUEL SANCHEZ and ANITA wait for them UNCLE RAOUL sees PATTERSON...RAOUL salutes PATTERSON with two fingers. PATTERSON pulls a 45 from his belt and aims it at RAOUL...

ARMY COL.(O.S.)

As you were Commander.

PATTERSON turns to see the ARMY COLONEL,now in civilian clothes and his three Cuban "officials" from the parade inspection.

COL.

I believe Col. Barnes put you in charge?

PATTERSON

What's going on "Colonel"?

COL.

Retrieving army ordinance  
Commander.

PATTERSON

You got papers?

COL.

Actually commander, we're not even here.

PATTERSON  
Boys, get back to your barracks.

RAOUL steps forward.

RAOUL  
Mando's leaving school a little early. His family needs him.

SLOUCH  
I'm outta here too Commander... I gotta do this.

PATTERSON  
(Seeing the ammo dump keys in Slouch's hand)

Where'd you get those keys son?

COL.  
Sorry, no time for this right now. Step aside commander. That's an order.

PATTERSON  
I ain't in your Army mister...

PATTERSON struggles for his gun as MIGUEL slams him to the ground. Another holds a wet cloth over his face.

SLOUCH  
NO! Whatterya doin??

Patterson goes limp.

COL.  
Don't worry. He'll be good as new in a few hours.

RAOUL  
(In Spanish to MIGUEL) Put him in his bunk then lock up and we're out of here. (Then to Slouch) You coming loverboy?

BEBOP  
C'mon Slouch. You can't stay here now.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT BISCAYNE BAY NIGHT

BEBOP and SLOUCH watch from topside as MIAMI MILITARY ACADEMY is lost in the distance.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARRACKS NIGHT

LINDQUIST lies on COOMBS' bed gazing out the window toward the BOATSHED. A light is flashing Morse code through the BOATSHED window.

S O S

CUT TO:

EXT BOAT DOCK NIGHT-

LINDQUIST pries the lock off the boatshed door. Patterson sits in a stupor, bottle in one hand, flashlight in another, ammo dump keys at his feet..

PATTERSON  
Musta locked myself in... Just  
between us ,OK?

LINDQUIST nods.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BISCAYNE BAY -DAY

A SAILBOAT RACE. LISHINSKY and BEAR are in one boat, WHEELER and LINDQUIST in another, racing against the teams from B Company. As they reach the final leg back from Capt.Kidd's Island, WHEELER and LINDQUIST are in the lead. The school is gathered along the shore cheering them onward. WHEELER works the sail while LINDQUIST controls the tiller. They are very excited as they cross the finish line.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARNES' HOUSE -DAY

SALLY stands in the darkened living room. Sheets cover the remaining furniture. She retrieves a final carton and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARNES HOUSE -DAY

PATTERSON is standing by on the porch. SALLY locks the house door and hands him the key. Then takes a framed picture from the carton.

SALLY

I think this was my birth  
announcement. I want you to  
have it.

It's the picture of Sally's Mom, Barnes and Pat, beers raised in a toast on a jubilant evening.

PATTERSON

I'll hold onto it for you.

SALLY

...I guess I'm your job now for  
real.

PATTERSON

Always....Best to your mom.

SALLY

If I see her first.

She kisses him and walks down the steps.

LISHINSKY is standing beside SALLY'S van. It's packed for the road. He hands her a small box tied up with a ribbon. Sally opens it and holds up the brass coin suspended on a ribbon. The note says '24 karat gold.'

SALLY

Keep polishing your brass...ya  
never know.

She kisses him sweetly then starts to drive away. She waits patiently as a cadet raises the barrier. The two men watch her disappear through the archway..

BOVA (O.C.)

*Farewell, thou art too dear for my  
possessing,  
And like enough thou know'st thine  
estimate.*

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY -NIGHT

TAPS sounds. The boys are in their bunks.

HARGRAVES

If Coombs don't come back and  
Lindquist graduates, who's gonna  
win the pot?

SGT. SAULLO

We didn't think of that did we?

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. ENGLISH CLASS

LISHINSKY lost in thought.

BOVA (READS ALOUD FROM HIS DESK)

*For how do I hold thee,  
but by thy granting,  
And for that great riches  
where is my deserving?,*

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. BOATDOCK

PATTERSON nips a pint, stares across the bay.

CROSS FADE TO :

EXT. HIGHWAY -DAY

Sally drives along with the wind blowing her hair like a whip.

BOVA (O.C.)

*For I have loved thee  
as a dream doth flatter,  
In sleep a king, but waking,  
no such matter.*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DOCK EVENING

PATTERSON sits on his bench. Bleary eyed and vacant. WHEELER approaches.

WHEELER

You're needed up at the barracks  
sir. We got a discipline problem.

PATTERSON

Something you can handle son?

WHEELER

...Can't just sit here on your ass  
the rest of your life sir. We need  
you Commander.

CUT TO:

INT. "A" COMPANY BARRACKS -NIGHT

PATTERSON walks into the darkened barracks. He fumbles for  
the light switch and flicks it on. PARTY STREAMERS fly  
across the room.

ALL

SURPRISE!!!

The barracks breaks into song.

ALL

*FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW, FOR  
HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW etc..*

BAHAMA MAMA

Happy Memorial Day, Commander.  
Couldn't very well celebrate  
without our hero.

PATTERSON

(Smiling)

I'd forgotten,..  
Well...boys..O.K...But no underage  
drinkin...

BOVA

We got everything right here sir.  
Party hats, pin the tail on the  
donkey...

BAHAMA MAMA

And cocoanut rum.

PATTERSON

Well...but not for the youngsters

WHEELER and LINDQUIST re-enter the barracks with a silver MARTINI SHAKER and a DR.PEPPER. They both are wearing SATIN dinner jackets.

WHEELER

Hate the taste Commander.  
Besides, someone has ta keep frosty.

TRENCHER

Hey, Commander, On the level. Will we be back next year.

BOVA

What think you, Commander? Are we afloat for next year?

PATTERSON

Well, on the level it don't look good...I just..I don't know fellas...I'm sorry... Just have to hope and hang on. Try to keep afloat. Don't know where that'll take us... But wherever it is,... you boys'll always make me proud.

BEAR

I'm sure you'll think of something Commander.

PATTERSON

Well, who knows.. Things have a way of changing in the blink of an eye.

WHEELER

We're comin BACK! And I'll tell ya this... I'm gonna be a CAPTAIN and KICK SOME SORRY ASS!

BEAR

Wheeler learnt your song sir.

WHEELER

(Sings softly,  
tentative at first)  
*Have you heard of a ship,  
called the good Reuben James,  
manned by hard fighting men,  
both of honor and of fame...*

PATTERSON is visibly touched. The boys pass soft drinks but lace them with contraband booze.

WHEELER..CONTINUES(V.O.)  
*She pulled the stars and stripes,  
of the land of the free,  
But tonight she's in her grave,  
at the bottom of the sea....*

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. SHIP-NIGHT

SLOUCH on a ship deck watching the horizon. A sliver of land ahead.

( The SONG; *THE SINKING OF THE REUBEN JAMES* plays over the action through the end of these final sequences .)

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. PARADE FIELD (GRADUATION DAY MONTAGE)

DAMRON at the podium.. The words duty, honor and country weave through his speech....

RECALL sounds. The BOYS march in review. PATTERSON and faculty return their salute from the REVIEWING STAND.

The boys throw their hats in the air.

WHEELER  
(a few begin to join the  
chorus) (V.O.)  
*Tell me what were their names,  
WHEELER  
Tell me what was his name?,  
Did you have a friend on the Good  
Reuben James....*

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. FENCE -DAY

WHEELER and LINDQUIST are standing at the cyclone fence talking with MRS. LINDQUIST. WHEELER is gesturing at length to the puzzled woman who might as well be in Iowa. Finally LINDQUIST kisses her and the boys run off. EDISON waits for them by the limo.

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. BLEACHERS -DAY

AUNT SELENA sits alone in the bleachers. Left again.

WHEELER(V.O.)  
*It was there in the dark of that  
 uncertain night,*

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY

SALLY heads west on route 66.

WHEELER(V.O.)  
*That we watched for a U-boat  
 and waited for a fight.  
 Then the whine and the rock and the  
 great explosion roar,  
 And they laid the Reuben James  
 On that cold ocean floor.*

CUT TO:

EXT. BAY OF PIGS -DAY (SLOW MOTION)

GUNFIRE, SMOKE and CHAOS as a band of CUBANS hit the beach.

BOYS (V.O.)  
*What were their names tell me,  
 WHEELER  
 What was his name...,  
 Did you have a friend  
 on the good REUBEN JAMES...*

BEBOP is hit as he steps onto the sand. He falls face first in the water. Blood colors the water as BOMBS explode. SLOUCH rushes to him.

WHEELER(OVER)  
*Many years have passed since those  
 brave men are gone,*

SLOUCH cradles a bleeding BEBOP. A shadow stands over him. A heavily armed CUBAN gestures toward the forest where other captured and wounded are being led.

WHEELER(OVER)  
*And the cold icy waters are stable  
 and they're calm,...*

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. THE SCHOOL -DAY

LISHINSKY is under the archway of the school. He turns around and looks up to the *eagle and the globe*. Nearby, on the bench by the bus stop, NORIKO sits with a suitcase, waiting for the J bus.

WHEELER(V.O.)

*Many years have passed but still I  
 wonder why,  
 The worst of men make war  
 and the best of men must die...*

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. PATTERSON'S HUT

"Bay of Pigs Fiasco...UN Condemns Action"

"U.S. Pulls Air Support"

... headlines *The Miami Herald*. The paper falls from PATTERSON'S hands. He fights back tears.

BOYS(OVER)

*Tell me what were their names,*

WHEELER

*Tell me what was his name,*

CROSS FADE TO :

EXT: PARADE FIELD (DUSK)

The ACADEMY appears deserted. Wind blows the palms.

(OVER)

*Did you have a friend on the good  
 Reuben James...*

The CAMERA leads us to:

EXT. PARADE FIELD-(DUSK)

CMDR. PATTERSON USN Ret. takes the flag down and folds it tri-corner military fashion. He tucks it under his arm and walks down by the bay.

SONG (OVER)

*Tell me what were their names,*

WHEELER

*Tell me what was his name,*

EXT BOAT DOCK-(DUSK)

PATTERSON sits on the bench under a palm tree, watching five HUEY GUNSHIP HELICOPTERS flying low over the bay into the sun.

Then the bench is empty.

WHEELER

*Did you have a friend on  
the Good Reuben James..*

In the background BULLDOZERS begin plowing into "A" COMPANY BARRACKS as we....

FADE OUT.

*DEDICATED TO:*

*STEPHEN M. LASHINSKY Jr.  
Private First Class*

1st Cavalry USARV  
Ground casualty  
Quang Nam Province,  
South Vietnam

*1945 - 1968*