GLORIOUS AMATEURS EPISODE 1 "Saddle Up!"

Written by
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based on the true stories of WWII OSS Spies

WGAW Registered 2nd REVISION 4/15/24 1625 Chilco CT Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 805-509-1478 EXT. KANSAS FIELD - DAY

A PRAIRIE DOG exits it's den carefully sniffing the air for danger. It hops a few feet away from its entrance, but stops abruptly.

In the background we begin to hear a faint rumble. The animal twitches it's whiskers turning its head to listen.

A title comes up on the screen:

"Point to point race - Fort Riley Kansas - June 1942"

The rumble gets louder. The Prairie Dog lifts it's head up trying to determine the location of the sound.

The volume of the rumble increases. The dog gets more agitated. The ground begins to tremble. The rumble increases. Momentarily frozen the prairie dog is not sure what to do. Suddenly, it bolts for the safety of its burrow, just in time to escape from being trampled by myriad of galloping horse hooves.

EXT. KANSAS FIELD - DAY - WIDE SHOT

A GROUP OF RIDERS dressed in U.S. Cavalry uniforms race across the field. Near the back of the pack Lieutenant CHARLIE, a devilishly handsome dark-haired rider in his late twenties, replete with mustache, begins to move up in the pack.

EXT. KANSAS FIELD - DRONE SHOT

CHARLIE'S horse squeezes between two other horses as the group heads for a drop off at the edge of the field. Horses pour over the edge heading downward on a slippery 45 degree slope. A few horses baulk at the obstacle creating a pile up at the edge. CHARLIE narrowly avoids this and goes over the edge.

EXT. SLOPE - DAY

CHARLIE struggles to keep his mount upright.

CHARLIE

Oh no, no...

The pack begins to slide down the slope, and several horses stumble sending their riders sprawling to the ground.

CHARLIE manages to keep his mount upright, and reaches the bottom. He has moved up to the middle of the pack.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

The riders enter a stream splashing water all over. Two riders collide and fall into the water.

The group charges up a steep hillside. Near the top one horse falls over. Several horses barely make the last few feet, clambering over the edge. Charlie is one of them.

EXT. WOODS

Now there are six riders left. Charlie is second to last. The riders dash through the trees ducking the low branches. One rider fails to duck and is knocked off his mount. The horse continues on. Charlie is now fourth.

EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - DAY

The riders encounter a series of low hedges. They jump over the hedges one by one. The jumps get higher and higher. One of the lead rider's horse refuses a jump, sending the rider over by himself. Charlie is now in third place.

EXT. MEADOW STREW WITH BOULDERS - DAY

FRANK, the rider just ahead of Charlie, spins to avoid a boulder sending him to the ground. He lands ungracefully on his butt. Charlie passes him calling back over his shoulder.

CHARLITE

You okay Frank?

FRANK

Aw, go to hell!

Charlie is now a half a horse-length behind the leader,

LIEUTENANT RANDOLPH.

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

There are a group of spectators in the viewing stands, anticipating the race's finish. Several are looking through binoculars.

MALE SPECTATOR

Looks like Randolph is in the lead. But Lange is just behind!

EXT. MEADOW STREW WITH BOULDERS - DAY

Randolph looks back over his shoulder at Charlie.

RANDOLPH

(shouting)

I got this in bag, ole man. No way can your horse can beat mine in the final stretch.

Randolph spurs on his horse. Pulling forward of Charlie. Charlie turns his mount to the left. It is a more direct route to the finish line, but there is a wide ravine between Charlie and the finish line.

EXT. DRONE SHOT OVERHEAD - DAY

We clearly see that Randolph must go out of his way to go around the ravine.

EXT. MEADOW STREW WITH BOULDERS - DAY

RANDOLPH

(shouting)

Don't try it Lange, it isn't worth it.

He spurs on his horse faster.

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

FEMALE SPECTATOR #2

Oh my, Charlie is going for the ravine!

Several spectators stand to get a better view.

EXT. MEADOW STREW WITH BOULDERS - DAY

Charlie's horse is nearing the ravine. It looks too wide to jump.

CHARLIE

Come on girl...you can do it.

He gets ready to make the jump.

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

The rest of the spectators stand and hold their breaths to see what happens.

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

Charlie's horse leaves the ground.

SLOW MOTION

Charlie's horse sails into the air...

WE FREEZE AND

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. SQUADRON A ARMORY NEW YORK CITY - AFTERNOON

EIGHT HORSEMAN are playing indoor polo, Four of them are SQUADRON A members, and Charlie is among them. A title comes up on the screen:

"SIX MONTHS EARLIER..."

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My war started in New York City. I've always loved horses.

The polo players are knocking the ball around the field trying to score on each other.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

So I became a member of a club called Squadron A, a New York National Guard Unit where, besides our other duties, we could stable horses...and had weekly indoor polo tournaments.

Suddenly the ball is knocked forward into the clear. Charlie rides hard at it, bring his polo mallet high into the air, but instead of hitting the ball towards the goal (where an opposing player blocks his shot, he deftly leans forward bringing his mallet across the front of his horse and hitting it to his teammate to the side.

When the opposing player goes toward the ball, Charlie passes behind him. His teammate sets up the shot, which Charlie takes, making the score.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Of course when we won, that evening we would celebrate.

CUT TO:

INT. SQUADRON A ARMORY BANQUET HALL - EVENING

The members are celebrating their win. Laughing at jokes...Patting each other on the back...and definitely drinking too much punch. A MEMBER surreptitiously pours a flask of clear liquid into the pink punch bowl.

A PIANO PLAYER is playing a lively tune on an upright piano at the end of the hall.

TOMMY, a Squadron A member is holding the polo ball. He touches the PIANO PLAYER's shoulder.

TOMMY

Play the limerick song.

The piano player plays an introduction, and all the men join in.

MEN

Ohhhh...Sing us a limerick that's blue
And it doesn't have to be true
But it had better be naughty,
And ever so bawdy!
And preferably one that is new!

Tommy jumps up on a chair and sings.

TOMMY

Ohhhh...There was once a girl from Madras.

The men recognizing the Limerick join in...

TOMMY & MEN

Who had the most beautiful ass. It was not round and pink
As some people might think
But was grey, had long ears, and ate grass!
But was grey, had long ears, and ate grass!

Everyone sings the chorus, as Tommy throws the polo ball to Charlie, who steps up on another chair.

MEN

Ohhh...Sing us an off-color rhyme As long as it's metered in time Tell us of farts And of men's private parts.
And women that are so sublime!

CHARLIE

Ohhhh...There once was a couple named Kelly
Who were found stuck belly to belly

BILL & MEN

Because in their haste They used library paste Instead of petroleum jelly! Instead of petroleum jelly!

The crowd lifts Charlie up onto their shoulders, and begins to carry him around the room. He tosses the ball to another member.

MEN

Ohhhh...Sing us a limerick that's blue
And it doesn't have to be true
But it had better be naughty

The music abruptly stops, and the lights flash off and on. The crowd stops singing. Everyone looks to the door where an out of breath MESSENGER is waving his arms.

He makes an announcement.

MESSENGER

The Japs attacked our fleet at Pearl Harbor...Gentleman...We are at war!

All the members are frozen in shock.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

And just like that...all our lives changed in an instant.

CUT TO:

INT GRAND CENTRAL STATION - MORNING

Charlie makes his way to the Graybar Building entrance.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

When the U.S. declared war on Japan, Germany and their allies, I was working for my father, who owned the All American Locomotive Company. We made steam engines for the railroads.

INT. ELEVATOR GRAYBAR BUILDING NYC - MORNING

He enters the elevator and rides it up to the 27th floor.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

With the informed advice of a friend, I decided instead of being drafted or conscripted, I would enlist in the United States Calvary at Fort Riley Kansas...

INT. GRAYBAR BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY

Charlie leaves the elevator and strides down the hallway.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

...where I could still do the thing I loved best, riding horses.

INT. ALL AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY OFFICES - DAY

Charlie enters the offices. He walks past a gauntlet of secretaries who all shamelessly flirt with him.

AUDREY

Good morning Charlie.

CHARLIE

(nodding and smiling)

Audrey.

JOANNE

Hi Charlie.

CHARLIE

Nice dress, Joanne.

JOANNE

Why, thank you.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

However, I first had to deal with my father.

He nods to a lady behind a desk at the end of the hallway.

CHARLIE

Margaret. I need to see the old man. Is he free?

MARGARET

Yes, but he's not happy.

CHARLIE

So what else is new!

Charlie takes a deep breath and we follow him into his father's office.

INT. HEAD OFFICE OF ALL AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE CO - DAY

It is a corner office with views of New York City. It is paneled in dark mahogany, and has model locomotives in glass cabinets around the room. MAX is sitting at huge oversized desk with a file he is perusing.

CHARLIE

Father.

Max does not look up.

MAX

And what is so important that you need to disturb me?

CHARLIE

I am leaving to enlist. I just wanted to say goodbye.

Now he looks up.

MAX

Nonsense. You don't have to enlist. We're an essential business...and besides I need you here.

CHARLIE

You don't need me. You've got my dear brother Russell...and in your own words, he's worth ten of me!

There is an awkward silence.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

...and besides I've made up my mind. I am leaving tonight.

Max looks back to his papers.

MAX

Well, I guess you'd best be off then.

Charlie is visibly hurt by this.

CHARLIE

(Quietly)

Yes, sir.

He turns and exits. As he goes out his father's office door, Margaret, who has overheard this from her desk, takes Charlie's arm stopping him.

MARGARET

He'll come around, eventually. Give him time.

CHARLIE

Thanks, Margaret.

MARGARET

Godspeed, Charlie.

Charlie smiles, gives her a hug, and continues down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. RUSSELL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Charlie's brother, RUSSELL, gives him a farewell bear hug.

RUSSELL

Take care of yourself little brother. Don't fall off any horses, and come back in one piece.

CHARLIE

Believe me, I'll try.

RUSSELL

I need you back here. I can't deal with him alone.

CUT TO:

INT. PARK AVENUE APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie stands with his bag by the front door. He hugs HIS

MOTHER goodbye.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - NIGHT

As the train pulls out of the station, Charlie throws his bag up above, and lies down in the sleeper car as the train pulls out.

CUT TO:

EXTERIOR TRAIN STATION - MORNING

Charlie exits the train. A CONDUCTOR is standing beside the train checking his pocket watch.

CHARLIE

How long are we stopping here?

CONDUCTOR

About 10 minutes sir.

Charlie walks over to the news stand and buys a paper. He scans through it and ambles up to the front of the train watching the various passengers saying goodbye to their loved ones. As he nears the locomotive, FRED the train's engineer is about to mount the stairs. He looks up and recognizes Charlie.

ENGINEER

Mr. Lange.

CHARLIE

Oh please just Charlie, Fred. How have you been?

ENGINEER

I'm great. What brings you out here?

CHARLIE

Not business. I'm going to Junction City, Kansas to enlist in the Army.

The conductor walks up to them.

CONDUCTOR

Sir, we are about to leave.

ENGINEER

Charlie, why don't you ride with me to the next station.

The conductor looks puzzled by this request.

ENGINEER (CONT'D)

(to Conductor)

His company made "Betsy". (pointing to the locomotive)

He was the one who checked me out on her.

The conductor smiles and nods, as he turns and yells.

CONDUCTOR

All Aboard!

Charlie and the Engineer mount the stairs, as the rest of the passengers scurry to get aboard.

INT. LOCOMOTIVE - MONTAGE - TRAIN TRIP - MORNING

Charlie is introduced to the fireman.

Engineer and Fireman work to leave station.

The steam train blows it's whistle and moves out of the station.

The train is moving rapidly through the countryside.

Charlie twists the atomizer value.

Charlie checks the glass water tube.

Charlie adds some sand to the firebox.

Charlie twists the water value adding more water to the engine.

Charlie is sitting in the Engineer's seat. He pulls on the throttle.

Charlie sticks his head out the window feeling the breeze in his hair

Charlie is grinning at the Engineer.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - JUNCTION CITY KANSAS.

Charlie, bag in hand, shakes the Engineer's hand, waves to the conductor, and goes to grab a cab.

CUT TO:

INT. FORT RILEY ENLISTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Charlie signs the enlistment papers, and is directed by a soldier to a door.

CUT TO:

INT. FORT RILEY ENLISTING BUILDING - MONTAGE

A DOCTOR looks in Charlie's ears and mouth.

Charlie reads a eye chart.

The Doctor checks Charlie's reflexes.

Charlie has his pants around his ankles. He is bending over and coughs as the doctor check him for a hernia. Charlie reacts.

CUT TO:

INT. FORT RILEY ENLISTING BUILDING - DAY

Charlie steps up to equipment and uniform station. The

ATTENDANT gives Charlie some supplies.

ATTENDANT

Sorry, we're all out of uniforms just now. You'll just have to wear what you have on for the next few days.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

It is raining, and a group of recruits in various street clothes are marching through the muddy field. Charlie is wearing his seersucker suit and custom shoes.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARIAL SHOT OF THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

WILLIAM "WILD BILL" DONOVAN enters the oval office his name appears on the screen with his title "Coordinator of Intelligence" PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is behind the desk.

BTT₁T₁

Mr. President.

ROOSEVELT

Good to see you Bill. Have a seat.

Bill sits.

ROOSEVELT (CONT'D)

Since the Japs caught us with our pants down, we need to move quickly to get back in the game. Your idea to centralize our intelligence with the COI was timely, but I am now changing it from civilian department to a military one. We'll call it the Office of Strategic Services, the OSS. You will report directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and to me. I am depending on you to get us up to speed quickly.

BILL

(rising to leave)

As you know we've already gotten a great deal of help from the Brits, and we'll start to expand our recruiting and training immediately.

ROOSEVELT

I am counting on you Bill.

BILL

Thank you Mr. President.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE GROUNDS FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie and his platoon are not in their uniforms. Charlie is still in his seersucker suit. It is looking very bedraggled.

SERGEANT DANIELS is drilling the men when LIEUTENANT ROBERT ALEXANDER RANDOLPH III rides up. He dismounts.

DANIELS

Company Halt! Ten-hut!

Daniels salutes the Lieutenant, who returns his salute. He walks down the line of recruits.

RANDOLPH

Looks like a bunch of misfits to me.

He walks up to Charlie.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

What is your name private.

CHARLIE

Lange, SIR!

RANDOLPH

Lange, looks like you are dressed for a formal picnic.

CHARLIE

Yes sir! They advertised wine and cheese, and cucumber sandwiches, SIR!

The men snicker at this.

RANDOLPH

Well, Lange this isn't going to be a picnic. In fact Private, this will be hell for the next few weeks.

CHARLIE

Yes Sir!

RANDOLPH

And I don't like your mustache. Shave it off.

CHARLIE

Yes Sir! My girl friend said she would leave me if I shaved it off. I guess it will be a short romance Sir!

The rest of the men unsuccessfully hold back their chuckles.

RANDOLPH

Daniels, give 'em all twenty pushups, then take them to the obstacle course.

DANIELS

Yes Sir!

Randolph remounts his horse.

DANIELS (CONT'D)

Drop and give me twenty.

MEN

Yes Sir!

The men put down their rifles and begin doing push-ups.

CUT TO:

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE FORT RILEY - MONTAGE - DAY

The men are now in uniform and running the obstacle course

CHARLIE (V.O.)

After being in the New York
National Guard for six years, I had
no trouble with physical obstacle
courses. Except for one thing...I
am deathly afraid of heights.
Anything over ten feet and I get
vertigo. I can't even be in the
same room when a window washer is
hanging outside on a high-story
office building.

Charlie, now without a mustache, is jumping over fences with the other men.

The next fence is higher and Charlie gives another private, ANDREWS, a knee for him to get over it.

Charlie is crawling below barbed wire.

Daniels is yelling at the men to move it.

The soldiers are hanging and swinging forward on monkey bars.

Charlie has no trouble climbing the rope on the high fence, but when he gets to the top he freezes.

MONTAGE ENDS

POV CHARLIE

The downward view begins to spin and blur. We hear a heart beat pounding getting louder and louder. The view spins faster and faster.

ANDREWS (V.O.)

Charlie, Charlie?

CLOSE ON CHARLIE AND ANDREWS.

Andrews has climbed the second rope, and is now lying on the top of the fence next to him.

ANDREWS

Charlie...are you okay?

Charlie snaps out of it looking directly at Andrews. Charlie gulps and blinks.

ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Hey Buddy, don't look down. Just grab the rope and follow me.

Andrews climbs down the rope and Charlie carefully does the same.

They run over the finish line together. Both are panting heavily.

CHARLIE

Thanks...I hate heights.

ANDREWS

It's okay. I hate horses.

Charlie is taken aback.

CHARLIE

And you joined the Calvary!

ANDREWS

Yeah I know, but we won't be riding horses very long. I want to join a tank squadron.

CHARLIE

You're right, the Calvary will soon go completely mechanized.

They stride toward the barracks,

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS - FORT RILEY - MORNING

Charlie and Andrews enter the barracks along with some of the OTHER PRIVATES. Daniels and Randolph are there inspecting each bunk thoroughly. The men immediately come to attention. Daniels whispers something into Randolph's ear.

RANDOLPH

This is a surprise inspection. If there is anything amiss you will receive 3 demerits. 7 or more demerits and you lose your next weekend pass. Whose bunk is this?

CHARLIE

It's mine sir.

RANDOLPH

You're supposed to stack your manuals in order of size. Looks like there is a big one on top of a smaller one.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE'S MANUALS

There are two manuals that are basically the same size in the middle of the stack, however the one on the top is minutely pushed over the bottom one in the front.

WIDE ON BARRACKS

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

That's 3 demerits Lange, and report to latrine duty this afternoon.

CHARLIE

Very good Sir. Thank you for the correction. It won't happen again.

Daniels and Randolph go to the next bunk. Daniels measures the sheet turn over.

DANIELS

This sheet is 1 inch too short. Andrews that's 3 demerits and report to latrine duty with Lange.

ANDREWS

Yes Sir!

Randolph and Daniels continue down the line.

CUT TO:

EXT. LATRINE - AFTERNOON

Charlie and Andrews are shoveling lime into the latrine trench.

CHARLIE

I'm not going to let that happen again! I won't allow Snobby Robby to have the satisfaction of taking my weekend pass away.

ANDREWS

That bastard...your books were the same size. I think Daniels pushed it out of place. Next time we'll watch him.

CUT TO:

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE FORT RILEY - DAY

Again, the men are crawling under barbed wire and jumping over hurdles. Charlie and Andrews are helping each other get over the higher fences. Charlie being taller gives Andrews a leg up and easily jumps up and grabs the top edge. When they get to Jacobs ladder however, Andrews coaxes Charlie to the top.

POV CHARLIE

He is 25 feet up. The view begins to whirl.

ANDREWS

Look at me.

Charlie looks at Andrews.

ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Hey! Remember take one rung at a time. Don't think about the height. Just what is in front of your face.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

If it weren't for Andrews' gentle persuasion I wouldn't have made it through basic.

Charlie and Andrew climb down.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

But we both made it through, and despite Daniel's efforts, we both got our weekend passes.

(MORE)

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

By the end of the month, I was promoted to corporal, then a month later to sergeant, probably due to my 8 years in the National Guard.

CUT TO:

INT. HEADQUARTER OFFICE FORT RILEY - EVENING

COLONEL MILLER is seated behind his desk. CAPTAIN ROGERS and

CAPTAIN HAYES are seated in chairs in front of the desk. Lieutenant Randolph and LIEUTENANT SYKES are standing to either side. Each of them have a piece of paper with a list of names on them.

COLONEL MILLER

Gentlemen. We are in desperate need of more officers due to our growing ranks and deployments. I need your input regarding who we should send to Officer Candidate School.

CAPTAIN HAYES

(looking at the list)
Well as far as my company is
concerned, I would vouch for
Sergeants Carter and Pierce. What
do you think Sykes?

LIEUTENANT SYKES
I would agree with those two, plus
Sergeant Finch.

CAPTAIN HAYES Yeah, Finch is a good man.

COLONEL MILLER Okay, we'll send those three. How about your company Rogers.

CAPTAIN ROGERS
I like the three you listed here.

Randolph looks at the list of three names.

RANDOLPH

I don't agree with your choice of Lange.

CAPTAIN ROGERS He inspires the men, and they like $\mbox{him.}$

RANDOLPH

Maybe, but I don't think he's got the leadership skills to command.

COLONEL MILLER

Okay, we'll leave him out for now. So we are agree on those five?

The officers nod their heads.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY HAY SHED - DAY

Randolph and his Sergeant Daniels are mounted on their horses under the hay shelter. The sky is darkening and the rain begins to intensify.

DANIELS

Sir, I think it would be wise to move back to the stables, before it gets bad.

RANDOLPH

Good idea.

They spur their horses over to the entrance of one of the stables. Dismounting they lead them inside.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS - FORT RILEY - DAY

The Kansas storm rages outside pelting the roof with rain and howling wind. The barracks are full of men, some reading, others cleaning their rifles, while others are writing their loved ones. Charlie is clearly agitated. CORPORAL ANDREWS is sitting on the end of his bed shining his boots.

ANDREWS

(to Charlie)

Ah...don't worry about this Sarge. It's just a little Kansas storm.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY STABLES - DAY

Daniels is looking through the stable doors at the storm

DANTELS

Sir, come look at this.

Randolph comes to the door and looks out.

POV DANIELS

Over the Parade Grounds a black cloud forms a belly which extends to the ground in a funnel. The twister moves to the very hay shed they had been sheltered in and disintegrates it. It writhes towards the two stables. It takes out a rail fence, and moves directly between the buildings, and continues on towards a line of quonset huts that are barracks.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS - FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie glances out the window at the maelstrom outside. He frowns, something has caught his eye.

POV CHARLIE

We see the tornado coming right for them. Charlie frantically yells to the men.

WIDE SHOT

CHARLIE

Quick! Everyone put on your helmets and get under your beds now! There's a twister coming right at us!

Charlie and the men grab their helmets, and dive under their beds.

The noise increases to deafening level. The windows blow out. The building starts to shake.

CLOSE ON MEN

The men clutch on to their helmets, grimacing.

EXT. WIDE SHOT

The roof is torn away, the sound of ripping metal fills the air.

CLOSE ON MEN

Men close their eyes. Some are praying. Some are whimpering.

WIDE SHOT

And then the noise starts to subside. It gets quieter and quieter. We just hear the rain. Charlie slowly gets up.

CHARLIE

Is anyone hurt?

The rest of the men cautiously emerge into the now roofless barracks. They check themselves and those around them.

ANDREWS

I can't find Peters!

Charlie moves quickly to that side of the barracks and grabs a bed that has been turned over. He pulls it aside, and finds Peters cowering in the fetal position.

CHARLIE

It's okay Peters, you're safe now.

He helps him up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You're going to be okay.

He pats him on the back, and turns to Corporal Andrews.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Little Kansas storm my ass!

We hear sirens approaching.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is studying a manual, and listening to a lecture.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

The very next day I was sent up to Officers Candidate School, where I studied hard for several months, and returned to Fort Riley, a Second Lieutenant.

CUT TO:

EXT FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie walks toward the stables. He is wearing his new rank, as well as his signature mustache.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I was feeling pretty good about myself. I had accomplished a lot in three months, and all of it without my family's help.

Just then Randolph and Daniels come out of the stables.

RANDOLPH

Private to officer in less than three months. We'll just have to call you "The Ninety Day Wonder". I'm surprised you made it through OCS.

CHARLIE

Well, it was a lot easier than what I do in real life.

RANDOLPH

Let me guess. You were a used car salesman.

CHARLIE

You're in the right area, transportation, but what I sold was about one thousand times the cost of a used car.

They stare back at him blankly.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

...and Daniels just because I don't have to salute Randolph anymore, doesn't mean you don't have to salute me.

Daniels jumps to attention, and salutes.

DANIELS

Yes Sir.

Charlie returns his salute.

CHARLIE

Have a nice day, gentlemen.

Charlie saunters off towards the stables smiling.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD FORT RILEY STABLES - DAY

Charlie rides a horse towards a coral at the end of a line of stables.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Because of my past experience with horses, soon after my commission, I was made a horsemanship instructor. Of course, Randolph was also given the same orders, and we were each put in charge of a stable.

Charlie rides into a corral with a platoon of men both white and black standing a ease in one corner. They come to attention as Charlie enters. One of the men closes the corral gate.

Charlie dismounts.

CHARLIE

At ease men. How many of you have never been on a horse?

Half of the men raise their hands.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now be honest. How many of you are scared of horses?

A few men tentatively raise their hands, including Sergeant Andrews.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Why is that?

SOLDIER #1

Cause they're big and stupid.

The men laugh.

SOLDIER #2

And they're unpredictable.

CHARLIE

Well, they are big, and many of them aren't the smartest animals, but they are predictable. Horses are prey animals, so they have a built in nervousness of their surroundings. If you make them feel at ease, they'll be fine. If you're not comfortable and act nervous, they'll pick up on that.

He begins to pat his horse on the nose.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Sergeant Andrews, come say hello to Big Timber.

Andrews cautiously comes over to the horse. Andrews carefully rubs Big Timber's nose.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now, I want you to take the reins, and walk the horse around the corral.

Click you tongue like this

He demonstrates this.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

...when you want him to start.

Andrews takes the reins, makes the clicking sound, and walks the horse around the corral.

BEGIN MONTAGE

Several other soldiers walk Big Timber around the corral.

One is very nervous, and is constantly checking over his shoulder.

Another is striding happily along.

One very short soldier takes the reins, and freezes looking up at the horse. Charlie walks with him around the ring.

END MONTAGE

CHARLIE

Now, who knows on which side we mount the horse.

One of the black soldiers ROBINSON raises his hand.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Yes Robinson.

ROBINSON

The left sir.

CHARLIE

That's right, but do you know why?

Nobody raises their hands.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Because most of us are right handed, and in the past we wore our swords on the left side. If you got on the horse from the right side, you would have to flip your saber over to other side of the horse. Now Robinson, I want you to mount Big Timber.

Robinson does so with Charlie helping him up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You okay with taking the reins?

ROBINSON

Yes sir.

Charlie gives him the reins.

CHARLIE

Now, just give him a little heel.

Robinson walks the horse around the ring. Robinson is beaming as well as Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Well done soldier.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD FORT RILEY - DAY

The men in Charlie's platoon are playing baseball. We see that they are rank amateurs.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

On Sundays the men in my platoon would get together and blow off steam playing baseball. Needless to say...we were awful.

BEGIN MONTAGE

An outfielder trips backwards, missing the fly ball. He jumps up and runs after it. After retrieving it, he throws the ball to the second baseman, who drops it. The runner continues on to third.

The batter swings early, and strikes out.

The next batter hits the ball straight up into the air. The pitcher catches it.

The following batter hits a grounder to the first baseman, who fumbles it. The batter makes it safely to first.

The pitcher hits the batter. He walks to first.

The center fielder catches a fly ball. The runner on first has mistakenly runs all the way to second. The men are yelling at the center fielder to throw the ball to first. He just stares back at them.

END MONTAGE

CLOSE ON RANDOLPH AND DANIELS

They are watching the game on the sidelines laughing.

DANIELS

Boy, they are all knuckleheads! None of them can play well.

RANDOTIPH

Let's have some fun. We'll challenge them to a game, annihilate them, and put them in their place.

They walk over to the game. Randolph talks to all the players in a loud voice.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

How about a game next week. My platoon against yours.

Charlie's men are game, but Charlie looks skeptical.

ANDREWS

Come on Lieutenant, it'll be fun.

The men nod their heads in agreement.

CHARLIE

(to Randolph)

Okay, your on.

Randolph smiles.

RANDOLPH

Let's make it interesting. I bet you twenty dollars we'll win.

Now Charlie is worried. He is reluctant. His men however are enthusiastic.

PRIVATE DAWSON

We can beat them Sir.

CHARLIE

What are the rules?

RANDOLPH

Just that you can only use men under your command.

Randolph sticks out his hand, Charlie reluctantly takes it.

CUT TO:

INT BARRACKS FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie and now Sergeant Andrews walk into the barracks.

CHARLIE

Well that's twenty dollars down the drain. We are awful. No way in hell can we win.

ANDREWS

I've got an idea. Snobby Robbie's not gonna like it, but it may give us an edge.

CHARLIE

What do you have in mind?

ANDREWS

Let's use the colored men. They're under your command. Sergeant Robinson was a star football player at UCLA. There's gotta be several other men in that squad that play much better than we do.

CHARLIE

Hmmmm...Worth a try. Let's go ask them.

CUT TO:

INT. COLORED BARRACKS FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie and Andrews enter. Sergeant Robinson yells out.

ROBINSON

Ten-Hut!

The soldiers in the barracks snap to attention.

CHARLIE

As you were men.

The soldier's go about what they were doing before.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(to Robinson)

Sergeant, I've got a problem, and I need your help.

LONG SHOT OF CHARLIE TALKING WITH ROBINSON.

The other soldiers are glancing over wondering what Charlie is saying to Robinson. Robinson starts to smile and nod. Andrews is also nodding.

CLOSE ON ROBINSON, CHARLIE, AND ANDREWS

ROBINSON

...I'll ask the men. See what they want to do. I know at least 2 of the men played in the Negro Leagues before war. Should make the game interesting.

CHARLIE

That's all can I ask for, thank you Sergeant.

Charlie goes to exit and Robinson salutes Robinson him. Charlie returns the salute. Charlie and Andrews exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie's platoon is throwing the baseball around.

We see the caption "ONE WEEK LATER..."

Randolf and his men walk down to the field.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE AND ANDREWS

CHARLIE

This should be interesting.

RANDOLPH

So Lange, ready to get walloped?

CHARLIE

We're just waiting for a few other players.

Just then four athletic black men, Robinson, JACKSON, DAVIS and JAMES appear over the crest of the hill walking towards them. Randolph sees them and frowns. He confers with Daniels and two other men. They are not happy.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(whispering to Andrews)

Here it comes.

Randolph turns to Charlie.

RANDOLPH

We're not playing with them.

CHARLIE

Well, then I guess you forfeit the game!

RANDOLPH

But...

CHARLIE

They are under my command, and those were your rules.

Randolph doesn't know what to say.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So, do you want to play, or do you want to give me twenty clams?

Randolph confers with his men. He turns to Charlie. He is mad as hell.

RANDOLPH

(very reluctantly)

We'll play.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD FORT RILEY - DAY

Randolph's platoon is up at bat. Jackson is pitching and throws the ball to Andrews, who is the catcher.

He in turn throws it to Robinson on first, who rifles it to Charlie at second. He spins it to James at short stop, who relays it to Dawson at third. He returns the ball to Jackson.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

And for the first time all week, I thought we just might have a chance.

Randolph is first at bat, and approaches the plate. Jackson fires a fast ball that completely eludes Randolph's swing.

UMP

Strike one.

Daniels signals Jackson who nods. He throws a slider that dips down below the strike zone, but Randolph falls for it and swings anyway.

UMP (CONT'D)

Strike two.

Jackson pitches another, and Randolph gets a piece of it, but it fouls out.

Jackson sends another over the plate. Randolph swings and misses.

UMP (CONT'D) Strike three, you're out!

Randolph is pissed. He walks away, throwing his bat down.

The next batter gets up, but he hits a line drive to center field. It bounces, the fielder stops it, and sends it back to Charlie. The runner makes it to first.

BEGIN MONTAGE

The next man at bat sends the ball to left field, but the fielder drops it. There are two men on base.

The following batter swings three times in quick succession, and is called out.

The clean-up batter comes up to the plate. He is a big farm boy with huge arms. Jackson sends another fast ball, but the boy cracks it way over the left fielders head.

The score board now reads "Stallions: 3, Spurs: 0"

Another batter swings and the ball goes straight up. Andrews catches it.

The ump calls the batter out, and the teams switch places.

We see Davis get a line drive, and he makes it to second.

Charlie hits one over the shortstop's head. There are now men on first and third.

Jackson hits a homer.

The score is now "Stallions: 3, Spurs: 3"

Robinson gets a double.

Dawson hits a pop-up, and the shortstop catches it. The ump calls him out.

Another man hits the ball to the second baseman who throws it to first, but it is a wild throw, and the first baseman can't get it. Robinson scores, and the runner makes it all the way to third base.

The score board now reads "Stallions: 3, Spurs: 4"

The next batter is called out.

We see Randolph's men swinging hitting, and running.

At the top of the 2nd inning, the score board reads "Stallions: 6, Spurs: 5"

We now see various fumbles, runs, swings, misses, and hits.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE CONT. - DAY

At the top of the 6th inning the score board now reads "Stallions: 12, Spurs: 15".

The men are getting tired. Jackson hits a homer. More fumbles, more runs, and more hits.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE CONT. - DAY

It is the top of the ninth, and the scoreboard reads, two outs, and the score is: "Stallions: 20, Spurs: 20"

Randolph's team has a man on first base. The farm boy is up.

Jackson pitches, and the boy slams it over center field it is a homer.

The next batter sends one right to the pitcher, who deftly catches it.

The score board now reads: "Stallions: 22, Spurs: 20"

The teams switch sides. The Spurs are now up at bat.

The first batter hits a pop-up, and the third baseman catches it. The ump calls him out.

The next batter swings once, then again, then again. The ump calls him out.

END MONTAGE

It is the top of the batting order, and Randolph is now pitching. Davis comes to the plate. He hits another solid line drive, and just makes it safely to first.

Jackson is at bat. Randolph signals to the catcher to move out to the side. He throws four balls walking Jackson to first.

Robinson now comes up to the plate.

Randolph throws it to inside, and Robinson jumps out of the way not to get hit. Randolph smiles. He throws another just like it, and Robinson does the same jump away again.

Randolph grins at him.

Randolph winds up to do the same pitch again, but Robinson steps back at the last second, and as the ball misses the strike zone to the inside, Robinson smashes it. The ball sails over the right fielder's mitt.

Robinson takes off around the bases. By the time the right fielder gets the ball, two men have crossed home plate. The fielder throws the ball to the second baseman as Robinson rounds third base. Charlie's men are cheering loudly. The second baseman hastily whips the ball to the catcher, but it a little wide, and he must come off the plate to catch it. Robinson slides into home as the catcher tries to tag him out.

UMP

SAFE!

Charlie's men erupt in wild cheers. They are all congratulating each other.

CLOSE ON RANDOLPH AND DANIELS

They are seething.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE

He walks over to Randolph.

CHARLIE

Good game Lieutenant. Well played.

He shakes Randolph's hand, and turns to go.

RANDOLPH

Just a minute.

Charlie turns back, and Randolph hands him two tens. They nod at each other.

Charlie goes over to Robinson. He gives him the two tens.

CHARLIE

Give your men a party tonight.

Robinson looks at the money, and looks back at Charlie quizzically.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I'll take care of the others. You know, you're pretty damn good at this game, maybe you should think about switching from football to baseball!

JACKSON

Nice hit Jackie!

Jackie nods to Jackson.

CHARLIE

Jackie Robinson. You've got talent. I'll keep an eye out for you in the future.

Charlie goes over to the other men, and congratulates them.

CLOSE ON ROBINSON

He looks at the money, then his team mates, and smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY OVERLOOK - SUNSET

Charlie and Andrews are nursing some bottles of beer, and watching the activity at the fort below.

CHARLIE

I still can't believe we won today.

ANDREWS

The look on Randolph's face when Robinson was declared safe was the best.

CHARLIE

Yeah, that was good.

Charlie takes another swig.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Where are you from?

ANDREWS

Dayton, Ohio.

CHARLIE

You've got family there?

ANDREWS

A wife and daughter.

CHARLIE

Wow, So, why aren't they out here with you?

ANDREWS

I had just finished my first two years in college, and I got my girlfriend pregnant. So I married her, and went to work for National Cash Register. When I enlisted, she took my job. She's making pretty good dough, and her parents can watch our daughter.

Charlie nods.

ANDREWS (CONT'D)

What about you? Why aren't you married? I'd think that the girls would have tried to snag you.

CHARLIE

I just haven't met the right one yet, and after seeing my parents' rotten marriage, I haven't had the stomach for it. My old man is controlling and dominating, and my mother has escaped into alcohol.

ANDREWS

What does he do?

CHARLIE

He's a self-made man. A real nose to the grindstone type. His company makes locomotives.

ANDREWS

Why did you enlist? That's an essential industry. You wouldn't of had to.

CHARLIE

I wanted to get the hell out of there! You see, my older bother and I have been working for my father for 7 years now. No matter what I do, it never compares to the perfection of my brother. He's the golden boy. He is also an alcoholic, and no wonder.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I was sick of covering for him when he would go on binges.

ANDREWS

And I thought my family was screwed up!

CHARLIE

...and so I got out. But I don't like sitting here in Kansas, when I could be fighting the Krauts.

ANDREWS

I hear yah.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

Charlie is watching Sergeant Andrews march his new recruits around the parade grounds.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Every month or so we'd get a new bunch of recruits that we'd have to whip into shape.

They're doing well except for one man, in the middle of the group. PRIVATE CUMMINGS doesn't seem to get any command right. He has no rhythm at all, and is always out of step.

Farther down the parade grounds, Randolph is watching his own recruits marching under the command of his own sergeant, Daniels. Randolph saunters up to Charlie.

RANDOLPH

Hey Lieutenant, looks like you've got some work to do. Tell you what. Let's have a competition in two weeks. Your recruits against mine.

We will drill them, and eliminate anyone who makes a mistake.

Your NCOs will watch my men, and mine yours.

Charlie looks at him and thinks about this.

CHARLIE

That's actually a good idea. You're on!

RANDOLPH

But, you've got to give me a chance to win my money back. Who evers man is left at the end wins. This time let's make it a hundred.

CHARLIE

That's two weeks salary!

RANDOLPH

Yeah, well being a ninety day wonder and all, maybe you can't cut the mustard.

Charlie reluctantly sticks his hand out, and Randolph shakes it.

CHARLIE

Deal! In two weeks then.

Randolph walks back to his own platoon.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE

He watches his recruits and blows out a sigh.

CHARLIE

(to himself)

What the hell have I done?

WIDE SHOT

CAPTAIN ROGERS rides up next to Charlie.

ROGERS

Lieutenant, that man needs to get in step.

Do something about it.

CHARLIE

Yes Sir.

The captain rides off. Charlie signals to Andrews to bring the men in. Andrews marches the men over.

ANDREWS

HALT ONE TWO.

AT EASE!

ON CHARLIE AND ANDREWS

Charlie takes Andrews aside to talk with him privately.

ON THE PLATOON

PRIVATE FORD and PRIVATE DAWSON are pointing and laughing at Jed.

PRIVATE FORD

It must be hard when you go to buy a pair of shoes.

PRIVATE DAWSON

Yeah, not a lot of stores will sell you two left feet.

They laugh along with some of the other men in the squad. Charlie and Andrews have just returned to overhear this.

CHARLIE

TEN-HUT!

The men jump to attention.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Ford, Dawson fall in right here.

Ford and Dawson step forward and stand at rigid attention looking forward.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now since you both seem to be experts in following drill commands, I want you to show the rest of us how it done. Do you understand me.

FORD & DAWSON

Yes Sir!

Charlie gives them a series of orders. The first commands start slow and then they get harder and faster. The men follow the first few orders, then begin to mess up.

CHARLIE

Right shoulder arms. Right face, left face, about face, right face, about face. Left face, present arms, ground arms, left shoulder arms, about face, left face, left face.

Soon they both are confused, and are facing in different directions.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

HALT..Ready front.

They both turn to face Charlie, by now the rest of the men are snickering at them.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now, as you have just demonstrated to us, nobody is perfect. I will not have any of my soldiers making fun of anyone else in this platoon. Do you understand me?

FORD & DAWSON

(in unison)

Yes Sir!

Charlie address the whole platoon.

CHARLIE

In two weeks time we are having a drill competition with Lieutenant Randolph's platoon. He bet me two weeks salary that you can't beat his men.

There is a murmur amongst the men.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now, aside from his bet, I am going to give the last man standing from our platoon twenty dollars whether we win or not.

There is more murmurings amongst the men. Andrews nods in approval and smiles at Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Private Cummings fall out and come with me. Carry on Sergeant.

Private Cummings falls out. Charlie salutes Andrews who returns the salute.

ANDREWS

Attention!

Andrews begins drilling the platoon while Cummings follows Charlie to the edge of the parade grounds.

ON CHARLIE AND CUMMINGS

CHARLIE

What is your name soldier?

PRIVATE CUMMINGS

J...Jedi...d...diah Sir, J...jed.

CHARLIE

Where are you from, Jed?

PRIVATE CUMMINGS

T...Tennessee, sir.

CHARLIE

You got any brothers and sisters?

PRIVATE CUMMINGS

Two b...brothers and a s...sister, Sir.

Cummings takes a photograph from his pocket. He shows it to Charlie.

CLOSE UP OF PHOTO

It shows a family outside a broken down farmhouse. Some of them are barefoot and are wearing rope belts. The father has a missing front tooth. They are all smiling.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE AND CUMMINGS

Charlie is unsure that this maybe a prank photo, so he glances at Cummings, who is looking at the photo with pride.

CHARLIE

What a fine looking family that is! They look very happy.

Beaming, Jed puts the photo away.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Jed, do you have a favorite song?

PRIVATE CUMMINGS

"Oh, When the S..saints"

CHARLIE

Yeah, that's a good one. Now I what you to walk with me. Just walk, don't bounce.

They begin to walk side by side.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And sing that song in your head.

(singing)

Oh when the saints. Come marching in. Oh when the saints come marching in Oh how I long to be in that number. When the saints...

They march down the side of the parade grounds. Cummings is getting more relaxed and marching in time as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARRACKS - FORT RILEY - EVENING

Charlie enters into the barracks brushing the rain off his shoulders.

ANDREWS

Attention!

The men all jump to attention by their beds.

CHARLIE

As you were men.

The all relax and continue what they were doing.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(to Andrews)

So am I going to be out \$120.00 tomorrow?

ANDREWS

Well...they are all jazzed up about the twenty dollars. We'll see.

CHARLIE

(to the men)

I am proud of you all...no matter what happens tomorrow. Good luck to you.

Charlie hears someone talking outside the barracks. He turns to a nearby soldier PRIVATE WILSON.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What's that?

WILSON

Oh that's Jed sir. He's out there every chance he can get.

Charlie peaks through the window.

EXT. BARRACKS - EVENING

Jed is giving himself commands, drilling himself in the rain.

JED

...to the r..right flank, march t...to the rear march. C...column right, march...

INT. BARRACKS - EVENING - CLOSE ON CHARLIE

Charlie smiles as he watches him.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

Both Charlie's and Randolph's platoons are lined up for the competition. A drill sergeant is on a microphone. Charlie,

Randolph and several other higher ranking officers are watching from the viewing stands.

DRILL SERGEANT

Remember one mistake or hesitation and you are out. If a NCO calls your name raise your hand so I can give you time to leave. May the best soldier win. Company Right shoulder arms.

The drill sergeant gives a series of commands putting both platoons through a vigorous drill routine. The NCO's on both platoons begin to call out names of soldiers who have made a mistake. They leave the field.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - 5 MINUTES LATER - DAY

Both platoons are now 1/2 the size they were as the Drill Sergeant continues to call out commands.

The men who have been eliminated are collecting on either side of the remaining men watching intently.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - 15 MINUTES LATER - DAY

Now Charlie's platoon is down to 4 men and Jed is one of them. The other platoon has just 5 men in it. Two men from each platoon are eliminated. The Drill Sergeant continues to call out commands faster and faster. Jed is still there.

An NCO calls out the name of one of Charlie's men. Now it is 2 to 3. Another of Charlie's men is eliminated, but right after that one of Randolph's men is out. Now it is just Jed against two of Randolph's men.

CLOSE ON JED

He is all concentration.

WIDE SHOT

The second of Randolph's men makes a mistake, and is called out. Now there are just two men left, and the spectators are holding their breaths.

He and the other man are marching forward.

DRILL SERGEANT To the left flank, March!

They both turn left and Jed steps into a gopher hole and falls to the ground. Charlie's men gasp in disappointment. Jed is called out by the NCO's.

DRILL SERGEANT (CONT'D)

And our winner is Corporal Wentworth.

Randolph's men cheer.

CLOSE ON JED

He is crushed as he gets up off the ground.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE

We see his disappointment, he so wanted him to win.

WIDE SHOT

Ford and Dawson run up to Jed, and lift him on their shoulders. The other men in Charlie's platoon crowd around them chanting Jed's name. Charlie joins in. He pushes up to Jed, and slaps a twenty dollar bill into his hand.

CHARLIE

(shouting)

Well done Jed!

Charlie's men cheer as they carry Jed around.

CLOSE ON JED.

He is bewildered.

CLOSE ON RANDOLPH AND FINCH, HIS SERGEANT.

Daniels congratulates Randolph, but they turn and watch Charlie's men celebrate.

DANIELS

But they lost sir.

Just then Andrews comes up.

ANDREWS

From Lieutenant Lange Sir.

He hands him an envelope full of cash.

Andrews leaves and Randolph holds up the envelop.

RANDOLPH

Yes...indeed they did.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE HQ - FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie is standing at attention in front of Colonel Wilkins' desk. Wilkins looks up from a folder on his desk.

WILKINS

At ease, lieutenant.

Charlie puts his hands behind his back.

WILKINS (CONT'D)

I thought you'd like to know that I am granting your request to send Sergeant Andrews to OCS. However, since he's more interested in tanks than in horses, I decided it would be better to transfer him directly to OCS at the Calvary's Mechanized division. You can tell him yourself.

CHARLIE

Thank you sir, I know that he will be a great asset to that division.

WILKINS

And in addition to that I have something else to tell you. I am promoting you to First Lieutenant as well as one other officer. We are in need of qualified officers, and you have shown me repeatedly you are the kind we need.

CHARLIE

Thank you sir.

SERGEANT JOHNSON knocks on the open door.

SERGEANT JOHNSON Lieutenant Randolph is here sir.

WILKINS

Send him in Sergeant.

Randolph enters.

WILKINS (CONT'D)

Just in time. Congratulations Randolph I am promoting you and Lange to First Lieutenants.

They eye each other warily. Charlie sticks out his hand.

CHARLIE

Congratulations.

Randolph shakes his hand.

RANDOLPH

You as well.

EXT. STABLES FORT RILEY - EARLY MORNING

Charlie walks up to Andrews.

CHARLIE

Guess what. I got news for you.

ANDREWS

What?

(seeing new insignia)
You made first Lieutenant.

CHARLIE

No. Next week, you're going to OCS, but not here. Mechanized.

ANDREWS

You're kidding.
(understanding)
You had something to do with this didn't you.

CHARLIE

I am going to miss you. I am getting antsy sitting around here in Kansas with my thumb up my ass. I want to do something.

ANDREWS

I know what you mean.

Andrews slaps Charlie on the back and walks away, as a young corporal comes up and salutes Charlie

CORPORAL

Lieutenant Sir. Some spy guy wants to see you at 13:00 hours at HQ.

CHARLIE

Thank you corporal.

He returns the salute.

CUT TO:

INT. HEADQUARTER OFFICE FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie enters the office and salutes the MAJOR DANBURY, an OSS Recruiter.

CHARLIE

Lieutenant Lange reporting, Sir!

MAJOR DANBURY

At ease Lieutenant, have a seat.

CHARLIE

Thank you sir.

Danbury peruses a file on the desk.

MAJOR DANBURY

You attended Phillips Exeter Academy and then went on to Le Rosey in Switzerland.

CHARLIE

Yes Sir.

MAJOR DANBURY

...and I see you're a Princeton man.

CHARLIE

...but just for one year.

MAJOR DANBURY

Why is that.

CHARLIE

Well I knew I was going into the family business, so I didn't think it was necessary.

MAJOR DANBURY

The family business being the manufacture of locomotives.

CHARLIE

Yes sir. I have been an executive in the company for the past seven years.

MAJOR DANBURY

So you know your way around steam engines and railroads.

CHARLIE

I can drive most trains, Sir.

MAJOR DANBURY

And you know their vulnerabilities?

Charlie is a bit confused by this question, but the light bulb goes off in his head. CHARLIE

Yes Sir.

MAJOR DANBURY

I see you speak both French and German? That's important. Well, Lieutenant before we proceed, I need you to talk with our linguist.

He picks up the phone.

MAJOR DANBURY (CONT'D)

Yes...would you send in Sergeant Blanchet.

(to Charlie)

She will test you on language abilities.

A very cute young french girl enters. Charlie is intrigued.

MAJOR DANBURY (CONT'D)

Marie, could you put Lieutenant Lange through the paces in both German and French.

SERGEANT BLANCHET

Very good, Sir. Follow me Lieutenant.

Charlie gets up and salutes the Major, and exits with Sergeant Blanchet.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM FORT RILEY - DAY

Charlie is sitting opposite from the pretty sergeant.

SERGEANT BLANCHET

(in French with titles)
So where did you learn French.

-

CHARLIE

(in French)

Well, aside from school, I spent many summers as a kid with my French cousin in Chanancy. They had a farm close by.

SERGEANT BLANCHET

(in French)

It is very pretty there. (MORE)

SERGEANT BLANCHET (CONT'D)

Now...Take that pencil, and write this down in French.

Charlie takes the pad and pencil from the table.

SERGEANT BLANCHET (CONT'D) Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.

Charlie deftly writes what she is saying. When she is done, he hands her the pad. She reads through it.

CHARLIE

(smiling) Victor Hugo.

SERGEANT BLANCHET

(in French)

Very Good. Alright, let's see how well you read. There is a french bible.

Just read any passage from it.

Charlie picks up the book and quickly thumbs through it. He settles on a page.

CHARLIE

(in French)

How beautiful you are and how pleasant, my love, with such delights! Your stature is like a palm tree; your breasts are clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree and take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like clusters of grapes, and the fragrance of your breath like apricots. The Song of Songs.

The young woman is visibly embarrassed and flustered.

SERGEANT BLANCHET

(in French)
Ahh...That's fine.

She switches to German.

SERGEANT BLANCHET (CONT'D)

(in German)

Enough of French. Now in German.

CHARLIE

(in German)

Very Good. I learned German as a kid from my Grandmother. She only spoke to me in German.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE FORT RILEY - DAY

The linguist enters into the office where the OSS Recruiting Officer in conducting his interviews.

MAJOR DANBURY

How did he do.

SERGEANT BLANCHET

His French is very good. Could easily pass as a native speaker. He reads and writes as well. His German is adequate, but his German accent wouldn't fool a local.

MAJOR DANBURY

Thank you. Send him back in.

Blanchet leaves and shortly thereafter Charlie reenters. Danbury gets up and goes over and closes the door. He goes back to his chair and sits down.

MAJOR DANBURY (CONT'D)

Have a seat Lange.

Charlie sits. Major Danbury leans forward and in an overly dramatic fashion lowers his voice.

MAJOR DANBURY (CONT'D)

Now Lieutenant anything that transpires within this room must be kept absolutely secret. No one is to know who I am and what I am doing here.

CHARLIE

Yes Sir.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I wasn't about to tell him that the messenger said, "A guy from the spy service wants to see you".

MAJOR DANBURY

I am looking for men to join a new organization who are willing to put themselves in grave danger in order to gather strategic intelligence in both the European and Asian Theaters.

The major leans in a few more inches closer to Charlie. He pauses for effect.

MAJOR DANBURY (CONT'D)

Are you willing to go into enemy territory without a uniform?

Charlie hesitates and gulps.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I should have just said yes, but my mouth went dry and I got these images of a nasty looking guy shoving splinters under fingernails and it made me pause.

Charlie takes a deep breath. He gulps again and stammers out.

CHARLIE

I would.

Danbury carefully watches him.

MAJOR DANBURY

Well, thank you for coming in Lieutenant. We will not be needing your services.

Charlie get up and salutes. He goes to the door, but turns back to the Major.

CHARLIE

Look Major, I may be a little slow in making up my mind, but once I have make a decision, that's it.

MAJOR DANBURY

Let me put it this way. I am not taking you.

Charlie disappointed exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. STABLES FORT RILEY KANSAS - DAY

Charlie passes Randolph as approaches the entrance to the stables.

RANDOLPH

I see that you are entered in the Point to Point Race tomorrow. Want to make a wager on it. Say 50 dollars to whoever gets to the finish line first.

Charlie is distracted, and angry.

CHARLIE

Let's make it \$100.

RANDOLPH

Whatever you say. Easy money for me. You know...you don't have a chance in hell of beating me.

Charlie continues into the stable to Goldseeker.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

What an idiot I was. \$100! But I was mad about being passed over, and mad that I had to spend another day in Kansas with this blow hard, asshole while the rest of the world was at war.

Charlie gives a carrot to his horse, and affectionately rubs her nose.

CHARLIE

(to Goldseeker)

Hey girl, Let's show them what we can do tomorrow.

CUT TO:

EXT FORT RILEY - EARLY MORNING

The sun bathes the fort in a warm glow.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW STREW WITH BOULDERS - DAY

RANDOLPH

(shouting)

Don't try it Lange, it isn't worth it.

He spurs on his horse faster.

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

SPECTATOR #2

Oh my, Charlie is going for the ravine!

Several spectators stand to get a better view.

EXT. MEADOW STREW WITH BOULDERS - DAY

Charlie's horse is nearing the ravine. It looks too wide to jump.

CHARLIE

Come on girl...you can do it.

He gets ready to make to make the jump.

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

The rest of the spectators stand to see what happens.

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

Charlie's horse leaves the ground.

SLOW MOTION

Charlie's horse sails into the air...

CLOSE ON SPECTATORS

They hold their breaths as..

CLOSE ON CHARLIE'S HORSE'S HOOVES

As the just barely make it to the far side of the ravine. It's back legs knock dirt off the edge as Charlie continues straight toward the finish line.

CLOSE ON ANNOUNCER

ANNOUNCER

"Looks like Randolph just rounded the curve, but wait one of the riders just jumped the ravine! Looks like...no it's Lange, I can see his teeth"

CLOSE ON CHARLIE

He is smiling ear to ear.

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS

Randolph is driving his horse towards the finish line. Although Charlie is ahead, Randolph is gaining on him. The finish line is getting closer and closer, but so is Randolph.

CLOSE ON BOTH RIDERS

They are now neck and neck. Charlie's determination is evident on his face. His horse pulls ahead at the last second winning the race by a nose.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORT RILEY PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

Charlie dismounts and takes particular care in thanking his horse by rubbing her nose and neck. He takes a carrot out of his pocket, and feeds it to her. One of the STABLE GROOMS come up and takes her reins.

STABLE GROOM

I'll brush her down Lieutenant.

CHARLIE

And give her an extra ration of oats.

She deserves it.

STABLE GROOM

Will do, Sir.

As he leads her away a contingent of his men congratulate him. Randolph comes up and reluctantly gives him a wad of cash.

RANDOLPH

You've got balls for a ninety day wonder...I'll say that.

Charlie pockets it, and is pushed towards the podium by the crowd. He climbs up on the platform and shakes the Colonel Wilkins's hand.

WILKINS

Well done Lieutenant.

CHARLIE

Thank you sir.

The colonel gives Charlie the trophy which is a embossed silver plate. Charlie holds it up between them smiling for the PHOTOGRAPHER.

The crowd applauds and Charlie climbs off the platform. More men slap him on the back. As he walks out of the crowd the

OSS recruiting officer comes up to him.

MAJOR DANBURY

Lange. I saw what you did today. You've got guts. I've changed my mind. How soon can you get to Washington D.C.?

CHARLITE

As soon as I can get air priority.

MAJOR DANBURY

You leave tomorrow.

CUT TO:

EXT. OSS CAMP - PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK - DAY

A truck with 12 OSS recruits pulls up to a rustic cabin in the woods in the middle of an isolated forest. The recruits get out of the truck and file into the cabin.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

After three days of being interviewed a dozen times, given countless psychological tests by the various departments of the OSS at their Washington headquarters, I was finally sent to OSS boot Camp near Quantico, Virginia. We were told to bring nothing.

(MORE)

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

Everything we'd need would be issued to us there.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - OSS CAMP - PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK VIRGINIA - AFTERNOON

Charlie and the other students file into a classroom, and take a seat.

RAY, the head of the camp, walks up in front of them.

RAY

Good morning gentlemen. This camp is run a little differently than any other military organization that you have encountered in the past. There are no ranks here. We never use our real names either. To all of you, I am Ray. You will address everyone by their cover names only, or sir or ma'am. On each of your seats you will find a folded piece of paper and a name tag.

The men examine these.

RAY (CONT'D)

For the next three weeks, this is who you are. Do not tell anyone your real name...who you are, or where you come from, or what you did in civilian life. It's okay to lie. If you already know someone here, never reveal any of their information to anyone else. Of course, this doesn't stop you from trying to trip people up to reveal their truths. It's all part of the training. You are not allowed to leave the camp, except by permission. You will tell no one what you learned here, or what you did here. Your performance here will be constantly evaluated. If we do not think you are the right fit for this organization, you may be asked to leave at anytime. Do you all understand that?

THE GROUP

(in unison)

YES STR!

RAY

Good, now on the paper are your assigned billets. After you're dismissed go, and get settled in. On your bedside cabinet you'll find some manuals which will familiarize you with some of the intensive training you will receive during your stay here. Read through them, and report to the mess hall at 1800 hours for dinner. You are dismissed!

The men all get up, and begin to leave.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS CABIN - CCC CAMP - PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK VIRGINIA - AFTERNOON

Charlie walks over to his assigned bed, and lays down his duffle bag. RED, a red-haired young man is sitting on the bed next to him. He jumps up with a big grin on his face, and thrusts out his hand.

RED

Hi Sport, I'm...

(looks down at his name

tag)

Oliver.

CHARLIE

(smiling)

Nice to meet you Oliver. I'm Stanley...but you can call me "Stan!"

RED

Laurel & Hardy. You're joking!

CHARLIE

Nope. Someone has a sense of humor.

Charlie mimics Stan Laurel, and scratches the top of his head.

RED

(mimicking Oliver Hardy)
And what a fine mess you've gotten
me into!

They both laugh, and sit on their beds.

CHARLIE

So where are you from Ollie?

RED

(takes a beat)

Mesopotamia

CHARLIE

I hear the gals are hot there.

RED

Yeah, it's the desert after all.

They both chuckle at this.

RED (CONT'D)

And you...where are you from.

CHARLIE

Siberia.

RED

(smiling)

So is it truly colder than a witch's tit up there?

CHARLIE

Compared to some witches I've encountered...it's positively balmy!

The both laugh at this.

RED

Well Stanley, as Bogart just said in Casablanca "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL OSS CAMP - EVENING

There is a mix of NEW RECRUITS, SECOND, AND THIRD WEEK STUDENTS. Red and Charlie complete getting their food at the mess line. They find some empty seats at one of the tables.

GARY, a tall blond, blue-eyed, Aryan looking, new student sits down with them.

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #1
You won't last a week. This
training is really hard.

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #2
I didn't think I'd make it through the second week.

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #1 More than half of our class has been washed out.

CHARLIE

How long have you both been here?

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #1 This is our third week.

GARY

So what about it is it so hard?

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #2 The training is exhausting and dangerous.

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #3 sits down at the end of the table, and SPENCER another new student joins the table.

THIRD WEEK STUDENT #3
Yeah, I almost got blown up in
demolition class. So where are you
guys from?

Gary takes a beat to think. He has an unplaceable European accent.

GARY

I come from Chicago.

They look at Charlie expectantly.

CHARLIE

I'm from Siberia. I used to sell ice cream up there. It didn't go over too well.

They all chuckle.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(indicating Red)
He's from Mesopotamia.

RED

Yeah...I was a used camel salesman.

Again, they all laugh. The upper class men start talking amongst themselves.

CHARLIE

(turns to Gary)

So what's your name?

GARY

Gary.

CHARLIE

As in Cooper I presume.

GARY

Huh?

RED

We're all named after famous people. He's Stan, and I'm Ollie.

Gary nods blankly at them.

RED (CONT'D)

As in Laurel and Hardy.

Gary doesn't get it.

SPENCER

My name's Spencer, as in Tracy. So...Gary whose your favorite White Sox player?

Gary takes too long to answer. They all glance at one another. Then Charlie gets an idea.

CHARLIE

Joe DiMaggio or Pee Wee Reese?

GARY

Ah...Reese, but I'm not into baseball.

CHARLIE

I'm going to get some dessert.

RED

That sounds good.

Spencer begins talking to the guy next to him. Charlie and Red head to the dirty dish cart with their plates.

ON CHARLIE AND RED

CHARLIE

(quietly)

That's strange.

RED

Yeah everybody knows that Reese plays for Brooklyn Dodgers and DiMaggio for the New York Yankees.

CHARLIE

Well we know Gary's not from Chicago or New York.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OSS CAMP MAIN OFFICE - CLOSEUP RECORD PLAYER - MORNING

A hand turns on the record player, and puts the needle down on the record's edge. We hear the sounds of the beginning of "Reveille."

CUT TO:

EXT. OSS CAMP - CLOSEUP OF LOUDSPEAKER ON POLE - MORNING The wake-up bugle continues.

CUT TO:

INT. OSS CAMP - BARRACKS - MORNING

Charlie, Spencer and the other men jump out of their beds and pull on their clothes. Red doesn't move. He is out cold. Charlie sees this, and goes over and shakes him. Red slowly comes to.

CHARLIE

Quick...get dressed. We've got to get out of here.

Red finally gets the message, and jumps up. They pull on the rest of their clothes, and run out the door.

CUT TO:

INT BUS - MORNING

The 12 OSS students in Charlie's class are in the back of a truck as it rumbles down a country road in Virginia. Charlie is seated between Red and Gary. Spencer is across from them.

GARY

Where are we going?

CHARLIE

They didn't say.

SPENCER

All I heard is that it's some sort of exercise.

Just then the truck slows down.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD VIRGINIA - MORNING

The truck makes a turn on to a dirt road.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIRT ROAD IN THE WOODS - MORNING

The truck bounces down the dirt road.

CUT TO:

INT TRUCK - MORNING

RED

Looks like we're here.

The truck comes to a stop at a small building located in the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. SECLUDED OSS SATELLITE CAMP - MORNING

HENRY, the OSS Staff Member gets out of the front and flips down the back door.

HENRY

(to the students)

Follow me.

The students jump out the back, and follow Henry into the building.

CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING SECLUDED OSS SATELLITE CAMP - MORNING

The students file in and take seats behind school desks. Henry stands at the head of the room.

HENRY

Gentlemen, when your name is called, leave your manuals on that table, and exit through that back door. Follow the path through the woods. You will come to a tall building with a door at the front. Go into the door and close it. There, you will be given instructions as to your mission. There is no talking. Also, study your manual on the German Military you were asked to bring, as you will have a test on that tomorrow.

He looks at a sheet he is holding.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Our first candidate today is Jimmy.

Jimmy goes to the front of the class leaves his manual and exits the room. Charlie begins to leaf through his manual.

CLOSE ON MANUAL

We see all the German Ranks with their insignia listed.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE

He goes through them in his head memorizing each, and checking to see if he is correct. He turns the page.

CLOSE ON MANUAL

We see all the SS ranks listed.

CLOSE ON CHARLIE

He begins to study the second page, when he looks up and notices Gary, who is seated across the aisle, and in front of him, rifling through the manual quickly. He gets to the end, and puts it down on the desk. Bored, he looks around the room. Charlie looks at the clock.

CLOSE ON CLOCK

It reads 9:15 AM

ON CHARLIE

Charlie goes back to his studying.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUILDING SECLUDED OSS SATELLITE CAMP - MORNING

About half of the students have left. Charlie turns to the next page. He glances at the clock.

CLOSE ON CLOCK

It reads 9:45 AM

HENRY

Oliver, you're next.

Red stands and grins at Charlie, giving him a "here goes nothing look". He goes to the back door, and leaves his manual on the desk before exiting.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUILDING SECLUDED OSS SATELLITE CAMP - ON CLOCK - MORNING

It reads 10:15 AM

WIDE ON ROOM

There are just four students left.

HENRY

Stanley, you're up.

E/I STEADY-CAM SHOT

Charlie stands and goes to the front. He leaves his manual, then exits the door. He follows the path down the hill.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My nerves started to get to me. What was this all about? I kept on walking along the path, my mind going a mile a minute.

Charlie rounds a corner, and comes to a clearing with an ominous four story building with no windows. Charlie pauses looking up to its top, then goes to its only door, entering it with trepidation.

CUT TO:

INT. FOUR STORY BUILDING - MORNING

Inside Charlie finds himself in a 6 \times 6 room with a door on the other side. Closing the door behind him, he is now in total blackness. He hears a voice coming through a speaker.

HUMPHREY (O.S.)

Go through the door directly opposite.

POV CHARLIE

All we can see is a vague outline of the door ahead of him. Charlie fumbles with the knob, and opens the door. We hear his heartbeat.

HUMPHREY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Keep your left hand on the wall, and follow it around the edge of the room until you find a ladder.

Groping in the dark, Charlie follows the instructions, and finds the ladder.

HUMPHREY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Now climb the ladder.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My worst nightmare! What could I do? So I went up.

He starts to climb. His heartbeat gets louder. We can now hear his breathing. He climbs up. All we see are his hands on the rungs.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Well that's one story.

He continues to climb. His heartbeat gets faster and louder.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

(getting worried)

That's at least two. Okay, I've got to not think about the height, I'm just on short ladder. Not very high at all.

Charlie keeps climbing up and up. His heartbeat slows down a bit and gets softer.

HUMPHREY (O.S.)

You should be at least at the third story by now. Keep going up until you reach the top.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Why did he have to say that!

Charlie's heartbeat is now faster and louder. Charlie goes up rung by rung. He reaches the top of the ladder.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Four stories up! Calm down. I'm glad I can't see anything, 'cause I think I'd have a heart attack if the lights were on.

HUMPHREY (O.S.)

Now, feel up above you, and you will find a pole. Grab the pole with both hands, and put all your weight on it, and move to your right along the pole about four feet.

Charlie does so. Dangling in mid air.

HUMPHREY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Now let qo!

Charlie's breathing quickens, and his heartbeat is pounding.

DISSOLVE TO:

FADE TO BLACK.

"The United States Cavalry was officially disbanded in the spring of 1942, when the horse mounted troops were absorbed into other divisions of the United States Army. However, the U.S. Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas remained in operation until the end of WWII. It trained over 125,000 men including such notables as boxer, Joe Louis, actor, Mickey Rooney, and Jackie Robinson, the first black man to be recruited into the Major Leagues."

CREDITS ROLL

END EPISODE 1