

COMMANDO MEN

The true story of British Commandos at War

EPISODE ONE

HUNTING the LEOPARDS

Si Biggs

A TRUE STORY

Cheer and weep with the men of Able Troop 45 Commando,
from wartime civilian's through training for their Green
Berets, landing in the water plumes & cross fire of D
Day, fighting through the bleak winter of Holland and
burning hell of Germany 1942 - 1945. How Will You Die
Today?

TITLE SCREEN

FADES IN WITH TITLE.

Ticker tape across like a teleprinter on top of black and white images or film from 45 CDO landing on D Day...(or the Globe and Laurel) ref 'There's is the Glory and 'A Bridge too Far''

IN 1940 THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES SEEMED UNSTOPPABLE,

MOBILE AND HARD HITTING,

WELL LED AND WELL ORGANISED.

A NEW BREED OF WARRIOR WAS REQUIRED;

PRIME MINISTER TO GENERAL ISMAY 18.JUNE.40.

*THERE OUGHT TO BE AT LEAST TWENTY THOUSAND STORM TROOPS
OR "LEOPARDS'*

DRAWN FROM EXISTING UNITS,

*READY TO SPRING AT THE THROAT OF ANY SMALL LANDING OR
DESCENT.'*

THESE TROOPS WERE QUICKLY RENAMED.....

THE COMMANDOS

THESE ARE THE STORIES OF SOME OF THOSE MEN

THE STORY OF

ABLE TROOP, FOUR FIVE COMMANDO ROYAL MARINES

PROLOGUE

1 EXT. CONVOY AT SEA - DUSK

A battered and rusty convoy escort vessel is ploughing through the green back waves of the Irish Sea.

The Western Sky astern is ablaze with red as the sun still on the horizon is starting to reach out to the sea below.

On the bridge the crew dressed in oil skins are looking unkempt and worse for wear, they have been in the rough Atlantic for weeks.

The salt water shipping over the bows and spraying the bridge stings their blood shot eyes as they roll over the swell.

LOOK OUT

(Lowers binoculars, turns head)

Light at Green Two Zero Group Flashing
3 every 30 seconds

NAVIGATING OFFICER

Thank you lookout. That is the light ship on the bar. Next light should be the channel mark Queens Tower. Look out for a Green Group Flashing Two

LOOK OUT

(Binoculars up)

Roger I have it. Just off the Starboard Bow

NAVIGATING OFFICER

Well done Lookout.

(to Skipper)

Sir that is 2000 yds to the fairway.
Course good at Zero Nine Zero.

Will come around to One Two Six degrees on passing Queens Tower

The coxswain comes on to the open bridge expertly carrying several mugs of steaming brown liquid

COXSWAIN

Just in time. That's the last of the Cocoa!

Hands the Skipper a mug, before handing the rest around

LT CDR GRETTON
Thank you Coxswain

The small ship plunges forward

LOOK OUT
GOFFER!

We see everyone duck the Skipper covers his mug with a hand as a large wave breaks over the foc's'le, the ship shudders and cold icy water plunges like steaks of hail into the bridge.

NAVIGATING OFFICER
(shivering)
My God, I wont miss that down my back
when I'm in London!

Another Officer comes onto deck

1ST LT
Skipper, Message from Commodore

LT CDR GRETTON
Read it out please Number one

1ST LT
Aye Sir. From Commodore Convoy HX13 to
Convoy Commander. Rest your well
trained sheep dogs. The wolves assured
a new hunter is in the forest. More
pelts next trip.

LT CDR GRETTON
Send reply Number one

Now. Full stop. We are the wolves
(1st LT nods)

We still have a lot to learn Jimmy.
But we are getting better.

COXSWAIN
The Fairway light! Home at last.

LT CDR GRETTON
Indeed. Don't you have a wedding this
weekend Cox?

COXSWAIN

Aye Sir. My Sister. A Marine as it happens. A defence gunner. He's on a an oiler.

(pause)

I can't imagine being on a tanker.
Seen too many explode

(looks out to sea)

Do you think we are making a difference. I mean the U boats take so many of them.

LT CDR GRETTON

Yes Cox indeed I do. Every time we go out we learn a new trick. As long as we all share those lesson. We will learn to beat them and not just the Atlantic but on every front.

Its just a matter of time.

COXSWAIN

I hope so. It just doesn't seem that way at the moment. We are loosing the Atlantic, Africa, the Mediterranean, even England, just everywhere.

LT CDR GRETTON

We have to keep up our fighting spirit
Be offensive that's the ticket. We are on the right side.

The whole free world is relying on us to persevere, and win!

The coxswain nods, Gretton sips his cocoa in thought. Above we hear the noise of an aircraft

LOOKOUT #2

(on back of bridge)

Friendly aircraft directly astern Sir
Confirm Sunderland

LT CDR GRETTON

(looking up astern an nods)

Once we start to win this battle in the Atlantic, once we have the sea lanes back then we take it to the enemy again, the invasion of France.

It will come. It must come. And it
will test us all.

The coxswain nods and looks ahead sipping his coca.

From above the large flying boat glistens damp from the sea
cold air reflecting the red glow of the setting sun.

It passes over the tiny escort vessel on the stormy sea.

The pilot flies it gracefully up the river Mersey, below a
multitude of different ships are arriving from the convoy.

A tanker its decks burnt black fire hoses still laid out on
deck is limping in flanked by tugs and has clearly had the
fight of it life, the other a liberty ship has a huge hole in
the side, only the timber cargo that has kept it afloat.

The flying boat goes into land on the River behind a busy
Liverpool docks frantically unloading war material, tanks and
food.

Behind up the long street that eventually leads up to the
Grapes pub.

2 EXT. THE GRAPES PUB - DUSK

In the fading evening light, Walter a young 17 year old lad,
props his bike against the wall of the pub and takes his
bicycle clips off, he runs his hand through blonde fresh hair
and enters the pub.

ACT I - THEY ARE JUST BOYS

3 INT. THE GRAPES PUB - NIGHT

The Grapes is run by Walter's Dad [50] a former WW1 Veteran, proud of his service there is military memorabilia on the walls.

Walter walks through the pub and behind the bar, his Mum still striking proudly dressed tall blonde [48] calls to him.

MUM

(OS)

Walter is that you?

WALTER

Yes Mum

MUM

Can you please set up the shelter,
I'll be down in a two ticks

WALTER

Yes Mum

Walter heads down the pub cellar

Mum and Dad enter from upstairs, Dad puts his ARP helmet and satchel on the bar, and pours himself a half of bitter. Mum walks around out into the lounge bar area and checks the windows and blackout blinds.

DAD

I don't know how long we can do this
for

MUM

The pub you mean?

DAD

The Pub, the City, our country, the
war!

MUM

It will all be back to normal again
soon love. It can't go on like this
for ever

DAD

If it does what will be left for our son?

They have flattened half the city. I miss the hub-bub on a Saturday night. The din of conversation. Ole Mickies jokes. The chink of glasses
(looks at his Wife)
Most of all I miss hearing you sing

Mum runs her hand along the piano

MUM

I know. We'll sing together again soon...I promise

Walter walks back in, he watches his Mum and Dad for a moment before speaking up.

WALTER

That is the cellar all cozy Mum. Oil lamp is on, all the blankets are back down there for the night.

MUM

Good boy Walter, what time are you leaving for your shift?

WALTER

Oh 10 minutes, before it gets any darker, I'm late already.

MUM

Go up and see your Nan first then. Say good night to her.

Walter heads up stairs

MUM

I'm scared for him Wal
(pause)

He goes out every night into that mess. He's too brave. Always puts himself in harms way!

DAD

Well at least he is doing his bit he can hold his head up high when its all

over. Like you said it has to end soon.

You worry too much,
 (Pause - looks up)
 Any ways my Mum in the attic is closer to the Luftwaffa then any of us!

MUM

Yes but you know what's next. He will volunteer, join the service. He is too much like you

Dad walks over and hugs Mum

DAD

He is a good lad and he will be fine
 (pause)
 I survived didn't I?

MUM

(sobs)
 Then I pray he is just like you

4 INT. PUB ATTIC BEDROOM - DUSK

Nanny is in the attic, a window lets in the red evening light, she is laid in an iron bedstead and covered in a crocheted quilt cover, she is in her 80's, frail and sweet but not aware of the situation. Outside we hear the wail of an air raid warning. Walter is busy helping tuck her in and Mum is there, she waits at the door watching.

MUM

Now Eida. Say good night to Walter. He is off to work

WALTER

Mum are you sure we shouldn't take her down to the cellar

MUM

She is happy here. It frightens her more down there and she doesn't really know what's happening. Your Nan just thinks it's fire works night after night

(pause)

Let her dream of better days eh?

WALTER

If you are sure Mum. I have to go to duty

MUM

Yes love you go. Your flask is in the kitchen. Don't forget it this time

WALTER

OK thanks

MUM

And say good by to your Dad he's on Fire watch tonight, on the library roof of all places

WALTER

At least he will have a good view!

5 EXT. LIVERPOOL CIVIL DEFENCE HQ- DUSK

Walter arrives on his bike as his best friend Lenny [17] and some other older volunteers are bustling out of the sandbagged entrance.

Lenny is skinny and very young looking. Orphaned at a young age he lives with his Gran.

WALTER

Did I miss something

LENNY

Only the first 90 minutes Walt! You missed the briefing!

We are straight out. Huge Nazi formation picked up crossing the south coast.

WALTER

Probably targeting the docks again.

LENNY

Supervisor says there is convoy unloading, a big ammunition ship in too!

WALTER

Bleeding hell. Who told them that!

LENNY

Loose lips blow up ships! And houses!

WALTER

Maybe it was my Nan told them. She doesn't know she is talking to me sometimes!

LENNY

They want us to go down to the ARP post by the lock gates. Were covering Canada and Huskisson Docks.

The largest explosion on Merseyside during the war occurred on the night of Saturday 3 to Sunday 4 May 1941. It was caused when the ammunition ship 'SS Malakand' blew up in Huskisson Branch Dock Number 2, Liverpool. Time line is about a year out but a huge event, loss of ARP and WRVS too.

6 EXT. LIBRARY ROOF - NIGHT

His helmet reflecting the red flashes of the explosions Walters Dad watches from his rooftop view point as the city reels from a determined air attack.

German pathfinder aircraft are dropping flares, the roar of bombers coming in as they deliver theri strings of high explosives.

Some are picked out by searchlights, and on a nearby rooftop an AA gun is firing into the sky.

From the ships in the harbour and roof tops Pom Poms stream green and red tracer into the air. The noise like a frantic panick.

Walters Dad grabs at the handset of a field telephone. He winds the ringer.

DAD

(Shouts to be heard)

Fire Report Over

(Pause)

This is Bigland. City Library Roof.
Landmine on East Street. 3 Large
fires, probable gas main

A bomb drops right through the roof next to him, a large explosion goes off just as two or three burning incendiaries fall through the hole, the roof catches fire with a whoosh.

He grabs his fire bucket, runs forward but the flames take hold and the heat too much he retreats with his arms up over his face.

He is now surrounded by flames and looking around in the throws of panic for a means of escape.

7 EXT. LIVERPOOL DOCKS - CONTINUOUS

Walter and Lenny head down the steep hill on their bikes, long rows of terraced houses lead down towards the docks crossed perpendicular in places.

The deep drone of enemy aircraft overhead is constant, the whistle of bombs is menacing and explosions burst in the streets just behind them.

The sky is red glow with the fires and thick choking black smoke fills the air.

Ahead a Gas pipe is flaring up through the street, a ferocious blue and yellow flame burning into the air. They pass the fire service team coming to deal with it.

They reach the bottom of the hill and the dock gates. The ARP Warden [55] is a craggy former fisherman with a kind face.

ARP WARDEN

Some help at last. Good to see you boys again

(points)

There are fires everywhere. The water mains is ruptured so they are going to pump water from the Mersey!

(sighs)

The dock sheds are ablaze too and its getting close to an ammunition ship laying alongside

WALTER

Sounds like a proper mess. What do we do?

ARP WARDEN

OK lads we need to clear the area.

People will still feel safe in their houses and shelters. You know what its like Granny under he stairs and the kids under the table shelters.

If it goes up no amount of wood or steel will save them
(points)

So work down the street fireman's knock style. Every third door lets get everyone out and to the civil shelter up on the hill. Well away from the docks

(looks towards the docks)
If that ship goes up it will flatten everything for miles.

An explosion busts a house open at the bottom of the street.

ARP WARDEN

Bloody landmines on a parachute.
Silent killer you cant hear it coming!
(Looks around)
OK you boys lets get moving

8 EXT. DOCK AND ROWS OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Walter knocks and shouts at a door.

WALTER

Hello.. Hello... Anyone inside...

A Man [35] in a dirty vest looks out of the window

There's a ship going to blow up down the dock Get everyone out and tell your neighbours either side

MAN

Alright I'll just get me clobber an the arl fella out. Where's safest lad?

WALTER

The civil shelter top of the hill behind the picture house

Further down a woman [30] her hair in curlers comes to her door

HOUSE WIFE

Hey Youth. What the devil is going on?

LENNY

There's a ship going to explode

HOUSE WIFE

I'm on my own my husband is in North
Africa. He's going through a lot worse
While you lot are paying tin soldiers.
I'm not moving my kids now

WALTER

Mrs if that ship goes up your Anderson
Shelter is not going to save you. And
you husbands wasted his time fighting
Rommel when he's nothing to come home
to missus!

9 EXT. DOCKS AREA - CONTINUOUS

A huge explosion fills the sky as the lid of an Oil tank is
blown off, trapped by the dock wall flames and black smoke
roll down the road.

Drivers are running as parked trucks are swallowed up and
explode one by one.

The German plane victoriously lit in the bright orange light
escapes.

The bombers continue to come, a large explosion erupts from a
factory behind them,

WALTER

Look Len!

A barrage balloon is caught in the flame and it slowly
collapses starting a new fire on another dock warehouse.

Behind them people are starting to come out of their houses
and running up the hill.

WALTER

I think they have the message lets get
down the docks.

10 EXT. DOCKS AREA - INSIDE GATE BY SHIPS - MOMENTS LATER

AMBULANCE MEDIC

You two, give a hand

On the floor are two firefighters and a Wren dead, the firefighters steaming a little, the MARWREN is pretty in her uniform with no visible sign of injury.

AMBULANCE MEDIC

Don't touch them two yet, they need to cool down

They stand over the MARWREN

LENNY

(clearly upset)

She looks just like my Mum. In her pictures

WALTER

My Dad said she was pretty...Your Mum

(gives him a slap on the shoulder)

Come on Len lets do it together

The two boys lift the lifeless body onto a sheet and into the ambulance.

Bombs continue to fall in and around, the fires burning and smoke rising as the city burns.

11 EXT. DOCK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Lenny's watch says 4am clearly tired from a long night they push their bikes up the hill away from the smoking docks.

A huge explosion emulates from the docks below them. The tall mushroom cloud rises. Walter grabs Lenny and throws him to the ground covering him up.

The shock wave flattens everything in its path, then the enormous explosion, a wall behind them collapses, spewing brick onto the road.

The ships anchor and pieces of steel are flying through the air and in silence land around them.

A car travelling towards them is hit by a piece of dock crane, it slices into it and the car careers towards them and crashes into the wall.

There is still silence.

The two boys stagger up get up.. the fires rage below as the huge mushroom cloud rises and gathers above.

They look at each other confused, in shock.

WALTER
WHAT WAS THAT?

LENNY
I DONT...

I CANT THINK STRAIGHT

MY EARS ARE RINGING..Ahh NO HURTING!

Walter gestures to Lenny and points to the car wreck.

They run over and inside discover a young couple, she is wearing white, stained with red blood, a wedding dress a hamper and a just married sign on the back seat, they are both dead.

Lenny reels back, he leans on the boot and is physically sick.

WALTER
Poor buggers.

He goes to comfort his friend and a hand on Lenny's shoulder he looks around, the houses they were clearing the night before are gone.

WALTER
Why did no one stop them?

LENNY
God only knows...I cant stop
shaking...that was so close.

An ambulance rushes to the scene, its bell ringing, it stops and the crew run towards the car and start to deal with the casualties. Walter and Lenny look around.

WALTER
Well we're still here.
(pause, relief)
just!

LENNY
Not sure what's left down there
though. Not much.

Who could have survived that, god only
knows.

WALTER
Where are the bikes gone?
(Walter looks around)

The bikes have been tossed by the explosion, one up against
the wall of a house and the other on the road.

Walter pick the first up from the middle of the road and
hands it to his friend.

12 INT. CIVIL DEFENCE HQ - DAWN

Walter looks up at the planning map, it shows their part of
the city and is marked with pins.

Geoff is the Civil Defence Supervisor, he is portly with a
large red drinkers nose and receded hair line.

WALTER
Everything around the docks has gone.

The factory is burnt out.

On the way back we saw a mine on East
Street.

(Points at map)
1 unexploded. Bomb disposal is there.

5 or 6 houses gone, all the odd
numbers 13 to 17 facing the docks.

They recovered 2 bodies, the old lady
was screaming said there were two
children still in there.

GEOFF

OK thankyou Walter, good work tonight.

Rogers the ARP Warden said you both
deserve a medal!

(pause)

Now go and get a cuppa. And look after
Lenny. It looks like he is ready to
crack

13 INT. CIVIL DEFENCE HQ - CONTINUOUS

Walter enters the makeshift canteen and is greeted by the
familiar low hum of chatter.

Men, dirty and dusty from a night of bombing, are milling
around drinking tea and eating biscuits a wooden trestle
table has urns of tea and soup, home made cakes and biscuits.

Behind the table is Marion dressed in her blue WRVS (Woman's
Voluntary Service) uniform she is a homely lady in her late
40's, she has dark curly hair and war time make up, she is at
the front serving enthusiastically.

She is serving Lenny, Walter joins them.

MARION

How are you my boys. Sounds like you
all had another terrible night?

WALTER

The hardest one yet. Incendiaries
starting fires everywhere

MARION

I hear that only 2 men died by the
ship though, that's one of gods little
miracles.

(Pours tea)

I also hear they are finding lumps of
metal 2 miles away.

WALTER

Yes the bloody great anchor nearly
squashed us. There were plenty of
casualties before that though. I have
never seen so many fires

Sticks of incendiaries, they just kept
burning and spreading

MARION

How many more nights can we go through
like that

WALTER

Well if London can do it so can
Liverpool

LENNY

(almost shaking)
You know we had to leave the bodies of
the fireman to cool before putting
them in the cart.

Marion nods understanding, she reaches out and holds both his
hands for a moment in hers. Len smile a little.

MARION

There dear, now have a cup of tea
She hands him a cup, she has heard it so many times before

WALTER

(looks at Marion)
Sorry love
(looks at Len)
Its OK Len

Walter takes a sip of his tea, bites a biscuit and looks at a
poster on the wall

WALTER

Well I'm ready. I can't leave it any
longer

LENNY

You still talking about the machine
gun corps!

WALTER

Well it was good enough for my Dad on
the Somme

LENNY

Well as he keeps telling us its a
shame they disbanded it in 1922!

WALTER

(Walter points to the poster on the wall)

So it's the Marines then!

(they look at each other)

I'm going today, I'm going to sign up.
You coming?

LENNY

Yes, I bloody well am. I'm not staying here pilling up bodies without you

Another WRVS lady open's the black out blinds. The light streams in, and the boys blink and hold their hands over their foreheads to shield their eyes.

LENNY

Bleeding hell that was a long night.
Grab your bike Len.

Well what's left of it!

(He starts to walk to the door)

Lets get down and sign on before they bomb the bleeding recruiting office too!

14 EXT- LIVERPOOL STREET - DAY

Walter and Lenny push their bikes through the destroyed houses, lost in the devastation of a once familiar street, bombed out shell shocked civilians wonder what hit them. Men in various uniforms are searching the rubble and attempting to clear up.

A crackling BBC voice grows louder;

The authorities have been able to give us an update on figures which show the intensity of last night's raids. They are confirming 298 enemy aircraft were involved in the attack on the Mersey.

Set on a wooden fire cart they pass a transistor radio set

The bombing was particularly heavy between 11pm and midnight when the fire service was alerted to 105 incidents.

They were called to 59 incidents between midnight and 1am, and 30 between 1am and 4.50am. It's thought as many as 50,000

incendiary bombs and 363 tons of high explosives were dropped on the city.

Mr and Mrs Fromwho were married last Saturday were killed when a piece of metal from SS Malakand blew up in the docks last night hit their car on the dock road.

[<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/liverpool-blitz-happened-75-years-11275558>]

15 INT. LIGHT ENGINEERING FACTORY - EVENING

The whistle sounds in a small light engineering workshop, on the benches are aircraft dials and instruments, next to them the bins are full of pipes and half fabricated parts.

Men and women dressed in overalls are pulling on coats as they walk towards the door, some putting caps on, secured to the wall they file past a clocking out machine.

FRED HARRIS is 20 short and stocky, from the East End of London, he is an apprentice pipe fitter, and stood waiting for his turn to leave work.

MR POWELL is in his 50's he is the Foreman of Works, dressed in his suit and bowler hat he is ready to leave after a long days work.

The rain is hammering and rattling on the tin roof.

MR POWELL

See you tomorrow Lad, good work today.

FRED

Thankyou Mr. Powell. I think I've got the hang of that new pipe turner now

MR POWELL

Well done. I expect it wont be long until you get called up again, the waiver to keep you from conscription was only for three months

FRED

Yes my Mum is dreading it, but all my mates have gone now. They ain't in a reserved occupation though

MR POWELL

You'll have to train up your replacement. Probably another young lady like Miss Jackson

FRED

Well when it comes to accuracy she is better than most of us boys!

Mr. Powell Nods knowingly

MR POWELL

My Wife is a bus driver you know, and takes a shift as a fire watcher at night near the gas works

FRED

Yes my Sister is the same, she is in an Anti Aircraft battery! She is a gunner. She shot down a Heinkel the other night! Has seen more action than me!

MR POWELL

Well its good that she is doing her bit. I'm sorry to say but the way this War is going you will have your chance soon enough

(pause- looks out at the rain)

Good Night Fred

FRED

Good Night Sir

They both duck out into the rain.

16 INT.TERRACE HOUSE - NIGHT

Fred walks in through the door and into a typical 1940's terrace house and hangs his coat on the hooks.

His Mum Calls from the Kitchen.

MUM (O.S.)

Fred is that you? Have you seen the mess they made of the GAS Works last night,

(Pause)

There is a letter for you on Dads desk

(pause)
 Pea and ham soup tonight I used your
 ration book for a little ham

Fred wanders into the front room on top of the wooden bureau is a picture of his sister in an ATS (Army Territorial Service) uniform.

His hand pauses nervously at the officially stamped brown envelope, he lifts it revealing a wedding picture of his Mum and Dad, his Father is in the uniform of a merchant seaman.

Fred opens the desk and uses a silver paper knife to open the letter.

Its a a short telegram, he reads it, then folds the paper again and places it into his breast pocket, he stands there staring at the wall, thinking for a moment how drastically his life was about to change.

He hears pots and pans clanging in the kitchen.

FRED
 What time is tea MUM?

MUM (O.S.)
 Oh shall we say six. We can have a
 game of cards after and listen to the
 wireless, the Prime Minster is giving
 a speech.

Mum walks in through the door, she is in her 50s her dark hair is mostly covered by a neatly tied blue and white silk scarf, a gift from one of her Husbands pre war Asia voyages.

I think its bad news in Africa. Those
 poor boys
 (Mum looks at her husbands picture)
 it's just as bad at sea too

Mum knows what the envelope contained and hugs Fred as they both look at the picture of his Dad.

17 EXT. OFFICER TRAINING OR PASS OUT ETC - DAY

Cut from a ships deck the long thick oak table is a statement piece and running down the centre are large silver candle holders, the church candles burning brightly, they are

interspersed with regimental regalia collected from all corners of the globe over hundreds of years of foreign service.

The grand Silver Dinner service is only dominated by the large ornately framed portraits of heroes that line the decorated walls of the historic Officers Mess.

COMMANDANT

The Commandant dressed in his bright red tunic stands

Gentlemen. Gentlemen.

Welcome to the most prestigious of
Gentlemen's clubs.

(banging of tables)

THE MESS

Here, here

COMMANDANT

Although I think the Sergeants Mess
might try to disagree!

(pause looks around)

You are now Royal Marines Officers

As such you now have bestowed on you
the greatest of all responsibilities.

To lead Royal Marines. Men who will
live and die with you.
Men from all backgrounds, some who are
even as qualified as you to be an
Officer but choose to serve in the
ranks.

(Looks around)

You will manage their welfare, their
training. You will hear about their
Mothers, girlfriends,

(pause)

boyfriends

(Laughter)

If you get it right they will look up
to you, and follow you into battle,
and see you as their 'Boss'

(pause)

If you get it wrong they may tell you!

(He nods)

Whether serving on Ship or in a
Battalion being a Royal Marines
Officer is not a Right, it is not
something you can buy.

It is a privilege. A great privilege.

He raises his glass of port, around the table we see everyone
stand and raise their glass.

To your success.

Gentlemen The Colonel in Chief of the
Royal Marines, King George the 6th
(pause)
The King

EVERYONE

The King

18 EXT. SHOREDITCH RAILWAY STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

Edward 'TOMMY' Charles Treacher jumps off the train as it is
still moving, his overalls still have some saw dust on them.

*Tommy was working in a timber yard when he volunteered and
was expecting to serve the war in the engine room of a
Battleship with the Royal Navy, he is a little surprised and
considers turning down the offer of a place in the Royal
Marines, but his Father tells him to just get on and serve.
He becomes, along with his partner Derek Cakebread, one of
the best Commando Snipers of the war.*

TOMMY

I'm glad today is over, my hands are
peppered with wood splinters.

See you tomorrow Rog.

ROGER

Yes mine too. Good luck Tommy lad. Are
you sure you want to volunteer. They
will call you up eventually anyway?

TOMMY

Yes for certain. Anyway I would rather
choose my own outfit. No way I want to
be in the Army I'm joining the Navy

Tommy walks out of the station and strides confidently up the street with a card in his hand.

19 INT. RECRUITMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tommy looks around as he enters the recruiting office, the posters on the wall are of battle ships and sailors in foreign ports.

A desk at the back has two men in uniform one Navy one Marine are chatting amongst themselves.

On a table in the middle of the room is the large model of a WW1 destroyer.

Tommy is drawn to it, he looks along the deck, at the bridge and then the guns.

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT

What's your name son?

Tommy looks up from the model and responds nervously

TOMMY

Edward Charles Treacher
(then brighter)

Everyone calls me Tommy Sarg?

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT

That's Sergeant to you. We don't say
'Sarg' in the Royal Marines. Its a
rank not a bleeding circus act!

TOMMY

Sorry. Aah Sergeant

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT

No Harm done, a good lesson for you.

He takes Tommy's card from him and reads though it

You want to join the Andrew right?

TOMMY

The Andrew?

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT

Yes the Navy.

I see you passed your medical and the intelligence test with good marks.

(looks at the card again)

Says here you want to be a stoker?

(pause)

Now tell me why a stoker?

You want to be a grease monkey down in the dark dirty filthy engine room?

Tossed around the Atlantic in the dark

First place to fill up with cold salty 'ogin' when the torpedo hits?

NAVY PETTY OFFICER

Bloody hell Knocker, You're a right one to have recruiting chaps for us!

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT

No point beating about the bush. You wouldn't get me down there! I've worked the 15 inch guns on the Mighty Hood, God bless her.

That was as close to the waterline as I wanted to be, and by god certainly not below it!

NAVY PETTY OFFICER

Nor me to be fair Royal, I'm much happier on the Upper deck even when it's below freezing.

Now lad how about an Able Seaman. Plenty of jobs as an honest Matelot on deck or maybe weapons?

Depth charges, Anti Aircraft guns, torpedoes and the like!

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT

Yes with your pass marks. You could be a wireless operator? or submarine detection?

TOMMY

I'm quite sure thanks, My friend is a Stoker. He's on Prince of Wales. They had Churchill on board you know

(pause)
I want to follow him in

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT
Alright lad sounds like your mind is
made up then. I will mark your card
accordingly, no guarantees of course.
Now you just wait for the call up

TOMMY
How long does it take Sarg..eant?

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT
Well maybe 6 or 8 weeks. You'll be
there soon enough. Give this card to
your employer and wait for your call
up card, it will tell you when and
where to report and have your rail
warrant too.

Make sure you are not late or you will
be AWOL and in times of war that could
be seen as desertion!

TOMMY
Crikey!

RECRUITMENT SERGEANT
You'll be alright son. Just pulling
your leg.

20 INT. OFFICERS MESS - NIGHT

The newly passed officers are drunk, many half naked or in
vest tops as they pass a silver tray across the room from
hand to hand playing a boisterous game of Mess Rugby.

Behind them the small band is on a dais playing a dance
music.

BUZZ GREWCOCK passes the tray back to his winger and the man
in his vest dives onto the floor, TRY!

Buzz, the try scorer and another officer celebrate with a
manly hug.

Making their way to the bar the game continues behind them,
glasses of port and champagne litter the wooden bar top,
taking a flute of sparking champagne they toast each other.

BUZZ GREWCOCK

T T K

OFFICER #1

OFFICER #2

To the King!

The King

They down the glasses empty then dive back into the game.

21 INT. ARMY BARRACKS - DAY

FRED walks through the door into a gymnasium, desks manned by men in suits are set in neat rows.

Further down make shift canvas screens stand for medical exams.

Fred is greeted by an orderly who points to a man in a white lab coat.

DOCTOR

Take your shirt off

Fred pulls off his shirt without undoing the buttons, and throws it over the screen.

Trousers too

(Hands Fred a card with a list)

Any of the following ailments or complaints?

The doctor puts a stethoscope against Fred's chest

deep breath in

and then back.

again

FRED

No. . I umm

DOCTOR

Cough

FRED

(Coughs twice)

Good read the bottom line

FRED

Y S T U P

DOCTOR

(Stamps a card)

Good take this to the front desk

Fred pulls on his trousers and walks back up the room.

MAN AT DESK

OK Mr Harris. You will get your papers soon enough.

FRED

Which outfit?

MAN AT DESK

You requested Royal Marines, is that still your preference?

FRED

Yes I think so

MAN AT DESK

Well you have passed and your academic qualifications fit. But it depends on who needs you. So you will have to wait and see

FRED

Why do they care so much about my school results surely they just need you to be able to shoot?

MAN AT DESK

My Dad was a Marine you know, he said even back in the Napoleonic wars Marines were chosen men, men who were educated, who could read, write, count and think for themselves. Nowadays I guess its even more important, you could end up having to work out ranges and the like on one of those big battleship guns?

FRED

Well yes I suppose so, I had not really thought about that

MAN AT DESK
Keep your call up card on you. You
should hear very soon.

Best of luck

Fred walks out and we watch him whistle as he passes a queue
of young men waiting outside.

22 INT. TERRACE HOUSE - DAY

MUM
Your home already?

FRED
Yes Mum. Mr. POWELL sent me home early

MUM
That's nice, because your working so
hard?

FRED
Not exactly Mum
Gives her a hug and holds her

I've got my papers

There is silence, then we know she is crying

FRED
Its Okay Mum, I'm going to be a Royal
Marine

MUM
That's even worse. Your an engineer, I
was praying they would make you fix
aeroplanes or something else closer to
home

(Pause - sobbing)
With your Dad at Sea too.
I just don't know what to do. I will
have to worry about you both. Maybe I
will be left with no one

FRED
Mum its OK. I'll probably end up on a
big battleship or something, maybe I
will even escort Dads Tanker!

MUM

Well its no good me crying we all have
to do our bit
(sobbing a little)
when do you leave?

FRED

After the weekend, by train to Devon.
I hear its near the sea and the
weather is nice. So be just like going
on holiday

MUM

I will ask your Sister over for Sunday
Dinner. We can pool our rations.
(Pause)
Devon, ah well at least you'll be well
away from the Bombing

23 INT. EAST END HOUSE - EVENING

Tommy walks in from work, his father is waiting.

TOMMY

What a day. There was a land mine on
the track between ... and ... We ended
up having to walk around to the next
station

MR TREACHER

Evening lad. Did you hear the news
today? Mr Churchill spoke of the U
Boat War
(pause)
Its not getting any better

TOMMY

I heard we lost Crete. Rommel pushed
us back in North Africa too

MR TREACHER

We don't seem to be able to hold Herr
Hitler anywhere

Dad walks over to the Welsh dresser.

I hope it all changes soon
(looks at his son)
because it's here. Your letter is here

(Tommy looks at his Dad puzzled)
From the War Office

TOMMY
Oh right I see. That letter, thanks
Dad.

Tommy collects the brown envelope from the Bureau. He looks at the OHMS stamp, turns it over in his hand and pauses with a little trepidation, he reaches for a letter opener.

MR TREACHER
Go on son

TOMMY
(Reads aloud)
In Accordance with the National
Services Act You are called upon for
service in His Majesty's Royal
Marines!?
(looks up at his Dad)
I don't want to be a Marine? I'm
supposed to be joining the Navy?
(looks at the letter again)
Must be a mistake. I'm not cut out for
the Marines

MR TREACHER
Son you must go where you are needed.
Where your country needs you. And if
that is the Royal Marines. Then its
with the Marines you serve

TOMMY
I suppose you're right Dad. Its just a
bit daunting. And I don't really know
anything about the Marines

Mr. Treacher is pouring a glass bottle of beer into two
glasses

MR TREACHER
(Passes his son a beer)
Son I am proud of you
(pause)
A toast
(they clink glasses)
To you And The Royal Marines!

TOMMY
The Royal Marines

MR TREACHER
Now when do you go. We need to manage
your Mother!

TOMMY
It say report to Dalditch Battle Camp
Devon, on the 16th. Look here's the
railway warrant for Exeter!

MR TREACHER
Well you have a couple of weeks to
sort out work. Lets tell your Mum and
I'll take you to the pub tonight. You
know Old Billy that sits by the fire,
I'm sure he was a Marine. Served in
the last war, he will be able to give
you some advice

Si Biggs

ACT 2 - MAKING A MARINE

Train to Exeter then truck to camp. Station. (ask the guy on twitter ref Dalditch camp) In training we will watch 4 of our main characters get to know each other. FRED HARRIS, SCOUSE ORD, FRANK BURTON and LENNY JONES(fict.).

We will also briefly meet KERSHAW who will die on the Landing Craft a few rows in front of FRED, and FRED will slip in his blood before seeing who it was.

WALTERS friend LENNY is young and impressionable, he will struggle a lot but FRED and SCOUSE will pull him through, brought up by his Grandmother who he writes to, almost in love with Walter as his best friend, he sees Fred as a mentor during training, the audience will never have his sexuality explained, before the unit finally leaves Normandy he is killed by a friendly aircraft, LENNY dies in Walters arms. Talking about his Grandma. We also meet SCOUSE ORD Wallasey from Cheshire (KIA Wesel) and Frank Burton who will be the Commanding Officers signaler for most of the story.

24 INT. HUT 557 DALDITCH CAMP - DAY

Fred tramps through a wet windy camp, and walks in through a Nissan hut door. There is a small log burner, an oil lamps give a warm glow.

FRED

Its blowing a hooley out there!

Lenny is trying to sort out his kit, its all over his bed, and foot locker is open too. Fred drops 2 kit bags down, 1 small, 1 large

FRED

Looks like the village jumble sale?

LENNY

I am not sure where to start there is so much of it

FRED

Yes they just threw mine at me too. I think they thought I knew what everything was as they read it out and tossed it on the counter. No idea!

LENNY

I'm Leonard Jones, Lenny

FRED

Please to meet you Lenny. Im Fred,
Fred Harris

The door opens and 2 other guys walk in chatting loudly.
Frank and Scouse Introductions SCOUSE ORD and LENNY
JONES(fictional), FRANK Francis Gerrard Burton Signaller CO's
Rover Gp, Mne Bertram Kenneth 'Scouse' Ord ('A tp kia 24-3-45
Wesel)

SCOUSE

Here Fred have some chocolate

FRANK

And a beer?

Ge offers Fred a bottle of Exeter beer

Welcome to hut 145, and 539 Recruit
Troop 'The Outlaws ... with Clean
Boots!' They laugh

FRED

Well thanks chum. Sounds like I am in
the right hut! I will drink to that!

SCOUSE

Well its not all give and no take Im
afraid

(points is bottle towards Lenny)

We need someone to look after Lenny!

Lenny throws down some of his kit, still unsure what to do
with it all.

LENNY

Very funny

They all laugh

LENNY

I am a bit lost. I signed on with my
best friend Walter. But I had a cold
during the medical so delayed me by 6
weeks. He's already left for 5th
Battalion.

FRANK
Well its alright chum, you have us now

25 EXT. TRAINING AREA - DAY

Fieldcraft lectures

Ration Pack Demo

Cooking

Water Sterilisation

26 EXT. TRAINING AREA - RANGE - DAY

The range drops down the hill from the firing point to the butts beyond.

The class of 20 recruits are sat on the log and plank benches waiting for their lesson.

The Sergeant is tall and bellows over his charges in confident Devon accent, he has action, and behind him various weapons are laid out.

A Corporal stands to one side ready to demonstrate.

MARINE TRAINING SERGEANT
Right you lot. Today we are going to show you the weapons that you are likely to use

And also those of the enemy which you may also end up up shooting.

What we talk about here today goes no further, as we are going to be committing quite a bit of treason? Anyone know why?

(looks around, silence)

Well I will tell you. Every weapon that we show you today barre one is not a match against the German equivalent

(sighs)

The Huns guns are better made, more accurate, safer and have a better rate of fire.

He reaches into a box

Take this the Stick Grenade, the
potato masher as we like to call it.

Now with this clever handle it means
you can throw that around ... yds
compared to our Mills bomb which
unless you play on the England Cricket
team or have arms like Garth about ...
yds.

(pause)

One advantage is if you are lucky
enough to have time the explosive is
not as powerful as the mills so
getting cover or diving to the ground
might save you.

The other crafty but clever trick with
this grenade is the ease in which it
can be turned into a booby trap.

Fritz was tying these things to trees
doors and gates, a little untidy.

So a few more slave prisoners to work
and they started producing this nasty
little addition

(the instructor holds up a clip)

The dastardly Hun now clips this
little device around the grenade and
uses this bit to nail it to a Gate,
tree, door etc,

The Corporal instructor demonstrates on a gate

Now when... uh

(Looks for a volunteer)

Stand up Jones

(beckons)

Now when Gods very own white knight

(beckons again)

Step up Jones thats you!

(general laughter)

opens the gate,

(he beckons for him to open the
gate)

Lenny pushes the gate open with some trepidation, the thin cord pull's from the grenade, there is a ping.

There is a pause and nothing happens.

Lenny turns back relieved. Just then a thunder flash explodes behind the gate

BANG!

Everyone jumps especially Lenny, then a ripple of relieved laughter.

MARINE TRAINING SERGEANT
OK Jones sit down.

You can change your underwear later
(Laughter)
How about this. Anyone know what it is?

FRED
A PIAT Sergeant

MARINE TRAINING SERGEANT
Well done Harris, yes.

Take Sunday afternoon off.

Developed by the Romans as a catapult in 80 AD, effective against wooden chariots. Oh no sorry, its the The Platoon Infantry Anti Tank developed in 1943 to take out German Tanks!

Is it effective against tanks I hear you ask?

(smiles)
Well the bomb here has a hollow charge (points to a cut away demo bomb) so if you hit dead on and against the flat of the hull or turret and not any skirts or other objects hung off the side it will detonate

Firing a dart like stream of molten metal through about 3 or 4 inches of steel which is lethal.

One advantage is there is little signature when you fire it no large explosion no smoke trail so will not give your position away. However its effective range is about 80 yds so you have to be damn close to that beast to kill it.

Do you know how many medals, even Victoria Crosses are attached to this weapon? Many, do you know how many were able to collect their medals personally from the King?!

Probably none...

However it also good against bunkers, and some of the lads from the Desert campaign will tell you they used it with some success like a mortar out to about 300yds, that's what this range selector and bubble are for. Now watch.

We watch the corporal and No 2 ready and load the PIAT, we see a metal hull of an old tank.

MARINE TRAINING SERGEANT

If you are not careful though get it wrong and the firer is more likely to end up with a broken nose than a broken tank!

CORPORAL

Tank Action! TANK at 80yds Moving left to right Am engaging Firing now

Then fires the PIAT at the target, the target jumps and explodes, every one is impressed by the explosion, when the smoke clears there is a large hole in the metal.

MARINE TRAINING SERGEANT

You see perfectly good when attacked against by a French WW1 Tank!
(Laughter)

Picks up a Panzerfaust

Now this is the German version. It's a rocket missile not a spring.

Puts in on his shoulder.

Fired from the shoulder like this can be used by a 10 year old boy and will take out an Allied tank if it doesn't you can pick up another one and have another go! If you capture them keep them and use them they will disable German Armour and half tracks.

(Pause)

Now to the STEN

picks up the Sten gun

This is probably the most lethal weapon we have, you have seen Churchill with one of course? Believe it or not the idea is based on a German weapon we took it and buggered it up.

Holds up the magazine and shows the rounds, then loads

32 round magazine goes in the side here, 9mm round so only for very short distances 50 - 60 yds. I said it was lethal right?

The Sten gun has probably killed more British soldier's than most enemy weapons!

For some reason known only to the designer and God himself there is no safety, so no fingers on triggers unless you are about to fire and don't drop it or it will go off and shoot your oppo in the rear!

Corporal fires the Sten against targets

SPANDAUI etc.

Tommy Gun, anyone thinking of becoming a Gangster? Two magazine options standard cassette type or for those

fancying a bit of Al Capone the
Hollywood drum magazine with 50
rounds! Well we didn't like it too
heavy so generally you will only see
the box magazine

Corporal demo's the Thompson from the hip shooting up a
target.

You can see all these last sub machine
guns are quick to bring on aim and put
down a lot of initial fire, so
generally we use them in the front of
the main patrol.

If you see the enemy a quick burst
gets their heads down then you can
decide whether you are going forward
or back!

(pause)

Also in ambushes and close quarter
fighting in woods, on streets, or in
buildings.

Now I said we had a better weapon
didn't I, yes well, here it is.

Pulls out a tin opener and begins to open a can of sweets!

(laughter)

Now step up in a line and you can all
grab a boily

(boiled sweet)

get a feel for each of the weapons and
then have a go at shooting.

27 INT. DALDITCH CAMP - CINEMA

Leaving the NAAFI behind them they walk through the tree
lined track.

LENNY

This is such good chocolate. I wish I
could take some home for my Granny.

FRED

Bleeding hell,. you can smell the
latrines from here.

SCOUSE

I would hate to be down hill from us
when it rains!

They pause outside the cinema, there is a poster for the 49 Steps. (49 Steps was the first film shown there)

LENNY

Have you noticed a lot of the bricks
are blackened?

FRED

Yes from the bombing. Trying to get
the airfield.

LENNY

I wonder why do we get bombed so much,
I mean they don't hit much. Seem to
miss most of the time

SCOUSE

We are the decoys that's why!

There is a mock airfield out on the
common, they light it up at night so
Gerry bombs that instead of the RAF at
Exeter

FRED

Have you seen that bloody great crater
behind the Sergeants mess, must be 6ft
deep and 20ft wide!

SCOUSE

A shame they didn't bloody well hit
it!

Laughing at Scouse's rhetoric they walk in through the doors

28 EXT. DALDITCH CAMP

Final exercise, Attack on mock up village with all weapons,
life buoy flame throwers, Mouseholing, grenades etc.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu502J0MaQs>

MARINE TRAINING SERGEANT

29 EXT. PARADE SQUARE - DAY

On the wall of the drill shed are the class pass out pictures going back many years.

Lympstone camp is made up of black wooden huts, and the parade square is in front of the grand Officers Mess.

The Royal Marine Band plays as the class dressed in their best uniforms are inspected.

Near the end of the ranks Lenny waits nervously, next to him are Frank and Fred.

INSPECTING OFFICER

Marine Jones. How did you find training?

LENNY

It was hard Sir, but I learnt a lot.

INSPECTING OFFICER

Very honest, best of luck.

TROOP OFFICER

Nods to Lenny and moves along

Marine Burton Sir. Burton is going on to specialist training

INSPECTING OFFICER

Where are you going Marine Burton

FRANK

Signals course Sir. Then 5th Battalion

INSPECTING OFFICER

Good man. You do not sound too enthusiastic?

FRANK

Well Sir If the truth be told I was hoping to be in a rifle section with my mates

INSPECTING OFFICER

Well I understand your concern, but you know that the RO is by far the most important job in the Battalion, at all levels. I am sure you have heard the expression 'no comms no bombs'

Well its very true. If we cannot communicate, then we cannot Command effectively. Without the wireless we are blind at both ends. Hard to Manoeuvre effectively or call in support where it is needed

(smiles at Frank)

So make sure you study and learn. One day I might be relying on you and so

(looks back at scouse)

will your mate Marine Ord at the sharp end.

FRANK

Thank you Sir. I will.

INSPECTING OFFICER

Good turn out Marine Burton, and good luck

TROOP OFFICER

Marine HARRIS Sir, our best marksman in the troop

INSPECTING OFFICER

Very good. Where are you going Marine Harris?

FRED

5th Battalion Sir

INSPECTING OFFICER

A good unit and a good CO they are just back from a cancelled operation off East Africa, and chomping at the bit to get in the fight. So I imagine you will see action in good time, make sure you keep up your shooting skills and well done on your marksman's badge

He points out the badge on his blues or khaki tunic

The inspecting officer walks away and takes the Dias

INSPECTING OFFICER

Men, you are going to be apart of a Corps of Royal Marines that has served this Great country since 1664, your cap badge chosen by King George IV own hand represents the "Great Globe itself"

To honour our service and successes in battles and skirmishes in every quarter of the world.

(Pause)

Marines have seen action since the very first day of this war, the Atlantic, Norway, Madagascar, Dunkirk and Calais, The Battle of Britain, Dieppe, Crete, North Africa, Tobruk, Scillily, Italy, and the Far East.

(Pause)

Most of you will be joining the 5th Royal Marine Battalion, many have already seen service, listen and learn
(looks around at the men)
fight to live and live to fight.

When you take it to the Hun Fight hard so they know they have been beaten by a Royal Marine.

A large black horse appears between the Officer and the men on parade.

The adjutant uses his sword to salute the Officer and then turns to the men, he salutes them.

ADJUTANT

Royal Marines, to your duties, Quick March.....'

The Band Plays 'A Life on the Ocean Waves' and the men quite clearly proud march off the parade square past a troop of men still in training climbing ropes and cargo nets in the trees.

30 EXT. TRUCKS RAILWAY STATION - DAY

The train leaves the platform behind them.

A truck is waiting, its rear board down, a diver stands by its side

DRIVER

All aboard for the 5th Battalion

Fred walks over with his two kit bags, one in his hand the other over his shoulder.

A hand reaches down to take his bags.

DONNY is a (need to research Donny)

DONNY

Here you go mate

Both bags are hauled up and passed down by more unseen hands.

Donny then gives Fred a hand up and he sits opposite him in the truck.

31 INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

FRED

Thanks chum, Im Fred

DONNY

I'm Donny. You just joining 5th today?

FRED

Yes, straight from Dalditch. Whats it like, the Battalion I mean?

DONNY

Yes its all right chum you'll be fine, Its the best Battalion in the Corps or so they say! The lads are great a and the officers too. Even the CO is wilco

FRED

Well this is it mate, how are you feeling?

Lenny shuffles down and sits opposite FRED

LENNY

Hey Fred I've got serious butteries,
(pause)
And you?

FRED

Yes my stomach is churning a bit too!
 (looks over)
 Len this is Donny

DONNY

Hello Len,
 (offers his hand)
 pleased I'm sure
 (pause)
 Nothing to be worried about. You'll
 fit right in soon enough.

LENNY

My best friend Walter is there do you
 know him

DONNY

Bigland? Yes he's there. He said you
 were coming. He's arranged it so your
 in the same Company.

Lenny smiles and sits back happy.

The truck enters the camp men are singing.

Sign says 5th Battalion Royal Marines 'Moto underneath'

32 EXT. 5TH BATTALION CAMP - CONTINUOUS

SAs the tail gate is lowered by the driver the RSM is there
 to greet them.

GRIMSEY has a large neck and big shoulders, his moustache is
 perfectly trimmed and waxed.

He booms at them with that unique authority of a Regimental
 Sergeant Major

RSM GRIMSEY

OK you lot drop your kit. Straight
 into the Globe Theater.

Remember a good Marine is always 5
 minutes early
 (pause)

And you lot are already 5 minutes
 late.

At the double Lets go.

Lenny, Donny and Fred walk in taking off their Forage Caps as they come through the door and climb the stairs.

At the top it opens up into a Victorian theater which would not look out of place in the West End.

The men take their places in the small green round backed velvet chairs which are in a half circles looking down onto an ornate oak framed stage.

On the wall behind the stage is a large plaster of paris Globe highly decorated in blue and green, surrounding it gold laurel leaves shine in the stage light.

SCOUSE

How was your leave Freddy?

FRED

Not great, just one Luftwaffe raid after another.

Its such a bloody noise with the Ack Ack POP POP POP POP and the bloody engines droning.

Then BOOOOM! BOOOOM! BOOOOM!

FRED uses his arms to demonstrate

SCOUSE

Steady on La, you're not down there you know.

(points at the stage)

Did they get anyone?

FRED

Yes, bastards got a few houses, and the pub, nothin left, just a darn great hole

(Pause)

And yours?

SCOUSE

Same either the Germans are bombing the convoys in Liverpool docks or the local scallys are stealing anything not bolted down!

FRED

(laughs)

I cant wait to visit!

RSM GRIMSEY

Right you lot settle down everywhere.

RSM looks down to a group of lads still catching up on stories from leave

RSM GRIMSEY

Stop the chuntering, save it for the NAAFI, and Stallwood, where is Stallwood?

KENNY STALLWOOD is.....

STALLWOOD

Here Sir

RSM GRIMSEY

Got your clothes on this time I see!

General laughter and elbows from his chums.

RSM GRIMSEY

Men if you do go ashore and decide to take your clothes off to impress the local girls the first rule, as any 3 badge Marine will tell you is make sure it is not too cold

(pause)

The second is remember where you left your uniform so you are properly dressed when you return to camp

(pause)

How many days pot wash did that cost you Burton?

KENNY

4, Sir, 2 of the weekend, Thankyou. Very generous

RSM

Do the Crime men and do the time, and the 3rd Rule?

Stallwood?

KENNY

DONT GET CAUGHT. SIR?

RSM GRIMSEY

Don't get caught
 (general laughter)
 Exactly, that's what makes them 3
 badgers. 9 years undetected crime.

Right back to the reason for you lot
 being here

(Pause)

The CO has called a Clear Lower Deck
 so he can brief you all on the unit
 plan.

When the Commanding Officer comes in I
 will sit you all smartly to attention
 (looks back at Burton)
 No Heckling or Quips understood...
 Stallwood?

KENNY

Me Sir? No Sir!
 (General laughter)

RSM GRIMSEY

Good, that will make a change.

Once we have finished I want to see
 all Senior NCO's in the Mess.

The Adjutant walks in via a door near the stage, the CO is
 following, the RSM comes smartly to attention and faces the
 troops.

RSM GRIMSEY

Sit to attention everywhere

The Marines sit to attention and the CO steps up onto the
 stage and accepts the RSM's Salute.

RSM GRIMSEY

Your Unit, 5th Battalion Royal Marines
 sat at attention awaiting your
 disposal, Sir.

LT COL REIS

Thank you RSM.
 (Looks around his men)
 Sit at ease everyone.

Good morning gents.

33 INT. BURLEY TENTED CAMP - DAY

The Troop Sergeant Major (TSM) is wraps on the tent and looks in, WIGGY BENNET

WIGGY
Cakebread you in here?

DEREK
YES SIR?

WIGGY
Good, QM has something for you

The QM enters carrying a wooden box.

QM
Cakebread, dont say I never give you anything.

DEREK
Its not Christmas for a few months yet, but thanks anyway
(he looks the box over)
No gift tag?

Derek opens the lid and then sits back

DEREK
Well I guess I'm not the Bosses Jeep driver anymore, at least I got to learn to drive!

In the box is an American Sniper Rifle P14, scope and ancillaries.

WIGGY
Probably a good thing, I will have enough on my plate trying to stop Jerry shooting me, without your driving to worry about too

DEREK
This cant be for me, I'm not sniper trained?

QM

Well you'd better go see the Training Officer, I think he was Santa Clause.

And he has another gift for you, I think its an invitation for you to lay around by the sea in Wales next week

DEREK

Sounds like fun, except it's a cold wet November!

34 EXT. SNIPER SCHOOL PENNALLY S WALES - DAY

8 men are sat on a slope looking down over fields and dunes to the open sea beyond.

They have their sniper rifles between their legs and are listening intently to their instructor.

Stood in front of a hedge row where the trees are swaying in the wind he is wearing a Colour Sergeants rank and a badge of Crossed Swords.

He is SERGEANT MARTIN of the Lovat Scouts, a wiry former Gilly from Lord Lovat's estate and very Scottish.

SERGEANT MARTIN

Now boys let me tell you a little something about Sniping, some may tell you its ungentlemanly or against the codes of war.

Its not fair to shoot someone from a distance, to shoot their head clean off whilst they are sat on a thunder box!

Nervous laughter

Now you are all Royal Marines, did you know you have had marksmen as long as you have had muskets? The best shots would be in the ships rigging. Their job to take out the enemy officers,

(smiles a knowing smile)

You did it against the Dutch, the Spanish, The French and the Americans

TOMMY
 Shame we didn't shoot more Germans
 back then!
 (Laughter)

SERGEANT MARTIN
 Ah well my lad, if only we knew!
 Mostly French in those days, but in
 the Great War we did of course,
 Marines and Army snipers, but that was
 in the trenches, and not the type of
 sniping you will learn here.
 (looks around at his students)
 So tell me what is the job of a
 sniper?

The instructor points to Derek

SERGEANT MARTIN
 Marine?

DEREK
 Cakebread Sergeant

SERGEANT MARTIN
 Right Cakebread, enlighten me with
 your knowledge

DEREK
 Umm
 (thinking)
 To shoot officers
 (confident look)
 Sergeant?'

I mean's German Officers obviously

The sniper instructor and everyone chuckles

SERGEANT MARTIN
 If the opportunity presents itself to
 shoot an individual, then yes he may
 well be a Jerry Officer
 (pause)
 But you need to select your target
 cautiously, it is no good giving away
 your carefully concealed position to

take out a young lad carrying the
officers sandwiches,

(pause)

so yes, you will, I hope have the
opportunity to shoot kraut officers
but it is so much more than that

(pause - gestures across the
fields)

You will be employed to the flanks or
forward of the lines, you are the eyes
and ears of your Troop or the
Battalion.

(pause)

you might collect information on enemy
Movements their men and vehicles you
might draw maps, watch roads, bridges,
farm houses, cover our mine fields

(pause)

And maybe just maybe 'Cake bread' you
will get that golden opportunity, that
once in a lifetime shot

(The Instructor points to his
forehead as if shot by a bullet)
and shoot Rommel right between his
goggles.

There is laughter amongst the group

SERGEANT MARTIN

But if you pull the trigger, you had
better have an exit plan and when
needed be able to run bloody fast!

(pause)

So we will teach you the highest
levels of field craft, how to
camouflage yourself so you disappear,
to read the ground and select your
Routes ,how to navigate, draw maps,
identify enemy equipment, and of
course to shoot

(pause)

Listen and learn and well have you
Shoot the eye out of a needle at
500yds on a windy day

(pause)

What we wont do is coach you for the
Olympic 100yard sprint.

(looks around his audience)

That bit my lads is up to you!

Behind the instructor a sniper unseen until this point stands up in his gillysuit, his rifle raised, there are gasps and admiration from the students. Then they realise he is dressed as a German.

TOMMY
Bloody hell its a Jerry'

Si Biggs

ACT 3 - A NEW COMMANDO

35 INT. WHITE HALL - DAY

The large corridor is adorned with portraits of famous Admirals and sailing ships in full sail in the throws of battle.

Lord Mountbatten, the Chief of Combined Operations is in the uniform of an Admiral and pauses mid stride beneath the portrait of another famous sailor Horatio Nelson, Thomas Huton Adjutant General Royal Marines is walking with him.

MOUNTBATTEN

You know when I offered the Royal
Marines Divisions to Ike what he said?

THOMAS HUTON

Yes, who could forget.

The finest soldiers for a fist fight
(Pause look of disgust)
but we "hadn't got a tail"!!

MOUNTBATTEN

Well, you don't need a tail now, that
will be the job of the Navy and Army
(pause)
because Ike and Monty need your teeth,
and sharp we must make them!

They walk again then pause by the large double doors, the
sign reads

`BIGOT's only,

no entry to non-authorised personnel'

The door is guarded by a Royal Marine.

MOUNTBATTEN

When we go in we need to keep the
conversion on track. How many units do
we have now ?

THOMAS HUTON

We have Forty and Four One earmarked/
tied up in Sicily and Italy, Four
Three and Four Four in the far East

and we will have 3 more units ready in the summer for the second front so yes 7 going on 8

MOUNTBATTEN

Well you might not believe this after everything we have gone through, but I think we might need another for this party.

We can only commit 3 Army Commando units and Monty and Ike have agreed to a fifth invasion beach.

THOMAS HUTON

Well we may need to bring some one back from the Mediterranean when the show is over.

(pause)

Four One are a good unit. Then we will need around 13,000 for Landing Craft Crews and I cant touch the Fleet Gunners on the Capital Ships, but I can of course convert the last battalion, and form up Four Eight Commando?

MOUNTBATTEN

Well hold that thought we may need to action it

(pause)

9 Royal Marine Commando Units, can you believe it, after all the push back, all the empire building and side shows

THOMAS

Imagine how lethal they would be if we had 'got our tail' in 1940?

MOUNTBATTEN

Well no one can say we did not try

(pause)

Who is converting now, I should make a visit.

THOMAS HUTON

5TH Battalion under REISE, they will be Commando trained this winter and ready for Combined Operation training in the New Year.

Number 45 Commando

Mountbatten looks at a portrait on the wall, a Royal Marine, the fighting Nichols. (actually hanging in the Officers Mess at Stonehouse)

MOUNTBATTEN

Well Thomas its been a long road so far, but this is it, less than 12 months to go

THOMAS HUTON

Next Summer for sure then

MOUNTBATTEN

Yes has to be May, June 1944, No one would stomach a delay past that, not us, not the Americans or the Russians.

(pause)

And once we start building up, well, we will just give the game away if we leave it too long

(Pause)

Its all a matter of timing

The Royal Marine guard Salutes and they walk into a briefing for D Day, before the door shuts a figure can be seen by the large windows walking towards the large wooden table, it is Churchill, and flanking him are Ike and Monty spread out before them a map of Normandy.

FADE OUT