

GODS OF THE **FORGOTTEN**

Based on a true story. When the United States enters the Korean War, it must avert a nuclear World War III with Russia and China while two of its's most revered leaders, President Harry S. Truman and General Douglas MacArthur, become embattled in a bitter war of power and politics.

Written by

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FADE IN:

SUPER: AUGUST 6, 1945 - HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

During a warm, summer morning somewhere near Japan, A FIELD OF CLOUDS fade in from the black screen and we see...

Three planes, a B29 bomber (Enola Gay) accompanied by two other B29 bombers, one for instrumentation (The Great Artiste) and one for photography (Necessary Evil), soar among the clouds like eagles.

INT. ENOLA GAY AIRPLANE - DAY

A CREW OF MEN

Occupy the plane, Enola Gay, en route to a target, Hiroshima, Japan, to dispatch the world's first nuclear weapon...

THE ATOM BOMB - "LITTLE BOY"

The plane is commanded by COLONEL PAUL A. TIBBETS, 30's, United States Army Air Force who communicates via radio with other escort planes.

An eerie quietness fills the plane.

A LIEUTENANT

Removes SAFETY MECHANISMS from the "Little Boy" bomb and SIGNALS the other men.

COLONEL TIBBETS

This is Dimples 82, five minutes
'til target.

A view of the Japanese Coast is seen from the point of view of the pilot.

MONTAGE - HIROSHIMA NORMAL LIFE

--A JAPANESE LITTLE GIRL gets up for breakfast and is greeted by her parents.

--JAPANESE SOLDIERS train in formation.

--The city center of Hiroshima BUZZES with people who conduct everyday activities.

END MONTAGE

BLACK SCREEN

VOICES communicate over the radios.

Colonel Tibbets reappears on screen--

COLONEL TIBBETS (CONT'D)
Target is in sight. Preparing to
dispatch weapon.

BLACK SCREEN

Colonel Tibbets reappears--

COLONEL TIBBETS (CONT'D)
Dispatching weapon.

BLACK SCREEN

A few moments pass by.

A view of the Hiroshima horizon shows a SMALL PELLET--the
Atom Bomb--dropping from the clouds.

A few moments, then...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMM!!!!!!

A LOUD, THUNDEROUS SOUND ensues a pulsating BLINDING BRIGHT
LIGHT.

SHOT FROM SPACE: A MUSHROOM CLOUD EXTENDS INTO THE SKY.

The men in the plane are engulfed by a LARGE FLASH OF LIGHT.

MONTAGE - DESTRUCTION OF HIROSHIMA

--The JAPANESE GIRL and her family sit at the breakfast table
and are consumed by A FIERY CLOUD

--Japanese soldiers jog in formation and are consumed by a
CLOUD OF VIOLENT SMOKE, FIRE AND LIGHT.

--A Japanese hospital, conducts early morning activities, is
consumed by a CLOUD OF FLAMES.

--People bloodied and devastated SCAMPER in turmoil.

--Views of TOPPLED BUILDINGS.

--WOUNDED AND DEAD CIVILIANS lie in the rubble.

END MONTAGE

SUPER: AUGUST 9, 1945 - NAGASAKI, JAPAN

INT. BOCKSCAR AIRPLANE - DAY

A CREW OF MEN

Converse and hover over A BOMB with "Fat Man" painted on it.

THE PLANE--named Bockscar--is commanded by MAJOR CHARLES SWEENEY, 30's, United States Army Air Force.

A break in rain-filled clouds reveal the target for the bomb: Nagasaki.

MAJOR SWEENEY
(into the radio)
Preparing to dispatch.
Dispatching.

BLACK SCREEN

BOOOOOOMMMMMMM!!!

A JAPANESE FAMILY

Looks out of their window as they see a flash and hear a loud BOOM as a CLOUD OF FIERY SMOKE consumes them.

Nagasaki is engulfed by a FIERY CLOUD.

MONTAGE - A DEVASTATED NAGASAKI

--A PARTIALLY INCINERATED CHILD lies in the middle of debris.

--A DEVASTATED BUILDING stands alone in a once crowded commercial neighborhood.

--Images of A DESTROYED NAGASAKI.

END MONTAGE

BLACK SCREEN

An IMAGE OF A NEWSPAPER appears.

It reads: "Japanese Surrender: World War II Ends!"

MONTAGE - IMAGES OF VICTORY

--Military men return home to their loved ones.

--"Ticker Tape" parades are held around the country.

END MONTAGE

EXT. U.S.S MISSOURI - DAY

A large crowd--both international and armed forces personnel--attend the formal surrender of Japan that takes place on the U.S.S. Missouri

GENERAL DOUGLAS A. MACARTHUR, 70's, "Prince of the Pacific" dressed in fine-pressed military fatigues, brazen with confidence and the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, proceeds with the signing of the declaration.

SCORES OF MEN from all nations are present for this momentous occasion.

A table with signing documents is placed in the center of the ship's deck for the Japanese oncoming party.

Douglas MacArthur, reading from a folded piece of paper, delivers a speech to the crowd:

GENERAL MACARTHUR

We are gathered here...
representatives of the major
warring powers to conclude a solemn
agreement whereby peace may be
restored.

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND GUESTS look on as General MacArthur delivers the speech.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)

And hence are not for our
discussion or debate. The terms
and conditions upon which surrender
of the Japanese Imperial Forces is
here to be given and accepted are
contained here in the instrument of
surrender now before you.

THE JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC PARTY sits at the signing table as General MacArthur finishes his speech.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I now invite the representatives of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Government and Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to sign the instrument of surrender at the places indicated.

The Japanese dignitaries sign the surrender documents as MacArthur looks on.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING (U.S. EMBASSY) - DAY

General MacArthur has his normal breakfast before attending to his duties.

He is ambushed by a vibrant, young, ARTHUR MACARTHUR, eight years old.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Hey!

ARTHUR MACARTHUR

Daddy.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

How's my boy!

ARTHUR MACARTHUR

Let's make art.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Yay, lets make some art!

General MacArthur and Arthur MacArthur play with brushes and paint as Arthur MacArthur dabs General MacArthur's nose.

ARTHUR MACARTHUR

Are you gonna die in a war?

General MacArthur thinks about this for a brief moment.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Son, people die in wars all of the time. Lives must be sacrificed in order to save more lives. Lets just hope I'm not one of them.

ARTHUR MACARTHUR

I don't want you to die.

General MacArthur smiles.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
Don't worry about me, boy. Just
make sure you take care of your
mother for me if I do.

ARTHUR MACARTHUR
I will.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
That's all I need to know.

One of General MacArthur's assistants enters the room.

ASSISTANT
General, your transportation will
arrive in fifteen minutes.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
I'll be right there.
(then, to Arthur)
Daddy's gotta go to work.

ARTHUR MACARTHUR
When will you be back?

GENERAL MACARTHUR
As soon as I finish some important
business.

The two hug.

General MacArthur is greeted by his wife, JEAN MACARTHUR,
40's, dainty.

JEAN MACARTHUR
Dear, make sure you be careful out
there.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
I will, Jean.

JEAN MACARTHUR
And make sure you remember your
handkerchief.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
I will, Jean.

JEAN MACARTHUR
And...

GENERAL MACARTHUR
--Jean, I'll be fine.

The two exchange looks, embrace and trade goodbye kisses.

JEAN MACARTHUR

Mac...

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Yes, Jean.

JEAN MACARTHUR

(sarcastically)

You have paint on your nose.

Embarrassed, General MacArthur takes a handkerchief and cleans his nose.

EXT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

A BLACK CADILLAC with AMERICAN FLAGS above the fenders, a LICENSE PLATE WITH FIVE STARS and THE NUMBER ONE IN THE MIDDLE, awaits General MacArthur.

The DRIVER, who is a Sergeant accompanied by a Major, greets the General.

DRIVER

Sir.

General MacArthur enters the vehicle.

The vehicle pulls off and begins its' daily drive through the STREETS OF A DEVASTATED TOKYO, a result of the air bombings from World War II.

General MacArthur, clean shaven, perfectly manicured, stares into the open space as if Tokyo were the underworld and he is the Mythological God Hades.

AN "NBC TELEVISION" ICON FLASHES ON THE SCREEN.

INT. BILTMORE HOTEL MUSIC ROOM - NEW YORK, NY - DAY

An announcer, SENATOR MCGRATH, 40's gives a statement:

SENATOR MCGRATH

With Ohio's 25 electoral votes,
President Truman and Senator
Barkley will have a total of 266
votes in the electoral college.
This is the minimum figure
necessary for victory.

The Democratic Headquarters celebrates Truman's historic victory.

INT. DEWEY HEADQUARTERS (NEW YORK, NY) - DAY

The family, friends and staff of THOMAS DEWEY are stunned at the results of the election as they gather for a word from their candidate who reads from a piece of paper:

THOMAS DEWEY

I sent the following wire to President Truman. My heartiest congratulations to you on your election and every good wish for a successful administration. I urge all Americans to unite behind you in support of every effort to keep our nation strong and free and to establish peace in the world.

A NEWS REPORTER from the "NBC-LIFE" broadcast team gives a commentary regarding the victory.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

President Harry S. Truman is the newly elected President of the United States in an upset, come-from-behind victory for the ages. The election was a milestone of the century in the nation's election history.

TRUMAN POSTERS litter the streets and election halls.

EXT. CAPITOL HILL - DAY

Its' a brisk, sunny, winter day on January 20, 1949.

PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN, 50's, the "Accidental President" from Missouri, is being sworn in as the 33rd President of the United States.

Truman stands above the crowd as if he is the mythological god, Zeus, king of the Titans, and capitol hill is Mount Olympus.

Chief Justice, FRED M. VINSON, 50's, swears in President Harry S. Truman.

FRED VINSON
(to President Truman)
Mr. President, raise your right
hand.
(then)
Do you, Harry S. Truman, do
solemnly swear...

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
I, Harry S. Truman do solemnly
swear...

FRED VINSON
That you will faithfully execute
the office of President of the
United States...

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
That I will faithfully execute the
Office of the President of the
United States...

FRED VINSON
And will to the best of your
ability...

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
And will to the best of my
ability...

FRED VINSON
Preserve, protect and defend the
Constitution of the United
States...

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Preserve, protect and defend the
Constitution of the United
States...

FRED VINSON
So help you God.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
So help me God.

President Truman bows, takes the podium to give a speech.

The crowd applauds.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)
Mr. Vice President, Mr. Chief
Justice, fellow citizens.
(MORE)

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

I accept with humility the honor that the American people have bestowed upon me. In pro-portioning the duties of my office, I need the help of each and every one of you...

CAPITOL HILL - CONTINUOUS

President Truman ends his inauguration speech.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

...as more and more nations come to know the benefits of democracy and to participate in growing abundance, I believe that those countries which now oppose us will abandon their delusions and join with free nations of the world in just settlement of international differences.

The crowd applauds.

INTERCUT - CAPITOL HILL/NORTH KOREA

North Koreans and South Koreans make military plans to attack each other.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

Events have brought our American democracy to new endpoints and new responsibilities. They will test our courage and devotion to duty and our concept of liberty.

More North and South Korean units engage in conflict.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

...with God's help, the future of man's kind will be assured in a world of justice, harmony and peace.

The crowd applauds.

President Truman leaves the podium.

A NEWSCASTER makes a statement:

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

President Harry S. Truman has just completed his inaugural address.

President Truman shakes hands with his SUPPORTERS.

SUPPORTER

Congratulations, Harry. I can see
a third presidential term coming.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Only time will tell if things go as
planned.

President Truman grins then walks away.

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH KOREA

A North Korean soldier, with a "thousand-yard stare", looks
across the 38th parallel as if he were planning a major move.

EXT. MILITARY TRAINING BASE - JAPAN - DAY

Formations jog down paths and platoons perform military
drills on a training base in Japan for American Soldiers.

SOLDIER PROCESSING STATION

JACK KEMP, 30's, dusty blonde hair, newly minted Army
Lieutenant, arrives for in-processing as if he were the
mythological god of war, Ares.

A RECEPTIONIST sits at the desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Next.

Lieutenant (LT) Kemp stares into space--

LT KEMP (V.O.)

Of all the engineers in
Philadelphia, they chose me to go
to war...to die for my country.

RECEPTIONIST

Next!

LT. Kemp awakens from his daze.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Next.

LT KEMP

I'm here to inprocess.

RECEPTIONIST

Name.

LT KEMP

Jack Kemp.

RECEPTIONIST

Serial Number.

LT KEMP

Five, four, three, two, one, four,
one, two, four.

The receptionist pulls out a few pieces of paper.

RECEPTIONIST

Here are your orders. You report to
your unit in the morning.

LT KEMP

Thank you.

INT. COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CAPTAIN JOHN MOORE, 40's, company commander, awaits LT Kemp
as he reports to his first unit.

LT Kemp approaches the outside of CPT Moore's office, bangs
the outside panel three times.

Bang. Bang. Bang.

CPT MOORE

Come in.

LT. Kemp enters the room, stands at attention.

LT KEMP

Sir, LT. Kemp reporting as ordered.

CPT MOORE

At ease.

(then)

LT. Kemp I've been reading your
file and see that you have a degree
in engineering. You're from
Philadelphia...and have a wife who
is expecting your first child in a
few months.

LT KEMP

That's right.

CPT MOORE

Well, good luck to you, and congratulations. I'm placing you in charge of First Platoon.

LT KEMP

First Platoon?

CPT MOORE

It's an all-black platoon. You can train them up until I figure out something for you to do.

LT KEMP

(reluctantly)

Certainly.

CPT MOORE

I trust that you'll do a good job.

LT KEMP

Yes, sir.

LT. Kemp salutes then leaves.

EXT. COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

LT. Kemp walks down a pathway when he notices two men harassing one of his soldiers, PFC HENDRICKS, 20's.

WHITE SOLDIER #1

Get out of here, nigger!

WHITE SOLDIER #2

No niggers in the dining room.

PFC HENDRICKS

I just wanted something to drink.

The white soldier grabs PFC Hendricks by his shirt and starts to shake him.

LT. Kemp runs over to the white soldier, punches him in the stomach, and forces him to let go of PFC. Hendricks.

LT KEMP

Let him go.

The white soldier, surprised--

WHITE SOLDIER #1

You're gonna take up for a nigger?

WHITE SOLDIER #2
You a nigga lover?

Out of nowhere a voice calls out--it's CPT. Moore.

CPT MOORE
Lt. Kemp., in my office now!

CPT. MOORE'S OFFICE

CPT MOORE
How dare you take up for a negro
soldier!

LT KEMP
--He was my soldier.

CPT MOORE
Negroes are not to be regarded as
equal to regular white soldiers.
Is that clear?

LT KEMP
I never judge a man by the color of
his skin, never will.

CPT. Moore is stunned.

CPT MOORE
You keep this up, you're gonna have
a short career in the Army. Is
that understood?

LT KEMP
(hesitatingly)
Understood.

CPT MOORE
You are excused.

LT. Kemp salutes then leaves.

INT. LT. KEMP LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

LT. Kemp writes a letter home to his wife in Philadelphia.

LT KEMP (V.O.)
The first few days of duty in Japan
have been hard. I think of you and
the baby everyday and can't wait to
be with the both of you.

(MORE)

LT KEMP (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I don't know why God chose me to be
 a Soldier. Please keep me close.
 Love. Jack.

Jack signs the letter, seals the envelope, places the letter
 beneath his pillow and goes to bed.

TITLE CARD: JUNE 1950

EXT. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE 38TH PARALLEL - DAY

North and South Korean forces engage in small arms fire.

South Korean forces radio higher command to South Korean
 Leader, SYNGMAN RHEE, 70's, as he sits in his office.

INT. NORTH KOREAN MILITARY CAMP - DAY

North Korean military leaders plan a major attack.

A NORTH KOREAN SOLDIER speaks on the radio to higher command
 then motions to his COMMANDING GENERAL.

NORTH KOREAN SOLDIER
 Sir, the commander wishes to give
 you orders.

The Commanding General motions to the Soldier for the phone,
 speaks:

COMMANDING GENERAL
 Yes...yes...I concur.

The Commanding General instructs his subordinates to initiate
 a predetermined plan.

The subordinate concurs and relays a message.

MILITARY CAMP - CONTINUOUS

North Korean soldiers stage and prepare to attack.

A NORTH KOREAN SOLDIER gets word from higher headquarters to
 attack.

NORTH KOREAN TANKS

Cross the 38th parallel into South Korea.

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT (WASHINGTON D.C.) - DAY

Secretary of State, DEAN ACHESON, 50's, sits at his desk.

The telephone rings.

DEAN ACHESON
Hello, this is Dean.

An AIDE answers:

AIDE (O.S.)
Sir, the North Koreans just passed
the 38th parallel.

DEAN ACHESON
What?

AIDE (O.S.)
North Korea just invaded South
Korea.

Dean Acheson pauses.

DEAN ACHESON
I'll transfer the message to the
President.

Dean Acheson hangs up the phone, ponders the situation, makes
a few phone calls.

EXT. MILITARY TRAINING BASE - DAY

LT Kemp runs in front of the all-black platoon during daily
physical training.

Two of the Soldiers, PFC JONES and PFC MCCORMICK, talk about
LT. Kemp.

PFC JONES
Well, look at the FNG.

PFC MCCORMICK
FNG?

PFC JONES
Flippin'-New-Guy.

PFC MCCORMICK
I hear he's an OCS reject.

PFC JONES

That's no way to talk about your
fearless leader.

PFC MCCORMICK

Where the heck are we going? We've
been jogging in circles for an
hour.

A MILITARY JEEP appears out of the blue and pulls up next to
the running formation.

A SERGEANT calls out to LT.Kemp.

SERGEANT

(shouting)

LT. Kemp, you need to go see the
company commander A.S.A.P.

LT KEMP

What?

SERGEANT

(shouting)

The company commander wants to see
you. You're being transferred to
Korea on special assignment. The
North just invaded the South.

LT KEMP

(under his breath)

Oh, great. Korea here I come.

INT. AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANE - DAY

An AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANE flies to Seoul, South Korea to
help evacuate civilians amidst the invasion of South Korea by
the North Koreans.

MARGUERITE "MAGGIE" HIGGINS, 30's, curly blonde hair, is on
board the transport plane and takes in her surroundings as if
she is Athena, the goddess of military war and strategy and
Korea is her battlefield.

Maggie bumps into one of the other REPORTERS as the plane's
cargo doors open.

REPORTER

It's a beautiful day to be at the
worst place on earth.

Maggie looks around.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Likewise. What is this?

REPORTER

It's hell on earth, my dear. It's hell on earth.

Maggie observes the chaos:

HUNDREDS OF KOREANS scramble for safety with BABIES BOUND PAPOOSE-STYLE to their backs and HUGE BUNDLES on their heads;

SCORES OF TRUCKS camouflaged with branches;

SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS in jeeps and horses stream in both directions to maintain some sense of order.

With tape recorder in hand, Maggie gets the attention of an American Colonel attached to the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG):

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Colonel...colonel, my name is Maggie Higgins, reporter for the New York Herald Tribune. What's going on here?

AMERICAN COLONEL

What does it look like? We're in a war and the South Koreans have a pathological fear of tanks! What else could go wrong?

The Colonel rushes off.

Maggie steps back, takes this in.

A panoramic view of the area shows herds of South Koreans scrambling for their lives.

INT. TRUMAN HOUSE-INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI - NIGHT

The Truman family, President Truman, his wife BESS TRUMAN, 60's, and his daughter MARGARET TRUMAN, 20's, enjoy an evening of dinner and conversation.

Afterwards, President Truman plays the piano for his family while Margaret sings.

RING, RING.

RING, RING.

The telephone in the hallway rings.

President Truman gets up to answer the phone.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Hello.

DEAN ACHESON (O.S.)

The North Koreans have invaded
South Korea.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What did you just say?

DEAN ACHESON (O.S.)

The North Korean Army just invaded
South Korea!

Fear and worry fills President Truman's eyes.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I'm packing my things to leave now--

DEAN ACHESON

--No, you wait at home. We need
you to leave tomorrow, under
daylight.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I'll make the preparations.

DEAN ACHESON

We'll meet up tomorrow.

Truman hangs up the telephone.

The moment Truman feared baffles his mind--that this is
merely the opening rounds of a World War III.

INT. THE BLAIR HOUSE - NIGHT

President Truman meets with key personnel to discuss the
Korea situation: Dean Acheson, LOUIS JOHNSON (SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE), FRANK PACE (SECRETARY OF THE ARMY), FRANCIS
MATTHEWS (SECRETARY OF THE NAVY), THOMAS FINLETTER (SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE).

The Joint Chiefs of Staff were also present: GENERAL OMAR
BRADLEY (CHAIRMAN), GENERAL J. LAWTON COLLINS (ARMY), ADMIRAL
FORREST SHERMAN (NAVY) and GENERAL HOYT VANDENBERG (AIR
FORCE).

The men enjoy dinner before retiring to the kitchen to discuss the most recent events.

THE KITCHEN

The men stand around a table to discuss the Korean situation.

DEAN ACHESON

(to Truman)

Sir, the decisions that you make tonight will define your presidency, the fate of the country and the prevention or precipitation of World War III.

A tense silence fills the room.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Gentlemen, what we have here is another threat to the very fabric of our democracy and the diplomatic philosophy of our nation.

FRANK PACE

Do you think Russia had anything to do with this?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

--Yes...I do.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Are we looking at war here?

LOUIS JOHNSON

--We're looking at another Greece and Turkey, not forgetting the China situation.

DEAN ACHESON

--And what about Formosa? What are we going to do there?

The men chatter among themselves.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Whatever we do, we can't let these acts go unanswered. We're now in a "Cold War".

DEAN ACHESON

We need a vigorous and aggressive force.

GENERAL BRADLEY

We gotta be very careful here. War with Russia and New Communist China could turn out to be a disaster.

FRANCIS MATTHEWS

Lets not forget the fact that
Russia detonated their own atom
bomb back in August.

FRANK PACE

He's requesting that we send two
units.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Korea should be where we draw the
line. We can supply planes to add
morale to the South Korean troops
even if they don't destroy the
North Korean tanks.

DEAN ACHESON

What about troops?

GENERAL BRADLEY (CONT'D)

--We don't need to send any
now.

GENERAL COLLINS

Reports indicate that MacArthur is
already sending troops, artillery
and other equipment.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Who gave him the authority?

The room pauses, thinks about this for a moment.

GENERAL COLLINS

(softly)
No one.

DEAN ACHESON

(sarcastically)
MacArthur's at it again.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

We were going to approve the
request anyway.

FORREST SHERMAN

If the Russians want a war,
we'll give them a war--

DEAN ACHESON

--We cannot allow Korea to
fall to the communists!

GENERAL BRADLEY

However, we need to keep the Korea
and Chinese situations separate.
If we don't, it'll trigger Chiang
Kai-Sek and the nationalists to
start a whole other war.

GENERAL VANDENBERG

Our planes can knock out the North Korean tanks but if the Russian planes jump in the fight we'll have a bigger issue.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Can the planes take out the Russian bases?

GENERAL VANDENBERG (CONT'D)

--We can only take out the Russian bases with the use of Atomic bombs.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

You mean use the bombs tactically?

GENERAL VANDENBERG (CONT'D)

--The military is working on plans using the bombs against specific cities.

DEAN ACHESON

We could be looking at a nuclear war here.

The room is at a stand still.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Yes we could, Dean, yes we could.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Let's not move too fast here...

FRANK PACE

--I second that.

THOMAS FINLETTER

MacArthur is the man of the hour...

LOUIS JOHNSON

--MacArthur is not a man that you can leave alone.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

We'll give MacArthur the weapons shipments that he recommended. In addition, a survey group will be sent to Korea to assess the damage.

DEAN ACHESON

What about China and Formosa?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

--We'll send the Seventh Fleet to keep Chiang and the Communists at bay.

LOUIS JOHNSON

What about the Soviets?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

--We'll develop plans to wipe out their bases. The Navy will oversee the evacuation of Americans with the Air Force.

The room is silent.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)
Mind all of you that this effort is
not through the United States but
the United Nations--nothing more.

The men agree.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)
This meeting is hereby over and--
due to the nature of this matter--I
need all of you to swear to
secrecy. Under no conditions will
you divulge the details of this
meeting to the press, even on
background information, without
clearance from me.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

A press secretary reads a statement on the conflict in Korea
given by the White House:

PRESS SECRETARY
The United States, in its purpose
to uphold the democracy of the
world, condemns the unprovoked
aggression against the Republic of
Korea. Therefore, in accordance
with the resolution of the Security
Council, the United States will
vigorously support the effort of
the Council to terminate this
serious breach of peace. Those
responsible for this act of
aggression must realize how
seriously the Government of the
United States views such threats to
the peace of the world.

EXT. SOUTH KOREA - DAY

General MacArthur, with his advisors GENERAL COURTNEY
WHITNEY, 50's and GENERAL CHARLES WILLOUGHBY, 60's, survey
the South Korean situation.

The Bataan, General MacArthur's aircraft, lands amidst the
wake of a North Korean attack.

President of South Korea, SYNGMAN RHEE, awaits General
MacArthur at the site.

SYNGMAN RHEE

General, it is a pleasure to have you here.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Mr. President, the pleasure is mine.

SYNGMAN RHEE

We can have scores of men here in moments.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I'm sure, Mr. President.

SYNGMAN RHEE

All you have to do is tell me what you need and when.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Thank you.

General MacArthur stares into the battleground, takes a moment, then--

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

We move to the front.

GENERAL WHITNEY

We do what?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

We're going to the battlefront.

General MacArthur and his entourage enter their vehicles and head to the battlefront of the conflict.

Chaos and the noise of battle get louder as MORTAR SHELLS fall around the VEHICLES.

GENERAL WHITNEY

(shouting over the noise)

We should turn back.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

We lead from the front, Courtney.

(to the driver)

Press on!

The convoy stops.

General MacArthur gets out of his vehicle to observe the situation.

STREAMS OF SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS retreat from the battle and scurry away from the action.

An AIDE approaches General MacArthur.

AIDE

General, what do you make of it?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

There is definitely a battle going on, but no wounded.

EXT. SOUTH KOREA - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

The South Korean government retaliates for the invasion by the North Korean government by killing prisoners held in South Korean jails.

MONTAGE - SUMMER OF TERROR

--South Korean officials BURST into jails and take hold of PRISONERS they believe to be Korean spies.

--The prisoners are taken to barren OPEN FIELDS and killed.

--DEAD BODIES in droves lie in open fields as a result of the deadly massacre called:

THE SUMMER OF TERROR

INT. THE BLAIR HOUSE - DAY

President Truman meets with Louis Johnson, the three service secretaries and the joint chiefs of staff in the morning after General MacArthur's newest request.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

MacArthur wants two divisions.

LOUIS JOHNSON

--Two divisions?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

Chiang Kai-shek wants to volunteer thirty-three thousand Chinese Nationalist troops.

DEAN ACHESON

--I don't trust Chiang. A war with China is imminent if the Nationalists get involved.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

I'm almost tempted to agree with Chiang and send the Nationalists.

DEAN ACHESON (CONT'D)

--It's too risky. War with China will mean disaster in Korea and put Formosa in a vulnerable position.

GENERAL BRADLEY

--Not only that, Chiang's troops are poorly equipped and helpless against the tanks.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

O.K., no Chinese troops. My question remains: "How will the Soviets and Chinese react to us sending in troops to Korea?"

DEAN ACHESON

Are our allies in Europe and the Middle East at risk?

GENERAL BRADLEY

--Sending troops falls within the United Nation's resolution.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I'll authorize two divisions.

LOUIS JOHNSON

Sending troops may mean that we declare war on North Korea, which is a congressional authority.

DEAN ACHESON

Sending in troops without congress' approval is downright unconstitutional!

GENERAL BRADLEY

(to Truman)
--If you send troops over to Korea, what type of precedent will you be setting for the country?

President Truman ponders this statement.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

History supports my decision. There will be no war in Korea using United States troops.

The room is taciturn.

INT. THE BLAIR HOUSE-PRESS ROOM - DAY

Flanked by his advisors, President Truman issues a statement regarding his decision to send troops to Korea.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

As of this morning, I have authorized the United States Air Force to conduct missions on specific military targets in North Korea where military is necessary, and have a naval blockade of the entire Korean Coast.

Photographers take pictures of President Truman.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)
 General MacArthur has been
 authorized to use certain
 supporting ground units.

More photographers take pictures as President Truman pauses.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)
 These actions are to be taken under
 the auspices of the United Nations.
 Several other countries will be
 supporting the effort. Thank You.

A reporter, TOM CONNALLY, 30's, asks a question:

TOM CONNALLY
 Mr. President, where will these
 troops be coming from?

GENERAL BRADLEY
 They will be coming from General
 MacArthur's command in Japan.

TOM CONNALLY
 Will the troops be under a unified
 command?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 All troops will be under General
 MacArthur's command. He will be
 Commander, U.N. Forces--he's the
 boss.

INT. THE BLAIR HOUSE - DAY

President Harry Truman receives a radiogram from General
 MacArthur regarding his appointment to position of Commander-
 U.N. Forces.

An AIDE enters the room where President Truman sits.

AIDE
 Sir, you have a radiogram from
 General MacArthur.

The aide hands the radiogram to President Truman.

INTERCUT - TRUMAN/MACARTHUR

President Truman reads the radiogram.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)
 I recall so vividly and with such
 gratitude that this is the second
 time you signally honored me.

Shot of: General MacArthur as he writes his telegram.

President Truman continues to read the radiogram.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)
 Your personal choice five years ago
 as Supreme Commander for the Allied
 Powers in Japan placed me under an
 intimate obligation which would be
 difficult for me ever to repay, and
 you have now added to my debt. I
 hope I will not fail you.

President Truman folds the telegram, puts it in his drawer
 and reflects on the words of General MacArthur.

EXT. AMERICAN EMBASSY IN JAPAN - DAY

General MacArthur receives the United Nations guidon.

EXT. TAEJON - DAY

Maggie Higgins looks at troops as they engage enemy North
 Korean fighters from a concealed location.

LIEUTENANT STEPHENS creeps up to Maggie from behind.

LIEUTENANT STEPHENS
 Maggie Higgins.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
 Yes.

LIEUTENANT STEPHENS
 General Walker has ordered that you
 leave the peninsula. You must
 leave the Korean theater of war
 immediately.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
 What? Why?

LIEUTENANT STEPHENS
 The general says that there is no
 place for women in a war zone. The
 unit has no facilities for females.

Several SOLDIERS take note as Maggie receives the devastating news.

SOLDIER #1

We sure hope you can talk the general out of this.

Maggie is frozen with shock.

INT. TOKYO HOTEL - NIGHT

Maggie arrives at her hotel after being expelled from Korea and meets with a HOTEL RECEPTIONIST in the lobby.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Hi, I'm Maggie Higgins here to check in. I'm with The Herald.

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

Oh, the girl reporter.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

That's me. Well, at least it was me ever since I got kicked off of the peninsula.

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

I'm sure things are well after the MacArthur statement.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

MacArthur statement?

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

Didn't you hear? General MacArthur rescinded the ban on women in Korea.

The Hotel Receptionist hands Maggie a piece of paper.

The paper is a telegram from Japan in response to the request from MRS. OGDEN REID, President of The Herald Tribune.

INSERT - Telegram. The telegram reads:

"Ban on women in Korea being lifted. Marguerite Higgins held in highest professional esteem by everyone."

Maggie's face lights up like a flare.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

(to the Hotel
Receptionist)

(MORE)

MAGGIE HIGGINS (CONT'D)

You can cancel my room. I have more pressing business elsewhere.

Maggie bolts out of the hotel lobby and heads to the airport.

EXT. U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS (TAEGU) - DAY

GENERAL WALTON "JOHNNIE" WALKER, 60's, Commander of the Eighth Army, short, stubby, bulldog expression, gives a speech to his crowd of subordinates.

Lieutenant Jack Kemp and Maggie look on from the crowd.

Lieutenant Jack Kemp has a side bar conversation with one of the other officers, LIEUTENANT CASEY, 20's.

LT CASEY

What brings you here?

LT KEMP

I hear there's a war going on.

LT CASEY

You must be part of the cavalry.

LT KEMP

You can call it that.

LT CASEY

Well, good luck.

General Walker delivers an address to the crowd.

GENERAL WALKER

General MacArthur was over here two days ago, he knows where we are and what we have to fight with, he knows our needs and where the enemy is hitting the hardest.

Lieutenant Kemp listens to the speech and ponders what his duties are.

GENERAL WALKER (CONT'D)

We are fighting a battle against time. There will be no more retreating, withdrawal, or readjustment of the lines, or any other term you may choose.

The crowd listens to General Walker.

GENERAL WALKER (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 There is no line behind us to which
 we can retreat. There will be no
 Dunkirk; there will be no Bataan.

GENERAL WALKER (CONT'D)
 We will fight as a team. If some
 of us must die, we will die
 fighting together. Any man who
 gives his ground will be personally
 responsible for the death of
 thousands of his comrades. I want
 everybody to understand that we are
 going to hold this line. We are
 going to win.

The crowd is silent.

GENERAL WALKER (CONT'D)
 We stand and we fight. Stand or
 Die!

The crowd chants.

CROWD
 Stand or Die!

Lieutenant Kemp chants.

LT KEMP
 Stand or Die! Stand or Die!

The crowd's chants grow louder.

CROWD
STAND or DIE! STAND or DIE!

Lieutenant Kemp notices Maggie and walks over to her--

LT KEMP
 What's a female reporter doing in
 worst place on earth?

MAGGIE HIGGINS
 I go where the wind blows.

LT KEMP
 Fighting a war is where the wind
 blows?

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Since being banned from the peninsula for being a woman, then getting reinstated, I thought it would be a good idea to see what you Soldiers are up against.

LT KEMP

Banned from the peninsula?

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Yeah, eventful.

LT KEMP

I take it you've never seen a war before.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Nope. I wanna know what it's all about.

LT KEMP

Well, you're welcome to hang with my group if you got the guts.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

When has having the guts ever stopped me.

EXT. NAKTONG RIVER - DAY

Lieutenant Kemp and his unit are knee-deep in battle.

Maggie tags along and takes pictures of the battle and records notes for her report to the Herald.

A Soldier, SERGEANT JAMES, 20's, calls out to the rest of the unit.

SGT JAMES

We're being enveloped. They're coming at full speed!

Another soldier, PFC KYLE REED, 20's, calls out then fires his weapon.

PFC REED

They're coming in fast.

LT KEMP

No retreat. We stand or we die.

Surrounding Soldiers are swallowed by enemy gunfire.

BANG. BANG. BANG.

Soldiers carry the wounded back from the front line.

Another soldier, PVT ETHAN JONES, 20's, yells out--

PVT JONES
We're surrounded! This just ain't
right.

A soldier, PFC MELVIN T. LITTLE, braces his browning automatic weapon, races to the front and engages the North Korean soldiers

PFC LITTLE
I'm going in.

PFC Little moves closer to the North Korean soldiers, points his rifle.

BULLSEYE VIEW THROUGH THE CROSSHAIRS OF PFC LITTLE'S WEAPON

LT KEMP
PFC Little!

Lt Kemp fires at enemy soldiers.

PFC Little continues to fire at enemy soldiers then fires the last shot from his weapon.

PFC LITTLE
I'm out.

PFC Little grabs a GRENADE attached to his vest and charges the North Korean position.

PFC LITTLE (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Stand or die!

PFC Little hurls the grenades at the North Korean position, destroys three North Korean Soldiers then takes cover and notices that he's isolated from his unit.

LT KEMP
PFC Little!

Lieutenant Kemp fires several more shots killing enemy soldiers.

PFC Little grabs for more grenades but notices that he's out, grabs his entrenching tool, then charges the North Korean soldiers...alone.

PFC Little hits one North Korean soldier in the head, then hits another.

A BULLET pierces PFC Little's chest and comes out of his back, he charges ahead and hits another North Korean soldier.

ANOTHER BULLET hits PFC Little in the chest.

PFC Little tries to swing his entrenching tool but is only able to swing at nothing before dropping dead, alone--another "forgotten soldier".

Lieutenant Kemp and his unit fire shots at the North Korean enemy soldiers.

PFC JONES

Sir, we're gonna be overrun!

LT KEMP

Hold!

The North Korean soldiers advance.

Soldiers drop dead from North Korean bullets.

Then all of a sudden.

A WAVE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND SHERMAN TANKS storm by Lieutenant Kemp and his men to demolish the NORTH KOREAN STRONGHOLD

The look of despair on Lieutenant Kemp's face turns into a beacon of light.

LT KEMP (CONT'D)

Stand or Die!

The soldiers rejoice at the sight of the American and United Nations reinforcements.

Maggie takes pictures of the soldiers in their moment of victory.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

(to Lt.Kemp)

Hey Lieutenant, how does it feel to be a hero?

Lieutenant Kemp stops, thinks about the other soldiers who gave their lives.

LT. KEMP

We're not heroes, we're just forgotten soldiers.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

No you're not, you're a legacy.

Lieutenant Kemp thinks for a moment, then cracks a bittersweet smile.

SNAP. SNAP.

Maggie takes a picture.

INT. THE BATAAN - DAY

General Douglas MacArthur paces up and down the aisle of his transport plane, The Bataan, angry, as he speaks with his political advisor WILLIAM SEBALD, 50's.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

They all have it in for me, I know they do!

WILLIAM SEBALD

--Mac.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Those goons in the State Department are sitting in their conference room plotting on my demise and want to undermine my position.

WILLIAM SEBALD

Mac, you're losing it.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

--That John Allison is tip toeing behind my back.

WILLIAM SEBALD

John A. is merely getting information from the front to give to Washington.

General MacArthur pauses for a moment, thinks, then changes his statement.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Maybe John A. Was just trying to support me in getting more troops to the front.

(to himself)

That's right.

(then)

(MORE)

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

But Allison knows nothing about the Asians and we can't count on him for a solid opinion.

WILLIAM SEBALD

Lets set up a meeting with the Chiefs of Mission to talk this thing out.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

They have no responsibility for Korea and need not be consulted. This is my command and if the President nor the King of England require consult, they shouldn't either.

WILLIAM SEBALD

Then what do we do?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I'll draft a letter to Washington proclaiming ultimate victory. Our troops have a long way to go to win back the 38th parallel and seize our most prized objective, the Yalu River, but we will win. We-Will-Win!

INT. VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS-HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The national meeting at the Veterans of Foreign Wars headquarters.

The PRESIDENT OF THE VFW reads the letter.

INTERCUT: VFW MEETING / SERIES OF SHOTS

PRESIDENT VFW

General MacArthur has issued a statement to the membership outlining his views on the current state of the forces in Korea.

PRESIDENT VFW (CONT'D)

(reading the letter)

Thank you, veterans of the VFW for your continued support and your successors--the fighting American men sacrificing their lives during these difficult times in Korea.

THE MEMBERS OF THE VFW listen to the letter being read.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O)

In view of misconceptions currently being voiced concerning the relationship of Formosa to our strategic potential in the Pacific, I believe it is the public interest to avail myself of this opportunity to state my views thereon to you, all of whom having fought overseas understood broad strategic concepts.

Shots of: Pearl Harbor being attacked and Japanese Soldiers marching in formation.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)

Prior to World War II, the Pacific had been an avenue of weakness for the United States as evidenced by the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. The American victory changed this.

The President of the VFW concludes the reading of the letter.

PRESIDENT VFW

Our line of defense is a natural one and can be maintained with a minimum of military effort and expense.

Everyone in the room looks at each other with concern.

PRESIDENT VFW (CONT'D)

If we hold this line we may have peace; lose it and war is inevitable. Should Formosa fall into the hands of a hostile power, history would repeat itself--it would shift any future battle area five thousand miles eastward to the coasts of the American continents, our home coast.

(then)

That's all.

The VFW members cheer and applaud.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman meets with his advisors after learning of General MacArthur's statement to the VFW.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What in God's name gives him the right to release statements that he has no right to give?

DEAN ACHESON

Apparently, the message was not only leaked to the VFW but to all of the major newspapers.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What gets me so angry is not what he said but who gave him the authority and right to say it.

(then)

You know, I think that blasted general is trying to run for president again.

LOUIS JOHNSON

Sir--

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

--He's not satisfied with losing the election, he wants to try to lead the country from Japan. The man can't get enough.

GENERAL BRADLEY

The British are concerned that if MacArthur's statements are misperceived by the Chinese as us supporting Chiang and the Nationalists, things can grow out of control.

LOUIS JOHNSON

Statements like this coming from the commander of U.N and U.S. Forces can have serious implications.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

From now on we need to put a leash on General MacArthur. Major statements regarding our foreign policy will come from Washington D.C and Washington D.C. only, not the Dai Ichi building.

DEAN ACHESON

I'll send the memo sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 (to the participants in
 the room)
 Did anyone here know of these
 statements in advance? Anyone?

The men shake their heads and shrug.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)
 General MacArthur must withdraw his
 message immediately. I'll send the
 order.

LOUIS JOHNSON
 Sir, you can't publicly reprimand
 the general. It'll rip apart your
 image in the eyes of the public.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 Did you know anything about
 MacArthur's statement? Did you?

LOUIS JOHNSON
 No.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 Are you sure, Louis?

LOUIS JOHNSON
 No, no. I'll call General
 MacArthur now and request that he
 cancel the statement in question.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 Thank you.
 (then, to the joint
 chiefs)
 Are you sure any of you or your
 staff heard nothing of these
 statements before they were
 released?

The Joint Chiefs shrug and shake their heads.

GENERAL COLLINS
 We knew nothing.

AVERELL HARRIMAN
 This is an utter catastrophe.

DEAN ACHESON
 The message must be withdrawn.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Absolutely. The message must be
withdrawn, immediately.

The room concurs with President Truman.

LOUIS JOHNSON
(reluctantly)
I'll issue the request now.

The meeting ends and the men leave.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur receives the cable message sent by Louis Johnson.

INSET - LETTER, The letter reads:

"The President of the United States directs you to withdraw your message for national encampment of Veterans of Foreign Wars, because various features with respect to Formosa are in conflict with the policy of the United States and it's position in the United Nations."

INT. VFW HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The President of the VFW receives a statement from General MacArthur regarding the prior message to the VFW.

He reads the message.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)
I regret to inform you that I have
been directed to withdraw my
message.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

NEWS REPORTERS engage President Truman's press secretary, CHARLIE ROSS, regarding the VFW letter.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Mr. Ross, the VFW and the Republican are heralding General MacArthur for his integrity and confidence in his abilities while the administration continues to bungle the same way that delivered Manchuria and China to the Communists culminating in the Korean conflict.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Is there a rift between you and General MacArthur?

CHARLIE ROSS

There is no rift and the incident is closed.

NEWS REPORTER #1

But isn't it a fact that General MacArthur has disregarded instructions and policy a number of times since the outbreak of aggression in Korea?

CHARLIE ROSS

No comment on that.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)

That's the day I should have fired him. I knew it was only a matter of time before there'd be a showdown. But they talked me out of it. They said it would cause too much of an uproar so I didn't do it.

INT. TRUMAN HOUSE-INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI - NIGHT

Bess Truman reads the letter written by President Truman.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)

To my Dear Bess, I have decided to fire Louis Johnson. His rebel rousing in the administration and his egotistical ambitions made him more trouble than he is worth. I don't want to recruit a third secretary in three years, but Louis has to go. I will break the news to him delicately.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 In turn, I will appoint General
 Marshall as the new secretary in
 Louis Johnson's place.

FLASHBACK

-President Truman fires Louis Johnson.

END FLASHBACK

TRUMAN HOUSE

Bess Truman continues to read President Truman's letter.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)
 Louis Johnson took the firing hard,
 but I quickly urged Congress to
 appoint Marshall through a waiver.
 The confirmation of Marshall lasted
 less than an hour. Marshall told
 me the other day "Mr. President you
 have only to tell me what you want
 and I will do it." Can you think
 of anyone else saying that?

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur evaluates the battle update briefs of the
 Korean War.

General MacArthur focuses on a map that highlights Inchon,
 the port city west of Seoul.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)
 The seas are controlled by the
 Navy, the air, by the planes of the
 Air Force and Johnnie Walker's
 Eighth Army has stabilized the
 outside of the Pusan perimeter.
 Now before I make the ill fated
 trip into retirement or Valhalla, I
 have but one final, magnificent
 feat to accomplish--my piece de
 resistance--an amphibious assault
 on Inchon.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur is briefed by several officers who were
 designated to formulate the plan to perform an amphibious
 landing on Inchon. Lawton "Joe" Collins, Army Chief of Staff

and FORREST SHERMAN, Chief of Naval Operations are present.

Two Navy STAFF OFFICERS brief General MacArthur.

STAFF OFFICER #1

Sir, there are two main factors negating the success of the landing: tide and terrain. The tides will be at 30 feet during our planned day of the landing and the "Flying Fish Channel" is narrow and winding making it an ideal location for enemy mines.

STAFF OFFICER #2

Sir, Inchon's mud banks will make the troops sitting ducks for the Communist shore batteries.

ADMIRAL SHERMAN

General, if every possible geographical and naval handicap were listed, Inchon has 'em all.

General Collins intercedes.

GENERAL COLLINS

Mac, Inchon is too far in the rear to have any necessary immediate effect on the enemy. It would be wiser to go after Kunsan which is easier and poses less obstacles.

ADMIRAL SHERMAN

I agree. We would need the 1st Marine Brigade to secure Inchon jeopardizing our stronghold in South Korea.

General MacArthur hears a voice in his head. It's from his father, ARTHUR MACARTHUR SR.

ARTHUR MACARTHUR SR. (V.O.)

Doug, councils of war breed timidity and defeatism.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The bulk of the Reds are committed around Walker's defense perimeter. The enemy, I am convinced, has failed to prepare Inchon properly for defense. Surprise is the most vital element for success in war.

The room gazes at General MacArthur in silence.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

As an example, the Marquis de Montcalm believed in 1759 that it was impossible for an armed force to scale the precipitous river banks south of the then walled city of Quebec and concentrated his formidable defenses north of the city.

General MacArthur strolls over to a desk globe, observes it, spins it.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

But General James Wolfe and a small force did indeed come up the St. Lawrence River and scale those heights. On the Plains of Abraham, Wolfe won a stunning victory that was made possible almost entirely by surprise. Thus he captured Quebec and in effect ended the French and Indian War.

General MacArthur maneuvers to the center of the room.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

Like Montcalm, the North Koreans would regard an Inchon landing as impossible. Like Wolfe, I could take them by surprise!

Everyone in the room agrees.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

The Navy's statements about tide and terrain are both substantial and pertinent. However, I have more confidence in the Navy than the Navy has in itself.

The Navy officers look on in agreement.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

The only alternative to a strike such as I propose will be the continuation of the savage sacrifice at Pusan with no hope of relief in sight. Who will take the responsibility for such a tragedy? Certainly, I will not.

The room remains silent.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

The prestige of the Western world hangs in the balance. Make the wrong decision here--the fatal decision of inertia--and we'll be done. I can almost hear the ticking of the second hand of destiny. We must act now or we will die!

The tension in the room loosens.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

If my estimate is inaccurate and should I run into a defense with which I cannot cope, I will be there personally to withdraw our forces before they are committed to a bloody attack. But Inchon will not fail. Inchon will succeed and Inchon will save one-hundred thousand lives!

The room applauds.

ADMIRAL SHERMAN

Thank You. A great voice in a great cause.

The room stands in agreement and congratulates General MacArthur.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur receives a wire telegram from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The wire reads: "We concur after reviewing the information brought back by General Collins and Admiral Sherman, in making preparation and executing a turning movement by amphibious forces on the West Coast of Korea--at Inchon."

General MacArthur folds the telegram and smiles to himself.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

Shortly before the launch of the mission to land on Inchon, General MacArthur conducts last minute preparations.

The building is BUZZING with excitement as personnel and equipment are being staged for the operation to perform an amphibious assault on Inchon.

One of General MacArthur's AIDES enters the briefing room with a telegram.

AIDE

Sir, you have a message. It's from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General MacArthur looks up in amazement, opens the letter.

AIDE (CONT'D)

What does it say?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The letter reads: "We have noted with considerable concern the recent trend of events in Korea. In the light of the commitment of all the reserves available to the Eighth Army, we desire your estimate as to the feasibility and chance of success of projected operation if initiated on planned schedule."

General MacArthur's heart sinks with disappointment.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

(to the aide)

Give me a pencil and paper.

AIDE

Is Washington getting scared all of a sudden?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

We can't leave it to chance.

General MacArthur pencils in his reply.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)

(writing the reply letter)

I regard the chance of success of the operation as excellent. I repeat that I and all of my commanders and staff officers, without exception, are enthusiastic for and confident of the success of the enveloping movement.

MOMENTS LATER

General MacArthur receives a short, cryptic message from the Joint Chiefs of Staff--

INSERT - MESSAGE, the message reads:

"In view of your reply, the operation is approved and we have so informed the President."

General MacArthur sits back in his chair with a sigh of relief.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - THE HENRICO - DAY

The crew of The Henrico, including Maggie, the UNITED STATES MARINES who will be conducting the invasion, listen to the battle briefing for the Inchon landing.

The briefing is conducted by CAPTAIN FRADD, 40's and COLONEL MURRAY, 40's.

COLONEL MURRAY

Our assault will be on Red beach.

CAPTAIN FRADD

Which really isn't a beach at all, but a rough sea wall of big boulders.

COLONEL MURRAY

At the moment of the first landing, the wall will tower twelve feet above the water line.

CAPTAIN FRADD

Aerial photographs show deep trenches dug in on the inland side of the wall. If there are any enemy still there when we strike, it's going to be murder.

COLONEL MURRAY

The harbor is extremely narrow, therefore transport ships will have to anchor about nine miles away. Space in the harbor is reserved for warships.

CAPTAIN FRADD

There will be six landings in all. At dawn, the first troops will storm Wolmi Island.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN FRADD (CONT'D)

Then, at five-thirty in the afternoon, marine assaults will be hurled at Red Beach and then at Blue Beach. Specifically trained South Korean marines will be charged with mopping up any enemy by-passed by our troops.

INT. THE HENRICO - DAY

THE CREW, THE MARINES AND MAGGIE, get word that Wolmi Island has been secured--they cheer.

MARINES along with Maggie, board their boats to assault Inchon.

A SHIP ATTENDANT shouts:

SHIP ATTENDANT
Wave Number Five!

MAGGIE'S BOAT

Heads towards Inchon, approaches WOLMI ISLAND. The island looks as if a giant forest fire swept over it.

Maggie's boat passes through the channel as the ears of the crew are shattered by the BOOMING and BOMBARDMENT of the carriers and cruisers.

The boat approaches RED BEACH after waiting in the harbor for H hour.

BOOM!!!

A ROCKET

Hits a round oil tower on the beach as big, black, smoke rings ascend into the air.

BOOM!!

THE SKY

Begins to roar as airplanes start to soar in to attack the beach, bombing and striking the sea wall.

Nothing could have survived the bombings of the planes.

The boat is filled with silence.

MAGGIE AND THE MARINES stare at the shore ahead.

LIEUTENANT SHENING, shouts instructions from the control ship:

LIEUTENANT SHENING
Keep your heads down.

The boat speeds up and RUSHES toward the beach.

AN AMBER COLORED STAR SHELL bursts above the beach.

Out of nowhere...

BRIGHTLY COLORED TRACER BULLETS cut across the top part of the boat.

Everyone in the boat is curled-up and contorted with fear.

The boat SMASHES into the beach sea wall.

A First Lieutenant, BALDOMERO LOPEZ, leads the charge as an array of CROSSFIRE whiz above the head of the crew.

LIEUTENANT LOPEZ
Come on you big, brave Marines.
Let's get the hell out of here.

THE MARINES

Climb out of the boat and head to the beach, Maggie takes pictures.

MAGGIE AND THE MARINES snake over the boulders avoiding TRACER BULLETS finding cover in a curve below the dip.

A BOAT (LST) comes toward them out of nowhere with its plank door down.

SMAAAASH.

THE LST stops just a few feet away almost crushing them.

THE MARINES AND MAGGIE gather themselves and storm towards their objective supported by rocket fire nearly missing them.

THE MARINES engage the enemy North Koreans in their trenches with speed and precision and advance to their objective as SEVERAL MARINES are mowed down by enemy fire.

First Lieutenant Lopez discharges a HAND GRENADE to throw into a North Korean bunker but is hit by automatic weapons in the chest and right shoulder causing him to drop the grenade.

Realizing that the grenade is about to detonate and kill his fellow Marines, Lt.

Lopez crawls over to the grenade, but unable to throw it due to his injuries, uses his body to shield the blast and is killed instantly.

THE ENEMY DEFENDERS are overwhelmed by the hail of bullets from friendly forces.

THE OBJECTIVE IS OBTAINED!

EXT. USSS MOUNT MCKINLEY - DAY

General MacArthur watches the attack at Inchon from his lookout chair on the deck of the USS McKinley.

General MacArthur is flanked by General Whitney, and GENERAL EDWARD ALMOND, 50's as he relishes in victory.

THE SKY is ROCKED by BLUE CORSAIRS swooping down from the sky to attack Inchon.

A TRAIL OF FIERY ROCKETS light up the sky as they SHOOT towards the harbor.

GUNS from the ship provide a BOMBARDMENT of FIREPOWER towards the enemy.

GENERAL ALMOND

(pointing)

The 5th Marines are storming the beach as we speak.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Victory is ours.

(then, to General Almond.)

General Almond.

GENERAL ALMOND

Yes, sir.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Prepare for Seoul.

GENERAL ALMOND

Yes, sir.

General Almond leaves to make preparations for the attack on Seoul.

EXT. SEOUL - DAY

Lieutenant Kemp and his company are in a fierce "cat and mouse" battle to recapture the city of Seoul.

They are confronted by intense North Korean forces in a street battle.

BOOOOM.

A COMPLEX EXPLODES in a CLOUD OF FIRE AND SMOKE as it is hit with ammunition shells from an American tank.

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

North Koreans are barricaded in an abandoned building.

RUNNING FEET are shown charging down the Seoul streets with BULLETS bouncing mere inches from them.

They belong to...

Lieutenant Kemp and his men as they race down the Seoul street dodging NORTH KOREAN BULLETS to find cover from the life threatening hail of ammunition.

The team runs into an INTERSECTION BARRICADED WITH BURLAP BAGS and fortified by SNIPERS with 45MM ANTI-TANK MACHINE GUNS.

LT KEMP

Go, go ,go. Get cover. Get cover.

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

A soldier is hit by a bullet and is instantly killed, but the team keeps moving.

Another returns fire and hits a North Korean soldier.

SOLDIER #1

Shoot. Move. Communicate.

Lieutenant Kemp leaves the team with three other Soldiers and moves into an ABANDONED BUILDING to get cover and positioning.

The team climbs a flight of stairs and heads into an OPEN SPACE

TWO NORTH KOREAN SOLDIERS come out of no where with knives drawn--they're out of ammo.

One North Korean Soldier attacks, LT. Kemp shoots him, dead.

The other North Korean attacks the team of American Soldiers and gets a BULLET from each of the Soldiers.

The team establishes a position near a window and begins to assault the North Korean forces.

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

North Koreans begin to fall like DOMINOS.

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

North Koreans continue to FALL from A HAIL OF GUNFIRE from Lieutenant Kemp and his team.

LT KEMP
We got 'em. Lets go!

The team moves out then begins to head for the stairs.

Then.

BOOOOMMMM.

THE ROOM EXPLODES from a rocket propelled grenade sending Lieutenant Kemp and his team pummeling down the stairs.

The team regroup, looks for another place to assault the North Koreans.

BOOOOMMMM.

THE BARRICADE OF BURLAP BAGS

Explodes in a cloud of smoke taking a slew of North Korean snipers and riflemen with it.

Several North Korean soldiers are still alive and are in a stand off with LT. Kemp and the American Soldiers.

It's a tennis match of gunfire.

LT KEMP
They're flanking left!

The Americans spot the North Koreans and fire.

The North Korean soldiers drop like marionettes.

LT KEMP (CONT'D)
Let's go!

THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS relieve their position and advance to the North Korean Soldier position killing the remaining Soldiers.

BOOOOOMMMM.

A FINAL BLAST from an American Tank destroys another North Korean position and signifies the end of the battle--The Second Battle for Seoul.

THE SMOKE begins to clear as we see masses of North Korean soldiers raise their hands in surrender to United Nations forces.

Lieutenant Kemp has a moment as he watches the defeat of his enemies.

The war is over!

INT. SEOUL CAPITAL BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur holds a ceremony to restore the capital of Seoul to the Republic of Korea.

ROWS OF ARMED OFFICERS are present including Lieutenant Kemp and Maggie Higgins.

General MacArthur pins a Distinguished Service Cross on General Walker and General Almond and promotes Lieutenant Kemp to Captain.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

(to LT. Kemp)

This is for outstanding performance
in battle.

The President of South Korea, Syngman Rhee, is present and looks on.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

(to the room)

All rise. Let us recite the Lord's
Prayer.

The room stands and begins to recite the Lord's Prayer.

ROOM

Our Father, which art in heaven...

DISSOLVE TO:

The room concludes the Lord's Prayer.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

...for thine is the Kingdom, the
Power and the Glory, forever and
ever, Amen.

The room sits.

General MacArthur turns to Syngman Rhee and speaks.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

Mr. President, my officers and I
will now resume our military duties
and leave you and your government
to the discharge of the civil
responsibility.

President Rhee is touched. He stands up, clasps General
MacArthur's hand to speak as tears flow from his eyes--

SYNGMAN RHEE

We admire you. We love you as
savior of our race.

The audience applauds.

General MacArthur is driven down the streets of Seoul where
the citizens cheer and wave paper flags.

EXT. SEOUL CAPITAL BUILDING - DAY

A newly promoted CAPTAIN JACK KEMP is standing with
colleagues, joking and laughing about the battle and
successes at Seoul.

CPT KEMP

(to his colleagues)

Yeah, the General promoted me
himself. Isn't that grand?

A SERGEANT approaches CPT Kemp.

SERGEANT

CPT. Kemp?

CPT KEMP

Yes.

SERGEANT

A letter for you.

CPT Kemp hesitates to take the letter.

The Sergeant walks away.

CPT Kemp doesn't open the letter; he puts it into his jacket
pocket.

Maggie approaches CPT Kemp.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
Hey Soldier.

CPT KEMP
Hey.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
How goes it? I hear the whole peninsula is buzzing over Inchon.

CPT KEMP
Couldn't be a better day.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
Wait a minute.

Maggie steps back, pulls out her camera and...

SNAP. SNAP.

Maggie takes another picture of now CPT Kemp.

MAGGIE HIGGINS (CONT'D)
Congratulations on the promotion,
hero.

CPT Kemp thinks for a moment, remembering the lives of his fellow soldiers lost.

CPT KEMP
I'm just a forgotten soldier
fighting in a forgotten war.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
You're a hero, Kemp.
(beat)
I was kicked off the peninsula for
being a woman. Despite being
considered "one of the guys" the
leadership wanted me gone...just
for being a woman. If it weren't
for MacArthur reinstating me...
(then)
Well, I guess we both know what it
means to be forgotten. We just
need to keep pushing to make sure
the world remembers us.

CPT Kemp just stares off into the distance.

CPT KEMP
It doesn't matter now. What's done
is done. The war is all but over
now.

There is a pause and a silence between the two.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
Hey, gotta go. My ride is leaving.
Catch ya later.

CPT KEMP
Catch ya later.

Maggie takes off.

INT. CPT KEMPS' LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Captain Kemp anxiously reads a letter from home. It's from the hospital in the town where his family resides.

INSERT - THE LETTER reads:

"Mr. Kemp, your wife went into unexpected labor with your child and experienced complications during the process. We are pleased to inform you that both wife and child are fine after numerous surgery attempts. My most sincere congratulations."

CPT. Kemp bursts into tears of joy.

Thoughts of going home dance in his head.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur and other Officers celebrate the Inchon victory at their Tokyo headquarters.

A YOUNG OFFICER, yells--

YOUNG OFFICER
General MacArthur does it again!

An AIDE approaches General MacArthur.

AIDE
Sir, you have a cable from the
President.

General MacArthur reads the CABLE MESSAGE.

General MacArthur opens the message and reads it.

INSERT - THE MESSAGE reads:

"I know that I speak for the entire American people when I send you my warmest congratulations on the victory which has been achieved under your leadership in Korea. Few operations in military history can match either the delaying action where you traded space for time in which has now resulted in the liberation of Seoul. I salute you all, and say to all of you from all of us at home, well and nobly done."

General MacArthur looks at the message and smiles to himself.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

President Truman holds a press conference after the victory of Inchon.

A NEWS REPORTER asks a question:

NEWS REPORTER #1

Mr. President have you decided what our troops will do when they reach the 38th parallel in Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No I have not.

Another News Reporter asks a question.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Has MacArthur been given permission to cross the 38th parallel?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

That is a matter I can't answer publicly right now. MacArthur is under direct orders of the President and the chief of staff.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Do those orders imply crossing the 38th parallel?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I can't answer the question.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Mr. President, you said that crossing the 38th parallel was a United Nations decision but just stated that MacArthur was under your direct orders. Please clarify.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I appointed General MacArthur as Supreme Commander at the request of the United Nations. If they want further orders issued to MacArthur, I will abide.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Sir, and what about the broadcast regarding the surrender of the North Koreans via the statement by MacArthur?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

The broadcast of MacArthur made today was taken up by me, inviting them to surrender. I think he is making the broadcast today.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Is this a demand for conditional surrender?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

You will have to wait for General MacArthur's broadcast, and then I will comment on that and answer your question.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Could you tell us when you expect him to make it?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I think sometime today.
(then to Charlie Ross)
Isn't it Charlie?

CHARLIE ROSS

I think it is today.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I think it is today. I think he is going to make it today and then you can get the release from the State Department.

The two leave the pressroom.

The News Reporters look at each other, baffled at the confusion of remarks from the White House.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

Two days later, General MacArthur issues a statement to the leaders of North Korea's government.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The early and total defeat of and complete destruction of your armed forces and war-making potential is now inevitable.

Shots of: Planes dropping leaflets over North Korea and being read by military personnel and civilians

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)

In order that the decisions of the United Nations may be carried out with a minimum of further loss of life and destruction of property, I, as the United Nations Commander in Chief, call upon you and the forces under your command, in whatever part of Korea situated, forthwith to lay down your arms and cease hostilities under such military supervisions as I may direct.

Moments later, an AIDE walks into General MacArthur's office and hands him a slip of paper.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

(to the room)

The North Koreans have declined our offer to surrender.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur reads the directive sent via telegram from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

GENERAL BRADLEY (V.O.)

Your military objective is the destruction of the North Korean armed forces.

(MORE)

GENERAL BRADLEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In attaining this objective you are authorized to conduct military operations, including amphibious and airborne landings or ground operations north of the 38th Parallel in Korea, provided that at the time of such operation there has been no such entry into North Korea by major Soviet or Chinese Communist forces, no announcement of intended entry, nor a threat to counter our operations militarily in North Korea.

General MacArthur takes in this message.

GENERAL BRADLEY (V.O.)

Under no circumstances will your forces cross the Manchurian or USSR borders of Korea and, as a matter of policy, no non-Korean ground forces will be used in the northeast provinces bordering the Soviet Union or in the area along the Manchurian border.

INT. PENTAGON (JCS HEADQUARTERS) - DAY

General Omar Bradley receives plans for MacArthur's forces to end the Korean War and reads the letter in front of the other Joint Chiefs and new Secretary of Defense, GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, 50's.

GENERAL BRADLEY

(re; the letter)

If the North Koreans reject my order for surrender, the Eighth Army would cross the 38th parallel and drive to Pyongyang and X corps would make an amphibious landing at Wonsan with a goal of uniting with the Eighth Army and cutting North Korea in two. ROK forces will conduct operations in the northern part of North Korea

General Bradley reads the final statement from the message.

GENERAL BRADLEY (CONT'D)

(reading the message)

There is no indication at present of entry into North Korea by major Soviet or Chinese Communist forces.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur receives a telegram from General George C. Marshall, Secretary of Defense, reads it--

GENERAL MARSHALL (V.O.)

We want you to feel unhampered tactically and strategically to proceed north of the 38th parallel. Evident desire is not to be confused with necessity of a vote on passage of the 38th parallel. Rather to find you have found it militarily necessary to do so.

General MacArthur writes a reply to General Marshall.

INT. PENTAGON - GENERAL MARSHALL'S OFFICE - DAY

General Marshall reads the reply note sent by General MacArthur.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)

I accept and confirm your authorization to proceed past the 38th parallel and it is not a factor in the military employment of our forces. Unless and until the enemy capitulates, I regard all of Korea open for our military operations.

General Marshall folds the telegram, puts it in his coat pocket.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman holds a conference with his advisors.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Gentlemen, I think it's about time I have a meeting with our beloved General MacArthur. We have never had any personal contacts and I think that he ought to know his Commander in Chief and that I ought to know the senior field commander in the Far East.

(then, to General
Marshall)

George, what do you think?

GENERAL MARSHALL

That sounds like a good idea.

DEAN ACHESON

What do you plan to do during the visit?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I want to review the overall situation in Korea, the probable future developments and the length of time necessary for American forces to be there.

DEAN ACHESON

MacArthur could be outstepping your authority in Korea.

GENERAL MARSHALL

We all know of his disdain for you and White House politics.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I need to know where we stand in Korea and if the Chinese are likely to interfere.

DEAN ACHESON

This is a splendid idea, Mr. President. We have been thinking about this matter for some time in the State Department and I'm glad you brought this to light. We will just have to be careful with the Formosa issue.

GENERAL MARSHALL

We don't want to undo the relationship we started within the U.N..

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No need to worry. I'll have the situation under control.

(then)

I'll cable General MacArthur first thing in the morning. We'll meet at Wake Island.

DEAN ACHESON

I'll draw up a script for conversation.

GENERAL MARSHALL

I'll cable MacArthur and see what his preferences are for the meeting and set a date for October 15th.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I've got a whale of a job ahead of me. I've got to talk to God's Right Hand Man.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General Douglas MacArthur meets with William Sebald and General Courtney Whitney to discuss President Truman's request to meet at Wake Island.

General MacArthur paces up and down his office bursting with anger and suspicion.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I smell a political rat I tell you. Not since Roosevelt pulled the wool over my eyes in '44 that I can sense some trickery behind these good intentions. It's one, big, political junket.

WILLIAM SEBALD

The reporters are asking if they can join you for the trip.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Request denied! The pentagon wants me to travel to this beating alone.

General MacArthur pulls out a few telegrams then reads them aloud.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

(reading the telegrams)

"For heaven's sake, please talk some sense into Truman".

(then, another telegram)

"We urge you to use every means in your power to frustrate the plot to give Formosa and eventually the rest of Asia to the communists"

(then, another telegram)

"Do not give in on Formosa"

GENERAL WHITNEY

The people are behind you.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
It's not the people that I'm
worried about. It's the
politicians in Washington that
disgust me.

GENERAL WHITNEY
I don't trust them, I just don't.

WILLIAM SEBALD
Nobody trusts them.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
Looks like I have to leave one war
to go fight another.

EXT. OAHU - DAY

Truman arrives to Hawaii to meet with the Hawaiian
territorial governor Admiral ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD.

ADMIRAL RADFORD
Welcome Mr. President. I'm glad
you can make it.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
I was in the neighborhood, so I
though I'd stop by.

ADMIRAL RADFORD
My staff has a day full of events
planned for you.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Not enough time for that, I just
want to see the troops.

ADMIRAL RADFORD
Gladly. Follow me. We can make a
trip to the hospital.

THE HOSPITAL

Truman visits the hospital to shake hands with the soldiers
wounded in Korea.

ADMIRAL RADFORD
Well, here you are.

Truman scans the room to see the wounded men.

Truman's heart SINKS as he inspects the results of the war in Korea.

He walks up to an injured PRIVATE, 20's, to shake his hand.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
How are you, son.

PRIVATE
Not well, sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Everything's going to be alright, son.

PRIVATE
I sure hope so, sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
The nation thanks you for your selfless service.

PRIVATE
Thank you, sir.

Truman gets up to walk away.

PRIVATE (CONT'D)
Sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Yes.

PRIVATE
Whatever you do, don't forget about us. Don't forget what happened here.

President Truman thinks about the Private's statement deeply.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
I won't.

President Truman leaves the hospital.

EXT. WAKE ISLAND - DAY

General McArthur and his advisors await the arrival of President Truman's plane, The Independence, as it lands on the arrival deck.

The doors to The Independence open and President Truman deplanes with his advisors and a number of aides.

General MacArthur is at the foot of the ramp, shirt unbuttoned, wearing a well worn "ham and eggs" cap.

General MacArthur doesn't salute President Truman, but merely stands with his hands on his hips.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I've been waiting for a long time to meet you, General.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I hope it won't be so long next time, Mr. President.

The photographers take a barrage of pictures.

The two shake hands, hop into a two door sedan, then convene into a special meeting room; the support staff follow close behind.

INT. SMALL MEETING ROOM - DAY

President Truman removes his coat in response to the immediate heat.

General MacArthur pulls out a briar pipe.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Do you mind if I smoke, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No, I suppose I've had more smoke blown in my face than any other man alive.

The two men share a laugh.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

Thank you, General, for taking valuable time from your duties in Korea.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Thank you, Mr. President, for having me. I can assure you that things are well under control with a certain victory in Korea and no immediate threat from the Chinese communist to enter the war.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Its good that things are well in
hand and that we can look forward
to the future. And Japan?

GENERAL MACARTHUR
They're ready for a peace treaty

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Marvelous. Well done, General.

A moment of silence.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
I'm sorry if I caused you any
embarrassment with my statements in
regards to Formosa. I meant...

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
--Consider the incident closed.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
Please be assured that I am not
into politics in anyway. I allowed
the politicians to make a fool of
me in '44. It won't happen again.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
There are plans to reallocate
forces to Europe.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
I understand your concerns and I
expect to be able to send a
division from Korea by beginning of
the year.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
It's good to see that we are on the
same page.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
We most certainly are, Mr.
President. We most certainly are.

The two remain silent and just gaze at each other.

An AIDE enters the room.

AIDE
The transportation is ready to take
you to the conference.

The two depart with the aide for the main meeting:

The WAKE ISLAND CONFERENCE.

INT. LARGE MEETING ROOM - WAKE ISLAND - DAY

President Truman and General MacArthur enter a larger meeting room, wooden, with two entrances freshly painted green.

The additional personnel present at this meeting include: Admiral Radford, AMBASSADOR JOHN MUCCIO, Secretary of the Army Pace, General Bradley, Philip Jessup and Dean Rusk from the State Department, Averell Harriman, and COLONEL HAMBLÉN of General Bradley's staff.

The building is surrounded by Marine MPS with carbines and Secret Service men.

LARGE MEETING ROOM

The Wake Island Conference is underway. The room is locked on General MacArthur as he responds to statements surrounding Korea.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

As far as I can see, all conflict in Korea is coming to an end and should be resolved by Thanksgiving. I expect to be able to withdraw the Eighth Army to Japan by Christmas.

FRANK PACE

General, do you feel that you are getting the cooperation you need from Washington?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

No commander in the history of war ever had more complete adequate support from all agencies in Washington than I have.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What are the chances for Chinese or Soviet interference?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Very small. I think there is little chance that the Chinese will come in.

(MORE)

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

At most, they will be able to bring in fifty to sixty thousand men into Korea, but since they have no Air Force any attempts will just turn into a mass slaughter.

GENERAL BRADLEY

And what about the Russians?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The Russians have no ground troops for Korea which would encourage a Russian-Chinese air-ground coalition that just wouldn't work in Korea.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What are your insights and recommendations for the issuance of a peace treaty with Japan?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I favor a peace treaty with Japan greatly. It would mend relations a lot faster. I especially support the draft created by the State Department.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What about a Pacific pact?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

A Pacific pact would be a one way street given their weak military and inability to support such an agreement.

The room is silent.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No one who was not here would believe we have covered so much ground as we have been actually able to cover.

President Truman checks his watch. It reads: "9:10 a.m.".

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

In the meantime, a communiqué can be prepared and talks can be carried on among members of the staff. I want to award a couple of people some medals then we can all leave after lunch.

General MacArthur interrupts.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

(interrupting)

If it's all right, I am anxious to get back as soon as possible and would like to leave before luncheon, if that is convenient.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I believe this covers the main topics.

(then)

Secretary Pace, did you have anything else to take up?

FRANK PACE

Yes, but I can take them up separately with the General. I imagine General Bradley has some items also.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

The communique should be submitted as soon as it's ready. General MacArthur can return immediately. This has been a most satisfactory conference.

INT. SEDAN - TRAVELING

President Truman and General MacArthur leave for the airport in a sedan. They chat:

GENERAL MACARTHUR

So, Mr. President, any inclinations of running for office in '52?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Maybe if the weather is right. I sure wouldn't mind serving a third term.

(then)

General MacArthur, are there any aspirations for office on your side?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

None whatsoever. If you have any General running against you, it will be Eisenhower not MacArthur.

Truman laughs.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Eisenhower is a general, not a politician. If Eisenhower becomes President, his administration will make Grant's look like a model of perfection.

EXT. WAKE ISLAND AIRPORT - DAY

President Truman and General MacArthur greet photographers at the airfield for a photo opportunity.

SNAP. SNAP...SNAP. SNAP.

The photographers take a barrage of photos.

President Truman awards General MacArthur the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

For distinguishing himself by extraordinary heroism not justifying the Medal of Honor, while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.

The crowd applauds.

President Truman boards The Independence to depart for home.

General MacArthur waves farewell.

EXT. PYONGYANG - DAY

General MacArthur and the Eighth Army captures Pyongyang and is accompanied by Syngman Rhee.

Eighth Army troops and tanks engage in battle, defeating North Korean soldiers.

PRESS ROOM

General MacArthur gives a statement to the press.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The enemy is thoroughly shattered.

The crowd applauds.

INT. OFFICE OF INDIA AMBASSADOR TO CHINA - DAY

The India Ambassador to China, K.M. PANNIKAR, receives a letter from the chief of staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

K.M. PANNIKAR

(reading aloud)

The Chinese Army will not remain idle if the Americans approach the Yalu River. We may even be forced to use our Atom Bombs. Even if millions are killed, we will still fight.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - CHINA - DAY

Chinese Premier and Foreign Prime Minister, ZHOU ENLAI, gives a speech about China's views of the Korean War. Indian Prime Minister, K.M. Pannikar is present at the conference.

ZHOU ENLAI

The Chinese Army will not be able to fight aggression in defense of peace. They will not tolerate foreign aggression and will not stand aside should the imperialists wantonly invade the territory of their neighbor. If the Americans cross into North Korea, China will enter the war!

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT-WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

Dean Acheson and AMERICAN OFFICIALS learn about the statements from the Chinese.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL #1

K.M. Pannikar just released information about the Chinese possibly entering the war.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL #2

That can't be. Why didn't they get into it then? Why would they all of a sudden determine us crossing the 38th parallel an invasion if the whole conflict was an invasion from the start?

DEAN ACHESON

The whole thing is just Chinese propaganda. They don't want to get chopped up. It's a bluff. A Sino-Soviet military effort is just an effort to save the North Korean regime.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman discusses the statements from the Chinese with his advisors.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No Way! It's all Chinese propaganda. Pannikar is on their side and is just trying to bail them out.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Do you think this has anything to do with the General Assembly vote?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

You darn right it is. We're going to finish this war once and for all.

GENERAL BRADLEY

What do you recommend?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

We need to make modifications to instructions given to General MacArthur.

INT. WHITE HOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - DAY

An ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT types the addendum to the 27 September directive given to General MacArthur allowing him to cross the 38th parallel.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)

In light of the possible intervention of Chinese Communist forces in North Korea, the following amplification of our directive--the directive of September 27 authorizing MacArthur to cross the 38th parallel but telling him to refrain from attacking Chinese territory.

The Administrative Assistant finishes typing the directive, folds it and puts it in an envelope.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur reads the amplification to the amendment given by President Truman.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
(reading the directive to
his advisors)
"....In any case you will obtain
authorization from Washington prior
to taking any military action
against objectives in Chinese
territory".
(then)
Truman's losing his nerve again.

GENERAL WHITNEY
What could this mean?

GENERAL WILLOUGHBY
What does he mean, Chinese
Communist intervention? There is
no intervention.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
Timidity and cynicism. I'm here to
win a war and that's what I am
gonna do.
(to General Whitney)
Whitney.

GENERAL WHITNEY
Yes, sir.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
Issue an order to General Almond
and General Walker that they are to
proceed to the Yalu River and
surpass prior restraints given to
them with all speed and force.

The room is stunned.

GENERAL WHITNEY
I'll get right on it, sir.

INT. X CORPS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

General Almond receives orders to proceed to the Yalu River.

An AIDE enters the room.

AIDE
Sir, a message from General
MacArthur.

General Almond takes the notice and reads it.

INT. EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

General Walker gets the order to move forward from General MacArthur.

GENERAL WALKER
(to himself)
Bloody hell! MacArthur is defying
Truman's orders.

EXT. NORTH KOEA - UNSAN - DAY

The Chinese Communist surprise a unit of American and South Koreans in an American Indian-style massacre.

American and South Korean soldiers sleep together.

A BUGLE begins to play from a far off distance.

Sounds of horses GALLOPING are heard coming closer.

SWARMS OF CHINESE SOLDIERS storm the camps like bats out of hell.

The Chinese soldiers engulf the unsuspecting American and South Korean personnel with their bayonets and rifles.

CPT. Kemp is with his men engaging the Chinese Army.

CPT KEMP
What the hell is going on here!

PVT JONES
We're being attacked by the
Chinese.

A SOLDIER to the right of CPT. Kemp lifts his head to take a view when it is suddenly blown off.

CPT. KEMP
(to himself)
Oh, god.

All hell is breaking lose, bugles are playing, men are dying.

CPT. Kemp looks to the right, men are dying.

CPT. Kemp looks to the left, men are dying.

A PRIVATE screams to CPT. KEMP:

PRIVATE

Sir, what are we going to do?

CPT. Kemp just looks at him in a daze, not being able to hear the sound from the private's mouth, but can only see the lips moving.

Men, women and children who tried to escape the massacre along the roads were chewed up by machine gun fire.

The Chinese attacked with a vengeance then disappeared.

Gone like a cloud of smoke.

EXT. NORTH KOREAN PRESS SITE - DAY

A group of news correspondents, including Maggie Higgins, interview some of the survivors along with CPT. Kemp.

NEWS REPORTER

What happened out there?

SOLDIER #1

I woke up when they started shooting and killing the fellas in the foxhole next to me.

SOLDIER #2

Someone blew a bugle from far away, horses started to gallop and next thing I knew my area was shot to hell in a matter of minutes.

Then the reporters walk over to CPT. Kemp.

CPT. Kemp is stunned and emotionless.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

And what about you?

CPT KEMP

They kicked the hell out of us. We couldn't fight back. The chances were that you hit one of your own men rather than the enemy.

The reporters and other Soldiers leave.

CPT Kemp is standing alone.

His demeanor is slowly turning from that of hero, to defeated, to animal.

Maggie approaches CPT. Kemp.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Jack.

CPT. Kemp remains silent.

MAGGIE HIGGINS (CONT'D)

Please, don't let this war turn you
into an animal. You're not an
animal, you're a hero.

CPT. Kemp doesn't.

Maggie rubs his shoulder, then walks away to board transportation to her next reporting site.

CPT. Kemp calls out to Maggie.

CPT. KEMP

Maggie.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Yeah.

CPT KEMP

Tell my story to the world. Tell
them how we fought and were
forgotten.

MAGGIE HIGGINS

We will not forget you.

Maggie rides off.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur receives word from an aide that there have been reports of Chinese intervention from both Eighth Army and X Corps.

AIDE

Sir, General Almond reports that
there were prisoners captured who
are identified as Chinese. It
appears that their units crossed
the Yalu a few days ago.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Thank you.

AIDE

Also, the Joint Chiefs of Staff want a battle update on the possibility of Chinese interference.

INT. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HEADQUARTERS - DAY

General Bradley and the joint chiefs of staff receive General MacArthur's assessment of Chinese intervention in Korea.

GENERAL BRADLEY

General MacArthur reports back that there is no need to be concerned about Chinese intervention. The contingencies presented to him negate accumulation of military facts.

INT. THE BLAIR HOUSE - DAY

President Truman is taking a nap after eating lunch in his bedroom upstairs in the Blair House.

Two men: OSCAR COLLAZO, 30's and GRISELIO TORRESOLA, 20's, two Puerto Rican Pro-Independence activists, attempt to enter the Blair House to assassinate the President.

Torresola approaches the Blair House from the westside on Pennsylvania Avenue, Collazo walks up behind Capitol Police Officer, DONALD BIRDZELL, who is standing on the steps of the Blair House.

Collazo tries to shoot Donald Birdzell in the back but the gun does not fire because he failed to load a round in the chamber.

Collazo then reaches and loads his weapon with a round and fires the round as Birdzell turns to face him, shooting Birdzell in the right knee.

VINCENT MROZ, 20's, emerges from the East side of the Blair House and opens fire on Collazo, stopping him with a bullet in the chest.

Two other officers open fire on Collazo.

Torresola, approaches the guard booth on the westside of the corner where LESLIE COFFELT, 40's stands. Torresola shoots Coffelt four times at close range.

Torresola then moves toward the Blair house where he shoots police officer, JOSEPH DOWNS, 30's, before he could draw his weapon.

Torresola shoots Downs in the back and in the neck but Downs is able to crawl into the house and secure the door entry denying Torresola entrance into the Blair House.

Toressola approaches the steps of the Blair House and begins to reload his weapon.

President Truman approaches the window to view the commotion. He makes EYE CONTACT with Torresola. Torresola POINTS his weapon at President Truman and fires one shot at the window barely missing Truman.

Truman falls away from the window.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS
Get away from the window!

Leslie Coffelt, injured, leaves the guard booth, props up against its side and fires his .38 caliber service revolver at Torresola hitting him behind the ear and killing him instantly.

Coffelt limps back into the guard booth and blacks out--he dies moments later.

President Truman, in his underwear, looks onto the commotion and the scurry of personnel in the front of the Blair House from his window.

Secret Service men burst in the room of President Truman.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS (CONT'D)
Sir. Sir, please get away from the window. Are you o.k.?

President Truman steps away from the window, dazed.

Charlie Ross enters the bedroom.

CHARLIE ROSS
Mr. President, will you be keeping the dedication appointment at Arlington Cemetery today?

President Truman pauses, thinks, shrugs off the incident--

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
(sarcastically upbeat)
Why certainly.

President Truman walks away to get dressed.

The room is surprised at the President's change of heart-- everyone looks at each other.

INT. THE TRUMAN HOME INDEPENDENCE, MO - DAY

President Truman visits a voting hall in his home town of Missouri to cast a vote.

The telephone rings.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Yes.

Dean Acheson is on the phone.

DEAN ACHESON
Mr. President, General MacArthur has ordered the bombing of targets over the Yalu River without informing the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
How did you find out about this?

DEAN ACHESON
Vandemeyer informed Lovett who informed me. This whole thing is a terrible idea. Bombing is an inexact science. If he hits targets in the Chinese territory, we are headed for a "new war".

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Now look, Dean. MacArthur's got me in a bad spot. If I rescind the order, MacArthur is going to claim that I am preventing him from defending American Troops against communism and that I'm weak. I can't turn the order.

DEAN ACHESON
Sir, MacArthur has made no indication that the threat was serious and immediate and should not be allowed to drop bombs.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

O.K. Dean, you and Lovett can take care of it. I'll be available on the phone if needed. Do not sacrifice the safety of the troops.

DEAN ACHESON

Sir, but you're the President.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I said take care of it.

DEAN ACHESON

O.K. sir. I'll take care of it.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Thank you, Dean.

The two hang up.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur reads the order to halt from Dean Acheson and the Joint Chiefs.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Halt the order? Supply additional justification?

GENERAL WHITNEY

What the hell is going on in the minds of those people?

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Don't they know that men in large forces are pouring across the Yalu from Manchuria?

GENERAL WILLOUGHBY

Intelligence suggests that we can be overrun in certain areas.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

This movement is an attempt to jeopardize and threaten the forces under my command.

(then, to General Whitney)

Issue a statement regarding my position involving the last minute order. Lives are at stake.

INT. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The Joint Chiefs of Staff converse over the General MacArthur statements.

GENERAL BRADLEY
(re: the MacArthur
statement)
"Men in materiel and large forces
are pouring across the river in
large droves."
(beat)
He told us that there will be no
intervention.

GENERAL COLLINS
MacArthur's command is in danger of
being overrun by the Chinese.

GENERAL BRADLEY
On top of that, he demands to
bypass our authority and accept
orders only from the President.

GENERAL VANDENBERG
What do we tell the Dean Acheson?

GENERAL BRADLEY
Nothing.
(to an Aide)
Get President Truman on the
telephone, please.

The AIDE dials the phone number to President Truman.

AIDE
(handing the phone to
General Bradley)
Sir.

GENERAL BRADLEY
(into the phone)
Yes, Mr. President. We have an
issue of great importance. General
MacArthur demands that you give him
permission to proceed with bombings
on the Yalu River.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (O.S.)
Give him the go ahead.

GENERAL BRADLEY
Very well. Will do.

General Bradley hangs up the phone.

EXT. THE CHOSIN RIVER - DAY

UNITED STATES MARINES are in a deep battle. Maggie Higgins is with the Marines during the epic battle of:

THE CHOSIN RIVER

A broadcast from a PEKING RADIO ANNOUNCER plays--

PEKING RADIO ANNOUNCER
The annihilation of the U.S. 1st
Marine Division is only a matter of
time.

Tat.Tat.Tat.Tat.

The Marines are in an ugly battle with the Chinese.

INT. MARINE CORPS BRIEFING ROOM - HAGARU - DAY

Maggie Higgins sits during a briefing given by LIEUTENANT COLONEL RAY MURRAY, 30's. The briefing is given outside as snow and wind slap the faces of the Marines.

LT. COL MURRAY
At day light, we advance to the
rear. Those are division orders.
(then, aggressive)
We're going to come out of this as
Marines, not as stragglers. We're
going to bring out our wounded and
our equipment. We're coming out, I
tell you, as Marines. This is no
retreat. This is an assault in
another direction.

The room is so silent, you can only hear the wind blow.

This is a "Korean Valley Forge".

As the Marines push to retreat, they encounter heavy resistance from the Chinese.

Maggie looks on as she sees the massacre that the Marines experience: the casualties, the dead, the missing.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman calls the NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL to a

meeting to discuss the Chinese intervention in Korea.
General Bradley briefs a map of the Korean peninsula.

GENERAL BRADLEY
(points to the map)
Here is MacArthur's units.
(points again)
And here is where the Chinese
intervened to engage our soldiers.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
What about our other assets?

GENERAL BRADLEY
This is my main concern. We believe
that the Chinese could have more
than 300 bombers based at airfields
in Manchuria.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Can we lessen the damage?

GENERAL VANDENBERG
Nothing, short of moving our air
assets back to Japan and slowing
operations considerably.

President Truman turns to General George Marshall.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
George, what's your take on the
situation?

GENERAL MARSHALL
We should use all available means
to limit the war to Korea. This is
MacArthur's problem.

ALBEN BARKLEY, 70's, Vice-President of the United States
stands to speak:

VICE-PRESIDENT BARKLEY
The Democrats on the hill are
outraged at MacArthur's
boastfulness that has now turned
into insanity. How could MacArthur
make such an indiscretion?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
You will have to make your own
conclusions as to why he made the
statement.

VICE-PRESIDENT BARKLEY

He couldn't have gotten the boys home for Christmas like he promised anyway.

GENERAL BRADLEY

--It would have been better if he said the United States had no permanent plans for Korea or any threat to Manchuria.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No matter what we might think about MacArthur's statement, we cannot afford to damage MacArthur's prestige at this point.

GENERAL MARSHALL

Until now, we all thought that MacArthur would settle the situation in Korea with a victory. Now, the question we have to ask is: how can we get out with honor?

GENERAL COLLINS

--We have no fresh troops to send MacArthur, not until March 1951. The best we have are individual replacements.

GENERAL MARSHALL

They won't work. MacArthur's too short on men.

GENERAL COLLINS

The American forces can retreat to the neck of the peninsula and dig in there. MacArthur can definitely hold a line.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

This is true, MacArthur can hold a line.

DEAN ACHESON

The Chinese neutrality has been lifted gradually and now we have a major offensive attack. However, with the threat of the Soviet Union, the Korea issue is now a world issue.

The room is silent and focused on Acheson.

DEAN ACHESON (CONT'D)
 We must ask ourselves "What do we
 want in Korea?"

Dean Acheson looks around the room.

DEAN ACHESON (CONT'D)
 We don't want to beat China in
 Korea--we can't. They can put in
 more than we can.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 --The Soviet Union, not China is
 America's principal enemy. However,
 MacArthur's very actions could put
 our agreement at risk.

The room braces as the threat of a World War III looms.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

President Truman holds a press conference to address the
 Chinese intervention to the American public.

INTERCUT - TRUMAN / CPT. KEMP

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 Recent developments in Korea
 confront the world with a serious
 crisis. The Chinese Communist
 leaders have sent their troops from
 Manchuria to launch a strong and
 well-organized attack against the
 United Nations Forces in North
 Korea.

Shots of: CPT. Kemp and his unit fighting against the Chinese
 Communist forces.

CPT. Kemp is losing more and more men by the minute.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

President Truman concludes his speech.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
 This is a time for all our citizens
 to lay aside differences and unite
 in firmness and mutual
 determination to do what is best
 for our country and the cause of
 freedom throughout the world.

President Truman ends the speech and takes questions from the press.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Mr. President, did you or the State Department raise the question of whether this offensive would affect the chances of a negotiated settlement with the Peiping government?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

The matter was discussed with General MacArthur everyday.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Mr. President, there has been some criticism of General MacArthur in the European and American press that he exceeded his authority and went beyond the point he was supposed to go.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

He did nothing of the kind.

NEWS REPORTER #3

Sir, if the United Nations resolution should authorize General MacArthur to go further than he has he will...

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

--We will take whatever steps are necessary to meet the military situation, just as we always have.

NEWS REPORTER #4

Will that include the atomic bomb?

President Truman stumbles.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

That includes every weapon we have.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Does that mean there is active consideration of the use of the atomic bomb?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

There has always been active consideration of its use. I don't want to see it used.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

It is a terrible weapon, and it should not be used on innocent men, women and children who have nothing to do with this military aggression. That happens when it's used.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Did we hear you clearly, that use of the atom bomb is under active consideration?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Always has been. It's one of our weapons.

EXT. NORTH KOREA - DAY

CPT. Kemp and his men are knee deep in a battle for their lives.

SHOTS blaze past the heads of CPT. Kemp and his soldiers as the Chinese attack.

PVT KEEN

Sir, they're coming at us from all corners.

SGT JAMES

What the hell are we going to do?

POP. POP. POP. POP

CHINESE SOLDIERS fire at the American and South Korean soldiers.

CPT. Kemp tries to rally his soldiers.

CPT. KEMP

We're being overrun!

POP. POP. POP. click-click

CPT Kemp is out of ammo.

CPT KEMP

I'm out. I'm out.

CPT. Kemp reaches for more ammo. Reloads.

SGT JAMES

Here they come. Here--

A BULLET pierces the face of SGT James.

The rest of the company continues to fight despite the sudden loss.

CPT. Kemp stares at the body of his comrade.

POP. POP. POP

CPT Kemp returns fire.

PVT JONES

Sir. What do we do?

CPT. Kemp pauses for a moment; he pans to see his soldiers looking at him for instruction.

CPT. Kemp looks at PVT Jones and the American Soldiers, looks at the black soldiers, looks at the South Korean soldiers, looks at the United Nations soldiers, he needs to make a decision.

CPT KEMP

We die like men. We die like legacies.

The soldiers look back at CPT. Kemp, agree.

CPT KEMP (CONT'D)

Fix bayonets!

THE SOLDIERS begin to fix bayonets.

THE CHINESE SOLDIERS are out of ammo and order each other to fix bayonets.

CPT. KEMP AND HIS MEN

Fix bayonets to their rifles and are ready to charge.

THE CHINESE SOLDIERS

Fix bayonets and are ready to charge.

A moment...

CPT KEMP (CONT'D)

Charge!!!

THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS charge towards the Chinese in a column formation with their bayonets out front.

CHINESE SOLDIER
(in Chinese)
Charge!!!

THE CHINESE SOLDIERS charge the American soldiers.

The American Soldiers clash with the Chinese soldiers in a battle to the death as they disappear in smoke.

BLACK SCREEN

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman reads statements from General Douglas MacArthur's written interview to his advisors.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
I should have fired MacArthur a long time ago!

GENERAL BRADLEY
Easy now. The General is under a lot of pressure.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
(re: the newspaper article)
General MacArthur states "All would have been well if the President and the Joint Chiefs had listened to me."

(then)
What a bunch of croc. If his advice would have been taken, we would have been openly at war with Red China and Russia.

GENERAL MARSHALL
There is a method to MacArthur's madness, I can assure you.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
The man himself told me that there was no danger of a massed intervention.

GENERAL BRADLEY
Are you going to fire him?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
No. But I will do the next best thing.

(then)
(MORE)

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

General Marshall issue an order restricting for all members of the executive branch, civilian and military officials overseas from making statements to the press on military matters.

GENERAL MARSHALL

Good. I'll disseminate the memo today.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Mr. President, there are assessments from the C.I.A that the Chinese are in anticipation of a general war with the United States with the backing of the Soviets.

GENERAL MARSHALL

The Soviets are expecting that the escalation of a general war from the Korean conflict would be the best Christmas present the Kremlin can receive.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

We're at a serious turning point. A point where the fate of the world is at hand.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur gets a letter of recommendation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The President and the Joint Chiefs are ordering that I retreat to just above the 38th parallel. They want me to create a defensive perimeter that would invite envelopment and imminent destruction of my forces.

GENERAL WHITNEY

The bureaucracy is at it again.

GENERAL WILLOUGHBY

The Chinese have an estimated strength of approximately 26 divisions with an additional 200,000 troops to the enemy rear not to include the full military potential of Communist China.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

The recommendations from Washington will force us to withdrawal or take up beach head positions, both of which would allow us for little hope of survival or victory. We are in an entirely new war against an entirely new enemy.

GENERAL WHITNEY

Washington is becoming more and more of a pest.

INT. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The Joint Chiefs discuss General MacArthur's request for new orders to not retreat to the 38th parallel.

General Bradley reads MacArthur's letter--

GENERAL BRADLEY

"The directives under which I am operating based upon the North Korean forces as an enemy are completely outmoded by events. If Washington does not recognize this new reality, it will decree disaster for America's troops. Time is of the essence, as every hour sees the enemy power increase and ours decline."

(then)

That's it.

GENERAL VANDENBERG

We can't issue him an order. What good would it do? He wouldn't obey the orders any way.

ADMIRAL SHERMAN

You can relieve any commander who won't obey orders, can't you?

The room is quiet.

Lips are pursed and faces covered with puzzlement.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

President Truman gives a state of emergency address to the American people highlighting the current situation with the Korean War.

President Truman is surrounded by media and, for the first time, television receivers to broadcast a presidential message.

INTERCUT - TRUMAN / WAR IN KOREA

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
(reading from a piece of
paper)

I am talking to you tonight about
what our country us up against.
Our homes, our nation, all the
things we believe in, are in great
danger.

Shots of: the Eighth Army Soldiers in battle against the
Chinese.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)
Against this movement for peace the
rulers of the Soviet Union have
been waging a relentless attack.

Shots of: CPT. Kemp and his men fighting the Chinese.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)
I will issue a proclamation
tomorrow morning declaring that a
national emergency exists. This
will call upon every citizen to put
aside his personal interests for
the good of the country. All our
energies must be devoted to the
tasks ahead of us.

Shots of: factory workers work, businessmen conduct meetings
and families watch the presidential television broadcast.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)
Farmers and businessmen will have
to set higher goals for production.
Workers will have to work more
hours as strikes pose a danger to
the nation, therefore I'm calling
upon all unions and striking
members to return to work
immediately.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
In the days ahead, each of us
should measure his own efforts, his
own sacrifices, by the standard of
our heroic men in Korea. That is
all.

EXT. UIJEONGBU - DAY

General Walker rides passenger in his jeep headed northbound.

Out of nowhere, a SOUTH KOREAN WEAPONS CARRIER swings out of his lane and collides into General Walker's jeep.

General Walker is thrown from the jeep and is killed immediately.

INT. RIDGWAY LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

GENERAL MATTHEW RIDGWAY, 50's, prepares to unwind for the evening.

The telephone rings.

It's General Joe Collins, Army Chief of Staff.

GENERAL RIDGWAY
(into the telephone)
Hello.

GENERAL COLLINS (O.S)
Matt, I'm sorry to tell you that Johnny Walker has been killed in a jeep accident in Korea. I want you to get your things together and get out there as soon as you can.

General Ridgway is stunned as he hangs up the phone.

EXT. HAN RIVER - DAY

General Ridgway assumes command of the Eighth Army. The South Korea ROK Army is in retreat from the Chinese and are heading South.

As the ROK Soldiers retreat, General Ridgway takes note on one of the great human tragedies.

GENERAL RIDGWAY (V.O.)
As the South Korean soldiers retreat across the frozen Han River, I was reminded of General Washington crossing the Delaware as I was witness to one of the great human tragedies of our time. Fearing for their lives, as many as a million men, women and children fled across the icy Han River.

SOUTH KOREAN MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Cross the Han River in zero degree wind bearing their old, sick, CRIPPLED MOTHERS AND FATHERS on their backs, others bent under great bundles of household gear headed across the ice toward the FROZEN PLAIN on the SOUTHERN SHORE.

INT. SENATOR JOSEPH MARTIN - DAY

SENATOR JOSEPH MARTIN, 60's, Republican Speaker of the House reads a letter from General Douglas MacArthur regarding the situation in Korea.

INSERT - The LETTER reads:

GENERAL MACARTHUR (V.O.)
 Dear Congressman Martin, I am most grateful for your note of the eighth forwarding me a copy of your address of February 12. My views and recommendations with respect to the situation created by Red China's entry into the war against us in Korea have been submitted to Washington in most complete detail. Generally, these views are well known and clearly understood, as they follow the conventional pattern of meeting force with maximum counter force as we have never failed to do in the past...

INT. DEAN ACHESON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ROBERT LOVETT, Deputy Secretary of Defense, 50's, visits the home of Dean Acheson to deliver some important news.

The door knocks.

Bang. Bang. Bang.

Bang. Bang. Bang.

Dean Acheson opens the door.

ROBERT LOVETT
 MacArthur should be fired immediately! This is an outrage!

DEAN ACHESON
 Now wait a minute Bob...

ROBERT LOVETT

--No General in the history of military has been allowed to get away with this type of behavior. The general must be removed at once.

DEAN ACHESON

What's going on Bob?

ROBERT LOVETT

The joint chiefs sent MacArthur a cable indicating the draw down in Korea and the preparation for negotiations to take place. He immediately reneged on following the directives of the joint chiefs to stand down troops and issued statements practically threatening full war against China, something we don't want or need.

DEAN ACHESON

You can't be serious.

ROBERT LOVETT

I am very serious. We, or the joint chiefs of staff, can no longer trust the General to loyally fulfill his duties.

DEAN ACHESON

His actions are defiant of the Chiefs of Staff, sabotage of an operation of which he had been informed, and insubordination of the highest to his Commander in Chief.

ROBERT LOVETT

We need to bring this matter to the joint chiefs and the President tomorrow.

DEAN ACHESON

Agreed. I'll set up the meeting now.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Dean Acheson and Robert Lovett meet with the joint chiefs and the President to discuss General MacArthur's statements.

President Truman is calmly monitoring his anger of the statements that Acheson and Lovett have presented him.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

The directive that I gave on December 6th requiring statements to be cleared by the White House was clear, was it not?

ROBERT LOVETT

Yes, they were.

DEAN ACHESON

You can be assured that your statements were absolutely clear to everyone involved.

President Truman thinks, then speaks.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I want to issue another statement to General MacArthur. Ensure that the order states--

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur reads the letter to his advisors.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

(reading the letter)

"The President has directed that your attention be called to his order as transmitted 6 December 1950. In view of the information given you 20 March 1951--about the president's imminent ceasefire offer--any further statements by you must be coordinated as prescribed in the order of 6 December. The President has also directed that in the event the Communist military leaders request an armistice in the field, you immediately report that fact to the JCS for instructions."

GENERAL WHITNEY

The White House is scheming again.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

This is utter nonsense. They are trying to make it seem like I'm disrupting their magic formula for peace that had reached international agreement and was about to be announced.

GENERAL WHITNEY

There was never anything in draft form. I was totally keeping with military tradition in offering two instances for the enemy to surrender.

(a beat)

I sense a sinister element in the last act of a tragedy is taking place.

General Whitney looks on as General MacArthur rants about the President Truman statement.

GENERAL WHITNEY (V.O.)

It was by sheer accident that the general's statement and its reference had cut across one of the most disgraceful plots in American history. This I do know, had MacArthur fully realized the hornets' nest he would stir up, he still would not have been deterred.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman meets with General George Marshall and his advisors.

GENERAL MARSHALL

Mr. President, the joint chiefs have requested guidance on preparations for a general war with China.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

If we get into a general war with China, we are going to have to hit the communists where they feel it.

GENERAL MARSHALL

What plan do you suggest, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
I guess we'll be giving General
MacArthur what he wants after all,
his expanded war into Manchuria.

INT. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HEADQUARTERS - DAY

General Bradley receives a statement of new orders from
President Truman--he reads them aloud.

GENERAL BRADLEY
"You are authorized with the U.S.
Forces assigned to the Far East
Command to attack enemy air bases
and aircraft in Manchuria and the
Shantung peninsula in the immediate
vicinity of Weihaiwei.

AIDE
It looks like General MacArthur is
going to get the war he wanted.

GENERAL BRADLEY
Negative. Do not send the notice
to General MacArthur. He will not
know of its existence. Is that
clear?

AIDE
But sir, the President...

GENERAL BRADLEY
--We are on the brink of a World
War III and General MacArthur
cannot be trusted to misinterpret
more orders as he has done in the
past. I will not give him a chance
to screw us again. Clear?

AIDE
Yes, sir.

The aide leaves.

General Bradley tucks the order into his jacket pocket.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

President Truman holds a regular news conference.

News reporters horde the President with questions.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Mr. President, what is your thought on the statement given by Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn about the large number of troops massing in Manchuria?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No thoughts. The Speaker is a truthful man.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Sir, has World War III begun?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

No comment.

NEWS REPORTER #3

Mr. President, has General MacArthur been given provisional authority to bomb bases in Manchuria?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

That is a military strategy question that I cannot answer.

Senator Joseph Martin interrupts the press conference with a burst of an excerpt from General MacArthur's letter:

JOSEPH MARTIN

(reading aloud)

"It seems strangely difficult for some to realize that here in Asia is where the Communist conspirators have elected to make their play for global conquest, and that we have joined the issue thus raised on the battlefield, that here we fight Europe's war with arms while the diplomats there still fight it with words. There is no substitute for victory."--General Douglas MacArthur.

The room is stunned by the Joseph Martin reading.

NEWS REPORTER #2

MacArthur is going to start a nuclear World War III!

NEWS REPORTER #3

MacArthur has gone mad!

Truman looks into space. Shocked. Embarrassed. Angry.

EXT. NORTH KOREAN MILITARY CAMP - DAY

The holding area for soldiers deployed to combat areas and those who retreat to the South.

Maggie is devoured by the cross traffic of soldiers and personnel who scurry in retreat of the Chinese as she searches to get an interview from her old friend CPT. Jack Kemp.

She gets the attention of a soldier--

MAGGIE HIGGINS
Hey, hey. What's going on here?

SOLDIER #1
What does it look like? We're getting the hell out of here.

Maggie tries to grab another Soldier.

MAGGIE HIGGINS
Hey, hey. Where is everyone going? Have you seen CPT. Kemp? CPT. Jack Kemp!

SOLDIER #2
Who?

MAGGIE HIGGINS
CPT. Jack Kemp. He rolled in with the 8th Army.

SOLDIER #2
It's a big 8th Army ma'am. You may want to check the wounded or the dead.

Maggie becomes stumped with fear as she considers the unfathomable.

Maggie walks over to the area where the wounded are first--

MAGGIE HIGGINS
Jack! Jack Kemp. CPT. Jack Kemp.

No one answers.

The only reply is battered looks from the wounded Soldiers and their nurses.

Silence.

Maggie goes over to the area that houses the dead cluttered with aisles of stretchers with blankets covering the bodies.

Somehow, this site feels familiar to Maggie as the wind in the camp begins to blow heavily.

Maggie, hesitant, calls for CPT. Jack Kemp--

MAGGIE HIGGINS (CONT'D)
 (softly and silently)
 Jack. CPT. Jack K--

As she calls for Kemp, a blanket blows off of one of the stretchers.

The body of CPT. Jack Kemp, now a "Forgotten Soldier", lies bloodied and innocent on the stretcher.

Maggie's eyes fill with shock and grief as she looks at the body of her fallen comrade.

MAGGIE HIGGINS (CONT'D)
 (softly)
 Jack. CPT. Jack Kemp.
 (then)
 You are not forgotten.

A medic replaces the blanket on CPT. Kemp and takes his body away.

Maggie looks around the camp to see Soldiers saving lives, losing lives and giving their all to the cause of freedom.

Maggie grabs her camera and takes pictures of the Soldiers being heroes, being legacies and being forgotten souls.

INT. THE HERALD (TOKYO HEADQUARTERS) - DAY

Maggie types an entry for her memoirs regarding the Korean War:

MAGGIE HIGGINS (V.O.)
 I have known since childhood that if there was to be a war, I wanted to be there to know for myself what force cuts so deep into the hearts of men. Now I do know a little of it. I have witnessed the awesomeness of man tried beyond endurance and yet endure.
 (MORE)

MAGGIE HIGGINS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But like all the others who have gone to the wars, I know I cannot completely convey what it's like to those who have not shared. And perhaps that the secret of the experience of the battle and of its emotional bondage. For men are gods and legacies are lost in a forgotten war--the Korean War.

Maggie finishes typing. Thinks, then begins to cry as she reflects on the journey that she has just completed, the journey into the hearts of men, the journey into war.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President Truman confers with his advisors about the dismissal of General MacArthur.

DEAN ACHESON

Sir, as you know, if you relieve MacArthur, you will have the biggest fight of your administration.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Before I conclude my decision, I want to hear the opinions and recommendations of my advisors.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Sir, after meeting with the Joint Chiefs, we have concluded that MacArthur should be relieved of all his commands.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

General Marshall. What is your recommendation?

GENERAL MARSHALL

I concur.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Dean?

DEAN ACHESON

I concur.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Averell?

AVERELL HARRIMAN

I concur.

President Truman comes to his own decision.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

MacArthur has to go. Innocent lives and the fate of the world are at stake here.

The room is at a silence.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (CONT'D)

General Bradley, whom do the chiefs recommend replace MacArthur?

GENERAL BRADLEY

We recommend Matthew Ridgway as our first choice.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

The decision stands. This meeting is now adjourned. No one is to discuss this until I make it known to the public.

(then, to General
Marshall)

General Marshall...

GENERAL MARSHALL

Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Prepare the correspondence relieving General MacArthur of his command.

INT. BLAIR HOUSE - DAY

President Truman sits in his office preparing a statement to relieve General Douglas MacArthur.

The telephone rings.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

(into the phone)

Hello.

GENERAL BRADLEY (O.S.)

There's been a leak.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

What?

GENERAL BRADLEY (O.S.)
I said, there's been a leak.

President Truman pauses to conjure a plan of action.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Send messages at once to MacArthur letting him know that he is being relieved. If MacArthur gets word of this, I'm not going to let him beat me to the punch by making a statement in advance of my statement.

GENERAL BRADLEY
Assemble the group to prepare a press statement?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Tonight I'm taking this decision on my own responsibility. I-am-the-President-of-the-United-States--and I want nobody to think I'm trying to share the task with anyone else.

GENERAL BRADLEY
Yes, sir.

President Truman hangs up the telephone.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

President Truman issues a press release to the public announcing General MacArthur's firing.

INTERCUT - TRUMAN / COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

A room full of broadcast cameras and reporters listen to President Truman's speech.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN
With deep regret I have concluded that General of the Army Douglas MacArthur is unable to give his wholehearted support to the policies of the United States Government and of the United Nations in matters pertaining to his official duties.

Citizens in England listen to the broadcast on radio.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)

Therefore, I have decided I must make a change in the Far East. I have therefore, relieved General MacArthur of his commands and have designated Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway as his successor.

Citizens in Asia listen to the broadcast.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)

General MacArthur has established his place in history as one of our nations's greatest commanders.

Viewers in the United States look at the speech on television.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (V.O.)

The country owes him a debt of gratitude. For this reason, I repeat my regret at the necessity for this action I feel compelled to take in this case.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur is having lunch with his wife, Jean MacArthur, and two visitors: SENATOR WARREN MAGNUSON of Washington and WILLIAM STERN of Northwest Airlines.

One of MacArthur's aides, COLONEL SIDNEY HUFF, gets the attention of Jean MacArthur without alerting General MacArthur.

Jean MacArthur rises from the table and goes to Colonel Huff who tells her quietly that General MacArthur has been relieved.

Jean MacArthur walks into the room and approaches MacArthur--laughing heavily at remarks of his guests--touches him on his shoulder and speaks in a very low voice into the general's ear: "YOU'VE BEEN RECALLED."

General MacArthur's face is frozen. Emotionless.

MacArthur's guests are puzzled at the look on his face.

MacArthur turns to his wife.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

(gently)

Jeanie, we're going home at last.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur hands over his command to General Matthew Ridgway.

General MacArthur is furious that he's fired and vents to an attentive Matthew Ridgway.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I tell you the man is suffering
from malignant hypertension
characterized by bewilderment and
confusion of thought.

Ridgway looks on and listens.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

I'm going back to America to raise
hell!

William Sebald enters the room and greets MacArthur.

WILLIAM SEBALD

General.

Sebald's eyes begin to tear as he embraces MacArthur.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Bill, I'm as surprised as you are.

General MacArthur pulls out a cigarette and gives it to Sebald.

WILLIAM SEBALD

General, you are a better soldier
in this than I am.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Publicly humiliated after 52 years
in the service. This is all a part
of Washington's plan to hand
Formosa over to Red China and allow
our position in the Far East to
crumble.

WILLIAM SEBALD

(wipes tears from his
eyes)

I know, general. You still have my
undying loyalty.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

Bill, your weakness is that you
have probably been too loyal to me.

(MORE)

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)
You may have to pay for that
loyalty.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Letters of abuse from the public flood the White House.

INSERT - LETTERS, bashing President Truman with voiceovers
flood the office:

"I voted for you in 1948 and have regretted it ever since."

"You have kicked out--with insults--the most brilliant,
courageous and successful man representing our country
abroad."

"Your action toward MacArthur is completely unwarranted in my
opinion."

"I have never voted for Truman and never will."

BLACK SCREEN

VOICEOVERS:

"General MacArthur's ideas are entitled to a full hearing."

"With MacArthur out, communist conquest becomes a soft
target."

"The President may have set off a thorough exposure of the
bankruptcy of his own administration."

"President Truman must be impeached and convicted."

President Truman sits alone at his desk, ponders the
ramifications of firing MacArthur.

INT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - DAY

General MacArthur, his family and staff prepare for return to
the United States.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
(to General Courtney
Whitney)
Court, please arrange the trip so
that we will arrive in San
Francisco and New York after dark
to enable us to slip into a hotel
without being noticed.

GENERAL WHITNEY

Yes sir.

General MacArthur reflects as he looks out of his office window towards the New Japan.

EXT. DAI ICHI BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

General MacArthur and his family, Jean MacArthur and Arthur MacArthur, leave their home in Japan escorted by a 30-man honor guard.

THE HONOR GUARD comprised of members of each of the armed services stand at attention.

General MacArthur approaches his limousine, turns back to the honor guard, SNAPS A SALUTE then enters his vehicle.

EXT. STREETS OF JAPAN - DAY

General MacArthur's limousine drives down the streets of Japan--still damaged from bombings of the wars.

The Limousine drives through the streets of Tokyo lined with up to one million men, women and children.

TEN THOUSAND POLICE turn out for both crowd control and to wish the general good bye.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

General MacArthur arrives at Washington D.C..

FIFTY THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN

Line the lawn of the slopes of the Washington Monument and the National Mall to pay tribute to the general.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS GROUPS PAY TRIBUTE TO MACARTHUR

--VETERANS GROUPS and their AUXILIARIES show support for General MacArthur.

--The SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE, The JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF and THE SERVICES pay their respect.

--MEN AND WOMEN with a look of awe on their faces. They are POP-EYED, not clapping or yelling.

END MONTAGE

The parades are celebrations for MacArthur and protests against Truman.

General MacArthur is the last general--the last of the American heroes--to return home from World War II.

INT. CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DAY

General MacArthur gives a speech to the joint session of congress.

RADIO NETWORKS and a few TELEVISION BROADCASTERS are present for the most anticipated speech in history.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I stand on the rostrum with a sense of deep humility and great pride: humility in the wake of those great architects who have stood here before me, pride in the reflection that this home of legislative debate represents human liberty in the form yet devised.

General MacArthur is interrupted by a THUNDEROUS bipartisan applause.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

I do not stand here for any partisan cause for the issues are fundamental and reach quite beyond the realm of partisan considerations. They must be resolved on the highest of national interest if our course is to prove sound and our future protected. I trust, therefore, that you will do me the justice of receiving that which I have to say as solely expressing the considered viewpoint of a fellow American.

The chamber ERUPTS with more applause, this time, louder and longer than the previous stint.

HOUSEHOLDS and VIEWERS across the country listen to the radio broadcast of the great speech.

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

I address you with neither rancor nor bitterness in the fading twilight of life, but for one purpose, to serve my country.

(MORE)

GENERAL MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

The issues are global, and so interlocked that to court disaster for the whole. While Asia is commonly referred to as the gateway to Europe, it is no less true that Europe is the gateway to Asia, and the broad influence of the one cannot fail to have its impact upon the other. There are those who claim our strength is inadequate to protect on both fronts, that we cannot divide our effort. I can think of no greater expression of defeatism.

The room APPLAUDS again, mostly from the Republican side of the chamber.

President Truman listens to the radio broadcast at his home.

INT. CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DAY

General MacArthur concludes his speech to the House of Representatives.

GENERAL MACARTHUR

I am closing my fifty-two years of military service. When I joined the Army, even before the turn of the century, it was the fulfillment of all my boyish hopes and dreams. The world has turned over many times since I took the oath on the plain at West Point, and the hopes and dreams have long since vanished. But I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barrack ballads of that day, which proclaimed most proudly that old soldiers never die, they just fade away. And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to that duty. Good bye.

The room ROARS with applause.

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS rise to their feet.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

General MacArthur receives a hero's welcome and ticker tape parade.

General MacArthur and his family drive through the streets of New York City with fans and onlookers crowding the streets.

CROWD
Welcome home, Mac!

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA - NIGHT

General MacArthur prepares for nighttime, watching one of his favorite movies in his robe and pajamas until he is alerted by something outside of his window.

The General gets up and looks outside of his window and gazes at the open streets of New York City with the aftermath of his glorious bittersweet return to America.

The pain of an old soldier fading away consumes his eyes, filled with the sparkle of battlefields of the past.

Jean MacArthur calls him from another room.

JEAN MACARTHUR
Doug?

General MacArthur pauses for a second.

GENERAL MACARTHUR
Coming, Jeannie.

INT. BLAIR HOUSE - DAY

President Truman wakes up to retrieve his morning newspaper and eat breakfast.

President Truman opens the door and picks up a copy of the morning paper.

INSERT - THE PAPER'S HEADLINE READS:

"TRUMAN MUST GO!"

Bruised feelings and broken dreams fill the heart of the man who was once the darling of the 1948 Presidential election.

Bess and Margaret Truman approach President Truman from behind.

BESS TRUMAN

Harry?

(then, noticing the paper)

Oh, Harry.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I know.

BESS TRUMAN

You did the best you could. You did what you had to do. It's over now. Let it go.

President Truman thinks about it.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

You know after all that has happened with this blasted war, I still have the most important thing to me.

BESS TRUMAN

What's that?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

My family.

(beat)

Let's go home.

President Truman embraces Bess and Margaret.

They turn around and go into the house.

Truman tosses the newspaper behind him.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

President Truman approaches the White House Conference Room.

A special ceremony is taking place--The Medal of Honor is being awarded.

General Bradley stands outside of the door to the awards ceremony as President Truman approaches.

GENERAL BRADLEY

Sir, are you ready?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I made a promise to a Soldier a while ago that I will not forget them. I'm gonna live up to those words this time.

General Bradley opens the door.

President Truman enters the room to conduct the ceremony.

President Truman awards a POSTHUMOUS MEDAL OF HONOR to our fallen hero--CPT. Jack Kemp.

His widow and Kemp's son receive the award in his honor.

Maggie stand in the audience and applauds as her beloved friend is remembered.

BLACK SCREEN

A final caption appears on the screen:

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

SUPER: The Korean War lasted for two more years until a cease fire ended combat operations when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed 27 July 1953.

SUPER: The armistice agreement created the Korean Demilitarized Zone which separates North and South Korea and allowed for the return of prisoners.

SUPER: No peace treaty was ever signed and the two Koreas are technically still at war, engaged in a "frozen conflict".

SUPER: The remains of fallen military men who served in the Korean War are still being returned home to this day.

FADE TO BLACK.