

Kennesaw State University

DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University

Master of Arts in Professional Writing
Capstones

Professional Writing

Spring 4-29-2023

GEORGIA

Lesley Brian Bargo
lbargo@students.kennesaw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapw_etd



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Screenwriting Commons](#), [Television Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bargo, Lesley Brian, "GEORGIA" (2023). *Master of Arts in Professional Writing Capstones*. 138.
https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapw_etd/138

This Capstone is brought to you for free and open access by the Professional Writing at DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Master of Arts in Professional Writing Capstones by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

GEORGIA

"Pilot"

Written by

Lesley Brian Bargo

Capstone
2023

COLD OPEN

Super: Northwest Georgia. 2023.

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - EVENING

Mountains are seen in the backdrop.

A yellow 1968 Ford F100 that shows obvious signs of age, but still in great condition, parks in a spot away from other cars.

An older man and woman exit the truck and walk into:

INT. GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS

The man and woman walk casually through the grocery store.

The man, GIDEON REED, 75, pushes the cart as his wife, MELANIE REED, also 75, walks beside him placing groceries in the cart.

Both are dressed in what appears to be hiking gear.

Gideon wears a VIETNAM VETERAN HAT.

Melanie shows Gideon a can of SPAM.

MELANIE

Your favorite!

Gideon grimaces.

GIDEON

That's not allowed in the buggy.

MELANIE

Oh, come on. It's been fifty years.
You might like the way I cook it.

GIDEON

Not a chance. Just looking at the
can-

MELANIE

-Makes your stomach turn. I know, I
know.

Melanie puts it back on the shelf.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I guess I could do without it for another fifty years.

GIDEON

That's probably reason number one we made it this long.

The pair continue through the store and eventually make it to the checkout.

CASHIER

(To Melanie)

I've seen you guys in here before. Y'all find everything okay today?

MELANIE

Right as rain like always.

The cashier continues scanning the groceries.

CASHIER

Happy to hear it. Having a good Sunday?

MELANIE

Headed home after our Sunday walk. We always walk on Sundays, it's something we've done ever since-

GIDEON

-Don't bore the man with our old timey details, Mel.

(To Cashier)

It's always a good Sunday with her.

Melanie smiles.

The cashier completes the scanning.

CASHIER

That'll be \$82.50.

Gideon has the SPAM grimace again, but he pays the man.

As they turn to leave, the bagger notices Gideon's hat and thanks him for his service.

Gideon either doesn't hear it, or assumes it's meant for someone else.

MELANIE

Gid, that young man was talking to you.

GIDEON

Huh? Who?

MELANIE

The young man bagging the groceries. He thanked you for your service.

Gideon turns and walks back over to the young man bagging the groceries, who is already bagging the next customer's groceries.

GIDEON

I just wanted you to know I hadn't heard you before.

BAGGER

That's fine, Sir.

GIDEON

No, really. Thank you.

They shake hands.

Gideon makes his way back to Melanie and they exit to:

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

GIDEON

Good gravy. Do you remember when we could buy these same groceries for-

MELANIE

Why even think about it? It's gonna keep getting worse.

GIDEON

And gas...don't even get me started on gas.

They begin putting the groceries in the truck.

MELANIE

Well, gas might not be so expensive if you had a truck from this century.

GIDEON

Not happening. They don't make em like they used to. Same reason I haven't traded you in.

MELANIE

Think that's probably the other way
around.

Melanie gets in the truck and Gideon puts the buggy in the
buggy stall.

INT. GIDEON'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

The two ride ride in silence.

The Northwest Georgia Mountains fill the backdrop.

Melanie breaks the ice.

MELANIE

You know, we really are old timey
now.

GIDEON

Yeah, well, we've lived enough for
a dozen lifetimes.

MELANIE

At least two good ones.

A beat.

GIDEON

For the most part.

They pull into a gravel driveway.

...Pass an empty barn on the right.

...Arrive home.

Gideon opens the garage door, but parks his truck just
outside of the garage.

The stairs creak as the couple walks up them.

Gideon, even carrying the groceries, opens the door for
Melanie.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A clean house.

Family pictures hang everywhere.

The news plays on the T.V.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

No words are spoken.

Melanie puts away the groceries.

Gideon prepares the next day's coffee.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Melanie dries her hair and gets into pajamas.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Gideon takes a shower.

Melanie enters and they both brush their teeth.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Melanie and Gideon are in bed.

No lights are on, but moonlight casts shadows across the room.

Melanie starts laughing quietly.

Gideon starts to laugh.

GIDEON

Woman, what are you on about?

MELANIE

I don't know. I was just thinking about the time you'd just got home...

Melanie begins laughing harder.

GIDEON

What?!

MELANIE

You'd just got home. Presley was a baby. You were holding him over your head and he spit up all over you...

GIDEON

Ah.

MELANIE
It's not funny, I know.

GIDEON
Well, it's a hell of a lot funnier
now. I'll admit that.

MELANIE
Where does the time go?

GIDEON
Time stops for no man, or something
like that.

The two kiss and go to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE BACK IN.

An unknown amount of time has passed.

Melanie and Gideon are asleep.

Gideon begins talking in his sleep.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
Squirter. He went left. Track him.

A beat.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
You have eyes on?

A beat.

He begins getting louder.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
I see three! Get down!

Louder.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
Get out! Back out! Fuck!

Gideon kicks Melanie so hard she falls out of bed.

Gideon's screaming.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
Tark! Back out! Trap! Trap!

Melanie realizes what's happening and tries to wake him.

MELANIE

Gideon. You're home. Gideon.
Gideon. Gideon.

FADE TO:

A black screen surrounds the letters **GEORGIA**.

The letters are stenciled through the black, so we continue to see Melanie struggling to wake Gideon through the letters.

END OF COLD OPEN

GEORGIA

A black screen.

SUPER: Vietnam. August 22nd, 1968.

Droney rock-n-roll music plays.

FADE IN:

A swarm of helicopters fly over and overtake the music.

SUPER: FOB 4 - Marble Mountain.

EXT. FOB 4 - NIGHT

A cleared patch in the jungle.

Troops are everywhere. American and Vietnamese alike.

Pallets of beer and ammo crates are all around.

It's noisy. Helicopters randomly pass over.

Sheets of plywood line the ground to form walkways.

For the most part, the camp consists of wooden structures surrounded with sand bags, but there are green tents still set up in various places.

Some Vietnamese civilians work on the camp.

A soldier is walking alone through the camp with a beer in his hand when another soldier calls out from behind.

JOHNSON

Gideon! Gideon! Gideon!

The soldier walking in the forefront is GIDEON REED, 20, a Special Forces Staff Sergeant on his second tour to Vietnam.

A Ranger Tab is sewn on his uniform above his Airborne Tab.

Gideon turns to see DEREK JOHNSON, 20, also a Staff Sergeant, and a friend of his from the Rangers.

GIDEON

Johnson! The hell are you doing here, man?

The two share a quick hug before they continue walking.

JOHNSON

Been a while, man. Shit, I came for
the promotion ceremony.

He points to his freshly sewn sergeant stripes on his
uniform.

GIDEON

Oh, hell. They promoted you?
(To the camp)
Pack it up boys, war's Over! We
lost!

They both laugh.

JOHNSON

Fuck you, man. How's it been?
Where're you at?

GIDEON

Look around. Far as you can see,
this is me.

JOHNSON

Shit, you're on 4? That sucks. Way
too crowded around here. Where I'm
at, it's just our team...all by our
lonesome.

GIDEON

Must be nice.

Gideon empties his beer.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Well, I guess a celebration's in
order.

He wraps an arm around Johnson's neck and begins dragging him
playfully through the camp.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSIDE OF FOB 4 - SAME

North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers are preparing silently
for a mission.

These aren't typical NVA soldiers, they're **SAPPERS**. Special
Operations.

AK47's and explosive satchel charges are scattered about.

All Sappers are wearing only khaki shorts.

They rub mud over their faces and bodies as camouflage.

They are given white headbands with red lettering in English that say **WE CAME HERE TO DIE** on them.

INT. CAMP BAR - LATER

The bar is one of the wooden structures on the camp.

Soldiers celebrate the promotion board.

Beer is everywhere. Smoke swirls.

Loud music plays, but is overshadowed by all of the different conversations.

Gideon and Johnson drink beer and talk.

JOHNSON

No shit?

GIDEON

No shit. Found out right before I left.

Johnson exhales sharply.

JOHNSON

Phew. A dad, huh? What's that feel like?

GIDEON

Nothing yet. Guess I'll feel it when I get home.

JOHNSON

Well yeah, but...does that change the way you think out there?

GIDEON

I mean-

Just then, a group of highly intoxicated soldiers approach the table.

Enter BRANDON PAXTON, 20, a member of another Special Forces team that is friends with Gideon.

PAXTON

Turkey Foot! How ya been, you son of a bitch!

Gideon stands to hug Paxton.

GIDEON
Been good, man. Alive and well. I
see you don't have any holes in
you.

PAXTON
Nope...Nope.....Nope.

A beat.

Paxton wobbles.

His friends drag him away to another table.

GIDEON
(To Paxton)
Good to see you too, buddy!

A clock on the wall behind Paxton shows it's past midnight at
this point.

EXT. JUNGLE OUTSIDE OF FOB 4 - LATER

The NVA Sappers silently file through a trail that the local
villagers use to work on the FOB.

Suicidal determination is on their faces.

The ruckus on the FOB is heard in the distance.

EXT. FOB 4 - LATER

Gideon and Johnson are walking through the camp.

GIDEON
Outta here tomorrow?

JOHNSON
Gone with the wind, my friend.

They stop.

GIDEON
They have you in the transient
tent?

JOHNSON
Yeah-

GIDEON
-Fuck all that. Come stay at my
place-

Just then, the NVA Sappers begin to fire their weapons and throw their satchel charges.

Massive fireball explosions in every direction.

Tracer rounds zip overhead.

Screaming in both English and Vietnamese.

Gideon and Johnson look around in confusion.

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA.

Super: Northwest Georgia. One week later.

EXT. MELANIE'S FRONT PORCH - DAY

Melanie and her brother, SAMUEL, are reading a letter sent from Gideon.

SAMUEL SELLER is 18. He's a recent high school graduate who has a full ride scholarship to play football at Notre Dame.

They sit on the front porch swing of their parent's home.

Noticeably, it's the same home from the cold open, only it appears much newer.

Melanie reads the letter aloud.

MELANIE

Not much is happening here. At least nothing like my last tour. We do a lot of training these people to fight their own war, so we kind of take a back seat in the action-

SAMUEL

Told you he'd be fine.

MELANIE

(To Samuel)

Shh. Hold on, there's more.

(Reading the letter)

It's a lot different than the Rangers, that's for sure. I can't even tell you the last time I had to fire my weapon. Rest easy. I'll be home soon enough. Yours, Gideon.

She folds the letter up and puts it back in the envelope.

SAMUEL
See. He's fine.

MELANIE
I know. I know. I just worry.

SAMUEL
Gonna worry yourself sick, you
know. You need to just let him be.

A beat.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Like he said, he'll be back soon
enough. Say, I uh, I wanted to talk
to you about something.

MELANIE
Worried about adjusting to Notre
Dame?

Samuel stands and begins pacing.

SAMUEL
I was thinking about enlisting. Go
and do my part-

MELANIE
-I hope you're kidding.

SAMUEL
No. I feel like a...something, I
don't know...staying back here.

MELANIE
You're not staying back here.
You're going to college. For free.
Don't you dare give up the
opportunity to get out of here.

SAMUEL
I'm not, Mel. I'm not.

Samuel walks off.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM.

EXT. FOB 4 - MORNING

The camp is in shambles.

Fires still burn everywhere from all of the explosions.

Some of the wooden structures are completely destroyed.

Trash is everywhere. Soldiers are frantic.

Gideon walks by himself surveying the damage to the camp. His weapon is in his hand.

No words are spoken by Gideon as he makes his way around the camp.

Instead, the fires crackle. Occasionally, ammunition that is caught in some of the fires explode.

Soldiers run by.

Every now and then, a random shot is fired from an NVA sniper.

Gideon stops every now and then to move debris.

He walks past the camp bar - half destroyed.

Past the camp shower - destroyed.

Past the camp chow hall - still on fire.

Past the ammunition supply point - a massive crater from the explosion.

He walks past two mangled bodies - one American and one NVA.

He looks to a mangled American flag hanging on the command post.

An explosion up ahead.

Eventually, he reaches the camp latrine where a crowd has gathered.

EXT. FOB 4 CAMP LATRINE - CONTINUOUS

The camp latrine is on fire. This was the explosion.

The random shots continue to be fired into the camp from a sniper somewhere, but he's not hitting anything yet.

Gideon sees two other members of his team.

BENJAMIN BISHOP, 22, Staff Sergeant, is the Weapon's Sergeant on the team. He knows everything about every weapon, including foreign weapons.

JAMAAL LAWSON, 23, Staff Sergeant, is the Communications Sergeant on the team. He knows radios like the back of his hand, and can even fabricate them out of rudimentary materials if he has the right parts.

He's also the team's only Black soldier.

GIDEON

The fuck's going on here?

BISHOP

Fuckin' smoked em.

LAWSON

Who knows? Exploded.

GIDEON

Well, which is it?

Bishop and Lawson look at each other and grin.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Fair. You guys seen anyone else?

BISHOP

Nope.

LAWSON

Nah.

MIKE METARKO, 35, Sergeant First Class, is the Team Sergeant. 2nd in command after the Team Captain. He's been on multiple tours to Vietnam. He's visibly older than the rest of the team who are in their 20's.

He approaches Gideon from behind.

Bishop and Lawson give a head nod to Gideon, implying his presence.

Gideon turns.

Bishop and Lawson sort of sneak off.

GIDEON

Tark! You seen everyone else?

METARKO

I was just about to ask you the same thing.

Gideon motions behind him to where Bishop and Lawson were.

GIDEON

Just these two so far.

He realizes they're gone.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Bishop and Lawson. Only two I've seen so far.

METARKO

I've seen the Captain. That's why I came to to find you. I need you to track the others down. Georgia's been tasked out. Mission brief in 2 hours.

GIDEON

On it.

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Melanie works at the library downtown.

It's not a large library. Not even in a standalone building.

The usual books line shelves. Some sit on carts.

An American Flag hangs on one wall.

A Blue Star Service Flag hangs next to it.

Melanie pushes a cart and restocks books on the shelves.

ASHLEY and REBECCA, early 20's, sit at a table and talk.

ASHLEY

The draft is ruining America.

REBECCA

Well, that's part of it for sure. But, there's so much more.

ASHLEY

My friend, he just got back, he says they are being ordered to just murder everyone they see.

REBECCA

I've heard that! It's true?

ASHLEY

That's what he said. He says he has pictures he's gonna bring to the meeting.

Melanie moves the cart closer to the conversation and continues to look busy.

REBECCA

Exciting. That's what will really shake things up. We need proof of what's really happening over there.

ASHLEY

Well, someone's gotta tell the truth.

REBECCA

Maybe we should stage here?..then move down to the courthouse?

ASHLEY

We could. I'll bring it up.

Melanie walks over to the table.

MELANIE

What exactly are you guys staging here?

ASHLEY

Oh, hey! Well, we aren't sure yet, but-

MELANIE

Well, if it's a protest, don't. We support our soldiers here. My husband's over there, you know.

REBECCA

Hey! Hey! We support our soldiers too! That's why we protest. We don't agree with sending them overseas to die or to kill innocent women and children though, and we never will.

MELANIE

My husband isn't killing any women and children. How about you stop spreading lies?

REBECCA

You know this how?

MELANIE

How about you just leave? Go. Now!

Melanie ushers them toward the door.

As they walk out, Ashley turns back and hands Melanie a flyer.

ASHLEY

Here's a flyer from last week's meeting. Maybe you could come sometime and just hear what we're all about.

MELANIE

Thanks, but no thanks.

Melanie closes the door and watches them leave through the glass.

She looks at the flyer.

"GEORGIA AGAINST THE WAR" is front and center.

EXT. SIDEWALK DOWNTOWN - DAY

Samuel and some football teammates are walking down the sidewalk laughing.

Ashley and Rebecca pass through the group.

Some of the guys try and say hello, but are ignored.

Samuel's eyes catch something across the street.

CLOSE ON the US ARMY RECRUITING STATION across the street.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM.

INT. RECON TEAM GEORGIA HEADQUARTER'S HUT - AFTERNOON

RYAN ADAMS, 24, Captain, the Georgia Team Leader, leads a mission brief.

The entire team is present for the brief, except the medic.

Recon Team Georgia consist of American and Vietnamese Special Forces.

A GIANT MAP hangs on the wall.

A large sand table on the ground depicts a village.

ADAMS

Okay. As we all can see here, we lost our previous counterparts. Let's make it quick, but go ahead and introduce yourselves.

Bishop raises his hand.

BISHOP

Lost them, Sir?

ADAMS

Yea, we-

METARKO

Bottom line...not everyone made it last night.

Bishop clearly understands.

BISHOP

Roger.

METARKO

I'll start. Metarko - Team Sergeant.

BISHOP

Bishop - Weapons.

LAWSON

Lawson - Commo.

GIDEON

Reed - Engineer.

ADAMS

We've also got a medic, Hill. He's out helping with casualties around the camp. Let's get into it, shall we?

The team moves closer to the sand table.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

This one's an attack. Command wants a little revenge for the guys we lost last night, and they seem pretty sure that this was the launch site for their attack.

Bishop raises his hand again.

Captain Adams exhales.

ADAMS (CONT'D)
Yes, Sergeant Bishop.

BISHOP
Sir, an attack?

ADAMS
An attack. We'll move out after dark by bird, drop about a click out, and walk the rest of the way in.

He motions a route on the sand table with a stick.

LAWSON
Attack ain't really our bread and butter, Sir.

ADAMS
Sure it is. We all went through S.U.T...Execute and we'll be fine. Any more gripes?

GIDEON
I'd have to agree, Sir. Seems like they'd send the Rangers or Infantry out on this one.

METARKO
It was Green Berets that were killed here last night, men. It'll be Green Berets who get even. As for tonight, Recon Team Georgia becomes Strike Team Georgia.

A beat.

ADAMS
Very well. Once we reach the village we'll split into three teams. I'll take the assaulting team, Metarko'll take the supporting team. Reed, you're in charge of security. I want squirter security...

He motions to the sand table.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

Here and here. Assaulting team will be Myself, Lawson, and two partner force. Supporting team will be Metarko, Hill, and two partner force. That leaves Reed, Bishop, and their two partner force for security. If there's nothing else, you boys get acquainted. See you tonight.

The huddle breaks.

The team moves to meet with their Vietnamese counterparts.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

Tark, come with me please.

The Captain and Team Sergeant exit the Headquarters Hut.

INT. RECON TEAM GEORGIA LIVING QUARTERS - LATER

This is RT Georgia's team house.

The door is blown off from last night's attack.

Four small beds line the walls, two on each side.

Footlockers sit at the ends of the bunks with names stenciled on them in all caps. REED, BISHOP, LAWSON, HILL.

Trash, chunks of wood, clothes, etc are everywhere.

A tiki bar made from bamboo stands in the far corner.

Gideon cleans up the mess as Metarko walks in.

METARKO

Holy Hell at that entrance.

Gideon turns to see him.

GIDEON

Yeah, I'll get on it when we get back.

Metarko still examines the damage.

Gideon picks up a radio and puts it back in the windowsill.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Fuckin' mission.

METARKO

Excuse me?

GIDEON

Nothin'

METARKO

Say it.

Gideon's tone changes.

GIDEON

Say what? That this mission's fucked? Because...this mission's fucked.

METARKO

Well-

Gideon's speech is hurried.

GIDEON

How much intel do we have on this? Do we even have any intel? Any at all? We just got hit a few hours ago and now we're sending a team out for revenge? In the blind?

A beat.

Gideon goes back to cleaning up.

METARKO

Seventeen guys.

GIDEON

What?

METARKO

Seventeen guys. Seventeen Green Berets. That's what we lost last night.

GIDEON

So we want to risk adding six more?

METARKO

That's seventeen guys that won't be heading back to the world-

GIDEON

I've got my own fuckin' world to think about now.

(MORE)

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Without taking the time to get the intel...it's just asking to get FUGAZI'd.

A beat.

METARKO

We're going. Just have your mind right.

Metarko walks out.

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Melanie is behind the counter. She scans in returned books from a customer.

Ashley, the protest organizer we met earlier, waits impatiently in line. Melanies eyes her.

MELANIE

(To customer)

Thank's hun. We'll see you next time.

(To Ashley)

I hope you're not here to start trouble.

ASHLEY

I'm actually just here to return this-

She places _____ on the counter.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

And check this one out.

She places _____ on top of the other book.

Melanie studies the books before returning to the conversation.

MELANIE

You read these?

ASHLEY

Why wouldn't I?

MELANIE
You're a protestor.

Ashley appears confused.

MELANIE (CONT'D)
Just seems like the opposite of
what you'd read.

ASHLEY
So, because I disagree with sending
American's overseas to kill or be
killed I'm supposed to be reading
Mein Kampf?

Now Melanie is the one who looks confused.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
It's a fucking Hitler book.

People turn to look at the counter.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Look, my point is, just because I
protest the war in Vietnam doesn't
mean I don't support America.

MELANIE
I'm just not sure how you're
supporting America by protesting.

ASHLEY
You said your husband's in Vietnam,
right?

MELANIE
Mhmm.

ASHLEY
Mhmm. And you *want* him to be
fighting a war in Vietnam? I mean
really want him there and not here
with you?

A beat.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Exactly. You're already protesting
the war. No one said you should
protest your husband.

MELANIE
Look, I need to get back to work.

ASHLEY

Do yourself a favor and come see
for yourself. Protesting is
patriotic.

Ashley slides a new flyer across the counter.

Melanie doesn't pick it up.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Hey, if nothing else, use it as a
book mark.

Ashley walks out.

Melanie folds up the flyer and places it in her pocket.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM.

INT. RECON TEAM GEORGIA LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

The team room is clean and organized now, but the large hole
where the door was remains.

Gideon, Bishop, Lawson, and HILL, 21, Staff Sergeant, the
team's medic, are all present.

Hill is conducting an inventory of his medical supplies.

HILL

I still don't fuckin' get it.

Lawson sits on his bed.

LAWSON

Man, we already told you. It's a
fuckin' attack. Attack. It's not a
hard concept to grasp.

HILL

It is when that's not our job.

Bishop packs his ruck.

BISHOP

That's his point...Hell, That's all
our point. It ain't our mission
here.

Gideon stands behind the tiki bar and stacks beer cans.

GIDEON

I already told y'all. I talked with Tark. It's happening. Their mind's are made up.

LAWSON

Not if the four of us don't go along-

GIDEON

Oh, shut the fuck up already. Now you're gonna sit a mission out? Since when don't you wanna kill em all?

Lawson laughs and falls back into his bed.

LAWSON

On second thought, you're right. I haven't killed anyone in a while.

HILL

Well, just make sure they're dead this time, wouldya? I'm tired of patching up wounded Charlie.

Bishop throws his full ruck on his bed.

BISHOP

None of us want to conduct an attack, but none of us are gonna sit one out.

GIDEON

If you ain't complainin', are you really even in the Army?

Gideon pops the tops on four beer cans.

They all approach the tiki bar.

Gideon raises a beer for a toast.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Georgia Boys!

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA.

EXT. SIDEWALK DOWNTOWN - DAY

Samuel is walking alone.

He watches TWO GUYS walk into the Army Recruiting Station.

He turns to see a group of YOUNG CHILDREN play football in the grass.

He passes a DINER, and notices a MAN sitting inside at a table by the window. Samuel considers, then--

INT. DINER - CONTINUOUS

BELLS CLANG as Samuel ENTERS the diner.

Everyone in the diner turns to see Samuel, who appears lost in the spotlight.

Samuel's old football coach, JOHN NAPIER, 50's, sees him.

COACH NAPIER

Sammy Boy! You lost?

The diners slowly go back to their own business.

Samuel walks over to Coach Napier.

COACH NAPIER (CONT'D)

Sit, sit, c'mon. How've you been since you graduated?

Samuel slides into the booth.

SAMUEL

It's been good. Everything's fine.

COACH NAPIER

Good. Good. Happy to hear it. You gettin' excited for Notre Dame?

(Quickly)

Tell you what, man, it's gonna be a hoot havin' a guy from here playin' for the Irish. I'm excited and it's not even me! You're gonna have a ball. Coach Parseghian's gonna whip you into real shape, heck you might even have a shot at goin' pro-

SAMUEL

Coach. Coach. Wait, wait, wait.

COACH NAPIER
What's the matter, son?

SAMUEL
Well, that's the reason I came in here to talk to you.

COACH NAPIER
Well?

SAMUEL
Well, I saw you sittin' in here and figured I'd come pick your ear about somethin' that's been on my mind.

COACH NAPIER
Go on then.

A beat.

SAMUEL
Look, I don't know how to word it or anything, so I'm just gonna say it.

A beat.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
I feel like I need to go serve in Vietnam.

COACH NAPIER
What? Wait-Wait-Wait-Wait-Wait-Wait-Wait-Wait. What?

SAMUEL
I don't know how to explain it. It's like somethin's pullin' me to serve.

COACH NAPIER
Boy, you have a gift. And because of that gift, you've been given *another* gift. You know what people would give to go to Notre Dame?

SAMUEL
Coach, I know.

COACH NAPIER
Let me tell you something. This is your shot. Not many people even get a shot. You got the shot.

(MORE)

COACH NAPIER (CONT'D)

You may never get another chance to get outta here. You pass this up and you'll probably end up here coaching high school football. That what you want?

Samuel stares into the distance.

EXT. MELANIE'S FRONT PORCH - LATER

Melanie sits on the front porch swing and reads a book.

She pauses and pulls the protest flyer out of her book.

CLOSE ON: GEORGIA AGAINST THE WAR - THURSDAY - 6PM - DOWNTOWN.

Melanie sits with this a moment, and then carefully tucks it back in the book.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM.

EXT. FOB 4 HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE - NIGHT

The Helicopter Landing Zone (HLZ) is a WIDE OPEN grassy field in the camp that is large enough for multiple helicopters to land at once.

The Georgia team members sit on their rucks and wait for the helicopters to arrive.

Lawson strikes up a cigarette.

He takes a puff, then uses his cigarette to light one for Hill.

LAWSON

Man, you want me to kill some Charlie? Cool. I'm ready to never have to fly again though.

HILL

Shit, it beats walkin'.
(To everyone)
Anyone seen Tark or the boss?

The team look at each other and shrug.

Bishop slides down from his ruck until he's using it as a pillow.

BISHOP

Get some rest boys. Fight fresh or die tired.

GIDEON

(To Lawson)

You'd rather hump it through the jungle? Bless your heart.

LAWSON

Well, I'd rather hump Mama San.

GIDEON

Damnit.

HILL

You and every other Jimmy.

Adams and Metarko approach with rucks on their backs.

METARKO

What about Mama San?

LAWSON

Nothin'.

Lawson and Hill toss their cigarettes.

Bishop stands up.

ADAMS

Alright, boys. Change of plans. Weather's moving in quick. We've got to go. Now.

METARKO

We're walkin' in.

GIDEON

Pays to be a winner.

BISHOP

Oh, for fuck's sake.

HILL

(to Lawson)

See what you did, ya bastard? You just had to say you wanted to walk.

LAWSON

Jesus Christ.

METARKO

Ruck up, boys. Georgia's on the move.

Captain Adams speaks to everyone as they don their equipment.

ADAMS

Plan stays the the same. Just
walkin' in is all.

HILL

How long was the-

ADAMS

(Snappy)

You'll all be happy to know it's
only a little under 6 clicks away.

Everyone on the team shares a moment of disbelief before
pulling themselves together.

METARKO

(Quietly to Captain Adams)

Sir, gimme a sec with the guys?

ADAMS

Go for it.

Metarko pulls the rest of the team aside.

METARKO

You guys good to go?

Everyone nods or shrugs.

METARKO (CONT'D)

This is it. Keep your shit tight
out there with these new guys.

The new Vietnamese partner force walks up in silence.

The Americans visibly get serious in the presence of the
partner force.

Everyone is a quiet professional in front of everyone outside
of the team.

ADAMS

(To Vietnamese members)

You guys all set?

The partner force all nod.

Captain Adams motions for everyone to follow him.

They begin the walk to the village.

A CLASH OR THUNDER.

Drops of rain begin to fall. Soft at first, then an INSTANT DOWNPOUR.

LAWSON
Of...fuckin'...course...

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Melanie is watching the news.

She begins to stand.

Coverage of the war begins and she immediately sits back down with eyes locked on the screen.

A MALE NEWS ANCHOR, 60's, speaks with a MALE REPORTER, 30's, on the ground in Vietnam.

Behind the reporter, buildings are on fire.

MALE NEWS ANCHOR
Yesterday, four Viet Cong blew up a Chinese newspaper building with sixty pounds of explosives...and somehow managed to escape! Today, Viet Cong Sappers attacked Tuy Hoa Air Base. Any updates on that?

A beat.

MALE REPORTER
Sure, sure. It's nothing new, really. These VC are real sneaky. Everyone looks the same over here. They don't wear uniforms. Things just continually blow up or people get shot out of nowhere. Regarding today's attack, two planes were destroyed, and another seven were damaged.

A beat.

MALE NEWS ANCHOR
Just another day in Vietnam, I suppose. The worst part about this war is the sheer amount of casualties...

The sound of the TV begins to trail off into the background.

Melanie looks to the distance.

She picks up her book from earlier and pulls out the protest flyer.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

The team is walking in a file through the jungle.

Bishop follows his Vietnamese counterpart, ANH, 19.

Anh walks as point man, and checks the route for booby traps along the way.

Lawson and his counterpart, DAO, 19, follow behind Bishop.

Captain Adams and CAPTAIN PHUC, 30's, follow Lawson.

Metarko and his counterpart, DUY, late 20's, follow the Captains.

Hill and the Vietnamese medic, DANG, 18, follow Metarko.

Gideon and his partner, GIANG, 18, walk at the back and pull rear security.

A series of shots of the team moving through the jungle in the rain.

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

Bishop motions for a security halt and for Gideon and Giang to move to the front.

He points out a TRIP WIRE to Gideon.

Gideon shows it to Giang, and they move to separate ends of the wire and disarm the trap.

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

Chest high grass sways in the breeze.

Finally a poncho is lifted and Captain Adams comes out and folds his map.

The rest of the soldiers come out of the bushes.

He motions to continue moving forward.

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

A break. Everyone quietly gathers into a small area, drop their rucks, and sit.

Here, the silence is finally broken.

LAWSON
Yo, Dao, cigarette?

DAO
Marlboro?

LAWSON
Salem's.

DAO
No thanks.

Hill hands Dao a Marlboro and lights it for him.

LAWSON
Don't say I never offered.

Bishop sits on his ruck singing to himself.

BISHOP
Anh Dao *Phuc* Duy Dang Giang. Anh
Doa *Phuc* Duy Dang Giang.

METARKO
Would you shut the fuck up?

BISHOP
Hey, man, I'm just tryin' to
remember the new guy's names.

METARKO
Well, remember them to yourself.

Bishop continues singing, only a little more quietly.

Captain Adams pulls Captain Phuc aside.

Sergeant Metarko talks with Sergeant Duy while the rest of the soldiers sit around their rucks and listen.

METARKO (CONT'D)

Married?

DUY

Of course, of course. Been married for years. I was a kid when I was married. Now, we have six kids. All boys.

METARKO

Shit. Six kids?

DUY

All boys.

METARKO

You look like a baby yourself.

Gideon pulls out a PHOTO OF MELANIE and stares at it.

DUY

They are still young, but I hope they live a long life and have six kids of their own. You have kids?

METARKO

Two. A boy and a girl. Twins. They both look just like my wife. I've got a picture around here somewhere.

Metarko searches his pockets for a picture and finds it in his chest pocket.

METARKO (CONT'D)

Here they are. See, just like my wife, huh?

DUY

Ohhh, beautiful, beautiful. I hope they live a peaceful life.

METARKO

Well, let's make it so, shall we?

DUY

I truly hope we can. It will not be quick or easy.

METARKO

It never is. I just hope-

Captain Adams walks up.

ADAMS

Ruck up, boys. Looks like this weather's pushin' off. I wanna get there and be ready to go the moment it stops.

Gideon gives Melanie's picture one last look and puts it in his pocket.

The team dons their rucks and begins walking.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAYBREAK

Bishop calls a halt.

Parts of the village can be seen.

The team huddles around Captain Adams.

ADAMS

Alright, Georgia, last chance for questions or concerns.

Silence.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

Very well. Everyone good on their assignments?

Everyone nods.

The rain stops falling.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

(To the sky)

There it is.

(To the team)

Keep it tight. Let's move.

The team breaks the huddle.

EXT. VILLAGE - LATER

Adams, Phuc, Lawson, and Dao begin to approach the village center.

Wood huts with thatch tops are randomly scattered about.

A large river flows behind the village.

Chickens and goats roam freely. Pigs and Oxen are in pens.

SCARED VILLAGERS flee to hide in their huts.

Phuc begins to call out.

PHUC
(To village)
People! Friendly!

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - SAME

Metarko, Duy, Hill, and Dang stop at the tree line.

They watch as the Captain's group walks into the village.

HILL
Uh, Tark?

METARKO
I don't know, man. Just be ready.

Hill lays out the litter.

Dang opens his aid bag and surveys his supplies before placing them back in the bag.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, LEFT - SAME

Gideon and Giang move to the left of the village.

They stop close to the river and look into the village.

Gideon sees the team as they walk into the village.

GIDEON
(To himself)
The hell's he doin'?

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, RIGHT - SAME

Bishop and Anh move to the right side of the village.

They stop along the ONLY ROAD leading in and out of the village.

Bishop motions with his fingers for Anh to keep an eye up the road.

EXT. VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

PHUC
(To Village)
Come! Friendly!

Adams, Phuc, Lawson, and Dao begin knocking on doors.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN begin to slowly walk to the village center.

ADAMS
(To Phuc)
Ask them if they know anything about the attack last night.

Phuc speaks to the villagers.

PHUC
(In Vietnamese)
Big attack on the GI Base last night. Anyone know about it?

Lawson steps over to Adams.

LAWSON
Vil seem empty to you?

ADAMS
How the hell would I know?

LAWSON
Well, should be more here if you ask me. I don't like it. Where the men at?

Lawson walks around, briefly peeking inside huts.

ADAMS
What're they sayin', Phuc?

Phuc shrugs his shoulders.

PHUC
Say no one knows.

ADAMS
(Anxious, Sweating)
Well, keep askin'. Someone knows. See where the hell everyone is.

Dao walks out of a hut and looks into the jungle.

A limb CRACKS.

Dao looks a little closer.

He hears a weapon in the jungle CHAMBER A ROUND.

DAO
(To Adams)
Sir-

CRACK. A bullet rips through Dao's shoulder.

He falls to the ground.

MACHINE GUN FIRE erupts from multiple directions.

ALL POSITIONS come under INTENSE FIRE.

A rocket propelled grenade hits the hut nearest to the meeting. It EXPLODES.

LAWSON
(Screaming)
Contact!

Adams and Phuc return fire and duck into a hut.

Lawson returns fire and runs to Dao.

He drags Dao to cover.

LAWSON (CONT'D)
I gotcha, buddy! Nothin' to worry
about!

Dao returns fire with his good arm as he's being pulled.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - SAME

Hill applies a bandage to his wounded leg.

METARKO
You good?!

They remain as low to the ground as they can while bullets CRACK overhead.

HILL
Been better!

Duy raises his head to aim his weapon and a bullet SNAPS through his head. DEAD INSTANTLY.

METARKO
Duy's down!

A grenade rolls into their position and EXPLODES.

Hill SCREAMS. His wounded leg MISSING from the knee down.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, RIGHT - SAME

Bishop and Anh take fire from directly across the road.

BISHOP
Turn and burn! Pick up!

ANH
Burn up!

Bishop directs Anh to follow him across the road, DIRECTLY INTO the firing.

They each throw a grenade across the road.

BOOM! BOOM!

They stand and sprint across the road, firing as they run.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, LEFT - SAME

Gideon and Giang are firing into the jungle.

Gideon calls out targets to Giang.

GIDEON
12 o'clock, 50 meters!

They each fire a burst.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
10 o'clock, 30 meters!

Gideon fires.

He turns to see Giang holding his stomach.

He looks back to the jungle.

A VIETNAMESE SOLDIER charges Gideon. FAST.

Gideon fires a burst at POINT BLANK range. The soldier FALLS.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - LATER

The firing stops in an instant.

The smoke clears.

Dang applies a dressing on Hill's bloody leg.

BISHOP
(To Metarko)
Fuck. Told you I've been better.

METARKO
(To Hill)
You're gonna be okay. Stay down.
I'm gonna go check on the boss.
(Loudly to Adams)
Sir! I'm comin' to you!

He begins to run into the village.

EXT. VILLAGE - LATER

Lawson cautiously walks out of a hut and links up with Adams and Phuc.

LAWSON
Told you there should have been
more people.

ADAMS
(To Lawson)
Just keep an eye out, would'ya?
(To Phuc)
See what the fuck that was about!

Phuc begins to ROUGHLY question one of the women in Vietnamese.

PHUC
(In Vietnamese)
You! Speak up! I know you have
information!

He smacks her across the face with a force that sends her to the ground.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN watch in horror from the sidelines.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, RIGHT - SAME

Bishop and Anh begin checking the dead enemy bodies for intelligence.

Bishop finds MAPS and ORDERS.

BISHOP
Anh, what's this say?

He walks over to Anh to show him the papers.

Anh reveals a PEOPLES ARMY OF VIETNAM REGIMENTAL HQ FLAG he's just found.

ANH
Had to guess...I'd say PAVN.

He shows the flag to Bishop.

BISHOP
Shit. Let's go.

They begin to jog down the road into the village.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, LEFT - SAME

Gideon's tending to Giang's stomach wound.

He flips Giang over and applies a bandage to the exit wound.

GIDEON
(Speaking quickly as he works)
Hang in there, buddy. We'll get you out of here in a jiffy.

GIANG
I...not-

GIDEON
You're fine. Hush up now.

Gideon takes out a morphine syrette and sticks it in Giang's leg.

EXT. VILLAGE - LATER

Metarko makes it to Adams.

Dead animals lie scattered around.

Metarko sees the Vietnamese women huddled in the village center.

METARKO
Sir, what the fuck kind of attack was that? You just walked right up-

ADAMS
It was too quiet.

METARKO
Too quiet? What?

ADAMS
I didn't see anyone. Hard to attack
someone you can't see-

METARKO
Oh, don't give me that shit. You
don't see em, then you wait until
you do. It's the-

ADAMS
Listen up, Sergeant. I made the
call. I wanted to see what I could
find.

A beat.

METARKO
Yeah, well. You found out it was a
setup. Duy's dead.

Captain Phuc's head snaps toward Metarko.

PHUC
You sure?

METARKO
I'm sure.

LAWSON
Dao took one in the shoulder. Got
him over there, chillin'.

Lawson motions to a nearby hut.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, LEFT - LATER

Gideon sees a GLIMPSE of an ENEMY SOLDIER in the village.

GIDEON
(Yelling to Metarko)
Squirter! He went left! Track him!

No response from the team.

Gideon yells again.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
You have eyes on?!

Still no response from the team.

Louder.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
I see three! Get down!

LOUDER.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
Get out! Back out! Fuck!

SCREAMING.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
Tark! Back out! Trap! Trap!

Gideon's position EXPLODES sending Gideon's body directly into a nearby tree with a THUD.

EXT. VILLAGE - SAME

Machine gun fire erupts again.

MULTIPLE ROUNDS impact into Metarko's torso. His LIFELESS, CONTORTED body falls to the ground.

Adams, Lawson, and Phuc DIVE for cover.

Lawson tosses a grenade toward the gunfire.

Bishop and Anh run into the scene, weapon's firing.

Bishop sees Metarko.

BISHOP
(To Lawson)
What the fuck, man!?

Off this chaos--

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA

EXT. SIDEWALK DOWNTOWN - EVENING

Melanie locks up the library.

She turns to see the two protestors from earlier, Ashley and Rebecca, talking at a table on the sidewalk.

Rebecca eyes Melanie.

REBECCA

Well then, if it isn't Rosie the Riveter.

MELANIE

Look, I really don't want to be the bad guy here. Please don't stage a protest here.

REBECCA

It's as good a place as any.

MELANIE

It's a better place to just relax and read. Don't.

REBECCA

It's a public place. We'll do as we damn well please, Rosie. Why don't you just go clean your rifle?

Melanie steps closer to the table, causing Rebecca to stand in response.

Ashley steps in between them.

ASHLEY

Guys. Guys. You're doing exactly what we don't want to do.

(To Rebecca)

I'll stop by your place later. Go cool off.

REBECCA

Yeah, whatever. Catch ya later, Rosie.

Rebecca walks off.

Ashley motions for Melanie to sit, and she does.

ASHLEY

One sec.

Ashley jogs off.

She returns with two ice cream cones, handing one to Melanie.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Look, no one wanted that to happen.
Rebecca can be a little hot-wired.

MELANIE

Yeah, well-

ASHLEY

No, really, I apologize. I like
you. I think we want the same
thing.

MELANIE

Oh, yeah? What's that?

ASHLEY

We both want your husband home. We
both want the war to end. We both-

MELANIE

I think we're going about it in two
different ways. My way doesn't piss
people off.

ASHLEY

It doesn't really bring your
husband home any sooner either.

A beat.

MELANIE

Look, I'm not coming to your little
protest.

Melanie stands and begins to walk away.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Just make sure you return your
books on time.

ASHLEY

(To Melanie as she walks
away)

I'm not giving up on you yet!

EXT. PARK - LATER

Samuel and his girlfriend, KAMDYN, sit on a blanket and watch
CHILDREN play football.

KAMDYN

You ready?

Samuel's eyes are locked on the football game.

KAMDYN (CONT'D)
Sam? You okay?

SAMUEL
What? Oh, no, I'm not really
hungry.

Kamdyn laughs.

KAMDYN
I asked if you were ready.

SAMUEL
For what?

KAMDYN
Notre Dame, crazy. You leave soon.
I'm gonna miss you.

SAMUEL
Yeah. Yeah, I'll miss you too.

A beat.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Listen, are you sure you don't want
to call this off? I don't mean it
in a bad way. I just mean it's a
long way off.

KAMDYN
What? No. We'll be fine! You're
only going to Notre Dame. That's
only about ten hours from here.

Samuel falls down onto his back and looks at the sky.

SAMUEL
Yeah. Ten hours. Sure.

Kamdyn leans down and kisses Samuel.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, LEFT - DAY

Gideon wakes up COUGHING.

He runs his hands over his body to check for wounds.

He finds blood on his thigh and applies a bandage.

He stands and sees Giang's body IN PIECES.

Some pieces are in the trees, others scattered on the ground.

A BIRD CAWS in the jungle causing Gideon to jerk in that direction, pointing his weapon.

After a pause, Gideon begins his walk into--

EXT. VILLAGE - LATER

Gideon arrives into the village center to see:

Hill and Dao sit against a hut, bandaged up.

Lawson shares a cigarette with Dao.

A body is covered with a GREEN PONCHO.

ADAMS

Where's Giang?

GIDEON

He's scattered around up there.
Who's this?

He begins to look under the poncho.

ADAMS

Tark's gone.

GIDEON

Bishop?

ADAMS

He's fine.

Gideon squats against a hut.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

Tark, Duy, Giang are dead. Hill,
Dao, and...looks like you-

GIDEON

I'm fine, Sir.

ADAMS

Fair enough.

Bishop and Anh walk up.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

(To Bishop)

Can you grab my radio and call in
the dustoff?

BISHOP

Sure thing.

Adams pulls Gideon aside.

ADAMS

You sure you're good?

GIDEON

I'll survive.

ADAMS

Okay. You're team sergeant now.

Adams walks off as Gideon processes this.

DISSOLVE TO:

GEORGIA.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - CITY CAPITOL BUILDING - EVENING

A stage is set up where protestors yell with fists raised.

A crowd is gathered, and Melanie quietly walks up.

People wave SIGNS, INVERTED FLAGS, PEACE SYMBOLS.

PROTESTOR 1

This! This is the war America sends
its soldiers to wage!

He holds a GIANT POSTER PHOTO of a BURNING VILLAGE.

PROTESTOR 2

This! These are the people America
sends its soldiers to slaughter!

She holds up another GIANT POSTER PHOTO of DEAD CIVILIANS.

PROTESTOR 1

This! These are the boys that
America has sent to die from our
town alone!

He holds up a POSTER filled with GOLD STARS.

PROTESTOR 1 (CONT'D)
How many more have to die for a
pointless war?

PROTESTOR 2
(Echoing)
Yeah! How many more have to die for
this pointless war?!

CLOSE ON Melanie's face as the voices begin to distort.

REBECCA
Rosie!

Melanie snaps back to the moment. The crowd's moving.

Rebecca keeps walking. Ashley stops.

ASHLEY
You made it! So happy you came!

MELANIE
Well, I was just passing through,
actually.

ASHLEY
Regardless, I hope you weren't
offended. Maybe even heard
something that made sense?

MELANIE
Uh, sure. Sure.

ASHLEY
I've gotta run. Hope to see you at
the next one!

INT. BUS - LATER

A bus. Crowded with YOUNG MEN.

Samuel wears a Notre Dame hat and stares out the window.

He reads a letter from Kamdyn.

KAMDYN (V.O.)
*Notre Dame's not that far in the
grand scheme of things. It could be
worse, I know. I'll write you as
often as I can, and I'll stay in
touch with your parents.*
(MORE)

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

*Don't worry about us. Make us
proud! I know you only just left,
but I miss you. I love you.*

The bus begins to stop.

Samuel folds the letter and slides it in his pocket.

The door of the bus opens and HELL LETS LOOSE.

SCREAMING FROM EVERYWHERE.

DRILL SERGEANT 1

Get the fuck off my bus!

Everyone on the bus begins to pick up their bags and run to--

EXT. BUS - FORT BENNING, GA - CONTINUOUS

The young men struggle to find their footing in SAND.

DRILL SERGEANT 2

Hurry the fuck up, shitbags.

DRILL SERGEANT 1

(To a rhythm)

Get. The. Fuck. Off. My. Bus.
Privates.

They form a line outside of the bus.

DRILL SERGEANT 2.

Get those bags over your heads!
Now!

Some struggle with the bags.

DRILL SERGEANT 1

Five. Four. Three. Two. One.

BACK TO:

VIETNAM.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Gideon finishes eating SPAM from his C RATION.

In the background PURPLE SMOKE SWIRLS as the dustoff
helicopter lifts off with the dead and wounded.

Bishop and Anh wave them off.

Gideon writes a letter to Melanie.

GIDEON (V.O.)
*Not much happening here. Least
 nothing like my last tour. We do a
 lotta training these people to
 fight their own war, so we kinda
 take a back seat in the action.*

CAMERA REVEAL of Gideon eating next to dead Vietnamese bodies.

GIDEON (V.O.)
*Lot different than the Rangers, for
 sure. Can't even tell you the last
 time I fired my weapon.*

Captain Adams finds Gideon.

ADAMS
 Reed. There you are.

GIDEON
 Sir?

ADAMS
 Just got off the hook with the
 boss. Georgia's on the move.

GIDEON
 You told em about the casualties?

ADAMS
 This one'll be easy. Simple recon.

GIDEON
 Simple.

In the background, fires begin to rage.

ADAMS
 Intel says this was a PAVN
 Regimental Headquarters.

GIDEON
 No shit? Crazy what intel can tell
 ya.

A beat.

ADAMS

Anyway, I've ordered the men to burn the village. Once we get it going, let's move out. Bishop's on point.

GIDEON

You got it, Sir.

Gideon finishes writing his letter.

GIDEON (V.O.)

Rest easy. I'll be home soon enough. Yours, Gid.

Rooster, by Alice in Chains begins to play.

The men walk from hut to hut and light them on fire using ZIPPO LIGHTERS.

They begin to walk across the river and into the jungle.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE CARD: GEORGIA

Through the title, FLAMES BILLOW from the burning huts.

END OF SHOW