

M * A * S * H

"RALLY ROUND THE FLAGG, BOYS"

by

MITCH MARKOWITZ

FINAL

January 2, 1979



M*A*S*H

"RALLY ROUND THE FLAGG, BOYS"

by

MITCH MARKOWITZ

FINAL
January 2, 1979

CAST LIST

HAWKEYE

B.J.

POTTER

HOT LIPS

CHARLES

RADAR

KLINGER

MULCAHY

HUNG PAK

DOO PAK

PVT. BASGALL

COLONEL FLAGG

NURSE

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

"THE SWAMP"

AMBULANCE BUS

O.R.

RADAR'S OFFICE

POTTER'S OFFICE

POST OP

MESS TENT

MULCAHY'S TENT

EXTERIORS:

MESS TENT

COMPOUND

"THE SWAMP"

"RALLY ROUND THE FLAGG, BOYS"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

INT. "THE SWAMP" - NIGHT

1

HAWKEYE, POTTER and two Koreans, HUNG PAK and DOO PAK are playing bridge. CHARLES is sitting behind them.

POTTER

Bid one club. Hear that
Pierce?

HAWKEYE

One club. I know what that
means, Colonel. You want to
know what I've got.

POTTER

(waving him off)
Pierce.

HAWKEYE

Well, reading from left to
right, I have...

POTTER

Winchester, get out a deck
and start warming up.

CHARLES

I can play from here.

POTTER

Your bid, Mr. Pak.

HUNG PAK

One club to me. I bid one
no trump.

He speaks to his partner in Korean. "We got them again."
Doo Pak points to Hawkeye and in Korean says, "This guy's
the dumbest player I ever saw." They both laugh.

CHARLES

You've got them on the run
now, Pierce.

DOO PAK

(to Hawkeye)
Your bid, Swifty.

Cont.

HAWKEYE

You know, I'm reminded of a story. You've probably heard it. The King and Queen of this country were playing golf with Five Clubs. Their son, Jack remarked how strange it was they only had Two Hearts between them. Just then, his sister, Little Deucey and her dog Trey started singing...

(sings)

'Four Diamonds are a girl's best friend,' upon which the whole family beat her to death and buried her with Two Spades.

(to Potter)

Did you get it?

CHARLES

Everybody did.

HAWKEYE

Well, I didn't. What do I bid?

POTTER, CHARLES,
HUNG PAK, DOO PAK

Two clubs.

HAWKEYE

No prompting please...I'll bid two clubs.

P.A. ANNOUNCEMENT

(voice over)

Attention, all personnel.
Ambulances on their way.
Maintenance crews remove all
drunks from the middle of the
road.

HUNG PAK

You guys are lucky. We had a grand slam going.

HAWKEYE

We got one coming.

Cont.

POTTER
(to the Paks)
Bridge night. It never fails.
Until next week, gentlemen.
Same time...
(at Hawkeye)
...different partners.

Hawkeye, Charles and Potter rush out leaving the Paks.

CUT TO:

INT. AMBULANCE BUS - NIGHT

2

Triage is underway. Charles and Hawkeye are working the bus. KLINGER and a Corpsman lift a litter and carry it through. Klinger is clad only in a towel and bathing cap. He's come right from the shower.

KLINGER
Boy! I hate this war. Right
in the middle of splashing on
my Musk Oil.

CHARLES
How does it reach the skin
through that matted undergrowth?

HAWKEYE
He works it in with a machete.

KLINGER
That's it. I'm not showering
again 'til the Armistice.

CHARLES
That's against the Geneva
Convention.

Klinger and Corpsman EXIT. Hawkeye moves over to a patient,
PRIVATE BASGALL.

HAWKEYE
Shrapnel in his thigh. Superficial.

BASGALL
Doc, could you check on my friend,
Elverson, over there? He's hit
bad.

HAWKEYE
Sure. We always take requests.

Cont.

Hawkeye moves across the bus to check on Basgall's friend, Elverson. Charles is adjacent, looking at another patient, a North Korean officer.

HAWKEYE

Look at this. He could start his own scrapyard. I'll take him first.

CHARLES

Comatose. Severe brain damage. Third priority. Beyond hope.

HAWKEYE

What? Lemme see...

(looks at
patient)

Charles, he's got a blown pupil. Could be only a sub dural hematoma. It's worth at least putting in some burr holes. He's operable...first priority, prep and stat.

(re Korean over
Elverson)

Put him ahead of him.

CHARLES

You can drill till you hit oil. He's terminal.

HAWKEYE

Thanks for the encouragement.

To Corpsman who is lifting Korean:

HAWKEYE

O.R., and step on it!

CHARLES

How dare you contradict me!

The Corpsman carries the North Korean past Basgall.

BASGALL

Hey, hold it. He's a Commie. A North Korean. What's he doing ahead of my buddy?

HAWKEYE

Dying.

Cont.

CHARLES

That, that...person had no business going into O.R. first, especially ahead of one of ours.

HAWKEYE

Charles, when they get here the uniforms come off. We can save him if we get him in now.

Hawkeye heads to the exit. He passes Basgall.

BASGALL

What's going on here? That gook tries to kill us and now you're saving him.

HAWKEYE

Yeah. The whole thing's ridiculous, isn't it?

Hawkeye EXITS.

CUT TO:

INT. O.R. - LATE THAT EVENING

3

All tables working. HOT LIPS assists B.J. An exhausted Hawkeye is working on Elverson, the American. He drops a piece of shrapnel into a dish. It clinks.

HAWKEYE

I see they're wearing the armor on the inside this season.

(to the room)

Anyone who's finished, grab a pair of tweezers and pitch in over here.

CHARLES

Is it possible, Pierce, that your two hour detour into North Korea has jeopardized your efficiency with other patients?

HAWKEYE

Shut up, Winchester.

CHARLES

Shoehorn too tight, Achilles?

Cont.

POTTER

I don't usually take sides,
but shut up, Winchester.

B.J.

(re his patient)

Okay. Take him away. He's
seen enough of the war --
especially in here. Klinger!

As two Corpsmen move B.J.'s patient off, Klinger, with
X-rays, pops his head in.

KLINGER

On my way, sir.

Two Corpsmen bring in Basgall.

KLINGER

(to Basgall)

Lucky you. You'll be at
Captain Hunnicutt's table.
Steady nerves, great hands, and
best of all, he's a surgeon.

BASGALL

(re Hawkeye)

Anyone but that Commie-lover.

CHARLES

Paging, Dr. Pierce.

Klinger has Basgall up on B.J.'s table.

BASGALL

(spotting Hawkeye)

Nice to see you, Comrade.

(to B.J.)

You're not letting him work
on our boys are you?

(to Hawkeye)

Still getting fan mail from
Chairman Mao?

B.J.

Margaret; put him under.

HOT LIPS

Just lay back and breathe
deep.

Basgall pushes the mask away.

Cont.

BASGALL
(to Hawkeye)
My buddy better not die on
account of you.

B.J.
Margaret, will you keep that
thing over him?

HOT LIPS
(struggles)
I'm trying, doctor, but he's
got an awfully big mouth.

Basgall continues to struggle:

BASGALL
You guys sit back here,
so high and mighty, playing
God. You don't care. I'd
like to see what you'd do
if one of your buddies got
clobbered by a lousy gook.

HAWKEYE
(to Nurse)
Hold that.
(moves toward
Basgall)
Hey...!

POTTER
Pierce.

HAWKEYE
(to Basgall)
I don't have to defend myself
to you. Just shut that
bigoted mouth or I'll sew it
closed for you.

POTTER
Pierce! Get back here.

B.J.
(to Hot Lips)
Put him under already. Hawk,
take it easy. Back to your
corner.

Hawkeye goes back to the table.

CHARLES
Well, Pierce, there goes your
Good Conduct Medal.

INT. RADAR'S OFFICE - DAY

RADAR is working at his desk as Potter and MULCAHY ENTER.

MULCAHY

It's really a wonderful offer,
Colonel. Transcriptions of
Bishop Sheen's finest T.V.
sermons...in high fidelity.

POTTER

Can you get me anything by
Doris Day?

MULCAHY

Afraid not. It would really
help me be at my Sunday best.
It's only six records.

POTTER

You know my next question.

RADAR

How much, Father?

POTTER

Thank you, son.

MULCAHY

A mere dollar a record.

POTTER

Radar, write the Father a
check from the unit fund.

Radar takes out the checkbook.

MULCAHY

Plus \$27.95 for postage and
handling from Rochester, New York.

Radar closes the checkbook.

POTTER

For \$27.95 they oughta send
Bishop Sheen.

RADAR

Hey, that'd be neat.

Potter ENTERS his office.

MULCAHY

Colonel, I ask for so little.

Mulcahy follows into Potter's office.

INT. POTTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Potter and Mulcahy ENTER and stop.

POTTER

Aw, pony pucks.

We now see that COLONEL FLAGG is sitting at Potter's desk, his feet propped up.

FLAGG

Don't you knock when you enter a room?

POTTER

Flagg, how did you get in here?

FLAGG

That's classified.

POTTER

Radar.

Radar ENTERS.

RADAR

Sir?

(horrified,
spots Flagg)

What is he...? I was sitting and...how did you get in?

MULCAHY

Not from above, that's certain.

FLAGG

Let's talk about your camp, Potter, and don't play dumb. You're not as good at it as I am.

POTTER

What is it this time Flagg? Fluoride in the soup?

MULCAHY

I think I'd better leave.

FLAGG

Freeze, Mr. Vatican. Nobody goes 'til I do, and I just went. Potter, you've got a wounded North Korean officer here. As usual, you failed to report it.

RADAR

We did report it.

FLAGG

(checking his
knuckles)

You mean I bruised these knuckles
just for the fun of it?

MULCAHY

Oh, my Lord.

FLAGG

(to Mulcahy)

Good cover, but who are you?
Never mind. I'll get to you
in a minute.

(to Potter)

I understand your Captain Pierce
saved that pinko's miserable
skin.

POTTER

Not to mention his life.

FLAGG

And that was his big mistake.
Now, I want to question both
of them.

POTTER

Flagg, you don't go near anyone
without my permission.

Flagg takes out orders and shows them to Potter.

POTTER

What's this?

FLAGG

Your permission.

POTTER

(looking at it)

Right.

Flagg snatches the orders away and heads for the door.

FLAGG

I'll be around...
(threateningly)
...so will you.

Cont.

Flagg walks past Mulcahy, then stops.

FLAGG
(to Mulcahy, his
back to him)
Quick. Who sang
'Toora, Looora Looora' in
'Going My Way?'

MULCAHY
Bing and Barry.

FLAGG
Okay, you're clear...for now.

Flagg EXITS.

POTTER
That's counter-intelligence
if I ever saw it.

CUT TO:

INT. POST-OP - DAY

6

B.J. is on rounds. Hawkeye ENTERS and approaches him.

HAWKEYE
How's that patient I almost
put in the hospital?

B.J.
Fine. You can't talk to him.

HAWKEYE
Look, I won't even raise my
voice.

B.J.
I know. You want to apologize
for yelling at him, for being
unprofessional. Believe me,
it'll only cause trouble.

HAWKEYE
You have a lot of faith in me,
don't you?

B.J.
I'll tell him for you. My
head is usually at a cooler
temperature than yours.

Cont.

HAWKEYE

In other words, I can't handle myself.

B.J.

I thought I just said that.

HAWKEYE

It must be wonderful to be as perfect as you.

B.J.

All I know is, I wouldn't have blown up at him the way you did.

HAWKEYE

Oh sure. You would've gone over and thanked him for the kind words.

B.J.

Look, I don't have to apologize for being more rational than you.

HAWKEYE

(calmly)

Aha. Excuse me...I feel a tantrum coming on.

Hawkeye crosses towards Radar's office. Just as he's about to pass the curtains in the doorway, Flagg pops out in front of him.

FLAGG

I'll give you a chance. Why did you do it?

HAWKEYE

I dunno. Why does anyone do it?

FLAGG

Now you've done it.

HAWKEYE

Well, you're gonna have to clean it up 'cause I'm in a hurry.

FLAGG

I got you dead to rights, Ivan. You saved that crummy red excuse for a person. Why?

Cont.

HAWKEYE

It was something to do, and besides, he was dying.

FLAGG

I'm on to you, Pierce. You took a yellow red before a white American which is pretty pinko.

HAWKEYE

You're even boring in Technicolor.

FLAGG

You're a Commie sympathizer. I've been waiting a long time for this. You're mine. Your butt is in my sling.

HAWKEYE

All right, take me. I'm yours.

FLAGG

I knew it. You're one of those, too. Well, when I dig up the proof, real or otherwise, that you're the traitor that I know you are, then I'll know it, and you'll know it too.

HAWKEYE

Nice to see you again.

Hawkeye crosses his fingers, holds them up to Flagg's face, then EXITS.

FLAGG

(after him)

I saw that.

CUT TO:

INT. MESS TENT - DAY

7

Hawkeye and B.J. are eating.

B.J.

(re food)

What is this? It looks like quicksand.

Cont.

HAWKEYE

It is. A fly just walked on it
and sank. I threw it a noodle,
but it was too late.

Charles approaches.

CHARLES

Gentlemen. Mind if I join you?

HAWKEYE

You can't charm your way back
into my heart, Charles.

B.J.

Have a seat.

HAWKEYE

Always the peacemaker.

Charles sits.

CHARLES

Pierce, I see no point in
holding a grudge. As
Chief Surgeon you did what you
felt was right. I can appreciate
your motives.

HAWKEYE

Thanks, Charles. Just for that,
I'll give you my food.

B.J.

If he'll swallow his pride,
he'll swallow anything.

CHARLES

You know, you probably were right
to take the North Korean over the
American. If the North Korean had
died, you would've merely been a
fool. If the American had died
you would've been a scoundrel.
But since they both lived you're
the lucky stiff.

HAWKEYE

Up, Charles.

CHARLES

What?

Cont.

HAWKEYE

Get up. Up, over and out.
I've had a long miserable day
and the last thing I need is
you, belching your Boston
bull. So beat it!

CHARLES

And that's how you accept an
apology.

HAWKEYE

Out! Out! Out!

Charles rises from the table and leaves.

B.J.

You want to go over and make
up with that guy in Post-Op
now?

CUT TO:

EXT. MESS TENT - DAY

8

Charles EXITS and dumps his tray contents into one of a
row of garbage cans. He hears a muffled whisper of "Major."
He stops, looks around, then continues. He hears it again.

CHARLES

(walking back)

Not funny, whoever you are.

Colonel Flagg appears from behind the Mess Tent door.

FLAGG

Whoever I am is me.
Colonel Flagg.

CHARLES

Hello. Good-bye.

Charles turns to leave.

FLAGG

Hold it, Major. Don't make
me make you listen to this.

CHARLES

Aren't you the tyrant.

Cont.

FLAGG

I gotta proposition. Pierce is hiding something. Find out what it is and name your price.

CHARLES

One...you can't afford my price, and two...what are you talking about?

FLAGG

Don't kid with me. I have no sense of humor.

CHARLES

Could've fooled me.

FLAGG

Pierce is the rottenest apple in the sleazy barrel. I think he's a Communist sympathizer and this business with the North Korean proves it. He's a Com-simp, maybe even a spy. Problem is, I don't have the proof. You're his bunk. Get it.

CHARLES

For a man with no sense of humor, you're awfully funny.

FLAGG

(holding up his
index finger)

Do you believe I can break your leg with this finger?

CHARLES

Strangely enough, I do.

FLAGG

Bright boy.

CHARLES

Colonel, the very notion of Pierce being a spy, let alone a sympathizer, is absurd. He has a big mouth and he's always butting into other people's business, but that makes him obnoxious, not a spy.

Cont.

FLAGG
Doesn't wash. I'm obnoxious
and I'm a spy.

CHARLES
Touché.

FLAGG
(hearing someone
exit)
Someone's coming. See who it
is.

Charles peeks around.

CHARLES' P.O.V.

9

A couple of nurses EXIT the Mess Tent and move on.

CHARLES
(o.s.)
Only a couple of nurses. They
appear to be American. Should
we tail them?

BACK TO SCENE

10

Charles looks around. Flagg is gone.

CHARLES
Colonel?

The top of a garbage can slowly opens. Flagg peers out
and ssshs.

CHARLES
Oh, of course. You're undercover.

FLAGG
I've checked up on you. Fact --
you want out of Korea.

CHARLES
Fact -- everybody does.

FLAGG
Cooperate with me and I'll
get you out.

CHARLES
No thanks, tin man. I'll get
to Tokyo on my own.

Cont.

FLAGG

I meant to Boston.

CHARLES

Massachusetts?

FLAGG

Fort Devens. Nine to five.
Make that 4:30. Then home every
evening to Wellesly where you
still live with your mom and
dad and sister Honorhea.

CHARLES

That's Honoria, and how did you
know...

FLAGG

It's my business. Well, in
or out?

Charles thinks it over.

CHARLES

Boston, Boston...Well, I
guarantee you Pierce is no spy,
but if a few of his innocent
letters are what you want...
why not?

FLAGG

Winchester, you're a real
American...so far.

CHARLES

It's a pleasure doing business
with you and I'll talk to
Colonel Potter about getting
you better quarters.

Charles walks away. Flagg is about to get out of the can
when he hears the Mess Tent door open. Instinctively he ducks
back into the can, lid on top. After two beats a passing
soldier removes the top, and without looking, dumps the
contents of his tray into Flagg's can, and replaces the top.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. "THE SWAMP" - DAY

11

Charles is crouched beside Hawkeye's open footlocker. He searches through it, looking up every so often to see that no one is coming. He pulls out a sock, a bolo paddle, a nudist magazine (that disgusts him but he pulls one back and quickly breezes through it). Finally he finds a letter.

CHARLES

Eureka!

He closes the footlocker, sniffs the envelope, smiles, (he's got something) and excitedly sits down on his own bed and begins to read.

CHARLES

(more scanning
than reading)

'Dearest Hawkeye...that idyllic
weekend in Gangor...the cozy
fireplace...the fur rug...warm
hands, warm bodies drawing
ever closer...'

Charles continues reading completely entranced by the letter. Hawkeye ENTERS.

HAWKEYE

Charles.

CHARLES

(still reading)

Pierce.

(suddenly
realizing)

Pierce!

Charles closes the letter, looks for a place to hide it, then stuffs it in his shirt.

HAWKEYE

A love letter?

CHARLES

(flustered)

No, no. It's financial...
stuff.

HAWKEYE

Right. A love letter.

Cont.

Hawkeye checks around the room turning up his mattress, looking into the stove, behind the still.

HAWKEYE

(talking into
the coil of
the still)

Testing, one, two, three.
Testing...calling all cars.
Come in, Dick Tracy.

CHARLES

Don't do that for my benefit,
Pierce. I'm already convinced
you're mad.

Hawkeye keeps checking.

HAWKEYE

Not mad. Justifiably paranoid.
It's called the Flagg syndrome.
Whenever that guy shows up here
I look for hidden microphones.
Last time he bugged my fly.

CHARLES

Aren't you exaggerating just
a bit? He may be a mite
overzealous, but he's no
Mata Hari.

HAWKEYE

Tell that to your pillow.
These intelligence guys are
dangerous, and when they're
fools like Flagg they're
twice as dangerous. They
play a child's game in a
grown-up world and let the
bodies fall where they may.
Flagg would turn in his own
mother for passing along a
recipe.

CHARLES

(fishing)
You really don't like the
fellow do you?

HAWKEYE

A leech is more respectable.

CHARLES

Hmm. That bad.

HAWKEYE

There's nothing in here. I think I'll go and sing 'Carmen' in the latrine. The echo will kill him.

Hawkeye EXITS. Charles looks at the letter again, puts it back in Hawkeye's footlocker and EXITS.

CUT TO:

INT. POST-OP - DAY

12

B.J. is on duty. He and a NURSE are checking a patient's chart.

B.J.

How's he doing?

NURSE

He pinched me during my last round.

B.J.

Good sign. Take him off I.V.

B.J. crosses towards the desk.

BASGALL

Hey, Doc. Doc. Could I talk to you?

B.J. comes over to him.

B.J.

Sure. From what I hear I'm very accessible.

BASGALL

When I'm evac-ed tomorrow, I want you to fix it so my buddy goes with me.

B.J.

I can fix anything from flat tires to poodles, but that's out of my hands. He's Captain Pierce's patient.

BASGALL

That's what I'm worried about. I want him taken care of by someone who's gonna take care of him.

B.J.
Whether you like it or not,
Pierce saved your friend's
life.

BASGALL
Yeah, when he got around to it.
Thanks to my pushing him.

B.J.
Basgall, listen to me.
Hawkeye Pierce is just about
the best surgeon in this
place. Whatever he says is
right for Elverson is right
for him. You're gonna have
to believe that.

There's a beat.

BASGALL
You guys all stick together,
don't you?

CUT TO:

EXT. COMPOUND - NIGHT

13

Klinger is on guard duty. He stops under a lamp to light
a cigar. After a beat, Colonel Flagg emerges from the
shadows. He blows out the match.

FLAGG
State your business, soldier.

KLINGER
Hey, wait a minute. That's
my line.

Flagg takes the cigar from Klinger.

FLAGG
Don't you know these things
are bad for you?

Flagg puts the cigar out in his palm.

KLINGER
Ooh, that poor cigar.

Klinger moves o.s. Flagg steps back into the shadows.
Charles approaches, stops under the light. Flagg steps
out behind him.

Cont.

FLAGG
Winchester, you're fifteen
seconds late.

CHARLES
(turning around)
Oh, Colonel Flagg. I didn't
recognize you without your
garbage can. Don't you have
a dark one for the evening?

FLAGG
Did you bring something?

CHARLES
Yes...my resignation. I will
criticize Pierce, I will
ridicule him, I will even
humiliate him, but I will not
spy on him.

FLAGG
You won't do it.

CHARLES
God, what intuition.

FLAGG
Then he's your friend.

CHARLES
(chuckling)
Friend? I have no friends in
Asia. Only in Newport. A
few at Martha's Vineyard.

FLAGG
You don't seem to recognize
the gravity of the situation.
At this point, if Pierce is
tried and you haven't proved
noncomplicity with him by
complying with me, you'll be
tried and punished for
complicity. With him.

CHARLES
You wouldn't dare.

Cont.

FLAGG

You'll just disappear. Ten years from now Mummy will be sitting in Newport trying to remember who you were. No more Boston, no more chowder, no more Red Sox.

CHARLES

Who cares about the Red Sox?

FLAGG

No more...money.

CHARLES

(after a beat)

I believe you'd do it.

FLAGG

For laughs.

CHARLES

I'll try to come up with something...and I hope you choke on it.

FLAGG

You're a real weasel. I knew I could count on you.

CUT TO:

INT. "THE SWAMP" - NIGHT

14

Hawkeye is sitting in his pilot's chair reading a book. A shadowy figure crosses in the light behind him. The door opens.

HAWKEYE

Come in.

There's no reply. Hawkeye looks up. It's Basgall. He's leaning on a cane.

HAWKEYE

You don't understand, Basgall, we're supposed to make the rounds.

BASGALL

I won't beat around the bush, Doc. Either Elverson is evac-ed with me tomorrow or I put you away now. Make your choice.

Hawkeye slowly rises from his chair.

HAWKEYE

I gotta warn you I'm really bad at snap decisions. How about a third alternative? Your going back to bed leaps to mind.

BASGALL

I'm not kidding.

Basgall whacks the cane on the bed frame. Then waves it at Hawkeye.

BASGALL

I don't want you around him.

HAWKEYE

I've talked to you as doctor to patient, now I'm asking nicely Captain to Corporal: Get back to Post-Op before we're both sorry.

BASGALL

What do I have to do to convince you? You don't care about us. If you did you would have taken him ahead of that North Korean. This time you're gonna do it my way, and quick.

B.J. ENTERS.

B.J.

Basgall!

Basgall turns towards B.J. who takes the cane out of his hand and tosses it away.

B.J.

(to Basgall)

You...

(grabs Basgall by his robe and starts shaking him; infuriated)

What the hell do you think you're doing? I told you Elverson would be okay. I oughta throw you right through that door.

Hawkeye grabs B.J.

HAWKEYE
Beej, let him go. He's already
wounded...Let him go!

B.J. releases Basgall.

B.J.
Oh, Brother! What am I doing?

HAWKEYE
(assisting
Basgall; to
B.J.)
It's okay, Beej.

B.J.
I don't think so. Basgall,
I'm sorry.

BASGALL
Let me go.
(takes his cane)
I want outta here.

B.J.
I'll help you.

BASGALL
No, no, I'll make it myself.

Hawkeye assists Basgall to the door and spots a passing
corpsman.

HAWKEYE
Goldman, take him back to Post-Op.

Basgall EXITS.

B.J.
Did you see what I did?

HAWKEYE
Yeah, and thank you.

B.J.
I laid my hands on a patient.

HAWKEYE
Who was threatening my life.

B.J. acknowledges this.

Cont.

B.J.
I can't believe I did that.

HAWKEYE
What's not to believe? He
struck a nerve. Once in
awhile we all lose our head.
Today was finally your turn.

B.J.
Those are real comforting
words, Hawk. Why aren't
they working?

CUT TO:

INT. POST-OP - NIGHT

15

Charles is on rounds. Flagg and Radar ENTER. Radar is
carrying a notepad.

RADAR
Sir, I know it's for my
country and if I don't do
it you may do something horrible
to me but if you don't mind
I'd rather not.

— FLAGG
Request denied.

RADAR
Thank you, sir.

FLAGG
(to Charles)
Major, how is that North Korean
doing?

CHARLES
Stable but not out of danger.

FLAGG
In other words, he can answer
some questions.

CHARLES
Colonel, as much as I admire
your work, I'm afraid I can't
let you bother him.

Cont.

FLAGG

When it comes down to it,
Doctor, I don't need your
permission.

CHARLES

Sometime we must talk about
your toilet training.

Flagg, Radar and Charles walk over to the North Korean.

FLAGG

Look at him. Resting
comfortably in an American
cot. By all rights he should
be dead.

CHARLES

Well, we can't lose 'em all.

Charles moves on to another patient.

FLAGG

(to North Korean)
All right, Red Rover. Lie
at attention.

(to Radar)
Start taking notes, four-eyes.
(to North Korean)
We'll start with something
simple. Name, troop number,
infantry division and where
they're located.

No reply from North Korean.

RADAR

I don't think he can understand
you either, sir.

FLAGG

He understands. They all do.
(to North Korean)
All right, Comrade, here's the
story.

(points to the
blood I.V.)
You give me what I need and
I'll give you what you need.

Cont.

RADAR

Hey, wait a minute...You're not gonna...You can't do that! I don't care who you are, you can't come in here and threaten someone's blood.

FLAGG

Who's gonna stop me?

RADAR

(flustered, searching for an answer)

Well...Somebody!

Charles comes over.

CHARLES

Why don't you shoo, Corporal? I'll handle this.

RADAR

(angry)

Boy!

Radar EXITS. Charles checks to see if the North Korean is okay.

CHARLES

We'd appreciate it, Colonel, if you just stuck to thumb screws.

(spots something under the North Korean's pillow)

Hello. What have we here?

Charles pulls a note out. Flagg grabs it away.

FLAGG

That's for me. Whatever it is.

CHARLES

Perhaps it's a note from his superiors excusing him from questioning.

Charles looks at the note over Flagg's shoulder.

FLAGG

It's a diagram. Of a camp.

Cont.

CHARLES
Looks like this camp.

FLAGG
(oblivious)
It looks like this camp.

CHARLES
There's a circle around my
quarters.

FLAGG
Pierce's quarters...ah so.
A little rendezvous. And what's
this at the bottom? A circle
with two arrows in it...

CHARLES
A clock.

FLAGG
It's a clock...ten o'clock.
Yes, I think I could fit
that into my schedule.
(to Charles)
Not a word about this, understand?

CHARLES
Who, me? I work for you.

CUT TO:

EXT. "THE SWAMP" - NIGHT

16

Flagg, flanked by two large MP's, is hiding a short distance
from "The Swamp." In "The Swamp," we can see Hawkeye moving
a table and chairs into place for the night's bridge game.

FLAGG
Talk about your nerve. He's
even setting out refreshments
for everybody. Probably every
stinking spy in the area will
be here.

MP #1
Is that the guy we nab?

FLAGG
You just arrest everybody who
goes in that tent except us.

Cont.

Charles saunters by.

CHARLES

Hello there.

FLAGG

Get down.

CHARLES

Oh, I see. You're staking out.
What fun.

Charles crouches down with Flagg and the MP's. The two
"bridge playing" Koreans, Hung Pak and Doo Pak ENTER
"The Swamp."

FLAGG

Oh. Here come the guests of
dishonor.

(to Charles)

Ever seen them before?

CHARLES

Yes, now that I think of it.
A number of times.

FLAGG

Do you know their names?

CHARLES

No, I was never formally
introduced. How about calling
them Mr. X and Mr. Y?

FLAGG

Doesn't matter. They won't
need names for long.

MP #1

They're sitting down.

FLAGG

All right, I'm convinced.
(cocks his .45)
Let's move in.

Just as they're about to spring...

FLAGG

Hold it.

(sees something)
Caramba!

Cont.

Potter approaches "The Swamp" and ENTERS.

FLAGG

Mr. Big himself. The fish
stinks from the head down.

CHARLES

I don't believe it. Maybe
we should wait and see if
MacArthur shows up.

FLAGG

After tonight every kid in
America will wish he were me.
Move out!

Flagg and MP's start to move. Charles trail behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. "THE SWAMP" - NIGHT

17

Potter, Hawkeye and the twin Paks are playing bridge.
Hawkeye is dealing.

HAWKEYE

(as he deals to
Koreans)

Watch out you two. You're
asking for trouble tonight.

Flagg and the MP's burst in.

FLAGG

All right, cards up and drop
those hands!

POTTER

What the Sam Hill...?

HAWKEYE

And I was just going to ask
who was dummy.

FLAGG

(to MP's)

Grab those cards, they're
evidence.

The two confused Koreans confer with each other in Korean.

FLAGG

Speak English!

POTTER
I'll speak English. What is
this idiocy about?

FLAGG
Your spy ring.

POTTER
Spy ring?

FLAGG
Very clever. Hiding under
a house of cards as you plot
the overthrow of the free
world.

HAWKEYE
He's got us, guys. Might as
well confess. I'm Joe Stalin.
(introduces the
rest of group)
Mao Tse Tung, Marshall Tito...
(re Potter)
...and you already know Lenin.
What can I say? We couldn't
get a room in the Kremlin.

Charles innocently ENTERS.

CHARLES
Oh, excuse me, Pierce. I
see you have company.

The Paks get up.

HUNG PAK
Colonel Potter. We cannot
play bridge under these
conditions. We go now.

They start to leave.

FLAGG
(pointing the gun)
Freeze, friend. This piece
has a hair trigger and I have
an itchy finger.

POTTER
Flagg, put that thing down.
I don't know how your nimble
brain cooked up this goofy
plot, but you just bought
yourself a peck of trouble.

FLAGG
(sarcastically to
MP)
Says the ring leader.

POTTER
Do you have any idea who
these two gentlemen are?

FLAGG
I'll get to that when I'm
ready. All right, who are
you?

HUNG PAK
I am Hung Pak.

POTTER
Mayor of Oujambou.

HAWKEYE
And this is his baby brother,
Doo Pak, the Chief of Police.

CHARLES
(mock recognition)
Oh, that's right. Now I
remember. That's who they
are.

MP #1
(checking Hung Pak's
I.D.; to Flagg)
Colonel, I think you might've
made a little mistake.

HAWKEYE
Give him more credit than
that. Flagg never makes
little mistakes.

MP #1
Sorry folks.
(to his partner)
Let's go Larry.
(re Flagg)
Another false alarm.

The MP's EXIT.

FLAGG
It doesn't add up. That
map, the evidence.

CHARLES

(to Flagg)

Colonel, you, of all people,
should know better than to
trust a North Korean.

POTTER

You'll pay for this, Flagg...
right through your twitchy
nose.

HUNG PAK

I got a lot of big contacts
at I Corps. They'll fix your
wagon.

FLAGG

I see. It's bigger than all
of you. It's a major
conspiracy. I'm going to
get to the bottom of this
even if I have to go right to
the top.

Flagg reaches up and shuts off the light. There's
pandemonium.

POTTER

(voice over)

Flagg, you nut!

HAWKEYE

(voice over)

Colonel, now's our chance.
Switch decks!

POTTER

(voice over)

Get a light on!

Charles switches on his light. Flagg is gone.

POTTER

He's gone.

HAWKEYE

I don't think he was ever here.
Just a bad dream we all had.

POTTER

(to the Koreans)

My apologies to both of you.
Imagine that rube thinking we
were a spy ring.

Charles chuckles. Hawkeye notices.

HAWKEYE

Charles...you didn't have anything to do with this, did you?

CHARLES

Me? I wouldn't waste my time...unless of course, I could get a good laugh out of it.

Charles starts laughing.

HAWKEYE

You did. You set him up.

Hawkeye laughs too. Potter and the Pak brothers watch them.

HUNG PAK

I don't get it.

POTTER

The Major will explain while he plays.

HAWKEYE

(stops laughing)
While he plays?

POTTER

That's right, Pierce. I want a partner with something up his sleeve.

CHARLES

(taking a seat)
Thank you, Colonel.

(picks up his hand)
Gentlemen, it was an amazing story. From the moment I set eyes on Flagg, I knew what had to be done. I found where his weak spot was. Above his neck. The rest was child's play...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN

INT. MULCAHY'S TENT - DAY

18

B.J. and Mulcahy ENTER the tent.

MULCAHY

I'm telling you, B.J., it works
for me every time.

B.J.

I guess it's worth a try.

Mulcahy takes B.J. over to his overhead punching bag.

MULCAHY

There's nothing so relaxing as
whooping the daylights out of
something.

B.J.

As long as I can't hurt him.

Mulcahy starts to rhythmically punch the bag.

MULCAHY

It's easy once you get into the
rhythm. Go ahead, try it.

B.J. steps up and with one shot slams the bag right off the
hook.

B.J.

Hey I'm sorry, Father.

Mulcahy surveys the deflated bag.

MULCAHY

It's all right...perhaps you'd
be better off with needlepoint.

FADE OUT

THE END

