

Beginning scene:

Grandpa sits on his chair, reading a book. Schoolboy runs in.

Schoolboy: “Gramps! I have a school project on Canada’s involvement in the wars! Mom said to talk to you, she said you lived through all of them!”

Gramps: *(slowly puts book down.)* “Well, well, well, come sit down. I’ll tell you all about it.”

Schoolboy: “Great! Let me get my computer to take notes.”

Gramps: *(stops schoolboy)* “Hm. Back in my day, we didn’t have the world wide interweb, we had newspapers.” *(wink.)* “Ah, what fond memories I had with newspapers.”

(schoolboy leaves)

(Gramps gets up, suddenly young again and throws on his newsboy cap.)

Gramps: Let me see if I remember...

CUE FLASHBACK SOUND EFFECT, SLOWED TO .75 SPEED

Scene One

Paperboy enters on stage

SLIDE 1914

Paperboy: “Extra, Extra read all about it! Canada to go to war against the Axis Powers!”

Scene: living room, a pregnant Mary (wife) reading on a chair, phonograph on the table

John runs out from the crowd and onto the stage into the living room

John: “Mary, darling, we’re going to war!”

Mary: “What? What do you mean, going to war?”

John: “It’s all over the paper, darling, haven’t you heard?”

Mary: "I don't understand... You are leaving immediately? Have you already enlisted?"

John: "No, I just came home to grab my new coat. Mark and Will have already enlisted. (Grabs his coat)"

Mary: *(grabs John's arm to stop him)* "You can't be serious!?" *(stare at him for a moment)* Mark and William don't have wives, not to mention a kid on the way to worry about, are you even hearing yourself? Who will provide for us? You won't be here to see your child be born!"

John: "We need to defeat the Central Powers! Don't worry, I'll be back before christmas, with a little extra money for presents, a big tree, and turkey! We can even get that new baby carriage you want for him. *(grabs her hands)* Don't worry, darling. You won't even notice I'm gone. Besides, I won't be alone, Will and Mark will be there with me."

Mary: "Yes, but will you come home with them? Just wash up and come to dinner, let's forget about this war nonsense." *(starts to walk away)*

John: *(stops her)* "I need to enlist now. Don't you want to help our country? Our people? I want our child to grow up knowing his father was a hero, not someone who ran away when the war came. Let me enlist, I promise I'll be back right away."

Mary walks away, and John grabs his coat and leaves to enlist.

Scene: Enlistment room, Tom Longboat is next in line and John walks in and lines up behind him.

(EA) Enlistment agent: Next! What's your name, birthdate, medical history, occupation?"

Tom: "Tom Longboat, July 4th 1886, no medical history, I'm a long distance runner, sir."

EA: "A runner eh? Good, good, we need fast runners in our armies, where ya from?"

Tom: Six Nations Reserve, sir."

EA: Indian, huh? Sorry, we don't accept your kind for war. Next!"

Tom Longboat leaves, saying to himself.

Tom: "Can't even protect my own people? We'll see about that."

Tom leaves

John: Hello sir.

EA: What's your name, birthdate, medical history, occupation?"

John: "John Tucker, October 7 1891, no medical history, I work in manufacturing, sir."

EA: "You're a fine young man, you'll be a nice addition. Where ya from?"

John: Ontario, sir.

EA: *(Hands John a document)* Well, welcome to the army, son. Your uniform is just down the rack.

John: Thanks.

John walks offstage

Scene: back in the living room, empty.

John enters

John: Mary? Darling, I'm home.

Mary enters

Mary: Did you enlist?

John: Yes. I'm sorry, darling, but I know this is what I have to do. I'll make it up to you when I get back.

Mary: I just hate the fact you'll be at war, John.

John: Let's not worry, darling. I'll be perfectly fine. *(Grabs her hands in his.)* I leave early tomorrow morning, I promise I'll write you letters.

Mary: Every week? *(close to tears)*

John: Every week. Now, darling, don't be sad. I'd hate for this to be our last memory together before christmas time. (reaches over and turns on the radio. Slow music starts playing.)

CUE SPRING BY MENDELSSON SOUND EFFECT WHEN ROYA GOES TO TURN ON RECORD PLAYER, TURN **UP** AS SHE TURNS VOLUME

John: Dance with me?

Mary: Oh, John.

They dance, swaying to the music.

Mary: You know I'll miss you right?

John: I know. I'll miss you too.

CUE SPRING BY MENDELSSON TURNED **DOWN** SLOWLY AS MARY AND JOHN DANCE OFF STAGE

-----> time skip

SLIDE 1919 Paperboy announces the end of ww1

Scene: Living room, Mary is cleaning up her son's toys.

(offstage) Mary: Your father's going to come back home now, Henry. He'll be here soon.

Knocking on the door, Mary stands up, and opens the door.

Courier: Mam, a telegram has arrived for you.

Mary: Thank you.

Mary takes the telegram and closes the door. She opens it and reads.

Mary: Dear Mrs Tucker, we are deeply sorry to inform you that your husband has...oh. Oh. no. no! *(she breaks off into tears crumples to the floor)*

Scene Two

SLIDE 1939

Paperboy enters on his bike, throws the newspaper to a teacher, drinking coffee.

Teacher: Germany invades Poland, Britain declares war. The House of Commons meets to decide if Canada will join. WHAT? Here we go again. *(walks into his house)*

Medic is attending to a patient , checking her clipboard and a iv drip.

Patient enters, holding his shoulder

Patient: "It's bad, isn't it."

Medic: "Oh, I've seen worse, it's going to be ok, don't worry."

Medic starts fixing the wounds

Patient winces, signs of pain

Medic starts getting out a letter and pen while talking to the patient.

Medic: "You're going to be ok for now, but I'm going to have to write a letter home informing them of your injury, since you can't write one yourself."

Patient: "How long till I'm back on the front lines, nurse?"

Medic: "Not for a while. Probably a couple weeks or so."

Medic starts writing a letter to the patient's home

Medic: Dear *(pauses)*
"What's your last name?"

Patient: "Schmidt,"

Medic speaks out the words as they write.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt,
Your son was recently injured as a result of being on the front lines in the western front. He fought valiantly to defend our country, and his service is valued.
He is expected to make a full recovery in the next number of weeks, and will be taken care of well.
Sincerely,
Nurse Nightingale

Medic: Your arm will be ok, don't worry. I took out the bullet and stitched you up. As long as you rest it for the next few weeks you should be on your way to a full recovery in no time. Soon enough you'll be strong enough to open a couple Christmas presents from your loved ones.

Patient: As long as I can be back on the front lines soon.

Medic: Through the three years I've spent here, I've seen way worse injuries than this. You'll be back before you know it.

Scene Three

Somewhat older paperboy in the comfort of his home, cosies up and tunes into the radio.

SLIDE 1950

CUE SOUND EFFECT OF RADIO TUNING

PLAY RADIO SOUND:

"Radio: Sparks in Korea! The North has invaded, backed by China and the Soviet Union! The allies stand firm with the south."

Cue to a war room, a grand general is displaying his strategies along the battlefield map to the rest of his comrades. Suddenly the 'door' swings open. And in comes an injured escapee in distress.

General: Name yourself boy.

Escapee: Private Davis Johnson, sir, of the 32nd battalion, sir.

General: What's your business here?

Escapee: Message sir, our troop was taken by the North Koreans while we were circling the front lines of the border and they fired at us! They have taken our men as prisoners! I barely escaped with my life, and came back to get help sir. They're in bad shape sir, do-

General: -Slow down, (grabs his shoulder) did you say the 32nd battalion?

Escapee: Yes sir. Captain Stitch's battalion sir.

A solemn beat of silence passes as realisation sets in.

General: Go get lieutenant Davidson from the 45th battalion.

Escapee: Yes sir.

Escapee runs out

General (to himself): I feared something like that would happen, I knew there was a chance when I sent them out like that. (puts hand to forehead) I should have sent more men with them, Stitch said they had enough, that stealth was more important than fire power. (shakes head) He's never been good at math that Stitch, what have I done? (takes a second to compose himself)

Escapee returns with Davidson

General: Is there any intel on where they were taken?

Escapee: No sir, they are most likely imprisoned at one of their bases, or missing, O-or they're possibly dea-

General: No, we won't give up on them like that. We must believe they are alive, not just for our sakes, but for theirs as well.

Escapee: Sir you know how cruel the North Koreans are? We won't get them back until this war is over, who knows if they will even have eyes or arms or even a tongue? (Lowkey hyperventilating)

General: Calm yourself soldier. Get some food and water, I'll have someone find you a coat. Rest for now, I'll send someone to get you when we know more.

Hesitatingly, the escapee leaves, and the general is left alone with Davidson

General: Davidson, put out the word, we've got men captured by the North Koreans, as far as we know, being held captive and possibly worse.

Davidson: Captured? What's gonna happen to em' sir?

General: They can be imprisoned, tortured, starved beaten till the bone is seen through the flesh. And they can't do nothing bout' it, they never leave, not until we end this war.

Davidson: But, but, but that can't be allowed sir? That's not-that's not right sir, is it? Their good men, sir. That can't happen to them, they're highly esteemed soldiers!

General: Pull yourself together, lieutenant, (puts hand on his shoulder) they are no longer soldiers. They are prisoners of war.

CUE SOUND EFFECT FLASHBACK AFTER ALISON & ALESHA HAVE LEFT STAGE AND FELIX AND ADAM ARE SET UP ON STAGE.

Scene Four

NO SLIDES

School boy: So, then, the Korean War was the last war we fought in, Grampa?

Gramps: Oh, heavens, no! Back in 2001 right after the Sept 11 attacks on the twin towers in NY, we sent armed forces to Afghanistan. By the time we withdrew in 2014 we had sent 40 000 troops to that region.

School boy: Why would Canadian soldiers have to go to Afghanistan if America got attacked?!

Gramps: Long story short, we're allies with America. But while we were there, we had a pivotal role to play in driving out the Taliban government, which supported Bin Laden, who was responsible for the attack in NY.

School boy: We got him, right?

Gramps: Yes, but while we were there, that wasn't our only mission.

In Kandahar, we helped local families get basic food and education, especially the girls who weren't allowed to go to school under the Taliban. In Kabul, it was a bit more dangerous but we trained the local soldiers and gave them equipment to help fight off Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. All told, we suffered over 150 casualties. Improvised explosives devices, roadside bombs, and landmines were common forms of attack from the enemy.

Schoolboy: Oh, like... Call of Duty!! (mimes video game controller)

Gramps: Yes, it was a very honourable call of duty.

Schoolboy: (drops smile)

Gramps: my friend's grandson lost a leg due to a roadside attack. His squadron had pulled over during a local patrol route when they were ambushed. IEDs were thrown into his humvee. He and his mates escaped but all suffered major injuries.

Schoolboy: Wow, Gramps. I think I have tons here to start my school Remembrance Day project. Thanksssss

Gramps: (*fishes into his pants pocket*) Here's a shiny nickel, Shhh...don't tell your mom.

Props:

- ☐ Newspaper - 5/6 - Alison
- ☐ Satchel -
- ☐ Laptop (for the kid) -
- ☐ Chair (for gramps) -
- ☐ Reading magazine (gramps) -

- ☐ Coat (John) -
- ☐ Phonograph (Mary and John) - Mrs.Loconte
- ☐ Pillow (Mary) -
- ☐ Apron (Mary) - Mrs.Loconte
- ☐ Toys (Mary) - Serena

- ☐ Long Desk (EA) -
- ☐ Papers (EA) -
- ☐ Pens (EA) -
- ☐ Posters (EA) -

- ☐ Telegram / envelope (Courier) -

- ☐ Clipboard (Nurse) - Mrs.Loconte
- ☐ IV Drip (Nurse scene) -
- ☐ Gauze (Patient) -
- ☐ Fake Blood (Patient) -
- ☐ Blanket / Bedsheet (Nurses scene) -
- ☐ Table as bed (Nurses Scene) - x3
- ☐ Letter (Nurses scene) -

- ☐ Radio -
- ☐ Map (war room) -
- ☐ Desks (War room) -
- ☐ Chess pieces // Figures for war map // glue flags (War room) -
- ☐ Globe -
- ☐ Old Books -
- ☐ Pen -
- ☐ Pointer stick with cardboard to push war pieces -

Costumes:

Mary

John

Tom Longboat

Recruiting officer

Gramps

Paperboy

Schoolboy

Courier

Nurse

Patient

General

Private

Lieutenant

