

The Pacific Episode Guide

Episodes 001-010

Last episode aired Sunday May 16, 2010





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Season One

Guadalcanal/Leckie

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday March 14, 2010
Writer: Bruce McKenna
Director: Tim Van Patten
Guest Stars: Jon Bernthal (Sgt. Manuel Rodriguez), Joshua Biton (Sgt. J.P. Morgan), Simon Bossell (Corpsman Stern), Tom Budge (PFC Ronnie Gibson), Mark Casamento (George Basilone), Joshua Close (Edward Sledge), Linda Cropper (Mary Frank Sledge), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Caroline Dhavernas (Vera Keller), Lelia Goldoni (Dora Basilone), Tom Hanks (Narrator (voice)), Chris Haywood (John Leckie), Josh Helman (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Brynn Loosemore (Corpsman Lewis), Luigi Lucente (Carlo Basilone), Joseph Mazzello (Eugene Sledge), Braydn Michael (Robert Marshall), Toby Leonard Moore (Sgt. Stone), Henry Nixon (2nd Lt. Hugh Corrigan), Keith Nobbs (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley), Conor O'Farrell (Dr. Sledge), Louis Toshio Okada (Panicked Japanese Soldier), Paul Pantano (Angelo Basilone), Jacob Pitts (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith), Joe Russell (Commissary Marine), William Sadler (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Joseph R. Sicari (Salvatore Basilone), Sandy Winton (Capt. Jameson), Byron J. Brochmann (Sick Marine (uncredited)), Vince Cefalu (Sgt. Major (uncredited))

Summary: Directly following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Sergeant John Basilone ships out to fight the enemy somewhere in the Pacific, and a young journalist called Robert Leckie enlists in the Marine Corps. Sidney Phillips ships off to boot camp after saying farewell to his friend Eugene Sledge, who cannot go with him due to a heart murmur. Eight months later, Phillips and Leckie, having completed boot camp are sent to secure an airfield on Guadalcanal, and to help defend it against counterattack.



December 1941 – The United States of America. Winter. Inside of a stone church blanketed in snow, a man lights a candle, contemplates a statue of the Virgin Mary, and crosses himself before leaving. As he emerges from the church, he greets a woman on her way in. Calling her Vera, he introduces himself as Bob Leckie, her neighbor across the street. Vera laughs and says she knows who he is. He tells her he's joined the Marines, to do his part. She tells him that if she doesn't see him before she ships out, she'll pray for him.

"Maybe I'll write you," Bob says. Vera

nods casually and replies, "Alright."

Elsewhere on a military base, Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller briefs a group of men in the 1st Marine Division that includes John Basilone. The Lt. Colonel tells them that the uniforms they

wear and what they represent mean the difference between the world's liberation and its enslavement. He explains that the army, air force and navy of the empire of Japan is intent upon taking over half of the world, and they will not stop until they do so by air, land and sea. What they are not expecting, he says, is the United States Marine Corps.

He tells the boys that Hitler will not be their business, "not until they can't whip him without us." No, they would fight in the Pacific, island by island, on "tiny specks of turf" nobody has ever heard of. And they would not stop until they had marched on mainland Japan itself and every last Japanese soldier was dead.

Puller tells the men who are lucky enough to get home for Christmas to gather their loved ones and hold them all. Then they would meet back there, "ready to sail across God's vast ocean, where we will meet our enemy and kill them all. "

The commanding officer finishes with, "Merry Christmas. Happy 1942."

Jon Basilone approaches the map as the rest of the men disband, and he stares at the Japanese flag. Basilone takes two of his fellow enlisted men, J.P. Morgan and Manny Rodriguez, back to his family's place. They're having a great time when one of Basilone's brothers quiets everyone for a moment to make a toast, welcoming the men to their holiday dinner.

"When all this is over, let's say a year from tonight, we'll sit down at this table again for a welcome home feast," he says. "To all of you – just get the job done and come home to us. "

It's a somber moment, broken up by some rambunctious kids. The only one who doesn't laugh is the Basilone family patriarch, who stares at his plate. John clasps his hand on his dad's forearm, and his father looks him in the eye and nods grimly.

Elsewhere, Leckie's father takes him to the bus station to ship out and remarks that his son didn't pack much. Leckie said the only thing he regrets is not being able to pack his typewriter – he thought he'd fight by day and write by night. The old man bends down and fiddles with something in the car's front undercarriage, complaining that it needs a new axle.

"There's a war on. Everybody's got to make sacrifices," Leckie says with meaning. But the old man pretends to ignore him, complaining that he should have bought a Ford. He tells his dad goodbye, but all that the old man can muster is to extend his hand for a handshake.

In a large house in Mobile, Alabama, a doctor examines another boy and after a moment says, "Son...Eugene, I'm sorry." He leaves the room as the boy wears a look of shock. The doctor goes down and reports the news to his mother – the murmur is still there. He said that the boy looks disappointed. "I'm his mother," the woman says stoically. Upstairs, Eugene cries.

As the doctor sits downstairs and listens to the radio with his other son (who is dressed in uniform) Eugene strides downstairs and outside, grabs his bike and rides off. He meets with his friend, Sidney Phillips, who is on the verge of shipping off. Sidney remind Gene that since he's 18, his parents can't tell him what to do. Gene hands Sidney a book, "Barrack Room Ballads" by Rudyard Kipling. Sidney tells him that he wishes Gene could be shipping out with him. Gene tells his friend to take care of himself, and he grins.

"You don't have to worry about me," Sidney says.

A slow zoom onto a map takes us to the Solomon Islands, and Guadalcanal. It is exactly eight months after Pearl Harbor.

Inside a transport ship, Marines are scrambling to get food in the mess. One of the senior officers yells out cheerily that today is the day. Around a table where Leckie sits, the men try to outdo each other with tough talk about how many Japanese troops they would take out. One, Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens, informs them all that it's going to be like a turkey shoot. Leckie tells him he doubts that. Then another man asks why they were all there anyway, and Juergens calls upon "Professor" Leckie to enlighten them.

"Want to know why we're here?" Leckie asks Then he takes a drag off a cigarette and quotes a line from Homer's "The Iliad": "Without a sign his sword the brave man draws/ And asks no omen but his country's cause."

The men fall silent at this.

On the deck of the boat, a commanding officer gives the men a pep talk loaded with racial slurs, saying that whatever the men think about the Japanese is absolutely incorrect.

He finishes his speech with, "Once you see the Japs, kill 'em all!"

Leckie goes down the side of the ship into a landing craft with his squad, and the craft heads inland to the beach as American warplanes pass overhead. Behind him someone retches. It's very tense. Then the landing craft hits shore. The front door opens and they're greeted with ...calm.

More than that, lethargy. A bunch of American troops are already on the beach, stretched out like it's a vacation. One of them yells out, "Welcome to Guadalcanal."

The boys recline on the sand and eat fruit, one of them ribbing another who claims the Japanese may have poisoned the coconuts on the island. Their commanders, Captain Jameson and 2nd Lieutenant Corrigan, come over and informs them that intel says the Japanese troops have fallen back into the jungle. The unit gathers its gear and moves out.

It's quiet and tense on the trail, and Leckie and his companions don't know what to think as they come across an abandoned camp with what looks like a rudimentary bunker. They stop for a moment as the officers consult a map, then move forward into the jungle.

They fall into line and head into the deep bush, crossing a river in the process. As it gets dark, they become anxious at every snapped twig and bird call. Eventually they encounter the defiled bodies of fellow American soldiers tied to trees. Some have been castrated. It's a sobering sight.

Night falls and they sleep back to back, interrupted suddenly when a gunshot goes off. The Marines begin firing until someone calls a ceasefire. In the morning, they bury a man - he apparently went off to take a leak and was shot by one of their own. He neglected to say a password.

In the morning, they find their objective, and airstrip. Apparently the Americans have taken it and it's the troop's job to guard it.

At night, they watch the gunships fire on the Japanese, and most of the troops "ooh" and "aah" as if they're watching fireworks. Juergens assumes the American ships are taking out the Japanese Navy. Leckie doesn't look so confident. Morning light tells a different story - it's the American Navy that took the biggest hit, having lost four ships. One of them went down with most of their munitions and supplies. The remaining battleships left the area. The Marines are now on their own.

The men take shifts guarding the position as night falls, and at first, nothing happens. Then a spotlight turns on their position. The commanding officer tells them to hold their fire, that the Japanese are just trying to spot them. They hunker down and stay still, and the light goes away. In the morning they see that the Japanese Navy has gathered gunships in the distance. Leckie looks out with binoculars and sees thousands of troops. The officers decide to move the troops inland, toward Alligator Creek, where they dig in. Corrigan informs them that A Company made contact about three miles east of their position.

"Destroy any letters that you have containing dates or addresses," Corrigan tells them.

It's quiet as it gets dark...but then they hear the noise of the enemy getting a bead on their position. Suddenly the night rips apart with gunfire. The Americans are getting torn to pieces, and Jameson jumps into a foxhole and goes fetal. One of them notices Japanese troops crossing the creek to flank them. The Marines fire mortars, and Juergens and Leckie yell to their compatriots to pull up their weapons and move to cut them off.

The remaining men try to belly crawl out of the main firing area but take heavy casualties. Leckie and his companions take a forward position, when the Japanese troops are pouring across the creek toward them. The Japanese find their position again, and Leckie and the boys pack up so they can keep moving. They load up the machine gun, and with Juergens assisting him, Leckie rains fire down on the Japanese infantry relentlessly as the screen goes white.

Daybreak. The beach is thick with dead Japanese soldiers. The Marines are in awe at all the bodies floating in the water. "A real turkey shoot," Leckie says grimly.

"Lucky," Juergens tells him, patting him on the helmet.

Two Americans find a Japanese soldier still alive among the casualties and go over to pull him up. He screams in Japanese and pulls a grenade from behind his back, killing all three of them.

Across the creek, more Japanese soldiers run out firing, but Leckie and Juergens cut through them with the machine gun. One more runs out, but the other soldiers cut him off with rifle fire. The man takes off his hat and starts yelling in frustration, finally becoming hysterical. He stands and sobs as the American soldiers, laughing, take shots at him, putting bullets in his shoulders and torso, taking him apart piece by piece as he weeps. Leckie, disgusted by this, finally stands up, draws his pistol and puts them man out of his misery with a shot to the heart.

Later, Corrigan walks over and tells the boys that Jameson has been relieved of duty and relays the number of casualties, saying he had better start working on the letters to their families. He then compliments Juergens on moving the soldiers around during the firefight and promotes

him to corporal. Juergans grins. "Yes, ma'am, I am a corporal," he says, practicing his next great pick-up line.

Leckie goes over to the Japanese soldier he shot and searches his body. He finds a picture of his wife and a colorful cloth doll.

Leckie contemplates the photo, then throws it on a fire and starts a letter.

"Dear Vera: Seems a lifetime since we met outside St. Mary's. This great undertaking for God and country has landed us in a tropical paradise somewhere in what Jack London refers to as, 'Those terrible Solomons.' It is a garden of Eden. The jungle holds both beauty and terror in its depth, the most terrible of which is man. We have met the enemy and learned nothing more about him. I have, however, learned some things about myself. There are things men can do to one another that are sobering to the soul. It is one thing to reconcile these things with God, but another to square it with yourself."

Later as a medic tends to a seeping wound on Leckie's leg, Basilone's fresh outfit – the reinforcements – walks by. The units good-naturedly rib each other, and Basilone, Rodriguez and Morgan grimly remark to each other that Leckie's troop looks like they've gone through the ringer.

Phillips and Leckie read letters from home to the guys, and Phillips reads Eugene's letter out loud to the boys. They "ooh" salaciously when Eugene mentions his sister.

Corrigan comes by and tells them to gear up because they're moving out.

Phillips tells Leckie that Eugene finished with, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din. Your humble and obedient servant, Eugene Sledge." He explains that Eugene couldn't come because he has a heart murmur.

"A murmuring heart," Leckie remarks, hearing the poetry in it.

One of the men comes up and asks Phillips when his birthday was. He informs him that he just turned 18 two weeks ago.

"Happy birthday," he says, handing him a yellow grenade. As Phillips takes it, the troop starts up a round of singing, "Happy Birthday to you, Happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Phillips, happy birthday to you!"

As they walk into the treeline, they continue the song with, "How f****d are you now? How f****d are you now? How f****d are you now? You're surely f****d now."

Basilone

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday March 21, 2010
Writer: Bruce McKenna
Director: David Nutter
Guest Stars: James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Joseph Mazzello (Eugene Sledge), Jon Seda (John Basilone), Jon Bernthal (Sgt. Manuel Rodriguez), Joshua Biton (Sgt. J.P. Morgan), Tom Budge (PFC Ronnie Gibson), Josh Helman (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Ian Meadows (Pvt. Cecil Evans:), Henry Nixon (2nd Lt. Hugh Corrigan), Keith Nobbs (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley), Conor O'Farrell (Dr. Sledge), Jacob Pitts (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith), William Sadler (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller), Akos Armont (Bille-Joe Crumpton), Adam Booth (Briggs), Benjamin Connolly (Marine), Eamon Farren (Cpl. John Powell), Andrew Garrett (Surgeon), Andrew James Garrett (Surgeon), Neal Horton (2nd Lt. Iseman), Simon McLachlan (Surgeon), Toby Leonard Moore (Sgt. Stone), Socratis Otto (Father Keough), Sam Parsonson (Pvt. William LaPointe), Joe Russell (Sniper), Mitch Ryan (PFC Edward Garland), Martin Williams (Cook), Mark Leonard Winter (Relief Cook), Matt Young (Army Captain), Vladimir Tsyganov (Wirechief (uncredited))

Summary: By October 1942, the Marines on Guadalcanal are fighting hunger and the jungle as well as the Japanese. The arrival of an Army unit helps somewhat but the Marines realize just how under-equipped they are by comparison. The Japanese are reinforcing their troops with ease and the men are facing nightly attacks at Henderson Field. Sgt. John Basilone takes charge during a particularly powerful Japanese attack and is recommended for a medal. He loses a close friend however. Back home Eugene Sledge, no longer needing his father's permission to sign up, announces he is going to enlist in the Marines.



John Basilone, Manny Rodriguez and J.P. Morgan, along with the rest of their squad, move quietly through the jungle to an open area knee-high with brush. Before entering the clearing completely Basilone, who is on point, puts up his hand, giving the sign to stop. Everyone does, then ducks down into the brush.

One of the men moves up and asks Rodriguez if he's seen Briggs, another commanding officer, and his men. "No sir," Rodriguez answers. The man peeks his head slightly above the brush line, and a shot rings out, slicing him through his jugular and spraying Basilone's face with

blood.

The men blindly return fire into the opposite forest area until Basilone gives the sign to stop. The soldier bleeds out on the ground and there's nothing Basilone can do to stop it. He gives the

order to break down the weapons and, throwing the dead man's body over his shoulder, leads the retreat back into the jungle to regroup.

Rodriguez comes over and, noticing the blood on Basilone's face, asks if he's been hit. They both stare at their dead companion, and Basilone grabs a canteen, pours water in his hands, and furiously tries to wash the blood off of his face. One of the men comes over and relays Lt. Col. Puller's orders: Hang back with Abel company, try to get the Japanese to follow them, then join the rest of the battalion up North. Basilone is dazed, but pulls it together and orders J.P. and the other men into position. They move on.

Elsewhere, Private Robert Leckie and his squad hang out in a foxhole and try, unsuccessfully, to eat Army rations from 1918. They're terrible, but it's all they have. Leckie is busily writing and one of his companions, Private Wilbur 'Runner' Conley, asks who he's writing to. It's Vera, of course...and the boys want him to read the letter. Leckie begins with "Dear Vera," saying that it's raining and he's reading this letter Runner, and throws in, "can't wait to see you and ever so slowly strip you of your...oh, you don't need to hear that part."

Runner laughs and says that's exactly what he needs to hear, then Leckie comes clean. He's not going to write her that stuff. He's going to tell her the truth: that the jungle is swallowing them and there's 5,000 Japanese soldiers who want to kill them. The boys go silent after that and chew on their awful rations and Bill 'Hoosier' Smith looks up at Leckie.

"Hey, thanks for brightening the mood," Hoosier offers.

"Oh, I do what I can," Leckie wisecracks.

At daybreak, Basilone and his squad are in the chow line, where the dinner menu reads "Rice Without Beef, Rice Without Chicken, Rice Without Shrimp..." The mood is so tense that Morgan almost comes to blows with a man over a radio ad for Aunt Jemima pancake mix. Morgan gets in another man's face, saying the only radio that he wants to hear is a report that enemy ships have been sunk. But they'd need the Navy for that, Morgan snips, so fat chance. Basilone pulls him off, saying "hot chow will cheer you up."

Unfortunately, hot chow translates to rice with maggots in it. "Think of it as meat," the cook growls.

Lt. Col "Chesty" Puller gathers the other men around and brightens the mood by telling them that the Japanese newspapers are describing the Marines as "not ordinary troops but...a special force recruited from jails and insane asylums full of blood lust." The men laugh and cheer. Then Chesty gives them the good news: The Army has landed. He orders every man in his battalion to be shaved and realizes that they can't do much about their uniforms. "I figure, we're just raggedy-assed Marines," he says, proudly pulling on Manny's shirt. "We look this way for a reason."

After they boys wash up they have their first encounter with the Army while walking on a narrow dirt road: a green truck rumbles up behind them and nearly runs them over, giving them no warning. Each side flips off the other and JP yells, "F****n' army. Just you f****n' wait."

Cut to Army basecamp, where the soldiers are unloading crates of fresh supplies. An air raid siren goes off, and the soldiers drop everything and run to the jungle for cover when they see enemy planes overhead. The Marines sit and wait, hiding behind two barrels. They're taking advantage of the Army's ignorance of the fact that the Japanese bomb the airfield, not the beach. Then the Marines run in and raid what supplies they can: Crackers, canned goods, anything. Leckie cracks open a captain's footlocker and sees it's full of personal items.

He grabs a nice looking pair of moccasin slippers and a box of cigars. Phillips and Juergens crack open another crate and see new guns, but before Phillips can help himself the Army starts trickling back in and the Marines run with their pilfered booty, laughing all the way.

Leckie is still walking with his stash when Lt. Corrigan rides up in a Jeep and stops him. He says that one of the Army Captains is pretty sore about somebody stealing his cigars and his favorite pair of moccasins. They both look down at Leckie's feet, which happen to be sporting the very footwear the Captain's missing. Corrigan tells him to watch where he wears those, "or smoking cigars you might not have." Leckie eyes the stolen box of Johnny Walker Red Label Whiskey in Corrigan's lap and grins as the officer drives away.

When Leckie returns to his foxhole, she shows off his cigars and says they're for him. But, he adds, he got something for them – cans of peaches. He hand them out, and the boys swoon as if they're tasting Heaven, except for "Runner," who is living up to his name squatting across a log, and is not so hot on having peaches. Leckie opens a can with his knife and gulps down the syrup

inside and chuckles...until, after a moment passes, he retches and throws up right at Runner's feet.

Runner informs Leckie that his new nickname will be Peaches, and everyone laughs.

Runner is still squatting on the same log during nightfall, and Leckie jokes that Runner's new nickname is Old Faithful. Before long, the Japanese begin dropping bombs in the distance. With explosions moving closer Leckie pulls Runner into the foxhole as the world explodes around them, and Hoosier grabs and shelters a dog that's made its way in with them. The blasts seem to go on forever and they crouch, shuddering.

In the morning, the Marines dig out, shell shocked. Leckie stares at debris that's fallen over his foxhole and watches as his brothers – and Hoosier with his dog – emerge, largely unscathed.

They're luckier than another foxhole JP, Basilone and Manny come across that took a direct hit and is filled with nothing but body parts.

Briggs comes up to give orders, but pauses at the sight before passing along that Chesty wants to talk to all the ranking NCOs.

With the NCOs gathered, he tells the men that they've been ordered to guard the South end of the airfield. Apparently intel says that the Japanese are going to run their weapons up the road in an attempt to take the airfield. The Army will be reinforcing another holdout, which will leave the Marines alone in the rear guard position to maintain the airfield. Orders are that if the Japanese succeed in taking it, they're to fall back to the jungle and fight as guerrillas... "But that is not going to happen," Chesty stresses. The officers give him an "aye sir!" and they move out, except for Basilone and Rodriguez, who hang back at Chesty's request.

Chesty informs Basilone that he needs an extra runner and asks if he can spare Manny. The friends exchange a solemn look and Basilone jokes that the squad's sick of him as Manny grins. They watch as the other Marines take position in other sectors and JP says it out loud – they're on their own. Manny whispers to Basilone that they're being singled out. "Just like Chesty says," Basilone says coolly.

They dig in, and Basilone checks the sight lines on his machine guns.

Elsewhere Corrigan briefs Leckie's crew on what's going on. Leckie asks how thin they are on the line and Corrigan tells him they've put the cooks there, but there aren't even enough cooks. Then he notices the boys are smoking Raleighs, and they explain to him that only the officers get Lucky Strikes. "Can't have my men suffering," Corrigan says. He pulls his pack of Luckys out of his pocket and throws them into the foxhole. "Eyes open, ears up," he finishes, and walks off.

One of them remarks that was the gesture of a true gentleman. He adds, "We must really be f****d."

Darkness falls, and rain along with it. The boys in Basilone's squad eat pilfered crackers and jelly, and talk about life back home. Corrigan calls Chesty and quietly tells him over the comm that the entire Japanese army is headed their way. Basilone hears this and they get ready as Chesty tells them to hold their fire for as long as possible, and orders Corrigan's men to join up with Basilone's company as soon as the army passes. Basilone's line isn't just thin, it's low on ammo.

The bombing starts, and mortars rain down on Basilone's trenches, but nobody is hurt. Then a flare goes up, and the first wave of Japanese infantry arrive. Basilone and his men open up with machine gun fire and keep them back, but even with this first wave the gunners are nearly dry on ammo. Then the second wave arrives, and they open fire. One of the men in JP's foxhole comes over to Basilone and tells them they've been overrun – the machine gunners are out of ammo.

Basilone orders everyone to move position and looks down to get his asbestos glove to protect his hand from the heat of the gun, but it's gone. He has no choice but to lift the barrel with his forearm which, at this point, is hot enough to sear into his flesh. He and his men run into the field and encounter the enemy, so he takes down one with the machine gun and drops it, killing the others at close range with his pistol. He picks up the machine gun and tells the other men to keep going. They run to JP's foxhole, where JP and his remaining men are barely holding off the enemy with rifles.

Basilone gets into position and at the moment JP gets winged by a bullet, plows down the enemy with a storm of machine gun fire. When the wave stops, he runs out into the middle of the clearing, where a pile of bodies has amassed, and throws them down until they're level to the field. The rest of the company think he's nuts, and JP has to cover him with a grenade lobbed at

an enemy gunner that has taken aim on him. Basilone returns to the foxhole and explains that now JP has a clear field of fire. He runs to get more ammo.

Blindly running through the jungle, Basilone crosses paths with Chesty's runners, who give him all the ammo they have. He's running back with bandoliers over his shoulder when a man clotheslines him, knocking him to the ground. It's Manny, who fires at two Japanese soldiers waiting behind him. Manny helps Basilone back up, they exchange a look, and Basilone runs back to JP as Manny hangs back to give him cover.

Basilone survives the shockwaves of a mortar blast, retrieves his ammo and makes it back to JP with reinforcements. After another hailstorm of bullets, they're able to maintain their position.

At daybreak, Basilone grimly surveys the field. Scores upon scores of the enemy are piled up, dead. He sits with JP in the foxhole and asks if Manny's all right. "Haven't seen him," JP says. JP holds up his helmet, which has been creased by a bullet, and says he needs a new one.

Basilone heads over to the medical tent looking for Manny, but the medic says he can't keep track of who comes in. He also notices that Basilone has third degree burns on his wrist and forearm, and tells him to wait for help. But Basilone heads back out with his men... and JP has to help him open his canteen, because his arm and hand are so badly burned. Chesty comes over and commends Basilone, saying he's putting him in for a medal. They troop is also heading West so another can take that position.

Basilone heads alone into the jungle, trying to retrace his path through the trees, and he comes across a body, face down. He turns the man over. It's Manny, dead.

Basilone takes Manny's body back to camp with JP, and they sit with him.

Mobile, Alabama

The doctor listens to his son's heart again, and Eugene Sledge asks if the murmur is gone. When he gets no answer, he tells his father it doesn't matter – he's going to enlist anyway.

Eugene's father tells him that the worst thing about treating men at war wasn't that they had their flesh torn, it was that their souls had been torn out. He tells his boy that he doesn't want to look in his eyes one day and see that the light is gone. He asks Eugene to give him time to tell his mother, and Eugene offers to walk the dog after dinner. He extends his hand to his father and thanks him. The doctor slumps in his chair, defeated.

Back in the Solomon Islands, Leckie writes a poem to commemorate the battle and Runner observes that it must be difficult, because not many things rhyme with Guadalcanal. Hoosier offers, "How f****d are we now on Guadalcanal?" Briggs interrupts them with the good news – they're leaving.

Basilone sits quietly, and JP tells him to out with it. Basilone reveals that he can't get over how fast a bullet goes. What if Manny had stepped to the left? To the right? JP tells him to stop thinking about that, that Manny was where he was, and what happened happened. Basilone asks if he ever thinks about it.

"You know me, John," JP says, "I try not to think."

"If it happens, it happens," Basilone finishes. JP is silent, then tells him that they should get moving.

The Marines head back to the landing craft and climb back up the ropes to the ship. Inside, Juergens, Hoosier, Runner and Leckie head to the mess hall, but the cook tells them that dinner won't be for a while. They ask for coffee and the cook says yes, that he can get them coffee. He pours a cup for Leckie, who swipes the cup like a starving man, then cradles it as if it's gold. The cook looks at them sympathetically and asks how bad it was, because he heard it was bad. They don't answer at first, and then as the cook walks off, Runner bitterly asks what he'd heard, if he'd ever even heard of this place.

The cook looks astonished, and replies, "Guadalcanal? Everybody's heard of Guadalcanal and the 1st Marine division. You guys are on the front page of every newspaper in America. You're heroes back home."

Leckie takes a moment to process that, then slowly rolls the hot cup of coffee across his lips and, closing his eyes, takes a sip.

Melbourne

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday March 28, 2010
Writer: George Pelecanos, Michelle Ashford
Director: Jeremy Podeswa
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), Joshua Biton (Sgt. J.P. Morgan), Zoe Carides (Mama Karamanlis), Linda Cropper (Mary Frank Sledge), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Nick Farnell (Thomas), Alex Ferguson (Boy on Bike), Reg Gorman (Elderly Man on Trolley), Tom Hanks (Narrator (voice)), Josh Helman (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Jurgens), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Bill Hunter (James), Bill Hunter (James), Anna Jennings-Edquist (Girl in Bar), Samuel Johnson (Adam), Eva Lazzaro (Isabel), Stephen Leeder (MajGen. Alexander Vandegrift), Isabel Lucas (Gwen), Cassandra Magrath (Helen), Simon Mallory (M.P. in Park), Penny McNamee (Hope), Mauricio Merino Jr. (Handyboy), Toby Leonard Moore (Sgt. Stone), Tony Nikolakopoulos (Baba Karamanlis), Henry Nixon (2nd Lt. Hugh Corrigan), Keith Nobbs (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley), Jacob Pitts (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith), Matthew Robinson (M.P. in Bar), William Sadler (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Claire van der Boom (Stella)

Summary: After four months of combat on Guadalcanal, the 1st Marine Division is relieved and the men are transported to Melbourne, Australia. Shocked and befuddled by the heroes' welcome they receive, the men soon find that they are in something akin to paradise with plenty to eat, drink and an endless number of beautiful women to keep them company. Sid Phillips meets a young girl, Gwen, whose grandfather makes sure he understands the rules of behavior when it comes to his granddaughter. Bob Leckie meets Stella Karamanlis on a tram and is soon taken in by her family who see in him the son they never had. Bob and Stella are soon lovers but the war and the never-ending pall of death casts a shadow on their relationship. John Basilone is awarded the Medal of Honor and soon realizes that he can no longer act like he did before. He also has to leave his men when he's asked to return to the US to help sell War Bonds.

Melbourne, Australia

The Marines pull up to port, where a joyous throng is waiting to greet them as heroes. Women are declaring their love, waving signs and handkerchiefs and holding streamers aloft. A marching band plays a rousing tune. The men – filthy, exhausted and still psychologically traumatized from Guadalcanal – are utterly confused and somewhat put off by the exuberant welcome.

As a truck drives them into town for some R&R, a little boy on a scooter gleefully follows Sgt. John Basilone's truck. "How many Japs you kill, Yank? You kill many Japs?" he asks, wearing a worshipful grin. The sergeant is not amused and returns his question with a tired, resigned stare.

They pull into a strange area and disembark, and once they walk through an underground hallway and up some stairs they realize they've been driven into a sports stadium. They're informed by a voice over a loudspeaker that this is their building area. Hoosier lays down for a nap, but Private Robert Leckie sees a few MPs going AWOL. Soon every man is following suit, save for a sleeping Hoosier.



Leckie and his band head into town and, taking a seat on a curb, enjoy some ice cream. A church bell rings, and one observes it's the sweetest sound they've ever heard.

In a bar, JP Morgan and Basilone sit at a table enjoying beers. A young man in a black jacket and white collar observes them with interest. A bar maid brings them three beers, an empty mug and a shot of every kind of hard liquor imaginable. As Basilone begins emptying all the liquor into a mug she asks what the concoction is called. "A blockbuster," he answers. She grins.

"You're sure going to be trouble tonight," she says. As she walks away, we see one beer has been placed by an empty chair. "Here ya go, Manny," JP says.

"To Manny," says Basilone, as they both clink the ownerless beer. Basilone downs the hard liquor mixture as the man who has been watching them comes up and asks if they have authority to be drinking like that. JP curtly tells the man that they can do whatever they please, and asks him if he shouldn't be fighting Rommel. The Australian man informs them that someone has to keep the peace. Another comes in and they remark that they, and the rest of the Yanks, have made the place feel crowded. They're taking all the beer, the women, the second Aussie says, pretending to joke about it. The first man likens them to roaches.

"Every step we take, bloody hell, there's another Yank under our boot," he says, snarling through a cold grin. JP's temper begins to flare, but when the man pushes it by reaching for Manny's beer, Basilone is the one who gets up and stops him. The man punches Basilone, who reacts by slugging him in the face much harder. The guy goes down and suddenly the bar is split between two kinds of uniforms, Aussie and American. The second man stops the fight and apologizes, ordering another round of drinks for the Americans. Basilone sits back down, drunkenly shakes his head and starts in on his beer.

When night falls, a tipsy Leckie walks through town, flirting with girls and trying to get lucky. Then he sees a sweet brunette get on a tram. He calls to her, "Hey beautiful!" She turns and, seeing him, smiles brightly before disappearing into the car. Leckie drops the bottle he's carrying and runs for the tram car as his buddies dash after him.

Once on board, he finds his lady but trips and falls at her feet as the boys, who have jumped in behind him, laugh. "Proposing already?" she asks playfully.

He replies that he's proposing that she takes a walk with him, and she asks coyly if he knows what take a walk means. (Apparently in Australia, it doesn't refer to an innocent stroll.) He looks at the faces of the ladies around her and blushes as they giggle to themselves.

He begs her forgiveness by way of explaining that he's a foreigner. She's bowled over by his romantic gesture. "You're a bold one sotted," she says, writing down her address and instructing him to collect her from home.

As she gets off the tram she turns and says, "I'm Stella, in case you're wondering what to call me." A joyful Leckie bows and grins. Juergens commends him on his guts, and thanks him. "That made my night!" he says.

The boys sleep in the stadium bleachers until one of the MPs awakens them at daybreak with reveille blared into a microphone. They fall in, hung over and wasted. One collapses flat on his face. Second Lt. Corrigan, looking fairly green himself, dismisses the company.

Lt Col. Puller gives a hung-over Basilone a dressing down in his office for stumbling around drunk as he stands at attention. Basilone remarks politely that he's not alone in that state.

"You are in one respect," Chesty says, going on to inform him that he is about to be awarded the Medal of Honor. "President Roosevelt found you worthy. Congratulations, old man. You're about to go where few Marines have ever been."

Basilone is so shocked that he grips the edge of Chesty's desk, then retches and throws up in the wastebasket his commanding officer puts in front of him. Chesty pats him on the back, helps him stand up straight again, then orders him to get a good breakfast and some coffee, and

to return when he's respectable so he doesn't heave all over his citation. He reminds Basilone that the medal is the highest honor the country can bestow upon its servicemen.

"From now on," Chesty finishes, "you try to act like it's yours."

"Yes sir," Basilone says, standing dazed until Chesty tells him to go. As he leaves, Chesty laughs for a moment before turning his nose up at the puke in the wastebasket.

In a bar, Phillips sits with a girl, Gwen, and her grandfather as the old man goes over his rules for dating his granddaughter. The man succeeds in making Phillips look genuinely afraid. Elsewhere in the bar, Basilone is playing drinking games with a local girl when the MPs come in to bust the Marines of being AWOL. One of the men throws a bottle at the MPs, and Phillips politely and cunningly offers to escort Gwen out the back door. The girl kisses her grandfather and leaves. Basilone sneaks out the front and hops in the MPs' jeep to steal it, but JP reminds him that he can't mess things up now that he's about to be honored. Basilone reconsiders and gets back out of the driver's seat so they can escape on foot.

The next day Abel company stands by as Basilone is awarded the Medal of Honor, but during the ceremony he looks as conflicted and sorrowful as he does stern and humbled. As the Medal is placed on him, he salutes. He and JP are teary. The men march by and salute him per military custom.

Later that day, Leckie calls on Stella. He picks a rose from a nearby garden and, as she opens the door, introduces himself as Bob. "I hope you're hungry," she says with a smile, and welcomes him in. She introduces him to her father and mother, Mama and Baba Karamanlis. Stella warns her mother in Greek that he picked the neighbor's roses. Her mother doesn't react but instead tut-tuts over how skinny Leckie is. They sit him down and proceed to lay a feast before him that rivals American Thanksgiving.

When Stella goes to the kitchen to get more food, Leckie asks Mama about how she came from Greece to Australia. She reveals that when her home was sacked by the Turks, she escaped to a dock, swam to a passing ship and eventually ended up in Australia. She remarks with a good bit of sadness that her home is gone but brightly adds she's managed to work and find love in this new place.

In exchange she asks Leckie about his home and he jokes that he escaped the Leckie household. Leckie tells her that he came from a family of five girls and three boys, that his mother was nearly 40 when he came along. He said he was last – "last is least." Mama, who thinks of such a big family as a blessing, disagrees. She says that Stella is her only blessing, that she prayed for more but it didn't happen.

Mama asks where the Marines are staying and when he tells her about their camp in the stadium, she insists that he stay in their guest room. Leckie says he can never repay them, and Baba says that he can help clear vines from the roof. That night, Leckie is struggling to sleep when Stella sneaks into the room. To Leckie's great surprise, she disrobes and gets in bed with him. They make love.

As they lay together afterward, she asks Leckie why he fled his family. He says they're not a happy bunch. She asks if his brothers went into the service too, and he reveals that one was too old, and the other died. His father's been crippled in his head ever since, he says. Stella reveals she had a brother, but he died when he was a baby. Her mother got sick and couldn't have anymore. Leckie strokes her arm sympathetically.

The next day as Stella and her mother work in the garden Leckie, who is on the roof clearing vines, sits down for a moment and drinks in the sight: Mama folding laundry, Stella looking up at him and smiling as she sorts the vegetables. He takes a sip from a bottle of water and, for a moment, looks content.

In the stadium, Chesty recruits Basilone to raise money for the Marines by selling U.S. war bonds. He explains that the Marines need money for new supplies and weapons. He tells Basilone to pack his bags and head back home, saying he can't sell war bonds stomping around the Solomons.

"Go on, Sergeant," he says. "Get it done." A shocked Basilone surveys his brothers in arms doing calisthenics and training. The last thing he wants to do is leave them.

Stella and Leckie make love in a field, and he gives her gifts: real silk stockings and a leg of lamb. He roasts the lamb over a barbecue spit later in the Karamanlis' backyard as Baba checks the casualty reports for Greek names. He stumbles upon one, a boy Stella grew up with. Killed in action. Leckie tells Stella that he wants to join her family in paying respect to her friend.

Stella and her family head over to the fallen soldier's home, where neighbors are gathered to honor the boy. That night, Leckie lays in bed and plays with his dog tags. Stella peeks her head in and he looks hopeful but she tells him that her mother is still up.

Leckie puts on his clothes and goes out to talk to her. Mama tells him the Greek boys are gone, all the boys Stella grew up with. Mama asks if he goes to church, and he tells her he's Catholic. Mama tells Bob that they need prayers. She goes on to say that they're lucky to have him in the house, that they always wanted a son like him. She says that she's going to pray that he comes back to them. "That's a good thing to pray for," Leckie tells her. She gets up and gently squeezes his shoulder as she heads back inside. Stella, eavesdropping on them from a window, suddenly looks sad.

The next day Leckie heads back to the stadium and finds his fellow Marines packing their gear. R&R is over, time to head out and get back in shape. He doesn't have a chance to tell Stella.

The Marines get on a train and head into the countryside. A few men that aren't in Leckie's company decide to engage in target practice, and succeed in picking off a cow in a field as they pass. Leckie gets up and chastises them for killing some poor farmer's cow. The man shrugs, saying that it's just going to be steak anyway.

"Not if it's a dairy cow, you idiot!" Leckie angrily shouts. The Marine stops but smiles to himself as a friend congratulates him for the great shot.

When they get off the train, Corrigan passes along the orders: Each man will get a sack of raisins and a sack of uncooked rice. He tells them Japanese soldiers can live on that for three weeks. Then they will march 100 miles back to Melbourne, and they will be in the arms of their Aussie girlfriends in three days. With that, the men move out.

Cut to daybreak: The Marines are roused and Leckie discovers he can barely walk due to the blisters on his feet. Hoosier gets up and is in a similar state. He comes over and, taking Leckie's foot, stabs the blister with a knife to relieve the pain.

Days later, they return to the stadium worn out. Leckie dons his dress uniform and returns to Stella, who waits for him on her stoop and has a strange expression on her face. She tells him that he has to go away and never come back. She says she's told Mama and Baba that he got his orders and he couldn't say goodbye.

"You lied," Leckie says.

Stella looks at him sadly and says, "I'm fairly crazy about you, Robert. I think you know that." But, she continues, she doesn't want to have a baby with him. She says that she's not pregnant, but that she and Leckie aren't going to have a family, and they're not getting married, and he's never coming back to Melbourne. He's flabbergasted. She's dumping him because she thinks he's going to get killed.

"Bob, if you don't come back to us, I don't just lose you. Mama does too. I can't do that to her, and I won't let you," Stella tells him.

As he turns to go she adds that Mama has lost so much already, and she's praying for him to come back to them. "She can save her breath," Bob snaps at her. He walks away as Stella starts to weep.

Leckie heads to a bar to drown his sorrow in mugs of beer, then weaves his way back to camp, where he encounters Juergens on guard duty. Juergens desperately has to use the bathroom and forces Leckie to cover for him while he goes, even though Leckie is wasted. Leckie refuses, due to his drunkenness, then takes over as Juergens runs off.

Leckie slumps against the wall with Juergens' sidearm as Corrigan walks up and demands to know what Leckie is doing. Cursing and yelling, Leckie draws the pistol and begins waving it around angrily until Juergens comes back to disarm him and throw him aside. Corrigan orders him to stand at attention, and Leckie tearfully curses at him. Corrigan throws Juergens and Leckie in the brig, where Leckie sits staring hollowly at his hands as the scene fades to black.

On a sunny day in an idyllic park, Phillips is enjoying a picnic with Gwen when an MP rolls up and orders him to report for duty. Gwen, realizing he'll be leaving soon, suddenly looks very worried and brokenhearted.

When Juergens and Leckie emerge from the brig, Corrigan tells him that he received orders to reassign Leckie to the battalion intelligence section. Juergens' jaw drops and Leckie looks defeated.

Phillips and Gwen check into a hotel room and spend their last moments together in bed.

JP walks Basilone to an aircraft on a tarmac. Basilone promises JP that he'll look up Katie, JP's girl, first chance he gets. JP says he's been sending his poker winnings home to her. "Good thing about leaving, I won't lose any more money to ya," Basilone jokes. Then they get serious.

"Wish you were coming with me," he tells JP. Both men have tears in their eyes as the plane's propellers rumble to life. JP extends his hand, and they shake. For a beat they don't move, and they say nothing. Then JP salutes his friend. Basilone returns the salute before getting on the plane.

The next day, the same civilian crowd is back on the on the dock giving the Marines a joyous send-off. This time they cheer back at them. Phillips looks at Gwen who stands in front, smiling. Leckie, brokenhearted, can barely hold it together. Nobody is seeing him off.

The episode ends with Basilone staring glumly out of the window of his plane as it flies him over the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Gloucester/Pavuvu/Banika

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday April 4, 2010
Writer: Robert Schenkkan, Graham Yost
Director: Graham Yost
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), Luke Arnold (Augie), Craig Ball (Cpl. Ruddiger), Simon Bossell (Corpsman Stern), Laurence Breuls (1st Lt. Larkin), Tom Budge (PFC Ronnie Gibson), Grant Cartwright (Captain Midnight), Nathan Corddry (Private 'Loudmouth'), Matt Craven (Dr. Grant), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Tom Hanks (Narrator (voice)), Josh Helman (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Andrew Lees (Pvt. Robert Oswald), Nathan Lovejoy (Sgt. Crease), Mauricio Merino Jr. (Handyboy), Toby Leonard Moore (Lt. Stone), Rohan Nichol (2nd Lt. Lebec), Keith Nobbs (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley), Jacob Pitts (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Samuel Ross Forbes Wright (Demo Marine), Bill Young (Lt Col. McMaster)

Summary: The men of the 1st Marine Division leave Melbourne and on the day after Christmas 1944, land on the beach at Cape Gloucester. They encounter little initial resistance - reminiscent of their landing at Guadalcanal - but the jungle and the weather work against them. It rains almost constantly affecting the men's morale and their health. Bob Leckie has been assigned to the battalion Intelligence officer but like the others, feels that the jungle is closing in on him. They are eventually evacuated to Pavuvu where Leckie falls seriously ill. He spends some time at the hospital in Banika before eventually returning to his unit. Back in the US, Eugene Sledge undergoes training at a Marine camp in California.

December 1943 — Camp Elliott, California

Eugene Sledge is under pressure to fire a mortar to specific coordinates as his sergeant is screaming in his ear. The moment seems acutely desperate, and Sledge fire and hits his target..which, in this case, were a couple of friendlies.

Friendly dummies, to be more specific. Named Bob and Dave. The livid drill sergeant asked Sledge if he had found out that Bob had been drilling his girlfriend. Sledge apologizes and explains that he incorrectly heard the corrected coordinates and the Sarge blasts him for not asking.

"You yell, you scream it if you have to because you just killed two of your best friends," he says, pointing to two other dummies named Tojo and F*ckface as examples of the enemy still being alive. The man reminds them that they are Marines, not recruits, and if they think they're going to fire a short round, that they say so. Sledge gives him a "yes sir" and they try the exercise again.

Somewhere in the Pacific Private Robert Leckie and his compatriots in the 1st Marine Division are singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" on the deck of a troop transport. Once that's over, they launch into "Silent Night." Leckie writes Vera a Christmas letter, saying he can't tell her where they are but they had a hearty dinner and sang carols. He says he just wanted her to know that he's safe during Christmastime. He signs off with, "Your friend, Robert Leckie."



The ship pulls up to Cape Gloucester, New Britain. Grim faced, they make their way through the jungle and encounter fake camps filled with straw men in Japanese uniform. They set up camp. One of the officers, Lt. Stone, comes up and points out to Leckie that this is no longer his company, and Leckie confirms he's been transferred to battalion intelligence under Lieutenant Larkin, but he's still there to assist. Stone grins – isn't that just the Marines. He reminds the men that they still have to do patrols with the rest of the grunts.

Later, Leckie and the rest of his company are quietly patrolling through unfamiliar territory, joining Juergens on point. He hears a strange sound and signals to them to drop down, but it turns out there's nothing.

Stone takes Leckie off point and puts him in the rear after they find evidence of shrapnel. Leckie complains, but as the others continue on he hears something behind them. He crouches under a log until a Japanese scouting party comes close enough for him to spring up and take them out. He runs to the rest of the troop and reports. Stone congratulates him.

A storm rolls in as night falls, and the boys settle in at camp. But before long there's movement in the jungle – the Japanese are attacking. Everyone falls into position except for Leckie, who is handed a grenade and instructed to hang back in the officer's tent with the files and burn it if the camp is overrun. A terrifying cry goes up from the Japanese soldiers, who are thick in numbers, as they charge the Marines. Juergens, Phillips and the rest of Leckie's former company lay down machine gun to repel the attack, frightened all the while. The Japanese keep running toward them until the last man. When he cease fire goes up, Juergens grabs his partner's helmet and they hug each other in relief. Leckie watches this from the tent with a guilty look on his face.

In the morning he joins his friends, and as they survey the carnage, Runner says they got two of their fellow Marines. A man nearby, Gibson, grimly says that the next war there will be two other men missing – "me, and the MP they send after me." He walks away. Leckie joins Runner for a smoke and tells him that another company took three alive. Runner sarcastically replies that the rest get a bonsai suicide attack. Apparently all the enemy on this end of the island is running away and left their sick and wounded in a camp nearby. The others ran up against them – 100 against 1200.

"They're either incredibly brave or incredibly stupid," Runner said.

"Or they just really f*****g hate us," Leckie offers.

The men patrol to the camp holdout for the enemy wounded and sick, and find rotting bodies everywhere. Larkin comes across a dying man holding a grenade and orders the other man to keep checking. He finishes the man off with a bayonet.

Leckie goes into what seems to be an officer's hut and rifles through some papers, finding a chest contain papers and pistol. He takes the chest as a souvenir. Then he hears a sound from outside. It's Gibson standing over a dying man whispering to himself in Japanese. Leckie silently watches as Gibson puts down his gun and strangles the man to death with his bare hands. When he's finished, he looks up at Leckie as his face breaks into a maniacal grin. Leckie coldly walks away.

By the time they make it back to camp, it's raining again. Inside a large tent the boys sit with Leckie, and Hoosier finds the gun in Leckie's stuff. He asks what he wants for it. "I don't even want you to touch it," Leckie says. They go to the tent's opening and see Gibson struggling with his shelter. They insist he's OK, that he's just tired.

One of them finds a comic detailing Basilone's exploits and enviously observes that Basilone is home digging blondes and selling bonds while they're still out in paradise. Phillips grins bitterly.

Leckie writes to Vera that they haven't seen a Japanese soldier for two weeks, that the enemy smartened up and left. The Japanese is not the enemy anymore. Now the enemy is the jungle and the rain.

It rains nonstop, and the boys are bailing out the tents, trying desperately to find a patch of dryness anywhere. Leckie loses his boots to powerfully sucking mud as he heads out, and slips and falls into the filth while simply trying to head uphill. It's miserable. After a point he takes to walking around in bare feet. When he comes back to his tent, his chest is gone.

He goes to the officer's tent and discovers that Lt. Larkin has it. He gives Leckie an excuse about having the chest being against regulations, and that he needs it to store papers. Leckie asks about the pistol, and Larkin says, "What pistol?" Leckie throws open the chest to reveal what's really inside: Larkin's clean, dry socks, shirts and underwear. Stone tells him to get out of his tent, and Leckie, who is standing outside, points out that he's not in the tent. Leckie stands for a moment in the rain before walking away.

Back in his tent, Leckie complains to the boys and daydreams, out loud, of ways that Larkin could meet with an accident. They quickly get tired of hearing it.

The next day a fuming Larkin barks at Leckie to get up from his rack. He informs him that he is no longer in intelligence, but on clean-up duty in the officer's mess. Leckie doesn't care. Larkin leans in and says that something is missing from his tent. Leckie points out to Larkin that the very thing he thinks he's missing, which may or may not exist, doesn't belong to him anyway. He tells Larkin that his new assignment will be a nice change of pace. All in all Leckie seems very triumphant until the Lieutenant points out that Leckie seems to have pissed himself.

The doctor's diagnosis is enuresis (bed-wetting) for which there is no treatment. He tells Leckie to try to stay dry. Gee, thanks. Cut to another rainstorm, and Leckie cleaning up the remains of the last meal. As he's doing the dishes, he sees one of his fellow Marines strip himself naked, put a pistol in his mouth and pull the trigger. After the rain comes the blistering sun, beating down on them as they languish on the deck of the troop transport. As the rest of the men try to sleep, Leckie sits up and stays awake, looking like a hollowed out shell of himself.

Pavuvu, May 1944

New camp. Runner is burning up with fever and jokes that after the sweat, the chills feel great. Juergens throws a blanket over him, and Runner asks Leckie to read to him. He reads his letter to Vera, in which he tells her that the rain has stopped, but the sun makes the smell of rotting coconuts worse. The rats and crabs have come out of hiding, and he feels like he's killed more of them recently than he ever will of the enemy. Everyone's sores and dysentery has gotten worse, and Runner is battling malaria. He says that the island has an exotic name that, translated, means "the death of hope."

"Thinking of you always, Robert."

Runner asks if that's what Pavuvu really means. "I don't know what it means, and I don't care," Leckie replies. Hoosier walks up and asks Leckie if he has his dress blues, because he might want to get spiffed up. They're holding a lottery, and the prize is a ticket home.

The Marines all gather as the commanding officer announces the names of the lucky grunts that get to go home. Juergens goes over to get Leckie out of bed, and he won't budge. Juergens checks Leckie, but he's under a blanket on his cot, eyes open but non-responsive. He's wet himself again. Juergens gets the doctor, who tells him that he's getting some paperwork together so that he can be treated at a hospital on a nearby island.

Leckie checks into the hospital, where they take his belt and razors. "What do you want me to do with this?" Leckie says, cockily pulling out the Japanese pistol he stole back from Larkin, much to the orderly's horror.

A Navy psychiatrist talks to Leckie and tells him that his official diagnosis is enuresis. He tells them that he can rest but a nurse will get him up every hour on the hour to make sure he gets to the bathroom. The man produces the Japanese pistol and asks Leckie if he'd ever be interested in selling it. "No sir," Leckie insists, and the man shrugs and tells him he'll get it back when he leaves.

Leckie sits on the bed and stares at an attractive nurse, drinking in the vision of her neck, her lips and her hair. He sees the other men on his ward talking to themselves, a reminder that he's undergoing psychiatric treatment. Later he wakes up in bed. He's wet himself again.

He snaps at the orderly bringing him a fresh pair of pants and stares at the man talking to himself. The orderly tells him to ignore the man, who he calls Captain Midnight.

The next day, the psychiatrist congratulates Leckie, saying that he passed the test – he really did have enuresis. Leckie curses him and asks the doctor if he's going to ask him to, say, tell him about when his mother stopped nursing him. The doctor tells him that back home he would be happy to head-shrink him, but here he's supposed to assess.

Before long, Leckie unburdens himself. In Guadalcanal, he says, the Japanese were trying to bomb them every night, just to keep them up. In Gloucester, it was rain, and on Pavuvu, it was mostly the fact that they were on Pavuvu. He jokes that he was a freshman in high school when his mother stopped breastfeeding him, and does the doctor see that as a problem? They both faintly laugh.

At night, Leckie is using the bathroom and sees a man crouched on a cot in a locked down cell. Leckie goes back to his cot tries to rest when Captain Midnight loses it and as he struggles, gives the orderly a bloody nose. Leckie gets the doctor and they get Captain Midnight sedated. After Leckie assists the staff, he walks past the locked cell and the man he saw earlier asks, from the shadows, for a cigarette. Leckie obliges, and when the man comes over to get it, he sees it's Gibson.

"Hey Leckie," Gibson says flatly, then retreats to his cot in the shadows.

The orderly is washing the blood off of his face as tells Leckie later that Gibson tried to steal a plane to get home, and when he got caught, tried to kill himself. He points to the blood on his shirt. "I'm fortunate, aren't I?" the orderly says. "This is as bad as my war gets."

Leckie has his session with the doctor and tells him that he doesn't really like this place. The doctor says he doesn't know what the war is like, and Leckie says sure he does – the war comes through here all the time.

Leckie tells the doctor that this place isn't for him, that he needs to be back out there with his guys. He offers the doctor the pistol in exchange for his walking papers.

"Why just give me the pistol? You must have gone through a lot to bring it here. Why just give it to me?" The doctor asks. Leckie doesn't answer him, except to tell him he's rested and fit and wants to get back to his unit, and that the hospital isn't doing him any good. To please sign the papers. The doctor obliges.

Before Leckie leaves, he finds Gibson again and gives him the remains of his pack of Lucky Strikes. He tells Gibson he asked to leave. Gibson tells Leckie that he doesn't think they'll send him back, and starts to cry. Leckie assures him that all he needs is a break from it all, and that he'll be alright.

Gibson reveals that on Guadalcanal, his unit was returning when the Japanese bombers caught them out in the open. All they could do was jump into a hole. He remembers a man who was on his back, feeling his heartbeat, his lungs gasping for air, his lips on the back of his neck as he prayed for God to save him. Gibson breaks down, then quickly thanks Leckie for the smokes.

Leckie turns to leave and Gibson adds, "I hope it's quick and easy for you, Leckie. A Jap sniper, maybe. Get nailed in the first two minutes. No worries about ending up like me."

Leckie stares at him for a moment, then Gibson turns away and slumps down on his cot. Leckie steels himself, picks up his knapsack and walks outside. But he stops for a moment to choke back fresh tears. After he collects himself, he looks around the yard – at the pretty nurses, at the soldiers playing ball. He straightens up and walks down the sidewalk, off the hospital grounds, and gets ready to head back to the war.

Peleliu Landing

Season 1

Episode Number: 5

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Sunday April 11, 2010
Writer: Laurence Andries, Bruce C. McKenna
Director: Carl Franklin
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Christian Barratt-Hill (Corpsman), Nathin Butler (Young Private), Mark Casamento (George Basilone), Aaron Cottrell (Lieutenant), Matthew Dale (Sgt. John Marmet), Brendan Fletcher (Bill Leyden), Leon Ford (1st Lt. Edward 'Hillbilly' Jones), Scott Gibson (Capt. Andrew Haldane), Matthew Green (Brunette Marine), Sam Hall (Second Marine), Josh Helman (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Andrew Lees (PFC Robert Oswald), Rami Malek (PFC Merriell 'Snafu' Shelton), Martin McCann (Cpl. R.V. Burgin), Toby Leonard Moore (Lt. Stone), Keith Nobbs (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley), Jay Pace (Prep Chef), Jacob Pitts (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith), Ben Ridgwell (Sous Chef), Toby Schmitz (Capt. Burns Lee), Gary Sweet (Sgt. Elmo 'Gunny' Haney), Anna Torv (Virginia Grey), Dylan Young (PFC Jay De L'Eau)

Summary: Basilone's celebrity grows as he travels across the country on the war bonds tour. On Pavuvu, Sledge, assigned to the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, is briefly reunited with Phillips and Leckie rejoins his company. Sledge then gets his first taste of combat as he, Leckie, and the rest of the 1st Marine Division meet fierce Japanese resistance while landing on the intricately and heavily defended coral island of Peleliu.

Sgt. John Basilone takes pictures with movie star Virginia Grey on the stairs of a bomber, then cuts through a hotel kitchen on his way to their next public appearance selling War Bonds. The cooks all run up to the pair, starstruck – but not over the entertainer. Basilone's the star. They ask for his autograph and gush over him. One of the cooks shares that he's enlisting in the Marines soon. Basilone leaves him with this advice: "Keep your head down, and keep moving. And listen to your NCOs."

Cut to Basilone enjoying the perquisites of his celebrity in the star's bed at the Biltmore Hotel. Afterward, she congratulates him for handling stardom so well. He scoffs at this – all he has to do is get on stage and get his picture taken. She grins at him, and tells him he has no idea what's coming his way. "Keep your head down," she purrs.

Basilone heads downstairs to meet his brother George, who is also an enlisted man and out on a six-hour pass. John convinces him to stay for breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Basilone runs down his schedule, a meeting with the Governor, among other things. George tells him that he went to the movie and saw him in the news reel, along with their Mom and Pop. New Jersey wants John Basilone Day.

George asks him if he can ask a question: How scary was Guadalcanal, George asks. He admits he's afraid he's going to freeze up when he's out there, which prompts Basilone to put down his menu and reach across the table to grab his brother's hand and tell him a stern message: "Don't feel like you need to prove nothin'. You know what I mean? You know what I mean?" he insists. George agrees.



Solomon Islands: Pavuvu, June 1944

Eugene Sledge is fresh meat and making his first landing. He remarks to a nearby fellow Marine, Roger Oswald, that it looks like Hawaii. "No it doesn't," the man says tersely.

Sledge makes his way into the Marine camp to find his company. He passes the very enthusiastic Sgt. "Gunny" Haney yelling and cursing at an imaginary target as he practices close combat. Sledge finds the rest of the men in his squad and tries to bunk in, but one of them, Private Shelton a/k/a "Snafu," marks his territory and won't let them bunk in with them. Another Marine, De L'Eau, shows them where they can find a rack to sleep in. Sledge asks where he can find H Company.

Leckie heads back to his friends and they give him the usual ribbing to welcome him back to the squad and greet him with some moonshine. He hands out magazines to Hoosier, Chuckler and the rest. Phillips heads out to the main road and happens to see Sledge, who he runs up to and tackles happily in greeting.

One of the NCOs breaks them up, thinking it's a fight, but when they explain that they're old friends from Mobile, he lets them carry on, advising them to keep from breaking an arm or dislocating a shoulder.

Phillips reveals to Sledge that he's about to rotate home, but first he shows him the ropes. He advises him to take a hot shower when he can, and to drive home the point, a sudden rain shower breaks out and a few men, including Gunny, immediately strip naked in the center of the road and start to lather up. The rain passes before they can rinse, leaving them cursing.

Phillips continues to advise Sledge over hot chow at the mess hall as Sledge opens a care package from home. He's embarrassed to find some baby food in the package, and the other men make fun of him, but Phillips advises him to keep it – later, someone might want to trade him something for it. But, Phillips tells him, he should never trade away the .45 pistol his father also sent. Snafu interrupts them – they've been put on maintenance duty, scrubbing out oil drums.

Snafu sits and goads them while the boys scrub out the drums, and another man who has joined them on duty asks why he's not helping. Snafu declares that he scrubs drums for no man, and that he was only supposed to drop them off and show them where they were. He just stayed because he likes to watch the new guys sweat.

Once that's finished, Phillips and Sledge head out to the beach, where Sledge sees his first crab. Phillips flips his lighter and moves to torture it, but Sledge stops him. Phillips grimly informs him that he'll be encountering his fair share of those, and soon he won't feel so kindly towards them. He admires a Marine lapel pin that Phillips is wearing, and says he lost his to poker. Phillips hands him his and says that some people think they're good luck. Sledge considers it for a moment.

Sledge asks what war is like, and Phillips replies that he slept with a woman in Melbourne – not to brag, he explains, but that it's one end of the spectrum. He points all the way down the beach and says all the way down the other way, that's where "that" is.

"And that," Phillips says, "that you can never imagine." He tells his friend that he's going to be all right.

The men get a break that night with a showing of the movie "For Whom the Bell Tolls," and make horny male catcalls during a love scene between Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman.

The next day Sledge is out at target practice and is shocked when the "Gunny" roughly screams at a superior officer for not observing proper weapons safety. An officer of even high rank informs the Lieutenant that the Gunnery Sergeant was correct in admonishing him.

Later, he goes to meet up with Phillips but finds only his empty bunk. He asks Hoosier where he can find his friend, but Phillips has already headed out on the ship.

At nightfall, Sledge shares a drink with Leckie and looks through his books. He asks Leckie if he's heard anything about what's going on with "the other war," and Leckie tells him that nobody cares about what's happening in Europe unless someone has a brother over there. Sledge tells him he does, which shuts up Leckie for a moment.

Sledge goes through some more of Leckie's books and pulls out the Bible and Leckie guesses that Sledge is "a believer." Sledge admits he is. Leckie asks Sledge if God is so wonderful, they why did he create the Japanese, who have been trying to kill them on many occasions? Sledge replies that they all have free will. Leckie doesn't buy it.

Sledge asks Leckie what he believes in, Leckie says, "I believe in ammunition." But, he tells Sledge, since he's still on speaking terms with God, to ask him to sink a few Japanese transports and have their troops fall on their bayonets so he can get out of there and go home. As Sledge leaves Leckie tells him to take his Bible with him, since he has no use for it.

"No thanks," Leckie says, setting it down and producing a smaller version from his chest pocket. "I have my own."

Peleliu: September, 1944

The NCO of Sledge's company gives his men last minute instructions in the troop transport, then shakes their hands as they get into the beach landing craft. Snafu offers Sledge a cigarette, and he says he doesn't smoke. Snafu grins. "Yeah?" he says. He vomits at Sledge's feet, and lights up.

The bay door of the transport opens up and it's bright for a moment until Sledge finally sees where they're headed, towards a beach filled with black plumes of smoke and explosions. Sledge peeks his head over the side to see where he's going, and quickly ducks down when a bomb explodes in the water beside the craft. He stares into the face of his NCO, who looks completely calm and assured, and nods at him.

The landing craft hits the beach and the Marines head over the side. The man beside Sledge gets shot through and his NCO pulls him back for a moment to save him, then tosses him over. Sledge freezes on the beach as the sand around him, littered with dead Marines and body parts, explodes. Screams and blasts fill the air, then an explosion hits near him and he can't hear. He pulls himself up the beach, then runs in terror, shrinking against the roots of a tree. He presses on, jumping into a foxhole with the rest of his men.

Leckie, Runner, Chuckler and Hoosier are on another nearby transport, with Leckie manning one machine gun. His counterpart gets shot through as they land, and he does his best to lay down cover fire as the men head over the side.

Sledge is still frozen in the foxhole as a Sherman Tank explodes. The rest of his squad heads out, and his NCO has to come back for him and pull him out. They rendezvous in a wooded area.

Leckie and Hoosier get out of the landing craft and barely make it off the beach. Leckie and Hoosier press in through the forest, firing their way through, when suddenly a blast goes off in front of Leckie. When the smoke clears, he sees Hoosier's been hit – shrapnel has sliced through his femoral artery. Leckie tries to keep him calm and calls for the medic, but by the time he arrives, Hoosier's already passing out from the blood loss. The medic carries him off the field. Leckie can't get him to respond as he calls his name.

Sledge and the rest of the mortar squad head with Gunny to the airfield to rendezvous with the other men. The Japanese are dug in, and they have tanks. The mortar squads fire rounds at the enemy, taking out the infantry, but they have to retreat when a tank takes aim on them, and they run. They're pinned down, and it looks like they're done for, until a Sherman rolls into the area and blasts the tank to hell. The Sherman then fires on an enemy-held building and takes it out.

Leckie runs up to a man and ask for Chuckler or Runner. He says he doesn't know who they are. Runner finds him, and neither of them know where Chuckler is. Leckie tells Runner that Hoosier got hit.

Sledge's squad digs in, and then men prepare to hold the line. Leckie and Runner join a squad doing recon by the building, and Leckie is momentarily shocked when he steps on a disembodied hand still wearing a wedding ring. He snaps back into the moment when a mortar goes off by him and his squad retreats.

Sledge, Oswald and Snafu are camped together and about to eat when Snafu remembers that he forgot "to check that guy." He heads back to the dead body of a Japanese soldier and uses his knife to carve out his gold teeth as Oswald and Sledge look on in horror. He tells them to take the first watch so he can sleep for four hours.

At night, Oswald recalls a time that his father took them camping at the Grand Canyon. He said he asked his dad to describe it, but he just told his kids they had to see it for themselves. He remembers getting to a certain point, then setting up camp in the dark. In the morning, there it was – the Grand Canyon. A mile down. Oswald said his dad was right: "You have to be there, looking down into it."

Snafu barks at them to shut up, and Sledge and Oswald stare out at the burning airfield, the remains of the destroyed building where the enemy is still holding out. They hear the explosions still raining down elsewhere on Peleliu.

Sledge looks at it all and grimly says, "We have to go out there tomorrow."

Peleliu Airfield

Season 1

Episode Number: 6

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Sunday April 18, 2010
Writer: Bruce C. McKenna, Laurence Andries, Robert Schenkkan
Director: Tony To
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), Warwick Allsop (Doctor), Linda Cropper (Mary Frank Sledge), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Andre de Vanny (Crazy Marine), Lia Fisher (Rose), Brendan Fletcher (PFC Bill Leyden), Leon Ford (1stLt. Edward 'Hillbilly' Jones), James Gaylyn (Tee), Scott Gibson (Capt. Andrew Haldane), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Richard Huggett (Maj. Coyle), Alexander Kelyv (Pvt. Daniels), Jacob Kyriakidis (Radio Man), Andrew Lees (PFC Robert Oswalt), Adam Lubicz (Amtrac Driver), Rami Malek (Merriell Shelton), Martin McCann (Cpl. R.V. Burgin), Pascal Mercay (Battalion Operations Officer), Toby Leonard Moore (2nd Lt. Stone), Keith Nobbs (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley), Conor O'Farrell (Dr. Sledge), Gareth Rickards (Gareth Rickards), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Gary Sweet (Sgt. Elmo 'Gunny' Haney), Dylan Young (Jay De L'eau)

Summary: The battle on Peleliu goes on as the Marines continue towards the airfield. It's only the second day of fighting on the island but water is in short supply and the heat is excruciating. They are under constant bombardment from Japanese artillery located in the Peleliu Hills but the only way they can get there is to cross the airfield, a vast, open expanse. Bob Leckie is wounded and subsequently evacuated to a nearby ship. Sledge proves to be a steady hand in the battle. Back in the USA, Sid Phillips drops in on Eugene Sledge's parents.



September, 1944 – Mobile, Alabama

A car drives up to the Sledges' home at night. Inside, a servant pours Mrs. Sledge her tea, and she asks him to see who's calling so late in the evening. The servant looks outside. He tells her that it's a man in uniform. The color drains from her face.

The servant opens the door, and it's Sidney Phillips. From the back room, Dr. Sledge emerges and joins his wife in greeting Phillips warmly. They sit him down for a meal and a drink.

Mrs. Sledge asks after Eugene, and Phillips' face suddenly become very serious. He tells the Sledges that he's with a lot of good Marines, that the 1st is the best there is, and that Eugene is a mortar man, like he is. Phillips says that he can't say this about every Marine he knows, but he's not worried about Eugene. Mrs. Sledge looks relieved. Dr. Sledge puts his arm around his wife and casts a grateful look at Phillips, which Phillips acknowledges silently as he takes a deep drink of water from a crystal glass.

September, 1944 – Peleliu

Private Eugene Sledge and other members of the first are still guarding the airfield as the hot sun beats down on them, punctuated by explosions. Sledge has his Bible open, and inside he's

writing his temperature estimates on a dirty slip of paper: 105 to 115 degrees. Private Merriell "Snafu" Shelton sees what he's doing and tersely orders him to break down the armaments, that they're moving.

Elsewhere, Private Leckie and Private "Runner" Conley are holding their position in a shallow foxhole. 2nd Lieutenant Stone runs up to them, and Leckie asks if he has any word on Hoosier. The only news is that the beach had a high number of casualties and it's hard to keep track. In other words, no. Runner gripes that he's desperate for water. Leckie sees a canteen on the ground nearby and checks it – it's dry. Then he eyes a tarp. He gingerly heads over and lifts it and searches the bloody corpse of the dead Marine beneath, finding his canteen. He picks it up, but notices Runner and Stone looking at him disgusted, so he puts it back and restores the tarp.

One of Sledge's squad walks up and announces that they've found water, and a group excitedly runs to what looks like a well. One of the men is filling canteens, and another dips in his helmet. Another man reaches in and pulls up something, jumping back when he realizes it's the rotting body of a dead ram. The Japanese already poisoned it.

One of the commanding officers, Captain Haldane, pulls them together to give them orders: In order to cease the bombing, they'll have to fight their way through the forest into the hills, where the enemy is dug in. That means crossing the airfield. Once they start moving, they cannot stop. They reply with an "aye sir," and when Haldane asks if there are questions, a corporal bleakly tells them they're desperate for water. Haldane says he's working on it. He orders them to get their gear ready and stand by. A blast goes off nearby.

Sledge's mortar squad grimly eyes the heavily fortified field they have to cross, and one of the men voices his fear. Another asks if anyone has toilet paper, and Snafu says no – no paper, no rations, no water. He proceeds to torture them with thoughts of water – a little sip of cool water? A little splash on your face? Yep, put that right out of your mind, he says. Everyone looks like they want to slap him. Then Oswald produces his canteen and shares it with the entire squad. Each of them takes a sip, savoring it like it's the last drop of water in the world. The last man passes Oswald his canteen and, much to the entitled Snafu's chagrin, the team's mortar sight. "Least I can do for the water," the man says.

Oswald and Sledge exchange a look, and an NCO barks at them that they'll be moving shortly.

Runner, Stone and Leckie are waiting for the action to begin when Leckie suddenly stands up, removes his helmet, stares at the airfield, and yells that he can't believe command sent them out there without water. A bomb going off nearby snaps him back to reality, and he puts his helmet back on. Stone yells out orders to prepare to move.

The air is thick with bombers overhead. Sledge starts to breathe heavily. Snafu hands him his cigarette, and Sledge takes a deep drag. The orders go up, and the battalions begin moving forward and are ordered not to stop. What they don't see is that in the building the Japanese forces are locked and loaded, waiting for them to come into range.

The bombs drop on the airfield almost immediately as the troops push forward, blasting the men to pieces. Sledge and Snafu press on as their compatriots scream around them. The mortar squad finds a barricade and drops down.

Sledge, Runner and Stone are part of the second wave, and get going. The men around them are cut down as they run to cross the airfield. Leckie sees a man's leg blown in half at the knee and immediately finds Runner. Leckie grabs his friend's arm and they move forward together.

The mortar squad gets ready to move up, but is forced to pause when one of the men is shot through the back. A Japanese sniper is hiding in a hole behind him, and the men turn and take him out with a storm of machine gun fire. They move up through the chaos.

Leckie and Runner are still up, trying to rendezvous with Stone in the chaos. At one point a frightened Runner leaps behind an oil drum, but Leckie pulls him up and assures him he's OK. They press on until they find Stone with the radio man crouched behind a downed fighter plane. When they get there, Leckie sees Runner has been hit in the upper left arm. It looks bad.

He takes a bandage and attempts to use it as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding, but Runner's going into shock. Nearby the radio man is desperately trying to contact command to get air support but as Stone and Leckie look on, they see the man is barely holding it together – a hole's been blown through his torso. He soon loses his ability to speak, sputters blood, and dies. Stone grabs the comm and tries to get through, but realizes it's not reaching anyone. He tells Leckie he'll stay with Runner, whose eyes are now unfocused, and sends Leckie back to update command and find a corps man to help his friend.

Leckie runs back through the oncoming Marine squads and explosions, all but blinded by the smoke and flying dirt. He runs by a man who gets blown apart moments after he passes. He waves to another group of men to fall back, but they don't hear him – a bomb drops into their midst, and they're gone.

Leckie finally gets to the communications officer, but they can't reach anyone either. He continues to run and sees a corps man in a Jeep. He waves to get the Jeep's attention, but they don't see him...or the bomb that takes them out. The force from the blast wave sends Leckie flying head first into a tree.

The mortar team is pressing forward, and Sledge sees Snafu get knocked back by a mortar blast. He runs back to help him up – he's OK, just shell shocked. Sledge pulls him up, and Snafu grabs the helmet that the blast knocked off of him, and they keep running, arm in arm. Ahead of them, Oswald is carrying the weapons, and keeps looking back to see if his friends are OK. But his care costs him. He back around and runs into a bullet, which slices through his face.

Sledge and Snafu grab their friend and drag him into a foxhole as heavy bombers rain fire down on the field. Sledge calls Oswald's name, but he's gone. He grimly takes the mortar sight, and he and Snafu get into position.

Haldane calls out the orders, and Snafu and Leckie send mortars into the building, taking out nests of Japanese gunners with support from snipers. With the field clearer, other Marines press toward the building. A Japanese soldier hides in a hole, taking out a man or two as they pass, but one Marine finds him, knocks him in the face with the butt of his gun and angrily stabs him through the skull. With mortar support, the Marines finally make it across the airfield and clear the building.

Leckie comes to, choking as he's lifted onto a stretcher.

An armored transport rolls up to the mortar team and asks for the location of another company, but a junior officer that replies doesn't know where the company he's looking for is located. He tells the man in the transport that they need him to take their wounded back to the beach, but the transport refuses, saying they have other orders.

The vehicle starts to roll away, but Haldane steps in front of it, forcing it to stop. The junior officer angrily climbs on top of the vehicle and, pulling out his pistol, knocks on it. He tells the driver that his new orders are to get their wounded to the beach and after that, they can roll their asses anywhere they damn please. Snafu and Sledge grin as they hear the "yes sir" in reply.

Leckie is on board the hospital ship and sees another badly wounded man being desperately bandaged up by a nurse. He coughs up his own blood and weeps.

At night fall, the mortar squad is holed up in the building, and Snafu watches the men as they recover. One man, Daniels, is on watch and nervously counting out loud. He's up to 65 when Sledge asks him what he's doing.

"Counting Japs," Daniels murmurs.

Haldane comes up with Sgt. Haney (aka "Gunny") and tells him that another platoon needs a man. Gunny steps up to Daniels, but Haldane can see he's not fit for that duty, and orders Gunny to choose someone else. Haldane gently relieves Daniels from watch and tells another Marine to take him to count bandages.

Sledge shares with Haldane that he could have been the one counting Japanese he can't see. "But it's not you," Haldane tells him. Sledge admits that crossing the airfield made him more afraid than he's been in his life, and Haldane comforts him by telling him that everyone is afraid and that the man who says he's not is either a liar or dead. Snafu watches this exchange with a look of curiosity.

Haldane continues by telling him that history is full of wars for any number of reasons, but when he stepped out onto that airfield, that regardless of the men he lost, that he had to believe that in this war, it's worthwhile because their cause is just. "Of course," he adds, "if the just cause came with some hot food and some cold water, that would be OK too." Sledge reflects on that and smiles, and Haldane tells his men to get some rest.

The junior officer remarks that he got his first battlefield commission on Guadalcanal, which seems so long ago. He tells Sledge that he handled himself well today and to just remember his training.

At daybreak, the men grab some pork chops and much needed water and march to their next mission. Sledge is walking when Snafu sidles up next to him. He tells Sledge that he saw him reading and writing last night, which Sledge admits to. Snafu tells him he's not supposed to do

that, since it might give the Japanese valuable intel if he gets caught. Sledge deadpans that he won't show it to them, then. Snafu grins. He asks Sledge, who before landing on the island said he doesn't smoke, for a cigarette. Sledge pulls out a pack and hands him one without blinking an eye, then lights up with him. Snafu smiles and says, "Thanks, Sledgehammer."

The rest of their squad looks upon this exchange. One of them says he likes that nickname, Sledgehammer. Snafu gives the other men a friendly ribbing, telling them that they'll all get nicknames.

At the next location, Haldane gets the men together and sets up a security perimeter. Sledge joins a recon group headed up by Gunny and Haldane, and comes to a rocky outcropping with a gap ahead. The junior officer orders Sledge to go ahead and see what up there, and Haldane holds him back, saying he just got there. Haldane carefully stays behind rocks, moving forward, and peeks up to see Japanese troops fortified in what looks like a fortress. The enemy starts firing on them, and Haldane tells his men to fall back.

He tries to radio back that the objectives cannot be accomplished without support and unacceptable casualties, but the radio doesn't work. He leaves the company in the command of the junior officer, saying that he's going to head back to command and tell them himself.

At night, Gunny tells the men to check their weapons and make sure they have a round in the chamber. He gripes about command having sent out a dog to sniff out the enemy and brags that he can sniff 'em out better, thanks much. Sledge sheepishly says he has a dog named Deacon. Gunny roughly tells him to shut up and asks "Sledgehammer" if he can get a flare up if the Japanese come through with their bayonets. Sledge says he can. Gunny gets up to leave, then crouches down quickly and leaves him with "woof." Snafu and the guys laugh softly.

Later, Sledge is struggling to sleep when he suddenly hears moaning. It's a man having a nightmare. Someone calls to get the man to shut up, and a group of Marines try at first to snap him out of it. Waking the man only makes him scream louder – he's snapped. The men worry that if he keeps screaming, the Japanese will find their position. The junior officer in charge first calls for morphine to calm him down, then lacking that, order the men to hit the snapped Marine with something to shut him up. One picks up a shovel wallops him in the head...too hard. The rest of the men look on in silence as they realize what just happened.

The next day, someone covers the dead man with a tarp, and Sledge remarks out loud that it was better that it was him than the entire platoon. Snafu agrees.

On the hospital ship, Leckie is hollowly staring at his meal in the mess hall, playing with some peaches on his plate, when someone behind him says, "Hey, Peaches."

It's Runner. Leckie tells him that he tried to get him a corps man, and Runner stops him – he knows. Still no sign of Hoosier. Leckie seems to be beating himself up for leaving his friend on the island, but Runner quiets him and asks if he wants coffee. Leckie says no, he wants to go topside for some air.

Sledge and the rest of his group are preparing to fall back, since Haldane came up and got their orders changed. Haldane comforts the junior officer, assuring him he made the right call with the screaming Marine. Led by a Sherman tank, they grimly march back the way they came.

Leckie and Runner look out at the smoking Peleliu from the transport, and have empathy for the men still there getting pounded. Runner feels the engines of the hospital transport rumble to life, and he turns to his friend.

"Hey," he says gently. "Let's go home, cobber."

Peleliu Hills

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Sunday April 25, 2010
Writer: Bruce C. McKenna
Director: Tim Van Patten
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), Martin McCann (R.V. Burgin), Joshua Biton (J.P. Morgan), Sean Bunch (Scavenging Marine), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Brendan Fletcher (Bill Leyden), Leon Ford (1st Lt. Edward 'Hillbilly' Jones), Michael M. Foster (Marine Officer), Scott Gibson (Capt. Andrew Haldane), Alex Gowdie (Red Cross Girl), Richard Healy (Lodge Speaker), Josh Helman (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens), Dylan Hyne (Packer), Yutaka Izumihara (Japanese Soldier), Rami Malek (Merriell Shelton), Nikolai Nikolaeff (Rear Echelon Man), John Reynolds (Cpl. Charles Womack), William Sadler (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Gary Sweet (Sgt. Elmo 'Gunny' Haney), Dylan Young (Jay De L'eau), Ashley Zukerman (2nd Lt. Mac)

Summary: Although they now control the airfield, the battle continues on Peleliu with the Marines trying to dislodge the Japanese from their hillside fortifications. The Japanese are well entrenched and are proving difficult to get at. Sledge continues to do his job well, but is profoundly shaken by the death and destruction all around him. All of the men are affected when one of their officers is killed. Back in the US, John Basilone is still making public appearances and selling war bonds.



Peleliu, October 1944

Eugene Sledge is still in the thick of battle as the troops assault the enemy fortress in the cliffs. He keeps tickmarks of the days on Peleliu and writes down "fear and filth." He and his companions are surrounded by dead bodies of fellow Marines and the enemy, but they keep pressing forward, and he writes in his Bible. We're shown scenes of flame, explosions, violence, guts hanging out of the bodies of the fighting men. In a word, hell.

One morning at sunrise, the Marines are burying bodies and slowly walking

back to camp, which is on the conquered airfield. Snafu, Haldane and the rest look like their spirits have been ripped out of them. One of the men lights a cigarette and lends it to Sledge to light his. He reminds Sledge that he didn't use to smoke. "Guess I do now," Sledge says.

Captain Haldane gives orders to each unit and tells them to be ready to fall in at 1100, hours away from that moment. Haldane tells them that hot chow awaits, and they have time to savor every bite. Snafu is overjoyed to have the morning off.

Later the men are checking their weapons when another group of newbies in clean dungarees and pith helmets arrives with fresh supplies. One of them approaches the group and asks if anyone has any Japanese souvenirs – weapons, anything – and says he'll pay good money for it. Sledge's pal Private Leyden invites the guy to check between his butt cheeks and take what

he wants. The guy is persistent, saying he can't go home from war empty-handed. Snafu grins. "Ain't nobody going home." The man is quiet for a moment, then moves on to another group.

Haldane approaches the men and greets them, taking off his pack and laying down his weapons. "Never run when you can walk. Never walk when you can stand. Never stand when you can sit. Never sit when you can lay down," he says with a grin. "And never pass a supply of clean water."

Sgt. Elmo "Gunny" Haney grins and this and says, "Amen."

Haldane chats up Sledge, pointing out that he's a Southern man, and wonders how many of their ancestors shot at each other at Gettysburg or Bull Run. Sledge says his great grandfather fought with Grant, and that his father is a doctor who patched up vets in World War I. Haldane shares that his father is a foreman at a textile mill in Massachusetts, a mill that weaves fabric for the military. He likes the idea that his father might have had something to do with the blankets they use. He tells Sledge he has a detail for him: Wake him up in 20 minutes. Then he lays down in the dirt for a nap. Sledge smiles.

At 1100 the men come together, ready to march back up to the front. Bombers fly overhead to soften the targets, and the men they're relieving slowly march back past them. The men shake one another's hands as they pass, sharing cigarettes and moral support. Sledge sees a man on a stretcher with one of his legs apparently blown off, and recognizes him from Phillips' old bunk – it's Chuckler. He's alive, smoking a cigarette, but not responding. Sledge, at a loss for words, can only ask how he's doing. Chuckler can only blink, and the men carrying him keep moving as Sledge stiffens with resolve and heads to the front line.

Back in the States, John Basilone is sitting in a room full of Shriners as one of the men makes a hyperbolic speech enumerating his battlefield achievements. A man wheels a cake to the front festooned with stars and stripes, urging them to purchase war bonds. Basilone does not look happy.

Later, Basilone is at the driving range, hitting golf balls as men watch him. He drives for hours, passing so much time that his palms start bleeding, as he tries unsuccessfully to get the battlefield images of his friends Manny and J.P. out of his head. He drives the golf balls past nightfall, and the men watching him turn on their cars' headlights so he can continue.

Under a full moon on Peleliu, Sledge is struggling to stay awake, but wakes up when he sees two men run into the camp. One jumps into a foxhole, and he hears the cries of a struggle. Sledge can't tell what's going on. The man jumps out of the foxhole, and another Marine shoots him. Cpl. R.V. Burgin asks what happened, and Sledge relates the story as best as he can. Burgin tells the men to stay alert.

In the morning, Gunny chews them out, saying that this is the reason that you don't get out of your foxholes at night. Inside the foxhole is a dead Marine and dead Japanese soldier. The Marine is the one that has been shot through the head, and the man that shot him is crying uncontrollably.

While they're marching, Leyden wonders what kind of man gets out of his hole at night. Snafu grimly deadpans in reply: a man who has two of the enemy up his ass. Leyden still can't comprehend it, and keeps mouthing off when suddenly a sniper shoots one of the Marines in the leg. It's an ambush. Haldane orders his men to run to a cleared bunker and take cover. The mortar squad gets close and begins to set up, but Sledge suddenly calls for the men to be quiet – he hears something in the bunker. He alerts Burgin, who insists he's hearing things, that a previous unit had cleared it with grenades.

But soon, he can hear movement too. Burgin creeps up on the bunker, hears whispering inside and fires into an opening. A machine gunner fires back, strafing the area blindly. Sledge, Snafu and Leyden get into position against the outer side of the bunker, and Burgin orders Sledge to peek over into the entry. He does, and sees a gunner look back at him. Sledge ducks before the man fires.

Chaos breaks loose as the Marines fire into the bunker, desperately trying to take out the enemy. Then Leyden sees a pipe up top, and opens it, dropping a grenade inside. There's a blast, and the cries of the enemy, followed by men coming out of the bunker towards them, one shot while holding a live grenade. Leyden warns the rest of the men, who are able to get clear. But Leyden does not. The grenade goes off, blasting him in the face and blinding him. Sledge joins his friend on the ground and tries to help him as Leyden frantically calls his name, crying that he can't see.

A Sherman tank rolls up, and someone yells to Sledge to get Leyden away from the bunker. Sledge pulls his friend as clear as he can, then leans over him to protect him as the Sherman fires a round into the bunker.

Japanese soldiers are firing at the Marines, and one comes out of the bunker and draws down on Sledge. The man shoots and misses, then his rifle jams. He draws his sword and charges. Sledge panics, but gets his rifle into action at the last possible moment and blasts a hole in the man at almost contact distance. The Japanese soldier slumps onto Sledge's rifle, then falls down nearly on top of him. Sledge stares into the man's eyes as the life drains out of them. Then he turns, shocked, and sees what his fellow Marines are doing.

A flamethrower unit has come in and is lighting up the bunker. Japanese soldiers scream as they come out, and the Marines shoot them. Snafu screams for them to die as he empties his submachine gun into one of them.

When the battle ceases, Sledge asks Burgin why they don't just surrender. "Because they're Japs," is all Burgin offers for an answer. "That's why we have to root them out one by one." He claps Sledge on his shoulder and continues making his rounds. Snafu finds a Japanese flag and claims it as a souvenir.

Sledge picks up the bayonet of the man who tried to kill him while behind him, another Marine drags the body of a Japanese soldier to a log. The Marine pries open his mouth to take his gold teeth, which is when the soldier wakes up and begins struggling. Sledge barks at the Marine to put him out of his misery, but he ignores him. Snafu walks up, pulls the man off of the Japanese soldier and shoots him in the head. To save face he explains, "easier that way." Burgin pretends not to notice. Sledge looks at the enemy sword in his hand and tosses it on the ground in disgust.

At night, it's raining and Sledge is ignoring Snafu and Burgin as they make small talk about engines. He can't stop staring at the body of the man who tried to kill him. Haldane walks up and offers the boys coffee. Then, when he sees how Sledge is faring, Haldane hands over his own cup. Sledge asks for word on Leyden, and he tells Sledge that they've already patched him up and he'll be back. Sledge nods, relieved. Haldane relates that they're moving into the hills come dawn. He tells Burgin that he'll need a few from the mortar squad to volunteer as stretcher bearers. They're all silent for a moment. Haldane looks Sledge in the eye and says, "You can't dwell on it. You can't dwell on any of it."

Sledge exchanges a look with Snafu. Haldane urges them to try and get rest.

The next day: It's still rough in the hills, and Haldane orders the stretcher volunteers to go get the wounded – Private Jones, aka "Hillbilly," among them. Sledge hauls his down to get the wounded and sees other stretcher bearers get shot through. One man loses his leg as he picks up a stretcher. The men get to Hillbilly and the corps man patches him up enough to move him. They get him on the stretcher and start to fall back when the group is strafed with bullets, one ripping through Hillbilly. Sledge's group gets him back to safer ground, but he's lost.

Gunny, meanwhile, has taken off his helmet and is stumbling about, disconnected with the world around him. Haldane gently leads him off the field. Later Private De L'Eau points out that Gunny is of the old breed. "If a guy like that breaks... and Hillbilly's dead." De L'Eau trails off.

Sledge tells them not to dwell on it. De L'Eau shares that he knows if he goes into the hills again, that he's going to get hit. Suddenly shots ring out, and they hear Japanese soldiers coming closer to camp. De L'Eau, frightened, aims toward the hills. But the Marines in the hills take care of the attack, and it's over before it begins. De L'Eau shudders and breaks down in tears. Sledge holds him to quiet him down.

In the morning, the boys wait in rocky crags, and De L'Eau heads off to a cave to find some privacy to go to the bathroom. No sooner are his pants down than a group of Japanese soldiers hiding inside the cave charge him. De L'Eau takes out the first, but then runs as a couple more give chase. The Marines around him let the chase go for a bit, then shoot the Japanese. They get a good laugh at De L'Eau, who not only still has his pants down but has soiled them in fear. Haldane orders him to go back and get a clean pair.

The boys head into the hills, and Haldane tells to hang back as he and the NCOs move forward to put eyes on their objective. Sledge and the rest of the men sit down for a moment, then beyond the hills there's a call for a corps man. Burgin comes back, helmet in hand. He announced to the men that "a sniper got the skipper."

Haldane is dead.

They bring a stretcher to get him, and as his men slowly walk Haldane's body off the battlefield. The stretcher stops by Sledge as one of the men puts a blanket over Haldane's body, and the men salute one by one. Sledge starts to cry. They take a moment, and then Burgin calls them to move out.

The men march in the hills, past the decaying, burned bodies of the enemy, then stop for a rest. Snafu climbs up a ridge, and Sledge finds an area next to a dead Japanese soldier and sits down. He starts to open his rations, but hears a dripping sound behind him. He turns around to see Snafu making a game out of skipping pebbles into the bloody skull of a man who has had the top of his head blown off. The stones that get in make a sickeningly, gloppy sound. Sledge turns and looks at the dead man near him, then stands up and pulls out his blade. Snafu suddenly stops and asks what he's doing. Sledge informs him that he's going to get himself some Japanese gold and Snafu stops him, telling him he can't do that.

Sledge asks him tersely why not, and Snafu, clearly invested in making sure the most morally centered member of his company stays sane, makes up a story about Japanese germs being contagious. "Bad germs," Sledge mutters, then repeats himself. "Bad germs." He asks Snafu if it's OK to take the man's insignia as a trophy, and Snafu says he can't see a reason why not. Sledge slices the Japanese insignia off of the man's uniform and turns back around, shaking.

The company makes it back to camp, walking like the dead. The flag is at half mast. Everyone looks changed; only Snafu seems to be a bit more thoughtful. They head to a Naval transport to return to Pavuvu.

On the open deck, Gunny lights a cigarette for Sledge, then hands him his Zippo. "Keep it," he says.

Sledge and Snafu make it back to Pavuvu and are shocked to see pretty ladies serving them lemonade by a sign that says, "Something sweet for you." They can't figure out what they're doing there. Sledge walks up to one of the women, a beautiful blonde, who greets him with a friendly "Welcome back, nice to see you." Sledge stares at the woman for a few silent moments. One of the clean shaven officers nearby jokingly tells Sledge that he's gotten his eyeful, and tells him to move along. Sledge turns his cold, dead gaze to the man, whose smirk immediately fades into a chastened expression. Sledge drinks his lemonade and walks off with Snafu.

Later under the sun, the Marines strip off their clothes and wade naked in the warm waves off the beach where Sledge had a heart to heart with his best friend Sidney Phillips not long ago.

Iwo Jima

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Sunday May 2, 2010
Writer: Robert Schenkkan, Michelle Ashford
Director: David Nutter, Jeremy Podeswa
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), Jon Seda (John Basilone), Ian Bliss (Capt. Le Francois), Dwight Braswell (PFC 'Steve' Evanson), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Ben Esler (PFC Charles Tatum), Lelia Goldoni (Dora Basilone), Les Hill (1st Lt. Ben Sohn), Stephen Leeder (Lt Gen. Alexander Vandegrift), Luigi Lucente (Carlo Basilone), Rami Malek (Merriell Shelton), Martin McCann (Cpl. R.V. Burgin), Liam McIntyre (Lew), Paul Pantano (Angelo Basilone), Annie Parisse (Sgt. Lena Basilone), Bruce Shapiro (Radio Announcer), Joseph R. Sicari (Salvatore Basilone), Leeanna Walsman (Cpl. Lucy Otis), Dylan Young (Jay De L'eau)

Summary: The men have been relieved on Peleliu and return to Pavuvu where they are resting and awaiting their next assignment. Sledge sees something being thrown out in the trash and decides to keep it. Back in the USA, John Basilone requests re-assignment from his bond promotion duties and is transferred to Camp Pendleton as an instructor. There he meets Sgt. Lena Riggi, who is in charge of the mess hall. She's no pushover and it takes several attempts before she will even go out with him. Basilone's enlistment is up in a few months and he must decide if he is going to return to civilian life or sign up for another tour and accompany his men to Iwo Jima, their next assignment. He and Lena decide they are going to make the most of the time they have together.



Under palm trees on Pavuvu, Sledge brushes his teeth and the rest of his unit recovers from the battle on Peleliu's cliffs. He watches as another man marches off to a garbage can and throws away a number of papers – and a large hardcover book. Sledge stands and goes to the can, digs through the papers and retrieves the book. It is Ernest Hemingway's "Men at War," and on the title page is the name "A.A.Haldane." Sledge gulps and keeps the book for himself.

Back in his rack, he's laying down but Private "Snafu" Shelton keeps asking Sledge to look at his eyes, claiming they're

turning yellow. He's obsessed with fatal illnesses, and swears that one's going to get him. Private Jay De L'eau swings by their tent, and Snafu asks if his eyes are yellow. DeLeau ignores him, because he has bigger news – he's being transferred out of their unit.

Back in New York at Radio City Music Hall, NBC is interviewing the Basilone brothers – only, they've provided them with a script. The Basilones stiffly read through their lines recounting Manny, JP and John's last dinner with the family before going back to war, then John stiffly recounts the battle on Guadalcanal.

Later, the Basilones are at family dinner, and the family is celebrating how wonderful John is, but he says he doesn't feel like he's doing anything. The rest of the family doesn't get it – it's because of him that the boys get free drinks, and everyone knows the Basilone name. John excuses himself from the table and sits contemplatively in the living room. His mother looks worried and confused, but around the table, the dinner conversation more or less merrily continues.

The next day, Basilone is in an office slowly typing a document at his cush desk job. He checks his watch, sips coffee, but again, does not look content. He pays a visit to Lt. Gen. AA Vandegrift to tell him that he joined the corps because he knew the Marines were going into the Pacific first and hardest. But he's been back for nearly a year, he's done what they asked him to do. Vandegrift interprets this to mean that he's requesting an early discharge, since he only has six months left. Vandegrift offers to push through some paperwork so he can go home. But Basilone stops him, saying his home is the corps, he just doesn't want to push pencils anymore. He asks to help the new recruits the way he knows how: by training them.

Vandegrift shakes his hand and tells Basilone he makes him proud to be a Marine.

Basilone reports to USMC training, but his company isn't full. He reports to his superior and asks what he's to do until the rest of his men arrive, which could be days or weeks. The man casually tells him to put his feet up, relax – whatever he wants.

Basilone passes the time by running and calisthenics to get in shape, but it's obvious he's punishing himself. He heads in to find his company, which consists of merely two men: PFCs Charles Tatum and Steve Evanson. They're lazing in their racks until Basilone barks at them to fall in. They tell him they haven't gotten any orders, so he gives them some: From that moment forward, he says, they are the 1st machine gun squad in the company's weapons platoon. After Basilone dismisses them, Tatum is starstruck by the fact that the great John Basilone is their sergeant. Evanson has no idea who he is.

"What, do you live in a cave or something?" Tatum says with a grin.

Basilone soon wipes the smile off his face, however, with hard-driving training. Tatum and Evanson are beyond fresh and can barely run with their weapons. Basilone barks orders at them, but after a moment, when he sees they're nearly at their breaking point, he softens. Then he says to them sternly, like a concerned brother, "You cannot f**k this up, ever. Lives depend on it. Is that clear?"

"Aye, Gunny," Tatum and Evanson say.

Later in the mess hall, a man drops his chow, but gets orders to get more from an attractive brunette Marine with a gentle voice. Basilone stares at her, then offers to help her clean up the mess. She smiles. "Do you see these stripes?" she asks him. "I'm an NCO, just like you. I have work to do."

Basilone asks another female Marine, Lucy, what her name is, and she tells him Lena Riggi. Lucy also reveals that every Friday the women catch a six o'clock train to L.A. for a little fun. "Just in case you're interested," she says, with a flirtatious grin.

Basilone joins a number of men and women from the military on the L.A. train and sees Lena Riggi. He steps up to her and tries to find common ground by pointing out that her name is Italian. She sarcastically tells him that gee, that means they can talk about Joe DiMaggio and that she knows where to get the best lasagna in the city. He replies that he wouldn't mind some good lasagna right about now, but she still shoots him down.

"Look," she says, giving him the brush off, "L.A. is full of girls for a guy like you. You'll do fine." She stands up and leaves him with, "Happy hunting Sergeant." Basilone grins. He isn't giving up so easily.

He finds Lena enjoying cocktail hour at the Biltmore and approaches her again. She can't believe it. "Wow, it really is true what they say about you," she jokes. "You get shot down, but you keep coming back." He asks what she's doing there, and she admits she and Lucy have been waiting for a table for over an hour, and she's about to give up. He tells her he can get a table since they know him. Lena tells him to prove it. She turns to invite Lucy to join them, but Lucy declines. Nodding at some men in blue dress uniform she jokes, "I'm thinking of joining the Navy."

Basilone is a man of his word, and scores them a private candlelit dinner in a hotel suite. Lena is suspicious – she thinks he arranged this to impress her so that she'll sleep with him. "That's standard operating procedure, isn't it?" she says dryly.

He looks somewhat embarrassed. "No," he says. "Not anymore."

There's a silent pause, and then she recounts a story about seeing him at a movie premiere. She remembers that she saw him go into the theater with a blonde starlet, and saw him come out with a brunette starlet on his arm. In each case, she says, the reply from the crowd was, "Ooh. Aah. There goes John Basilone."

She takes a couple more bites, then politely thanks him for the meal and says she's going to turn in. He's confused. He assures her that the only thing that's going on with them is dinner and conversation, but she smiles and says that she's sharing a room with three girls, and they get to fight over the bathroom in the morning. Before she goes out the door he asks if he did anything wrong.

"You didn't do anything a million other guys haven't done," she deadpans. "You just did it in a nicer room."

The next day Basilone reports to his superior officer, who informs him that a company of greenhorns is coming in, and he needs Basilone to train them. He adds that Basilone won't have much time, since his tour will officially be up in July.

Basilone is astonished to realize he's served for eight years.

Basilone puts the men through their paces again, running them hard. At night, he heads back to the mess to find Sgt. Riggi. She pulls him aside, and Basilone formally asks her to a proper dinner at a nice place. She says, "No."

Basilone looks crushed and turns to leave. She goes on to explain that Friday is no good – she has to make a special dinner for the officers. She counters with breakfast the next day, saying she has to report for duty at 0500. She says if he gets in earlier, she'll make him French toast.

Cut to the next morning at 3:30. Basilone storms into his company's tent and yells orders at them to fall in. Evanson bitches that he doesn't understand why they're the only ones being run so hard. Tatum respectfully tells Evanson that Basilone is trying to make them the best. But Evanson continues to lip off, just loud enough for the sergeant to hear, and Basilone steps up to him and asks what he wants. Evanson replies that he wants to "slap a Jap." Basilone asks the rest of the room if that's what they want too, and they reply, "Aye, Gunny."

Basilone nods and barks at them that the Japanese soldier he knows has been at war since they were in diapers. They can survive on muddy water and maggoty rice, enduring nightmarish conditions. And they don't care if they die, as long as they take American fighting men out with them.

"Now you can call them whatever you want, but never, ever fail to respect their desire to put you and your buddies into an early grave. Is that clear?!"

The room resonates with an "Aye, Gunny." Basilone barks at them to get their packs on. After the run, he quietly goes into the dark, empty mess, where Lena is making him French toast. He helps himself to a cup of coffee. She has set the table with flowers and tells him the French toast is almost ready. Lena jokes that he strikes her as an Italian mama's boy, so she was doing his best to make him feel at home. After a moment, she serves up and sits down with him.

He tells her that the coffee is really good, then recounts the story of the morning following his famous battle on Guadalcanal. He reveals that they had stolen real coffee and hooch from the "doggies" upon their arrival, so when they returned from battle, someone made them coffee over a fire using coconut shells. He remembers that his hands were still burned but in that moment, it was the best cup of coffee he'd ever had.

He asks Lena what her best cup of coffee was, and she recalls that she disappointed her family by announcing she was joining the Marines instead of getting married, and her father had stopped talking to her. But a while after she enlisted, she went to a diner to visit her mother and sisters on a pass, and her father surprised her by walking in. She said he ordered two cups of coffee, and put sugar and milk in hers, just how she liked it. "That was my best cup of coffee," she says.

"Incredible, what can happen over a cup of coffee," Basilone remarks, and Lena blushes. Basilone reveals that his enlistment is up in July, and he doesn't know what he'll do. Lena says he'll take the discharge and go home. He admits he should be looking forward to his freedom, but he doesn't know what he'd do with it. She sympathizes with him, saying she loves the Marines too, that she can't imagine being anywhere or doing anything else.

He pauses for a moment, then tells her that although she probably hears it all the time, that she's the most beautiful woman he's ever seen.

"No," she says quietly, "I don't hear that very often."

"Must be the uniform," he says, and they share a laugh. Just then, the rest of the women fall in and immediately start to whisper about Lena having breakfast with Basilone. He quietly stands up, nods to her and leaves.

Training continues, and the men are making progress. He shows the men how to use a bail, so they can shoot and move with the machine gun.

Basilone continues courting Lena, taking her for a playful stroll on the beach, where he retrieves her hat from the waves when it blows off of her head. When they kiss, it's the happiest we've ever seen him.

Days later, Basilone and his fellow NCOs report to his division. The commanding officer tells them that they'll be shipping out soon. He turns and says he has more good news: Basilone has decided that home can wait and will be joining them. Tatum smiles, satisfied, then calls them to stand at attention.

Basilone asks if anyone's scared, and the men reply, "No Sergeant." He calls them liars and says it's good to be scared, because that means they're awake and ready. He dismisses them, and goes to give the news of his extension and impending deployment to the Pacific to Lena.

"So if you're looking for something else, someone in a different line of work, let me know," he says.

She tells him she's in for the duration, plus six months. She knows how it goes. "So," she says, "where do we go from here?"

The next scene is their wedding day. Lucy takes pictures of Lena in her white dress, and John kisses her. They take a road trip in a fancy convertible and spend their honeymoon in a place called Sunset Cottages. When they get inside of a house, he first kisses her hungrily, then she makes him stand across the room and take off his shirt. Eventually she moves over to him and she slowly undresses him. She keeps her dress on. But later in bed, they're both disrobed and she strokes the Marine tattoo on his arm. She laughs.

"What have we done?" she asks.

"We've gone respectable," he says.

"I woke up one day, and I was thirty years old. Satisfied," she says. "Then you walk into my mess hall, and look at me now."

He tells her that they're going to have six kids: boys for her to pamper, and girls for him to drive crazy. He kisses her, and she says she'd like that so much. She takes the cross off from around her neck and puts it around his, saying that it's his now. They kiss in the darkness, and she asks if he wants some food.

"Dear god, yes," he says. She gets up to go to the kitchen and he wistfully watches her go, suddenly looking forlorn when she leaves the room. Outside, the clouds gather on the horizon.

February 1945/ D Day – Iwo Jima

Basilone is landing on the beach, and around him, the world is on fire. He sees men being cut down as they crawl on their bellies up the sand, and sees others go fetal. He grits his teeth and grabs a man, yelling at him to get off the beach. Moments later, the man is blown apart. All around him, Marines are being blown to bits, and the sand is wet with blood and viscera. He meets up with Tatum, Evanson, and the rest of his squad, and pulls them up to get them off the beach. But as they run toward their objective, a ridge where a machine gun nest is dug in, most of the squad is cut down. In the chaos, Navy bombers are raining ordnance down on them.

Tatum and Evanson are with Basilone. He tells them to set up the machine gun and fire in with short bursts. He commands another man to get closer to the side of the opening from where the machine gunner is firing and throw in explosives. He does.

A flamethrower unit lights up the inside of the nest, and as screaming Japanese soldiers come out the back, Basilone is there with the machine gun to cut them down. He orders the remains of his squad to follow him in as he runs through the trenches where the Japanese soldiers are dug in. One enemy soldier plays dead, popping up behind him as he runs past. He almost gets him, but one of Basilone's men runs up and takes him out.

After they clear out the trench behind the bunker, Basilone sets up his men and tells them not to relinquish the spot, come hell or high water.

He sees a sniper shooting down Marines from under the wreckage of a plane and moves to take him out, but a bazooka unit beats him to it. Then he sees a group of Marines pinned down by a tank. He runs over to them and orders them to gather what ammo they can and get off the

beach, and tells the NCO to order the tank to stay with him. But as soon as he runs ahead to make it back to his men, then tank is taken out.

Basilone continues running, not looking back as the Marines running with him are blown apart. He is almost back to Tatum and Evanson when a bullet tears through his torso and his arm. Basilone collapses, laying on the battlefield, then bleeds out and dies. As the shot goes wide, we see other Marines running over him, tripping on him, some dying. The dark soil is strewn with bodies, and he becomes part of the tapestry. A plume of flame arcs over him. On a battlefield of slain Marines, he is no longer a celebrity.

Far away in California, Lena sits on a rock at the beach where Basilone once rescued her hat from the waves. She is wearing her Marine dress uniform. Lena stares out at the setting sun and as birds fly by, she weeps.

Okinawa

Season 1

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Sunday May 9, 2010
Writer: Bruce C. McKenna
Director: Tim Van Patten
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), James Badge Dale (PFC Robert Leckie), Martin McCann (R.V. Burgin), Nicholas Cooper (Army Officer), Freddie Joe Farnsworth (1st Lt. Thomas Stanley), Noel Fisher (Pvt. Hamm), Brendan Fletcher (Bill Leyden), Chris Foy (Pvt. 'Kathy' Peck), Rami Malek (Merriell Shelton), Sam North (Replacement Marine), Tiger Saito (8-Year-Old Okinawan Boy), Kaoru Sato (Old Dying Woman), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Geordie Taylor (Army Lieutenant), Shingo Usami (Defiant Japanese Prisoner), Boni Yanagisawa (Okinawan Mother), Ashley Zukerman (2nd Lt. Mac), Kristopher Bos (Spitting Marine (uncredited)), Braydn Michael (Robert Marshall (uncredited))

Summary: The 1st Marine division is now on Okinawa and coming ever closer to defeating the enemy. The weather and the heat are still proving to be difficult but the physical conditions reflect their own mental state. Constant stress from never-ending fighting results in a variety of reactions from the men. For the first time, the men also have to deal with the presence of Japanese civilians, who are being given safe passage through the US lines to safety in the rear. They arrived on Okinawa on April 1, 1945 and in early August they hear that a special type of bomb has been dropped on Japan.



Okinawa, May 1945

Sledge and the rest of the Marines trudge through thick mud as civilians carting their meager possessions walk the other way. He pauses to look into the sorrow-filled face of a little boy. One of the men asks if they're prisoners and one of the men says no, on account that they don't take prisoners. He explains that they're not Japanese, they're Okinawans.

"Look like Japs to me," the man says. Snafu corrects him again, calling him Boo.

He tells them his name is Tony Peck, and Leyden calls him "Pecker," asking to

see a photo of his wife for, um, visual stimulation. Snafu tricks Peck into giving him his new rain poncho by telling them that new ones are covered in harmful chemicals. They keep picking on the new guy until they pass a group of muddy, dispirited Japanese soldiers sitting shirtless on the ground. Army prisoners.

The Marines heap verbal abuse on them as they walk past. One throws a lit cigarette at one, followed by another spitting on them. Angry, one of the Japanese soldiers stands up and moves on Snafu, enraged. Snafu points the barrel of his rifle at the man's chest and tells him to sit down. He defiantly remains in Snafu's face. Then Sledge steps in and gets physical with the man.

Soon Sledge's squad has the man surrounded, guns aimed. One eggs the rest on, asking what they're waiting for. But an Army officer steps in and breaks it up, saying the prisoners are protected by the Geneva Convention. Cpl. Burgin puts his arm between the officer and Sledge as the Army officer demands to know Sledge's rank and serial number.

The squad's new captain steps in and assures the officer that he'll take care of it, and makes a show of barking at Sledge that if he steps out of line again, he'll order him to be put under court martial. Snafu and Leyden are not amused.

Soon enough they're in the heat of battle, fighting in miserable lakes of muddy water. Sledge's squad meets up with another unsuccessfully trying to take a hill. The NCO tells him that a lot of his men were lost. Snafu, Sledge and the mortar squad set up amid the gore and filth, firing ordnance into the enemy hill.

Night falls, and the men try to set up camp in the rain and sludge. The NCO tells the new men how to correctly dig a foxhole, and Snafu jokes that they shouldn't bother, seeing as the new guys will be dead within days anyway. One of them angrily informs Snafu his name is Hamm, and Snafu complains that now he'll have another name to forget.

Snafu hands Peck a mortar around and tells him to put them with the others, and Peck slides it with the rest under a poncho that's keeping them dry. When he notices that said rain gear is better than his, he removes the one he has on – the crappy one Snafu traded to him – and puts it on top of the rounds, taking the better poncho and slipping it over his head.

Snafu and Sledge are trying to dig their foxhole when suddenly they strike something that kicks up a stench. It's a grave. The captain tells them to ignore the stench and keep digging to regulation width and depth, explaining that the whole island is a grave.

A flare lights the night sky as the Japanese move to attack. The NCOs call for the mortar squad to fire on the enemy, but all the rounds are coming up short because they're wet. In the dark, Peck looks guilty but says nothing. The captain orders them to run up the road and get dry mortars. Snafu and Sledge look at each other nervously, and Snafu orders Hamm to come with him, telling Sledge to stay put.

Dodging bullets, Hamm and Snafu run back and retrieve 60 mortar rounds. Before they can return, they pause and duck down as the machine gunners around them hold their fire – four civilians are coming in. Snafu and Hamm watch as four shadows run through the open in the mud. They're almost through when enemy bullets cut three down. The fourth makes it a bit further, but soon he too gets shot through. It's a little boy.

The boy, crying, desperately tries to crawl through the mud to safety, and Hamm lurches to go help him, but Snafu holds him back. Sure enough, another bullet cuts through the boy and he goes limp in the mud, dead.

The Marines resume cover fire so Snafu and Hamm can make a run for it with another man, who lags a step behind them and ends up getting shot. Hamm moves to help, but Snafu tells him he's dead, orders him to grab the mortar shells and keep moving.

When Snafu makes it back to the rest of the squad he moves quickly. He deftly sets down the mortars and in one move, rips the sound rain slicker off of Peck's back, putting it over the fresh rounds to keep them dry. He then grabs the crappy tarp and angrily hurls it at Peck's chest with all the force he can muster. Sledge looks on, never having seen Snafu that emotional.

Morning. Sledge ticks off another hash mark to keep track of his days at war. He's smoking a pipe. A shocked Hamm asks why they aren't helping civilians to get through safely. Someone offers that most of the Okinawans are helping the Japanese, but Hamm tersely counters that the family that died the night before was not. Snafu explains that killing the enemy is all that matters. Hamm shakes his head in shock.

Leyden tells him that the first time you see somebody get killed, "It's something." A hardened Sledge pipes up with, "Get used to it."

But that's not the end of Leyden's story. He reveals that when he was 15, he and a buddy were hopping subway cars and they went through a tunnel that was too small. He got a small head injury but, he tells Hamm, his buddy's brains and bones splattered all over his chest. He said he'd never forget it.

Snafu jokes that Leyden's lucky his head is so hard. Then he turns on Peck, who's staring at a pin-up photo of a beautiful woman, presumably his wife, and starts to get inside of his head.

He tells Peck that as they move further South, the enemy's just going to get meaner and meaner. Then he swipes the photo and hoots at it. Peck weakly puts up a struggle, but Snafu

passes the photo around so everyone can get an eyeful. Then Leyden reads the signature on the back. It's from one "Katherine Jones." Not Mrs. Peck. Not his wife.

Leyden's confused. Peck explains that he met the other woman after he was drafted, which makes them even more interested. "What kind of Marine is drafted?" Snafu wants to know. He asks Hamm is he was drafted, and Hamm says no.

"I don't believe it," Snafu howls. "No way that broad is banging some drafted Marine. No way."

Peck shuts him up, but nearby, another problem is brewing. The squad NCO is seeing Japanese soldiers are retreating. The officer rounds up his men to assist another company, saying the enemy has broken through the line. He orders the mortar squad to take up their rifles and join the rest of the Marines chasing after them, since they're low on ammo. Snafu growls at Peck through gritted teeth that because of them, they're going to get their asses shot up.

The squad moves up to give chase and check everything as they move through a burned village. Sledge tries to talk Hamm and Peck through their first combat, telling them to stay with him and stay down. Passing through the village, they see the naked bodies of men stacked on each other. They lay down close to the rocks as they hear the people coming toward them.

A call goes up – civilians. A woman walks through the Marines, followed by another holding a child –she's shaking and weeping. She's trying to communicate with them in Japanese, and tries to hand her infant to the Marines nearby. They're not sure what to do and don't take it. Then she begins to scream and pulls back her robe to reveal she's been strapped with dynamite. In a moment, she and her baby are turned into red mist. The explosion takes out a number of Marines with her.

More civilians run in, and the Marines open fire on them, not sure if they're trapped or not. It soon becomes clear that the Japanese are using the Okinawans as human shields. They run up behind the villagers, shooting at the Marines, who cut down everyone. When the shooting stops, Sledge and Hamm are horrified to see a young girl who had been protecting her head with her hands suddenly sit up and stare at her bloody palms shaking.

Hamm mutters a prayer and starts to remove his helmet when the Marines hear American bombers approaching. They begin raining ordnance down on their own men.

The squads retreat to safer ground as the bombs rain down, and Hamm wonders why they're being bombed by their own side. Sledge angrily says it 's because some officer read a map wrong. "There is no goddamn reason," he yells. He sits down, then turns to look at Snafu.

Snafu's eyes are suddenly vacant as he stares at something nobody else can see. Sledge is surprised to see his cocky, supposedly unflappable friend losing it. But he doesn't dwell on it. At night, the rain pours down again and Sledge tried to get some sleep.

The next day, Sledge is reading a letter when a recovered Snafu comes over to talk to him. The letter says that his dog died. Snafu tries to comfort him. Hamm's letter, on the other hand, informs him that his brother was on the Bunker Hill. Whoop-dee-do, Snafu wisecracks. But Hamm shuts him up by continuing his story: The Bunker Hill was hit by two kamikaze pilots, and 500 men died. He doesn't understand why the enemy can't just surrender.

"The Emperor is God," Snafu drawls. "Duty to God."

Sledge tells Hamm he hopes they don't surrender so they can kill them all.

Leyden sees Peck reading a letter from his mistress, and takes it from him. Peck socks Leyden in the jaw, and Leyden returns the punch as the men lay into each other. Burgin breaks it up and turns to Leyden. "We don't need this, Bill," he barks. Peck crouches down, and Bill stands there, dusting off his helmet.

A enemy mortar round suddenly explodes near Bill, blowing him off his feet. Sledge instinctively leaps to help him, but Snafu and Hamm hold him back. A corps man pulls Bill out of harm's way, and we see that shrapnel has shredded his leg, and the flesh on his fingers is blackened by the blast. Peck goes fetal nearby in the mud.

Nightfall. Sledge blankly stares into the dark. Snafu sees Peck, still in shock, and tries to be kind by giving him the tip to get a fresher poncho off of a dead body. Peck softly murmurs that he's fine. Hamm sits near Sledge and tells him he thought it would be different.

"Grow up, Hamm," Sledge says coldly.

"F*** you, Sledge," Hamm fires back. "Why don't you put yourself in the hole the next time."

Snafu laughs. "That's the talk." He asks Hamm where he's from.

"So, now you want to know where they're from?" Hamm spits.

Daybreak. Sledge ticks off another day in his journal, and the captain asks him if he knows how long they've been there. Sledge says 66 days. A still shaken Peck, who burrowing his way into the deepest hole imaginable, nervously shares his fear that they're never getting off of the island. Snafu, who's been relieving himself in an old ammo can, gets under his skin that summer's around the corner, then Halloween, then the holidays. He tells Peck he's been working on his Christmas present, and tosses the contents of the can in Peck's direction.

The captain calls for a mortar round on an enemy position nearby. "That's you, Sledge," he says. Sledge takes a leak, then moves up to the ridge to join the captain, calling for Hamm to join him. Suddenly Sledge slips and slides down the hill into a mud hole filled with dirty water and a skeletal body covered in maggots. He screams and throws off his jacket, yelping as he scrapes the maggots off of his uniform with a knife. The captain calls for him again, and he pulls it together.

Sledge heads up to the ridge to put a mortar into an enemy hut, per the captain's orders. Sledge sights it, then calls down the coordinates. The first attempt is a miss. The second hits the hut. He tells them to mark the target. That's when a cry goes up from the enemy, and a ragged battalion of Japanese soldiers runs at them holding their flag aloft. Sledge and Hamm pull up their rifles and when they're close enough, they cut them down.

The call goes up to cease fire once the last man drops, but he's not dead. Sledge stands and pulls his sidearm to finish the job over Hamm's alarmed protests. He kills the man in three shots as his commanding once again tell him to cease fire.

The captain reprimands him for using his sidearm, telling Sledge he gave away their location. A crazed Sledge talks back, telling him that if they're there to kill the Japanese, it doesn't make a difference. "I'll use my bare hands if I have to," he says through gritted teeth.

The dark is miserable and rainy again as Sledge fruitlessly tries to bail out his foxhole. Snafu loudly gripes about the rain and the relentless push into battle starts to lose it. He turns on Sledge, and as they exchange verbal volleys, Peck runs up to an open point on the ridge and starts screaming and firing in the enemy's direction.

Sledge, Hamm and Snafu run to pull him down off the ledge, but he won't budge. Finally Hamm steps up behind him and yanks him off of his feet, but as Hamm turns around two bullets cut him through. He falls to the ground dead. Sledge wildly starts pounding Peck in shock and anger until Snafu has to pull him off. An NCO runs up and asks what happened, and Sledge tells them that Hamm is dead and Peck is "gone." He orders a corps man to pull Peck off the field.

The next day they move forward, and Sledge and Snafu watch as their fellow Marines slaughter all the Japanese they come across using bullets, flamethrowers, tank rounds. Sledge seems more disconnected and monstrous than Snafu as he witnesses the gory nightmare around him. He barely takes cover as a nearby explosion happens. When a Japanese soldier attempts to take him by surprise Sledge cuts him down with barely a thought. Snafu watches his friend kill with a look of shock.

As they're walking by a hut, they hear a baby crying. "Might be a trap," Sledge says, but after a moment, they go inside anyway. They discover the baby crying by the breast of his dead mother. The woman's body has been blown open by an explosion. Sledge realizes that this hut is much like the one he ordered the squad to hit, and looks at the hole in the ceiling in cold horror. Snafu tries to reassure him that a lot of mortars were fired up there, but it does nothing to comfort Sledge. Another man walks in, sees the baby, asks them what's their problem is, and scoops up the infant in his arms.

Snafu turns and leaves and Sledge walks behind him until he hears the soft breathing and voice of woman pleading from another corner of the hut. He follows the noise and sees an older woman, her face swollen and purple, struggling to breathe and repeating something to him softly. Sledge at first takes aim at her, then lowers his rifle. Struggling, her jaw slack, she lifts the cloth on what remains of her shirt and shows him her wound: She's been blown in half. She reaches for the muzzle of his rifle and guides it to her forehead with one hand, then mimes with the index finger of her other hand that he should pull the trigger.

Sledge almost does, then stops himself. He slowly puts down the gun, eases to the floor next to the woman, reaches over and cradles her in his arms, stroking her hair. She stares up at him and breathes a few more gasps. She pulls her face into his neck in a deep embrace, and as she stops breathing, she drops a child's toy that makes a jingling noise as it hits the ground.

Snafu is waiting for him outside with a cigarette. When Sledge emerges, he asks if he found anything. "No," Sledge says coldly. He tells Snafu to help get the rest of the men in order.

As Sledge presses onward, he sees another civilian, a boy, emerge from a building. The boy freezes up in horror as Sledge takes aim on him, but Sledge sees he's unarmed. Sledge keeps his aim for a moment, then lowers his rifle. The boy seems relieved for a moment.

Then a shot rings out as another man puts a bullet in the kid's head. From behind Sledge he hears a rowdy hoot as another Marine brags he got on. Sledge grabs the man by the collar and tells him he just killed a boy. The man doesn't care, telling him they're there to kill Japs, so what's the problem? The man and his friends descend on the boy to see if they can pick up any souvenirs but come up disappointed. "Don't look like he's got anything at all," the man says.

Sledge sits down, puts down his rifle, and holds his face in his hands.

Days later, the men are sitting on a beach with their shirts off. The sun is bright as Sledge smokes his pipe. Burgin pulls out a cigarette and Sledge hands him a lighter – Gunny Haney's. When Burgin asks about it, Sledge marvels that Gunny took it with him from Guadalcanal all the way to Peleliu. Burgin reports that he heard Leyden made it back home.

"Sonofabitch always said he was first," Burgin jokes.

The captain calls for them to move out. Sledge gathers his gear and takes one last look at the waves.

As they're heading back with the rest of the Marines, the Captain reports that the Americans dropped a big bomb onto the Japanese mainland, big enough to vaporize a city in the blink of an eye. Burgin asks how that's possible.

"I dunno," the Captain says, then adds with a bright smile, "Anyway, killed a lot of Japs." He cheerily tells them that battalion mess is serving cokes and steaks for dinner, and they might even get a movie.

Sledge looks horrified at the casual report of such death. He joins Snafu and the rest of his squad in the back of a truck, hangs his head for a moment, then watches as another soldier carries a small Okinawan girl in his arms. More bedraggled civilians walk out among them. As the truck drives away, Navy fighter planes fly in formation against the clear blue sky above.

Home

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Sunday May 16, 2010
Writer: Bruce C. McKenna, Robert Schenkkan
Director: Jeremy Podeswa
Guest Stars: Joseph Mazzello (Eugene B. Sledge), Martin McCann (R.V. Burgin), Frank Aldridge (Troop Train Porter), Kate Bell (Mary Houston Phillips), Betty Buckley (Marion Leckie), Mark Casamento (George Basilone), Adelaide Clemens (Registrar Girl), Josh Close (Edward Sledge), Linda Cropper (Mary Frank Sledge), James Badge Dale (Robert Leckie), Caroline Dhavernas (Vera Keller), Lia Fisher (Rose), Damien Freeleagus (Cab Driver), Marian Frizelle (Martha), James Gaylyn (Tee), Lelia Goldoni (Dora Basilone), Chris Haywood (John Leckie), Cariba Heine (Phyllis), Kristin Holland (Hospital Guard), Ashton Holmes (PFC Sidney Phillips), Andray Johnson (Train Conductor (voice)), Brandon Keener (Charles Dunworthy), Kate Kendall (Betty Leckie), Rami Malek (Merriell Shelton), Catherine McClements (Catherine Leckie), Heather Mitchell (Mrs. Keller), Conor O'Farrell (Dr. Sledge), Annie Parisse (Sgt. Lena Basilone), Stephen Pease (Betty's Husband), Bob Rumnock (Al the waiter), Jon Seda (Sgt. John Basilone), Joseph R. Sicari (Salvatore Basilone), Christopher Stollery (Catherine's Husband), Nick Tate (Tom Smee), Ashley Zukerman (2nd Lt. Mac)

Summary: After the Japanese surrender, Leckie, healed from his wounds, leaves the hospital and returns home, while Sledge heads back to Alabama to be reunited with his family and Sid Phillips. Lena visits Basilone's home and has an emotional meeting with his family. Leckie adjusts to post-war life by resuming his old job and starting a new relationship, but for Sledge, unsure why he survived the war seemingly unscathed, adjustment will require more time.



August 15, 1945 – St. Alban's Military Hospital, Long Island, New York

A woman reads a passage from "The Iliad" to a recovering Private Robert Leckie, who looks a sight better than his bandaged comrade recuperating in a bed as he sits in a chair, smoking a cigarette and reading the comics page in the newspaper. She looks up from the page and chides Leckie for not listening to her. But he insists he is, and quotes the remainder of the passage back to her. Then he offers to read the comics to his friend instead, offering him the choice of Snookums, The Phantom, and Blondie.

He flirtatiously asks the girl what her favorite is, but before she can answer a man runs into the room and announces that the Japanese have surrendered. The room is suddenly abuzz with joy as the nurses hug each other, repeating out loud that the war is over. They all dash to the elevators, presumably to celebrate in the streets, leaving a room full of broken veterans to sit in

quiet shock in their beds. Leckie looks across the room and sees one man weeping as a nurse holds him.

As the cheers filter in from outside, Leckie's face is oddly expressionless.

Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands

The men in Eugene Sledge's outfit shoot off flares and run around excitedly at the news, and he, Burgin and Snafu watch the celebration apart from the rest from a perch atop a rock. Private Shelton, a/k/a/ Snafu, points out a constellation to Burgin, pretending to be official, and declares one to be "Snafu's Pecker." Lieutenant Mac stumbles up to them, drunkenly asks them what they'll do now and offers them the remainder of a bottle of scotch so they can have a little VJ party of their own.

Snafu stares after him. "What'll we do now," he repeats with a faint smile on his face. "What an idiot!"

Burgin takes a hard pull from the bottle. "Well there it is," he says. "My first official act of peacetime." He hands the bottle to Snafu, who takes a drink. Sledge quietly smokes his pipe.

Back in the States a taxi pulls up to a tree-lined street on a perfectly sunny day. Leckie, wearing a neatly pressed uniform, steps out and observes that nothing's changed. The cabbie replies that he thought the exact same thing when he got back. He hands Leckie his bag, and Leckie moves to hand him his fare but the cabbie won't accept it. He tells Leckie that even though he jumped into Normandy, he still got some liberties in London and Paris, while Leckie and the rest of the men in the Pacific Theater got nothing but jungle rot and malaria.

"Welcome home," he says with a serious look on his face, and nods at Leckie respectfully as he steps back into the cab. Leckie doesn't react other than to throw his knapsack over his back and head up to the door of what turns out to be his house.

His mother greets him by admonishing him for not giving them any warning of his return, and leads him to his childhood bedroom, which has been turned into the house storage locker. His father lamely offers to throw most of it away, but his mother insists she doesn't know where they'll put most of it. Leckie offers to clear a corner and make do, but his mother tells him that they'll clean it up. His father tells his mother to give him a moment, and they leave him in the clutter.

Elsewhere, a train is delivering Sledge and Snafu back home. They too are cleaned up and wearing fresh clothes. Snafu sees a pretty girl and introduces himself as Merriell Shelton, and offers to take her to the back of the train so she can show him her caboose. She slaps him, and he smiles as the other men chuckle.

As Burgin sits down with them, they reveal that it's now 1946, six months after VJ Day. Snafu jokes that if they had gotten home earlier, his pickup line would have gotten a more receptive reaction. But six months later, "not as much as a complimentary beer," Burgin gripes.

Sledge observes that somebody had to stay and clean up after the war. Burgin says that he has to get a respectable job, but first he'll have to get his Aussie girlfriend over. He asks "Sledgehammer" what's next for him, but Sledge doesn't have an answer. He doesn't have a job lined up in Mobile - "no job, no girl, no plans."

Snafu looks at the girl he got fresh with, who returns his look with a cold glare. He grins. "I'm gonna get that girl," he says with a smile. "You watch."

In another part of the country, Lena Basilone is slowly walking up to John's family home. She knocks on the door, and Mrs. Basilone answers. Lena introduces herself, and John's mother nods and says that she recognizes her from the photos John sent. She invites Lena in.

Inside, the house is dark and Mr. Basilone looks at Lena, addressing her in Italian. John's brother George comes downstairs and translates for her: "He says you're beautiful." George goes on to tell her that the last time he saw John in Honolulu, he couldn't stop talking about her.

The Basilones invite her to sit down with them, and she complies. Lena awkwardly compliments their home and when George asks, she tells them that she's waiting for orders. George asks if John's insurance money is going to help her out, and she reveals that he never signed the papers. George is shocked - it's \$10,000. She holds back tears and insists that she's alright. George said that he saw his grave on Iwo Jima and assures her that he has lots of good Marine around him. Lena thanks him, then pulls a box out of her bag, saying she thought John's parent should have it. She hands over the box. It's John's Medal of Honor. As she fights back tears, Mrs. Basilone comes over to sit next to her and holds her, crying with her.

Sledge and Shelton's train pull up to Burgin's stop, and he's disappointed not to see Florence. Snafu assures them that it's a long way from Australia to Texas, but she'll make it here. As Burgin grabs his gear and move to exit, Snafu stops him.

"Thanks," Snafu says with a smile, "for doing all you did you keep us from getting our fool heads shot off." Burgin simply tells them they're good Marines, and makes his exit. Sledge and Snafu watch as he is greeted by his family with handshakes and hugs. They throw his sack into a waiting truck as the train pulls away.

Back in his hometown, Leckie is talking to the editor at the paper, and the newsroom is abuzz at having a hero in their midst. The women whisper and look at him, but Leckie brushes it off. The editor tells him that they're all proud of "all you soldiers."

"I was a Marine," Leckie says, gently correcting him as he sips his coffee. The editor gets down to business and says he's guessing he wants a job. Leckie informs him that he wants his old job as a sports columnist back, and strong-arms him into moving the present sports writer to the obits section. The editor is flabbergasted by Leckie's confidence and doesn't say no when Leckie gets up to cover a game going on that afternoon, or when he demand a raise.

That night Leckie is writing in his bedroom, in the dark, and looks out the window to see a car pull up to the house across the street. A man wearing military dress gets out, and opens the door for a woman – Vera, the girl who assured Leckie she would pray for him. He watches this sadly as his mother comes into the room and interrupts. He snaps at her for sneaking up on him and sits back down at his typewriter while she looks out the window to see what her son was staring at.

"You are spying on Vera Keller," she says, half teasing, half chastising him. "She never gave you the time of day. And she's dating an officer, of course. Look at that fancy car." She says she came up to get him to stop banging on the typewriter and turns on the light. She checks his closet and points out that he's never worn his dress blues. He ignores her and pretends to be caught up in his work. She turns to look at him and says meaningfully, "I think you would look nice in them."

Sledge's train pulls up to New Orleans – Snafu's stop. Sledge is sleeping and after Snafu grabs his sack, he at first considers waking him to say goodbye, but thinks better of it. Snafu turns and gets off the train, quietly blending into the crowd at the station.

Leckie, in his dress blues, crosses the street and knocks on the door to call on Vera Keller. Mrs. Keller greets him coldly and doesn't recognize him, but when he tells her that he's lived across the street from her for the past 20 years, she softens a touch and goes to get Vera. When Vera comes to the door she greets him and tells him, kindly, that he looks well. "Nice uniform," he says awkwardly.

Robert asks, formally, if she would grant him the pleasure of taking her out. Vera politely tells him that she already has a date that night, and as she says it, he pulls up to the curb. "Nice car," Leckie says cockily.

He turns to greet his rival, Charles Dunworthy, at the curb and shakes his hand, a gesture he returns coldly. Leckie notes his Army uniform and asks where he served, Dunworthy casually replies that he's just graduated from West Point. Leckie addresses him as Lieutenant and finishes with, "Congratlans. Too bad you missed the whole show."

Leckie then confidently turns around and asks Vera to dinner the next night, which Dunworthy tries to laugh off, saying she's not interested.

Vera observes this closely. "Actually," she says after a beat, "I don't have any plans for tomorrow night."

"O, is that right? Really?" Dunworthy says snobbily. "Obviously I've been wasting a lot of gasoline. Goodnight, Vera." He replaces his cap and stalks off. Vera tells Leckie that she's free that night after all.

Over a candlelit meal, Vera catches Leckie staring and at first he looks away and tells her that he's sorry. Then he recants and tells her he's not. He explains that three years ago, he was lying in the mud in a miserable part of the Pacific, dreaming about a moment like this with her. She blushes and says he must have been through a lot. He looks around the beautiful restaurant, and doesn't reply.

She asks, why her? Why not Rita Hayworth, or Betty Grable? "Because I know you," Leckie replies.

Vera corrects him by saying she doesn't really know her. He nervously rubs his temples and says that he doesn't know how to do this, but she assures him that he's doing fine. He reveals that he wrote her a lot of letters over there, but he never sent them because he didn't think he was going to make it. She asks to read them, but he tells her that he doesn't have them any more because the rain on Cape Gloucester erased every word. So she asks him what the letters were like, and he smiles. "Best stuff I ever wrote."

The train finally pulls into Mobile, and Sledge disembarks, grinning as his fellow soldiers are greeted by their families. Waiting for him is his friend, Sidney Phillips. Sidney is wearing a suit and drives a nice car. Sledge playfully throws his sack at him.

On the way home, Phillips asks Sledge to explain his pipe. Sledge takes it out of his mouth and stares at it, then explains that it calmed him down. Between packing it and cleaning it, he says, he always had something to do. Phillips asks Sledge what he remembers about Mary Houston, and Sledge replies that like everyone else in Mobile, he was in love with her. Phillips tells him that's too bad, because she's marrying him. Sledge jokes that sure she will, after she goes blind. Phillips grins and tells him he's just going to have to deal with it. Sledge can't believe what he's hearing. Phillips asks him to be his best man.

"If you think that I'm going to stand at the altar and lose Mary Houston to the likes of you..." Sledge trails off, then puts his pipe back in his mouth. "Well, hell yes!" They laugh.

Phillips drives Sledge up to his family's mansion, and Sledge goes quiet again. He gets out, and Phillips simply says, "Welcome home, Eugene."

Sledge takes the knocker in his hand, but changes his mind and instead, just walks inside. He looks around the empty house and puts down his sack, then slowly moves toward the kitchen, where he hears the sound of silver being put away. It's his mother, who turns around and immediately walks over to him and takes him in her arms. His father enters the room and watches them for a moment, then goes up to his son and shakes his hand warmly. His mother cries and hugs him again.

The Sledges throw Eugene a fancy welcome home dinner with the entire family. His brother is there with his wife. Later, Sledge watches from a nearby hallway as his brother shows off his war souvenir, a Nazi flag brought home from Prague. His mother and girlfriend ooh and aah over it. As his brother tells the story how he got it, Sledge does not seem impressed.

Later that night, Sledge wakes up his parents with the night terrors. His father sits grimly outside his bedroom door as he kicks and cries out in his sleep.

The next day, Sledge sits outside in a chair, immune to the birds singing and the calm around him. His brother Edward comes over to him and tells him he couldn't sleep peacefully for the longest time. He says his wife doesn't complain, but he knows he keeps waking her up. Edward then slips a bit of booze into his brother's coffee, and his own. Sledge tells Edward that he likes his wife, and Edward assures him that he'll find a girl of his own. He asks Sledge how he did, speaking of that, and Sledge reveals that there were no women for him during his time in the Pacific. Only nurses, and they were off-limits.

Edward can't believe Sledge maintained his virginity all the way through the war, and assures him that those days are numbered, since every woman in Mobile wants to land a fighting man. He assures him that if he goes to an upcoming ball in his dress uniform, all the ladies will be falling at his feet.

"No, Edward, I don't believe I will," Sledge says. His brother is confused – why wouldn't he want to go to the ball? But Sledge corrects him. "I don't believe I will ever put on a uniform again."

Edward shakes his head. "Not a lick of sense in you." But Sledge can only return his teasing with a hollow expression.

The next day, Sledge put on a suit goes to register for classes at Alabama Polytechnic with the rest of the veterans. The well-meaning co-ed registrar's assistant asks him if he attended any special schools in the Marine Corps. Sledge tells her that he went through boot camp, and specialized in the mortar squad. She runs down the list of skills – journalism? Accounting? He replies no to them all.

She politely puts the paper down and asks him if the Marines taught him any special skills that he can continue at Alabama Polytechnic. He pauses for a moment, then leans in and whispers, "They taught me how to kill Japs. I got pretty damn good at it." He looks at the shock on her face, then quickly excuses himself and leaves.

At the ball, Sledge is wearing the same suit and standing awkwardly over in the corner and men in tuxedos and women in fancy masks and ball gowns dancing happily around him. Sidney, wearing his dress blues, is dancing with Mary. When he notices Sledge stepping outside, he excuses himself to be with his friend. Sledge stands outside and smokes his pipe as Phillips brings him a glass of punch.

"How did all this happen?" Sledge said. "I mean, look at us Sid. Standing here at a dance, drinking punch, not a scratch on us. I mean, what the hell are we doing here? Why did I end up back here when all those other fellas didn't?"

Sid tells him that every guy back has felt that, but he has to just pull himself out of bed in the morning and get on with his day. Do that enough times in a row, Sid says, and you forget some things. "For a while, anyway," he adds.

Mary interrupts Sidney and retrieves him for another dance. Sid invites Sledge back in with them, but he declines.

Elsewhere, Leckie and Vera are having dinner with their respective parents at Vera's house and discussing the foolishness of the latest great invention, the television set. Leckie and Vera are softly discussing that the TV will be the next great "thing" while their parents are griping about the expense of it all, and Mr. Leckie is softly complaining that creamed spinach is being served.

Vera's father pipes in that between that and the threats of workers striking, what did America fight those wars for. Leckie shut them all up with, "You know what I fought for?"

They're silent for a moment while Leckie picks up his glass, gazes into Vera's eyes and impishly replies, "Television." Vera is the only one who smiles. Vera's father calls for them to say grace and as everyone else's heads are bowed and they're clasping their hands in prayer, Leckie stares at Vera, then reaches over and takes one of her hands in his. As they stare at each other, Mrs. Leckie eyes the situation warily.

In Mobile, early one morning, Dr. Sledge drives his truck out into the property, holding his double barreled shotgun. Sledge is with him, holding his own shotgun. They go out on a dove hunt, but as they head into the brush, Sledge begins to hyperventilate. He drops his shotgun and starts to cry as he collapses to the ground. Dr. Sledge holds his son as he cries and apologizes, but his father says he never has to tell him he's sorry.

Later, Sledge is sitting under a tree while his mother brings him a drink. She tells him that his brother has been made a supervisor at the local bank, and that he could probably get him a job. She tells Sledge that he needs a plan for the future, and Sledge replies that his plan is to do nothing for a while. She begins to protest, but is interrupted by her husband, who tells her to leave him alone.

"The boy is idle," she says.

"He is not a boy," Dr. Sledge tells her, adding, "you have no idea what men like him have been through." He shoos her away.

Sledge lies back in the grass, and picks a daisy, contemplating it for a while. Later, he walks into an empty meadow alone.

The scene fades out to a photo of the real Eugene Sledge, and we learn that he earned a Ph.D. in Biology, then spent his career teaching at the University of Montevallo in Alabama. From notes he kept throughout the war, he eventually wrote his memoir "With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa," which was published in 1981. Survived by his wife, two sons and three grandchildren, Eugene died in 2001.

The real Robert Leckie married Vera Keller in 1946 and became a correspondent for the Associated Press. He went on to write nearly forty books, including his combat memoir, "Helmet For My Pillow," in 1957. Robert also died in 2001. He is survived by Vera, three children, and six grandchildren.

John Basilone was awarded a posthumous Navy Cross and Purple Heart for his actions in Iwo Jima. Since 1945, stamps have been issued with his likeness, and ships and highways have been christened in his honor. John is remembered every year with a parade in his hometown of Raritan, New Jersey. Lena Basilone learned John had been killed in Iwo Jima on her 32nd birthday. They had only been married for 7 months. She never remarried and died in 1999.

We then learn about what happened to the rest of the Marines featured in the series, among them...

"Runner" Bud Conley returned to Buffalo, NY in November 1944. He married his childhood friend Maryetta and sold cars for over 40 years. He died in 1997.

"Hoosier" Bill Smith survived the wounds he suffered on Peleliu. He returned to his hometown in Loogootee, Indiana, got married and raised four kids. He died in 1985.

"Chuckler" Lew Juergens received an honorable discharge from the Marines two weeks after the war ended. He married and worked as a steamfitter in Chicago. He remained close friends with Bob Leckie, Runner Conley and Hoosier Smith until he died in 1982.

"Snafu" Merriell Shelton stayed in Louisiana, worked in the lumber business, married and had two sons. He did not speak to his fellow Marines for more than 35 years, until he read Sledge's memoir. Sledge served as a pallbearer at Snafu's funeral in 1993.

Bill Leyden went on to become a pro golfer. He kept in touch with the other veterans until his death in 2008.

Hugh Corrigan was promoted to Captain and married in 1994 while stationed in the U.S. He returned to action and was wounded in Okinawa in 1945, then lived with his wife in Ithaca, NY, until his death in 2005.

R.V. Burgin married his Australian sweetheart in Jewett, Texas in 1947. They have four daughters, and still call Texas home.

And Sidney Phillips married Mary, became a doctor, and practiced medicine for 38 years. He and Sledge remained best friends for the rest of Sledge's life. He still lives in a small town outside of Mobile.

From their contemporaru photos, we realize that the veterans who have been offering recollections and commentary as forewords to each of the ten episodes are the Burgin and Phillips of today.

Actor Appearances

A

Frank Aldridge	1
0110 (Troop Train Porter)	
Warwick Allsop	1
0106 (Doctor)	
Akos Armont	1
0102 (Bille-Joe Crumpton)	
Luke Arnold	1
0104 (Augie)	

B

Craig Ball	1
0104 (Cpl. Ruddiger)	
Christian Barratt-Hill	1
0105 (Corpsman)	
Kate Bell	1
0110 (Mary Houston Phillips)	
Jon Bernthal	2
0101 (Sgt. Manuel Rodriguez); 0102 (Sgt. Manuel Rodriguez)	
Joshua Biton	4
0101 (Sgt. J.P. Morgan); 0102 (Sgt. J.P. Morgan); 0103 (Sgt. J.P. Morgan); 0107 (J.P. Morgan)	
Ian Bliss	1
0108 (Capt. Le Francois)	
Claire van der Boom	1
0103 (Stella)	
Adam Booth	1
0102 (Briggs)	
Kristopher Bos	1
0109 (Spitting Marine (uncredited))	
Simon Bossell	2
0101 (Corpsman Stern); 0104 (Corpsman Stern)	
Dwight Braswell	1
0108 (PFC 'Steve' Evanson)	
Laurence Breuls	1
0104 (1st Lt. Larkin)	
Byron J. Brochmann	1
0101 (Sick Marine (uncredited))	
Betty Buckley	1
0110 (Marion Leckie)	
Tom Budge	3
0101 (PFC Ronnie Gibson); 0102 (PFC Ronnie Gibson); 0104 (PFC Ronnie Gibson)	
Sean Bunch	1
0107 (Scavenging Marine)	
Nathin Butler	1
0105 (Young Private)	

C

Zoe Carides	1
0103 (Mama Karamanlis)	
Grant Cartwright	1
0104 (Captain Midnight)	

Mark Casamento	3
0101 (George Basilone); 0105 (George Basilone); 0110 (George Basilone)	
Vince Cefalu	1
0101 (Sgt. Major (uncredited))	
Adelaide Clemens	1
0110 (Registrar Girl)	
Josh Close	1
0110 (Edward Sledge)	
Joshua Close	1
0101 (Edward Sledge)	
Benjamin Connolly	1
0102 (Marine)	
Nicholas Cooper	1
0109 (Army Officer)	
Nathan Corddry	1
0104 (Private 'Loudmouth')	
Aaron Cottrell	1
0105 (Lieutenant)	
Matt Craven	1
0104 (Dr. Grant)	
Linda Cropper	4
0101 (Mary Frank Sledge); 0103 (Mary Frank Sledge); 0106 (Mary Frank Sledge); 0110 (Mary Frank Sledge)	

D

James Badge Dale	10
0101 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0102 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0103 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0104 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0105 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0106 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0107 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0108 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0109 (PFC Robert Leckie); 0110 (Robert Leckie)	
Matthew Dale	1
0105 (Sgt. John Marmet)	
Caroline Dhavernas	2
0101 (Vera Keller); 0110 (Vera Keller)	

E

Ben Esler	1
0108 (PFC Charles Tatum)	

F

Nick Farnell	1
0103 (Thomas)	
Freddie Joe Farnsworth	1
0109 (1st Lt. Thomas Stanley)	
Eamon Farren	1
0102 (Cpl. John Powell)	
Alex Ferguson	1
0103 (Boy on Bike)	
Lia Fisher	2
0106 (Rose); 0110 (Rose)	

Noel Fisher 1
 0109 (Pvt. Hamm)

Brendan Fletcher 4
 0105 (Bill Leyden); 0106 (PFC Bill Leyden); 0107 (Bill Leyden); 0109 (Bill Leyden)

Leon Ford 3
 0105 (1st Lt. Edward 'Hillbilly' Jones); 0106 (1st Lt. Edward 'Hillbilly' Jones); 0107 (1st Lt. Edward 'Hillbilly' Jones)

Michael M. Foster 1
 0107 (Marine Officer)

Chris Foy 1
 0109 (Pvt. 'Kathy' Peck)

Damien Freeleagus 1
 0110 (Cab Driver)

Marian Frizelle 1
 0110 (Martha)

G

Andrew Garrett 1
 0102 (Surgeon)

Andrew James Garrett 1
 0102 (Surgeon)

James Gaylyn 2
 0106 (Tee); 0110 (Tee)

Scott Gibson 3
 0105 (Capt. Andrew Haldane); 0106 (Capt. Andrew Haldane); 0107 (Capt. Andrew Haldane)

Lelia Goldoni 3
 0101 (Dora Basilone); 0108 (Dora Basilone); 0110 (Dora Basilone)

Reg Gorman 1
 0103 (Elderly Man on Trolley)

Alex Gowdie 1
 0107 (Red Cross Girl)

Matthew Green 1
 0105 (Brunette Marine)

H

Sam Hall 1
 0105 (Second Marine)

Tom Hanks 3
 0101 (Narrator (voice)); 0103 (Narrator (voice)); 0104 (Narrator (voice))

Chris Haywood 2
 0101 (John Leckie); 0110 (John Leckie)

Richard Healy 1
 0107 (Lodge Speaker)

Cariba Heine 1
 0110 (Phyllis)

Josh Helman 6
 0101 (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens); 0102 (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens); 0103 (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens); 0104 (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens); 0105 (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens); 0107 (PFC Lew 'Chuckler' Juergens)

Les Hill 1
 0108 (1st Lt. Ben Sohn)

Kristin Holland 1
 0110 (Hospital Guard)

Ashton Holmes 7
 0101 (PFC Sidney Phillips); 0102 (PFC Sidney Phillips); 0103 (PFC Sidney Phillips); 0104 (PFC Sidney Phillips); 0105 (PFC Sidney Phillips); 0106 (PFC Sidney Phillips); 0110 (PFC Sidney Phillips)

Neal Horton 1
 0102 (2nd Lt. Iseman)

Richard Huggett 1

0106 (Maj. Coyle)

Bill Hunter 2
 0103 (James); 0103 (James)

Dylan Hyne 1
 0107 (Packer)

I

Yutaka Izumihara 1
 0107 (Japanese Soldier)

J

Anna Jennings-Edquist 1
 0103 (Girl in Bar)

Andray Johnson 1
 0110 (Train Conductor (voice))

Samuel Johnson 1
 0103 (Adam)

K

Brandon Keener 1
 0110 (Charles Dunworthy)

Alexander Kelvy 1
 0106 (Pvt. Daniels)

Kate Kendall 1
 0110 (Betty Leckie)

Jacob Kyriakidis 1
 0106 (Radio Man)

L

Eva Lazzaro 1
 0103 (Isabel)

Stephen Leeder 2
 0103 (MajGen. Alexander Vandegrift); 0108 (Lt Gen. Alexander Vandegrift)

Andrew Lees 3
 0104 (Pvt. Robert Oswald); 0105 (PFC Robert Oswald); 0106 (PFC Robert Oswald)

Brynn Loosemore 1
 0101 (Corpsman Lewis)

Nathan Lovejoy 1
 0104 (Sgt. Crease)

Adam Lubicz 1
 0106 (Amtrac Driver)

Isabel Lucas 1
 0103 (Gwen)

Luigi Lucente 2
 0101 (Carlo Basilone); 0108 (Carlo Basilone)

M

Cassandra Magrath 1
 0103 (Helen)

Rami Malek 6
 0105 (PFC Merriell 'Snafu' Shelton); 0106 (Merriell Shelton); 0107 (Merriell Shelton); 0108 (Merriell Shelton); 0109 (Merriell Shelton); 0110 (Merriell Shelton)

Simon Mallory 1
 0103 (M.P. in Park)

Joseph Mazzello 10
 0101 (Eugene Sledge); 0102 (Eugene Sledge); 0103 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0104 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0105 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0106 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0107 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0108 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0109 (Eugene B. Sledge); 0110 (Eugene B. Sledge)

Martin McCann 6
 0105 (Cpl. R.V. Burgin); 0106 (Cpl. R.V. Burgin);
 0107 (R.V. Burgin); 0108 (Cpl. R.V. Burgin);
 0109 (R.V. Burgin); 0110 (R.V. Burgin)

Catherine McClements 1
 0110 (Catherine Leckie)

Liam McIntyre 1
 0108 (Lew)

Simon McLachlan 1
 0102 (Surgeon)

Penny McNamee 1
 0103 (Hope)

Ian Meadows 1
 0102 (Pvt. Cecil Evans);

Pascal Mercay 1
 0106 (Battalion Operations Officer)

Mauricio Merino Jr. 2
 0103 (Handyboy); 0104 (Handyboy)

Braydn Michael 2
 0101 (Robert Marshall); 0109 (Robert Marshall (un-
 credited))

Heather Mitchell 1
 0110 (Mrs. Keller)

Toby Leonard Moore 6
 0101 (Sgt. Stone); 0102 (Sgt. Stone); 0103 (Sgt.
 Stone); 0104 (Lt. Stone); 0105 (Lt. Stone); 0106
 (2nd Lt. Stone)

N

Rohan Nichol 1
 0104 (2nd Lt. Lebec)

Nikolai Nikolaeff 1
 0107 (Rear Echelon Man)

Tony Nikolakopoulos 1
 0103 (Baba Karamanlis)

Henry Nixon 3
 0101 (2nd Lt. Hugh Corrigan); 0102 (2nd Lt. Hugh
 Corrigan); 0103 (2nd Lt. Hugh Corrigan)

Keith Nobbs 6
 0101 (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley); 0102 (PFC Wilbur
 'Runner' Conley); 0103 (PFC Wilbur 'Runner'
 Conley); 0104 (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley);
 0105 (PFC Wilbur 'Runner' Conley); 0106 (PFC
 Wilbur 'Runner' Conley)

Sam North 1
 0109 (Replacement Marine)

O

Conor O'Farrell 4
 0101 (Dr. Sledge); 0102 (Dr. Sledge); 0106 (Dr. Sledge);
 0110 (Dr. Sledge)

Louis Toshio Okada 1
 0101 (Panicked Japanese Soldier)

Socratis Otto 1
 0102 (Father Keough)

P

Jay Pace 1
 0105 (Prep Chef)

Paul Pantano 2
 0101 (Angelo Basilone); 0108 (Angelo Basilone)

Annie Parisse 2
 0108 (Sgt. Lena Basilone); 0110 (Sgt. Lena Basilone)

Sam Parsonson 1
 0102 (Pvt. William LaPointe)

Stephen Pease 1
 0110 (Betty's Husband)

Jacob Pitts 5
 0101 (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith); 0102 (PFC Bill 'Hoosier'
 Smith); 0103 (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith); 0104
 (PFC Bill 'Hoosier' Smith); 0105 (PFC Bill 'Hoosier'
 Smith)

R

John Reynolds 1
 0107 (Cpl. Charles Womack)

Gareth Rickards 1
 0106 (Gareth Rickards)

Ben Ridgwell 1
 0105 (Sous Chef)

Matthew Robinson 1
 0103 (M.P. in Bar)

Bob Rumnock 1
 0110 (Al the waiter)

Joe Russell 2
 0101 (Commissary Marine); 0102 (Sniper)

Mitch Ryan 1
 0102 (PFC Edward Garland)

S

William Sadler 4
 0101 (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller); 0102 (Lt Col.
 Lewis 'Chesty' Puller); 0103 (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty'
 Puller); 0107 (Lt Col. Lewis 'Chesty' Puller)

Tiger Saito 1
 0109 (8-Year-Old Okinawan Boy)

Kaoru Sato 1
 0109 (Old Dying Woman)

Toby Schmitz 1
 0105 (Capt. Burns Lee)

Jon Seda 10
 0101 (Sgt. John Basilone); 0102 (John Basilone);
 0103 (Sgt. John Basilone); 0104 (Sgt. John
 Basilone); 0105 (Sgt. John Basilone); 0106 (Sgt.
 John Basilone); 0107 (Sgt. John Basilone); 0108
 (John Basilone); 0109 (Sgt. John Basilone);
 0110 (Sgt. John Basilone)

Bruce Shapiro 1
 0108 (Radio Announcer)

Joseph R. Sicari 3
 0101 (Salvatore Basilone); 0108 (Salvatore Basilone);
 0110 (Salvatore Basilone)

Christopher Stollery 1
 0110 (Catherine's Husband)

Gary Sweet 3
 0105 (Sgt. Elmo 'Gunny' Haney); 0106 (Sgt. Elmo
 'Gunny' Haney); 0107 (Sgt. Elmo 'Gunny' Haney)

T

Nick Tate 1
 0110 (Tom Smee)

Geordie Taylor 1
 0109 (Army Lieutenant)

Anna Torv 1
 0105 (Virginia Grey)

Vladimir Tsyganov 1
 0102 (Wirechief (uncredited))

U

Shingo Usami 1
 0109 (Defiant Japanese Prisoner)

————— V —————

Andre de Vanny 1
0106 (Crazy Marine)

————— W —————

Leeanna Walsman 1
0108 (Cpl. Lucy Otis)

Martin Williams 1
0102 (Cook)

Mark Leonard Winter 1
0102 (Relief Cook)

Sandy Winton 1
0101 (Capt. Jameson)

Samuel Ross Forbes Wright 1
0104 (Demo Marine)

————— Y —————

Boni Yanagisawa 1
0109 (Okinawan Mother)

Bill Young 1
0104 (Lt Col. McMaster)

Dylan Young 4
0105 (PFC Jay De L'Eau); 0106 (Jay De L'eau);
0107 (Jay De L'eau); 0108 (Jay De L'eau)

Matt Young 1
0102 (Army Captain)

————— Z —————

Ashley Zukerman 3
0107 (2nd Lt. Mac); 0109 (2nd Lt. Mac); 0110 (2nd
Lt. Mac)