

#6439

REVISED FINAL

M•A•S•H

PILOT EPISODE

DECEMBER 8, 1971

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX TELEVISION

"M*A*S*H"

Pilot Episode

by

Larry Gelbart

REVISED FINAL
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THE PLACE

The river valley in which the 4077th MASH is situated is almost surrounded by mountains. The components of the post are spread out in a rough horseshoe with a large compound of level ground in the middle.

At the nearest end of the horseshoe is the main Hospital Building made of wood with a tin roof marked by a large Red Cross; everything else is made of canvas.

To the left of the main building are strung out: the Admitting Ward, Laboratory, Dental Clinic, Mess Hall, PX, Shower Tent, Barber's Tent and the Enlisted Men's Tents. On the right side are the Post-Op Ward, Officers' Tents, Nurses' Tents, Korean Domestic's Tents and, finally, the Officer's Club.

There are two wooden, painted signs driven into the ground that we see from time to time. The first reads:

"THIS IS WHERE IT IS -

PARALLEL 38"

Below these words arrows point to "NORTH KOREA" in one direction, "SOUTH KOREA" in the opposite.

The second, larger sign has multiple, hand-carved plaques that point in various directions and give the mileage to such diverse places as TOKYO, SEOUL, INDIANAPOLIS, SAN FRANCISCO, DEATH VALLEY, CONEY ISLAND, etc.

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

HENRY BLAKE'S TENT

HOT LIPS' TENT

OPERATING ROOM

THE SWAMP

HENRY BLAKE'S OFFICE AND OUTER OFFICE

NURSES' TENT

RECREATION TENT

BARBER'S TENT

POST-OP WARD

MESS HALL

SEOUL OFFICERS' CLUB

STATESIDE BASE - DOCTOR'S OFFICE

INT./EXT. HAMMOND'S HELICOPTER

EXTERIORS:

HELICOPTER PAD

MASH COMPOUND

TENT #6 "THE SWAMP"

HOT LIPS' TENT (WINDOW)

KIMPO AIRFIELD (SEOUL)

IMJIN RIVER BANK

THE PEOPLE

CAPT. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PIERCE
("HAWKEYE")..... New Englander; 28, stoop-shouldered, spectacled, usually in need of a haircut.

CAPT. JOHN F.X. McINTYRE
("TRAPPER JOHN")..... Mid-or-Southwesterner, 28. A bit neater than Hawkeye, but not much. Chief interest: medicine, golf, very dry martinis and women - not necessarily in that order.

HO-JON..... 17-year-old Korean houseboy for "The Swamp"; speaks relatively fluent English.

LT. COL. HENRY BLAKE..... Commanding Officer, 4077th MASH. 48, overweight, under-haired; apt to stutter in times of stress. A man who doesn't like the boat rocked.

CAPT. LESLIE SCORCH..... U.S. ARMY NURSE, 33; she has assisted Henry so long they have a smooth, almost husband/wife relationship.

FATHER JOHN PATRICK MULCAHEY
("DAGO RED")..... Young, lean, hungry-looking, hooked nosed, red-haired; Regular Army, regular guy.

MAJOR MARGARET HOULIHAN
("HOT LIPS")..... Chief Nurse; 35, very well-built, a lot of passion beneath her outward appearance of being only interested in going by the book.

MAJOR FRANK BURNS..... 35, mid-Westerner; officious, short-tempered hypocrite.

CAPT. OLIVER WENDELL JONES
("SPEARCHUCKER")..... 28, neurosurgeon; former college football star.

CORPORAL "RADAR" O'REILLY..... Young, short, long-necked; his ears leave his head at perfect right angles.

Cont.

THE PEOPLE (Cont.)

- PRIVATE LORENZO BOONE..... 19, dim bedpan jockey in Post-Op Ward.
- CAPT. BRIDGET McCARTHY ("KNOCKO")..... 30, attractive no-nonsense Army Nurse.
- LT. DISH..... 24, without question the best-looking nurse in military history.
- CAPT. "UGLY JOHN" BLACK..... Australian, Chief Anesthesiologist, sports a huge RAF moustache.
- BRIG. GEN. HAMILTON HARRINGTON HAMMOND.... Mid-50's, career officer; puffy with self-importance, precious little humor.
- LT. GINGER BAYLISS..... Army Nurse, 25, delicious.

In addition to the MASH personnel, there are a number of young Korean boys who serve either as Waiters in the Mess Hall or as Houseboys.

There are also some Korean women who help with the cooking and the endless laundry that is part of any hospital routine.

The one member of the camp seen most frequently is the CAMP MUTT, a scruffy little dog.

"MASH"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

CLOSE SHOT - GOLF BALL ON GROUND

1

Supered over, the legend:

"KOREA, 1950 ...
A hundred years ago ..."

CAMERA ZOOMS BACK to reveal:

EXT. A LEVEL HILLTOP ON RIM OF MASH COMPOUND

2

A lovely Spring day. Preparing to drive the golf ball is HAWKEYE PIERCE. Standing by, sipping a martini is TRAPPER JOHN McINTYRE. Holding Hawkeye's drink is their Korean caddy/houseboy, HO-JON, neat-looking in his GI castoffs, whereas Hawkeye and Trapper appear slightly disreputable in their soiled fatigue pants, gaudy Hawaiian sport shirts and golf caps.

Hawkeye addresses the ball, then sends it sailing o.s. Pleased, he hands his club to Ho-Jon, who replaces it in a well-equipped golf bag and hands Hawkeye his martini. Hawkeye gives Trapper a challenging glance as Trapper is handed a club and second golf ball by Ho-Jon.

INT. HENRY BLAKE'S TENT

3

HENRY BLAKE, in surgeon's cap, his mask lowered, wears a look of great concentration as he stares down, trying to accomplish an action that is below frame. LESLIE SCORCH looks over his shoulder, equally concerned about what he is doing.

CLOSE SHOT - DAGO RED

4

He is napping outside a tent in the warm sun; his markings identify him as a priest. A mosquito is heard buzzing about his face. He shakes his head in annoyance. A beat, then he raises his hand to chase the insect from his forehead and automatically, still asleep, makes the sign of the Cross.

INT. HOT LIPS' TENT - DAY

5

HOT LIPS and FRANK BURNS sit on either side of a small table, engrossed in their individual reading. She makes notes from the U.S. Army Manual, he reads the Bible. CAMERA PANS to the floor to show both are barefoot and playing "toesies" with each other.

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - DAY

2

6

A football is being tossed expertly by SPEARCHUCKER to RADAR and BOONE.

INT. HENRY'S TENT - DAY

7

Henry's hands still work on his out-of-frame chore, with Leslie in attendance. Suddenly, there is a loud "Pop!"

ANOTHER ANGLE - HENRY'S TENT

8

Shows us Henry has just opened a bottle of champagne. Leslie quickly puts two glasses under the overflowing bottle.

EXT. LEVEL HILLTOP - DAY

9

Hawkeye and Ho-Jon watch Trapper, determined to show his best form, pull his club back and drive the ball hard and clean.

EXT. GOLF BALL - TRAVELING SHOT - DAY

10

CAMERA FOLLOWS the ball's high, graceful trajectory. As it nears the barren ground, CAMERA picks up a painted sign:

"DANGER - MINEFIELD"

Slight pause, then a tremendous explosion where the ball falls in the field.

TRAPPER

Fore!

HAWKEYE

Well, if you're going to make your own holes.....

CLOSE SHOT - RADAR O'REILLY - DAY

11

Catching a pass, he suddenly cocks his head to one side.

RADAR

Here they come!

ANGLE ON SPEARCHUCKER

12

SPEARCHUCKER

(puzzled)

I don't hear anything.

THREE SHOT - RADAR, SPEARCHUCKER AND BOONE

13

RADAR

Wait for it!

The other two look about, still unable to hear whatever it is Radar has picked up. They don't have to wait long. The unmistakable sound of helicopters in the sky becomes louder and somewhat ominous as they approach the camp.

TITLE SEQUENCE - DAY

14

Over the following, we hear a GIRL singing the ballad, "AGAIN" ("Again, this couldn't happen again, etc.):

- A. AIR RESCUE HELICOPTERS
appear in the sky, growing larger and louder as they near the MASH compound.
- B. CLOSE SHOT - P.A. SPEAKER MOUNTED ATOP HIGH POST

P.A. VOICE

Attention, all personnel! All personnel report immediately to Admitting Ward and Operating Room!

- C. GENERAL CAMP AREA
is alive with activity. Checkerboards are thrown aside. A pair of Corpsmen run out of the Shower Tent, wearing only towels. A Corpsmen dashes from the Barber's Tent, his hair only shaved off half his head. The CAMP MUTT runs about excitedly. Occasional Korean and Australian members of MASH are involved in:
- D. UNLOADING THE CHOPPERS
Countless hands help remove the wounded and begin treatment even before they reach the Hospital, administering plasma, injecting syringes, etc. There is considerable fumbling, stumbling and cursing by Corpsmen and the wounded.
- E. THE P.A. SPEAKER AGAIN
competing with the roar of the choppers, the various jeep, ambulance and truck engines:

P.A. VOICE

All personnel! Both day and night shifts! Report to Admitting Ward and Operating Room! Attention, all personnel ...

Supered over 14-A through 14-E are OPENING TITLES. At their conclusion, the song "AGAIN" fades and we are in:

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

15

Working at different tables, all dressed in surgical gear, are: Hawkeye, assisted by LT. DISH; Trapper and Spear-chucker, working side by side, assisted by KNOCKO; Henry, assisted by Leslie; Frank, assisted by GINGER. Hot Lips circulates, overseeing the nurses' work.

The room is filled with an aura of efficient professionalism, the swift completion of difficult decisions and tasks.

Cont.

Dago Red goes from table to table offering words of solace and encouragement. Radar and Boone peer through the door cut-outs with keen interest.

The following speech begins CLOSE on Hawkeye and continues as CAMERA studies the faces of the various men and women, glimpses what they are doing and does not spare us entirely some of the unpleasantness to be found in such a situation.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE

(o.s.)

'Dear Dad ... You said I sounded a bit callous about my job in my last letter. Let me see if I can put things another way. At this particular Mobile Army Hospital, we are not concerned with the ultimate reconstruction of the patient. We care only about getting the kid out of here alive enough for someone else to put on the fine touches. We work fast and we're not dainty, 'cause a lot of these kids who can stand two hours on the table just can't stand one second more. We try to play par surgery on this course. Par is a live patient.'

At the finish, we are on:

TWO SHOT - HAWKEYE AND DISH

16

She blots his forehead as he operates on his patient.

HAWKEYE

I'll debride the wound, then we'll go in after the spleen.

Dish nods her pretty head in understanding.

HAWKEYE

You wouldn't like to play a little doctor when we finish, would you?

Her eyes disapprove and smile at the same time.

TRAPPER AND SPEARCHUCKER'S TABLE

17

They are having a rough time with their patient.

SPEARCHUCKER

We're losing him.

Cont.

TRAPPER
(calls out)
Hey, Red!

Dago Red starts for their table.

TRAPPER
We need a little Cross Action here.
Put in a fix, will you?

Dago Red begins praying over their patient as they go on working on him.

DAGO RED
... May God remit unto thee the
pains of the present and future
life, open to thee the gates of
heaven and bring thee to ever-
lasting life.

Hot Lips steps up close to Hawkeye, inquires officiously:

HOT LIPS
Everything under control?

HAWKEYE
Fine, but if you don't move, I'll
have to saw around your B Cups.

Offended, Hot Lips moves on.

FRANK'S TABLE

18

FRANK
(hotly, to Ginger)
I don't want a Kelly clamp,
Lieutenant!

GINGER
But that's what you asked for.

FRANK
Give me what I want not what I ask
for. I'm the doctor, Lieutenant.

ANOTHER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE HAWKEYE

19

HAWKEYE
Cut the crapola, Frank; you can
show us all your diploma later!

VARIOUS TABLES

20

As the work continues, all the following are heard o.s.:

HENRY'S VOICE

Gelfoam and chisel.

LESLIE'S VOICE

Gelfoam and chisel.

SPEARCHUCKER'S VOICE

Common carotid's cut right through.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE

Cross-match him for five units,
O-positive.

FRANK'S VOICE

I need some drainage here.

HENRY'S VOICE

Don't like the look of that pleural
cavity.

TRAPPER'S VOICE

How's he holding, Gas-Passer?

DISH'S VOICE

I'm getting some bubbles here.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE

Do two cutdowns and start the plasma.

TRAPPER AND SPEARCHUCKER'S TABLE

21

Dago Red is making the sign of the Cross over their
patient.

DAGO RED

May Almighty God bless thee,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

KNOCKO

(taking patient's
pulse)

He's coming around!

TRAPPER

(smiles, gratefully)
Thanks, Red. Your last rites
never fail. Must be your delivery.

Dago Red, pleased, yet somehow embarrassed, moves along.
The surgical activity continues.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - DAY

22

Doctors and Nurses leave the Hospital. In fatigues once more, all bone-tired; a minimum of small talk. Frank and Hot Lips, both clearly upset, approach Hawkeye.

FRANK

Pierce! Hold up! How dare you...

HAWKEYE

(wearily)

Lay off, Frank. I've had a hard day at the office.

FRANK

Your conduct in there --

(indicates Hospital)

- was not only unbecoming an officer, it was equally reprehensible as a medical man.

HAWKEYE

Frank, I happen to be an officer only because I foolishly opened an invitation from President Truman to come to this costume party. As for my ability as a doctor, if you honestly question that, I'm afraid I'll just have to challenge you to a duel.

Trapper ENTERS FRAME, his arm around a Nurse's waist.

TRAPPER

Swords or pistols?

HAWKEYE

I thought specimen bottles at twenty paces.

FRANK

(irately)

There is a lady present!

HAWKEYE

(to Hot Lips)

Sorry, baby.

HOT LIPS

Major, to you!

HAWKEYE

Right you are, Major Baby.

Cont.

Hot Lips reacts, then shoots the Nurse a disapproving look. Getting the message, the Nurse takes Trapper's hand from her waist.

FRANK

You're both a disgrace to this outfit.

HAWKEYE

Listen, Frank, we've all had twelve straight hours of meatball surgery and my brain is sending me urgent rest telegrams. Surely, you must be beat, too, after all that malpractice you just got in.

Frank looks ready to explode.

TRAPPER

You wasted enough stitches in there to sew a hem 'round the entire U.S. Army.

HOT LIPS

You're dismissed, McIntyre!
(to Hawkeye)
And you!

HAWKEYE

Thanks, Mother. We've got to get up early anyway and fix MacArthur's hernia. Come on, Mary.

Hawkeye and Trapper LEAVE a steaming Frank and Hot Lips.

EXT. P.A. SPEAKER - CLOSE SHOT - DAY 23

A JAPANESE GIRL SINGER, backed by a Japanese dance band is HEARD doing "DEAR HEARTS AND GENTLE PEOPLE." It continues over:

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - DAY 24

Hawkeye and Trapper, his arm around another Nurse's waist. He releases her as they near:

EXT. TENT #6 - "THE SWAMP" - DAY 25

A wooden sign over the door, in red paint: "THE SWAMP." VOCAL cuts OUT as Hawkeye and Trapper ENTER:

INT. "THE SWAMP" - DAY 26

Four canvas cots, sleeping bags on them, a plank floor, oil stove, electric light, a few crude shelves, a table, a chair,

Cont.

assorted crates serving as same. In one corner, the pride of the tent - a bubbling still, a homemade collection of pipes and tubing which manufactures the lethal "Swampmen's Gin."

Spearchucker, in his underwear, lies on his cot enjoying a can of beer, a cigarette and a letter from home. Ho-Jon has his nose in a book.

TRAPPER

(finishing a
story)

Oh, she didn't mind my checking her tonsils, she just didn't understand why she had to get undressed first.

HAWKEYE

That's a woman all over.

TRAPPER

Best place for 'em to be.

As they make themselves comfortable, putting on such civilian items as a Panama hat, house slippers, etc.:

SPEARCHUCKER

Night, all.

(tosses beer can to
Ho-Jon)

I've left a call for Nineteen sixty-five.

He turns over to sleep. Ho-Jon brings Hawkeye and Trapper two fresh martinis from the still.

HAWKEYE

Thank you, Ho-Jon.

(sips, approves)

Mmmmm. Finest kind.

TRAPPER

Just like mother used to make.

HAWKEYE

We've got to do it someday, you know. Throw away all the guns, have every joker from the North and the South in here for a cocktail party; the last man standing on his feet wins the war.

RADAR

You guys got mail.

TRAPPER

(yawning)

I don't feel like mail.

HAWKEYE

Go 'head, open it, they can't draft you again.

They open their respective letters.

TRAPPER

Bad news from my wife.

(pause; then)

She still loves me.

(looks at letter)

Would you believe she still thinks I got sent to Korea as part of a secret plot to cheat on her?

HAWKEYE

Well, didn't you?

TRAPPER

(smiles)

Yeah, but how'd she figure it out?

HAWKEYE

(scanning his own letter)

Ho-Jon! It's from Dean Lodge.

TRAPPER

Is that a good place to stay?

HAWKEYE

Head of my alma mater.

(to Ho-Jon)

This is beautiful.

(reads)

'Dear Hawkeye, as Dean of the College, I naturally remember you very well.'

(aside)

After my first autopsy I mailed him a nervous system.

(resumes reading)

'Your request to enter the Korean boy, Ho-Jon, seems one of your nobler gestures and since his academic record meets our requirements, we will be pleased to accept him this fall, providing you can get him here and also send me a thousand dollars tuition before the fifteenth. It was good hearing from you. If you do to the Army what you did to this college, America's finished. Yours sincerely, et cetera, et cetera...'

Cont.

HO-JON
Hot damn!

TRAPPER
Terrific.

HO-JON
(very sincerely)
How can I ever thank you?

HAWKEYE
(lightly)
You just get over there and become
the best possible you you can.

Trapper studies the Dean's letter, frowns.

TRAPPER
A thousand bucks?

HAWKEYE
More like two, after transportation,
clothes.
(to Ho-Jon)
You'll be living with my folks, so
that's no problem.

Trapper thinks hard. A slight snore from Spearchucker's bed

TRAPPER
Maybe we could sell Spearchucker
while he's asleep.

HAWKEYE
No sweat, Trapper, got it all taped.
What is on the mind of every man on
this base, no matter what the time
of day, or position of the sun, stars,
or moon?

TRAPPER
Sex....Except for the baseball perverts.

HAWKEYE
And after that?

TRAPPER
Home. Or Tokyo, whichever comes first.

HAWKEYE
Right. Radar'll print the tickets,
you get the signs painted.

Cont.

TRAPPER

Would you like to tell me what words
you're going to put on that sign?

Hawkeye moves his hand to indicate an invisible poster:

HAWKEYE

'All you can drink. Ten bucks a
head. Giant door prize -- weekend
pass for two in Tokyo; lucky winner
to share the company of a gorgeous
nurse!'

TRAPPER

You're out of your gourd.

HAWKEYE

(confidently)
Fall in, doctor.

INT. HENRY'S OFFICE - DAY

27

Henry, at his desk, in fishing cap with casting flies stuck
in it and hunting jacket. Signing some papers, he doesn't
notice Radar ENTER and stand slightly behind him, calls:

HENRY

Radar!

RADAR

Yes, sir!

HENRY

Hell's Bells, Radar, don't do that!

RADAR

Well, you wanted to see me, sir.

HENRY

Yes, but let me say I want to see
you before I see you.

RADAR

Yes, sir.

(hands him forms)

You wanted these, sir.

HENRY

How'd you know that?

RADAR

That's why you called me.

Cont.

HENRY

Oh, yes.

Radar picks up the papers Henry was signing.

RADAR

You wanted to give me these, sir.

HENRY

(pleased to hear it)

Oh, yes.

RADAR

Captains Pierce and McIntyre here to see you, sir.

HENRY

(unhappily)

Show them in.

(addressing them)

Men.

Hawkeye and Trapper ENTER. Radar EXITS.

TRAPPER

How are you today, Colonel?

HENRY

That's not what you came to ask. The last thing you want to know when you say, 'how are you' is how am I.

HAWKEYE

All right, Henry, we'll skip the gristle and get right down to the bone.

(hands him Dean's letter, continues)

What I want from you is two weekend passes so I can raise that tuition. I'm going to raffle them off along with the company of one of our nurses whose heart and everything else is in the right place.

HENRY

It seems a good enough cause.

(frowns)

Why don't I trust you, Pierce?

TRAPPER

Because he's not trustworthy.

Cont.

HENRY

That might be it. How do I know you're on the level? Which nurse have you conned into this?

HAWKEYE

I haven't approached her yet, but there can be only one choice.

CLOSE SHOT - GIRL'S SHAPELY ANKLE AND FOOT

28

Girl's hand applies polish to toes. CAMERA PANS UP her bare leg to REVEAL owner of it all - Lt. Dish.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE

(o.s.)

A girl with a face that doesn't quit.
A girl with so much body she should be continued on the next girl --
Lt. Dish.

HENRY'S VOICE

(o.s.)

She'll never agree to it.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to show Dish on her cot. In only her uniform shirt and underpants, she is alone in:

INT. NURSES' TENT - DAY

29

Concentrating on her nails, Dish does not see Hawkeye ENTER.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Ah, but she will because, inaccessible as she is to everyone else in this cruddy outfit, she is putty in the hands of the master.

Hawkeye, now behind Dish, bends and kisses her bare neck.

DISH

(without turning)

Oh, Hawkeye, that makes me crazy.

HAWKEYE

My lips were made by Stradivarius.

He turns her around, starts to cover her face with kisses.

HAWKEYE

Dish, I've got to ask you a favor.

Cont.

DISH
You really thrive on rejection.

HAWKEYE
Baby ...

DISH
Always sneaking up on me.

HAWKEYE
Who sneaks up on you?

INT. RECREATION TENT - DAY

30

A bookshelf with an aisle on either side. Dish appears, takes down a book. Suddenly, Hawkeye's hand comes through the books several shelves lower, from the other aisle, clutches Dish's blouse. She swats it with her book.

DISH'S VOICE
(o.s.)
How many times must I tell you I'm engaged?

HAWKEYE'S VOICE
(o.s., lying)
I'm engaged, too. Think of me as a dress rehearsal.

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - DAY

31

Dish sunbathes alongside a tent in shorts, bare midriff. From behind the tent, what are obviously a man's arms entwine the amazed Dish's waist, though it looks as if the tent itself is embracing her.

DISH'S VOICE
(o.s., pleading)
Hawkeye, I'm trying to stay faithful.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Why don't you take a five-minute break?

INT. SHOWER TENT - DAY

32

Dish, bare-shouldered, under the shower, shampoos her hair. Soap in her eye, she gropes for a towel. A hand enters frame, gives her one. She wipes her eye, sees the grinning, bare-shouldered Hawkeye, hits him with towel till he retreats.

Cont.

DISH'S VOICE
(o.s., resolve going)
A girl can only take so much.

HAWKEYE'S VOICE
(o.s.)
We anywhere near that point yet?

BACK TO NURSES' TENT - DAY 33

Dish, still in Hawkeye's arms, struggling a lot less.

DISH
You said you wanted a favor?

HAWKEYE
(devouring her ear)
I'll tell you after I finish my
lunch.

CAMERA ZOOMS BACK from window of Nurses' Tent to:

EXT. WINDOW - HOT LIPS' TENT - DAY 34

Hot Lips lowers a pair of binoculars from her eyes.

INT. HOT LIPS' TENT - DAY 35

Hot Lips, in a bathrobe, turns away from the window.

HOT LIPS
Sickening!

FRANK
Animals! Animals!

OUT 36

EXT. P.A. SPEAKER - DAY 37

P.A. VOICE
(o.s.)
Don't miss tonight's feature movie:
Paul Douglas and Linda Darnell -
in 'Everybody Does It.'

TIME LAPSE:

INT. THE SWAMP - DAY

Trapper counts the money. Hawkeye contributes receipts.

HAWKEYE

Here's ten from Radar. And here's ten from the famous Pole. And here's ten

(holding up ticket)
for the winning ticket.

TRAPPER

We'll be able to sell tickets to your lynching if you walk off with this raffle.

HAWKEYE

Don't worry about it. How we doing?

TRAPPER

Six hundred and forty. We're a little short.

HAWKEYE

(crossing to
Frank's locker)

But not everybody has contributed yet.

TRAPPER

What are you doing in Frank's gear?

HAWKEYE

Selling nickel-nose a ticket. I know he wouldn't mind if he were alive today.

Hawkeye goes to the duffle bag under the fourth cot. As he rummages about in it, Frank ENTERS and is instantly angered.

FRANK

What're you doing there?

HAWKEYE

Just wanted to borrow your Bible, Frank.

FRANK

(going to him)

Since when are you interested in the Bible?

Cont.

TRAPPER

Frank, do you believe there's life after selective service?

FRANK

Shut up!
(grabs Hawkeye)
Get away from there!

HAWKEYE

Don't get physical, Frank; you'll blow your sainthood.

FRANK

I've taken just about as much as I can from you two. Between your snide remarks, your corruption of Ho-Jon, your -- your --
(starts ripping down pinups)
turning this place into a brothel -

TRAPPER

(moving for him)
Watch it, sweetheart.

FRANK

(crossing to still)
- and a distillery!

TRAPPER

You touch that gin machine, your head's going to have to go into the shop.

Frank ignores the warning, starts to wreck the still. Hawkeye grapples with him, finally picks up Frank's duffle bag and pulls it down over Frank's head. Trapper opens the tent door just in time for Hawkeye to boot Frank out.

INT. HENRY'S OFFICE - DAY

39

Henry is addressing Hawkeye and Trapper.

HENRY

You figure you have me over a barrel, don't you? Well, let me tell you this - you certainly do. You're the best two cutters I've got. You know you're essential so you think you can get away with murder. Unfortunately for you, you didn't murder Frank, you only roughed him up - and I can't let you get away with that.

HAWKEYE

Henry, you have no idea what it's like sharing a tent with a guy who thinks he's all twelve disciples.

HENRY

Be that as it may. If I don't do something about it, Frank'll report the incident to General Hammond and he'll put my butt in traction. I'm withdrawing those weekend passes; forget about that party and raffle business tomorrow night.

TRAPPER

That's pretty Regular Army of you, Henry.

HENRY

Just as well. I've got to see Hammond down in Seoul for a few days and I wasn't any too happy about the party taking place in my absence.

Hawkeye and Trapper exchange covert looks of relief.

HENRY

(unaware)
That'll be all.

HAWKEYE AND TRAPPER

(in unison)
Yes, sir!

They salute smartly, EXIT in crisp, military fashion. As Henry returns their salute, his hand stops in mid-air.

HENRY

(to himself)
Wonder what they meant by that?

WIPE TO:

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - DAY

40

P.A. is transmitting a Japanese Dance Band playing opening bars of "I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy". Henry and Leslie, aboard a chopper, wave goodbye to Trapper, Hawkeye, Dago Red and Hot Lips. Radar sidles up to Hawkeye, hands him two slips of paper, explains:

Cont.

RADAR

The two weekend passes for the raffle, sir.

HAWKEYE

(surprised)

When did he sign these?

As he waves and smiles sweetly at Henry:

RADAR

When he thought he was ordering a ton of ice cream. Fudge Ripple.

Hawkeye gives him a broad grin. The chopper roars up OUT OF FRAME. Hawkeye shows Trapper the passes. Delighted, they start to walk off - stop as P.A. music cuts out.

P.A. VOICE

(o.s.)

Attention, all personnel! Both day and night shifts will be confined to duty in the Admitting Ward tomorrow night. All other activities are cancelled. There will be no exceptions. By order of the acting Commanding Officer - Major Frank Burns.

Hawkeye and Trapper are crestfallen. Frank, just a few feet away, gives them a superior, victorious smile. Hawkeye picks up a rock.

CLOSE SHOT - P.A. SPEAKER - DAY

41

The band begins to play once again.

JAPANESE VOCALIST

(o.s., sings)

'I'm in love,
I'm in love,
I'm in love,
I'm in love,
I'm in love with a wonderful guy!'

A rock flies up INTO FRAME and hits the speaker hard.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. BARBER'S TENT - DAY

42

Spearchucker is offering a raffle ticket to Ugly John, who is having his moustache trimmed by the Barber.

SPEARCHUCKER

Come on, Ugly John, only ten bucks. When else would you get a chance for a weekend with Lieutenant Dish?

UGLY JOHN

How they pulling this off? Frank ordered everyone on duty tonight...Everyone!

SPEARCHUCKER

Hawkeye says nothing's going to stop the party; smart money's always got to go with Hawkeye.

Ugly John, recognizing this truth, starts to buy a ticket.

INT. POST-OP WARD - DAY

43

Hawkeye, Trapper and Ginger are calling on patients; taking temperatures, checking charts, etc. An exchange of quick, conspiratorial looks passes between them as Frank ENTERS.

HAWKEYE

(cheerily)
Morning, Frank.

TRAPPER

(same)
Hi, buddy.

FRANK

(warily)
Good morning.

The following occurs with great speed and smoothness:

HAWKEYE

Glad you got here, Frank.
(indicating
a patient)
Hey, you want to hear something wild?

Cont.

Frank crosses to Hawkeye. Trapper falls in behind him, taking a freshly-filled hypodermic needle from Ginger. As Frank leans over Hawkeye's patient, Trapper rams the needle into Frank's backside. Ginger immediately throws the ward doors open and Radar and Boone quickly wheel IN a surgical trolley. Hawkeye and Trapper catch the already unconscious Frank, deposit him on the trolley and wheel him to an empty bed on which he's placed by Radar and Boone. Hawkeye turns to Trapper.

HAWKEYE

Get out there and sell!

Trapper happily EXITS with Ginger. As Boone undresses Frank, Radar begins to bandage his face and upper body, while Hawkeye writes on the chart at the foot of Frank's bed.

HAWKEYE

Okay, let's make sure this patient gets all the rest he so badly needs. I'd say he should be sedated every hour on the hour.

He makes this note. By now Frank's face has been completely covered. Radar and Boone, tucking him under the blanket, stop as Hot Lips ENTERS and orders:

HOT LIPS

Just a moment!

They hold their breaths as she strides toward them.

HOT LIPS

That is the sloppiest bed-making I've ever seen!

HAWKEYE

My very words, Major sir, Major ma'am, ma'am sir. Perhaps you might show these callow lads the correct definitive method..

As she begins making Frank's bed very smartly and snugly:

HOT LIPS

The chief aim is to make the patient secure, so that he isn't likely to move around and do himself any harm.

HAWKEYE

Or anyone else.

Cont.

Hot Lips looks at the bandaged Frank.

HOT LIPS

What's wrong with this man?

HAWKEYE

Shock. Never knew what hit him.

Hot Lips completes her job, steps back smartly.

HAWKEYE

There you are, men. A lesson by a dedicated woman in the proud tradition of Florence Nightingale and Nurse Edith Cavell.

Hot Lips, gazing at Frank's chart is surprised, flattered.

HOT LIPS

Really, Captain...

HAWKEYE

She merits our highest respect, not only on a medical level, but because of her flawless masterful performance as a female impersonator. Now, let's get the hell out of here.

As they move OFF, Hawkeye gives the outraged Hot Lips a bright smile and a two-eyed wink.

EXT. P.A. SPEAKER - DAY

44

P.A. VOICE

There are a limited number of tickets still available for tonight's Ho-Jon party. Don't be left out. America has sent thousands of boys to Korea - the least we can do is send one Korean to America.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MESS HALL - DAY

45

It is festooned with Japanese lanterns and crepe paper. To a phonograph playing a dance band rendition of "It's Magic," the ticket holders are beginning to ARRIVE in a wild mixture of GI and Oriental garb: fatigues, papa-san suits, leis, muumuus, "bird cage" hats, kimonos, etc. Radar stands guard over a gaily painted oil drum that is filling up with raffle tickets.

TWO SHOT - HAWKEYE AND DISH

They are being handed martinis by a beaming Ho-Jon.

DISH

You still haven't told me how I get out of going away with the winner. And why do I have the feeling it's going to be you?

HAWKEYE

You don't trust me.

DISH

(smiles sweetly)

Not since the first time I found you hiding inside my sleeping bag.

She CLINKS his glass and drinks.

TIME LAPSE:

INT. MESS HALL - NIGHT

The party has grown in number. Couples dance cheek-to-cheek to "Mona Lisa." Hot Lips ENTERS abruptly. After taking it all in, she pushes past Trapper, dancing with Knocko, and addresses Hawkeye, his eyes blissfully closed as he glides slowly with Dish.

HOT LIPS

Captain Pierce!

HAWKEYE

(opening one eye)

Sorry, honey, my dance card's all full.

HOT LIPS

Where is he?

HAWKEYE

Who?

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. POST-OP WARD - NIGHT

Spearchucker, in fatigues and party hat, pulls Frank's blanket down and gives him a second injection in his bottom.

HOT LIP'S VOICE

(o.s.)

You know very well who. Major Burns. He's been missing for hours.

BACK TO MESS HALL

HAWKEYE
(melodramatically)
I thought you'd heard.

HOT LIPS
(worried)
Heard what?

HAWKEYE
Frank's gone over to the enemy. They offered him a hundred dollars a week more. Plus a royalty on bedpans.

HOT LIPS
(increasingly frustrated)
When I find him, you'll be under arrest!

HAWKEYE
Wouldn't bother me. My spies tell me three companies of Canadians attacked Hill Fifty-Five about an hour ago. By midnight this place will be flooded with casualties. Personally, I don't plan to work if I'm busted.

HOT LIPS
Tell that to Major Burns.

She starts off, he stops her, adopts a friendly tone:

HAWKEYE
Look, Hot Lips, why don't you stop worrying about Elmer Gantry? Grab yourself a partner and give him a dancing physical.

Hot Lips, too angry to speak, storms OFF.

TRAPPER
You will live dangerously.

HAWKEYE
What can she do to us?

INT. HENRY'S OUTER OFFICE - NIGHT

50

Hot Lips is on the telephone.

Cont.

HOT LIPS

General Hammond, please. Tell
him it's Major Houlihan.
Major Margaret Houlihan - from
Fort Benning.

INT. OFFICERS' CLUB - SEOUL - NIGHT

51

GENERAL HAMMOND sits at a table with an attractive ARMY NURSE, Henry and Leslie. A WAITER WHISPERS in Hammond's ear, having obviously interrupted the foursome's dinner.

HAMMOND

(eyes glinting)

Major Houlihan??

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. STATESIDE BASE - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

52

Hammond, years younger, with the insignia of Colonel, is in a passionate embrace with a young Lieutenant Houlihan.

WAITER'S VOICE

(o.s.)

She says it's a matter of extreme
urgency, sir.

Hammond backs Hot Lips into a tall glass cabinet as they tear amorously, hungrily at each other's clothing.

BACK TO SEOUL OFFICERS' CLUB

53

HAMMOND

(to others)

Excuse me, please.

As he rises, we HEAR o.s. a loud SHATTERING - the kind that might be heard if a tall glass cabinet crashed to the floor.

EXT. KIMPO AIRFIELD - SEOUL - NIGHT

54

A helicopter with Hammond, Henry and Leslie takes off swiftly and noisily.

INT. MASH MESS HALL - NIGHT

55

Couples, well sloshed, are dancing to "Enjoy Yourself, It's Later Than You Think." Ugly John approaches Hawkeye, who is pouring a drink for Dago Red.

UGLY JOHN

When's the draw, Hawkeye?

Cont.

HAWKEYE
Any minute, Ugly baby. Have
another pop.

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - NIGHT 56

Hot Lips walks about with a flashlight, calling:

HOT LIPS
Frank...? Frank...?

BACK TO HAWKEYE AND DAGO RED 57

Dago Red takes a polite swig of his drink. It clearly
takes his breath away. Hawkeye smiles proudly.

HAWKEYE
Really curls your hair shirt,
don't it?

OUT 58-
60

INT. POST-OP WARD - NIGHT 61

Hot Lips moves from bed to bed. Her light falls on
Frank's bed chart. Ever the dutiful nurse, she looks
from the chart to her watch, puts the flashlight down,
turns on Frank's overhead light, fills the syringe on
his bedstand and holds it up to the light.

INT. MESS HALL - NIGHT 62

The party is at its peak. Everyone is fairly loaded.

HAWKEYE
(calls out)
All right, people! Hold it now!
Gather 'round!
(as they do)
First, I'd like to announce that
your generosity and thirst have
raised over eighteen hundred
bucks tonight...

We HEAR CHEERS from assemblage.

Cont.

HAWKEYE

...which means Ho-Jon's college career is off to a flying start.

We HEAR more CHEERS all around.

HAWKEYE

Right now, I want you to get out your raffle tickets 'cause this is when the whole thing hits the fan.

CLOSE SHOT - RADAR

63

In the spirit of the party, he now wears a bedpan for a hat. Suddenly, he cocks his head, "hears" something.

INT. POST-OP WARD - NIGHT

64

Hot Lips pulls Frank's blanket aside, lowers his drawers to jab his bottom. Her eyes widen in recognition.

HOT LIPS

Frank!!

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - NIGHT

65

Hammond's chopper has just put down. He steps from it, followed by Henry and Leslie, to receive a salute from the waiting, tipsy Radar, still wearing his bedpan helmet.

INT. MESS HALL - NIGHT

66

Dish stands beside Hawkeye, an uneasy smile on her face. Guests crowd around, tickets in hand.

HAWKEYE

And now, the incomparable Lieutenant Dish, star of Stage, Screen and Radiology, will dip her sensuous claw into the bowl and come up with the lucky winner!

He takes her hand, guides it into the oil drum.

CLOSE SHOT - HAWKEYE AND DISH'S HANDS IN OIL DRUM 67

He moves her fingers to a ticket taped to the inside.

TWO SHOT - HAWKEYE AND DISH

68

Her look of surprise, his reassuring wink.

ANOTHER ANGLE - MESS HALL

Hammond ENTERS with Henry, Leslie and a sobered Radar, his bedpan under his arm. Unseen by anyone, they observe:

HAWKEYE

Here it is, ladies and germs!
The name of the fortunate man
who will spend a glorious
weekend in Tokyo with the
completely edible Lieutenant Dish!
And the winner is --
(takes ticket
from Dish)
--- Father John P. Mulcahey!!

Wild WHISTLING and APPLAUSE. Trapper leads the stunned Dago Red to Dish, who looks at Hawkeye with gratitude and admiration. Henry's stutter returns as he SHOUTS:

HENRY

T-T-Ten-Hut!

Every head turns to see who has given this remarkable order. Henry comes forward with Hammond, who addresses them:

HAMMOND

Do I understand that the priest
of this outfit has just won a
weekend with a nurse in Tokyo??

HAWKEYE

It's a prayer come true.

HAMMOND

(barks)
Who are you?

HAWKEYE

Captain Benjamin Franklin Pierce.
Who're you, sarge?

HAMMOND

(through clenched
teeth)
What do you think these stars mean?

HAWKEYE

You're Tinkerbell?

HENRY

This is B-B-Brigadier General Hammond,
Chief M-M-Medical Officer, Seoul
Ssector.

HAMMOND
Which one here's McIntyre?

TRAPPER
Yo!

HAMMOND
You and Pierce are both under arrest!

TRAPPER
I'd like to get a second opinion on that.

HAWKEYE
What's the charge, General? And let me warn you that anything you say'll be held against us.

HAMMOND
Breaking orders by throwing this party!

Henry snatches the weekend passes from a sheepish Dago Red, gives him a disapproving look before adding:

HENRY
Handing out unauthorized p-p-passes!

All turn as Hot Lips ENTERS, supporting a semi-conscious Frank, still partially-bandaged, trailing yards of gauze.

HAWKEYE
(dramatically)
The Mummy strikes!

HENRY
Burns!

HAMMOND
(forgetting himself)
Hot Lips!

Hawkeye and Trapper turn to each other, their eyebrows raised at his use of the name.

HAWKEYE AND TRAPPER
(in unison)
Hot Lips?

Hammond blusters on:

HAMMOND
Get your MP's, Henry! On the double! These two are going to be court-martialed.

Cont.

HAWKEYE
(hopefully)
In Tokyo?

TRAPPER
Frisco?

HAMMOND
Right here is where you'll be tried
and right here is where you'll serve
your time. Now, get moving, you're
under arrest!

Hawkeye looks at his watch, then:

HAWKEYE
Sorry, General, I'm afraid we can't
be. It's a good idea. I might do
the same thing in your place but....

HAMMOND
You can't what!

RADAR
(suddenly)
Listen!

HAMMOND
What!

RADAR
Wait for it.

HAWKEYE
(to Hammond)
The helicopters you're about to
hear are going to be filled with
a lot of Canadians who went to a
different party tonight.

Distant helicopters are heard o.s.

HAWKEYE
Without us, some of those kids
aren't going to get home from
the party.

Helicopters grow louder.

TRAPPER
You can put us in the clink right
after, General, but we're a little
short around here so you better
move your two-star can cause you
got a night's work ahead of you.

HAWKEYE

(to Hammond)

Let's get ready, man. I hope you remember your stuff, Doc, 'cause we run a very tight ship.

TRAPPER

Let's get those nails clean. Hot Lips, why don't you give the General a good scrubbing for old times' sake.

Everyone begins to get ready. Hawkeye and Trapper taking Hammond's arms, lead their new, surprised colleague out the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MASH COMPOUND - DAWN

70

Exhausted Doctors and Nurses leave the Hospital. Henry walks with exhausted, yet elated Hammond.

HAMMOND

I haven't put in a stretch like that for years, Henry.

HENRY

Makes you remember what you're all about, doesn't it?

Hammond nods his agreement. Henry turns and is about to call out, sees Radar appear right behind him.

RADAR

Yes, sir?

HENRY

Hells bells, Radar! How many times must I tell you?

RADAR

Yes, sir. I've alerted the General's pilot, sir; he's ready to take off any time.

HENRY

I want you to alert the General's pilot.

(realizing)

To be ready to take off any time.

Cont.

RADAR

I've already done that, sir.

HENRY

And that's an order.

HAMMOND

Henry, those two maniacs are the best I've seen; made me feel like a horse doctor in there. Make sure you don't lose 'em -- not even to me.

HENRY

(relieved)

Yes, sir. You leaving right now? I was hoping to give you a box of your favorite ---

RADAR

Cigars.

Before Henry realizes it, Radar has slipped him a box of cigars unseen by Hammond. Henry, befuddled as always by Radar, hands the General the box.

HENRY

(finishing)

- cigars.

HAMMOND

Thank you, Henry. Don't forget what I said.

They exchange salutes. Hammond walks OFF. Hawkeye and Trapper appear, react to Hammond's exit.

HAWKEYE

(to Henry)

Where's he going? We're all set.

He raises his right hand and we see that he and Trapper are handcuffed to each other.

HENRY

Forget it. He was too impressed to arrest you.

TRAPPER

(to Hawkeye)

We did it again. Screwed up in reverse.

Cont.

HAWKEYE

I keep telling you - we've got
to give up this preoccupation with
keeping people alive or we'll never
get out of here.

As, handcuffed, they make for The Swamp.

TRAPPER

It's no use. We're doomed...

HAWKEYE

Maybe if we started using rusty
instruments...

TRAPPER

Stopped washing our hands...

HAWKEYE

Raised our prices...

OUT

71-
72

FADE OUT

THE END