

## Act One Scene 12

*Action continues without a blackout*

*Cu Chi, Vietnam 1970*

*YOUNG ED lying on the cot in Vietnam*

*RADIO OPERATOR is sitting at a table and OPERATIONS CAPTAIN is standing behind him*

*(YOUNG ED gets up from the cot and crosses to the operations shack. RADIO OPERATOR and OPERATIONS CAPTAIN are listening to the chatter on the radios.)*

# START

YOUNG ED

What's happening?

RADIO OPERATOR

A Stinger gunship crashed hard — shot down. The pilots must have been hit; they went into the ground doing way over 100 knots and exploded in a giant ball of fire. Fox was flying.

*(YOUNG ED walks over and points at the schedule board. He's agitated. CRAIG'S ghost enters and watches the action.)*

*(Note: If possible, have a scheduling board big enough for the audience to see the crossed out names and the names of the replacements written in)*

YOUNG ED

That's my gunship! That's the crew I was going to fly with! I was flying with Craig Fox! MacDonald took my place...

*(YOUNG ED is in agony. He exchanges a look with the RADIO OPERATOR who doesn't know what to say. He walks to the OPERATIONS CAPTAIN needing reassurance — he also can't give any.)*

I was the one who was supposed to fly with Craig Fox — not some other pilot — **me!** McDonald took my place — I've never even met McDonald.

*(YOUNG ED tries to calm down and speaks with frustration to the OPERATIONS CAPTAIN.)*

My name is there crossed out right next to the dead crew's names. At least wash my name off the scheduling board?

OPERATIONS CAPTAIN

Sure, sure. Sorry about that. I should've already done it.

*(YOUNG ED spends more time just looking at the board and walking around before speaking to RADIO OPERATOR)*

YOUNG ED

I just talked to Fox this morning. Well, so did you. He was in such a good mood. He had no idea it was his day to die. How can you stand it? *(Beat)* I guess I should have been prepared for our guys getting killed — we're in a war, after all. But no one ever said a damn thing about casualties —none of you ever talk about it. *(Beat)* I feel sick.

*(OPERATIONS CAPTAIN and RADIO OPERATOR turn away from YOUNG ED.*

*YOUNG ED goes back to his room in anguish.  
CRAIG'S ghost follows.)*

*(As the lights fade the OPERATIONS CAPTAIN, and RADIO OPERATOR exit.)*

*(YOUNG ED lies down on his cot and tries to sleep. He starts churning and is completely unable to rest.)*

*(CRAIG's ghost stands by)*

*(YOUNG ED stops churning and sits up. He takes out the picture of BECKY. Then he holds his head in his hands.)*

I'm so ashamed! It's my fault!

*(YOUNG ED stays seated on his bed until the lights fade and then he and CRAIG's ghost exit.)*

**END**

*Blackout*