Sabam Assigns Muharto Interview

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Jakarta Post managing editor Sabam Siagian assigns American intern Cameron Bishop to interview retired Air Force officer Petit Muharto about his experiences running the Dutch blockade with American pilot Bob Freeberg during the Indonesian revolution.

### Treatment

Cameron Bishop, an American post-grad student on a one-year internship as an English-language consultant at the The Jakarta Post, stands at the desk of a middle-aged Indonesian man in the Jakarta Post newsroom. Cameron points to a sheet of paper on the desk and lectures the older man in a condescending manner about mistakes in English grammar. Sabam Siagian, a distinguished Indonesian middle-aged man wearing a freshly pressed Safari suit, walks past, seeing the annoyance on the reporter’s face. Cameron sees Sabam and follows him into his office. Inside the cramped office, Sabam sits at a desk, almost disappearing behind precariously balanced piles of folders and documents and starts searching for something. Cameron tries to pitch a story idea, but Sabam waves him off, reminding the American that he is a foreigner working in a technical capacity, and not an accredited correspondent. The government is very strict on this matter, he says. Then Sabam relents, looks through his papers, and pulls out a card, handing it to Cameron. He explains that his old friend, Petit Muharto Kartodirdjo, a former Air Force officer, has an interesting story to tell about an American blockade runner who mysteriously vanished on 1 October 1948. The coming Saturday will make the 40-year anniversary of the disappearance. Since this is only a feature story in a weekend edition about a historical incident, there is no harm in letting Cameron do the interview. Besides, Sabam continues, no one else has time to spare.

Surprise Call

# Flashback to: June 1947

# Synopsis

Muharto receives a telephone call from Pang Suparto, an army officer serving at a base in Tasikmalaya. about 300 km to the west of Jogjakarta. Pang tells Muharto that a foreign pilot has landed a C-47 military cargo aircraft on a nearby beach. When Pang, who speaks little English, questioned the pilot, he asked for Muharto by name.

Muharto reports the surprising call to Suryadarma, the commander of the Air Force. Suryadarma grins, saying: “Must be one of your foreign flyboys”, and sends Muharto to Tasik to investigate.

Third CALI Run

# Flashback to: March 1947

# Synopsis

Bob Freeberg, large, fit man in his mid twenties with a pleasant, serious demeanor, pilots a CALI blockade run from Singapore to Jogja. Petit Muharto stands behind the two pilots, staring out the window at the cloud cover below them, broken by the tips of volcanic cones. In the featureless cloudscape, Muharto cannot identify the mountains with any certainty,

As the aircraft is being unloaded and refueled for the return to Singapore, Muharto introduces Bob to Suryadarma, who thanks him for his assistance. Then Suryadarma takes Muharto aside and tells him that this will be his last blockade run. An Indian businessman has offered to link India with the Republic with his own Dakota, VT-CLA, and has the full support of the Indian government. Muharto is both pleased at this display of crucial international support, and dismayed that once again he will be desk-bound. However, thanks to Bob, his last flight will be a memorable one.

Landing at Karangendah

# Flashback to: March 1947

# Synopsis

Before takeoff on the return trip to Singapore, Muharto asks Bob if he can attempt a landing on a refurbished Japanese airstrip at Karangendah. Bob readily agrees. They circle the strip and Bob ponders the attempt. Muharto asks if he can land a plane this size. Bob replies that he did this all the time in the war. He can “land on a dime and give you a nickel change.” Then Muharto asks if he can take off again. Bob replies: “I certainly hope so. We seem to be smack dab in the middle of nowhere.”

Bob makes a spectacular landing, engines roaring with reverse thrust. Santoso, the base commander climbs aboard to meet them. After a short conversation, Santoso exits, and Bob takes off, the wheels finally lifting off the runway a few meters before the end.

Drop Over Bukittinggi

# Flashback to: March 1947

# Synopsis

The CALI Dakota flies over the Bukit Barisan mountaintops, and drops into a valley toward the town of Bukittinggi. At Muharto’s direction, Bob passes low over an airstrip, which is full of potholes and unusable. The co-pilot leaves his seat and goes to the cargo compartment, motioning to Miss Brown and Muharto to sit down far from the door. The two other passengers are donning parachutes and preparing to jump. The co-pilot wrenches open the door, and scraps of paper and cardboard swirl as the air stream enters the cabin. The two parachutists jump out the door. Muharto looks out of the window behind him, sees the parachutists land squarely on the airstrip, and remarks on Freeberg’s piloting skills.

On the Beach

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Muharto tells Cameron that he met Pang Suparto at the army base. and together they take two barrels of aviation fuel to the beach where Freeberg is stranded. He tells Cameron that when he saw the beach, bookended by two rivers and the gap between the water and palm trees scarcely wider than the Dakota’s wing span, he knew that only Bob Freeberg had the skill to make that landing.

Beach Landing

# Flashback to: June 1947

# Synopsis

Muharto arrives on Cilotok Beach and sees that the pilot is Bob Freeberg. Muharto and Pang rally the local villagers to construct an emergency runway of bamboo matting, and Freeberg’s Dakota takes off and flies to Jogja.

# Treatment

As Muharto and Pang walk over the soft sand toward the Dakota, Muharto sees Bob Freeberg crouched beside a wheel, digging away the sand with a shovel. The man turns around and grins when he sees Muharto approaching.

Muharto sees that the Dakota is undamaged but stuck in the soft sand. They first try to fashion a runway from coconut fronds, but the leaves disintegrate under the wheels of the heavy Dakota. By this time hundreds of villagers had arrived to witness the outlandish spectacle. Muharto looks around the village, and notices that most houses have walls of woven bamboo. He gets an idea, climbs with Bob onto the wing of the Dakota, and launches into an impassioned speech saying that this brave foreigner is our friend and will help us drive the despised Dutch from our land. The villagers cheer, and Muharto is joined by Pang, the army officer, who tells the assembled crowd to, literally, tear their own houses apart to lay the bamboo mats on the sand. A few hours later, the Dakota, which Muharto on board, takes off and flies away, the mats flying backwards in the propeller backwash.

First Mission

# Flashback to: June 1947

# Synopsis

The Dakota lands in Jogjakarta, where Suryadarma commissions Bob to fly a cargo of high-value quinine to Manila and return with essential medicines and spare parts. The war-surplus Dakota is still unregistered, so to forestall potential problems with Philippine authorities, Muharto suggests that the designation RI-002 be painted on the tail. Bob protests that since his is the first aircraft registered by Indonesia, it should be RI-001. Suryadarma explains the RI-001 is being held in reserve for a future presidential aircraft, which cannot be owned by a foreigner.

Setting The Flaps

# Flashback to: July 1947

# Synopsis

Bob invites Muharto to sit in co-pilot seat and assist him with the flap controls during the final approach to Manila. But when Bob gives the command, the nervous Muharto pushed the levers to full, causing the Dakota lurch downward. Bob instantly repositions the levers, and gently reminds Muharto to not pass the half-flaps setting until they see the runway.

Co Pilot

# Flashback to: June 1947

# Synopsis

At the airport, Muharto falsely identifies himself as co-pilot, thereby saving Bob from an infraction of aviation regulations.

# Treatment

Instead, however, an official asked Bob to identify his copilot. This was evidently a requirement for a Dakota on an international flight. Bob looked around helplessly until I stepped forward and said: “I am the copilot!” After all, I had been sitting in the right-hand seat when we landed. “Please show me your license,” the official said. I hesitated and then took out my Air Force identification card. In Indonesian, it read: Muharto: Opsir Udara III. During this period, the English translation of my rank would have been Flight Lieutenant. This rank does not necessarily indicate that I could actually fly an airplane. On the reasonable assumption that 58 ONE MAN AIR FORCE none of the Filipinos were familiar with Indonesian military rank designations, I gave myself a demotion of one grade and stated my rank as Pilot Officer. That satisfied them,

Subjects of the Queen

# Flashback to: June 1947

# Synopsis

Muharto stays with Bob’s friend Tom Lee, a government lawyer. Over breakfast, Tom reads the newspaper headlines about “Fearless Bob Freeberg” and his “Javanese Crew”. One article reports that the Dutch are laying claim to the valuable quinine cargo as the “Javanese Crew” are “subjects of the Dutch Queen”.

Quinine Case

# Flashback to: June 1947

# Synopsis

Salipada Penatun, who is also a sitting senator with extensive high-level contacts, lays out the legal justification for ownership of the quinine, then lets Muharto give an impassioned plea, claiming that the money from selling the quinine will buy medicines and other essentials unavailable in the besieged capital. The Dutch counter by calling a plantation expert to testify that the Republic does not have the capability to process quinine, so the drug must have been produced in a Dutch-owed factory before the war. Muharto jumps to his feet, ready to protest this insult to his people’s technological skill, but Penatun motions for him to sit down, then calmly tells the judge: “A foreigner is not qualified to discuss the internal matters of the sovereign Republic of Indonesia.” The judge considers this, obviously with some sympathy, and adjourns the session.

Madras Curry

# Flashback to: August 1947

# Synopsis

As they wait for a buyer for the quinine Muharto, Boedi, and Pang eat a single meal each day, all at the cheapest restaurant they can find: Madras Curry. Some days Bob joins them and pays the bill, inisting that he is responsible for their well-being until he returns them safely to Java.

VT-CLA crashes

# Flashback to: July 1947

# Synopsis

Bob invites Muharto and Boedi to his apartment for dinner and drinks to celebrate their victory in court and plan their next moves. Bob says that he and a partner in Singapore are setting up Southeastern airlines. With two more aircraft, Bob can set up scheduled blockade runs between Manila, Bangkok and Jogja, like a regular airline. Boedi turns on Bob’s shortwave radio and searches for news broadcasts from the Indies. Then they listen in horror to reports that VT-CLA, an Indian-registered Dakota that had made many blockade runs, had been shot down on approach to Maguwo. Muharto turns to Bob and asks if he is still willing to aid the Republic by flying through the blockade at the risk of being shot down. Bob nods.

Money for Nothing

# Flashback to: September 1947

# Synopsis

One day, Muharto attempts to pay for their meals at Madras Curry, explaining that it is an honorarium for a talk to a group of the lady lawyers. To his surprise, Bob chastises him for “taking money for nothing”.

Wins Quinine Case

# Flashback to: July 1947

# Synopsis

Muharto wins quinine case. Dutch are pissed.

Non Stop to Jogja

# Flashback to: September 1947

# Synopsis

RI-002 returns to Jogja, flying non-stop to conceal the presence of Captain Espina. They reach Java after dusk, with landmarks difficult to discern in the gloom. After some hesitation, during which tension rises in the cockpit, Muharto draws upon a vivid schoolboy memory to identify a range of hills and guides the aircraft to Jogja.

# Treatment

Bob Meets Soekarno

# Flashback to: October 1947

# Synopsis

Muharto takes Bob to meet Soekarno At the presidential palace. As was his custom in private conversation, Soekarno treats Bob as an equal and urges him to stay and help the struggle.

Last Corned Beef

# Flashback to: November 1947

# Synopsis

Bob invites Muharto to join him for dinner at the Hotel Merdeka. He is embarrassed when a waiter insists he be served the last can of American corned beef left behind by visiting United Nations officials.

Mission to Bagiuo

# Flashback to: November 1947

# Synopsis

Freeberg, Muharto and Boedi fly Republican economists and other experts to Manila to meet with United Nations representatives in the hill town of Baguio. The delegates, who are all prominent figures in the Republic and have cosmopolitan backgrounds, treat Bob with as much respect as do the hero-worshipping common people of Jogja.

Muharto Investigates

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Muharto tells Cameron that the situation was so chaotic, with the Dutch threatening to invade the Republic, that a proper search of the rugged terrain on the flight path was not possible. A few years previously Muharto had began his own investigations in AURI archives, finding the report of the team sent to investigate the crash site.

# Treatment

Muharto researches in AURI archive and other collections. Finds only disorder and obstruction as librarians make life difficult. He finds the investigation report, which asks more questions than it answers. Photo of dynamo with bullet in windings. Sulaiman and team investigate wreckage. Find empty crates of gold of the results of his research, beginning with the

Muharto shows Cameron the results of his research, beginning with the Muharto explains that he became aware of the discovery of the crash site, wholly by accident, some five years previously. He wrote to his contacts in the Air Force and to the officers who participated in the crash-site investigation, but received vague, non-committal replies — or only silence.

Crash Site Investigation

# Flashback to: April 1977

# Synopsis

Two wiry men dressed in shabby clothes lead a squad of airmen and their officer, Lt. Sulaiman, through a forested hillside to the wreckage of RI-002. The airmen set up camp and search the area. They find fragments of a wing with the faded letters: RI-00, other airplane parts, including a dynamo with a bullet wedged between the windings and armature. They also find two empty wooden crates labeled with name of a gold mine in Java, but a thorough search of the area does not find any trace of the gold itself. The airmen dig through the earth around the wreckage, finding unidentifiable fragments of human remains. With great reverence, they clean the soil from the remains, wrap them in clean, white cloth and place them in a backpack. Sulaiman takes a last look around the site, then orders his men to pack up and leave, taking with them the remains and pieces of wreckage small enough to carry.

# Treatment

Sulaiman finds evidence that a sizable group had set up a field camp as they had done. They had been here recently, Sulaiman assumes, as the rapid vegetation growth in this tropical rain forest would have obliterated all signs of their presence in a few months.

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The Sixth Coffin

# Flashback to: July 1977

# Synopsis

In an otherwise empty hanger, five coffins draped in Indonesian flags lay on a platform. A sixth coffin, larger than the rest and without a flag, rests on a separate platform. A flatbed truck pulls into the hanger and a squad of airmen, in silence, pick up each of the coffins and place them on the truck. But they leave the sixth coffin where it lies as the truck pulls away.

Muharto Regrets

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Muharto tells Cameron that the sixth coffin, presumably containing Bob’s remains, could not be buried with the others because he was a foreigner. Muharto explains that he became aware of the discovery of the crash site, wholly accident, some five years previously. He wrote his contacts in the air force and to the officers who participated in the crash-site investigation, but received only vague, non-committal replies – or only silence. Muharto’s expression as he finished his reminiscences convinces Cameron that he regarded Freeberg as a close friend, and is seeking closure about his mysterious disappearance. Muharto finishes by saying, wistfully, that his is sure many people know more about the mystery of RI-002 than they are telling. Muharto tells Cameron that the sixth coffin, presumably containing Bob’s remains, could not be buried with the others as a foreigner cannot be interred in a cemetery for national heroes, however much he may deserve the honor himself through his services to the nation.

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Syd Edits Cameron

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Cameron finishes his second rewrite as Sabam, wearing an expensive batik shirt suitable for a formal event, strides into the newsroom. He stops at Syd’s desk to ask a question. Cameron takes this opportunity to give Sabam the rewrite. Sabam looks at it, grunts, and hands it to Syd. He then turns and strides out the door, followed by his driver carrying Sabam’s briefcase.

Syd reads the piece, and says it needs a photo of Freeberg himself, not just the generic photos that Muharto gave him. Cameron’s face reflects his annoyance at having to do yet more work on the story. Syd reacts, saying that it is a good article and deserves being done properly. Cameron is somewhat mollified.

Syd says that finding a good shot will be easy. He tells Cameron to go to the Indonesian Photo Agency, IPPHOS, who have an extensive collection of images from the period. He says a Dutch-born photojournalist, Victor, looks after the place. “He will find one”, Syd says. “He has, literally, a ‘photographic memory’”.

Cameron Meets Victor

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Cameron walks into IPPHOS office, a ramshackle collection of photgraphs and filing cabinets housed in a colonial-era building one government inspection away from condemnation. Inside is an elderly white person who, indeed, is Victor. Syd had been correct in his assessment. When Cameron makes his request, Victor goes straight to a filing cabinet, pulls out a drawer, and retrieves a photograph of Freeberg, dressed in greasy mechanic’s overalls, speaking with Suryadarma on the Maguwo tarmac.

Cameron asks the fee for using the photographs. Victor replies “two coffees” and points to a warung on the sidewalk. Cameron shrugs, buys the coffees, returns, and sits a table with Victor.

Victor tells Cameron to give his regards to Syd, and then asks for more details about the Muharto interview. Cameron recaps, and ends by repeating Muharto’s suspicion that much remains to be discovered. Victor says: “Of course. Spoor was behind it all. He hated Freeberg with an all-consuming passion.”

Spoor takes command

# Flashback to: January 1946

# Synopsis

Spoor relocates from Australia to Batavia and takes command of KNIL. He hires Julius Tahija as his adjutant.

Assigned to Spoor

# Flashback to: October 1947

# Synopsis

Victor is assigned to Spoor’s office to handle unclassified photographs, and also photographed events and occasions Spoor participated in.

Feeding the troops

# Flashback to: July 1947

# Synopsis

As recruits pour into Java, Spoor realizes that he cannot feed them all with the limited agricultural resources of the Dutch-controlled territories. He mobilizes the military in a lightning strike, seizing agricultural land, ports, and oil fields.

Muharto Visits Post

# Present Day October 1988

# Synopsis

The day after the article is published, Muharto visits Jakarta Post to personally thank Cameron for the story and Sabam for providing the opportunity. Muharto tells Sabam that, when showing to the article to clients, he was appalled to realize that few people had been aware of his friend and his contribution to the nation. Muharto asks Sabam if Cameron could write more stories about RI-002 in the future editions. Sabam is reluctant to agree, saying that Cameron is busy with his copyediting duties. After Muharto leaves, Syd, how has overheard the conversation in the open newsroom, suggests that Sabam accede to the request, noting: “It will keep Cameron busy and out of your hair.” Sabam grunts, and then goes over to Cameron and tells him of Muharto’s request. Cameron jumps at the chance. Sabam suggests he start with background research in the new national library, recommending a book he had found in the reference section a few weeks before.

Sabam Edits Cameron

# Present Day September 1988

# Synopsis

Cameron sits at his desk, making final corrections on a paper copy of his article. Sabam strides from his office into the newsroom, He is waving a copy of the Jakarta Post newspaper he approaches Syd Jardine, a disheveled, chain-smoking, older American sitting at the adjacent desk. Sabam slams the newspaper on his desk, points to an article “Ladyboy Molested By Sex-Crazed Gang”, with the byline: “Our Reporter” and shouts: “This is a family newspaper!”.

Sabam turns, and Cameron hands him the sheets of paper. He grunts, hands them back to Cameron, and tells him that the piece needs more background, suggesting he go to the library and read a book he had discovered in the reference section: *Recruit to Revolution*

says: “Needs more background”

glances at them, grunts, then hands them to Syd and strides out the door, followed by his driver carrying Sabam’s briefcase.

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Cameron Meets Julia

# Present Day October 1988

# Synopsis

Cameron visits the National Library. Using his Jakarta Post credentials, he is admitted to the limited-access reference section, an archive of publications and books dating back to colonial times. The attendant on duty is Julia, an attractive, bookish Indonesian woman in her early twenties. She demonstrates an impressive competence when he gives her the list of documents from Sabam. Julia disappears into the stacks and reappears almost immediately with an armload of binders and books, which she dumps on the reading table. As Cameron starts to read, Julia offers to translate any Dutch-language clippings.

Recruit to Revolution

# Flashback to: February 1948

# Synopsis

In *Recruit to Revolution*, John Coast describes Freeberg as “America’s Best Ambassador” after their first meeting. Nevertheless, he notes that American officials in Batavia, who want the Indies to remain in Dutch hands, disapprove of his activities.

Lunch with Julia

# Present Day October 1988

# Synopsis

After two hours of reading, Cameron wants to take a break. Julia suggests he join her for lunch in the canteen. While they eat, they get to know each other. Julia tells Cameron, to his surprise, that her father is an army colonel in the Intelligence bureau.

# Treatment

At noon, Cameron is only halfway through the pile of clippings. He asks Julia where he might get some lunch. Julia invites Cameron to join her in the library canteen. Julia asks Cameron about how he likes living in Indonesia. Cameron replies that he is adjusting well, except for one annoying habit. Indonesians ask how old he is, where he is from, and whether he is married. Cameron says that this is too personal to discuss with some random stranger. Julia replies that Indonesians consider such inquiries to be meaningless pleasantries, like “How are you”, or “What’s new”. She then assures Cameron: Don’t worry, I won’t bother you. If I want to know anything I’ll just ask my dad". At Cameron’s quizzical look, Julia smiles and explains that her father is a general with the the Army’s Intel section. Though Julia is plainly teasing him, Cameron nonetheless gulps down coffee and says he should get back to work.

He asks Julia where he can get some coffee. No liquids are allowed the reading room, so Julia says she was just about to take a break herself, and invites Cameron to join her in the canteen. As Cameron drinks his coffee and Julia her tea, After two hours Cameron asks if he can get some coffee. Julia says that no food or beverages are allowed in the reading room, and offers to escort him to the library canteen. They chat over coffee, Julia tells Cameron that she is in her final year, and is doing her undergrad thesis, She is hoping for a scholarship to study overseas. In the meantime, because of her fluency in both Dutch and English, Julia has been hired to help organize the publications collection of the new national library. Julia casually mentions that her father, who is a general in Army Intelligence, probably knows all about him, to Cameron’s consternation.

Julia asks Cameron about how he likes living in Indonesia. Cameron replies that he loves it, except for one annoying habit. Indonesians always ask how old he is, where he is from, and whether he is married. Cameron says that this is too personal to discuss with some random stranger. Julia replies that Indonesians consider such inquiries to be meaningless pleasantries, like “How are you”, or “What’s new”. She then assures Cameron: Don’t worry, I won’t bother you. If I want to know anything I’ll just ask my dad".

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Visiting Mbah Marijan

# Present Day October 1988

Cameron accompanies Muharto to a village on the upper slopes of the Merapi volcano, to meet Muharto’s spiritual advisor, Mbah Maridjan. The three hike the steep incline to a shrine, effortlessly in the case of the sexagenarian duo of Muharto and Maridjan, but with some difficulty by their companion, some four decades their junior. Cameron watches respectfully as the two intone Islamic prayers, then lay Hindu-style floral offering at the shrine to the gods of the mountain.

Museum Trance

# Present Day October 1988

Muharto takes Cameron to the Air Force museum in Jogja, a re-purposed hanger filled with decommissioned aircraft and other exhibits. Muharto points to a model of the Zogling training glider, and tells Cameron of training village boys who had never seen an airplane to become skilled pilots in mere weeks. Muharto seeks out the curator, who invites them into his office. Muharto asks the curator to retrieve scraps from the RI-002 wreckage stored at the museum. One of the items is the dynamo with the bullet inexplicably lodged in the windings. Muharto picks it up, and from his point of view, the room around him fades into mist. The room comes back into focus, and Muharto sees the concerned faces of Cameron and the curator. Muharto places the dynamo back into the storage box and says, in a wavering voice, that they will miss their train back to Jakarta if they don’t hurry.

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Victor Arrives

# Flashback to: April 1947

Arts Circle

# Flashback to: June 1947

Victor’s familiarity with photography gains him a plum assignment to the Mapping Dept, where he develops and classifies photographs taken by field surveyors. Several of the Indonesian map makers are artists, and so Victor is invited to accompany them to the exhibitions of Batavia’s vibrant arts scene. At an event featuring the flamboyant Dutch artist Auke Sonnega, the artist overhears Victor giving astute criticism of his paintings. He introduces himself and suggests Victor write up some notes and send them, along with the photos, the a friend who works for the *Bataviaasch Nieuwsblad* newspaper. Victor becomes a regular contributor to the paper, covering the arts circuit and doing photographic essays on street life, all while concealing his status as a KNIL recruit.

Victor Meets Emeria

# Flashback to: August 1947

Spoor Hears Reports

# Flashback to: December 1946

Spoor pissed at Bob

# Flashback to: November 1947

Spoor and senior government officials are incensed about the blockade runners willfully ingoring orders to land in Batavia and submit to cargo inspection. Spoor singles out RI-002 and Freeberg for having fictituous “RI” registration, a sure sign that he is a gun runner – or worse.

Julia Rides a Harley

# Present Day October 1988

Cameron and Julia discover that they are now headed to the same destination: the Hotel Borobudur, a nearby luxury hotel, where she will meet friends in the coffee shop, and he a mate at the bar. Cameron offers Julia a ride. She accepts, and is nonplussed when he takes her to an army surplus Harley Davidson motorcycle in the parking lot. During the thrilling ride, she briefly grabs Cameron’s waist, to her embarrassment.

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Cameron pulls up at the hotel entrance, impressing Julia’s friends, who are waiting for her by the door. Cameron drives away to park his Harley, while Julia and her friends go to their event, a birthday party for another general’s daughter where the gifts include a house and a car. The friends press Julia for information about Cameron, and suggest that since he rides a huge motorcycle, and is a bule, he must be rich, teasing her that since her father, unlike other generals, does not give his daughter unlimited amounts of money, she needs a rich boyfriend.

Bule Kaya

# Present Day October 1988

Cameron and Julia walk into the lobby of the Hotel Borobudur together, where her friends are waiting. Julia introduces Cameron to them, then he walks toward the bar. Julia’s friends grill her about the bule, with Julia insisting that they are not even friends, just new acquaintances. The friends, who are all *anak jendral*, insist that Julia should go out with him. All bule are rich, they say, and maybe with his money Julia can finally come with them on shopping trips to Singapore.

Kalimantan Paradrop

# Flashback to: October 1947

Bob drops paratroopers into a Republican area. It was the first jump for everyone, and many are terrified. One soldier pulls his ripcord, spilling his parachute on the deck. He swears it was an accident, but others grip their cords, possibly ready to do the same. Boedi reports the situation to Bob, who turns the controls over to Moeljono and goes back to the cargo area. With Boedi interpreting, he gives the soldiers a pep talk, telling of his own terror flying in the war. The soldiers all agree to jump. Boedi watches as the parachutes drift down and are enveloped by the endless forest.

Detained in Bangkok

# Flashback to: October 1947

Bob flies Halim and Iswandi to Bangkok. They will fly a recently purchased Avro Ansen airplane back to Indonesia, where it will become RI-003. Freeberg is detained by Thai authorities at the request of the Dutch. However, the Thais can find no evidence of wrongdoing, as so release him, to Dutch fury.

# Present Day October 1988

# Radio Operator

Sabam gives Cameron his invite to a Harvard-alumni gathering at Boedi’s house. Cameron is impressed by the European and Indonesian artworks covering the extensive wall space of Boedi’s sprawling home in Menteng, and by the McIntosh tube amp and Quad speakers denoting a true, and well-heeled, audiophile. Responding to a question from a historian about his activities during the revolution, Boedi says he was radio operator on a blockade-running plane. Cameron realizes that this is the Boediardjo that Muharto had mentioned in his recollections. Camerorn listens, enthralled while Boedi recounts amusing anecdotes and hair-raising adventures to his guests.

# Aviation Brotherhood

Soekarno tour

# Flashback to: June 1948

Thai Authorities Released Freeberg

# Flashback to: October 1947

Ining Will Train Students

# Flashback to: October 1947

Muharto moves Ining into a house on Jalan Jetis on the slopes of Mount Merapi, adjacent to the forested areas where Ining will train students to become guerrilla fighters. They toast the occasion with whiskey brought from Manila.

Bambang Saptoadji Messes Landing

# Flashback to: May 1946

Ambarrawa Raid

# Flashback to: July 1947

Crushing Disappointment

# Flashback to: July 1947

Bob Gives Bambang

# Flashback to: November 1947

Bob gives Bambang a flying lesson in RI-002. Problems arise because of Bambang’s weak command of English.

Ining Is Training Guerrillas

# Flashback to: October 1947

Spoor learns that Espina is training guerrillas in Jogja.

Ining Asks To Return

# Flashback to: November 1947

Muharto Asks George

# Flashback to: November 1947

Bob Walters Complains

# Flashback to: August 1947

The gregarious and charismatic Boedi had been wholly accepted by the Aviation Brotherhood, the freewheeling foreign pilots seeking their fortunes or reliving wartime adventures in often-dangerous charter flights into remote areas of the region. Over drinks in the AB bar, Boedi learns more about Bob, particularly the recognition by his peers that he is the most skillful and courageous aviator in Southeast Asia. Boedi also learns that Freeberg is in considerable financial difficulty, and is in a legal battle with another aviator, Bob Walters, his partner in purchasing the aircraft now known as RI-002. Walters is scathing in his condemnation, calling Bob a thief and a con man.

Ining Buys Drinks

# Flashback to: September 1947

Missing Dakota

# Flashback to: April 1947

Black Flights

# Flashback to: March 1948

Not Ready for Airplanes

# Flashback to: May 1948

Major Criminal

# Flashback to: April 1948

Spoor decides to consider Freeberg a major drug smuggler, and orders his fighters to use deadly force if they encounter RI-002.

Cobley Makes Deal

# Flashback to: January 1948

Cobley Accuses

# Flashback to: April 1948

Bambang Cannot Conceal Envy

# Flashback to: April 1948

Crash Of RI003

# Flashback to: December 1947

Ining Is Dood

# Flashback to: December 1947

Primitivo Accuses

# Flashback to: December 1947

Newspaper Calls Ining

# Flashback to: January 1948

Ining Was Found Dead

# Flashback to: December 1947

Muharto Reports Incident

# Flashback to: December 1947

Muharto reports the incident to Primitivo. To Muharto’s consternation, the major accuses Mas Ded and Muharto of being communists, and so complicit in Ining’s death.

Who Gets To Sit

# Flashback to: November 1947

Muharto and Bambang argue over who gets to sit in the right-hand seat. Muharto insists that it is his right as mission leader. Bambang rejoins that Muharto cannot actually fly. Bob and Boedi exchange wry glances as the two spat.

Primitivo Introduces Muharto

# Flashback to: August 1947

Victor meets Koke

# Flashback to: October 1948

Syd Reveals History

# Present Day November 1988

Bob Arrives

# Flashback to: July 1946

Cameron suspects CIA

# Present Day November 1988

Ordering Suits

# Flashback to: August 1947

Deportation Offer

# Flashback to: February 1948

Tom Lee Treats

# Flashback to: August 1947

Boedi and Muharto enjoy a brief respite from their meager diet when Tom Lee invites them for drinks and dinner. Tom Lee asks Muharto and Boedi about the political situation in Java. Boedi attempts to the steer the conversation onto a neutral subject, but Tom presses the inquiry, and Muharto obliges with more detailed info. As Tom pays the bill at the counter, Muharto tells Boedi that he is pleased the Tom has such an interest in our struggle. Muharto says he is guilty about accepting such generosity from the American, and hopes that when the quinine his sold he can treat Tom to dinner. Boedi just smiles.

Bob Buys an Olds

# Flashback to: February 1948

Bob sends part of his share from the quinine sale to a automobile dealership in Parsons to purchase an Oldsmobile for his parents.

Bob Bought Suits

# Flashback to: February 1947

Landing Gear Collapse

# Flashback to: May 1948

In Bukittinggi, Dave Fowler looks on in shock as the right-side landing gear collapses just as RI-002 is planning to take off. Bob grins, and says: “You know how it is. 99 times out of a hundred you can get away with it.” Fowler replies: “I guess this was the 100th time.”

Bob and the ground crew jack up the wing on blocks as Bob resets the gear, then walks along the wing checking for cracks. He sees one sizable crack, kneels down to inspect it, then shouts to Fowler that “it will hold”, Bob goes back to the cabin, fires up the engines, and takes off while Dave Fowler shakes his head.

Bambang Gets Place

# Flashback to: May 1948

Bambang Ingratiates Himself

# Flashback to: June 1948

Bob Defies Suryadarma

# Flashback to: June 1948

Expat Party

# Present Day October 1988

Date With Eric

# Present Day October 1988

Julia goes on a date with Eric, which as set up by her father. Eric dominates the conversation with boasting about the deal their respective fathers are making with a Bruce Rappaport-style American stock hustler to sell his father’s company at an inflated price after the capital market is deregulated. Julia objects that this is corruption, something General Eddy has never done during his career. Eric dismisses her concern, stating that: “It isn’t corruption to take money from foreigners.”

Julia at the Tanamur

# Present Day October 1988

Julia and Cameron meet her friends at the Tanamur. All talk excitedly about studying overseas. The girls want to go to an after-hours club in Kota. Girls get in free, but Cameron has to pay a steep cover charge. Cameron looks uncomfortable, Julia makes an excuse.

Julia goes ballistic

# Present Day November 1988

Father Interrogates

# Flashback to: May 1947

Ani And Formalize Their Engagement.

# Flashback to: May 1948

Muharto Wants To Decline

# Flashback to: May 1948

Ani Berates Muharto

# Flashback to: May 1947

Promoted to Major

# Flashback to: May 1948

Suryadarma promotes Muharto to major and assigns him to desk duties at Maguwo.

Bob Requests Muharto Reassigned

# Present Day December 1988

Muharto Appalled

# Flashback to: April 1948

At a party in Manila, Muharto is appalled when one of Bob’s housemates boasts of shooting down his own squad leader during the war in Europe. He tells Boedi that he doesn’t think Bob’s friends are entirely *bona fide*, and worries what might happen if Bob tells them.

Boedi not to mention the gem smuggling to Bob, who might tell the roommate. that he will not tell and other general debauchery. He decides to not tell Freeberg about the smuggled gems in case his roommates find out.

Smuggled Gems

# Flashback to: April 1948

Muharto and Boedi report to Jogja on the RI-002 radio, then Muharto is the last to leave RI-002. Boedi goes on ahead, Muharto stops to talk with a Philippines army officer waiting in the hanger. Some time later, when all the lights around the hangar have been extinguished, the officer enters RI-002 and emerges a short time later with a small package in his hand.

Major Primitivo Muharto and Boedi report to Jogja on the RI-002 radio, then is the last to leave RI-002. Boedi goes on ahead, Muharto stops to talk with a Philippines army officer waiting in the hanger. Some time later, when all the lights around the hangar have been extinguished, the officer enters RI-002 and emerges a short time later with a small package in his hand.

Bob Furious

# Flashback to: April 1948

Bob returns to RI-002 the following morning and is instantly aware that someone had rummaged around his beloved Dakota the previous night. He angrily confronts Muharto, who tells him about the deal with the jewels to buy guns, and adds: “The jewels were entrusted to me by my government,” “They are my sole responsibility. This has nothing to do with you.” Bob replies: “Damn you, Muharto! It has everything to do with me! I’m the captain—responsible for whatever happens on my ship, whatever she carries. If you get caught, I also go to jail!”

Cobley Flies Cadres

# Flashback to: July 1948

Santoso Trance

# Present Day November 1988

Ani Serves Rice

# Flashback to: June 1947

Bob Returns

# Flashback to: August 1948

POAS Flights

# Flashback to: April 1048

Spoor Orders Night Patrol

# Flashback to: August 1948

Partner Has Done Nothing

# Flashback to: April 1948

Reconciling With Muharto.

# Flashback to: August 1948

SE Air Bankrupt

# Flashback to: September 1948

Spite Their Face

# Flashback to: September 1948

Gold Run

# Flashback to: September 1948

Fowler Refuses Request

# Flashback to: September 1948

Suryadarma Takes Fowlers Fuel Allowance

# Flashback to: August 1948

Suryadarma Takes Fuel Allowance

# Flashback to: September 1948

Ri-002 Drops Leaflets

# Flashback to: September 1948

Fighter Planes Tailing Him

# Flashback to: September 1948

RI-002 Vanishes

# Present Day September 1988

Three weeks before the wedding Muharto is devastated to learn that RI-002 is missing.

Bambang Decides To Fly

# Flashback to: October 1948

Muharto Marries

# Flashback to: October 1948

Bambang Studies Bob

# Flashback to: September 1948

Ani Berates Westerling

# Flashback to: December 1948

Victor Defects

# Flashback to: December 1948

Assigned to Westerling

# Flashback to: December 1948

Useful Idiot

# Present Day November 1988

Julius tells Cameron that if he wants to solve the mystery, go to Palembang, check out the airstrip with the help of Anwar Congo, the local preman. Cameron is taken aback. Julius explains the Anwar was the local jago, running the dock laborers in the 60s and 70s. Julius says: You have to deal with all sorts of people running a business in Indonesia.

Victor Suggests Julius

# Present Day November 1988

Syd Absent

# Present Day December 1988

Syd does not show up for work. Cameron drops by Syd’s shabby room in Jalan jaksa and finds him dead in his favorite reading chair.

Sabam Furious

# Present Day November 1988

Sabam is furious at Cameron for interviewing Tahija without authorization.

Julia Finds Photo

# Present Day December 1988

Sabam Fires Cameron

# Present Day December 1988

Victor Learns Truth

# Present Day December 1988

Cameron Says Goodbye

# Present Day December 1988

Karangendah Raid

# Present Day December 1988

Anwar Congo reveals that gold was used to purchase guns smuggled from Malaya, which then taken overland to Lampung by Sumatra preman.