# September 1988 : Sabam Assigns Muharto Interview

Cameron Bishop, a well-groomed American in his mid-twenties who displays the intellectual arrogance of an Ivy-league post-grad student, stands at the desk of a middle-aged Indonesian reporter, his shirt wrinkled and sweaty from a long day on his beat. Cameron points to a sheet of paper on the desk and lectures the older man in a condescending manner about his minor mistakes in English grammar.

Sabam Siagian, a distinguished middle-aged Indonesian man wearing a freshly pressed Safari suit, walks past, and notices the annoyance on the reporter’s face. Cameron sees Sabam and follows him into his office. Sabam sits at a desk taking up most of the space of the cramped office, 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 as an English-language consultant, and not an accredited correspondent. The government is very strict on this matter, Sabam reminds him.

Then Sabam relents, looks through his papers, and pulls out a card, handing it to Cameron. Sabam explains that an long-time 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 mark 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.

# September 1988 : Cameron Interviews Muharto

Petit Muharto, a lively, dapper Indonesian in his late 60s, is sitting with his wife Ani in their cosy living room in the Jakarta suburbs when they hear the roar of a large motorcycle approaching. Muharto, in jest, covers his ears, and is then surprised when the motorcycle stops in front of their house. A moment later, there is a knock on the door. Ani opens it to find Cameron, in jeans and motorcycle boots, asking for Muharto. Once over his surprise at being interviewed by a “Hell’s Angel” Muharto tells the story of the Bob Freeberg and RI-002, beginning with a surprising telephone call he received while on duty in Maguwo Air Base in Jogjakarta.

# June 1947 : Surprise Call

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.

# September 1988 : Flight to Tasik

Muharto tells Cameron that he flew to Tasik in a powerful, open-cockpit monoplane flown by a pilot barely out of his teens and who had not even seen an airplane until the previous year. During the 30-minute flight, Muharto says he pondered who the American pilot might be, and decided it must be Bob Freeberg. He remembered meeting Freeberg two months before when he accompanied the third blockade run he had organized with the Manilia-based CALI charter airline.

# March 1947 : Third CALI Run

Muharto stands in the cockpit between Bob and his co-pilot, guiding the aircraft by landmarks he has seen twice before on previous blockade runs. But today, overcast obscures the terrain save tops of the volcanoes poking through the clouds. Miss Brown, a comely Filipina who, incongruously, is the stewardess on what is basically an illegal flight, hands Muharto a cup of tea, then looks at the solid overcast with obvious concern.

Bob points to the peaks and asks if there is any high ground in between. Muharto thinks for a moment, then replies: I don’t think so. Nothing above a few hundred meters. To Muharto’s horror, Bob noses the aircraft down through the overcast, emerging perilously close to the terrain. Muharto gulps, and frantically looks for any type of landmark. He sees a rail line that he knows will lead them through valleys and plains all the way to Jogja. He tells Bob to follow that line, and Jogja appears a few minutes later, to Miss Brown’s great relief.

# March 1947 : Bob Meets Suryadarma

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.

# March 1947 : Landing at Karangendah

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.”

Bob makes a spectacular landing, engines roaring with reverse thrust. Muharto asks if he can take off again. Bob replies: “I hope so. We seem to be smack dab in the middle of nowhere.”

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.

# March 1947 : Drop Over Bukittinggi

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.

# September 1988 : On the Beach

Muharto tells Cameron that he met Pang Suparto at the Tasik army base. They brought two barrels of aviation fuel to the beach where the mystery aircraft is stranded. When Muharto 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 he had been correct in his guess. Of all the CALI pilots he had met, only Bob Freeberg had the skill to make that landing.

# June 1947 : First Mission

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.

# June 1947 : Beach Landing

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.

# June 1947 : First Flight of RI-002

Muharto, Boedi and Pang are sitting in the radio nook, where Boedi is trying to fix the radio. He hears static, and when he pushes the transmit key, there is a loud pop and a wisp of smoke from the unit. He turns to his comrades and joins the hushed discussion about the uncertain reception in Manila. Then they all look to the cockpit, where Bob is at his fourteenth hour at the controls, showing no sign of fatigue. The three turn to look at each other and say, in unison, “Let’s do this”.

# June 1947 : Quinine Case

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 argument with some sympathy and adjourns the session, promising a decision in a short time.

# June 1947 : Setting The Flaps

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.

# June 1947 : Co Pilot

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

Salipada Penatun arranges for Muharto to meet Major Primitivo of Philippine Army intel. At one meeting, Primitivo introduces Muharto to Captain Ignatius Espina. a guerrilla fighter during the Japanese occupation. Primitivo offers to second Espina to the Republic as a clandestine military advisor to train youth militias . |

# September 1947 : Non Stop to Jogja

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.

# October 1947 : Bob Meets Soekarno

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.

# November 1947 : Last Corned Beef

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

# November 1947 : Mission to Bagiuo

Freeberg, Muharto and Boedi fly Republican economists and other experts to Manila to meet with United Nations representatives in the hill town of Baguio. During the flight, 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 tells Cameron that he was soon after promoted to a desk job at base. He had little contact with Bob after that. The final time was as Bob was loading RI-002 for a flight to transfer Republican gold from a base near Batavia to safety in Bukittinggi. |

Muharto visits Bob as he is preparing RI-002 for the flight to Gorda. He reminds Bob that his wedding is scheduled for three weeks away. |

At his desk, Muharto receives call from Bukittinggi saying RI-002 is missing.|

# September 1988 : Muharto Investigates

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.

# April 1977 : Crash Site Investigation

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.

# July 1977 : The Sixth Coffin

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.

# September 1988 : Muharto Regrets

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 says that during the past years he has written to 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 wonders that if he had turned down promotion and had been with Bob on the final flight, maybe it would not have ended in tragedy.

# September 1988 : Syd Edits Cameron

Cameron sits at his desk, making final corrections on a paper copy of his article. Sabam emerges from his office, waving a copy of the Jakarta Post newspaper, ands strides into the newsroom. Cameron stands up to give the article draft to Sabam, but the editor ignores him and goes to the adjacent desk of Syd Jardine, a disheveled, chain-smoking, older American. Sabam slams the newspaper on his desk, points to an article entitled “Ladyboy Molested By Sex-Crazed Gang”, with the byline: “Our Reporter” and shouts: “This is a family newspaper!”.

As Sabam turns, Cameron gives Sabam the sheets of paper. He scans the first page, grunts, gives the sheets to Syd carries them back to his office. As Syd reads the draft, Cameron reaches over from his adjacent desk, takes the paper, chuckles, and says “This is your best yet. Where did you get it?” Syd replies: “A becak driver showed it to me as he drove me back from the bar. We had a good laugh about it. If you really want to understand a people, read the tabloids.”

Syd finishes reading the piece, and says it needs a photo of Freeberg himself, not just the generic photos of AURI aircraft that Muharto gave him. Syd suggests that Cameron try the Indonesian Photo Agency, IPPHOS, who have an extensive collection of images from the period. An elderly Dutch-born photojournalist, Victor, looks after the place. “He will find one”, Syd says. “He has, literally, a ‘photographic memory’”.

# September 1988 : Cameron Meets Victor

Cameron enters the IPPHOS office, a ramshackle collection of tables and filing cabinets housed in a colonial-era building one government inspection away from condemnation. The sole occupant is an elderly white person who, indeed, is Victor. 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 photograph. Victor replies “two coffees” and points to a warung on the sidewalk. Cameron shrugs, buys the coffees, returns, and sits a table. Victor asks 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.”

# November 1947 : Spoor pissed at Bob

A young Victor dressed the the fatigues of a KNIL private sorts photographs at a table outside of the office of General Simon Spoor. Through the open door, Victor hears Spoor’s voice rise in frustration as he is briefed about daily blockade runs of a Dakota marked with the fictional designation RI-002, and piloted by a free-booting American named Bob Freeberg.

# October 1988 : Muharto Visits Post

The day after the Freeberg article is published, Muharto visits Jakarta Post to pick up any available extra copies to give to friends and colleagues. Sabam invites Muharto to sit at the staff table in the newsroom while he waits, and orders tea for him. Cameron and Syd grab their coffees, Syd pouring a splash of whiskey into his, and sit with him. Syd asks Muharto some questions about his investigation of the disappearance. Muharto replies that his researches into the AURI archives and interviewing former officers only raised more questions that they answered.

# April 1977 : Mysterious Clearing

Sulaiman, the team leader, notes evidence that a sizable group had camped previously at the crash site. This visit had been made in the past year, Sulaiman assumes, as the rapid vegetation growth in this tropical rain forest would have obliterated all signs of their presence in a few months. Sulaiman can determine where the mysterious visitors had set up their tents, cooking area, and latrine, all typical of a military camp.

# January 1985 : Muharto Interviews officers

Muharto sits at his desk, which is filled with papers, and makes several telephone calls. The recipients of the calls, all middle-aged men in civilian dress but military bearing, shake their heads to convey that they have no information to offer.

# October 1988 : Cameron Curious

Muharto tells Cameron and Syd that he is still disturbed by the inability, or perhaps reluctance, of the retired officers to provide information. Muharto wonders if they know what had happened to the gold. If, as Sulaiman suspected, the crash site had been visited by a military outfit, who would have been capable of extracting the gold, then perhaps the officers did not want to stir up trouble.

An office boy arrives with a stack of copies for Muharto. He thanks everyone and takes his leave. Cameron tells Syd that, if what Muharto suspects is correct, this is a great story. Syd advises Cameron to not get involved, as who knows where this might lead. But Cameron is adamant, so Syd suggests he invent a cover story.

​ Tells Syd it would be great book. Syd says it would be, if it had an ending. Publishers don’t like to keep readers hanging. So, Cameron says, I’ll solve the mystery.

Better keep it quiet. and don’t let Sabam find out.

Cameron tells Sabam he has decided to do his grad thesis on the revolution. As he leaves the office, Sabam calls him back, suggesting he start at the National Library new reference section, where he recently read Recruit to Revolution.

Cameron agrees, and later tells Sabam that he would like to do more research into the story as a basis for a grad-school paper when he returns home. Sabam wishes him luck, and recommends a book he had found in the reference section of the newly opened National Library a few weeks before. Sabam also reminds Cameron to do this on his own time, and not to involve the Jakarta Post.

# October 1988 : Cameron Meets Julia

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.

# February 1948 : Recruit to Revolution

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.

# October 1988 : Lunch with Julia

After three hours of reading, Cameron asks Julia where he can get a coffee. Julia is scheduled for a break herself and escorts Cameron to the canteen. Julia tells Cameron about her desire to take her post-grad degree overseas. Cameron, grinning to show he is entirely in jest, says that she should, because she does not seem to be an Indonesian, as Indonesians always ask him personal questions like his age and marital status. Julia replies: “Don’t worry, I won’t bother you. If I want to know anything about you I’ll just ask my dad”. At Cameron’s quizzical look, Julia smiles and explains that her father is a colonel with the Army’s intelligence section, which is known to keep close tabs on the activities of journalists. Though plainly Julia is teasing Cameron in return he nonetheless gulps down coffee and says he should get back to work.

Cameron visits Victor to learn more about Spoor’s efforts to stop the blockade runs. Instead, Victor tells Cameron of Emiria Soenassa, a beautiful charismatic painter who fell in love with him after he had praised her art in a newspaper article. |

# June 1947 : Arts Circle

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 amateur 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, to 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.

# August 1947 : Victor Meets Emeria

Victor covers an exhibition that includes a few paintings by Emeria Soenassa, a charasmatic, stylish woman in her mid-thirties who is the only female Indonesian modern artist. Emeria flirts with Victor, as she does with Auke Sonnega and the other young Europeans at the event.

In the resulting article, Victor singles out Emeria as an exceptional talent. Emeria contacts the newspaper to invite Victor to her studio and see more of her work. Victor arrives one evening to find Emeria holding court with several men who he recognizes as Indonesia artists, two of them prominent. As Emeria shows Victor her work, the others drift away, leaving them alone.

# October 1988 : Cameron Meets Boedi

Sabam passes along an invitation to Cameron to attend a reception for some Harvard alumni visiting Jakarta on study tour. The reception is at the home of Boediardjo, a former information minister and senior Air Force officer. Cameron discovers that he is the Boediardjo mentioned by Muharto as the radio officer of RI-002. At Cameron’s urging, he tells amusing anecdotes of his days with RI-002 to his guests.

# October 1947 : Kalimantan Paradrop

Bob and Boedi fly ten paratroopers to be dropped near an insurgent stronghold in the forests of Kalimantan. None have jumped before, so tension is high. There is an uproar as the parachute of one trooper opens and dumps onto the cabin floor. The trooper swears it was an accident, but all others accuse him of cowardice. The troopers look at each other, wondering if any one will be next. Boedi enters the cabin. Though he is only an airman, the charismatic Boedi takes command of the situation, assuring the troopers that Bob has much wartime experience flying paratroopers and will drop them safely. He goes to the cockpit, talks with Bob for a moment, then tells each trooper to approach the cockpit and shake Bob’s hand. They do so, and are emboldened by Bob’s air of quiet competance. The dropmaster issues the command to jump, and the cabin empties, save for the dropmaster and a lone recruit wondering what fate is in store for him back at Maguwo. Boedi watches as the parachutes drift down and are enveloped by the endless forest.

# October 1947 : Detained in Bangkok

Bob flies two Indonesian aviators, Halim and Iswandi, to Bangkok. There, they will purchase an Avro-Anson and fly it back to Jogja as RI-003. Bob is detained by Thai authorities at the insistence of Dutch diplomats, Bob is accomodated in a comfortable hotel room, but the others, who are not detained, must find cheap beds among the hookers and petty criminals of a Bangkok red-light district. Boedi is delighted, but Halim and Iswandi worry about appearances, as both will marry immediately after completing their mission. A few days later, Bob is released in a tacit recognition by Thai authorities of the legitimacy of the new Republic of Indonesia.

# June 1948 : Soekarno tour

Soekarno Tour props up support for the independence struggle and to raise money to purchase a presidential aircraft, to be named RI-001. Bob flies low over a town where an important regional leader lives to determine whether he can land RI-002 safely on an overgrown grass airstrip. Bob decides not to risk the safety of his passengers, which infuriates Soekarno. He demands that Bob land on the strip, declaring: “I’m the president!” Bob replies, in a measured tone and pointing downward: “Down there, sir, indeed you are the president. But up here, I’m the captain.”

The guests depart soon after dinner to catch an early flight, and Boedi invites Cameron to stay so he can ask him about Muharto’s investigations. Boedi also tells Cameron of the humorous incidents when they were stranded penniless in Manila waiting to sell the quinine. Boedi pokes affection fun at his former comrade for his belief that Freeberg’s friend Tom Lee would treat them to drinks and dinner out of kindness for their predicament. However, to Boedi, it had been obvious that Lee had been an intelligence operative pumping them for information about the Republic. |

# August 1947 : Bob Walters Complains

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.

# August 1947 : Company Man

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.

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# October 1988 : To Be Continued

Boedi invites Cameron to keep him posted on his investigation. And he has a lot more stories to tell.

# October 1988 : Julia Rides a Harley

Cameron and Julia realize 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.

# October 1988 : Bule Kaya

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.

Afterward, Julia tries to contribute to the bill, but her friends laugh, saying “Honest Eddy’s daughter can’t afford to pay for her own drinks!” If she wants to pay her own way, they say, she had better get her claws into “Harley Boy”.

# October 1947 : Victor Meets Koke

Walter Foote arrives at Spoor’s office with a guest, Robert Koke. Julius Tahija apologizes that Spoor will be busy for a few more minutes and invites them to wait. Tahija calls out “Nyoman” (a common name in Bali) to an office boy. Nyoman enters the room and asks what they would like to drink while they wait. Koke replies in fluent Balinese. Nyoman is astounded, and Koke explains that he lived in Bali for many years before the war. Victor is intrigued, and chats with Koke, who is charming and affable, but evasive. Julius calls them to enter, Victor follows, camera at the ready. Spoor waves him away, saying “No photos”. Victor clicks the shutter, coughing to hide the sound, and then leaves.

# December 1947 : Smuggling Fine China

Spoor is dumbfounded when he reads the report of the investigation of the RI-003 crash site. Instead of guns, the airplane was full of household goods.

# October 1988 : Julia Researches Emiria

Intrigued by Victor’s stories of Emeria, Julia searches the stacks for articles mentioning her. A portrait emerges of an independent, eccentric woman with close access to the highest levels of both the Republic and the Dutch.

# November 1988 : Cameron suspects CIA

Victor shows Cameron the photo of Robert Koke, and tells of his suspicion that Koke had been “The Quiet American” in Batavia. Cameron ties this in with Boedi’s assessment of Tom Lee, and comes to the conclusion that Spoor had been plotting with the newly formed CIA to overthrow the Republic and take control of the East Indies himself, as had happened in South Africa.

# November 1988 : Syd Reveals History

Camerons tells Syd of his discovery. Syd warns Cameron to not jump to conclusions as the CIA is given far more credit than what they have actually done.

# October 1947 : Ining Will Train Students

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.

# November 1947 : Muharto Asks George

Muharto asks George to keep Ining company in Muharto’s absence. George witnesses Ining berate the young recruits and sees the displeasure on their faces. Back in the house, Ining asks George to bring whiskey next time he visits.

# November 1947 : Ining Asks To Return

Ining writes a letter Primitivo, asking to be relieved of his assignment and returned home. He rushes to Maguwo, but is seconds too late to give it to Muharto to take to Manila on RI-002. George, on duty as flight controller, is on the tarmac. He sees that Ining is upset, so he asks Muharto’s brother, Mas Ded, to take Ining back to Jalan Jetis and stay with him.

# October 1988 : Julia Admires Ani

As research continues, Cameron and Julia spend time with Petit and Ani Muharto. As Cameron and Muharto discuss their progress and plan their next moves, Julia takes notes and suggests avenues of research. But when the conversation turns to speculation into CIA and Spoor planning a coup, Julia drifts away and seeks out Ani. Julia listens, in awe, of Ani recounting of life in Jogja during the revolution. Ani tells of her growth from a naive teenager thinking only of making a household to a committed champion of the people, volunteering to teach and to feed the swelling population of refugees.

# June 1947 : Ani Serves Rice

Ani serves rice to refugees. She has no idea what to do in kitchen, never having been in one before.

# December 1947 : Crash Of RI003

During a routine radio contact, Boedi learns that RI-003 has crashed in Malaysia.

# August 1947 : Primitivo Introduces Muharto

During the long wait to sell the quinine, Muharto acts as de facto military representative of Indonesia with the Philippines. He meets Major Primitivo of the intelligence service, who introduces Muharto to Captain Ignacio Espina, a guerrilla soldier during the Japanese occupation. Espina, nicknamed Ining, will accompany RI-002 back to Jogja, where he will transfer his guerrilla warfare skills to the young militia members of the Tentara Pelajar, the Student Army.

# September 1947 : Ining Buys Drinks

At the party to celebrate the sale of the quinine, Ining shows himself to be a party animal, buying rounds for his companions and flirting with the foreign women in the Aviation Brotherhood bar. When he hits on the teenage daughter of an American army officer, tempers flare, and Freeberg and Boedi have to hustle him outside.

# December 1947 : Ining Was Found Dead

During a routine radio contact with Jogja, Boedi learns that Ining and Mas Ded had been found, both dead from gunshot wounds, at Jalan Jetis.

# December 1947 : Muharto Reports Incident

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.

# December 1947 : Changi Layover

RI-002 is forced to land at Changi. The local Dutch authorities pressure the British into declaring the Dakota not-airworthy.

# January 1948 : Savage Complains

Bob and Boedi run into Hugh Savage at the Raffles. Savage says that he has done nothing to start Southeastern. Savage complains the Walters has scared investors away.

# January 1948 : Newspaper Calls Ining

Spoor reads newspaper report calling Ining a gun runner in an article in a Manila newspaper after Ining’s funeral speculates that Ining’s death resulted from an arms deal gone disastrously wrong.

# February 1948 : Deportation Offer

Bob takes June to a party thrown by Salipada Penatun to celebrate the sale of the quinine. Salipada Penatun offers to have Walters deported. Tom Lee suggests that such a move would have unintended consequences. Bob thanks Penatun for his offer, but says they should just put everything behind them.

# February 1948 : Bob Buys an Olds

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

# February 1947 : Bob Bought Suits

Bob finally bought new suits, . After purchasing the supplies ordered by Suryadarma, Muharto and Boedi shopped for clothes for their fellow officers.

# November 1947 : Who Gets To Sit

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.

# August 1947 : Ordering Suits

Bob orders suits from back home to suit his new role as businessman. With the post-war shortage of textiles it is cheaper to order from US.

# March 1948 : Black Flights

Suryadarma orders Bob to transport several tons of Republican opium to Bukittinggi.

# April 1948 : Cobley Accuses

During a party in Bukittinggi Cobley accuses Bob of monopolizing Republican missions. Says he is taking the best business for himself, especially since he is now running narcotics.

# May 1948 : Not Ready for Airplanes

Bob is annoyed when Bambang shows up late for opium run, forcing him to cancel the mission.

# April 1948 : Major Criminal

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

# January 1948 : Cobley Makes Deal

Cobley makes a deal with finance ministry and registers Catalina as RI-005. Suryadarma is annoyed at being circumvented.

# April 1948 : Bambang Cannot Conceal Envy

Bambang cannot conceal his envy of Moeljono when his fellow aviator flies the twin-engine RI-005 Avro-anson from Bukittinggi to Jogjakarta.

# November 1988 : Beres Sayang

Colonel Eddy tells Julia of his guilt in not being able to fulfill the dreams of his only child. He tells Julia to start applying to universities in Europe and America. When Julia asks where the tuition money is coming from, Eddy holds up his hand and says: " Beres Sayang ", meaning she should not worry. Ok, says Julia, as long as you are not planning to marry me off into rich family.

# October 1988 : Date With Eric

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.”

# November 1988 : Expat Party

Cameron takes Julia to an expat party in Kemang, and she is mistaken for a bar girl. Julia takes Cameron to a far corner of the garden and screams at him in fury and humiliation, saying that all foreigners think Indonesian women who hang around foreigners are either household servants or hookers.

# May 1948 : Landing Gear Collapse

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.

# May 1948 : Bambang Gets Place

With the reassignment of Muharto to headquarters, Bambang gets his coveted permanent spot in the right-hand seat of RI-002.

# June 1948 : Bambang Ingratiates Himself

Bambang ingratiates himself with Soekarno in the hope of being selected to fly RI-001. Boedi finds his efforts, and Soekarno’s condescending replies, amusing.

# June 1948 : Bob Defies Suryadarma

Immediately after returning from the Soekarno Tour, Suryadarma orders Bob to Sumatra on another mission. Bob flatly refuses.

# December 1960 : Dear Boy

# July 1948 : Cobley Flies Cadres

Cobley secretly flies exiled communist cadres into a lake near the town of Madiun.

# May 1948 : Ani And Formalize Their Engagement.

Ani and formalize their engagement.

# May 1948 : Muharto Wants To Decline

Muharto wants to decline promotion and keep flying because he is worried about Bob, and saddened about the Smuggled Gems incident. But Ani insists that he take a safe desk job.

# May 1947 : Ani Berates Muharto

Ani berates Muharto for trying to learn to fly. If you want to marry me, better learn to fly a desk and come home every night.

# May 1948 : Promoted to Major

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

# December 1988 : Bob Requests Muharto Reassigned

Cameron tells Muharto that Bob had requested he be reassigned.

# April 1948 : Muharto Appalled

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.

# April 1948 : Smuggled Gems

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.

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# April 1948 : Bob Furious

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!”

# November 1988 : Santoso Trance

Hadi tells of stealing father’s necklace. Muharto holds necklace and goes into trance.

# August 1948 : Bob Returns

Bob returns from a six-week layover in Manila with both pilot and aircraft in good shape.

# April 1048 : POAS Flights

Dave Fowler begins POAS flights from Bangkok to Jogja.

# August 1948 : Spoor Orders Night Patrol

Spoor orders a night patrol not to engage a blockade running POAS flight because he is informed that American and other civilians are passengers.

# April 1948 : Partner Has Done Nothing

Bob learns that his partner Hugh Savage has done nothing to start Southeastern airlines. Savage complains that Walter’s constant defamations had soured potential investors.

# August 1948 : Reconciling With Muharto.

Boedi talks Bob into reconciling with Muharto.

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project: omaf identifier: 0e804f9b title: Cobley Attempts Engine Takeoff date: 27 December 1948 location: Jambi status: Final Draft —

# December 1948 : Ani Berates Westerling

Content to Come

# December 1948 : Victor Defects.

Victor is with Westerling when Ani berates him. Victor defects into hills with friend of Emeria.

# November 1988 : Useful Idiot

Cameron uses his Jakarta Post credentials to gain access to Julius Tahija. He asks some perfunctory questions about foreign investment, then changes the subject to the revolution, and the time Tahija worked for Spoor. Tahija is surprised at the question, but revels in the opportunity to relive those exciting times. Cameron mentions Victor. Tahija grins, and tells Cameron that Victor had been a “Useful Idiot”, an intellgence asset to keep tabs on the Indonesian painters, who were all Republicans, and many were communists.

# November 1988 : Victor Suggests Julius

Victor and Cameron are certain that Spoor was planning a coup with the help of the CIA. Victor suggests the next step should be to talk to Julius Tahija. Victor remembers Julius as being honest and straightforward. There is a good chance he will tell the true story.

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# November 1988 : Sabam Furious

Sabam is furious at Cameron for interviewing Tahija without authorization.

# December 1988 : Cameron Spills the Beans

In an unguarded (and unclothed) moment, Cameron tells Julia about the Jakarta Post investigations into Army officers seeking to influence the emerging capital market through leaking false information to pump up stock values. Julia realizes that this must be the deal her father is involved in.

# December 1988 : Julia Confronts Eddy

Julia begs her father not to sully his reputation as “Honest Eddy” by participating in capital market manipulation, even though it means she will not be able to study overseas. Eddy replies: “It’s all right. It’s not corruption when you take money from foreigners.”

Sabam receives a dreaded telephone call from Deppen late in the afternoon. That evening invites Cameron and Syd for a late meal of pork and beer at a batak warung nearby, where they . After a couple of beers, Syd fades and is poured into a taxi and sent home.Sabam tells Cameron the things Syd keeps to himself. He had been a brilliant foreign correspondent, too busy to settle down, until he met his Dini, a well-educated, much younger woman from a prominent Padang family. The family hated him, but they were devoted to each other. Dini died in a senseless accident, and family swooped in to take the house and his son. Syd was broken, and never recovered. |

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identifier: b583d678 project: omaf title: Julia Finds Emeria location: Jogjakarta date: December 1988 status: Synopsis

Julia and Cameron go to Jogja with Muharto and Ani to visit parents graves in honor of 40th anniversary and have a small party with relatives Julia has found in a Jogja paper about a woman artist living on the outskirts of Jogja. See contacts the reporter, claiming to be an arts researcher, and gets the address. Julia goes alone and finds Emeria. She says she regrets dumping Victor like that, but this was war. She herself got a “colonial guilt” scholarship and moved to the Hague. She could still have gotten a scholarship even in her mid-thirties, especially if she took a few year off her age because she looks young.

She married a Dutch academic who had been one of the voices pushing for Indonesian independence. She kept a low profile, raising children, supporting her husband’s work, and painting a little on the side. She and her husband frequently visited Indonesia for conferences etc, but she did not try to contact Victor. On her husband’s death she moved back to Jogja, where she still has many friends. “This is war. You have to choose sides”

# December 1988 : Julia Finds Photo

While correctly placing a misfiled folder of a Batavia newspaper, Julia finds an article about the disappearance of RI-002 illustrated by a photo of RI-002 seemingly guarded by Dutch soldier. At IPPHOS, Victor searches through the files and finds a shot of a runway with similar hills in the background, labelled: Karangendah, Palembang.

Sanyoto 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, who Sanyoto knows from his days fixing logistical issues for oil companies in Sumatra. Sanyoto explains the Anwar was the local jago, running the dock laborers in the 60s and 70s. Sanyoto says: You have to deal with all sorts of people running a business in Indonesia. |

# December 1988 : Syd Fills In

Cameron asks Syd to fill in while he takes three days off to go to Karangendah. But Sabam also goes out of town, and the other editors flake out leaving Sid alone on the copy desk. He works three triple shifts, drinking for fuel and not eating, getting his vitamins from chain-smoking cigarettes.

# December 1988 : Karangendah Raid

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

# September 1948 : SE Air Bankrupt

On his final trip to Singapore, Bob learns that Hugh Savage has filed for bankruptcy of Southeast Airlines. Bob has lost all of his investment.

# September 1948 : Spite Their Face

Over whiskey with Fowler, Muharto, and Boedi at Hotel Merdeka, Bob complains about Suryadarma and some of his staff, saying they want this or that but never follow through. He says that many Indonesians (present company excepted) would cut off their nose to spite their face.

# September 1948 : Gold Run

Suryadarma reluctantly assigns Bob mission to transport gold to Bukittinggi

# September 1948 : Fowler Refuses Request

Suryadarma orders Fowler to transport a quarter ton of gold to Bukittinggi. Fowler refuses. He is certain the Dutch would know the nature of the cargo, and this time would not hestiate to shoot him down if intercepted.

# August 1948 : Suryadarma Takes Fowlers Fuel Allowance

Suryadarma takes away Fowlers fuel allowance. Dave resolves it by going over Suryadarma’s head, to Hatta.

# September 1948 : Suryadarma Takes Fuel Allowance

Suryadarma takes away Bob’s fuel allowance.

# September 1948 : Ri-002 Drops Leaflets

RI-002 drops leaflets over Madiun. Santoso is valuable in pointing out neighborhoods where residents may be receptive to message from government to stay loyal to the Republic.

# September 1948 : Fighter Planes Tailing Him

While flying a group of international journalists to Jogja under cover of darkness, Fowler believes he spots Dutch fighters flanking him. His radio operator, a Dutch-speaking Indonesian monitoring military frequencies, hears fighter pilots asking for instructions during an intercept, thought his cannot pin down their location. The response is the disengage, as “there are civilians on board”. Looking out his left-hand window, Fowler clearly sees the silhouette of a fighter, wings almost vertical as it banks away.

# September 1988 : RI-002 Vanishes

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

# October 1948 : Bambang Decides To Fly

Bambang decides to fly RI-002 back to Jogja, but crashes on Mount Punggur.

# October 1948 : Muharto Marries

Ani and Muharto marry on a day marked by equal amounts and joy and sadness.

# September 1948 : Bambang Studies Bob

During the propaganda leaflet run over Madiun, Bambang watches intently as Bob puts RI-002 through tree-top maneuvers. The expression on Bambang’s face suggests that he would like to attempt these maneuvers himself.

# December 1988 : Syd Absent

Cameron returns from Karangendah on the morning flight and goes directly to Syd’s room to tell him the news. He finds his friend dead in his favorite reading chair, a book on his lap and a glass of whiskey at his side.

# December 1988 : Sabam Fires Cameron

Sabam learns of Karangendah exploit. On thin ice with Deppen because of corruption story, Sabam has no choice but to fire Cameron and has his visa canceled, effective immediately. Cameron has 24 hours to leave Indonesia.

# December 1988 : Victor Learns Truth

Cameron tells Victor that Spoor was investigating corruption, not planning a coup with the CIA. And that Emeria was just using him to get information about Spoor.

# December 1988 : Cameron Says Goodbye

Cameron tells Julia that he has to tell Muharto that we don’t know what happened, that Agus thinks Bob might have been in on it. Julia says: “Are you going to break the heart of two old men in one day?” Cameron tells Muharto that Bob had been in chains and looked like he as beaten up.