

DUÆL

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>Vincent O'Connell:</u>	German Colonel
<u>Anthony Daly:</u>	US Major
<u>Margaret Kilcoyne:</u>	Nurse
:	Soviet Woman
:	Secretary
<u>Sam Ferris:</u>	US LT
:	Government Man
:	Radio Operator
:	German Captain
:	Soldier
<u>Voice Actors TBC:</u>	Captain (Voice)

ACT I

Scene 1

ENTER US MAJOR

He walks over to stage right, lights come up on a table with equipment on it. A US Lt sits there setting up his equipment.

US LT
Hello sir. Fine morning.

US MAJOR
Yes it is. Are you all set up here?

US LT
Yes sir.

US MAJOR
Good. I'll see you later.

He walks over to the center table, lights come up and sits down. The lights dim on stage right and he pulls from his briefcase a thick dossier and opens it on the desk in front of him.

A German Luftwaffe Colonel is sitting across from him. Behind the Colonel a US Army Nurse is standing waiting.

GERMAN COLONEL
Hello. How are you? (Said in German)

US MAJOR
Fine and you? (Said in bad German)

German Colonel winces at the sound of the US Major's mangled German.

GERMAN COLONEL
English, please. This is my Nurse assigned to me by the US Army.

US MAJOR
(to Nurse)
Hello ma'am.
(to Colonel)
Are you wounded?

GERMAN COLONEL
I am unwell.

US MAJOR
I see. Nurse would you excuse us please.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

One thing Major, I will need to take the Colonel for walks from time to time. He requires exercise and fresh air.

US MAJOR

That's fine Nurse thank you.

EXIT NURSE

US MAJOR

How serious is your condition?

GERMAN COLONEL

I would rather not discuss that.

US MAJOR

Fair enough. The Army has a sense of humor.

GERMAN COLONEL

I don't understand.

US MAJOR

They assigned you a Nurse to take you for walks. Why not just send you a dog?

GERMAN COLONEL

Major, why are you here?

US MAJOR

I was sent here to interview you.

GERMAN COLONEL

For the newspaper?

US MAJOR

No.

GERMAN COLONEL

So what are you interviewing me for? It must be something big. Did I win a prize?

US MAJOR

Colonel, I'm a special prosecutor for the War Crimes Office. I'm here to evaluate you.

GERMAN COLONEL

Evaluate me? Are you a soldier or are you a lawyer?

US MAJOR

Both. I trained as a lawyer, then I volunteered.

GERMAN COLONEL

How can I help you?

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

I'm here to find out if you have committed any war crimes.

GERMAN COLONEL

I was a soldier. I never broke any laws that I know of. Military life is an honorable one.

US MAJOR

That wasn't always the case during this war Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

Well Major, what the Nazis did in power was none of my business.

US MAJOR

Colonel, I'm not here to discuss politics. I here to find out if you committed any crimes.

GERMAN COLONEL

Surely I'm low priority for persecution. I'm a colonel in the Luftwaffe. Not a field marshal.

US MAJOR

Colonel, you were personally were involved in operations in Spain, you helped make the Luftwaffe the most feared Air force in the world. The fact that you remained a Colonel was a political decision.

GERMAN COLONEL

I was also involved in the jet engine program.

US MAJOR

I know.

GERMAN COLONEL

Just checking.

US MAJOR

Colonel, I need your full military history. Your background.

GERMAN COLONEL

You have all that from my file.

US MAJOR

Files don't always tell the truth.

GERMAN COLONEL

(laughs)

Fair point. Well my career began in 1910, I joined the Royal Hussars.

US MAJOR

Cavalry?

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes. By 1914 I was a Captain. I commanded a company of infantry.

US MAJOR

That was fast! Was it due to your connections to the establishment or was it as a result of your talents?

GERMAN COLONEL

You tell me.

US MAJOR

You were cited for bravery during the battle of the Somme and for organizing your troops to ensure the least amount of casualties.

GERMAN COLONEL

There's your answer. Major I'm a Prussian aristocrat. Of course that helped me. Lets be realistic, how else would I have risen in the Imperial Army? And before you start just because I'm a Prussian aristocrat that doesn't mean that I'm a Nazi.

US MAJOR

Well thanks for clearing that up Colonel. Tell me about the rest your service during WW1.

GERMAN COLONEL

I was a Captain of infantry. I commanded troops on the front lines. I lost more men during WW1 than any other time until the Russian Front of the second world war.

US MAJOR

What was your opinion of the German High Command?

GERMAN COLONEL

We were led by incompetent commanders who were more interested in theoretical victories than actual victories.

US MAJOR

You Germans seem to have problems fighting on two fronts, don't you?

GERMAN COLONEL

Are you trying to make me lose my temper?

US MAJOR

(grins)

How did you feel about losing the war?

GERMAN COLONEL

You mean when my government committed treason?

We were betrayed by our own government. We never knew how bad it was in the country. The economy was in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL (cont'd)

tatters. The people were broken. The Versailles Treaty was written by men who decided to destroy Germany. But we didn't die...

Scene 2

Stage changes focus to the left hand side of the stage, two men are sitting. One of them is the German Colonel, the other is at an angle so his face is in shadow.

GERMAN COLONEL

How can you support this Treaty?

GOVERNMENT MAN

I'm in the government. I'm trying to keep our country together. We have a bigger problem than the Versailles Treaty right now. The communists are gaining strength.

GERMAN COLONEL

This Treaty is going to cripple Germany for the next century.

GOVERNMENT MAN

We will abide by the Treaty, for now.

GERMAN COLONEL

Are you considering re-armament?

GOVERNMENT MAN

It has been discussed. Secretly of course. But right now the Communist threat must be neutralized. Then we can rebuild.

GERMAN COLONEL

So you think we should support the Treaty as a means to an end?

GOVERNMENT MAN

Yes.

GERMAN COLONEL

I've never cared about governments or ideology. I'm a soldier.

GOVERNMENT MAN

Well if you fight the communists...

GERMAN COLONEL

You think the Russians will invade?

GOVERNMENT MAN

No. But I think that the Communists will win the Civil War.

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

The military will have to take action.

GOVERNMENT MAN

We're not allowed.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thanks to this Treaty, there are thousands of unemployed soldiers. We can create a secret army.

GOVERNMENT MAN

You would have to keep it quiet.

GERMAN COLONEL

You can't keep something like this quiet. We'll call them volunteers.

GOVERNMENT MAN

And keep the government out of it.

GERMAN COLONEL

Of course.

GOVERNMENT MAN

It's important that our new Germany is stable.

GERMAN COLONEL

New Germany?! Remember what we lost! We lost our colonies. We lost Prussia, I lost my home! We're now a democracy? You fought for that?

GOVERNMENT MAN

I'm a realist. You need to calm down. Adapt. Think of the big picture. This is only temporary.

GERMAN COLONEL

You're in the government. Why are you using me?

GOVERNMENT MAN

I need you, for now. And you need an enemy to fight.

German Colonel laughs.

GERMAN COLONEL

What happens now?

GOVERNMENT MAN

We stop the communists.

GERMAN COLONEL

They're very strong in Munich.

GOVERNMENT MAN

Then that is where we will eliminate the problem. Get a train to Munich.

The stage changes back to the right hand side of the stage.

(CONTINUED)

EXIT GOVERNMENT MAN

Scene 3

ENTER GERMAN COLONEL

US MAJOR

You were a part of the Freikorps in Munich?

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes. I ordered my men to kill the communists.

US MAJOR

That is a crime Colonel. As a member of the armed forces you took part in putting down a communist coup?

GERMAN COLONEL

(smiles)

I am not now, or ever have been, a member of the Communist Party.

Pause.

Munich won't go to trial.

US MAJOR

You called my bluff.

GERMAN COLONEL

What exactly were you hoping I would say?

US MAJOR

I wanted to know if you were a patriot.

GERMAN COLONEL

I am a patriot. Unlike you.

US MAJOR

Are you trying to make *me* lose my temper now?

GERMAN COLONEL

That was only a secondary object. Germans don't betray their country...

The emphasis suggest that the US Major is German

US MAJOR

(shuffles papers)

It says here you trained in Russia.

GERMAN COLONEL

We.. co-operated. We built factories out there and were allowed to try new technology, like tanks and planes. I think its nice to visit a country before you invade. Very neighborly.

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

How did you feel about working with the Communists?

GERMAN COLONEL

I avoid letting my personal views get in the way of my occupation. It was necessary.

US MAJOR

Was the Russian Front necessary?

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes. We needed their resources. We lost to a cold hard winter and commanders who didn't give a damn if they lost every single one of their troops.

US MAJOR

Explain.

GERMAN COLONEL

I remember a battle where 12 German divisions fought 20 Russian divisions. We lost 6, they lost 15. Human cost was irrelevant to them.

US MAJOR

We have strayed somewhat. Tell me about the German-Soviet training.

Scene 4

Stage changes to the right hand side of the stage.

ENTER SOVIET WOMAN

The Room is bare and has a chair and a table within it.

ENTER GERMAN COLONEL

The entire conversation is very clipped. The German Colonel attempts to have a conversation with the Soviet Woman, while she answers him with one word answers.

SOVIET WOMAN

Are you happy with the equipment?

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes.

SOVIET WOMAN

Good.

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL
Really?

SOVIET WOMAN
No. But I follow my orders.

GERMAN COLONEL
I'm not happy to be here either.

Pause.
You're not army.

SOVIET WOMAN
No. I'm with the 5Th Directorate of the CHEKA.

GERMAN COLONEL
And what does the 5Th Directorate do?

SOVIET WOMAN
Deals with you.

GERMAN COLONEL
Do many women serve in the CHEKA?

SOVIET WOMAN
In the CHEKA and most branches of the Soviet Government. We believe in equality.

GERMAN COLONEL
You didn't answer the question.

SOVIET WOMAN
No.

GERMAN COLONEL
I don't believe in killing women. I don't like them in positions where they can be considered the enemy.

SOVIET WOMAN
You would never kill a woman?

GERMAN COLONEL
No. My soldiers have.

SOVIET WOMAN
What is your rank?

GERMAN COLONEL
I'm a Major in the Reichswehr.

SOVIET WOMAN
We don't have those types of ranks. We abolished them.

GERMAN COLONEL
They're needed, for morale.

SOVIET WOMAN

We use Political Commissars for morale. And the CHEKA.

GERMAN COLONEL

If your country is free, why is your organization needed?

SOVIET WOMAN

If you give someone the opportunity to break the law, usually they will. A strong organization like the CHEKA is needed to keep the country functioning. To use a popular analogy: The Red Army is the body, the CHEKA is the brain and the Party is the blood. Together they are the Soviet Union. In your file you are listed as a leader of the Freikorps that destroyed the Munich Soviet Republic. If you hate communism so much, why are you here?

GERMAN COLONEL

It is my duty to serve my country. I do not regret my actions.

SOVIET WOMAN

Very well.

GERMAN COLONEL

I'm surprised our two nations were able to work together. It won't last.

SOVIET WOMAN

Everyone knows it won't last.

GERMAN COLONEL

I have enjoyed speaking with you. I hope that when our countries fight we won't kill you.

SOVIET WOMAN

It's nice to know that Germany still is a nation of gentlemen.

EXIT SOVIET WOMAN

Scene 5

Scene changes back to the interview

US MAJOR

This woman you spoke to, do you know what happened to her?

GERMAN COLONEL

We probably shot her.

US MAJOR

Do you agree with that policy?

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

No. It was an S.S. decision. They tried to use local elements of the army to support them. Some officers agreed. I did not. This is why I was never made a General.

US MAJOR

That isn't in your file.

GERMAN COLONEL

I thought you wanted to talk about what isn't in my file.

US MAJOR

I do. The S.S. are being looked at by another section of my department. They will be found guilty and executed.

GERMAN COLONEL

I love pre-determined justice.

US MAJOR

Colonel, it is pre-determined because we have the proof!

Pause.

Lets take a break.

US Major walks over to the US Lt.

US LT

Your doing well sir.

US MAJOR

Yes he is beginning to open up. Sound OK?

US LT

Yes sir. One thing, that Nurse has been listening to everything.

US MAJOR

How do you know?

US LT

I can hear her heels.

US MAJOR

I wouldn't worry about it. Your listening to the conversation too.

US LT

Yes sir.

US Major walks back to the center stage

US MAJOR

(jokingly hinting)
That Nurse you have, she's nice.

GERMAN COLONEL

I'm married.

*German Colonel holds up his left hand showing
his wedding ring.*

US MAJOR

Where is she?

GERMAN COLONEL

She's dead.

US MAJOR

Indicates to Colonel's chest
What's wrong with you?

GERMAN COLONEL

I'm not dying anytime soon. I'm fit to stand trial.

US MAJOR

That's all I wanted to know.

GERMAN COLONEL

Major, I'm an old man and I'm tired. Continue.

US MAJOR

Colonel, you're 55.

GERMAN COLONEL

I'll be 56 in a month.

US MAJOR

I know, I'll send a card.

GERMAN COLONEL

Send a good bottle of wine and some cigars.

US MAJOR

Colonel...
(searches through files)
uh..

GERMAN COLONEL

You know a great deal. US intelligence?

US MAJOR

(waves file)
This is your entire military file.

GERMAN COLONEL

How is that possible? I thought you would have
fragments...

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

You triplicated everything.

GERMAN COLONEL

Beaten by our own efficiency.

US MAJOR

That's one way to describe it.

Finds his focus looks at his notes and begins
Colonel, you are a wartime soldier. Men like you
aren't needed in peacetime. Perpetual war suits you.

GERMAN COLONEL

Machiavelli talks about war as a means to an end.
I think that war is the best form of expression that
a nation possesses. It is the best way to bind a
nation together.

US MAJOR

Tell me about your role in the Spanish Civil War.

GERMAN COLONEL

You want to know my role in air power?

US MAJOR

Tell me about Spain.

GERMAN COLONEL

We were stationed there to give Franco aid and
training.

US MAJOR

It wasn't just aid and training. You sent in the
Condor Legion.

GERMAN COLONEL

Well.. when we realized that the League of Nations
had no power, we stepped expanded operations.

US MAJOR

Did you lead the operations?

GERMAN COLONEL

Our primary mission was to help Franco win. If there
was an air attack we usually helped lead it. I
learned while I was there. I did my duty. And was
commended for it. Should I be ashamed for this? Major
get to the point.

US MAJOR

Guernica.

GERMAN COLONEL

Finally. There's no need to be subtle Major.

US MAJOR

I realize that now.

GERMAN COLONEL

It was a military target. We carpet-bombed it because they started hiding troops inside the town.

US MAJOR

I want to know the details.

Scene 6

The Colonel gets up and moves toward stage right a light turns on and a radio operator is seen at a desk with a wireless set in front of him.

GERMAN COLONEL

Sergeant are we ready?

RADIO OPERATOR

Yes sir.

GERMAN COLONEL

Good.

Picks up receiver.

GERMAN COLONEL

Captain, you are in charge of the first wave. Begin your attack.

CAPTAIN (VOICE)

Yes sir.

Sounds of bombs and planes intermixed with music.

RADIO OPERATOR

Sir its, 13:30.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thank you.

RADIO OPERATOR

Sir, How many waves are we going to send against Guernica?

GERMAN COLONEL

5 waves and then some smaller attacks to mop up resistance. By Wednesday General Mola will have moved in with his division.

RADIO OPERATOR

Why are we putting some many resources into bombing a small town?

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

3 reasons Sergeant. Victory here will allow us to move swiftly through Republican lines. Second, the propaganda victory of air power. And lastly, we need to practice. It's the future Sergeant. We will be using this carpet bombing tactic all over the world.

RADIO OPERATOR

Isn't it a civilian target?

GERMAN COLONEL

No.

CAPTAIN (VOICE)

Colonel, wave 1 is complete.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thank you Captain. You may begin wave 2.

RADIO OPERATOR

Will I keep the line open?

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes I want to hear them.

CAPTAIN (VOICE)

OK listen up. We are approaching the target, there are no AA defenses in place. The main targets are the 2 armaments factories and the bridge exiting the town. I want 2ND and 3rd Squadron to attack from the west and I want the Italians and the 4Th Squadron to attack from the east. It will cause the most confusion. OK. Here we go.

Sounds of bombing, planes and music.

RADIO OPERATOR

The time is 14:00 sir.

GERMAN COLONEL

Alright. Order all units to attack in waves 3,4 & 5. One after the other.

RADIO OPERATOR

No gap sir?

GERMAN COLONEL

After the first 2 waves they will be expecting a gap. The best attack is when your opponent is least prepared.

RADIO OPERATOR

Yes sir. Attention all units. This is forward command Condor Legion. Waves 1 and 2 have been completed. Waves 3,4 and 5 are to take place one after the other beginning immediately. Repeat Operation Rugen is a go. They're attacking again sir.

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

You did well Sergeant. I will note that in my report.

RADIO OPERATOR

Thank you sir. Well done, I know Operation Rugen was your idea.

GERMAN COLONEL

Hopefully General Mola will roll through this region now. This war is taking too long. Not that I mind too much. We are getting much needed experience for the Luftwaffe and Panzerkorps.

RADIO OPERATOR

Yes sir. This is a good training ground.

The sounds of bombs falling are heard

CAPTAIN (VOICE)

Colonel, Operation Rugen completed. The target is destroyed and the enemy is fleeing the town. Its in chaos. The enemy won't be able to use this town again.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thank Captain. Well done. Tell the pilots there will a be commendation in all of their records for this. Over and out.

German Colonel walks back to the Interview table. Light above the Radio Operator turns off.

EXIT RADIO OPERATOR

Scene 7

GERMAN COLONEL

Major, before you launch into another tirade, remember that the US completely destroyed Dresden.

US MAJOR

The difference was Dresden was a military target. It was an industrial area and it was vital to the German war effort. Guernica was a small town that you wiped off the face of the earth.

GERMAN COLONEL

The press made Guernica a symbol of air power. You saw what we wanted you to see.

US MAJOR

What you did in Guernica is a war crime.

GERMAN COLONEL

Germany was never at war with Spain. It was an internal conflict. We were aiding an ally. How can there be war crimes if there never was a war?

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

Colonel. You were a part of the Condor Legion, regarding authority. Did you follow orders from Franco or Berlin?

GERMAN COLONEL

Operational orders were from Spanish commanders. Overall policy came from Germany.

US MAJOR

Thank you Colonel.

takes a moment to collect his thoughts, smiles and leans across the table

You are liable for War Crimes in Spain.

GERMAN COLONEL

So you're going to prosecute me?

US MAJOR

I'm not sure.

GERMAN COLONEL

Can we move on?

US MAJOR

Yes. I want you to tell me about the start of the war, just after the fall of Paris in 1940.

Scene 8

Colonel gets up and moves to stage left. His Secretary is there with a glass of wine.

SECRETARY

Here you go Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thank you. We have done well. With France defeated Europe is ours.

SECRETARY

What about the British?

GERMAN COLONEL

We will make short work of them.

SECRETARY

You don't seem convinced, Colonel?

GERMAN COLONEL

We are moving too fast. We are barely able to keep up production at this level. We don't have enough trained soldiers to fight this many battles at once.

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY

But I've seen the reports, we are winning.

GERMAN COLONEL

For now. But we will eventually make mistakes, even during this last campaign we were overstretched. A well planned counter-attack would have crippled our attack.

SECRETARY

After we defeat the British what then?

GERMAN COLONEL

We have plans to attack America. We are designing new long-distance bombers capable of attacking targets along the Eastern Seaboard of the US.

SECRETARY

When will these planes be ready?

GERMAN COLONEL

By 1942 we hope to have enough planes to attack to US. And hopefully discourage them from joining the War.

SECRETARY

This is great news.

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes but there is an air of make-believe in Berlin at this time. The politicians are stupid and unrealistic, I fear that if we allow them to dictate policy. We will lose this war.

Pause.

Anyway enough of that, lets have more drinks we are celebrating the defeat of France!

Scene 9

End of Flashback, German moves toward the center stage and sits down.

US MAJOR

What were your duties after 1943?

GERMAN COLONEL

I was assigned to work on the Wunderweapons program.

US MAJOR

What was that?

GERMAN COLONEL

There was a sizable minority of the military that believed that if we possessed superior wonder weapons we could defeat the Allies and win the war.

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

These wonder weapons were advanced technology, like the V-1 and V-2 rocket programs?

GERMAN COLONEL

That was separate. Our aims were very different.

US MAJOR

I don't understand.

GERMAN COLONEL

I didn't give a damn about making bombs fly. I just wanted faster planes.

US MAJOR

Tell me more.

GERMAN COLONEL

I was placed in charge of the America Bomber project. We were instructed by Goering to create bombers capable of hitting targets in the US.

Scene 10

The Colonel stands up and move to Stage Right the lights change and an office setting is revealed.

ENTER SOLDIER

Soldier walks up the Colonel and hands him an envelope.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thank you.

Opens the letter and gestures the Soldier to sit down. He then sits down and reads the letter.

Do you know what this is?

SOLDIER

No sir.

GERMAN COLONEL

I have been given new orders. I have been assigned to the wonder-weapons program.

SOLDIER

Congratulations Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

It is not a promotion. We are losing the war on the Eastern Front. The Allies will invade France. Then we will be surrounded. What do you know of the wonder-weapon program?

(CONTINUED)

SOLDIER

Only what I hear from the news rallies and the posters. They are secret weapons that will help us defeat the Allies.

GERMAN COLONEL

Don't believe the rallies or the posters. We do have secret weapons but they won't win us the war. Do you know what the weapons are?

SOLDIER

No sir. That information is classified.

GERMAN COLONEL

Not any more. I've just made you part of my staff.

SOLDIER

Thank you sir. It is a honor to serve you again.

GERMAN COLONEL

Did you serve under me before?

SOLDIER

In France sir, in 1940.

GERMAN COLONEL

You were infantry? Part of the Battle of France?

SOLDIER

Yes sir, I was a new recruit. Your combined air and ground tactics saved a lot lives.

GERMAN COLONEL

German lives, killed a lot of Frenchmen. So why are you still a private?

SOLDIER

I would rather follow orders than give them.

GERMAN COLONEL

That's a good philosophy. Pity you won't have the luxury anymore. I'm giving you a field promotion to Captain effective immediately.

SOLDIER

Sir, are you allowed to do this?

GERMAN COLONEL

I am running a secret weapons program. There is very little I cannot do and everything here is classified.

SOLDIER

Yes sir, thank you sir. Have we any aircraft available for combat use?

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

Not many but more are planned. We're going to need to convince High Command that our project deserves the most funding and research.

SOLDIER

Do you think that the jet-engine aircraft we design will help the outcome of the war?

GERMAN COLONEL

Yes. However I know that if we don't get sufficient numbers into the field within 2 months we will lose the advantage and our weapons will become useless.

SOLDIER

That's not very encouraging. How should we proceed now?

GERMAN COLONEL

We need to leave this office now and get on a plane to Berlin.

EXIT SOLDIER

Scene 11

Colonel walks over to the interview table and sits down.

Lights change focus to the center stage.

US MAJOR

Whatever happened to that Captain?

GERMAN COLONEL

He didn't believe in surrender.

Makes a gun motion towards his mouth

US MAJOR

Pity.

GERMAN COLONEL

You wanted to shoot him too?

US MAJOR

He would have been helpful.

GERMAN COLONEL

Major what is this about? Are you going to put me on trial?

US MAJOR

I'm going to recommend that you be put on trial for War Crimes. And if your found guilty you will be shot.

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

Everything I did was for Germany. We had an Empire to protect! We were fighting for our survival. And now your going to shoot me.

US MAJOR

I'm sorry Colonel, its out of my hands.

GERMAN COLONEL

No Major. It is in your hands. If I die, it is your fault. I did nothing wrong. You're going to kill me because we lost.

US MAJOR

That's right Colonel. You lost, we won.

GERMAN COLONEL

This is not how we should settle things. We are soldiers. We have a sense of honor.

US Major pulls out a pistol and drops it on the desk.

US MAJOR

Go ahead. Do the honorable thing. Blow your head off and show me how wrong I am. Show me that German honor still exists.

Pause. Silence from the German Colonel, he is nearly broken.

But you won't pull the trigger because that's too easy for you. You want to spend the rest of your life in pain and misery. You want to relive the death of Germany over and over in your mind. Shall I play a light Schubert quintet for you? To add to the occasion?

The German Colonel is dazed after the verbal barrage.

GERMAN COLONEL

You like Schubert?

US MAJOR

No. I never knew why people liked his sentimental Viennese shit.

US Major stands up and looks down on the German Colonel. A slight smile on his face.

ENTER NURSE

She walks over to the table and signals to the German Colonel

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

I'm sorry Major but the Colonel needs to take a break.

US MAJOR

Of course. Take good care of him.

The German Colonel nods his head and slowly walks out followed by the Nurse.

EXIT NURSE & GERMAN COLONEL

The US Major sits at the table and laughs.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2Scene 1

The stage is set up the same as Act 1, there is a center table with 2 chairs on the right & left wings are other sets. Only the center table is lit up.

The US Major enters first. He sets down his files on the table and walks over to stage right lights come up on a table where a US Lt. is sitting with headphones and recording equipment.

US LT

You were a little rough with him sir.

US MAJOR

Had to be. Had to get through that thick Prussian shell.

US LT

What now?

US MAJOR

Well he's going to discuss all of this with his Nurse.

US LT

She now knows a great deal.

US MAJOR

Who knows maybe he told her all about himself already.

US LT

Not this guy. No way. He's like a clam.

US MAJOR

Any word from Headquarters?

US LT

Yes sir. You have a package.

US MAJOR

What's inside it?

US LT

Paperclips.

US MAJOR

Good.

US LT

I know we need them but I think we're making a mistake.

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

We need them Lieutenant. We can't get around that fact.

US LT

Better us than the Russians.

US MAJOR

Exactly. Can you imagine the Russians having jet-fighters and bombers? We would be in constant threat of attack.

US LT

Which is why we need him.

US MAJOR

Yes. I think I've primed him for this. Now she'll make it happen.

US LT

She?

US MAJOR

The Nurse. She's with us.

US LT

On Paperclip?

US MAJOR

No this one is called Lusty. Paperclip is for the German rocket scientists.

US LT

Lusty?

US MAJOR

Luftwaffe Secret Technology.

US LT

Catchy. Back to the Nurse. She works for us? Jesus. You could have told me.

US MAJOR

I was hoping you would work it out for yourself. She was sent here about 3 weeks ago after the previous Nurse fell and broke her ankle.

US LT

Compliments of the O.S.S.

US MAJOR

We try.

US LT

They're coming back.

US MAJOR

Good. I've left some papers for him to see. Should make him a little paranoid. And of course the good Nurse will help him.

The German Colonel and the Nurse come back onto the center stage.

GERMAN COLONEL

Nurse what are these?

NURSE

Papers. They probably belong to the Major. Should we have a look?

GERMAN COLONEL

They don't belong to us. They're his papers.

NURSE

Come on Colonel. Lets see how he thinks.

GERMAN COLONEL

Well it would be nice to know his thoughts on our meeting.

Nurse picks up papers and looks at them.

NURSE

Well these are travel arrangements.

GERMAN COLONEL

I don't understand.

NURSE

For you Colonel. There is a passport, tickets, money.

GERMAN COLONEL

What's my destination?

NURSE

America.

GERMAN COLONEL

I've heard rumors of German scientists being sent to the US. All the men who worked on the V-1 and V-2 program. Do you know anything about this?

NURSE

Only rumors, Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

A lot of my old friends and colleagues have disappeared. I thought the Russians got them, but maybe they are being sent to the US. What do you think Nurse, should I ask the Major?

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

I think you should speak your mind Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

Let me see those documents.

Nurse hands over documents.

These aren't for me. The name on these is Frank Luther.

NURSE

Look at the photograph on the passport.

GERMAN COLONEL

That's me. I don't understand. According to this I'm to go to New Mexico.

NURSE

Its nice there. Lots of desert, no distractions.

GERMAN COLONEL

You've been there?

NURSE

No. But I've heard good things. So what are you going to do now Colonel?

GERMAN COLONEL

I don't know what's going on. These papers are obviously for me but why? Why bring me to America?

NURSE

Do you have something that the Major needs?

GERMAN COLONEL

No. All he asked me about was my military history.

NURSE

Your work on the jet-engine program?

GERMAN COLONEL

How do you know about that?

NURSE

I confess, I was listening to your conversation, it was very interesting.

GERMAN COLONEL

It's a bad habit, listening to other peoples conversations.

NURSE

It seems you have a choice to make Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

What are my options?

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

Stay here and get shot. Or use these.

Indicates the travel papers.

GERMAN COLONEL

He is very suspicious of the Nurse
That's very good reasoning. They taught you that in
'medical school'? Your an Army Nurse. Not a spy...

*German Colonel is lost in thought as the
implication of what he just said hit him.*

NURSE

We all have other things, Colonel.

EXIT NURSE

US Major walks onto the center stage.

US MAJOR

Hello Colonel.

GERMAN COLONEL

Major.

Waves the documents at him.
You want me to go to America? Why?

US MAJOR

She just told you. You know about jet-engines. We
need men like you.

GERMAN COLONEL

So threaten me with War Crimes? If you wanted to
recruit me? I don't understand that.

US MAJOR

I wanted to... view you under the right
circumstances.

GERMAN COLONEL

You don't work for the War Crimes Office do you?

US MAJOR

No.

GERMAN COLONEL

Your military intelligence?

US MAJOR

Sort of.

GERMAN COLONEL

Your O.S.S.

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

Office of Strategic Services. Most of our members are from the armed forces.

GERMAN COLONEL

Its a cowards way of fighting. All from the back.

US MAJOR

Really? And your Abwehr and S.S. were what, police forces? Come on Colonel, this is modern warfare. The days of honor and cavalry charges are gone. Now is the age of deceit, lies and liars.

GERMAN COLONEL

Military Intelligence is one thing. But secret agencies and spy wars are another.

US MAJOR

She works for us.

GERMAN COLONEL

So you know about my condition?

US MAJOR

Yes. Good thing it's not life-threatening. Its the morphine that bothers me.

GERMAN COLONEL

I need it. You don't know what it feels like to be trapped in a burning air craft. Your lungs full of smoke and your flesh burning.

US MAJOR

No I don't. But we'll find a better solution than self-medicating with morphine. It dulls the mind.

GERMAN COLONEL

I don't need it to be sharp. I've no more enemies.

US MAJOR

I'm sorry?

GERMAN COLONEL

As you said. You won, we lost.

US MAJOR

Stop feeling sorry for yourself. You're being offered another chance to serve again.

GERMAN COLONEL

Serve what? The US?

US MAJOR

We're not an Empire. Your loyalty is to the ideals of Freedom.

(CONTINUED)

GERMAN COLONEL

Nice speech. Sounds like a headline. You know you have become us?

US MAJOR

I don't follow.

GERMAN COLONEL

Your the only ones left. Keeping the Russians back.

US MAJOR

The British...

GERMAN COLONEL

Won't be able to. Its up to you. Which is why you need me.

US MAJOR

Will you do it?

GERMAN COLONEL

What's the alternative?

US MAJOR

A short drop.

At that remark the German smiles.

GERMAN COLONEL

A fitting metaphor.

US MAJOR

Here are your papers. As you can see your new name is Frank Luther. All the relevant details are enclosed. Your Nurse will escort you to London and then onto New Mexico.

GERMAN COLONEL

What are my duties?

US MAJOR

Research and development.

GERMAN COLONEL

In New Mexico. And if civilians ask me what I'm doing..

US MAJOR

You won't meet any civilians. However if you are questioned, we've provided a fake identity for you. Your an American citizen. And your a scientist working for the Defense Department.

GERMAN COLONEL

Anything else?

US MAJOR

Last thing. Just because we're letting you leave doesn't mean that you don't belong to us. You get a pension and a salary. But if you try to cross us, we'll shoot you. And no-one will know.

GERMAN COLONEL

You make wonderful threats.

US MAJOR

I know. Oh yeah and lose the accent. You had a classical education, I know you can speak without a German accent. We don't want to raise suspicion do we?

GERMAN COLONEL

No we don't.

US MAJOR

I think we understand each other perfectly. Good day Colonel.

US Major heads over to the US Lt.

US LT

Bravo Major.

US MAJOR

Thank you. Are you packing up?

US LT

Yes.

US LT

How did you know he would agree to work for us?

US MAJOR

Instinct. I want a written copy of that interview within two days. Is that possible?

US LT

Yes. What about the tapes?

US MAJOR

Burn em.

US LT

Yes sir.

US MAJOR

You hear from you fiancée this week?

US LT

Yeah, she sent me a dear John letter.

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR

Yeah? What did it say?

US LT

You know how it goes sir.

Puts on a sing-song voice

Dear John, I'm sorry to say I found someone else. No hard feelings I know you're fighting a war and all but I need someone now.

He turns back to his equipment

I don't feel too bad. I have a German lady friend I'm very fond of.

US MAJOR

Its good for morale.

US LT

There's one thing Major. Why are we helping the Germans?

US MAJOR

We're not. We're helping ourselves. We need men like the Colonel to fight the Communists.

US LT

I know that sir. I meant Germany as a whole. We just spent the last few years trying to destroy Germany, why not leave it to the Russians.

US MAJOR

Geo-politics. We need them now. To keep a buffer between the West and the Russians.

US LT just looks confused.

When you think of Germany you think of the enemy.

US LT nods

Picture Germany as a little boy. He lives in a beautiful mansion full of wonders from all over the world. But the most valuable objects in the mansion were 2 Renaissance Sculptures. Together they were the centerpiece of the East & West wings of the mansion. One day the little boy decides to knock a sculpture in the East Wing, however this causes all the artwork and treasures in the East Wing to be destroyed.

US LT

And he's punished?

US MAJOR

Yes. Severely. And as a result of this, he became bitter and decided that he would destroy the Sculpture in the West wing. And so one day the little boy destroyed the Sculpture in the West Wing which

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

US MAJOR (cont'd)

was priceless and caused unspeakable destruction. But this time instead of punishing him. They realized that punishing him would only cause the problem again.

Pause.

We don't kill children do we?

US LT

No sir.

The Two men finish packing up the equipment and leave.

EXIT US LT & US MAJOR

Focus switches back to the German Colonel, he looks much younger and very different to his last appearance. His hair is no longer as grey and he is now wearing a much nicer American suit.

He walks over to the table and places starts to place down items from his past, papers, medals etc. He puts them in a steel box and closes it.

When the German Colonel, talks in this scene his accent has changed to an American timbre.

ENTER NURSE

NURSE

Colonel, are you all set?

GERMAN COLONEL

Nearly.

NURSE

You're looking well. The doctor did a great job.

GERMAN COLONEL

I feel much younger, and the new medication stops the pain.

NURSE

Good. You're leaving that here?

She points to the steel box.

I thought you would want to keep it, as a memento.

GERMAN COLONEL

A memento to what?

Pause.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

I'll meet you outside.

GERMAN COLONEL

Thank you.

*German Colonel puts down the wedding ring on top
of the box.*

EXIT GERMAN COLONEL

THE END