

SCRIPT TITLE

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INT. COMMANDERS OFFICE - DAY TIME

A starkly decorated office on Camp Hauchuca. The commander, COLONEL BASCOMB sits at his desk writing.

The door opens and CORPORAL CARR looks in.

CARR

Lieutenant Lowe is her sir.

BASCOMB

Send him in.

The door closes, then opens again. LIEUTENANT LOWE marches in. Young, strait, handsome and determined. The picture of a Cavalry officer. He comes to attention in front of the desk and renders a snappy hand salute.

LOWE

Sir! Lieutenant Lowe reporting as ordered.

BASCOMB stands and returns the salute.

BASCOMB

At ease Lieutenant. Have a seat.

Bascomb motions to a chair in front of the desk. Lowe sits.

BASCOMB (CONT'D)

I am sending out a patrol and you will be commanding it.

LOWE smiles broadly.

LOWE

Finally! I get to go after Geronimo! Thank you sir!

BASCOMB

Don' get too excited. This patrol has nothing to do with Geronimo. You will be checking on some nuns that have a convent near The dragoons.

LOWE

Nuns?

BASCOMB

Yes. They were suppose to come in to the fort by yesterday and they haven't arrived. You're to go get them and escort them back.

LOWE

But sir, I should be out after Geronimo! Not babysitting some nuns!

BASCOMB

Nearly every soldier in this command is already out. You are the only officer I have left to do this.

LOWE is disheartened.

LOWE

Sir, I just don't see how escorting civilians is an Army matter?

BASCOMB

Does West Point teach officers to follow the orders of their superiors or to question them?

LOWE

Sorry sir. It's just that... I'll put together a roster of the men I'd like to...

BASCOMB

You'll take Sergeant Major.. I mean, Sergeant Whitlock with you.

LOWE

Whitlock! But sir! I'm about to courtmartial that drunk.

BASCOMB

I know.

LOWE

His behavior last night is inexcusable!

BASCOMB hides a grin.

BASCOMB

Yes, I heard about that.

LOWE

He's nothing but a lousy drunk.

BASCOMB

He's also a good and experienced soldier. You'll need him with you. The courtmartial will have to wait.

(MORE)

BASCOMB (CONT'D)

He's been striped down to buck
sergeant. That will do for now.
Besides, this will let him dry out.

LOWE feels defeated but accepts his fate. He's still eager to
please his new Commander.

LOWE

Yes sir. When do we leave?

BASCOMB

First light tomorrow.

LOWE

Yes sir. Will that be all?

BASCOMB

Yes.

LOWE renders a hand salute. Bascaomb stands to return the
salute. Lowe marches out of the room.