

THE WAR ON POVERTY

An original radio drama by
Frederick Greenhalgh

PRODUCTION SCRIPT

April 4, 2010

© 2009 Frederick Greenhalgh
(207) 650-6198

P.O. Box 51

Alfred, ME 04002

fred@finalrune.com

<http://www.finalrune.com>

THE WAR ON POVERTY

CAST

MIB	US Intelligence Operative
PRESIDENT	US President, under pressure to wage war
GENERAL	Warmongering US General
ANALYST	US Intelligence Analyst
PILOT	US Pilot, Obeying Orders
CO-PILOT	US Pilot, not really sure what he's doing
ANCHORWOMAN	Ferret News Network Reporter
ANCHORMAN	Another Ferret News Network Reporter

20 GENERAL: Mr. President! We're talking about our
21 fighting men and women here - America's best
22 and brightest! What can we do but trust
23 them to do what's right for America?

24 PRESIDENT: But the numbers you're talking here...

25 MIB: Mr. President, this is something we CANNOT
26 question. The budget is the budget we need
27 to do the job.

28 ANALYST: And speaking of jobs, Mr. President, this
29 measure will create plenty of them! Tens of
30 thousands of jobs, creating new, faster,
31 more accurate missiles.

32 GENERAL: The future of the free world depends on you,
33 Mr. President.

34 PRESIDENT: (SIGHS) Alright, let's do it.

35 MUSIC: ABSURDLY DRAMATIC SHIMMER AND TRANSITION

36 SFX: AIR RAID SIREN GOING OFF

37 GENERAL: Move move move! Alright troops! Let's show
38 the enemy what you've got! Alpha squad,
39 you're flying in strike formation and will
40 move in on the enemy from 6 o'clock - Bravo,
41 you're handling alternative targets coming
42 in over the mountains. Got that? Now MOVE!

43 MUSIC: RISES UP, MORE INTENSE, WITH SOUNDSCAPE -

44 SFX: SOUND OF PLANES GETTING LOADED UP, ENGINES

45 ROARING, TAKING OFF, THE INTENSE SOUND OF

46 PLANES IN THE AIR.

47 SCENE 2: AT FLIGHT

48 SFX: ROAR OF LOUD NOISY COCKPIT - TOP GUN STYLE

49 SFX

50 GENERAL: (FILTERED) Alpha squad, 221-A do you copy?

51 SFX: RECEIVER CLICK

52 PILOT: Sure do, general, we're moving it at your

53 assigned bearing and will be engaging the

54 enemy in just over a minute.

55 GENERAL: (FILTERED) Copy, keep me informed.

56 MUSIC: OUT FOR A MOMENT, JUST THE ROAR OF A PLANE

57 COCKPIT

58 CO-PILOT: So did the general brief you on the mission?

59 PILOT: He did.

60 CO-PILOT: Oh. So what are we doing exactly?

61 PILOT: We're launching a strike on a new enemy.

62 CO-PILOT: Um. What enemy, exactly?

63 PILOT: Poverty.

64 CO-PILOT: What?

65 PILOT: (GETTING IRRITATED) Poverty! We're
66 launching an attack on the poor!

67 CO-PILOT: Wait, what? How do you attack poverty?!

68 PILOT: The same way you attack drugs and terror.
69 You kill all the drug dealers, you end
70 drugs. You kill all the terrorists, you end
71 terror. We are fighting a new war, a war on
72 poverty!

73 CO-PILOT: But -- !

74 SFX: RECEIVER CLICK

75 PILOT: We're moving in to engage the enemy,
76 General. Approximately t-minus 20.

77 GENERAL: (FILTER) Good work, soldier. Arm up your
78 tomahawks!

79 PILOT: Copy!

80 SFX: FIDDLING WITH KNOBS, MISSLES SLIDE OUT OF
81 COMPARTMENT

82 CO-PILOT: But... But you can't kill poverty!

83 PILOT: We killed all the terrorists and drug
84 dealers, didn't we? We WON the war on
85 drugs, we WON the war on terror. Now - kill
86 off the poor, and you've defeated poverty.

87 CO-PILOT: Wait, what?

88 PILOT: 10... 9... 8... (CONTINUES COUNTDOWN)

89 CO-PILOT: What... city is this? I fell asleep on the
90 plane. Are we... Are we, in... America?

91 PILOT: 3... 2... 1...

92 CO-PILOT: But that's - that's New York!

93 SFX: ROAR OF FLAME AS THE MISSILES ARE SHOT OFF.

94 WE PAN OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT AND FOLLOW THE

95 MISSILES IN THEIR DESCENT

96 MUSIC: DRAMA TURNS INTO TERROR AND A ROARING

97 DOWNWARD CHROMATIC SHIFT ALONG WITH THE

98 MISSILES

99 CAST: (SCREAM OF A LARGE CROWD)

100 SFX: ENORMOUS EXPLOSION MIXED WITH SCREAMS,

101 ETC... OUT OF THE FIZZ AND WRECKAGE, WE

102 ENTER THE WORLD OF FILTERED AUDIO - A

103 TELEVISION

104 SCENE 3 - THIS JUST IN...

105 ANCHORWOMAN: (TV VOICE) We've just been told that a new
106 war has been launched today - a war on one
107 of America's more pervasive and troublesome
108 enemies - poverty. Reporting from the scene
109 in New York, is Ferret News reporter Jim
110 Levine, Jim?

111 ANCHORMAN: Hi Darcy, and yes, here I am, LIVE from
112 Manhattan, in the air conditioned comfort of
113 Ferret News' headquarters. Somewhere in the
114 lower Bronx, I understand, the war has hit
115 the front lines! Several of America's MOST
116 accurate and humanitarian bombs to date have
117 successfully terminated at least ten-
118 thousand of the enemy.

119 ANCHORWOMAN: Oh, that's WONDERFUL! Here in the studio in
120 Dallas with me is an expert who is going to
121 tell us all about this new war and the fancy
122 new weapons we're using. General Spritzer,
123 welcome to Ferret News.

124 GENERAL: My pleasure to be on Darcy, and let me tell
125 you, this war on poverty is going to be our
126 most triumphant to date. We're finally able
127 to stop this enemy from undermining the
128 American way of life and the lifestyle of
129 the American people. Why, already we are
130 starting to create jobs in new factories for
131 the boomerang missile.

132 ANCHORWOMAN: The boomerang missile, you say? Oh, well
133 tell me more.

134 GENERAL: Why certainly, the boomerang is (FADES DOWN)
135 the most sophisticated weapon we've created
136 to date, how it works is...

137 MUSIC: SOARING DRAMA RETURNS AGAIN, THEN
138 TRANSITIONS TO EERIE, THEN OUT. END WITH
139 ACOUSTIC GUITAR, 70S FOLK FEEL - COULD BE A
140 PROTEST SONG.