



Video 13 of 14, Video Journalism Workshop Transcription

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I want to talk about narration a little bit and show you a piece on the use of narration. As I think I mentioned to you guys before, you know, I really like using narration. I know that some people are kind of curious and they don't like to use narration. They think it's intrusive. They think it interferes in the flow, if you will, of the piece. I don't find it intrusive at all.

I think narration can be really, really useful because it connects the conceptual and it is, it constitutes the conceptual links between pieces of your documentary. It's what connects the dots between those little, you know, the clips of visual and oral material. And there is, what I like, one of the things I like most about narration is the fact that it allows me to put my personal stamp on anything that I do. When you hear my voice, you know that, I'm responsible for the piece largely.

But there's a way to do narration and I think, you know, as Chad and I had been discussing through this whole workshop, sometimes less is more. And narration, you know, you don't want to make long piece of narration, with long sentences and long paragraphs because people just can't absorb that much information at one time.

You know, narration, and your pieces are all about conversation with your audience. You pose a question. You pose a conflict. You pose a problem and you answer that question, you resolve that problem, okay. That's what these conversations with your audience are all about. That's conversation.

And there's a way to deliver this conversation with, to deliver this narration in a manner that's more effective than others and there are a couple of things that I would like you to remember as we discuss narration. Could you read this piece? (holding piece of paper.) This is from a wildly popular documentary that I'm sure some of you are going to recognize as you hear. I'd ask you not to reveal what this documentary is. But can you read that narration as you would for the piece, please?

Kalpana: "There are a few places harder to get to in this world, but there aren't any where it's harder to live."



Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): We're not getting a lot of information, are we? There's no data there. There's no statistic. There's no, there's not a name. There's not. There's nothing. It's just a feeling.

Go ahead.

Kalpana: "The average temperature here at the bottom of the earth is a balmy 58 degrees below. That's when the sun is out."

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Very good, very nice. Go ahead.

Kalpana: "It wasn't always like this. Antarctica used to be a tropical place, densely forested and teeming with life."

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): So, for the first time, though...for the first time, we know we have something solid. We're talking Antarctica. We know what we're talking about. Does anybody know where we are in terms of this documentary? Don't tell me the name of it. Has anybody seen this thing? No?

Ann: Was this just recently done?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No.

Ann: Okay

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): A couple years ago, two years maybe. Okay, go on.

Kalpana: "But then the continents started to drift south and by the time it was done drifting the dense forest had all been replaced with a new ground cover, ice."

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Very good.

Kalpana: It almost sounds like the, Al Gore's, oh, "The Energy." No?

[LAUGHTER]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's not.

Kalpana: "The Inconvenient Truth." No?



Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's not.

Kalpana: It's not?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): She did a terrific job with it. When I have these pieces, may I? When I, before I narrate something, you know, I have my written script here and what I'll do is I'll underline the important parts of the script. The words of the script that I want to give a little more umph to, "There are few places harder to get to in this world." So, I'll underline "harder to get to in this world, but there aren't any where it's harder to live." And sometimes, I'll put like jaggy little marks underneath the words that I want to draw out. You know, if I want to make it longer, "harder to live."

Chad and I, we're doing the same thing upstairs with his piece about the artistry and flow. "The average temperature here at the bottom of the earth." And one of the things that I do when I read these things, I never sit down and look at it and hold the script like this because when you do, you know, you're suffocating the power of your voice. Your voice gets its strength from here and the more you have this close up and you're reading into something, the more you're suffocating your voice.

What I do is, you know, I always stand and I put this thing on a wall or on a tripod or something and I free up my hands. So, I'm not holding anything. So, I can use my hands to gesticulate. My voice is free. It's open. I talk to this thing and I can move my hands and it gives me a sense of emotion, I think, a sense of power. Yeah?

So, a couple of things, I write this thing up and I underline the pieces that I want to pump up. I determine which of the words that I want to draw up. I free up my hands. I use my voice box to convey the message and looking straight forward and I exaggerate. I actually exaggerate my facial features sometimes because it'll make the words come out clearer, if you exaggerate your facial features. Okay? These are all the tricks I used. I used to be a correspondent for NBC Radio News and ABC Radio News in Central America and Mexico and these are the things you'd learn when you do this kind of stuff.

So, let us listen to, let's listen how this thing is read in the documentary from which I drew this narration and you'll hear how and you'll recognize the voice and you'll hear how this person uses his voice as a tool to get

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across his, the points that he wants to make. And then I'll show the piece and you'll see how the magic between narration and image. It's an extraordinary example of how these two can work together for a really powerful piece. Listen to the way this guy reads this information.

[VIDEO: March of the Penguins]

Narrator: There are few places harder to get to in this world. But there aren't any where it's harder to live. The average temperature here in the bottom of the earth is a balmy 58 degrees below. That's when the sun is out. It wasn't always like this. Antarctica used to be a tropical place, densely forested and teeming with life.

[Audio paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Do you know where we are?

Chad: Yeah. [Crosstalk]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Do you know what we're talking about?

[Cont...VIDEO: March of the Penguins]

Narrator: But then, the continent started to drift south and, by the time it was done drifting, the dense forest had all been replaced with a new ground cover, ice. As for the former inhabitants, they'd all died and moved on long ago. Well, almost all of them.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know this?

Narrator: Legend has it that one tribe is stayed behind.

Kalpana: [Inaudible 00:07:11] south pole.

Chad: And we know the voice of that.

Kalpana: Oh, the ice melted [00:07:17]—

[Audio paused]



Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): What's he talking about? What's the tribe? You know?

Kalpana: Uh-huh.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Do you know which tribe he's talking about? He is talking about Antarctica. He told us. He said it was Antarctica? No?

Kalpana: Was there a documentary for that? No?

[Cont...VIDEO: March of the Penguins]

Narrator: Perhaps they thought the change in weather was only temporary or maybe they were just stubborn. But whatever their reasons, these stalwart souls refused to leave.

Chad: Penguins, penguins.

Karen: Oh. Happy feet.

Narrator: For millions of years they have made their home on the darkness, driest, windiest and coldest continent on earth. And they've done so pretty much alone. So, in some ways, this is a story of survival, a tale of life over death. But it's more than that really. This is a story of love.

Karen: Oh, "The March of the Penguins." That is "The March of the Penguins."

[Audio paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It is "March of the Penguins." But when—ou see what they do with the images in conjunction with this narration and the music, it's really quite extraordinary in the sense that they carry out the same conversation that they just carry out with us verbally, right? They do not tell you exactly what they are talking about until, you know, they draw you into the piece. And you were, I'm engaged with this thing like the minute that I, that it starts, all right? And they do the same thing with the visuals. They're not giving it all away until a couple of minutes into the piece. Watch this now. And watch how they do not give it all away either, you know, through narration or through the visuals.

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[Replay...VIDEO: March of the Penguins]

Chad: Great music.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

Narrator: There are few places harder to get to in this world. But there aren't anywhere it's harder to live. The average temperature here in the bottom of the earth is a balmy 58 degrees below. That's when the sun is out. It wasn't always like this. Antarctica used to be a tropical place, densely forested and teeming with life.

But then, the continent started to drift south and, by the time it was done drifting, the dense forest had all been replaced with a new ground cover, ice. As for the former inhabitants, they'd all died and moved on long ago. Well, almost all of them. Legend has it that one tribe stayed behind.

Perhaps they thought the change in weather was only temporary or maybe they were just stubborn. But whatever their reasons, these stalwart souls refused to leave.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): And this I think is part of the genius of this whole documentary. The way they don't tell you. They don't show you. They are talking about penguins here.

Rhett: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): ...you know? You think...

Rhett: It could be people walking down there, yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah. Who are these? Are they Eskimos?

Kalpana: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Where are they? I mean, who are these guys who still, you know, in Antarctica, you do not know that until later in the film.

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[Cont...VIDEO: March of the Penguins]

Narrator: For millions of years they have made their home on the darkest, driest, windiest and coldest continent on earth. And they've done so pretty much alone. So in some ways, this is a story of survival, a tale of life over death. But it is more than that really. This is a story about love.

Like most love stories, it begins with an act of utter foolishness. The emperor of penguin is technically a—

[Video stopped]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Most of the time, our narration is...not as magic as this stuff is. But narration is, can be really, really important in your piece. Narration, you use it to connect those dots. You use narration to build up suspense and build up tension. You use narration to explain what people are seeing, sometimes it is not clear. You use narration to summarize.

I'll show you a piece that I did a few years ago in Afghanistan. I was with a bunch of Marines in the Helmand River Valley, which is in the southern part of the country. And I had to narrate the piece because there were just so many moving parts that you wouldn't be able to get this thing if I didn't.

Actually, this piece, "Afghanistan, The Forgotten War," I did it for NOW on PBS and it really embodies a lot of the teaching points that I've been trying to convey to you guys over these past few days of this workshop. Narration, controlling idea, you know, some of the camera moves that we've been talking about, composition, how we relate to the, these people you're covering, how to select characters, and so forth. So, a lot of this is really here. This is going to be the last thing that I'll show you during this workshop. So, it is kind of long and I'll stop it when it's appropriate to do so.

[VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

David Brancaccio: Welcome to NOW. Can the U.S. military be peacemakers as well as warriors? In Southern Afghanistan, the Marines face some tough fighting, but also some very unhappy villagers. Stay with us.

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Female Voice-over: NOW on PBS, "On the Road" with host David Brancaccio and senior correspondent Maria Hinojosa. Funding for now is provided by the Orfaea Family Foundation, the Park Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the CS Fund, the desJardins/Blachman Fund and by contributions to your PBS stations from viewers like you. Thank you.

David Brancaccio: The war in Afghanistan was the occasion for a rare moment of semi-agreement between John McCain and Barack Obama and this week both said they want a renewed and enlarged military effort there. What is going on Afghanistan is pretty ugly. Taliban forces have made broad comeback. Casualties are way up for the U.S. and its allies. The challenge is immense not just to win battles but also to win over villagers to forge a stable peace. Bill Gentile filed this report from the front lines in Southern Afghanistan.

Marine 1: I'm looking for air on target one.

Marine 2: Okay, I'm going to make this the truck. I'm going to put a 500-pound air burst over the truck.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit has come to a tough neighborhood; territory controlled by the Taliban near the border with Pakistan.

Marine 2: Okay, you're going to let me run, first pass and second pass before you do artillery.

Marine 1: And all are ready [00:17:13] before we do artillery in 60's [00:17:16].

Marine 2: Okay, roger,

Marine 1: So, you get that whole minute and a half free.

Marine 2: Sweet, I'll take it.

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Marine 1: Okay.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Thirty-one-year-old Captain Sean Dynan commands Alpha Company. The months that the Marines are spending here are part of a broad strategy to retake control of the area along the Afghan-Pakistan border where Taliban and Al Qaeda insurgents have dug in. Dynan and his men use pinpoint accuracy targeting the enemy.

Capt. Sean Dynan: Right now, two we identified, the enemy is doing their re-supply. We've been tracking on this for a couple of days. We've actually had eyes on, we have eyes on their weapon systems, on the ammo. So, we're going to hit the both the ammo truck that they are doing the re-supply from and we're going to hit the compounds that they're moving through right now.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: There is some confusion about the exact location of the enemy. The Marines are concerned about killing civilians and the air strike is cancelled. The mission of the Marines represents a new strategy aimed at winning Afghan hearts and minds.

For nearly three weeks, I followed the Marines on the front lines of what has been called "the real war on terror." Their goal, to push the Taliban back and destroy its fixed positions and just as important to win the support of the villagers and get the economy restarted. There's question here. Can these seasoned fighters also play the role of peacemakers and win the trust of the local population?

Marine 3: Machine guns will be at that corner over there. That way [crosstalk].

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines are operating in one of the richest agricultural regions of Afghanistan. The Helmand River Valley has become a key route for Taliban fighters, weapons and materials flowing further north into Afghanistan, and for opium flowing south from this region into Pakistan. This is the opium capital of the world.



[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): What's the controlling idea to this piece? Kind of, it's kind of a dual controlling idea. Rhett, what do you think?

Rhett: Hmm, well, I think it's, you know, can (they) be successful in forging some kind of a peace or some kind of an agreement with the locals.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Exactly.

Rhett: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's two-fold. Their mission is two-fold. It's a military mission and a political mission, essentially. Yeah? So, that's the controlling idea and this is what I shoot. This is what I, you know, ask these guys about. This is what I am looking for. When certain characters emerge who can support this controlling idea, I'm all over them. Okay? I follow them. I question them. I try to cultivate that, the dramatic arc that is linked to this controlling idea.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: And then it's opium that helps fund the insurgents' fight.

Bill Gentile: What's up Lieutenant?

Lt. Shean Miller: All right, the village that we can see directly to our east and you see the long wall that's on east side of the compound across the poppy field to the right...

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Second Lieutenant Shean Miller works under Captain Dynan. Miller commands Alpha Company's Second Platoon.

Lt. Shean Miller: My western post sighted a white pick-up truck, break.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Miller gets word on the insurgents and moves his men into position to take them on.

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Lt. Shean Miller: We have Marines at 59, 54, 55, over.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Taliban insurgents seized this area from the Afghan government about two years ago. Back in April when the Marines arrived, the civilians had already fled to the desert because they knew a fight was coming.

In May, as the Marines advanced, the Taliban put up ferocious resistance. But a relentless Marine offensive pushed the Americans deep into the valley. This area now is a free fire zone. Anyone still here is a suspected Taliban fighter and may become a target. Miller gets word that a nearby squadron of Marines is taking fire.

Lt. Shean Miller: They are engaged by RPG shot and small arms fire, break.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: I move up with Staff Sergeant Steven Vallejo. Vallejo is a Kickapoo Indian from Kansas City. This is Vallejo's second deployment. His first was to Iraq.

SSgt. Steven Vallejo: Apache Two, this is Lightning.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): How do I know all this stuff about these guys? He's an American Indian. You know, he's been to Iraq before. How do I find all this stuff out?

Kalpana: Sit down and talk with them.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I sit down and I talk with them and I'm, I've got the camera on them because I want, you know, I try not to like write too many things down. I try to get it all on camera.

Kalpana: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): So, if I need him to talk to the camera, if I need his voice, if I need the natural sound, everything is here in the camera. I've got video for the video. I've got video for still pictures if I want to make them for a website. I've got their sound on tape so that I can use it for

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radio or for this piece. I can take their sound that I can write the narration for my documentary. Everything comes out of these machines -- if you know how to use these machines properly.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Marine 4: Roger [21:58] Lightning, this is Apache Two.

SSgt. Steven Vallejo: Roger, be advised myself and Comanche are moving to that complex just north of Comanche's old pause, over.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: We meet the snipers lugging a long-range .50 caliber rifle. We make our way past fields of poppies and immediately take enemy fire.

Gentile: Is that incoming, sir?

SSgt. Steven Vallejo: Yes it is. That's incoming.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines respond with artillery and with the sniper rifle.

Marine 6: Hey, may I say sir, we got a tractor moving what appears to be mortar tubes at a 399 in mils [00:22:33], 950 yards.

Sniper: Yeah, I got it. Hey...

Marine 7: You got it.

SSgt. Steven Vallejo: You got them injured.

Marine 7: Hey, one man, KIA along the canal.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Just pause it. And Ann, what?

Ann: Did you have the sound recorded separately or with [inaudible 22:51]?



Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No. I'm using a Sony EX1. It's got a shotgun mic on it and everybody who I can possibly put my wireless onto, I wire them.

Ann: Ah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): And if I do not have people, you know, like the, some of these guys have, I don't have time to get them wired up or did the [00:23:03] my characters, my relationship with them is too fleeting, what I do is I put the thing in my own pocket and wire myself. So, I have two tracks of sound. Guaranteed, I'm going to have sound. One way or another, I'm going to get sound. Yeah.

Chad: This is probably coming from your boom that we're hearing, the explosions or is that from the...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

Chad: ...wireless mic?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No. That's from the, it's from the shotgun mic, some boom mic.

Chad: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): And I'm like, from this close to this guy.

Chad: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I'm, I can touch him. I'm really close. So, I get everything that he says.

Rhett: You have...[crosstalk]

Ann: The guy who gave the update that the tubes were being moved on the tractor, did you have a hand mike or was that from the...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No, I'm just so close to him and the shotgun mike is picking him up.

Rhett: Do you have a professional team or someone who sweetens the sound for you and kind of timestamp the video?

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Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No. No, they just did, I don't have them.

Rhett: Oh, really?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah, this is, I shot all this stuff and I went to New York with a hard drive and a script.

Rhett: So to you, the control of sound design and stuff to go over it and pump up the base and all that kind of stuff. But you know...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Well, sound is [crosstalk] I think of a little bit...

Rhett: —like somebody is hurt [00:24:03] and, you know...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I do not think...we call them that. It's not a post-production house.

Rhett: Oh.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's not like Heninger here in Virginia.

Rhett: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's a guy behind in that.

Rhett: Pretty sweet sound, really.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Sorry?

Rhett: That's a pretty sweet sound.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah. I mean, you know, the Sony EX1 captures incredible stuff... You know, my whole idea is to simplify everything that I do... Literally, I went to Afghanistan with a backpack and all my stuff in it. So, the computer was in there, hard drives were in there, the camera was in there, everything that I need to do my stuff was in there. You know, and I want to keep it that way, simple. When I start at adding things on and touching things, it just makes things more complex.

Chad: What kind of camera did you say it was?



Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Sony EX1. It's kind of a very, very high-end it is a computer with a lens on it, basically.

Ann: Also in current affairs, I think there is a point at which they would not go past in terms of post-production changing, you know?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

Ann : If, because even in sound you can change the editorial...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Sure.

Ann: ...events.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah. And they don't have time. I mean...

Ann: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know, I was up in New York for two weeks.

[Crosstalk]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I had 10 days to do this with the editor. I walked in with a script, the same thing that I'm trying to encourage you guys to do, you know, this is written, this is roadmap, put the script out on the table, you know, of the editor, the guy behind the Avid machine. Gave a treatment to the executive producer, the thing is written in story form...and I said, "Let's go." Then I was here for two weeks and we got this thing out. It's 23 minutes long. It's fast. Edit this thing, a 23-minute piece and two weeks is fast.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: It's a deadly guerilla war that goes on day and night.

Marine 8: Hey. Get back. What the heck are you doing down there?

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Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The next morning the Marines spot insurgents moving in on their position from this compound.

Marine on radio: Roger, [inaudible 00:25:50] they're going into.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Miller request air and artillery support.

Lt. Shean Miller: Black Knight Six, this is Apache Two.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: This is Miller's first deployment, which makes him a rookie. The 24-year-old is from Austin, Texas. He coordinates the 40 plus Marines in his platoon, as well as the air and artillery assault. Huey and Cobra helicopters initiate the attack.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): What's that sound?

Kalpana: A helicopter.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah? Is it the rotors? Yeah, is it what it is?

Rhett: No, I think it's a canon. It's a...

Chad: A machine gun.

Rhett: ...gatling gun, maybe.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's a gatling gun?

Rhett: I think.

Kalpana: What's it?

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: That's the sound of the rapid fire of machine guns strafing enemy positions.

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[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You see what the narration does?

Rhett: Yeah.

Chad: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Narration tells people what they're seeing.

Chad: Yeah.

Kalpana: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Sometimes, people do not know what they're seeing.

Chad: Yup.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): That's how useful this stuff is.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Miller must be sure that neither the artillery nor his Marines on the ground accidentally hit the helicopters overhead. Timing is critical.

Lt. Sean Miller: I'll tell you when to shoot, all right?
Three minutes, three minutes.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Rockets from the helicopters set the fields ablaze. The helicopters pull back and Miller orders ground fire.

Lt. Sean Miller: Hey, we got it. Fire. Get the tree line.

Marine 10: We're on...the tree line.

Lt. Sean Miller: Forty seconds. Forty seconds till air comes back around. Get ready to cease fire. All right, traverse the left, traverse the left.

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Right there. That's enough...All right, ceasefire.

Marine 11: Ceasefire, ceasefire!

Lt. Sean Miller: Ceasefire!

Lt. Sean Miller: All right, now we just—if we see ‘em move, we can kill them. The first shot they did, that place went up in flames. I don't know if it's just 'cause they're dry or they have something down there.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: And finally, more artillery.

Marine 12: Oh. I think they're pissed. What do you think?

Lt. Sean Miller: I think they're dead.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Why are they telling me this stuff? It started to blaze all along a tree line...[Crosstalk].

Kalpana: You had to ask him.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I just ask them. I said, "Lieutenant, what just happened?" So, he tells me this stuff. And see how this...

Chad: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Now, I get, I engage these guys. But you have to do this at strategic times. You can't, while all this stuff, this chaos is going on you just, "Hey, Lieutenant, tell me."

[Laughter]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know, he's like, "Get out of here, man."

Kalpana: He would say, "What are you saying? I am going to smack you."

Chad: Exactly.

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Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Worse, "you're out of here."

Kalpana: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know?

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Lt. Shean Miller: We started a blaze all along that tree line for about 200 meters. If there's anybody hiding in the tree line, they're either out because of the fire or they're dead because of the fires and explosion. So, for our purpose, that was a good day.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines now are in sight of the Amir Agha village and bazaar, the nucleus of insurgent activity.

Lt. Shean Miller: I don't think they're home. They can get across this.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: But before moving in, Alpha Company must first clear the surrounding area.

Capt. Sean Dynan: You don't move without a guardian angel, all right. All the time, make sure someone is covering your six, okay? It's going to be a maze in there. If you can, you know, peek over a wall before you enter in from an unexpected direction, do that as well.

Lt. Shean Miller: If it's okay with you, if we find ourselves right up against a bunker and there's any suspicion even if it's not firing we're going to throw grenade in it.

Capt. Sean Dynan: Absolutely.

Lt. Shean Miller: Okay.

Capt. Sean Dynan: But fires, Lieutenant, one and [inaudible 29:35].

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Lt. Sean Miller: Yeah, correct.

Capt. Sean Dynan: Good.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The temperature rises to about 120 degrees.

Lt. Sean Miller: Hey, hurry up...on the right. They'll probably leave a team over here and then we'll go and across to the next one. We just got to check if we can move across this way or back behind this building. All this has been cleared?

Marine 13: Everything behind has been cleared.

Lt. Sean Miller: Okay, everything's behind is clear.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines find a bunker that had been used to ambush one of their patrols just days before. One Marine was killed here.

Marine on radio 1: Hey, Roger, we're putting [inaudible 00:30:03].

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: These marines prepare to blow it up.

Lt. Sean Miller: Has this snaky compound, lot of locks. You can't get over unless you cross out that road which we don't want to do. So, it is going to be slow and, so far, no resistance, no sightings of booby traps or anything.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Neither resistance, nor civilians, the streets are deserted as the Marines continue their sweep.

[On Video: Marines are carefully sweeping the area of the insurgent]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: There may be no resistance but that doesn't mean there's no danger.

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Marine on radio 3: I'm trying the window right now on the second story, over.

Lt. Shean Miller: All right, roger that.

Marine on radio 3: Man standing, you want some orders here [00:30:39] out here.

Marine 15: Whoa, what's that right there?

[VIDEO PAUSED]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Did you hear that beep, beep you know like that?

Chad: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know, this guy is wearing, you get this sound that reads...

Chad: It sounds awful.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's intriguing.

Chad: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): But. So, he's got a pocket on his uniform right here. So, I've got my wireless in his pocket that's running under his bullet proof vest up here right by his throat where it's supposed to be. So, when he's talking to me at 15 to 22 feet away from me, I have perfect sound from him. When he is talking to this commander, Dynan, a guy with the bald head, I hear him when he's far away. And when Dynan talks to him because he has a receiver right here, I can hear what Dynan is saying three kilometers away.

So, I hear every, what everybody is saying and I can anticipate, you know, what I want to do as a result of hearing what these guys are saying. So, this sound is critical. Again, it's the heartbeat of what we do. It's the heartbeat of the documentary, of this kind of reportage, you know, and those, the wireless mics are just they're invaluable. But check this out here.

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[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Marine 15: Whoa, what's that right there?

Marine 16: Oh, that?

Marine 17: Oh, you mean the arty shell it's in there, right there?

Marine 16: Yeah, yeah.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines are too pressed...

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): So, how many of you guys were in the military? Anybody here in the military? No? How big is this thing? This artillery shell, how big is it? Leonard, do you have a sense? Is it this big? Is it...

Leonard: Bigger.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): This big?

[Crosstalk]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It's about that big? About that big? Yeah?

Kalpana: Like that big.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Remember a couple of days ago. It seems like a couple of weeks ago. We talked about pan shots and so forth.

Kalpana: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know, how it connects like one piece of material to another, in this case, a visual as opposed to a sweater. Yeah. So, what I do now is, this is a really simple movement.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: ...for time to determine whether this artillery round simply failed to explode or was wired to kill them.

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[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): It gives you some sense of context, some sense of scale. When to go from there, what I'm really doing here is I'm saying this thing here is really close to these guys there and by comparison it's about this big. It is about this big a round...I can't say..."

[Laughter]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): "...will you stand here next to this thing?" I can't do that. So, I have to like do a pan and connect them that way visually. It's like I'm using my camera as a finger pointing to this stuff. Yeah?

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Lt. Sean Miller: All right, we'll get our machine gun up here and then we just—that'll be the furthest where we'll go and we'll hold here...

Lt. Sean Miller: What's going on is we've cleared almost half a village already. We're just getting the machine gun in this little tower over here, the only two-story structure in Afghanistan. That way we can see deep. The squad is going to hold here 'cause we got pretty clear fields of fire for at least 100 meters.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Captain Sean Dynan has set up a command post on the edge of the Amir Agha village and bazaar.

Capt. Sean Dynan: They're going to be able to see us real good when the sun comes up.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: This sprawling bazaar is the prize of the operation and the Marines move out to the village that surrounds it.

[Marines charting the fields of wheat and poppies]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: On the right, fields of wheat; on the left, fields of dried poppies. This is the yin and yang of the Afghan farmers' existence. Opium yields more profit than wheat but it's

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illegal here. The Taliban has forced many farmers to cultivate opium so they can finance their insurgency. These poppies have been harvested. Farmers make slash marks on the bulbs which ooze a gooey sap. That substance is opium.

Five years ago, U.S. policy was to destroy these fields. Villagers were enraged. Now, the Marines leave the fields intact. They need the goodwill of the local population.

Everywhere the troops go, they find evidence that the villagers left in a tremendous hurry. Like this baby's crib, still with the mattress and blanket, and this tool used to collect the opium from poppy bulbs, bicycles, dishes, and house ware like this strainer apparently donated by the United States.

There's a break in the fighting and the Marines fall into the routine of life in the field. It's now safe enough to send the truckload of supplies to Dynan's forward command post including much needed water for the 200 Marines in Alpha Company. They are among the toughest of the American military. There's a mystique about the Marines, a tradition of achieving more with less and taking on the most dangerous adversaries.

Capt. Sean Dynan: ...special trust and confidence and fidelity abilities of Philip M. Pepper. I do appoint this Marine to Corporal, United States Marine Corps.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Today, Captain Dynan promotes one of his men in a ceremony right on the battlefield.

Cpl. Philip M. Pepper: Thank you, sir.

[Laughter]

Capt. Sean Dynan: Just like that.

[Other Marines congratulates the newly promoted Corporal]

Marine: *[SINGING] I once was lost, but now am found...*

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Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: These men have become family, bounded by one of the most formative experiences of their young lives.

In early morning light, I move out with 4th Platoon to clear the bazaar. It's the last step of the military operation before they can start making peace, and it could be the most dangerous. The Taliban have controlled this bazaar for two years and they've had plenty of time to set up defensive positions and to wire it with traps and explosives.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Something really, really important happened here behind the screen; not just in front of the screen, but behind the screen. Structurally, something changed. What is it? What is it? Chad, what do you think? And this is what narration allows you to do.

Chad: You mean, that they're becoming a cohesive unit and a family, all that stuff.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No.

Chad: No?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Not really.

Rhett: Transitions to kind of from the end of the military operation to the beginning of, you know...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): We're almost there.

Rhett: ...talking to the villagers.

Kalpana: Civilians.

Rhett: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): The bazaar is the last part of the military operation. But something else happened. Listen to this.

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[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: In early morning light, I move out with 4th platoon to clear the bazaar. It's the last step of the military operation before they can start making peace, and it could be the most dangerous. The Taliban have controlled this bazaar for two years and they've had plenty of time to set up defensive positions and to wire it with traps and explosives.

[Video paused]

Chad: Dramatic arc. They got something to overcome now, this last, you know, mission.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

Rhett: Oh, between the arc, I guess.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah. So, the question is I am asking the audience is what.

Karen: Are they going to give it a clear? Are they going to make it? Is it going to make, do they have any losses?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Are they are going to get hurt?

Karen: Yeah.

Kalpana: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah. So, we have a new dramatic arc and you can't do this without narration, you know?

Chad: Right.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You can, in the sense maybe, just by the visuals because it looks like it's morning. But you know, but with the narration, it really allows you to do build some tension in here and no one is going to run to the refrigerator for a beer until they figure out that these guys are going to get close [00:37:37].

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Chad: But you say they got to go through this before they get a chance to make peace.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Exactly, exactly. So, it's like, a dual dramatic arc, isn't it?

Chad: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Okay? So, we'll watch this thing and probably, what do you think? We're going to end this dramatic arc quickly or we're going to we'll drag it out?

Kalpana: Drag it out.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You think?

Kalpana: I think drag it out because you need people want to know if they...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I know. Well, I'll show you the end of it.

Chad: I will go through it. I am going to get, go to it quickly. I'm going to [Crosstalk].

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Go to it quickly.

Karen: But it's now a five-week type of you know...

Chad: We want to know.

Kalpana: No, to the end of it [crosstalk]

Karen: More battle right here.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Okay, let's see watch and see what happens.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines are covered by attack helicopters. The streets are empty and it's slow-going. One Marine uses a metal detector for improvised explosive devices or

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IEDs that are so infamous and so deadly in Iraq. Now, insurgents are using them here.

The Marines move door to door blowing the locks off stalls. Captain Dynan oversees the operation. For Sean Dynan, commanding a company of Marines is a dream come true. Dynan is fourth generation military of this Irish family, which claims four purple hearts since World War II. He was raised just outside of Boston and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Dynan has been a Marine for 10 years. This is his fourth deployment, the most recent in Ramadi, Iraq. So, he knows something about rough neighborhoods.

Lt. Jack Treptow: We got something that could be nothing but I don't want to take a chance.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Lieutenant Jack Treptow and 4th Platoon come across a padlocked freezer.

Lt. Jack Treptow: Right there, we have an industrial-sized refrigerator that has two sets of wires running out of it.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: He suspects the red flag just across the street signifies a trap. Like Dynan, Treptow and many of these Marines already have served in Iraq and they know how deadly these innocent-looking things can be.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Do you see how I used the camera lens to point? I'm saying that red flag and I have to see it is right across the street here, man, you know. So, I, you know, I zoom up to it. I open up work across the street and I go in to the refrigerator, to the freezer. And that is what the camera allows you to do. It's just like pointing your finger. You're connecting these things, these pieces of visual information.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: They used a remote-controlled robot to examine the freezer close up, and explosives to blow the lock and chain off the freezer door. This time, it's only soft drinks.

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Marine 22: Harmless. All right.

Marine 23: Let's take a look.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The platoon takes a smoke break and Lieutenant Treptow brings them up to date.

Lt. Jack Treptow: I know we're not finding a lot on the way up but believe me this clearance is going to get a ton of s*** out of the bazaar.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: And it does. Mortars already wired as roadside bombs, rocket propelled grenades, ammunition and weapons. The bazaar is clear. The combat part of the mission has been accomplished. But what comes next is just as tough. The Marines need to win the trust of the locals who have been living in a battle zone for years. They reach out to civilians.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You see how this language works. You know, we're going to another part of the piece now. So, I showed these vehicles. It has nothing, I mean, really nothing to do with it but we're seeing motion. We're seeing people move from one of place to another physically. So, we're now moving from one place of the documentary, as well. You have one place to another realm.

Ann: And the guy is kind of resting, you know, you had a nice portrait of the guy with a helmet.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Uh-hmm, uh-hmm.

Ann: ...kind of looking tired.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah. It's like there's a transition here and I'm using the visuals to say that and complementing the visuals with the narration.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

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Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: ...who had taken refuge in the nearby desert. Still warriors, the Marines now are diplomats.

Marine 24: *[Speaking in Afghan language].*

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Exiled during the fighting, the civilians are eager to return home.

Marine 24: Salaam alaikum.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: But not all the civilians are happy. Said Gul, a farmer, tells the Marines his home has been damaged by American bombs and artillery.

Marine 24: I apologize for my Marines.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Said urges the Marines to come to his home and see the damage and ask them to pay for it.

Marine 24: Do you need anything right now that we can help you with?

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: All of these men want something. This man says a wound on his son's chest is infected and the boy needs help. Others asked the Marines for help with irrigation.

Marine 24: How many gallons of oil we can give him?

Marine 25: Tell him eight.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines decided to hand over diesel which fuels the water pumps. The men said they had not used the pumps and their crops had not been watered during the past 40 days because they had evacuated the area. Said Gul is here to press his case for help. He's a respected land owner, 38 years old, married with 12 children. He says his house is just across the canal. He cultivates wheat and poppies and has a small clothing shop in the bazaar. He offers up this bag of opium in return for help. The Marines decline his offer.

Marine 24: All six rooms there just, they collapsed.

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Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Said is not optimistic that he will get help and his words indicate how difficult the Marines' mission will be. A civilian interpreter translates his comments.

Said Gul: The Americans came here telling us that they're going to help us—they're going to build things, but these are all tricks, the same tricks that the Russian played. They came as a friend, telling us that they are going to help us. But then they started killing us, murdering people around. So basically, we don't trust them anymore, the foreigners.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Said Gul speaks for the many of the villagers caught in the middle of a war that never seems to end.

Said Gul: We are the people in the middle and what we do is we try to just follow the religion of Islam, live our life.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Alpha Company's compound is now a small fortress protected against attack.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): When Said Gul appears, when he first confronts the Marines and says he wants money for his damaged house. You know, I see this guy emerge and I know that this guy is what, he becomes what?

Anne: A character, uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): He becomes a character. He becomes the embodiment. He becomes the Afghan side of the conflict as opposed to just doing a story about the Marines. You know, we're talking about, because the controlling idea is it's a military operation and we just went through that, right, with the bazaar. But it's also a political mission. This is the whole key to counter insurgency, you know, the masses. So when he comes up, you know, this guy to me becomes, you know, one of the main characters in the piece who represents that other component of this dual mission.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]



Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: ...attacker and suicide bombers.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Sorry. So, I just can't be satisfied with, over that first conversation of him. I looked for this guy. Every time I see him, I shoot him no matter where he is. I tried to get other people to talk about him. I'm talking to, you know, to the commanders about him because I know that I have. I see this dramatic arc emerge and I know that I have to cultivate this dramatic arc primarily with visuals and also with narration to make this thing clear. Okay? I can't, I just can't be satisfied shooting him a little bit when I first see him and then letting him go. So, I'm very, very actively, you know, looking for this guy everywhere I go.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Four days after our encounter—

[Video paused]

Rhett: How did they react?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Sorry?

Rhett: How did they react to the camera? Do they resent?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No. This guy?

Rhett: Or you just stand off and you just had to photo a lot?

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): No, no. I'm, right up, I'm right with him. I got...him rolling on camera released [00:45:59] from him.

Rhett: Oh, great.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I told him exactly what we're doing. Yeah. Through the interpreter, I said, "You know, this is going to be for American television."

Rhett: Okay.

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Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): "It will be for this thing called 'the Internet.'"

Rhett: Wow.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): He understood that, you know.

Rhett: Okay, yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

[VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: ...days after our encounter at the canal. Said Gul meets at the command post with civil affairs officers. He wants money for the damage to his home.

Civil Affairs Officer: Well, what does he think it would cost to rebuild that house?

Said Gul: I said, no, it's not something. I just told you what it cost and...

Civil Affairs Officer: Now, unfortunately, I don't have all the money. I don't have money with me enough to pay for this type of damage, you know.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Said Gul won't get any money today.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The Marines must win the trust of the villagers but they must also overcome their fear. These villagers lead the Marines to a dead man whose throat was slit, they said, by the Taliban. They say it's a warning not to cooperate with the Americans. They buried him where they found him.

That same night, Captain Dynan coaches his Marines on how their mission has changed.



Capt. Sean Dynan: In the last 24 to 48 hours, our area has changed significantly.

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): That's my wireless mic.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Capt. Sean Dynan: It's gone from us taking fire on a...

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): That's why I had clear sound of this guy giving this speech at night.

[Cont...VIDEO: Afghanistan, The Forgotten War]

Capt. Sean Dynan: ...on a morning and evening basis...to zero contact and locals flooding back into the area.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: It's a different kind of battle now.

Capt. Sean Dynan: We have locals in the area. It's going to be a little bit tougher now, all right? You treating them, treating a human being like a human being is going to make a huge difference.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Dynan hosts a shurra, or meeting of local elders. He understands the importance of these traditional gatherings and he wants to forge ties with the locals as soon as possible.

Capt. Sean Dynan: Salaam alaikum.

Villager: [Inaudible 47:45].



Capt. Sean Dynan: When we give a party we go all out. You know, we don't go halfway.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Because this area was occupied by the Taliban, this is the first shurra these men have attended in three years. This is what the Marines call the "center of gravity." These are the hearts and minds that must be won to defeat the Taliban. The Marines describe their strategy as a clear, hold and build but without the support of the villagers, there can be no "hold" and there can be no "build."

In attendance are the district governor and chief of police and not surprisingly, Said Gul.

Capt. Sean Dynan: I'm honored to be sitting amongst you right now. I know that I'm, myself and my Marines are just another face after 30 years of different people coming through this area. But what I have told my Marines is that the question that they have to answer to you all is that how are we different. I know that all of you just want to live your lives and that you don't want us to interfere with what you're doing on a daily basis and it is our intention to help and to protect you.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: The day after the shurra, civilians returned en mass to their homes and their livelihoods. Shepherds return with their livestock to the canals, shop owners return to the bazaar, and the police reestablished their presence for the first time in two years. And you know things have changed when the kids show up. I give these little guys a look at themselves through my camera's viewing screen. It's peaceful here now. But Dynan understands that this is nearly the end of the beginning. During the last days of my visit, Captain Dynan took me to Said Gul's compound. That's it, in the background.

Capt. Sean Dynan: Wait for them to come out to us. We have to be invited in.

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Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: It's surrounded by poppies and marijuana plants.

Capt. Sean Dynan: Salaam alaikum.

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Said apparently has been napping. Even the locals have trouble with the afternoon heat.

Capt. Sean Dynan: I understand there was some damage to your compound?

Narrator [Prof. Bill Gentile]: Dynan gets a first-hand look at damaged cost at Said Gul's house during the Marines' battles with the Taliban. About a month after this encounter, I got word that the Marines had paid Said Gul half the money he wanted to repair his home and the rest was on its way. These Marines may yet win over Said Gul and the other locals here but there had been setbacks in other parts of the country.

Just this week, Taliban rebels nearly overran a U.S. military outpost in Kunar province, killing nine American servicemen and forcing others to retreat. The Pentagon agrees on the need for more troops here. In fact, earlier this year, the Marine Corps proposed to make Afghanistan not Iraq its primary mission.

The Defense Department said no and has decided that new troops can't be sent here until more are withdrawn from Iraq. The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit has made headway in this valley. But to expand this effort across Afghanistan will be a major challenge for America's next president. As for these Marines, their tour of duty has just been extended until November.

David Brancaccio: Bill Gentile was embedded for nearly three...

[Rock Music].

[Video paused]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You know, cheesy ending there with the soccer ball, don't you think?

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[CHUCKLE]

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): They can't resist, you know, Hollywoodizing some of this stuff, you know. What are you going to do?

Chad: I like it.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Can you do this thing without narration?

Karen: No.

Ann: No.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I don't think you can. I mean...

Chad: Uh-huh.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): You can let this stuff breath...

Rhett: You can like...

Ann: Not that long.

Karen: But especially when they describe that you're embedded with them.

Chad: Yeah.

Karen: So, you almost...become part of the story.

Chad: Yeah.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah

Karen: ...as well.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

Karen: And you made yourself, you know. You showed kids to view themselves...

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): Yeah.

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Karen: ...with the viewfinder.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): I'm trying to get you guys engaged as an audience, you know. And I think it's okay, a limited presence, you know, a vocal presence but I don't want you to see me, you know. I have no business being there. But I think, you know, my vocal presence makes you feel like more like you were there.

Karen: Uh-hmm.

Speaker (Prof. Bill Gentile): But I can't develop this sharp dimension of...this piece without narration. I mean, you can watch the thing for an hour, you know, but it's not going to, I can build up a tension. I can't point out what's really happening without using my own words. And again, I like using my own words because I like to write and I like this thing to have my official stamp which is my voice on it, you know, throughout.

[End]