FADE IN ON DESERTED BEALLSVILLE STREET WITH EMPTY CHAIR IN FOREGROUND

PAN FROM DESERTED SERVICE STATION TO EMPTY BEALLSVILLE MAIN STREET

FRONT OF DELAPIDATED FRAME BUILDING ON MAIN STREET

CAT RUNNING ACROSS ROAD WITH MOUSE IN MOUTH & UNDER CAR

DESERTED SCHOOL CORRIDOR AND PAN SHOT OF EMPTY CHEMISTRY LAB

SLOW DISSOLVE TO

DESERTED POOLROOM BEHIND JACQUELINE'S CAFE

FADE IN NATURAL SOUND-BIRDS & CRICKETS/B.G.

C SOUND FULL, EARL PITTMAN

Used to be you go up to this town of Beallsville, why.... see lots of people up there on Saturday nights.

Now then it's.......might as well say a ghost town.

Hardly see nobody on the streets.

Umm...they just took all the good boys away from town

I guess.........out of the community.

Hardly any young boys around here no more.

CROSSFADE IN B.G. TO SOUND EFFECT-POOLGAME

C SOUND FULL, BEN GRAMLICH

When I first opened this thing up, it was nothin' t'have all four tables a'goin' at one time, and a matter a fact, they had to stand in line to get to them see.

It was that many young boys in the community.

They'd come from all over this school area you know... in here....and especially at nights...and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, why it was just like a mad-house you know. It was really, really something.

But that all come to a creechin' halt right quick.
I can remember right after Jack's funeral this one man said that someone said "Well maybe that's gonna be it," and this one man said "It's not over yet." And now there's been five. He was the first one. And he said "It's not over yet." Now it's five.

They were not unique, nor was their sacrifice.

They went to war... because their fathers and their fathers' fathers before them had gone to war... and because it was their duty... and in doing so, they died.

To a nation numbed by the weekly, three-digit death toll in Vietnam, their deaths have scant significance, but for the four-hundred and fifty inhabitants of Beallsville, Ohio, the burden of their loss cannot be measured.

To understand the agony of Beallsville... to feel the acute conflict between its sense of Patriotism and its sense of pain...
to hear of the hopes and fears and sacrifices of five young men,
and to look into the faces of their families and friends,
is to recognize the universal tragedy of war, and the universal triumph of the human spirit.

C SOUND FULL, EARL PITTMAN
Wanted him to join the reserves, but he wouldn't do that. He wanted to go and get it over with.
He just told his mother not to worry. He'd be back.
He liked it here. Liked to work in the orchard too.
He was gonna help me, and he was figurin' on building a house on the place here when he come back.
But that had t'all fall through with.
It was a big shock I'll tell ya.
Only son.............only child we had.

A SOF FULL, TERRY HICKMAN
Rick's brother Randy and myself and Jack were the three from the county that left for the service the same day, and Randy and I didn't seem to be too leary about it. We kind of felt it might be a new experience.
Jack....he never said much going up there or back down at Fort Jackson, but before he was ever assigned, he
felt he'd probably go to 'Nam,' you know.

B SOUND, TERRY HICKMAN, FULL

He was just awful leary and tight about it. He was all tense inside, and after about a week or so he sort of suspicioned that he'd end up there and never make it back, before I'd left and gone on to Fort Gordon.

But I can remember getting a letter from my wife. It was real thick and I opened it up and there it was in headlines.

Well I cried the whole time I read it and...it tore me up. I couldn't make the funeral or anything.

But then when the Greenley boy it was...what...about a month or so after that he got killed? I got another letter and before I even opened it, I suspicioned what it was. And I opened it up and it was Duane...which is another younger kid...worked his way up to what he had and what he had got to.

B SOF FULL, LONNIE DECKER

It was quite a shock for me to get both these letters right at the same time, you know. I mean, pretty close to each other because, I mean...all of us were in infantry over there. I mean...we were all on operations about the same time and the fighting was pretty thick. And after those two, I didn't know what was gonna happen to me.

I really got scared after a while.
Like Richard Rucker said.... he was so scared over there that he knew when he was gonna get it.

He said he didn't want me to take him to the plane when he went to Fort Lewis, Washington. He flew from Columbus, Ohio and he said if I took him, he might not get on the plane, 'cause he didn't want to go.

But he did.

A lot of battles he did, but you fight so many battles continuously and it's bound to happen sooner or later. You're just not going to go through them all. It's something that's impossible. There was no chance.... the odds were so very great.

He wanted to get out of the field some way: said his luck was running out. He'd had too many close calls and he just had to get out of the field to live. But they wouldn't give him no consideration. He just kept on fighting.

He fought to survive. That seems to be more than I can see than anything else.... patriotism.

But he fought to live.... and he didn't make it.
He would have been 21 years old on the 28th of September.

He died on Memorial Day.

I was very proud of the boy and very close to him.

It's the best thing in life I've ever had.

He was a very good boy and a very clean boy. He didn't smoke or drink or anything, and he led a very clean life.

You could trust him with anything, anywhere.

He was just a country boy. (FADE IN NATURAL SOUND, CRICKETS, B.G.)

He loved Beallsville. There was no place in the world like it.

He always called this "the world." He says..."I'm coming back to the world."

He did all he could to live......and couldn't.

FADE SOUND OUT WITH PIX

COMMERCIAL POSITION

(END OF SEGMENT A)
FADE IN ON NIGHT BASEBALL GAME BETWEEN BEALLSVILLE MOTHERS AND LITTLE-LEAGUERS

Dissolve to:
PEOPLE STANDING AROUND OUTSIDE BEALLSVILLE POST-OFFICE, TALKING

MAN COMING OUT OF POST-OFFICE, OPENING LETTER AT CORNER AND READING IT

WIDE SHOT OF FRAME HOUSE ON BEALLSVILLE SIDE STREET AND CUT TO BICYCLE LEANING AGAINST STEPS OF FRONT PORCH

FOOTBALL TEAM DRILLING ON FIELD WITH CEMETARY IN BACKGROUND

(SEgment B)

FADE IN C SOUND (BASEBALL GAME) FULL

FADE C SOUND B.G., FOR,
B SOF FULL, TERRY HICKMAN
In the bigger city, you may live by your neighbor for twenty years and you never know him, you know. Or you may never see him. Well, that's not here. (SOUND OUT B)

CROSSFADE IN B.G., FROM SOUND OF BASEBALL GAME TO CONVERSATION ON MAIN STREET
We're sort of like...I guess you would call it one big family. We...you know...we know one another. We get acquainted with one another, and people are friendly in this district. And when anything happens to somebody or family...why...you know...it kind of hurts you too, because you feel so well acquainted with them.

CROSSFADE IN B.G., TO OUTDOOR SOUND
A SOF FULL, TERRY HICKMAN
But when this Lucas boy got killed it was more of a tragedy than the rest of them in my opinion, because he had brothers and sisters that were still in school, you know, and this affected more people through these children.

CROSSFADE IN B.G., TO SOUND EFFECT, MUFFLED DRUMS
It's just killing off the best boys in the country and it's a restricted war. They won't let them win the war and come home. It seems to me like we're involved in this to be prolonged and just keep it goin' and goin' and goin'.

Then they talk about this is America's finest hour; even told the veterans in Vietnam that. This has been said to them. And where in the world a man would come up with something to make a statement like that, I'll never know. I just don't believe that. But it was made. I heard it. (SNIFF)

I just let one day take care of the next I guess, and go from day to day. That's the way I feel about it. I told her the other night..."What have we got to work fer anyway? Kill ourselves workin' and what? Nothin' fer it. Don't get nothin' out of it.

He was just everything we had....that's all.
My wife... it's worse on her yet I believe.

She really took it hard.

MAEGENE PITTMAN

They say time heals, but it's been three years, and it seems like it happened yesterday.

When you lose your only child, you lose everything you got.

If I had it to do over again.... if I had known at the time that they were going to bring him back like they did, they'd a taken him over my dead body. He'd a never went 'Cause you're left... we're just left without nothing.

He's the only thing we had to live for.

I mean.... you live for your grandchildren. You live for your children. And when you get our age, why you mostly look forward to grandchildren, which we know we're never gonna have.

MUFFLED DRUMS CONTINUE B.G.

I can't see where this war's accomplishing anything. It's only made heartaches here in this household.

But what can you do about it? You're just a small person..... from a small town.

MUFFLED DRUMS CONTINUE B.G.
C SOUND FULL, NARRATION

There is nothing anyone can do.

It has always been that way.

It will always be that way....so long as there are wars, and the need for men to fight them.

In Beallsville, and in the cemeteries of every city, town and village across America, the ironies of War and the sad coincidences of time are written in flesh, and grief, and stone.

MUFFLED DRUM SOUND EFFECT OUT

C SOUND FULL (JONI MITCHELL - "THE FIDDLE & THE DRUM"

And so once again

America my friend

And so once again

You are fighting us all

And when we ask you why

You raise your sticks and cry, and we fall

Oh, my friend

How did you come

To trade the fiddle for the drum?

You say we have turned

Like the enemies you've earned

But we can remember

All the good things you are

And so we ask you please
Can we help you find the peace, and the star

Oh my friend

We have all come

To fear the beating of your drum.

FADE SOUND OUT WITH PIX

COMMERCIAL POSITION

(END OF SEGMENT B)
(SEGMENT C)

FADE IN ON

BEN GRAMLICH ON CAMERA

(MATTE SLIDE, BEN GRAMLICH, MAYOR-BEALLSVILLE)

DISSOLVE TO:

BEALLSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM RUNNING
PRACTICE PLAYS

A SOF FULL, BEN GRAMLICH

Even after all these boys have lost their lives, I still
don't think there's one boy out of fifty would actually
do anything to get out. That'd be about the ratio I'd say.
If there's one boy got out of it, the other forty-nine
would probably go willingly.

NATURAL SOUND - (FOOTBALL PRACTICE) FULL
BRIEFLY

There's been people here interviewing boys several
times, and I never heard one of them yet say he wasn't
ready to go.

Like you see demonstrations...burning draft cards and
this: guys with long hair and all of that: we just don't
have them kind of boys here.

CUT TO:

VIETNAM COMBAT FOOTAGE

A SOF FULL, YOUNG VETERANS

LONNIE DECKER

We got to be there. I really feel that. I feel that we
have to be there. (NATURAL SOUND OUT)
DANNY KUHN
Well, I haven't been there. I haven't seen the country, but from what I've heard, we've got to be there.

ROGER McLELLAND
There's lots of people criticizing.

LONNIE DECKER
I didn't want to be there... just like anybody else. I was just like any other guy. I don't want to go. But I have to go. Even when I was over, there was a reason to be there. And I figure we got to stop them someplace. We might as well fight them right now.

A SOF FULL, TERRY HICKMAN
Like John F. Kennedy said when... Let's see... well... "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." After I was there for a while that... that's the way I kind of dawned on it. About the only thing you can do is pay taxes. And serving your country for two years is very little to ask in my opinion. And that's just the way I felt about it. And for these guys that run to school to get away from it, I... like I said before, I kind of frown on them.

SNEAK B.G. SOUND (ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATERS, CHANTING)
CONTINUE WITH SHOTS
OF ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATORS
AT RALLY

AMERICAN FLAG BEING BURNED
IN CENTRAL PARK, FOLLOWED
BY FLAGPOLE TOPPLING OVER

CUT TO:
AMERICAN FLAG FLUTTERING
AND TILT DOWN TO BEALLSVILLE
SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

FADE SLOWLY TO BLACK

FADE IN ON,
OLD WOMAN WALKING DOWN
STREET IN BEALLSVILLE,
FOLLOWED BY SHOTS OF CHILD-
REN PLAYING IN STREETS AND
CLIMBING TREES

C SOUND FULL, TERRY HICKMAN
They run around with long hair and they wear an Army
fatigue jacket or a pair of pants... something that's
supposed to symbolize a soldier which stands for nothing
that's "out," except outstanding. And defending his
country just like his forefathers did. And he puts that
on with no intention of doing anything. All he's doing is
mocking the soldier in the first place.

C SOUND FULL, CONTINUES, TERRY HICKMAN
With all this protest that's going on now, my feeling is
that as long as it goes on, there's not much chance of the
war in Vietnam ending. As long as there's people over
here that don't agree with the policy that's going on, you
know. And it hurts. And there's a lot of good men dying
for them guys out there in their long hair.

C SOUND FULL (BIRDS)
FADE C SOUND OUT

FADE IN MUSIC - (MASON WILLIAMS - "LA CHANSON
DE CLAUDINE, B.G.)

C SOUND FULL, NARRATION
The aftermath of war carries with it, a quiet eloquence
....a simple wisdom:
that those who return....and those who remain....must
live their lives in a way that will affirm the sacrifice
of others.
The unfulfilled promise of the dead: their dreams and aspirations for the future of their communities and their country, is the legacy of the living.

In Beallsville, the commitment to begin building a world in which the perpetuation and flowering of life is as certain as its grief, has already begun.

B SOUND FULL, TERRY HICKMAN (MUSIC CONTINUES B.G.)

There was never nothing to do in this town, and Jean Wilson was the one that brought it up and we agreed that it was time that maybe...since all this happened...it was time to do something for these kids now, you know, before they left. Because like I told them up there.... that this town's been the same way for the past twenty years as I can remember it, and the only good thing that a child ever had in this town was a good school and a lot of people that respected you, and in my feeling, that's not enough. And now that I'm married and living here...I've got kids of my own...and I want them to have a little better too. But we haven't got anything. And now we're hoping to work toward a youth center, whether we can come through with anything or not. We lack the money to go ahead.

A SOUND FULL, TERRY HICKMAN

But it makes you feel bad about these things like that, you know: not getting them anything, and then you lose
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DISSOLVE TO BOB LUCAS' GRAVE IN BEALLSVILLE CEMETARY

MUSIC FULL BRIEFLY
FADE MUSIC OUT WITH PIX
FADE NATURAL SOUND - BIRDS CHIRPING, B.G.

C SOUND FULL, TERRY HICKMAN

Bob's funeral was the largest one ever held here.

It must have been about 800 people here and we---

All of us guys that knew him real well... we all attended but everything closed in town while it went on, you know

It was a real sad occurrence. I don't care to ever see it happen again.

I know we talked about our park and things like this... getting money... how we could raise it, you know, from a newspaper reporter that was in, and he said that if something ever happens again, maybe you'll get results, you know. Well, we said at the committee meeting then...

... if it's got to happen that way... we don't want anything. But this one guy made that remark: that the only way anything happens is to keep ringing a bell. So if it's got to happen that way... we don't want it. Definitely don't. I don't care to see any more go. FADE SOUND OUT WITH PIX

FADE IN SOUND OF MUFFLED DRUMS, B.G.
FADE IN ON,
DANNY KUHN LOADING

CUT TO OLD WOMAN
SWINGING BACK AND FORTH ON FRONT PORCH SWING,
WATCHING

DANNY KUHN'S CAR DRIVING AWAY DOWN MAIN STREET AND PAN BACK THROUGH TREES TO EMPTY STREET

CHILDREN CARRYING BIBLES ON WAY TO CHURCH

FAMILIES WALKING UP STEPS AND INTO CHURCH

DISSOLVE TO:
OUT OF FOCUS SUN-BLUR & FOCUS IN ON STRONGLY BACKLIT SHOT OF BOY IN PROFILE

CONTINUE WITH SLOW MOTION FOOTAGE OF BOY WALKING AND RUNNING THROUGH FOREST, IN AND OUT OF SHADOWED AREAS, SWINGING STICK IN RHYTHM OF MUSIC

A SOF FULL (NARRATION)
On the morning of August 17th, Private first-class Daniel Kuhn, aged twenty, drove west through Beallsville, past the cemetery where four of his classmates lay buried, bound for a twelve-month tour of duty in Vietnam.

A SOUND FULL, DANNY KUHN (MUFFLED DRUMS CONTINUE B.G.)

I felt like I should go in the service because my Dad's dad was in World War One...my Dad was in World War Two, and...I don't know...it just...You feel like you should go because your dads was there.

A SOUND FULL, NARRATION MUFFLED DRUMS CONTINUE B.G.

It was nine thirty on a Sunday morning.

The war in Vietnam went on.

The people of Beallsville were on their way to church.

FADE SOUND OF MUFFLED DRUMS OUT

C SOUND FULL (SCOTT WALKER - VOCAL - "SONS OF...................")

Sons of the thief, sons of the saint

Who is the child with no complaint

Sons of the great or sons unknown

All were children like your own

The same sweet smiles, the same sad tears

The cries at night, the nightmare fears
Sons of the great or sons unknown
All were children like your own.
So long ago

Long, long ago

But sons of tycoons, or sons of the farms
All of the children ran from your arms
Through fields of gold, through fields of gloom
All of the children vanished too soon
In towering waves, in walls of flesh
Among dying birds, trembling with death
Sons of tycoons or sons of the farms
All of the children ran from your arms
So long ago

Long, long ago

And sons of your sons or sons passing by
Children we've lost in lullabies
Sons of true love or sons of regret
All of the children you cannot forget
Some build a road, some row the boats
Some go to war, some never come home
Sons of your sons or sons passing by
Children we've lost in lullabies
So long ago

Long, long ago

Sons of the thief, sons of the saint
Who is the child with no complaint
BOY WALKING SLOWLY
THROUGH SHADOWED AREA
OF FOREST, SLOWLY SWINGING
STICK BACK AND FORTH

CUT HARD TO:
CLOSEUP OF DEAD SOLDIER,
LYING ON BACK IN MUD

BEGIN SLOW FADE TO BLACK

Sons of the great or sons unknown
All were children like your own
The same sweet smiles, the same sad tears
The cries at night, the nightmare fears
Sons of the great or sons unknown
All the children like your own

INSTRUMENTAL TO END
SILENCE