



Red Flag – a stage play

Concept Board / Exposition

Personal statement...

“14th of June 2018, ‘factual’ reports emerged from the media of Australian soldiers flying a Nazi Swastika on top of their re-con vehicle in Afghanistan. I was immediately inspired – not just because it was controversial or (stupidly) bold or even so newsworthy especially since it occurred among our own – those who are there to protect us. No, it raised a question which then haunted me for 5 years afterwards until I began writing the draft of the play “Red Flag” - was it an act of parody? And if so, what is the state of play with ‘satire’ and where is it leading us ideologically? Even though it happened all the way back in 2007, I was left thinking that there is every possibility something crazy is emerging – a societal paroxysm...inspiring me to write this full-length stage play”

More background here >>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-14/photo-shows-nazi-flag-flown-over-australian-army-vehicle/9859618>



Inspired core image of my (ideological) Ouroboros...



Down the Escher staircase! Resources...

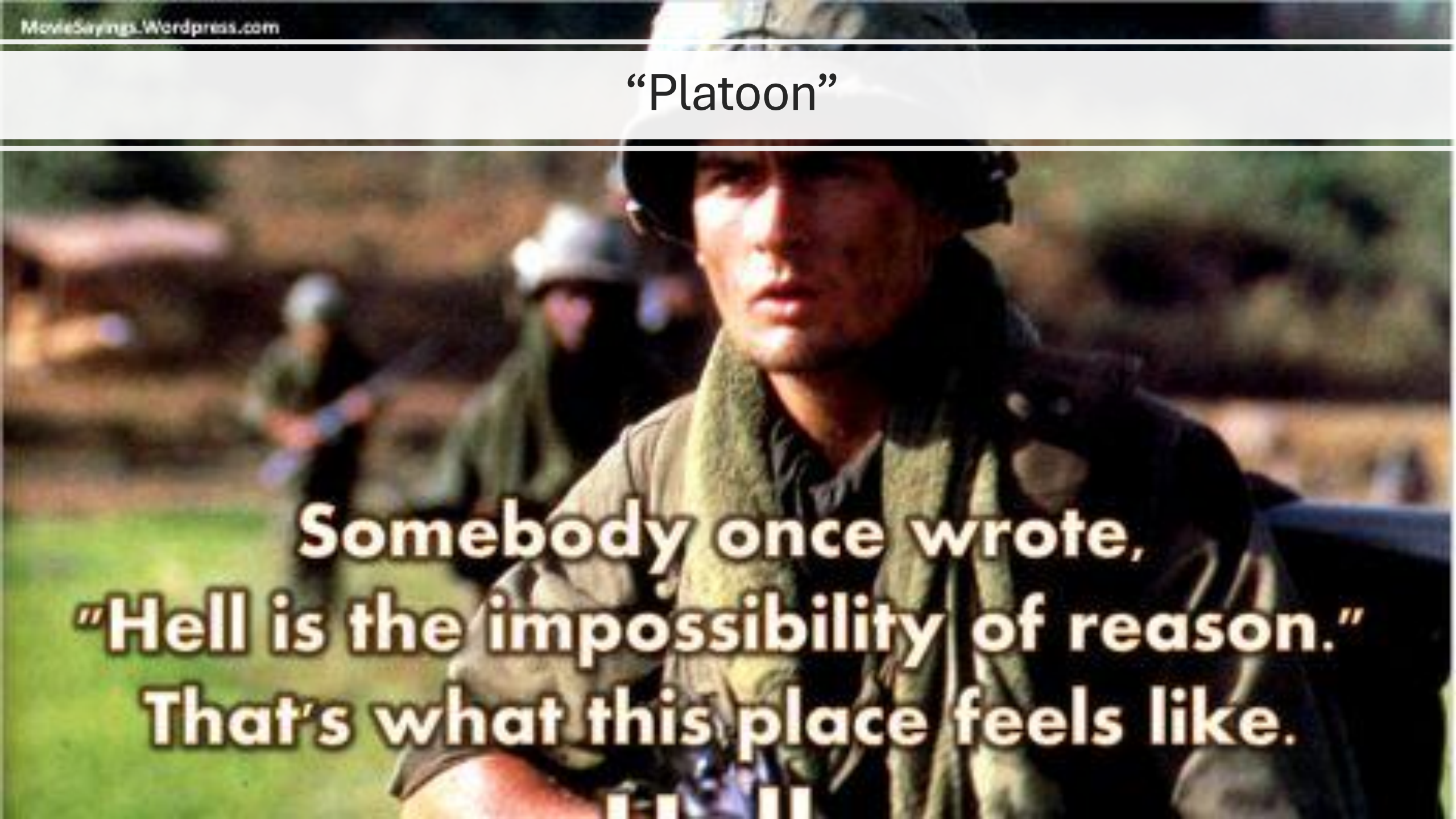


<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-01/ben-roberts-smith-war-crimes-established-in-federal-court/102422952>

Ben Roberts Smith:
War Hero or Criminal?
Is it possible to be both?

What war texts set
“tone”?

“Platoon”



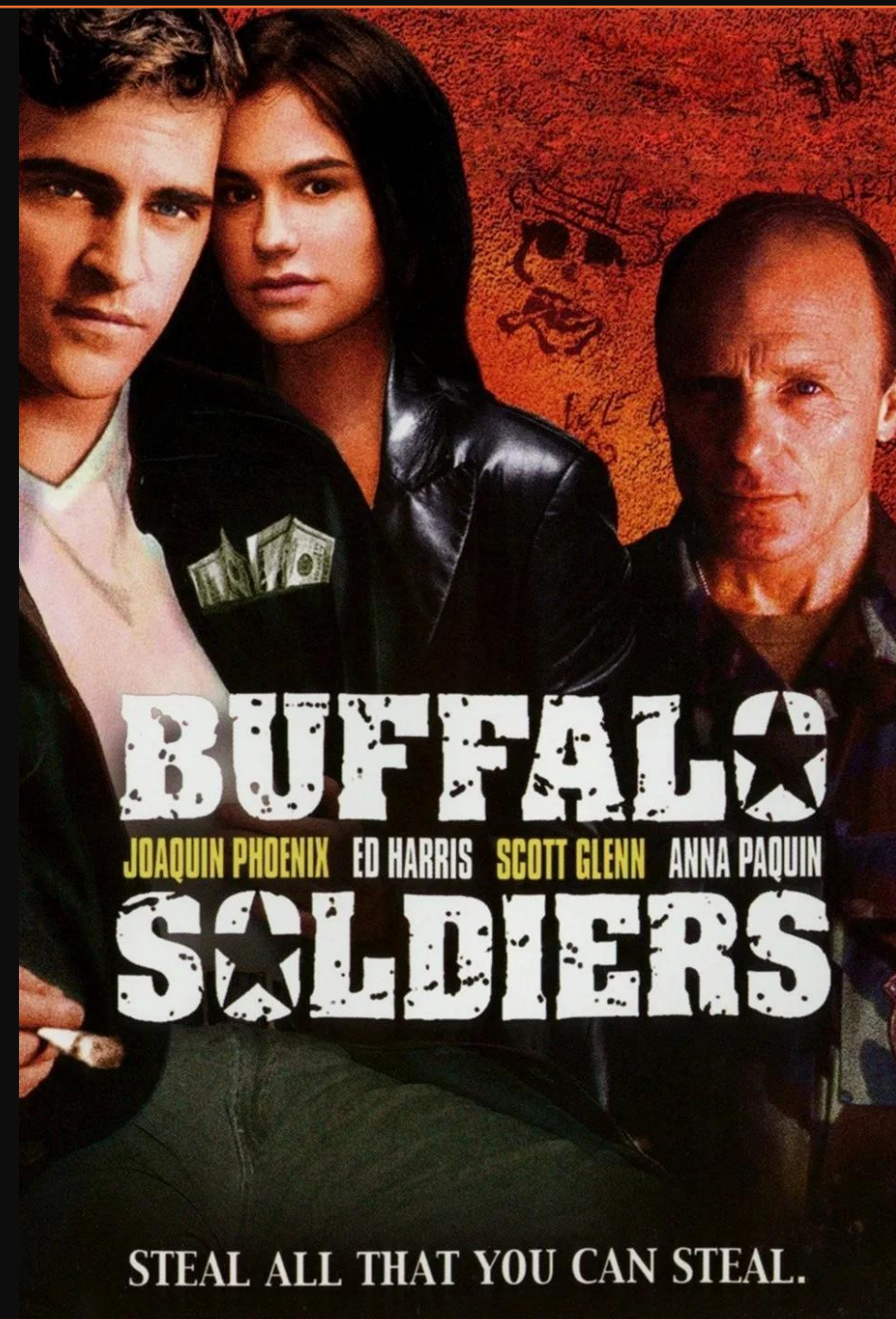
**Somebody once wrote,
“Hell is the impossibility of reason.”
That’s what this place feels like.**

GENERATION KILL



Boredom and rebellion...

Angst and
subversion...



...and why
not? The
final spice
on the rack



Red Flag Synopsis:

A play by Rohan Everingham, ©2025.

How is it that a Nazi flag ever got to fly on top of an Abraham tank in the first place? Amid a key military stronghold in Afghanistan - a group of Australian soldiers kidnap a military psychologist, Deborah Hoffman, and enact a coup of an outlying compound. They espouse 'the end of military engagement in perpetuity' and hope to trigger a full-scale coup d'état with their revolutionary message set to further infect dozens of other soldiers and secretly enlist into their cause - full demilitarisation. But what they don't know - and what the establishment is already onto - is a 'rat chase' digging out Nazi sympathisers from their ranks. The revolutionaries, in an act of so-called dark satire to prove a risky political point, 'flew the flag' while unbeknownst to them, real 'Nazi sympathisers' circulate the regiment. But as the tragedy unfolds, it is not as clear cut as one dogma versus another, calling into question the paradoxes of extremism and the dangers of misleading semantics. The play sets about asking some key questions as to how language, its rhetorical abuses and ideology can stifle reason and any meaningful action. The result is a mad cap psychological adventure of dark comedic fun, classically flavoured word plays and suspenseful intrigue as the truth... and perspective ... are put under the pressure pump...



Deborah Hoffman (Female 40s)

Military psychologist, experienced campaigner herself. She has been tasked by the regiment to interview soldiers and run a psych report to dig out any Far Right traces. She is a wily one - intellectually very resourceful, and with her experience, able to give these kids a run for their money in terms of counter strategy and mind games.



Trix (Male 30s)

Leader of 'rogue unit one' the key group activating the coup d'état - a respected soldier now turned captain is a key mouthpiece for the disenfranchised unit who are all moved to action by the message of Colonial Shultz who has been incarcerated for insurrectionist ideas and is awaiting trial.



Roach (Male 30s)

A tough yet jaded soldier who is part of the effort but becomes a key suspect as harbouring extreme right-wing views.



Lucy (20s)

A young idealistic member of the team who swears on the oath of Shultz's ideology - and potential love interest of Frank



Frank (male late 20s)

Said to have the battleground agility of a cat - some naivety might waylay him by darker elements.



Matilda (Female 30 to 40)

An automaton military auditor - a trained disciplinarian sets to correct Deborah and make sure she doesn't become too human.

McGregor (voice only)

The lieutenant of the regiment - the first and only trans executive of a military section - seeks to undermine the cause with as less compromise as possible.

