

Captain John H. Miller (Tom Hanks) and seven other soldiers have been sent on a mission to rescue Private James Francis Ryan (Matt Damon), whose three brothers have been killed in service. When one of Miller's group, Richard Reiben (Edward Burns) declares his intention to desert the squad, Miller reveals his pre-war occupation. At this, Reiben decides to stay.

Captain Miller: Mike? What's the pool on me up to right now? What's it up to? What is it, three hundred dollars - is that it? Three hundred? I'm a school teacher. I teach English Composition in this little town called Adley, Pennsylvania. The last eleven years, I've been at Thomas Alva Edison High School. I was coach of the baseball team in the spring time. Back home when I tell people what I do for a living, they think, well, that, that figures. But over here it's a big, a big mystery. So I guess I've changed some. Sometimes I wonder if I've changed so much my wife is even gonna recognize me whenever it is I get back to her - and how I'll ever be able to tell her about days like today. Ryan - I don't know anything about Ryan. I don't care. Man means nothin' to me. It's just a name. But if - you know - if going to Remeal and finding him so he can go home, if that earns me the right to get back to my wife - well, then, then that's my mission. You wanna leave? You wanna go off and fight the war? Alright. Alright, I won't stop you. I'll even put in the paperwork. I just know that every man I kill, the farther away from home I feel.