Saving Private Ryan

Captain Miller: Started in Portsmouth when they brought us in for embarkation, and it comes and goes.

Horvath: Well, you may have to get yourself a new line of work. This one doesn’t seem to agree with you anymore.

[Miller laughing]

Horvath: What? What?

Miller: What was the name of that kid?

Miller: …the Anzio, the one that was always walkin’ ‘round on his hands, and he was always singin’ that song, ya know, about the Man and the Flying Trapeze?

Horvath: Vecchio

Miller: Vecchio! Yeah. Yeah, Vecchio. He was a goofy kid.

Horvath: ‘Member he used to pee a “V” on everybody’s jacket? For Vecchio. For Victory.

[Laughing]

Horvath: He was so short.

Miller: He was a midget, wasn’t he?

Horvath: How’d he get to be a Ranger? Got shot in the foot once, and he was walking on his hands?

Miller: Yeah, well, he could walk faster on his hands. He could run faster on his hands than…

[laughing]

Miller: Vecchio. Yeah. Caparzo. You see, when you end up killing one of your men, you see… You tell yourself it happened so you could save the lives of two or three or ten others. Maybe a hundred others. Do you know how many men I’ve lost under my command?

Horvath: How many?

Miller: 94. But that means I’ve saved the lives of ten times that many, doesn’t it? Maybe even twenty, right? Twenty times as many? And that’s… how simple it is. That’s how you… That’s how you rationalize making the choice between the mission and the men.

Horvath: Except this time the mission is a man.

Miller: This Ryan better be worth it. He’d better go home and cure some disease or invent a longer-lasting light bulb or something… ‘cause the truth is I wouldn’t trade ten Ryans for one Vecchio or one Caparzo.

Horvath: Amen.