



Then, in single file, helmeted, they come up the gangway. Each is laden with over 60 pounds of equipment: gun, horseshoe blanket roll, canteen, first-aid kit, musette bag, knapsack, barracks bag, gas mask, and a small shovel for digging fox holes. No matter what his training, no matter how tired, or scared, or brave the soldier is, the crossing of that gangplank is the beginning of a new chapter in his life.

