

Forest Gump: Forest Joins the Army

source: Youtube.com

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA - DAY - GRADUATION DAY (1966)

Students in their caps and gowns step forward the podium to receive their diplomas. Forrest's name is called. He steps up and accepts his diploma.

DEAN

Forrest Gump.

FORREST (V.O.)

Now can you believe it? After only five years of playing football, I got a college degree.

The dean shakes Forrest's hand vigorously. Forrest looks out into the crowd.

DEAN

Congratulations, son.

Mrs. Gump, sitting in the audience, cries.

FORREST (V.O.)

Momma was proud.

Forrest and Mrs. Gump have their picture taken in front of a large statue. A military recruiter spots Forrest and steps up to him.

MRS. GUMP

Forrest, I'm so proud of you. Here, I'll hold this for you.

Mrs. Gump takes the diploma from Forrest. The recruiter slaps Forrest on the shoulder and hands him some military literature.

MILITARY RECRUITER

Congratulations, son. Have you given any thought to your future?

FORREST

Thought?

Forrest looks at a pamphlet with a photo of "Uncle Sam" and the caption "EXCELLENT CAREERS FOR EXCELLENT YOUNG MAN. Apply now at your local U.S. Army Recruiting Center."

FORREST (V.O.)

Hello, I'm Forrest...

INT. ARMY BUS - DAY (1966)

Forrest steps onto the army bus. Rain pours outside as the army bus driver yells at Forrest.

FORREST

...Forrest Gump.

ARMY BUS DRIVER

Nobody gives a hunk of shit who you are, fuzzball! You're not even a lowlife scum sucking maggot! Get your faggoty ass on the bus. You're in the Army now!

Forrest is about to sit on the first available seat, but the recruit sitting there refuses Forrest.

RECRUIT #1

This seat's taken.

Forrest tries to sit on the next seat, but the 2nd recruit slides over, blocking him.

RECRUIT #2

It's taken.

Forrest steps forward, looking much like he did on his first bus ride to school years ago.

FORREST (V.O.)

At first, it seemed like I made a mistake.

A large black recruit with a strange look on his face, much like Forrest's, looks up from his seat. His name is BUBBA.

FORREST (V.O.)

...seeing how it was my induction day and I was already gettin' yelled at.

Bubba moves his case over, making room for Forrest to sit down.

BUBBA

You can sit down... if you want to.

FORREST (V.O.)

I didn't know who I might meet or what they might ask.

Bubba hands Forrest a handkerchief.

BUBBA

You ever been on a real shrimp boat?

FORREST

No, but I been on a real big boat.

BUBBA

I'm talkin' about a shrimp catchin' boat. I've been workin' on shrimp boats all my life. I started out my uncle's boat, that's my mother's

brother, when I was about maybe nine.
I was just lookin' into buyin' a
boat of my own and got drafted. My
given name is Benjamin Buford Blue.

Bubba and Forrest shake hands.

BUBBA

People call me Bubba. Just like one
of them redneck boys. Can you believe
that?

FORREST

My name's Forrest Gump. People call
me Forrest Gump.

FORREST (V.O.)

So Bubba was from Bayou La Batre,
Alabama, and his momma cooked shrimp.

INT. LOUISIANA/KITCHEN - DAY (1966)

Bubba's mother, a robust woman in a cook's uniform, carries
a bowl of shrimp into a dining room. She sets it down on a
table in front of a wealthy white man.

FORREST (V.O.)

And her momma before her cooked
shrimp.

**INT. SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH/KITCHEN - DAY (EARLY DAYS OF
SLAVERY)**

Bubba's grandmother carries a bowl of shrimp into a dining
room. She sets it down on a table in front of a wealthy white
man.

FORREST (V.O.)

And her momma before her momma cooked
shrimp, too. Bubba's family knew
everything...

INT. ARMY BUS - DAY (1966)

FORREST (V.O.)

...there was to know about the
shrimpin' business.

BUBBA

I know everything there is to know
about the shrimpin' business. Matter
of fact, I'm goin' into the shrimpin'
business for myself after I get out
the Army.

FORREST

Okay.

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

A DRILL SERGEANT is in Forrest's face as Forrest stands in

line with the other recruits.

DRILL SERGEANT

Gump! What's your sole purpose in this Army?

FORREST

To do whatever you tell me, Drill Sergeant!

DRILL SERGEANT

Godamnit, Gump! You're a goddamned genius! That's the most outstanding answer I've ever heard. You must have a goddamned I.Q. of a hundred and sixty! You are goddamned gifted, Private Gump!

The Drill Sergeant moves down the line to the next man.

DRILL SERGEANT

Listen up, people...

FORREST (V.O.)

Now, for some reason, I fit in the Army like one of them round pegs. It's not really hard. You just make your bed real neat and remember to stand up straight.

DRILL SERGEANT

That is one very intelligent individual! You lock your scuzzy bodies up behind that private and do exactly what he does and you will go far in this man's army!

FORREST (V.O.)

And always answer every question with "Yes, Drill Sergeant!"

DRILL SERGEANT

Is that clear?

FORREST & RECRUITS

Yes, Drill Sergeant!

ANOTHER DAY

The recruits are sitting at the base of their bunks assembling their rifles. Bubba speaks to Forrest.

BUBBA

What you do is you just drag your nets across the bottom. On a good day, you can catch over a hundred pounds of shrimp. If everything goes all right, two men shrimpin' ten hours, less what you spends on gas, you can...

Forrest finishes assembling his rifle as the other recruits are still working on theirs.

FORREST

Done, Drill Sergeant!

DRILL SERGEANT

Gump!

The Drill Sergeant rushes up to Forrest.

DRILL SERGEANT

Why did you put that weapon together so quickly, Gump?

FORREST

You told me to, Drill Sergeant.

The Drill Sergeant looks at his stop watch.

DRILL SERGEANT

Jesus Christ! This is a new company record. If it wouldn't be a waste of such a damn fine enlisted man, I'd recommended you for O.C.S., Private Gump. You are gonna be a General some day, Gump! Now, disassemble your weapon and continue!

The Drill Sergeant walks away as Forrest begins to disassemble his rifle. After the Drill Sergeant walks past Bubba, Bubba looks up at Forrest. Bubba continues talking about shrimp in his slow southern drawl.

BUBBA

Anyway, like I was sayin', shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, saute it. There, uh, shrimp kabobs, shrimp creole...

ANOTHER DAY

Bubba and Forrest shine their boots.

BUBBA

...shrimp gumbo, panfried, deep fried, stir fried. There's pineapple shrimp, lemon shrimp, coconut shrimp, pepper shrimp...

ANOTHER DAY

Bubba and Forrest are on their hands and knees as they scrub the floor with toothbrushes.

BUBBA

...shrimp soup, shrimp stew, shrimp salad, shrimp and potatoes, shrimp burger, shrimp sandwich... that's, that's about it.

NIGHT

Bubba lies in his bunk and looks up quietly.

FORREST (V.O.)

Nighttime in the Army is a lovely
time.

Forrest lies in his bunk and looks up.

FORREST (V.O.)

We'd lay there in our bunks, and I'd
miss my momma. And I'd miss Jenny.