

Death At Fort Tuscon

by
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Draft 3

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IT IS THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER IN TUSCON 1864. THE CIVIL WAR HAS BEEN A LONG HARD BLOODY BATTLE, BUT FOR THIS QUIET FORT SET OUT IN NO-MANS LAND SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND WOODLANDS THE MEN GROW WEARY. NOT FROM BATTLE BUT FROM BOREDOM AS THEY ARE ON WATCH MOST OF THE TIME AS THE BATTLES HAVE NOT REACHED OUT THIS FAR FOR SOME TIME. THERE GREATEST FEAR IS OF INDIANS.

EXT DESERT

The sun bleaches down on the ground, ahead we can see the water effect from a heat wave on the ground.

Captain Brodie ride horseback gently with two privates as support. Suddenly we hear a bang. The soldiers look to their right.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Whoa, steady there.

Brodie calms the horse as a wagon heavily ablaze speeds past with its horses running wild unable to break free from the blazing wagon. As they watch the wagon speed past the horses veer quickly to avoid a boulder. As they do, the wagon hits a rock and topples over. The horses are finally free and speed off into the distance.

The wagon rolls over several times, actually dousing most of the flames.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What the hell. Keep your eyes out for Indians men.

They make there way over to the wagon very cautiously.

They are horrified at what they find, which appears to be the badly charred bodies of a family. From nothing one of the charred bodies seems to move and reach it's arm out surprising Brodie and the privates.

Brodie pulls his gun shooting the charred body several times. He turns to his men.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It is better. Ease the pain.
Nothing we can do here. Move out.

They mount there houses and set off constantly looking around them in anticipation.

FADE TO:

EXT PLANTATION FARM

Amidst the heavy watery haze of the intense heat, lies a plantation farm with few black workers spread out in the fields surrounding a farm house.

Slowly we close in on the nearest worker. We stop by the side of the worker and look down on him from horse height. The worker briefly looks up and fear strikes his face immediately and as quick as he looked up he looks back down and continues to work.

From the workers point of view we reveal three union soldiers on horseback. Captain Brodie (a man in his mid to late 40's with heavy stubble) is situated in the middle. He is taking stock of the surrounding area. The other two soldiers are private Thomas (a young soldier but has more courage than most of the soldiers put together) and private Levitt (who is at times arrogant and bad tempered but generally ok and liked by the others.

We see that the windows are open at the farmhouse as the blinds gently sway in the light warm breeze. To the right of the farm house is a windmill situated on a fence which has two horses strapped to the fence. To the side of these is a barn. One of the horses has blood smeared over it and on the post next to the horses a Confederate flag gently sways.

Captain Brodie turns to the near by worker and leans toward him.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Where's your master boy?

The worker carries on working, afraid to answer. Brodie shakes his head and smiles with a little laugh under his breath.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Leave the farm, boy.

The worker quickly looks up with a puzzled expression on his face. He quickly continues with his work.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I am offering you your freedom
boy. Leave now and be free.

The worker looks over to the farm house and the flag swaying.

Brodie is getting a little agitated with the worker.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

If you don't leave, that tells me
you're most likely feeding the
Confederate war machine. If I am
correct then that means you be a
traitor.

The worker looks up with even more fear in his face. He is confused at what to do.

WORKER

But if I leave sir, they will
beat upon me.

Brodie once again scans the whole area before turning back to the worker.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Last chance. Leave or continue to
be a traitor.

The worker slowly drops his head. Reluctantly Brodie removes a colt from his holster and without hesitating shoots the worker in the head. The worker drops to the ground with a heavy thud.

Brodie sighs in disappointment before looking at the other workers who all look on horrified at the actions carried out by Captain Brodie.

Captain Brodie shouts out to the remaining workers.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You are all free to leave. Unless
you are all to be executed too
that is. The choice is yours.

The remaining workers flee fearing for their lives.

Brodie and the two soldiers start to make their way to the farm house. Brodie fires another shot which makes the workers run faster.

INT FARM HOUSE

The gun shot echoes through the farmhouse alerting four confederate soldiers sitting at a dining table eating.

They jump to there feet and scramble for their weapons. Cautiously they make there way to exit the farm house to see what all the commotion is about. Before exiting they look out the window. They watch as they see Captain Brodie signalling his men to spread out.

Captain Brodie takes out a rifle and fires a warning shot before he calls out to the Confederate soldiers.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Come out and your lives will be
spared.

The confederate soldiers know that they are tired, injured, low on ammo and probably out numbered. They talk among themselves and eventually agree to surrender.

EXT FARM HOUSE.

Brodie waits patiently, as a white flag emerges from the door. Brodie signals to his men to be patient. Slowly the four soldiers exit the farm house and throw there weapons to the ground.

Brodie is not satisfied as he believes they might have more weapons.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

That's all the weapons you have.

The captain of the Confederates speaks out.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

There is more weapons inside.

Brodie waves his men to take the soldiers captive. Brodie edges closer to the Confederates as Brodie's men tie them up.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Where be the owners?

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

They were already dead when we arrived.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I doubt that very much. Why were the workers still here then?

There is no answer from the Confederate soldiers.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I thought as much.

Brodie dismounts his horse and enters the building holding his colt to his chest for protection.

Brodie knows never to trust the Confederates and believes there may still be one inside ready to ambush.

INT FARM HOUSE

Brodie walks into the kitchen and picks up supplies (food, medicines etc) He picks up the remaining weapons. He is joined by one of his soldiers who takes the guns and food from Brodie before exiting. Brodie picks up a log by the fire and lights it, before exiting the farm house.

EXT FARM HOUSE.

Brodie walks past the tied up Confederate soldiers with torch in his hand. He walks over to the Confederate flag before setting it on fire.

Brodie turns and orders the Confederate soldiers to there feet. Brodie mounts his horse before instructing the Confederates to move on ahead.

CUT TO:

VARIOUS SHOTS TO THE OPENING CREDITS AND TITLE -DEATH AT FORT TUSCON

The shots are of Brodie leading the Confederate soldiers through different landscapes. We see the Confederates deteriorate with the heat. Sweat dripping, legs buckling etc.

Credits end

FADE TO:

EXT LAKE/RIVER

In amongst a beautiful landscape is the lake/river on the outskirts of a redwood forest which is on the other side of the fort.

Three union soldiers Miller, Simpson and Paxton emerge from the wood. They make there way to the river while laughing and talking among themselves.

They sit by the edge of the river and place there guns by the side of them as they commence to remove there boots.

PAXTON

Jeez, am I ready for this.

SIMPSON

Hell yeah. It's the only thing we have to look forward to round here.

From a distance on the other side of the river we see four confederate soldiers slowly approaching. Paxton notices them and panics.

PAXTON

Get your weapons boys, scum ahead.

They all jump to attention and aim there guns in the direction of the Confederate soldiers.

Through the watery haze, beyond the Confederate soldiers, a blur which soon reveals Captain Brodie and the two union soldiers on horseback.

Paxton eases down with his weapon and smiles.

PAXTON

It's the captain boys. Looks like he found us some target practice.

Paxton, Simpson and Miller start to cheer and laugh. They watch and salute Captain Brodie as they make there way through the wide river/lake.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

At ease boys. Good to see you are still alert. What you doing down here.

MILLER

Just bathing sir.

Brodie nods in acknowledgement.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Make it quick. Then get yourself back to the fort.

MILLER

Yes sir.

Captain Brodie continues to lead the prisoners onto the woodland.

Miller, Paxton and Simpson continue to strip ready for there bathing time.

SIMPSON

Lord, I thought we were finally gonna get some action.

PAXTON

My heart still pumping just thinking bout it.

EXT WOODLAND

We follow Brodie and the prisoners into the woodland. Deer run about and birds whistle in the otherwise peaceful surroundings of the red woodland.

Ahead we hear a chopping sound, and as the we reach the edge of the woodland, a 2 story pentagon shaped fort stands before us. Just on the edge of the woodland we see what the chopping noise was.

Walker (the giant of the soldiers) is chopping away at a tree for fire wood. Brodie stops next to Walker.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You think that is a good idea
chopping so close to the fort
Walker.

Walker looks at where he has already chopped into the tree, then looks at the fort. He then looks at the height of the tree before looking back at the fort.

WALKER

Sorry captain.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No need to apologize. Just be
aware and keep up the hard work.

Brodie points into the wood.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Further in there.

Walker points in the same direction.

WALKER

Yes sir. In there.

Brodie continues toward the fort passing by four tents where the cooks and general workers reside. A gun shot is heard from above. The prisoners look up and watch as Wilson orders one of the cooks to retrieve the deer he has just shot for dinner. He points in the direction of where he shot the deer.

Brodie continues to the main gates of the fort.

INT FORT

The fort is a PENTAGON of 2-storey wood surrounding between 9 or 11 small post houses (Including barracks, medical area, food hall, powerhouse, etc.) One wall of the Fort is a large double door gateway. The upper level of the outer-wall has a tiered walkway, the occasional set of ladders and stairs lead up at intervals.

As Brodie enters with the prisoners he shouts over to Brevet Lieutenant Hawkins to take the prisoners.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hawkins, take these prisoners to the mock up base brigg until we can get them to a larger outpost.

HAWKINS

Yes captain.

Brodie heads off as Hawkins barks orders to Carter (a private company soldier) to assist him with the prisoners.

HAWKINS

Carter, get over hear and help me escort this scum to the base brigg.

Carter reluctantly emerges from a group of private company soldiers sitting talking and walks over toward the prisoners. The remaining two soldiers, Smith and Peterson mock Hawkins as he thinks he is as high up as the captains when he still only gets paid the same as a private soldier as a Brevet is only a commissioned officer holding a higher rank temporarily.

SMITH

Carter do this, Carter do that.
Who the hell does he think he is.

PETERSON

There's times I wish he worked
for the Confeds so I could shoot
his ass.

Smith and Peterson laugh among themselves.

A gun shot echoes around the fort as Wilson shoots at another deer. The union soldiers don't flinch but the prisoners cower at random firing and the thought of being the targets.

INT BASE BRIGG

Hawkins and Carter shove the prisoners into the base brigg. Hawkins commences to question the prisoners.

HAWKINS

What you men doing out at the
plantation farm?

Silence beckons as the Confederate soldiers drop there heads. They are all exhausted and reluctant to speak.

HAWKINS

Carter, get them some water.
Maybe then they will speak.

Hawkins continues to try and question them.

HAWKINS

Well, what were you doing there?

Still none of them answer. One of the younger confederate soldiers briefly looks up then hesitates before dropping his head again.

Carter returns with a wooden pale full of water.

HAWKINS

Well don't just stand there
Carter, give them the water.

Carter throws the pale of water over the confederate soldiers, who inturn react angrily. Hanson (the largest of the confederate soldiers) stands and starts to lunge at Carter.

Carter jumps back while Hawkins places his gun close by Hanson's head.

HAWKINS

Carry on scum. Just give me a
excuse.

Captain Maitland tries to diffuse the situation. He stands up and pulls Hanson back.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Back away Hanson.

Maitland turns to Hawkins.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Ok we'll talk. We were making our
way West as back up for General
Williams when we were attacked by
Indians along the Ravenhoth pass.

Maitland pauses a moment while he recollects the events.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

The Indians wiped most of my
platoon out as we expended most
of are ammunition in an aid to
survive. We were the remaining
four from over twenty soldiers.
Even we took heavy damage in our
escape.

HAWKINS

Still don't explain why you were
at the plantation farm.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

We fled. We didn't know where
else to go. Besides it was empty
when we got there. Probably wiped
out by the same Indians who
attacked us.

HAWKINS

I doubt that very much. Otherwise
they would have killed the
workers too. Indians don't leave
anyone alive around these parts.

CUT TO:

EXT FORT.

Cut aways of various areas of the fort. Men walking around
talking among themselves. Cooks preparing meat for lunch
etc.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

General Westwood, smoke gently rising from his pipe is
sitting at his desk by papers and an ink pot. Westwood is
an easy going approachable general though does know his
place and puts his foot down when needed. Much admired by
his soldiers.

Captain Brodie is pacing the floor at the opposite side of
the desk relaying his recent travels.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

So when we arrived at the
plantation farm, I knew something
weren't right.

Brodie checks at Westwood to make sure he is taking notice.
Westwood is looking at Brodie waiting for him to continue.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Well, carry on.

Brodie starts to be animated again.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Well, why were the workers still
there, yet the flag of the
Confeds was lying next to a
bloodied horse. When I spoke to
one of the workers, I could see
the fear in his eyes.

A knock at the door interrupts Captain Brodie.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Yes, come in.

Medic John Hill enters. John is an old kind and thoughtful
man. He is the only christian in the camp and often
believes they are being punished, left out here like this.
He is though very respected in the camp because of his
kindness and caring nature. He is in his early 60's.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Sorry to interrupt sir.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

That's fine Doc. What can I do
for you.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I just heard that Captain Brodie had returned sir. Just thought I would make sure they were fit and well.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I am fine thankyou john. The men are fine too.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Would you like me to check the prisoners over sir. The men say they are wounded.

General Westwood is about to speak, but Captain Brodie intervenes abruptly. He is obviously a little outraged at the thought of aiding the Confederate Scum.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hell no! We will not be wasting our time and equipment on that scum. We need all medicines for our own men thankyou.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I was just thinking if they get a....

Brodie intervenes.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You are not paid to think, just to fix our own injured men. Would that be all for today.

John Hill shakes his head in disbelief. As he turns to leave he removes a cross from beneath his shirt and holds it while closing his eyes.

EXT FORT.

Private Lee is exiting the rest room when he sees John Hill holding the cross and looking sorrowful. Private Lee realizes John Hill is upset so walks over to see if he is alright.

PRIVATE LEE

Hey Doc, you ok?

John sighs.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I will be fine thanks William.

And it's John, not doc.

They both laugh, as they often wind him up calling him Doc. He preferred to one of the men.

PRIVATE LEE

You sure. You want to talk.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

It's just, I try to do my work,
and Brodie can be so....

John gets frustrated as he can't think of a word to describe Captain Brodie. Lee comforts him.

PRIVATE LEE

It's ok. It's Brodie. We should
be used to him by now. He changes
like the wind.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I guess. I am just trying to
protect you all that's all.

PRIVATE LEE

Come on, let's have a drink.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood is quite disheartened by Brodie's outburst toward Medic John Hill.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

You not think you were a little rough on John back there.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What? No! What if we were to be ambushed by Indians. We could need all the medicines we have. If we use it on them, we could dig ourselves an early grave.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

And if we don't at least check them over we could be digging an early grave all the same.

Brodie looks at Westwood wanting to know what he is talking about.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

What I think John was trying to say is if one of the prisoners has a disease, and we don't deal with it. It may just spread among our men.

Brodie changes his expression as he takes stock of what Westwood is saying to him. A little guilt bestows upon Brodie.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Ok, maybe we should check them over.

EXT FORT.

Brodie stands at the doorway to the General's QUARTERS scouring around for John Hill. He spots Private Henderson carrying logs.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Henderson!

Henderson stops in his tracks and turns toward Brodie

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Find John Hill and tell him he
can check the prisoners over but
I want him to report to me before
he treats any of them.

HENDERSON

Yes sir.

Henderson moves off and places the logs he is carrying with a pile of other logs.

Brodie turns to make his way back into the General's QUARTERS.

We follow Henderson as he passes Peterson and Smith lying asleep in a hammocks. Henderson smiles while shaking his head.

A gun shot goes off. Henderson looks up to Wilson who is still scouting for food.

HENDERSON

Wilson! You seen the Doc?

Wilson shakes his head.

WILSON

No. I been up here all morning.
Sorry.

Henderson continues. We pass cooks preparing food, a couple of workers cleaning. Eventually he comes across Thomas and Levitt relaxing after there morning travels with Brodie. They are just talking in general.

LEVITT

I actually enjoyed myself this morn'.

THOMAS

Anything beats being stuck in this hell hole though.

LEVITT

True, nothing exciting ever happens in here.

THOMAS

I sometimes wish just a few Indians would attack. Just for something to do.

LEVITT

You have never met an Indian out here have you.

THOMAS

I never met much out here other than you guys.

LEVITT

Well, you would soon retract your wish if you ever met one. They don't take no prisoners. Ever! Most brutal people I ever did see.

THOMAS

You come across them did you.

LEVITT

I've been in battle with the
ravenous bastards yeah.

Henderson intervenes there conversation just as Thomas was getting really intrigued with Levitt's story. Thomas jumps a little at the voice of Henderson as he was engrossed.

HENDERSON

Any of you seen the Doc.

LEVITT

He was with Lee last I saw of
him.

THOMAS

Yeah he looked a little upset.

HENDERSON

Thanks.

Henderson moves on. Thomas and Levitt continue with there story.

INT BRIGG

Hawkins and Carter are still talking to the prisoners.

HAWKINS

So how many Indians were there.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Too many.

CARTER

Which direction were they
heading.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Truthfully. I don't know. I was too busy trying to survive.

PRISONER 1

Can we get water please?

HAWKINS

You will get water when we are ready to give you water.

Hawkins and Carter leave the prisoners.

EXT FORT.

We follow Hawkins and Carter.

CARTER

Maybe we should give them water.

HAWKINS

I intend to. Just gonna leave em for ten minutes.

They come across Thomas and Levitt and sit with them.

LEVITT

Prisoners saying much.

HAWKINS

Not much, just that there men were wiped out at the Ravenhoth pass by Indians.

Levitt looks over at Thomas

HAWKINS

What did I miss.

LEVITT

Just this dumbass wishes for
action.

HAWKINS

Against the Indians. I have
nightmares every time I close my
eyes of fearing the Indians. I'd
rather be in battle with a
thousand of the Confed scum.

CARTER

I just wish I was back with the
family. I miss my kids so much.

THOMAS

Why don't we play a prank on
those idiot prisoners.

The other three look on at Thomas.

HAWKINS

What you talking bout boy.

THOMAS

Look at everyone, so down. We
could do with cheering us up a
little.

LEVITT

What you got in mind boy.

Thomas smiles.

INT BRIGG

The four prisoners sit around silently. Suddenly gun shots
are fired which make them jump. We hear a commotion
outside.

LEVITT (O.S.)

Damn it, we low on ammo.

HAWKINS (O.S.)

Maybe they come back for the prisoners. You know how the Indians like to finish there work off.

The prisoners look among each other in total fear.

LEVITT (O.S.)

Thomas, you go get the prisoners and we send them out to the indians.

Another gun shot is head and panic sets in with the prisoners. As Thomas enters in a pretend panic. The prisoners start to scream and push each other so they don't get picked first.

From behind Thomas, Hawkins and Carter enter carrying buckets of water and they throw the water over the prisoners as they all start to laugh.

HAWKINS

There's your water boys.

Thomas, Hawkins and Carter leave the brig real happy with themselves. They have not had fun for such a long time.

EXT LAKE/RIVER

Miller is lying on the river bank basquing in the sun, supposedly keeping watch. Paxton and Simpson are bathing in the river while talking.

It is so peaceful around them, all you can hear is them talking along with water rippling around them.

PAXTON

I so wish the war was over.

SIMPSON

Me too. I feel like I have been here forever.

PAXTON

You know what I miss the most. My mom's cooking. Boy I can smell it just thinkin' bout it.

SIMPSON

Yeah, home cooking. Beats the food we get round here.

PAXTON

Nice hot bath wouldn't go a miss either.

SIMPSON

I don't know. I quite like this here river.

PAXTON

Hey I ain't go nothing against this here river.

Paxton looks around the river as he speaks. He notices something floating toward them. He can't quite make it out as the sun is reflecting a bright light off it.

PAXTON

What the hell is that.

Simpson looks at Paxton.

SIMPSON

What is what?

As is gets closer, Paxton realizes it is a soldier.

PAXTON

What the....

Suddenly he realizes it is one of there men.

PAXTON

It's one of our men.

Simpson is dumbfounded as to how one of there men has got here.

SIMPSON

That's impossible. What would one of our men be doing all the way out here.

Paxton starts to make his way to the body floating toward them.

PAXTON

It must have got carried down stream with the current of the water.

Simpson is in shock and shouts to alert Miller.

SIMPSON

Miller! Miller.

Miller jumps up at Simpson shouting. Miller watches as Paxton makes his way to the body. As Paxton gets closer he is amazed as to how the body is floating on its back.

Simpson starts to follow Paxton at a more slower pace while barking orders at Miller.

SIMPSON

Miller, get dressed and get Brodie down here now.

Paxton turns to Simpson

PAXTON

I don't get it. He is floating on
his back.

Simpson looks at Paxton with a blank expression.

PAXTON

I'm sure most bodies tend to
float face down.

Simpson notices the stomach is all bloated.

SIMPSON

Look at the stomach.

PAXTON

Must be full of water. He must
have been in a battle. He has
blood splashed over him.

We see both dried and fresh blood splashed over the body.

Paxton reaches a hand out to touch the stomach. The body
immediately begins to thrash about as soon as Paxton
touches it. Paxton panics and gets his hand stuck on the
belt of the soldier.

Paxton screams out in pain as the body twists, dragging
Paxton over with it. Simpson watches in horror as Paxton
struggles in a Gator style death role with the once
floating body.

Miller is finished getting ready and is also watching on in
horror.

MILLER

What's happening.

Simpson frantically looks back at Miller with a blank expression on his face. Simpson is horrified as he simply doesn't know what to do.

Paxton disappears under the water with the body.

From beneath the water, we see the panic and struggle in Paxton's face. The body suddenly opens its eyes to the amazement of Paxton. Just then Paxton manages to slightly break free and reach the surface for air.

As Paxton gasps for air he is trying to shout at Simpson too.

PAXTON

He....he....he's alive.

Simpson doesn't believe what he has just heard from Paxton.

SIMPSON

What you mean....alive.

PAXTON

I must've startled him when I touched him. He must've panicked and we got tangled together. He opened his eyes. I gotta help him.

Before Simpson can react, Paxton disappears beneath the water.

From beneath the water, we see Paxton struggle as the soldier grabs a hold of Paxton. Paxton tries to lift the soldier, instead the soldier huddles into Paxton and lunges it's head toward Paxton's neck sinking it's teeth deep into Paxton's neck. Blood flows up to the surface of the water. Paxton tries to scream but nothing is heard.

From the surface of the water, blood flows and air bubbles reach the surface.

Simpson looks on in horror.

SIMPSON

Paxton? Paxton

Suddenly Paxton emerges to the surface. About 2 feet away the soldier emerges. Simpson tells Miller to shoot.

SIMPSON

Shoot him Miller. It attacked
Paxton. Kill him.

Miller scrambles for his weapon, and takes aim. We see the bullets hit the water missing the soldier at first. Then two bullets appear to hit the body as it floats away.

Simpson attends the injured Paxton. He drags Paxton out and lays him on the embankment.

Across the other side of the river, the soldier gets caught up in undergrowth. It tries to get itself up to the horror of Simpson and Miller.

SIMPSON

Why the hell would one of our own
men attack us.

MILLER

I guess he was disoriented. God
knows how long he been out there.
But I shot him twice and he is
still trying to get up. That's
not right.

Simpson composes himself.

SIMPSON

Finish him off. Kill him. I want
him dead.

Miller takes aim with his rifle. He misses with the first couple of shots. He shoots and hits the chest with the third shot. The fourth hits it in the head to the delight of Miller and Simpson

SIMPSON

Good shot.

The body slumps and floats a little further down river. Again it gets caught up, this time among a felled tree and rocks. Again it starts to get back up to the shock and horror of Miller and Simpson. They look on as the lifeless eyes of the soldier blaze in the sunlight. Once more Miller shoots with the assistance of Simpson this time. The body once more slumps motionless into the water and floats away. This time submerging under the water. The men are in total shock now.

MILLER

That's impossible. I got him in the head.

SIMPSON

We need to get back to the fort. Paxton needs medical attention.

MILLER

What we gonna tell Brodie. He will never believe this story.

Simpson looks at Miller trying to think of an answer.

SIMPSON

I don't know. That we got attacked by an insane soldier, mentally wounded in battle. I don't know.

Paxton coughs and whimpers in pain.

Simpson places his shirt over the open wound to Paxton's shoulder. Both Miller and Simpson lift up Paxton and aid him back through the woods to the fort.

CUT TO:

18. INT BRIGG

Medic John Hill is finishing checking the prisoners over, with Hawkins and Carter watching over intensely.

HAWKINS

Anything to report John?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Nothing major. I will report back to Captain Brodie.

HAWKINS

Good. We will just question these a little more.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood and Brodie are eating a meal while still talking.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

The only positive thing from the morning travels is we managed to salvage some extra medical equipment, little ammo and little food.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I would like to know what they were doing this far out.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

They try to tell me they were...

A knock at the door cuts Brodie up from finishing his question.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Come in.

John Hill enters.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Sorry to interrupt you while you are eating sir. Just to let you know I have checked the prisoners over.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

And?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Nothing major to report sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

As I thought. Thankyou John.

John Hill leaves.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I am worried that the prisoners are having an affect on the men sir.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

How come?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

They don't seem to be as focused. They seem more interested in getting answers or playing pranks on them

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Lighten up Brodie will you? The men could do with a little light hearted fun. They been stuck here for three months now with no action whatsoever. They are lonely, bored, missing there families.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Just don't want to be caught off guard sir.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Do you really think we gonna have any trouble out here? We were posted here to make the numbers up that's all.

EXT FORT.

Henderson, Thomas, Levitt and Lee are sitting around eating and talking.

LEVITT

This food so makes me miss food from home.

THOMAS

Mmmmm Mom's cooking. I so miss her cooking. I hope she's ok.

LEE

Yeah, I hope my family is doing well. Seems ages since I saw my wife and kids.

HENDERSON

How long since you seen them.

LEE

Nearly a year.

THOMAS

A year. How's it been that long. I thought it had been three to six months at most.

LEE

I was with Captain Brodie and General Westwood before we arrived here. We were out in the battlefields until Westwood got injured. Brodie and I were ordered to escort Westwood out here. Westwood didn't want to retire so they sent him here where they knew no battles would take place but still gave Westwood a job with rank.

HENDERSON

So we were based out here for one man.

LEE

You said it. The only thing that would ever threaten us out here is the Indians, but not very often they will attack a fort.

INT BRIGG

Hawkins is questioning the prisoners again.

HAWKINS

You ready tell me what you were really doin' at the plantation farm?

Captain Maitland shakes his head in disbelief at the persistence of Hawkins

One of the prisoners speaks out to Carter. Gordon Smithson lived on the farm next to Carter's family. They grew up together until the civil war broke out.

GORDON SMITHSON

How's the family Geoff?

CARTER

It's just Carter round here. I don't know, I haven't seen them for nearly four months.

GORDON SMITHSON

Sorry. I saw them about two months ago. They seemed ok.

CARTER

Thanks Gordon. It's a shame this war drove a wedge between our friendship.

GORDON SMITHSON

I don't like this war any more than you dislike it I swear.

Hawkins intervenes the conversation, slightly disgusted that a Union Soldier and a Confederate soldier are talking like vague friends.

HAWKINS

That's enough talking.

Hawkins pulls Carter to one side.

HAWKINS

What do you think you are doing fraternising with the enemy.

CARTER

Geez, we grew up together. Played
on each other's farms together.
We didn't ask for this war.

Carter pushes Hawkins away in anger and leaves the Brigg abruptly.

One of the other prisoners speaks out.

PRISONER 1

Can we please have some water. We
are dehydrating.

Hawkins angrily throws the remainder of water in a nearby cup at him, before storming out.

EXT FORT

As Hawkins storms out he collides into Peterson, nearly knocking Peterson off his feet.

PETERSON

Hey. What the hell is your
problem.

Hawkins doesn't respond. He just continues to walk in anger.

PETERSON

You will get what's coming.

Peterson makes his way to the upper level and joins Wilson who is still scouting for food. On his travels he passes Levitt, Thomas, Lee and Henderson still sitting about talking.

LEE

Anything happening Peterson?

PETERSON

Hawkins in a bad mood. Something upset him.

LEVITT

You know if Wilson caught anything yet. We are starving.

PETERSON

That's where I am heading now. Maybe one of you should go and check on Walker. It will be dark soon, maybe he needs help with the logs.

Peterson carries on and climbs up to Wilson.

PETERSON

You ok Wilson?

WILSON

I'm good. Which is more than I can say for the hunting.

PETERSON

How come?

WILSON

I ain't seen any deer or anything other than birds all day.

PETERSON

Really, it's not normally a problem round here.

WILSON

I know. I don't understand it, but since Brodie returned, very little.

EXT WOODLAND

Just on the outskirts of the woods, Walker is piling logs up ready to take into the fort. He calls one of the workers in the outside tent over.

WALKER

Here, take some of theses logs
for your fires.

WORKER

Thankyou.

Walker is distracted by a moaning from behind him. When he turns he is startled as he watches Paxton being helped along by Miller and Simpson a little further into the woodland.

Walker rushes over to help them.

WALKER

What happened?

Walker is taken back when he sees how white and drained Paxton looks. He stares at all the blood smeared over the three of the.

SIMPSON

Long story.

Walker picks up Paxton and place him over his shoulder.

WALKER

You guys get some logs, I will
take him to see the Doc.

SIMPSON

Thanks Walker.

Walker heads off in the direction of the fort with Paxton slumped over his shoulder. Simpson and Miller pick up logs to take back.

EXT FORT HUNTERS WATCHOUT

Dusk is now getting heavy, and Wilson is about to retire from hunting. He sees Walker approaching the fort with Paxton over his shoulder. Peterson at the same time spots a deer further along on the outskirts of the woodland.

WILSON

What the hell.

PETERSON

Deer!

Wilson looks at Peterson in total confusion. Peterson doesn't understand why Wilson is hesitating.

PETERSON

Shoot it.

Peterson points in the direction of the deer. Wilson turns to look at Walker getting closer to the edge of the woodland, then turns back to the direction of the deer.

Eventually he raises his gun and shoots. As he soots the deer is startled by rustling probably coming from Simpson and Miller picking logs up! So instead of a direct hit, he only wounds the deer, which slowly tries to run off.

Peterson looks down and spots Levitt close by the gates.

Wilson shouts down to Henderson and the others.

WILSON

Open the gates. Now. Soldier
injured. Get the medic quick.

Henderson jumps to his feet and rushes over to the gates with Levitt, Thomas and Lee in pursuit.

Peterson looks down on Walker carrying Paxton having now realized why Wilson was hesitating. He pauses in shock momentarily before shouting at Levitt.

PETERSON

Levitt, we just injured a deer.
Go get it. It can't have gotten
far. Wilson wounded it good. You
should be able to follow the
blood trail.

Peterson points in the direction of where the deer was shot. Levitt takes off leaving Henderson, Thomas and Lee to help Walker and Paxton. Peterson turns his attention back to Walker.

PETERSON

What happened Walker.

Walker looks up at Peterson

WALKER

You need to ask Simpson and
Miller that question.

The gates to the fort swing fully open, and Walker enters.

EXT FORT.

Simpson and Miller follow carrying logs. Walker tells the others to help.

WALKER

One of you go and find the Doc,
the others get the rest of the
logs.

Lee jumps into action.

LEE

I will get John, you guys go and
get the logs.

Henderson and Thomas run off to get the remainder of the logs.

Walker makes his way to the Medics room. He clears various items from the table and lies Paxton down on the table.

The door bursts open and John rushes in to assist Paxton. He removes the shirt from Paxton's shoulder and is shocked at the wound.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

What!

He barks orders out to Walker.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I need Simpson and Miller in here now. I need to know what caused this. Also inform Captain Brodie and General Westwood of the events.

Walker looks on in shock at the wound. John shouts startling Walker into action.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Walker! Now.

Walker takes off. John Hill feels the head of Paxton, which is extremely hot and clammy.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

He's got a fever. Which probably means the wound is infected.

He dips a piece of cloth in cold water before placing it on the head of Paxton. Paxton flinches and opens his eyes ever so slightly. John notices this and tries to talk to Paxton.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Hey man, what the hell you been doin son?

Paxton looks at John Hill but is hallucinating. He sees John as the creature that attacked him. Paxton starts to panic. He thrashes about pushing John away. John is trying to calm Paxton down. Paxton starts to convulse.

John rushes over to find a bottle of morphine. He pours it onto a cloth and places it over Paxton's mouth sedating him. Paxton's body slowly calms to a slight flinch before being motionless.

EXT WOODLAND

Levitt finds the pool of blood where the deer was shot. He sets off in the direction of the blood trail. He is concentrating so much on the blood trail, he doesn't spot the silhouettes of people in the distance among the dimmed light of dusk setting.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood and Brodie are still talking over matters.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I think we should be a little more vigilant over the next few days. Just incase the prisoners are speaking the truth. We don't want a surprise ambush from the Indians if they wiped there men out so easily.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I agree. What do you have in mind.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I think we should have two on night watch instead of one. More vigilance on the use of the weapons. Ammo is low as it is. Gun powder is damp following the down pour the other day.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I suggest we send a couple of
scouts out also, that way we will
know if any Indians are close by.

Brodie nods in agreement. Lee bursts into Westwood's room
all out of breath.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What the hell you doing soldier.
You never heard of knocking.

LEE

Apologies sir, but we have an
emergency.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Go on then.

LEE

It's Paxton sir. He's in a bad
way sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Wasn't he down by the river
bathing.

LEE

Sir. He's been attacked. It don't
look good.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Who attacked him.

LEE

We don't know yet sir

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Where is he?

LEE

He is with the Doc sir.

They all leave to check on Paxton.

EXT WOODLAND

Levitt is still following the blood trail. He pauses as he hears a rustling noise from just ahead. He smiles.

LEVITT

I got you now deer.

He approaches with caution. He holds his gun tight as he turn quickly. He spots a mass amount of blood. Levitt assumes it is where the deer must have rested and his footsteps moved it on.

LEVITT

Looks like Wilson wounded it good
and proper.

INT MEDICS ROOM

John Hill is cleaning the wound out. Puss is oozing from the wound. Most of the blood is now coagulating.

Lee enters along with Brodie and Westwood. They are all taken back at the sight of Paxton lying on the table. He looks like death warmed up. Lee leaves the room.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

How is he John?

John turns looking rather bloodied himself. He shakes his head in resignation.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

It's not looking good sir. I need to operate but the wound is so close to the neck and veins.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What happened?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

If I didn't know any better sir, I would say he was bitten.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Bitten. By what?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Take a look sir.

He waves Brodie and Westwood over. Pointing toward the wound, they all look closely.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

That looks like human teeth marks sir. And if you look close enough, looks like a tooth is still stuck in there sir.

The door to the room bursts open, making all three jump. They turn to see Simpson and Miller standing there.

SIMPSON

How is he sir?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Not good. What the hell happened?

SIMPSON

He was attacked sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

We can see that you fool. By
whom?

Simpson struggles to explain as he know how unbelievable
the events were despite witnessing it first hand.

SIMPSON

By one of our own god damned men
sir.

Silence bestows upon the room.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

What did you just say son.

MILLER

He is speaking the truth sir. We
spotted one of our men floating
down the river. When we checked
on him, he was alive.

SIMPSON

Paxton tried to help him, but the
man was crazed sir.

They neglected to explain that they shot the man dead on
two occasions.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What the hell is going on around
here.

He points to Simpson and Miller.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You two help the Doc. John do
whatever is necessary.

John nods in agreement. Brodie and Westwood leave. They
begin to talk outside.

EXT FORT.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What do we do sir?

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Get all the men together. Tell them to be on high alert. Could Be the work of Indians. We maybe should think about bringing the cooks and cleaners in tonight.

They pause as they hear Wilson and Peterson shouting out.

WILSON (O.S.)

Levitt, you got it yet?

PETERSON (O.S.)

What's taking you so long man?

Brodie turns his attention to Wilson and Peterson.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Wilson, What's up? Where's Levitt got to?

Wilson turns to Birdie.

WILSON

He went out to retrieve a deer sir. But that was some time ago now.

EXT WOODLAND

Levitt finally finds what was the wounded deer not far from where he assumed the deer had rested. He looks down at the deer revolted by the mess. The deer has been ravaged.

As he looks up slightly he is even more repulsed at the sight of a heavily scarred, scabbed and bloodied Union soldier eating a chunk of raw flesh ravaged from the deer.

LEVITT

What the hell are you doing man?

In the background silhouettes of men are still moving, drawing closer to Levitt.

LEVITT

What regiment you with soldier.

The soldier ignores Levitt and continues eating the deer.

LEVITT

Soldier I asked what regiment you are with. What's wrong with you. You sick or something?

Levitt walks over and yanks the soldiers head back. Levitt freezes with fear. As he yanks the head back, the hat falls off the soldier revealing a scalped head. The soldier looks at Levitt with a motionless gaze. The eyes all bloodshot. Blood from the deer is smeared all around it's mouth and the skin is all dried and cracked. The soldier tilts its head slightly as it takes stock of Levitt. It begins to snarl and move toward Levitt.

LEVITT

What the hell?

Levitt turns in fear, scrambling to his feet. Unfortunately he turns into what was the silhouettes. Now it is more of the dead soldiers, both union and confederates. They swarm over Levitt as he slips on the deer blood, mauling him as he screams and tries to fight them off.

EXT FORT.

Henderson and Lee emerge from the fort again. They make their way over to the tents where the cooks and workers reside.

As they get closer, we see the tents are all torn. A cook's body lies slumped half out of one of the tents. Henderson is concerned.

HENDERSON

What's up with him.

LEE

Don't know. Best check on him.

As they get closer, the cook disappears inside the tent as if someone dragged him in. Henderson and Lee pause a moment.

Once at the tent, Henderson reluctantly bends down and looks inside.

HENDERSON

Is everyone...

Henderson doesn't finish speaking. Instead he retches at the sight of soldiers both union and confederate eating the cooks and workers.

Henderson turns and vomits violently. Lee is concerned with Henderson's actions.

LEE

Henderson, what's up?

Henderson is too busy vomiting to answer. Lee also reluctantly takes a look and can't believe his eyes. He pulls back and ushers Henderson back to the fort.

As they are making there way back to the fort they hear screams.

HENDERSON

Levitt?

Both look back in the direction of the screams and ponder checking on him. They look at the tents.

LEE

We can't leave him. He wouldn't leave us.

Henderson and Lee head off to find Levitt.

A little way into the woods, they see a posse of soldiers all piled together tearing into something.

HENDERSON

They have the deer.

LEE

Our meal.

As they get closer, Lee spots the deer at the side all ravaged. Lee immediately starts to think of what they are mauling if it isn't the deer. He grabs the attention of Henderson.

LEE

If that is the deer there. Then what are they eating.

One of the soldiers turns to look at Henderson and Lee while taking a bite out of Levitt's head.

Henderson and Lee are horrified and flee in desperation back to the fort.

INT MEDICS ROOM

John Hill is busy stitching the wound up to Paxton's shoulder who is still unconscious. Brodie re-enters to see how Paxton is.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

How is he?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I really don't know. I have cleaned the wound and stitched it up. I have done everything I can with what we have, but only time will tell. If the infection was deeper, he won't stand a chance. He has also lost a lot of blood.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

How are you?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I'm shaking, but compared to Paxton I'm fine.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You did a good job John.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Thankyou Captain.

Brodie leaves, as John places a blanket over Paxton to keep him warm.

EXT FORT.

On the high tier lookout. Wilson and Peterson await the return of Levitt.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Any sign of Levitt yet men?

WILSON

No sir.

Just then, Henderson and Lee flee from the woodland screaming at Wilson to open the gates as they run toward the fort.

LEE

Open the gates.

HENDERSON

Now. Wilson get them to open the gates now.

Wilson turns and barks orders to open the gates.

WILSON

Open the gates quickly.

Thomas is opening the gates as Henderson and Lee barge there way in.

HENDERSON

Close the gates. Close them now.

Thomas is bewildered, but closes the gates as requested.

Henderson and Lee are full of adrenaline, and Captain Brodie approaches them.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What's wrong men? Where is Levitt?

Both Henderson and Lee look at Brodie trying to work out how they are going to explain the situation.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Well come on. Where is he?

LEE

He is still in the woods captain.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

And you left him.

LEE

You don't understand sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Then make me understand.

HENDERSON

He is dead sir.

Henderson and Lee are out of breath as they try to speak.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What. How? He can't be. First Paxton, now Levitt. What is going on.

LEE

Captain, I know this is going to sound unbelievable. He was eaten.

Brodie laughs as do some of the other men.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Say again.

HENDERSON

So were all the cooks and cleaners. Sir if you look, you will see the tents are all ripped and bloodied.

Brodie no longer sees the funny side. Simpson interrupts.

SIMPSON

Makes sense.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What makes sense.

SIMPSON

You saw Paxton sir. He was bit by
one of our soldiers.

LEE

It was both our soldiers and the
Confeds eating Levitt and the
others.

Brodie is struggling to come to terms with what is being
said.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Enough of this nonsense.

Brodie makes his way to the high tier. He struggles to
focus on the tents as it is getting darker all the time.

However he notices a soldier exit one of the tents, but not
by the doorway. He climbs through a rip in the tent.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Wilson, shoot that soldier.

WILSON

But what if he is one of our men
sir.

Brodie snatches the gun from Wilson and takes aim.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Stop where you are soldier.

The soldier continues to walk aimlessly. Brodie loads the
gun.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I told you to stop soldier.

Brodie shoots the gun, hitting the shoulder in the chest. The soldier falls back. Brodie smiles and turns away.

WILSON

Erm, Captain sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What is it Wilson

Wilson points down to the soldier.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What?

Brodie looks down and is amazed as the soldier clambers back to his feet.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

That is impossible.

Brodie descends back down to the ground level. He makes his way the General's QUARTERS.

PETERSON

What do you want us to do
Captain.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Stay there. Keep watch and do not
leave the fort. I think Henderson
and Lee should get checked by the
Doc for there sanity.

As Brodie leaves, Peterson notices more soldiers emerging from the woods at short intervals. He shows Wilson.

PETERSON

You seen this. Why they walking
so slow.

WILSON

Who are they?

PETERSON

Think we better let the Captain know.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Brodie is briefing Westwood.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Are you crazy Brodie. Is your sanity going astray out here with boredom.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Don't you think I questioned there sanity. They were so adamant in the story. I know it sounds preposterous.

Hawkins enters.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Yes Hawkins, what is it?

HAWKINS

Sir, more of them are emerging from the woods. There must be at least ten at present.

Westwood looks at Brodie.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I think I need to see this for myself.

All three leave the QUARTERS.

EXT FORT.

General Westwood and Captain Brodie stand at the lookout, amazed as more soldiers emerge.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Where are they coming from?

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Who are they?

HAWKINS

What do they want?

SIMPSON

Us.

Everyone looks to Simpson.

SIMPSON

It's obvious. They killed Paxton.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Paxton is not dead.

SIMPSON

Yet! He may as well be. Levitt, the cooks, the workers all dead and eaten by them. They know we are here.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I need yo to stay calm private.

SIMPSON

How are we supposed to stay calm with those things out there.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Because they are out there and
not in here. They can't get in
unless we let 'em in.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I don't understand there motive.
They are not even trying to
attack.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

We will sit it out tonight. If
they are still here in the
morning we will look into it
then. I want two on watch every
other hour. The rest of you get
some rest.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Wilson, Peterson, you are on
first watch. Rest of you get some
sleep.

CUT TO:

EXT FORT.

Random shots of the dead soldiers walking aimlessly and
eating flesh from the cooks etc.

EXT FORT.

Simpson and Smith are sitting round a small fire with a
stove and pan boiling potato's.

The remainder of the soldiers are relaxing but are to
scared to sleep, except Miller who is snoring.

THOMAS

How can he sleep at a time like
this.

CARTER

Miller would sleep through a
stampede.

THOMAS

No way am I sleeping tonight, not
while they are out there.

LEE

You will need some rest,
otherwise you won't be strong
enough to fight them if we need
to.

Thomas looks at Lee, obviously not what he wanted to hear.

Simpson and Smith approach with bowl of mash potato.

HAWKINS

What the hell is this?

SMITH

It is all we have. You got a
problem with that.

HAWKINS

Who the hell do you think you are
talking to Private.

SMITH

You, I am talking to you. Want to
make something of it.

Hawkins rises to his feet and approaches Smith.

HAWKINS

I'm gonna teach you how not to
speak to higher ranked soldier.

SMITH

You are no higher than us, you
just a brown nose boot licker.

Hawkins lunges at Smith, but Smith being younger and nimble, dodges the lunge leaving Hawkins flat on the floor. As Hawkins rolls over, Smith dives on top of Hawkins and a fight breaks out.

Walker trudges over and breaks the fight up, holding Hawkins in one hand and Smith in the other. Both are still angry. Walker talks to them in turn while still holding them.

WALKER

(To Hawkins) You should know
better. If you think you are
higher ranked, then start acting
like it.

Walker turns to Smith.

WALKER

And you, calm down. I know you
scared, we all are. But fighting
each other ain't gonna help. And
that goes for you all yeah.

Hawkins walks away angrily before getting the last words in.

HAWKINS

This ain't the end of it. I am
watching you Smith.

EXT FORT HUNTERS WATCHOUT

Peterson and Wilson are sitting watching the soldiers outside walking round without any purpose. The bright moon lights the sky up beautifully.

PETERSON

I never thought it would come to this.

WILSON

Come to what?

PETERSON

Fighting my own men to survive.

WILSON

Do you think they are our own men.

PETERSON

I don't know what to think any more. Just know I want to make it through to see my family.

WILSON

I sometimes think we already dead and this is purgatory.

PETERSON

You crazy fool.

Wilson laughs.

WILSON

Well, surely hell can't get worse than these past few months. Stuck out here in the blazing heat with nothing but us. Then these come along.

Footsteps approaching from behind unease Peterson and Wilson. Wilson grabs the gun and turns rapidly. Simpson nearly drops the bowls as he jumps back.

They all laugh with embarrassment.

SIMPSON

It's not much, but it will keep you going for now.

PETERSON

Thanks man. Appreciate it. You guys better get some rest.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

HAWKINS

They gonna kill each other before anything else sir.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

They just scared that's all. Get Some rest. I am sure everything will be clearer in the morning.

Westwood lays down on his bed.

HAWKINS

I'm scared too sir.

Brodie interrupts sternly.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

We're all scared damn it man. Now get yourself together and get some rest. Devise a roster for the watch, maybe that will take your mind off things for a short while.

Hawkins leaves feeling dejected.

Timelapse. - men sleeping, changing watch duties, the creatures outside walking aimlessly.

EXT FORT.

Even more soldiers walk around waiting!

INT BRIGG

The prisoners are sitting talking among themselves, worried about the events and commotion of the previous night.

PRISONER 1

Sir, what do you think is happening? Do you think it is the Indians.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Could be. I don't know. Could be anything.

PRISONER 1

Not the Indians please. They are evil.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Get a grip man. It could even be our soldiers looking for us.

PRISONER 2

You think so.

PRISONER 3

Could be couldn't it.

PRISONER 1

Nah, they would have killed us by now if it were our men.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

If you don't settle down, I will
kill you.

Carter walks past the brigg.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Soldier, what's going on.

Carter walks back and looks on at the prisoners.

CARTER

You gonna die, that's what.

Carter walks on before quickly returning.

CARTER

If you don't keep quiet that is.

Carter disappears leaving the prisoners dumfounded.

EXT FORT HUNTERS WATCHOUT

Simpson is looking down in horror at the amount of soldiers walking around. Even more that union and confederate soldiers are among each other. He nudges Walker who is on watch with him.

WALKER

What is it?

SIMPSON

This ain't right.

Simpson notions toward the creatures. Walker looks but doesn't see what Simpson sees.

WALKER

What ain't right.

SIMPSON

Look. Our men walking side by
side with the Confed scum.

Walker rubs his eyes then takes another look.

WALKER

Damn. Maybe the war is over.

SIMPSON

Maybe we are over.

Walker looks at Simpson wondering what he means by the
comments.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood lies fast asleep in his bed as Brodie lies asleep
in his chair at his desk. A knock at the door startles
Brodie. Westwood doesn't move.

Simpson enters.

SIMPSON

Sorry to disturb your rest
Captain but you might want to
take a look at this.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

At what soldier.

SIMPSON

At the men outside sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What about them?

SIMPSON

I don't think you would believe
me if I told you Captain.

Brodie looks at Simpson intrigued now.

EXT FORT HUNTERS WATCHOUT

Brodie follows Simpson to the watchout. Brodie stops in mid step as he looks out taking in the sights.

The sun is rising behind the dead soldiers walking.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Brodie enters the QUARTERS which makes Westwood jump. Westwood is now awake and is just about to shave.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

What's happening Captain.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I am not sure sir. It is bizarre. Our men are collaborating with the enemy out there sir. Walking side by side. They must delirious or something.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

You don't think the war...

Brodie cuts Westwood up.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No, we would have received a telegram. I am going to go out and speak with the general to get to the bottom of this.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Do you think that is wise.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

We need to do something. Our men
need some reassurance.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Ok I will speak to there general.
I will be out in a moment.

EXT FORT

Brodie advances his men, who are eager to know what the
plans are. Brodie gathers everyone together.

John Hill joins them at this time too with the sad news of
Paxton.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What is it John? How is Paxton?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I am afraid he is deteriorating
sir. I might have to cut into the
wound after all.

There is eerie silence as everyone gives thought to Paxton.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Keep doing you best John

Brodie turns his attention to more urgent matters.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

As you all know by now, Paxton
was attacked, Levitt, the cooks
and workers were all brutally
murdered. By whom we do not know
yet.

Simpson is about to speak out.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I said we do not know yet.
However I cannot believe our own
men would be this callous.
Therefore General Westwood is
going to go and speak with there
general. I need two volunteers to
escort General Westwood.

Everyone looks at each other hoping the other will
volunteer. None do so.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hawkins. Do the honour please.

Hawkins steps out of line. He looks along each soldier.
Smith expects the worst after there spat the previous
night.

HAWKINS

Simpson, Henderson. You will
escort the General.

Both Simpson and Henderson call Hawkins under there breath.

General Westwood approaches ready to talk.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hawkins, open the gates.

The gates open slightly and Westwood exits with Simpson and
Henderson clutching to there weapons.

The only sound comes from birds flying high above and moans
from the dead soldiers.

Simpson and Henderson keep focused on the bloodied soldiers
walking aimlessly.

Westwood signals for Simpson and Henderson to stop once a
few yards out.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I call on your General to come
forth and speak.

None of the bloodied soldiers respond.

Westwood removes his colt, raises it in the air and fires.
This grabs the attention of the bloodied soldiers who turn
in the direction of Westwood.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

That's better.

Simpson mutters under his breath.

SIMPSON

Is it? You could have fooled me.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Which of you is the general.

Slowly, the bloodied soldiers start to advance holding
there hands out to grab Westwood, Simpson and Henderson.

HENDERSON

Erm, sir general, this don't look
good. Maybe we should retreat.

Westwood stands firm.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I will not be intimidated by
theses here soldiers.

Westwood raises his gun again and points it to the closest
advancing bloody soldier.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I order you to retreat soldier or
I will shoot.

There is no response.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Retreat I command you.

Still no response. Westwood, Simpson and Henderson take a couple of steps back before Westwood fires.

The bullet penetrates the chest of the advancing bloody soldier which falls to the ground.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Let that be a warning to the rest
of you.

Suddenly the soldier he just shot gets back up.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

That is not right.

SIMPSON

Now can we go back sir.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Yes, retreat men.

The three of them turn to retreat to the fort, but hadn't notice the creatures slowly moving behind them as well as advancing. They are now surrounded.

Shots are heard from the higher tier. When the three soldiers look up, Wilson, Brodie and few others are shooting making a clear path for them to get back.

As they are just about to enter the gates a hand reaches up and grabs the leg of Simpson. Simpson screams out in agony as the fingers cut deep into Simpson's leg causing him to fall over.

Westwood turns and grabs the outstretched arm of Simpson. He tries to pull Simpson, but more and more creatures climb on top of Simpson biting chunks out of him. Simpson cries out in pain as he lets go of Westwood's hand.

Westwood makes a move to go back and help Simpson but is dragged back by Henderson.

HENDERSON

He's gone sir.

Westwood stares at Henderson momentarily before they both squeeze through the small opening of the gate.

They struggle to close the gate as the creatures try to follow through. Brodie advances and shoots the closest creature in the head, and the gate is slammed shut. Brodie turns to Westwood.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You ok sir?

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I am fine. But Simpson ain't. I don't care who or what they are. I want them all dead. Kill them all.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Yes sir.

Westwood leaves to return to his QUARTERS.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You heard the general. Get your weapons and get into position, let's kill them all. John, you check the General over then I want you back out here having some fun.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Yes captain.

Random shots of the men grabbing there guns and ammunition before standing on the higher tier firing at the creatures.

The creatures fall everytime they are hit, but everytime they climb back to there feet.

This infuriates Captain Brodie who realizes they are wasting there ammunition.

He calls for a cease-fire.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

At ease men. This is not working.
Keep watch.

Brodie makes his way to speak with Westwood.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood is sitting at his desk writing vigorously.

Brodie storms in.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Sir, it is no good. We keep
shooting them but they just won't
die.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

What do you mean they won't die.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

They just keep getting back up
sir. They are relentless.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Then we sit it out. We have not
got enough ammunition to keep
shooting at nothing. We will send
a scout out tomorrow with this
here letter.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

How are we going to get the scout
past those.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

We make a diversion. Pick a volunteer of the soldiers and we pray he finds help before they get in or we kill each other.

The door bursts open and John Hill enters rather flustered and concerned.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

It's Paxton, I need to operate now.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Then do it. I will get two men to help you.

INT MEDICS ROOM

John grabs some equipment together. Paxton is actually awake at this point, but extremely delirious and is in excruciate pain. John Hill knows he has to calm him or he won't be able to continue with the operation. He looks back at Paxton wriggling on the table.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I have to get him calm.

Walker and Carter enter the room to help John in trying to save Paxton. Carter is quite disturbed at the sight of Paxton. Paxton is extremely pasty, with very dark eyes.

WALKER

What do you need us to do Doc?

John takes a deep breath before answering.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I need you to hold him down as still as possible.

(MORE)

MEDIC JOHN HILL(cont'd)

I can't sedate him any more and
if I slip while cutting him, I
cut his artery, and that is
something I really don't want to
do.

Walker moves over to Paxton while Carter stands staring.

WALKER

Carter, get over here and give me
some help will you.

Carter looks up at Walker though still staring. Not exactly
taking in what walker said.

John walks over to carter and lays his hand on Carter's
shoulder gently.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Carter, if you are not up for
this, I need you to leave now. I
can't have anyone getting in the
way while I operate.

Carter seems to snap out of his trance.

CARTER

I'm sorry. No I will be good.
Anything for Paxton. Anything.

Paxton wriggles on the table in pain, while Walker and
Carter pin his shoulders down tight on the table.

Problem is Paxton's head is still thrashing around
violently. Just then Brodie enters.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Just in time.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Pardon.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I need someone to hold his head
still.

Brodie nods and walks over.

Reluctantly Brodie holds Paxton's head in place. John removes the cloth that was used as a dressing. The stitched wound from earlier is oozing puss again and the whole neck area is black, yellow and green. The smell is so bad it is intoxicating. Walker, Carter and even Brodie struggle to cope with it.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What the hell is it John.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Gangrene. If I don't stop it now
it will spread through his body
by night fall and he will die.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Then let's get on with it yeah.

John turns away and returns with a knife. Carter can't take his eyes from the knife for some reason. He follows as the knife moves down to Paxton's neck. Carter's eyes grow wider as the knife cuts through the stitches on Paxton's neck yet Carter still can't remove his eyes from watching.

The wound cuts open and the puss spurts out over Carter who stops himself from retching. At this point Carter manages to turn away.

As John opens the wound wider, he dabs a cloth to clean away the puss and blood. The stench is even stronger. John closes his eyes and shakes his head.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What's the damage Doc?

MEDIC JOHN HILL

It's deeper than I hoped.

Paxton is squealing all the time through the operation. Which makes Carter feel even more uncomfortable.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

The only remote chance is to cauterise the wound.

They all look on at John wanting an explanation.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

We need to try and seal the wound from inside which inturn will stop the infection from spreading. If it hasn't already that is.

They all continue to look at John wondering how they are going to do that.

Brodie picks a large knife up from the table and leaves the room. The others watch on intrigued to Brodie's actions.

EXT FORT.

We follow Brodie who walks over to a camp fire where Smith is boiling potato's. Brodie places the knife into the fire.

SMITH

How is Paxton sir?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Not good. All we can do is pray.

We can see Wilson and Peterson on the higher tier watching over the dead soldiers outside. Miller, Thomas, Lee and Henderson are sitting around resting.

MILLER

What the hell they doin' to
Paxton man.

LEE

Trying to fix him, what do you
think idiot.

MILLER

I'm not an idiot.

LEE

You so are.

HENDERSON

You know what we should do. We
should hold Miller over the edge
of the fort, attract them
soldiers out there then we can
all run for it.

They all start to laugh except for Miller.

MILLER

Ha Ha. Not funny.

Brodie appears from nowhere holding the knife in his hands
which is bright orange from the fire.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Just you hold that thought. I
think I like it.

They all look on at Brodie as he walks away keeping his
face straight.

MILLER

He is joking right.

HENDERSON

I don't think he is.

MILLER

He can't be serious.

THOMAS

It's obviously gave him an idea.

INT MEDICS ROOM

Brodie enters and walks over to Paxton. Without any hesitation he places the red hot blade into the wound of Paxton as deep as he can push it without causing more damage. Paxton squeals out louder than ever and tries to break free from being held down.

Carter flinches as he watches Paxton squirm. Eventually Paxton passes out and Brodie removes the knife.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Stitch him up Doc. If that don't work, then we bury him tomorrow.

John, Carter and Walker are amazed at the coldness of Brodie. Brodie throws the knife on the table and leaves.

INT BRIGG

The prisoners are talking among themselves, more worried than ever after hearing the screams of Paxton.

PRISONER 1

What do you think all that was about.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

I suspect one of there soldiers ain't well and they operating on him. I've heard those squeals before, only on an operating table.

PRISONER 2

When?

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

During the battle of Milestone 8 month back. We were attacked during the night and few of us survived. Many soldiers lay on the floor waiting to be operated on. After hearing the screams of others, many of the wounded would try to kill themselves or plead with a passing soldier to do the honour rather than be operated on. They knew once you entered the medic tent, there was little hope of coming out alive. So why go through the agony.

Hawkins enters, and stares at Maitland sternly.

HAWKINS

Paxton will be ok. He didn't die during the surgery.

Smith and Henderson follow with rashings for the prisoners.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Thankyou.

HAWKINS

Don't thank us. If it were up to us, you would starve. That is courtesy of General Westwood.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood is writing at his desk as Brodie enters. Brodie walks over and picks up a towel to wipe the blood from his hands and face.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

How is Paxton doing?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

As good as dead. I doubt he'll see the night through.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

He was a good lad too.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It is all taking a big affect on the rest of the men. I don't think they can go on like this for much longer. It is two nights now they have been walking around and we have been stuck in here.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I have plans. I have fed the prisoners today.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You have done what. Why? We need all the food we can get for our own men.

Westwood smiles cunningly.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

We are going to use them as bait in the morning.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Bait for what?

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I have been thinking how we can send a scout out past those...whatever they are out there.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Well I have an idea. I heard the men joking on. We can hang one of our men over the back of the fort and entice the....

Westwood interrupts Brodie.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Too risky. I will not put any more of my men at grave risk. Instead, we offer the prisoners there freedom tomorrow morning.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Are you losing you mind General.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I grow weary of your respect Captain Brodie.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Sorry General. My humble apologies.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

We offer them freedom, in return for there freedom they leave the fort. If they refuse to leave they will be executed on the spot. As they leave, the soldiers outside will follow, leaving room for our scout to escape on horseback. So I have fed and watered the prisoners to give them a little energy and strength to keep themsoldiers occupied long enough. All we need to do now is find a scout.

(MORE)

GENERAL WESTWOOD(cont'd)
They will take this here letter
to General Lambert.

CAPTAIN BRODIE
Actually, I commend you sir. That
is a brilliant idea.

GENERAL WESTWOOD
We will rest and sit the night
out with two on watch again,
tomorrow is a new day.

INT BRIGG

The prisoners eat there food like ravenous animals.

PRISONER 3
Why are they giving us food.

PRISONER 2
Who cares, I am famished.

PRISONER 3
They are up to something.

PRISONER 1
Maybe it is our men out there,
and they are being nice to us so
we will show compassion when they
are captured.

PRISONER 2
Could be. What do you think
Captain?

Maitland looks at each of his men in turn.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND
Just eat. I am sure we will find
out soon enough what there plans
are.

EXT FORT.

Brodie has all the men together. They all wait eager to hear what Brodie has to say.

SMITH

So what are we going to do
captain.

HENDERSON

We can't just keep sitting here
like this.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

First off, we all stay calm.

MILLER

Easy said than done don't you
think.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I know these past two days have
been hard on everyone. We are
trying to get through this the
best we can. I know it is not
easy. We do have a plan though.

On the higher tier, Peterson mutters to himself.

PETERSON

This I have to hear.

Peterson climbs down and asks Smith to relieve him of his watch. Smith makes his way to the high tier where he joins Hawkins.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I need a volunteer scout. We are
going to make a diversion in the
morning.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN BRODIE(cont'd)

When we have a clear path, the
scout will make his way on
horseback to get help from
General Lambert.

Walker steps forward.

WALKER

I will do it.

Thomas steps out.

THOMAS

No offence, but I will be quicker
sir. Walker is a big man, he may
way the horse down.

Brodie looks on at Thomas, then looks at Walker.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

He has a point.

WALKER

He is way too young and
inexperienced to send.

THOMAS

I can do it.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I could do with your strength
here Walker if the truth be told.

Walker nods in agreement reluctantly.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Any other volunteers.

None of the other soldiers really fancy taking the risk of
being out there with them soldiers.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Then it is settled. Thomas leaves in the morning. Get some food and rest. Same as last night. Two on watch every other hour. Thomas you don't watch tonight. We need you fit for tomorrow.

As Brodie walks away, Peterson speaks out.

PETERSON

What is the diversion sir.

Miller frantically speaks out.

MILLER

You are not hanging me over the edge. No way.

Everyone laughs out loud.

MILLER

It is not funny.

Even Brodie has to try and refrain from laughing.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No Miller, we are not hanging you over the edge. You will all find out in the morning. None of you will be put at risk I can assure you. So stay calm and rest up.

Brodie's words leaves the perfect topical discussion for the night.

Up on the higher tier, Smith looks out at the hoard of soldiers. There is lots now. Smith is horrified and is muttering to himself.

SMITH

It's over. Look at them all. We don't stand a chance. We are all dead.

Smith slowly and shaking reaches out for Wilson's rifle. He places it under his chin and puts his finger on the trigger. Tears stroll down Smith's face as his finger shakes on the trigger. He his just about to pull the trigger when the rifle is snatched away from him.

Smith opens his eyes to reveal Hawkins holding the gun.

HAWKINS

What the hell you doing soldier.

Smith points to the soldiers outside.

SMITH

Look at them all. What chance do we have.

HAWKINS

Did you listen to anything Captain Brodie just said. We are gonna get help.

SMITH

We will be dead by the time help gets here.

HAWKINS

Pull yourself together soldier. We need all the men we can get.

Back on the ground the remainder of the soldiers are eating, talking among themselves and sleeping, as the moon shines brighter in the clear starry sky.

THOMAS

I will make it. I know I will. I
won't let you down I swear.

WALKER

You better make it boy, or I will
be coming after you.

A few of the soldiers laugh.

MILLER

But won't he already be dead if
he don't make it.

Some sigh at Miller, and some laugh even more.

WALKER

Never mind Miller, go back to
sleep.

PETERSON

Do you really think we will get
out of this one alive.

WILSON

You have to think positive
otherwise what else is there.
Besides I want a good meal after
all this.

LEE

Is that all you think about.

Wilson rubs his stomach as he imagines real food.

WILSON

Hell yeah. Beats the trash we get
here every day.

EXT RANDOM CUT AWAYS

The clear starry sky with the bright moon shines down over the deserted river, and the plantation farm. Odd dead soldiers roam mindlessly around the woodland and lots of them outside of the fort.

Most of the men in the fort are sleeping. Peterson returns from the rest room and lays back down. Miller and Henderson sit on the higher tier watching tiredlessly.

In the general's QUARTERS, Brodie lies slumped at the desk asleep and Westwood is asleep on the bed.

FADE TO:

EXT FORT.

The sun is rising and the men are waking. Despite resting, none of the men have slept very well and are very lethargic. They are way too worried of the current events.

Captain Brodie joins them in a vibrant mood.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Good morning men. Today we get
help.

The men cheer half heartedly. They want to believe but struggle with the belief.

WILSON

Lord, I hope so.

Wilson looks up to the sky, John Hill places his hand on Wilson's shoulder.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

If the Lord wants us saving, he
will save us. It is in his hands
now.

WILSON

What. No it ain't. It is in
Thomas' hands now.

Brodie shouts of Hawkins.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hawkins, fetch the prisoners.

Hawkins, inturn shouts of Carter.

HAWKINS

Carter, with me now.

Brodie turns to Thomas, who is obviously nervous but
slightly excited at the same time.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You ready for this son.

THOMAS

As ready as I ever will be
captain sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You will be commended for this if
you succeed. I will personally
see to it.

THOMAS

Thankyou captain.

INT BRIGG

Hawkins is rounding up the prisoners.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Where you taking us?

HAWKINS

To speak with the captain.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

May I ask why exactly.

HAWKINS

All in good time.

EXT FORT.

The prisoners stand in front of Captain Brodie and the soldiers.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Good morning men. I hope you slept well.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

No you don't. Get on with it.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No, really I do hope you slept well. Cause you gonna need all your energy.

The prisoners are now confused.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

What's this about Captain?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You are free to go. That's what this is all about.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

What, just like that?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Yes, just like that captain.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

What's the catch? There has to be catch.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No catch. We are releasing you as a good will gesture.

The prisoners don't like what is happening and know something is not right.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You can have some water to take with you and you can walk out those gates to your freedom.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

So what do we face when we get out there. We know something has you men scared. Is it the Indians?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No, no Indians.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

This is too easy.

Brodie turns to his own men. The men all watch in amazement at the audacious move from Brodie. The anticipation is great.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Give them some water and let them be on there way.

PRISONER 2

I am not going. It is a trap.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It is not trap. Just a decoy.

PRISONER 1

A decoy.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

We need you to distract those men out there so we can send a scout. You get past them you are free men.

PRISONER 2

I knew something wasn't right. No way, I ain't going.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Oh but you are going. You either leave through those gates to your freedom or you stay here and I shoot you.

Brodie takes a colt from his gun belt and places bullets in.

PRISONER 3

That would be cold blood. You can't do that.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

And you ain't complying with captive laws. I am granting you an option. You choose. Either freedom or death. Therefore you have decided you own fete not I. Besides cold blood is to shoot you in the back, I will place the gun between your eyes and shoot.

PRISONER 2

Well I ain't going, you will have
to shoot me.

Brodie raises the gun, places it between his eyes and fires
before the prisoner even has a chance to change his mind.

Blood spurts from the back of the prisoners head and his
body drops to the ground with a thud.

The other prisoners are panicking while Captain Maitland
stays calm.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Any others want to stay.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

So we get past the men out there
and we are free to go.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

That's correct.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

And we have your word on that.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You sure do.

Maitland turns to his two remaining soldiers.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Then I guess we got no choice
men. This is our only chance of
freedom. I guess you pull
yourself together and we get
outta here.

Brodie turns to Thomas.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Get ready boy.

He then looks up to Wilson on the higher tier.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Wilson, when there is a clear
path you let me know and Thomas
will be on his way.

WILSON

Yes captain.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Open the gates.

Henderson slowly opens the gates and Captain Maitland and the two soldiers edge through. They are astounded at the sight that lies before them.

Captain Maitland looks back as everyone watches on eagerly. Thomas waits patiently on horseback, satchel over his shoulder. Brodie places the letter into the satchel along with some water.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

God be with you. Good luck.

Thomas looks down with a worried look stowed upon his face then looks up to the sky as if wanting answers.

Medic John Hill walks closer.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

I will pray for you my son.

The Confederate soldiers ease their way outside as quietly as they can, hoping they don't distract the dead soldiers. Slowly they creep along the side of the fort.

Brodie orders the gate to be closed so they can't return, then looks up to Wilson on the higher tier.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What is happening Wilson

WILSON

They are creeping along by the
fort sir.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Fire a warning shot.

Wilson looks at Brodie with a confused look on his face.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It will alert the soldiers and
hopefully think they fired the
gun.

Wilson picks up his rifle, loads it then fires close to the
Confederate soldiers. The confeds jump and look up at
Wilson who smiles in return. The sound of dull groans snaps
there attention back to there situation among the dead
soldiers.

As they look on, the dead soldiers are slowly making there
way toward them.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Just stay calm men.

Prisoner 1 speeds off in fear, prompting Maitland and
Prisoner 3 to follow in pursuit.

As they run side by side, Prisoner 1 looks over to the dead
soldiers, then to prisoner 3 a couple of times. Suddenly he
reaches his leg out to the side tripping prisoner 3 over.
He tumbles and rolls on the hard surface with some force as
they were running full speed.

Maitland looks at prisoner 1 and then back prisoner 3. The
felled prisoner is a little dazed and just as he composes
himself and looks on at Maitland he is dragged to the floor
by hoards of dead soldiers.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Why did you do that.

PRISONER 1

I panicked. I thought it would
give us extra time to escape.

Back at the fort, Brodie has joined Wilson at the watch tower. He smiles at callous behavior of prisoner 1.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Ha, It's amazing what fear will
drive a man to do.

Brodie notions to Wilson to hand him the rifle. He loads it, then takes aim and fires.

Prisoner 1 falls to the ground holding his shoulder. Captain Maitland looks back at Brodie who is reloading his gun. Maitland reaches a hand down to the injured prisoner.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

Take my hand son.

He holds his hand out and grabs Maitlands hand, but another gunshot fires and this time hits the prisoner in the chest. He falls back to the ground releasing Maitland's grip.

Maitland angrily turns to Brodie.

CAPTAIN MAITLAND

You gave us your word.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

But you are still here. You have
had long enough to keep your word
and run.

Maitland, looks on disgusted as Brodie starts to reload again. Maitland looks as more dead soldiers approach. He turns and runs. Brodie takes aim and fires.

Maitland clutches his leg in agony and twists as he falls uncomfortably to the ground. Dust flies up as he squirms on the floor in pain.

Brodie hands the weapon back to Wilson.

WILSON

But he is still alive sir.

Brodie turns to Wilson and smiles.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Exactly. He will still try to crawl away, taking those things with him. He won't get far.

Brodie makes his way down to the gate. Slowly he opens it. There are four or five random dead soldiers left roaming. The rest are in pursuit of Maitland.

Brodie walks out with his colt and shoots at the remaining dead soldiers. He turns to Thomas.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Your turn son. Time to go.

Thomas kicks the horse and speeds off. He speeds past Brodie and disappears into the woods. Brodie returns to the fort.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Lock the gates back up. All we can do now is sit and wait.

EXT WOODLAND

Thomas is speeding through the woods, dodging trees and low hanging branches. He spots movement further ahead, not too far from the path. He slows the horse down and edges over as curiosity gets the better of him.

Screams are deathly which makes Thomas feel real uncomfortable. He thinks about retreating back to the fort as he turns the horse around.

THOMAS

I can't go back, they are relying
on me.

As he turns to set off again, and Indian runs toward him from the woods. The Indian has a crazed look on him as he attacks. The horse takes the brunt of the attack, felling Thomas heavily to the ground.

Thomas can only cower in fear as the Indian prowls toward him wielding an axe. Just as the Indian is in motion to lunge, he is mauled by more of the dead soldiers.

Thomas seizes the opportunity and clambers to his feet running off in the opposite direction as fast as his legs can take him.

EXT FORT.

All the fun and excitement is now over and the men are back to being depressed, worried and bored. For all they have only being stuck for a few days it feels like a few weeks.

Henderson is making food away from the others. Wilson and Peterson are still on watch. Lee is talking with Hawkins and Carter.

LEE

Do you think he will make it.

CARTER

I hope so.

HAWKINS

Question is, how long will it
take him.

CARTER

At least he had horseback. Should
speed him up a lot.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood is once again writing in his books. Brodie is
growing tired of watching him write all the time.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

What if he don't make it to
civilization.

Westwood briefly looks up at Brodie.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I am not expecting him to make
it.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Come again.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

If they don't get him, then the
Indians probably will. He is
inexperienced.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Then why the hell did we send
him.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

To give the men something to
believe in. What good is soldiers
who have nothing worth fighting
for. At least this way they
believe they might just get out
of this alive.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You are unbelievable. What the hell you keep writing anyway.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Journal. Someone needs to know of these events so it never happens again.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

They will think we just went crazy and killed each other.

General Westwood doesn't respond.

EXT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Walker is standing close to the door. He is very angry at what he has just heard. He storms off disgusted.

EXT LAKE/RIVER

Thomas flees from the woodland. He stops to catch his breath by the river. A cut marks his fall from the horse just above his right eye.

He reaches inside his satchel and removes the water. He takes a good drink before refilling it in the water. He soaks his head to cool off. He slowly lifts his head as we hear more screams in the distance.

THOMAS

This is insane.

Thomas sets off across the river in pursuit of help for his men stranded back at Fort Tuscon.

EXT FORT.

Evening is setting in, and the men are all sitting around eating and looking more depressed than ever, even a little angry.

Hawkins tries to defend the general.

HAWKINS

Look, the General was probably just messing with Captain Brodie. I mean come on we all need to lighten up a little in these times.

WALKER

Shut the hell up Hawkins.

Hawkins jumps to his feet.

HAWKINS

Don't you talk to me like that private. I will have you court marshalled if you do not watch your tongue.

Walker stands up towering over Hawkins.

WALKER

Then court martial me Hawkins. Anything so I don't have to listen to your whining voice trying to defend that lying cheating no good general.

HAWKINS

That is slander.

Hawkins is stuttering in fear of Walker who pushes Hawkins violently. Hawkins stumbles over the makeshift seats.

HAWKINS

That's it Walker, you in for it now. I won't put up with this and neither will the General.

The rest of the men pull back Walker as he approaches for another round with Hawkins.

Hawkins turns to the other men for back up.

HAWKINS

You all heard him. You are all witnesses to the slander.

CARTER

Jeez, Hawkins shut up.

HAWKINS

Oh, so it's mutiny now is it. The general will hear of this. You will all be in trouble.

Hawkins runs off to report back to Westwood.

HENDERSON

This is going to be interesting.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Hawkins rushes in to the general's QUARTERS, eager to report the situation to Westwood and Brodie.

HAWKINS

The men are losing faith fast sir.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

What appears to be the cause of the unrest?

HAWKINS

You sir. Walker overheard you talking with Captain Brodie earlier. I fear a mutiny General. They are already disregarding my authority.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You have no authority Hawkins. Maybes that's why they show you little respect.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Enough of this, we can ill afford fighting between ourselves if we are to survive.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Survive? So you think we can survive now or you just saying what we want to hear.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

That is enough Captain. I will not tolerate you speaking like this.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

And what about the men?

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I will speak to them in the morning. They need to rest and sleep it off first.

EXT LAKE/RIVER

Further down the river where Thomas crossed. He lies resting for the night as the moon reflects off the rippling water.

It is so quiet barring the odd sound of coyotes in the distance.

Thomas is startled as he hears the water splashing on the other side of the river. He quickly sits up and looks across the bright sparkly water as the wounded confederate soldier is gulping the water from the river.

We can see the blood trails as to where he has crawled in vein. He drinks the water and sighs with exhaustion. He notices Thomas on the other side. Just then he is grabbed from the river and dragged below the surface of the water.

All Thomas can see is heavy splashing and the occasional appearance of the soldier fighting for air and to break free.

Moments later, everything calms down and the peace and quiet is restored. Thomas picks up his belongings and sets off again.

FADE TO:

EXT FORT.

The men are still sitting around depressed. No one is talking and the atmosphere is extremely dull.

INT MEDICS ROOM

Medic John Hill is looking even more depressed than the men outside. Reluctantly and slowly he pulls the blanket up over Paxton's head. He signs the cross sign on his chest as he gives Paxton the last rites.

EXT FORT.

Along comes General Westwood to the disgust of the men.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Good morning men

Walker stands up and moves in front of Westwood. There he looks him in the eyes before spitting in front of him.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Ok, I deserved that. I said some things yesterday that I didn't mean. I was tired, delirious.

WILSON

You are supposed to keep us together, not show us your weakness. How can we give you the respect anymore. We are all tired and delirious and scared.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I know. I am here to rectify the situation.

At that point, John Hill joins them.

HENDERSON

How's Paxton holding out?

John shakes his head solemnly.

An air of silence waves over everyone until Brodie arrives.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Why is everyone so glum. I thought you were going to sort this mess out General.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Paxton passed away this morning.

Brodie turns to John.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I am sorry John. I know you have worked close with Paxton and I am sure he appreciated everything you tried to do for him.

John is struggling to hold back his feelings and just nods in appreciation to Brodie.

WALKER

You see General, we respect Captain Brodie more than you. At least he tells it how it is and appreciates at the same time.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Look everyone, I know how you all feel at the moment. I really do, I was hurt just like you but he is still in command here.

WALKER

All we want to know is do we stand a chance or not.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

If we all stay calm and focused then yes. But it won't be easy. Food is extremely low, ammo even lower. We must start thinking of ways we can possibly escape incase Thomas doesn't make. And that does not mean I don't think he can make it.

HENDERSON

What do you have in mind. We can't stay cooked up in here much longer. We been trapped here for nearly a week now.

(MORE)

HENDERSON(cont'd)

I think we know by now they ain't going nowhere.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Captain Brodie and myself have been talking. We think we should give Thomas forty eight hours. If he hasn't returned we must fear the worst. By then we will be out of food. In the meantime we collaborate on ideas of getting past them out there.

PETERSON

And for now, we just keep sitting it out.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I'm afraid these are the only options we have. If anyone has any better ideas, they are more than welcome.

FADE TO:

EXT FORT.

Various shots of the fort and the men doing various tasks. Walker gathers logs for the fire, realizing that they are also running low on logs.

Burial of Paxton.

Westwood using his pipe to test the gunpowder which is still slightly damp.

John Hill is cleaning his room after the death of Paxton.

Henderson and Clark replace Wilson and Peterson at the watch out.

Lee is making food for the men.

Evening draws in.

FADE TO:

EXT FORT.

Next morning and the men are struggling with fatigue.

HENDERSON

You know I think I would rather
be at battle with Indians.
Anything is probably better than
this.

LEE

As crazy as that sounds, I agree.

MILLER

I sometimes wish I was shot while
I was sleeping. Anything to get
me out of this nightmare.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

You are all losing faith that's
all.

WALKER

Damn right we are. What is there
to have faith for.

MEDIC JOHN HILL

Well Thomas is still out there.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Westwood is talking to Brodie, trying to come up with
ideas.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Do you think fire might scare
them off.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

And how would we use fire against
them. You going to go out with a
torch and wave it about.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

No, but if there is a way of
setting the tents on fire.

Brodie looks at Westwood with interest for the first time.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It will keep the men entertained
for a while. Could be worth a try
I guess.

EXT FORT.

Brodie makes his way to the men in quite a jovial mood.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Ok men. We going to have some fun
today.

HENDERSON

Oh yeah.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Any of you think you have a good
throwing arm.

WALKER

What the hell for.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I want to see if we can set fire
to the tents outside.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN BRODIE(cont'd)

I know they are of some distance
but if we can manage we are
hoping it might scare them off.

WALKER

Rubbish.

LEE

I will give it a try, anything is
better than sitting around all
day.

Most of the men agree and they make there way up to the
higher tier with a log doused in fire.

In turn all the soldiers throw a log but sadly none hit.
Moral soon stoops, until eventually when all is lost walker
pushes past everyone.

WALKER

Move out of the way you rabble.
You need a real man for this.

He pulls his arm back and with everything he has got he
throws the stick. The stick hurtles through the air and
lands just to the side of the tent.

Everyone sighs in disappointment.

HAWKINS

So where is this man you speak of
then Walker.

Walker punches Hawkins in the face, knocking him to the
floor. Lee shouts out eagerly.

LEE

He did it. It's on fire.

The rope attached to the tent ignites. The fire moves
rapidly along the rope to the tent.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

The wind must have blown the
flame onto the rope.

Before we know it, the tent is ablaze, which leads onto the
next tent and the next.

The men are all cheering in delight.

HENDERSON

Should that be on fire too.

Henderson points over to the tree that Walker was chopping
earlier in the week before Brodie moved him on.

The fire spreads quicker than they imagined as everything
is so dry.

WILSON

If the tree falls into the woods,
we have a major dilemma.

CARTER

Yes and if it falls this way, we
have an even bigger dilemma. It
will hit the fort.

Everyone watches on intensely.

Brodie retreats to the generals QUARTERS to explain the
possibility of disastrous circumstances.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Brodie enters the QUARTERS.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I have some disturbing news.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

What is it? Surely no-one else
has died.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

No. But our little fire plan may
just back fire on us.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

How come?

CAPTAIN BRODIE

The wind spread the fire further
than we intended. A nearby tree
which was half chopped by our
woodsman is ablaze. It is only a
matter of time before it falls.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

Do we know which direction it is
going to fall.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

How could we possibly know that.
All we do know is two of four way
would be disastrous.

A huge crash is heard from inside the QUARTERS. Both
Westwood and Brodie turn in horror, thinking the worst. The
men outside are shouting and panicking.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Sounds like it could be the
worst.

Brodie flees the QUARTERS to see the disastrous events.

EXT FORT.

Brodie stands in horror as he sees the felled tree lying through the corner of the fort still ablaze. The fire is starting to spread through to the fort. Brodie springs into immediate action.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Everyone pull yourselves together. We need order. Line up get pales of water. Get this fire out before the damage gets any worse.

Westwood exits his QUARTERS to see what is happening. He is devastated at the events.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You too sir. We need everyone helping out here.

Westwood flips and starts to retreat to his QUARTERS.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

That's it. It's over now. We are doomed.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Pull yourself together General. We need everyone to keep it together.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

We can't keep it together now. We can't even keep the fort together.

Westwood starts to laugh manically.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

We are all dead. This is the end.

Westwood runs back to the QUARTERS.

WALKER

Where does he thinks he is going.

Brodie turns back to the action.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

General Westwood is relieved of his duties. He will be court marshalled once we get all of this in order. I will take command for now. Back to work.

The pales of water are passed along from Lee at one end to captain Brodie at the other. Each in turn working effortlessly and without question. Brodie throws the water over the fire each time then Hawkins runs back to Lee with the empty pails.

Eventually the fire is doused. And everyone relaxes not thinking about the dead soldiers for once.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Well done everyone. Wilson climb up to the watch out to see what those creatures out there are doing.

This reminds the men that they are out there.

HENDERSON

I forgot they were there. They will get in now.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

We have to stay calm soldier.

Wilson climbs up and takes stock of the surrounds outside the fort.

WILSON

They are still just walking around sir. They don't seem to have noticed anything.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It is only a matter of time before they find the entrance. We need to be ready. Gather all the guns and ammunition. I want the gatlin gun set up. Place them at the farthest part of the fort away from the tree. That will buy us time when they start to come in.

The men get straight to work. Place rifles against the fort wall. The gatlin gun is placed ahead of everything. Walker places wood by the side.

HAWKINS

What's the wood for?

WALKER

To throw at them when they come in.

HAWKINS

What damage will that do.

WALKER

They will be on fire when I throw them.

HAWKINS

Don't you think we have caused enough damage with fire already.

WALKER

You got any better ideas.

Walker starts to build a fire close by.

INT GENERAL WESTWOOD'S QUARTERS

Brodie storms into Westwood's QUARTERS.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I don't care what you think
Captain.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

You are relieved of your duties
sir. If we get out of this alive,
I will report all activities when
we are saved. For now I advise
you to come with me where we are
ready to defend our lives.

GENERAL WESTWOOD

I will stay here thankyou. You
go.

Westwood continues to write his journal. Brodie shakes his
head in disbelief and leaves.

EXT FORT.

All the men are in the opposite end of the fort to where
the tree collapsed through. They wait for the inevitable.
Each one more scared than they have ever been.

PETERSON

Where are they?

HAWKINS

It is only a matter of time.

CARTER

I would rather be fighting the
Indians.

HENDERSON

At least they might not get back
up when you shoot them.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hey Wilson, go up and see what is
happening.

As Wilson starts to ascend to the higher tier, a random
dead soldier appears through the broken wall/

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Never mind Wilson. Here they
come.

All the guns are raised by the men in anticipation.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Hold your fire men. We need to
use the guns to the best use as
ammo will not last very long.

The dead soldier slowly advances, followed by another
entering from behind, then another and another and so on.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Ok men fire.

The dead soldiers fall to the ground as blood sprays from
them. Each time they simply get back to there feet and more
keep entering. Brodie knows it is a useless situation. The
men are getting more and more scared.

Walker rushes forward to light the wood. He throws one
toward the nearest dead soldier which engulfs in flames.

The engulfed soldier continues to walk until eventually it drops to its knees then to its face. Everyone watches in anticipation. It does not get back to its feet.

Walker is overjoyed as is the other men. Brodie moves to the gatlin gun while ordering the other men to the higher tier.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

I want everyone to the higher tier now except you Walker. I will slow them down, you can burn them to hell.

The men flee to join Wilson on the higher tier. Brodie commences to shoot with the gatlin gun mowing down the dead soldiers. From there Walker sets them on fire with his wood.

Unfortunately it is only a matter of time before they run out of wood and the gatlin gun jams. Both stand as more and more dead soldiers enter.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

Retreat Walker. Get up to the higher tier.

Walker sets off with Brodie in pursuit.

Once on the higher tier, Brodie takes stock of the surrounds and drops his guard at the horrific site. There are hundreds of them emerging from the woods and entering the fort.

The fire spreads from the dead soldiers to the gunpowder storage. The soldiers aren't too worried as the powder was still slightly damp yesterday. However the powder ignites and the explosion is great.

Brodie knows it is now a lost cause.

CAPTAIN BRODIE

It has been honour serving with
you men. Let's go down fighting.

They all start to shoot in desperation.

Peterson runs out of ammo and tries to grab the gun from Carter who is closest to him. They tussle for a couple of seconds until Peterson loses his footing on the edge of the walkway and falls among the creatures. He disappears beneath a mass of dead soldiers before we know it.

Miller and Wilson stand side by side. They too run out of ammo. As they look around they spot Hawkins with two guns. Hey look at each other.

WILSON

I never did like him anyway.

MILLER

Me neither.

They both rush Hawkins, but Hawkins sees them coming and shoots Miller in his defence. Miller slumps among the creatures. Hawkins tries to reload but is not quick enough to stop Wilson throwing him over into the sea of dead soldiers.

We slowly move around to the remaining soldiers shooting aimlessly.

Westwood sits in his quarters as he signs off the journal and places it in a tin box.

We also see the dead soldiers entering the General's QUARTERS and the Medics room. Screams are heard. Slowly we pull back to see the overall view of the fort and surrounding area. All we can see is a sea of dead soldiers advancing the depleted fort as smoke bellows into the sky.

FADE OUT.

EXT FORT.

From the edge of the fort, we see a platoon of union soldiers emerging. They are led by Thomas and General Lambert. As they emerge they pause and take stock of the fort.

The fort is eerily quiet as smoke smoulders from the ruined fort. The surrounds are deserted.

GENERAL LAMBERT

What the hell happened here son.

THOMAS

I don't know general. All I know is they were trapped by soldiers sir. They sent me for help while they sat it out.

GENERAL LAMBERT

You sure you didn't just flee from battle.

THOMAS

No sir, there were hundreds of them, and Captain Brodie knew we didn't have a chance. We used a decoy and I went for help.

They enter the fort. The only dead soldiers to be seen is that of the Brodie and his men.

GENERAL LAMBERT

This was a slaughter, not a battle.

A voice appears from behind as a soldier exits the Generals QUARTERS.

RANDOM SOLDIER

Sir, I have General Westwood's
Journal.

He takes the journal.

GENERAL LAMBERT

Take this soldier away from my
sight. He is deserter and will be
dealt with when we return. Have
these men buried.

Thomas pleads his innocence but Lambert is having none of
it.

THOMAS

They were alive and well when I
left them sir I swear.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END