

GUESTS OF THE EMPEROR

Written by

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Based on actual events.

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FADE IN:

EXT. THOMPSON HOME BACKYARD ALEXANDRIA, VA - AFTERNOON

SUPER: 19 SEPT 1941 Alexandria, VA

A young man, WILLIAM THOMPSON is playing with his daughter while his wife watches.

WIFE

Do you have to go back in today?

THOMPSON

You know when the Army says jump, I say how high. I'll be back before you miss me.

DAUGHTER

You promise Daddy?

THOMPSON

You betcha' I do. I can't wait to get back to my two beautiful gals.

DAUGHTER

I love you Daddy.

THOMPSON

I love you too, little monkey.

He tickles her and she runs off laughing.

WIFE

I'll keep a plate warm on the stove.

THOMPSON

Love you honey.

Thompson kisses her goodbye and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. US ARMY BASE CAMP A.A. HUMPHREYS, VA - EVENING

SUPER: OCT 1941 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Camp A.A. Humphreys, VA

COLONEL BRUNEL is in his office when hears a knock.

BRUNEL

Come in.

THOMPSON

Lt. Thompson, reporting as ordered.

BRUNEL

At ease. No need for saluting, spit shine and all that jazz. We're the Army Corps of Engineers, we build great things.

THOMPSON

Sir?

BRUNEL

Listen up Thompson, you've been chosen for a 3 month TDY assignment in Manila.

THOMPSON

Manila?

BRUNEL

As in the Philippines.

LT. THOMPSON

The Philippines?

BRUNEL

Am I hearing an echo in here. Shut up and listen. You will report directly to General Douglas MacArthur's Office at Far East Command.

THOMPSON

May I ask the Colonel what am I doing there?

BRUNEL

There are several major projects on the table for us there. You go and evaluate the situation, see what MacArthur is proposing, then report back to me in December.

THOMPSON

But Sir, I've have no experience with such a major assignment.

BRUNEL

Then you don't want to miss your big moment, do you? Now I know you have young wife and young daughter but you'll be back before Christmas.

(MORE)

BRUNEL (CONT'D)
You leave in two days, here's your
travel papers. Dismissed.

CUT TO:

INT. THOMPSON HOME LIVING ROOM ALEXANDRIA, VA - DAY

Thompson with his duffle bag stands at the door.

LT. THOMPSON
Daddy has to go to work now. But
will you do me a big favor?

DAUGHTER
Yes, Daddy?

LT. THOMPSON
You make sure you are a good girl
so Mommy smiles everyday.

DAUGHTER
You promise to be here for
Christmas?

LT. THOMPSON
Give me a hug.

WIFE
Don't worry, we'll be fine. Write
when you can.

A car horn sounds.

LT. THOMPSON
OK, gotta' go. I love you both.

WIFE
We love you more.

Thompson kisses them and heads out the door.

CUT TO:

Montage animation of a Douglas DC-3 airplane flying hopscotch
across from DC to LA, Hawaii, Midway, Guam, Philippines.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MANILA HOTEL GARDEN GROUNDS, PHILIPPINES - NIGHT

SUPER: 8 DEC 1941 Manila Hotel Garden Grounds, Philippines

Over a hundred military officers from the Far East Command party at the opulent Manila Hotel garden while a band plays swing music.

Lt. Thompson and British MAJOR ROBERT PEATY trade remarks while other officers listen.

LT. THOMPSON

It's my final putt to win the match and I'm 23 feet away. I check the wind, slope of the hill, angle of the cut grass, the sun...

MAJOR PEATY

Oh strike the ball already, Lieutenant.

Everyone laughs.

LT. THOMPSON

Wait a second, I'm getting to that. But my buddy doubles the bet right before I putt. Lots of pressure.

MAJOR PEATY

What is it with you Americans, always wagering on sporting events? In Scotland, where golf was invented of course, we play for our honour.

LT. THOMPSON

That was at stake too. I needed to win or I would have to pay for the sandwiches AND the beer at the clubhouse.

Everyone laughs again.

CUT TO:

INT. FILIPINO HUMP-HUMP BAR, MANILA - NIGHT

A few bored soldiers, SGT. JOE BILL CHASTAIN, S1C FERDINAND MERINGOLO, CPL. PALIOTTO and Filipino Army SGT. JORGE DIAZ are nursing beers at the bar and rolling dice for nickels and dimes.

SGT. DIAZ

Sergeant, is it true you saw Joe DiMaggio hit a home run?

SGT. CHASTAIN

You bet I did. 3rd game of the '39 World Series at Yankee Stadium. It was the bottom of the 3rd inning and the Yankees were down by one. Joltin' Joe strides up to the plate with one man on base. You know he holds the record for a 56-game hitting streak?

CPL. PALIOTTO

Yea, yea, we know. Go on.

S1C. MERINGOLO

What did DiMaggio do?

SGT. CHASTAIN

The Red's "Junior" Thompson fires a fast ball at Joe for a swing and a miss.

SGT. DIAZ

Oh no.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Hey, don't give up so easy. Da Yankee Clipper is at bat, anything is possible.

SGT. CHASTAIN

The next pitch is a tricky slider but Joe steps into it and WHACK! It screams high above the left field bleachers and Home Run! Joe brings home his man and the Yanks take the lead. They go on to win the game, the series and I win a big jackpot.

SGT. DIAZ

Wow, that must have been something?

SGT. CHASTAIN

That is was my friend, that is was. OK, so who's taking a bet against my lucky dice? Beers all round if I don't get my 7.

CPL. PALIOTTO

You ain't been lucky since you landed on this rock.

S1C. MERINGOLO

I'll take a piece of that bet.

SGT. DIAZ

Me too.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Oh yay, oh yay - never give a sucker an even break. (impersonates W.C. Fields) Coming out! Baby needs new shoes.

Chasten throws the dice down the bar counter and they all shout at once.

CUT TO:

As Thompson tells his story, a military messenger runs to read an announcement from the stage.

LT. THOMPSON

I step up to the ball, steady myself, take a deep breath and give the ball a forceful tap. It's rolling right of the cup but I know it will break left at the slope. 15 feet, 10, 5, 3 then...

The band music stops and the announcement begins.

MESSENGER

Ladies and Gentlemen. I apologize for this interruption but I have an urgent message from CINCPAC. As of 0800 hours Hawaii local time, Pearl Harbor and other military installations on O'ahu are under attack by Imperial Japanese forces. This is not a drill. All military personnel must immediately report to their designated stations. Admiral Kimmel warns the Philippine Islands could be next. Man your battle stations. Repeat, this is not a drill. That is all.

Suddenly, flashes of light appear on the horizon followed by a rolling thunder. Air raid sirens wail.

Thompson and Peaty remain calm while the others are clearly panicked.

MAJOR PEATY

I have a vehicle, might I give you lift back to the fort?

LT. THOMPSON

Yes, can you drop me by HQ? What about you?

MAJOR PEATY

Same building. My office is in the basement. Special Branch, MI-6.

LT. THOMPSON

The what?

MAJOR PEATY

Afraid I can not tell you. It's all rather hush hush.

LT. THOMPSON

Let's go then.

CUT TO:

Out in front of the Hump-Hump Bar, Chastain, Paliotto, and Meringolo are among hundreds of servicemen running in all directions as air raid sirens blare.

CHASTAIN

Let's meet up later. I'll let you fellas try to win your money back.

PALIOOTTO

Are you nuts? A war is on!

MERINGOLO

I wanna go home.

CHASTAIN

Not now Bub, first we got some Jap killin'.

CUT TO:

Thompson and Peaty drive through streets of running people and speed head on toward vehicles.

LT. THOMPSON

Right side! Drive on the right side!

MAJOR PEATY

Sorry old boy, I am used to the British way.

LT. THOMPSON
Get over! Right side!

CUT TO:

INT. USAFFE HQ MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

SUPER: USAFFE (United States Armed Forces in the Far East) HQ
- Manila, Philippines.

Thompson and Peaty are running down the hall of HQ.

HQ GUARD
Lieutenant! The General is already
in the map room. Go in.

MAJ. PEATY
Leftenant, this is as far as I am
authorized.

LT. THOMPSON
Major, I'll see you afterward.

Thompson quickly walks into an in-progress meetings.

General DOUGLAS MACARTHUR stands with his back to the
officers staring a wall-sized map of the Philippine Islands.

GEN. MACARTHUR
Gentlemen, our moment has arrived.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEACHES AT NORTH COAST OF LUZON, PHILIPPINES - DAY

SUPER: 12 DEC 1941 North Coast of Luzon, Philippines

2,500 screaming Japanese troops run ashore with fixed
bayonets on rifles firing their weapons into the jungle while
Zero fighters and bombers fly overhead.

Montage of battle scenes:

Filipinos counter attack killing many Japanese but are
overwhelmed.

Americans in the jungles fighting hand-to-hand combat.

Air attacks by Japanese bombers onto Manila.

Americans and Filipinos fight Japanese in city street-to-
street battles.

Retreating Allies in jeeps and trucks.

More Japanese troops advance on the ground.

Map of the Philippine Island chain with animated Japanese invasion.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. INSIDE A TUNNEL BUNKER - CORREGIDOR, BATAAN - NIGHT

A couple dozen of battle weary men are sitting on the ground with some wounded lying in a barely lit tunnel.

Lt. Thompson and Major Peaty sit near a shortwave radio.

They're listening to the scratchy broadcast of President Franklin Roosevelt.

FDR (RADIO V.O.)

For eight years, General Washington and his Continental Army were faced continually with formidable odds and recurring defeats. Supplies and equipment were lacking. In a sense, every winter was a Valley Forge...Washington's conduct...has provided the model for all Americans ever since - a model of moral stamina. The defense put up by General MacArthur has magnificently exceeded the previous estimates; and he and his men are gaining eternal glory therefor. This generation has come to realize...that there is something larger and more important than the life of any individual...something for which a man will sacrifice... not only his association with those he loves, but his life itself.

The men in the bunker look around at each other and realize they are being sacrificed for the greater battles ahead.

A crusty OLD SERGEANT stands up to walk outside the bunker for a look.

OLD SERGEANT

We're the battling bastards of Bataan.

(MORE)

OLD SERGEANT (CONT'D)
 No Mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam; No
 pills, no planes, no artillery
 pieces. And nobody gives a damn.
 Nobody gives a damn.

Thompson looking at a photo of his family.

MAJOR PEATY
 Why the glum face, Lieutenant? Your
 President was inspiring.

Thompson hands him his photo.

LT. THOMPSON
 I promised my daughter I'd be home
 for Christmas.

MAJOR PEATY
 I believe returning alive to her
 would be your most precious gift.

FADE OUT AND
 FADE IN:

INT. USAFFE HQ MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

SUPER: MAR 1942 USAFFE (United States Armed Forces in the
 Far East) HQ - Manila, Philippines.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur stands looking out his window from his
 headquarters smoking his corn cob pipe while several soldiers
 wait for his orders.

COLONEL
 What are your orders General?

GEN. MACARTHUR
 (Pauses) Alright then. Inform
 General Wainwright to begin War
 Plan Orange 3. Defensive positions
 and delay as long as possible, so
 others may retreat.
 (Talking out loud to himself.)
 I'm so sorry Jonathan. May
 providence help you because I
 surely can't. But I shall return,
 by God, I shall return.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BATAAN DEATH MARCH - BATAAN, PHILIPPINES - DAY

SUPER: APR 1942 - Bataan Death March - 65 miles

A long line of American and Filipino soldiers slowly walk down a dirt road in the hot, tropical sun when one man faints. Japanese guards rush to him screaming.

JAP TRAIL GUARD

Okiru! Inu, okiru! Speedo!(Get up!
Dog, get up! Hurry!)

The Japanese soldiers bayonet him but he doesn't move because he is dead. They laugh leaving his body in the trail.

Lt. Thompson mops his brow with a handkerchief and steps around the dead soldier's body. He looks forward and back at the long line of defeated soldiers, then up to the scorching sun.

A Private walking behind looks to him for direction.

PRIVATE ON TRAIL

Lieutenant? Are we all gonna die?

LT. THOMPSON

Private, who do you miss the most
from back home?

PRIVATE ON TRAIL

I guess I miss my Mom and Dad...and
my brothers.

LT. THOMPSON

Then that's what you must
concentrate on. Block out the heat,
the thirst, and especially all the
death. Think of their faces, their
voices and the happy times you will
have with them again.

PRIVATE ON TRAIL

OK. (Pauses) Yea, I can see them
now. Thanks Lieutenant.

LT. THOMPSON

Stay sharp soldier, stay focused.
We can survive this. Everything
will be OK.

PRIVATE ON TRAIL

Yes Sir.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BATAAN DEATH MARCH CONTINUES - AFTERNOON

Sgt. Chasten and Sgt. Diaz walk together along the dirt road.

SGT. DIAZ

Hey Sergeant, what was the biggest bet you ever won?

SGT. CHASTAIN

Now let me see. I was playing Texas Hold'em poker down in San Anton one time and had three Aces in my hand.

SGT. DIAZ

What's Texas Holder Poke'em?

SGT. CHASTAIN

(Laughs) Texas Hold'em poker, I'll teach ya whenever we get wherever we're going, OKie Dokie?

SGT. DIAZ

Okie? Thanks.

Sounds of streaking birds off in the nearby jungle and Diaz straightens up to look around.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Hey, what is it?

SGT. DIAZ

Ssshh. (Whispering) Those are not birds, they're guerrilla fighters signaling us.

Guards see the two talking and stops them demanding to know what is going on.

JAP TRAIL GUARD 1

Hanasu no o yamete!

Subtitles: (Stop talking!)

Diaz glances out in the jungle and the guard catches him looking.

JAP TRAIL GUARD 1 (CONT'D)

Dare ga soko ni imasu ka?! (Who's out there?!

JAP TRAIL GUARD 2

Who's out there?!

SGT. DIAZ

No one!

The Japanese guard takes a submachine gun and shoots wildly into the jungle.

All the POWs hit the ground covering themselves.

Diaz knocks down the guard then runs toward the jungle.

SGT. CHASTAIN
NO DON'T!

Another guard with a rifle shoots Diaz in the back and Chasten runs to help him.

SGT. CHASTAIN (CONT'D)
What have you done? Why?

SGT. DIAZ
I saved my friends.

SGT. CHASTAIN
You're a God Damn fool. A very
brave God Damn fool.

SGT. DIAZ
Hey Sarge, did you win that hand?

SGT. CHASTAIN
Huh? Oh yea, I pulled another Ace
and won two grand.

SGT. DIAZ
Wow, that must have been something?

SGT. CHASTAIN
That it was my friend, that it was.

Diaz dies in his arms, then a guard knocks over Chasten with his rifle butt.

JAP TRAIL GUARD
Ugoku! Speedo! (Move! Hurry!)

Chasten gets himself up and gives the guards an angry look. They point their bayonets at him and he gets back in line to continue walking.

Off on the distance, he hears the same bird whistle signal from the Filipino fighters and Chastain smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BATAAN DEATH MARCH CONTINUES - SUNSET

The Japanese guards order all the soldiers to sit down as night approaches.

Thompson sits against a tree with the Private who gazes up.

PRIVATE ON TRAIL

Lieutenant, how many stars do you think are up in heaven?

LT. THOMPSON

Oh, I don't know. I suppose there's are billions maybe more.

PRIVATE ON TRAIL

It feels like I could reach out and touch 'em.

Someone is screaming in agony near the river bank.

Other men yell for help and the guards begin shooting.

Thompson runs to find that one of the POWs is being torn apart alive by several large crocodiles.

The guards are laughing and shooting at the crocodiles.

Thompson nearly vomits at the horrific sight of body parts strewn about.

The guards push everyone back to the trail where Thompson returns to the tree next to the Private.

LT. THOMPSON

Animals. They're all animals. I can't believe this is happening. (Takes a deep breath.) How ya holding up Private?

Thompson turns around to check on the Private. He finds him dead with his eyes wide open to the stars.

LT. THOMPSON (CONT'D)

Oh no. (Pauses) You're OK now. Can you see your parents? You hear your mother calling? That's right. Everything will be fine.

Thompson doesn't flinch but slowly closes the dead man's eyes. He leans back onto the tree and looks up at the stars.

LT. THOMPSON (CONT'D)
Never give up, never give in,
everything will be fine.

FADE OUT AND IN:

EXT. CABANATUAN CAMP - MARIVELES, PHILIPPINES - DAY

SUPER: SEPT 1942 Cabanatuan POW Camp - Mariveles, Philippines

Lt. Thompson sees Major Peaty.

LT. THOMPSON
Major. You writing Tojo to complain
about our room service?

MAJOR PEATY
I should think not. I have been
documenting these horrendous events
since Manila and shall continue to
do so as long as we endure.

LT. THOMPSON
Could be a best seller?

MAJOR PEATY
The only audience I wish to
titillate would be a war crimes
tribunal.

Major Peaty is shivering and sweating.

LT. THOMPSON
Hey, are you alright?

MAJOR PEATY
I have a touch of malaria but will
soldier on.

LT. THOMPSON
How can I help you?

MAJOR PEATY
Thank you, it will pass. Leftenant,
I hope you are not offended but may
I ask you a question?

LT. THOMPSON
Of course not, shoot.

MAJOR PEATY

You are not at all like the other Americans I have met. What are you exactly are doing in the Army?

LT. THOMPSON

It's that obvious, huh? I was a fresh out-of-college Civil Engineer with a wife and baby during the Great Depression. I needed a job and the U.S. Army was hiring. What about you?

MAJOR PEATY

I suppose there is no harm in revealing myself to you now. After Oxford, I was approached by Lt. Col. Menzies who me offered a commission in Her Majesty's Secret Intelligence Service. I sought adventure and with my experience in Hong Kong made me a likely candidate.

LT. THOMPSON

Wow, your life sounds like a real Mata Hari spy story.

MAJOR PEATY

I should think not! That promiscuous woman betrayed her country. I swore my allegiance to Queen and country, something I will never violate.

LT. THOMPSON

Easy now, you're sweating and shaking again. I'll find you some water.

MAJOR PEATY

I am a tad unsteady, cheers.

A metal triangle rings from the front gate which signaling them form up to attention.

JAPANESE OFFICER CABANATUAN

Attention prisoners of the Empire of Japan. Our Heavenly Sovereign, Imperial Emperor of Japan want volunteers. You - skilled worker, know machine, tool, factory work. You qualify, step forward.

Thompson and Peaty step forward with 50 other men.

LT. THOMPSON

Uh oh, what did we just volunteer
for?

MAJOR PEATY

I am uncertain but I pray it will
be Shangri-La compared to this.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABOARD THE HELL SHIP TOTTORI MARU - PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

SUPER: OCT 1942 Aboard the "Hell Ship" Tottori Maru

Thompson is standing in the cargo hold with hundreds of sea sick men while Peaty is crammed into a wooden pen unable to stand.

The heat is stifling and the stench of vomit, feces and dead soldiers are everywhere.

Three 5-gallon buckets slosh over with excrement and urine.

One man picks off large grey colored lice from the man next to him. Before he flicks it away, he decides to eat it.

The crew lowers a large slop bucket of watery rice into the cargo hold.

Many men desperately grab at the swinging bucket spilling some onto the filthy deck.

It's a mad scene from hell where every man is reduced to survival.

THOMPSON

Hey! Stop it! We're not animals!

DYING MAN

No? That's exactly what we are.

A Japanese sailor on deck looks into the cargo hold, grins then urinates on them as they scream.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABOARD THE US NAVY SUBMARINE USS GRENADIER - DAY

SUPER: 9 NOV 1942 USS Grenadier, Naval Submarine, Pacific Ocean

Submariner CAPTAIN FITZ is called to the bridge by his CHIEF to see the blips on the sonar.

CPT. FITZ
What do we got, Chief?

CHIEF
Three big fat targets, Captain.
Take a look.

CPT. FITZ
Take us up 30 feet Chief. Up
periscope.

CHIEF
Aye aye, 30 feet up.

The periscope tube is pulled down by the Captain who peers through the scope.

CPT. FITZ
Hmm. That's odd.

CHIEF
What's wrong Captain?

CPT. FITZ
Three cargo ships with no escorts?

CHIEF
I dunno and who cares? We're here
to sink ships and we got three
sitting ducks right in our lap.

CPT. FITZ
You're right Chief. Load all tubes.
Range 1000 yards, bearing 340
degrees northwest, 23 knots.

CHIEF
Load all tubes. Mark, range 1000
yards, bearing 340 degrees
northwest, 23 knots.

TORPEDO BAY VOICE
Locked and loaded Chief.

CHIEF
All fish are loaded and hot,
Captain.

Captain Fitz back on the periscope.

CPT. FITZ
On my mark. Wait for it, wait for
it. Fire! Fire all tubes!

CHIEF
FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

(The sounds of torpedoes being launched.)

All fish away and running true,
Captain. 30 seconds to impact.

CUT TO:

Thompson looks down at his feet standing in inches of muck
and water.

LT. THOMPSON
Shangri-La?

CUT TO:

Aboard the submarine Grenadier, pings from sonar are heard
along with the props from the three ships. The Chief holding
a stopwatch reads off the seconds to impact.

CHIEF
20 seconds...10 seconds...5...

CUT TO:

Thompson looks up through the cargo hold opening to see the
blue sky and shakes his head.

CUT TO:

5-seconds comes and goes with no explosions.

CPT. FITZ
Report Chief, what the hell is
happening?

CHIEF
Damn it! We were right on target...

CUT TO:

One of the torpedoes hits one of the Tottori Maru propellers.

Thompson and his buddies are knocked sideways from the blast
shock wave.

The other two torpedoes head for the next ship, the Lisbon Maru.

CUT TO:

The crew of the US Grenadier cheers and celebrates.

CUT TO:

The center ship explodes and breaks its back spilling out men from below, the water is on fire with oil, screaming men are on fire, other men drown in locked cages.

CUT TO:

Thompson looks to the blue sky to see a fire ball rising, metal flying, and black acrid smoke rising. There is a faint sound of men screaming.

CUT TO:

Aboard the submarine Grenadier, Captain Fitz looks pleased but is curious as to what happened.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

Can we reload more fish for the other two Captain?

CPT. FITZ

Let's take a look Chief. Up periscope. (He focuses the scope.) God Damn Sons of Bitches! There are hundreds of men in the water! The bastard Japs put our men inside cargo ship. That's why they had no escorts. Break radio silence to any and all nearby subs. We've got men in the water, this is a rescue mission.

CHIEF

But Captain, if we surface the Japs will know we're here.

CPT. FITZ

Chief, they already know we're here. Down periscope, get us to our men now.

CUT TO:

The two remaining ships slowed by the damage continue to sail north leaving behind carnage, fire and death.

The JAPANESE CAPTAIN of the Tottori Maru looks back and gives a little smile.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN
Change course to Formosa for
repairs! (Japanese)

CUT TO:

Thompson around at all the suffering then up to see a blue sky.

LT. THOMPSON
Everything will be good. Everything
will be good.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THOMPSON HOME BACKYARD BETHESDA, MD - DAY

A flashback with Thompson telling the Private on the Bataan Death March to Thompson with his new baby girl and wife at home.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

EXT. PUSAN SHIPPING PORT PUSAN, KOREA - WINTER - DAY

SUPER: 8 NOV 1942 Port of Pusan, Korea

The sound of ship's horn blows. Thompson and the POWs are herded onto the docks to awaiting train cars.

Many are barefoot in the snow and everyone is ordered to strip and wait.

Thompson spots Peaty for the first time in weeks who is bent over limping, so he runs to help him.

LT. THOMPSON
Major! Major, let me help you. Lean
on me, I've got you.

MAJOR PEATY
Well, if it's not my lucky Yank. I
do need assistance, cheers. That
bloody ship had the worst cabin
service I have ever experienced.

LT. THOMPSON

Yea and we thought Cabantuan was hell? You look worse than before. What is it?

MAJOR PEATY

I first contracted malaria in Indochina years ago. Rather a nasty little bugger. The symptoms diminish with antibiotics which we presently have none.

The guards hand out winter clothes while nearby three Japanese businessmen in expensive suits are watching the POWs dress.

LT. THOMPSON

You traveled a lot around the Far East?

Peaty hands Thompson a photo of himself with his wife and her large family.

MAJOR PEATY

My wife comes from a wealthy Hong Kong family with many contacts throughout Asia.

LT. THOMPSON

She's a very beautiful woman.

MAJOR PEATY

And powerful too. Her family is one of three who control Hong Kong.

LT. THOMPSON

Is that how you know so many languages?

MAJOR PEATY

Naturally, (cough) I needed to converse with the family's businesses in many countries.

LT. THOMPSON

But you're an officer in MI-6?

MAJOR PEATY

My tradecraft allowed me to gather vital information for my country while conducting family business.

LT. THOMPSON

Major, where are we, Japan?

MAJOR PEATY

I should think not. Those signs are Korean and I heard them saying we are headed north.

LT. THOMPSON

North to where?

MAJOR PEATY

North of Korea is Japanese occupied Manchukuo. Leftenant, (cough) we are headed to China.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. INSIDE THE TRAIN CAR - KOREA AND CHINA BORDER - DAY

Thompson and Petty are seated in a heated dining car eating cooked salmon looking a bit shocked.

MAJOR PEATY

I should think a full-bodied Chardonnay with our salmon would nicely complement our brunch, hmm?

LT. THOMPSON

I must be dreaming.

The train chugs through the desolate countryside.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CITY TRAIN STATION MUKDEN, CHINA - NIGHT

SUPER: 11 NOV 1942 Mukden Prisoner Of War Camp, Manchukuo, China

The guards scream at the POWs to unload from the train and stand at attention in a freezing light rain.

Search lights sweep across the men while guards surround them.

The camp commander, a short be-speckled man, COLONEL GENJI MATSUDA addresses them in broken English.

MATSUDA

Welcome to Manchukuo. I am Colonel Genji Matsuda, the Mukden Camp Commander.

(MORE)

MATSUDA (CONT'D)

Your present predicament was, in actuality, brought about by a few numbered politicians and their unreigned ambitions. You have fulfilled your duties to your countries. It is for you to tender in a clean sheet, to work in harmonious accord, to obey and to lead a life of neat, orderly discipline under our leadership. You are understand, though, that any breach of discipline, any disobedience will court you only drastic punishment for you in its prosaic and military sense. You are now Guests of the Emperor. The yellow and white man are eternal enemies, and, as long as the white man is in Asia, there will be no peace in Asia. I will not rest well until the last one of you dies. Dismissed.

The guards begin yelling at the POWs to march toward the camp gates but first pass by a cemetery.

MAJOR PEATY

(Whispering) I do not believe that chap has ever heard about the (coughs) Geneva Convention's rule forbidding prisoners of war as forced laborers.

LT. THOMPSON

(Whispering) No, and I don't think he's ever been to Switzerland either.

They continue to march into the camp and told to strip for a search of contraband.

Guards hand prisoners Army blankets and a mattress cover.

They're split into groups of officers (Barracks #2) and enlisted men (Barracks #4).

LT. THOMPSON (CONT'D)

Somebody find a light and something to burn. Get that stove working or we'll all freeze to death.

One of the officers loads scraps of wood while another has a G.I. Zippo lighter. Someone finds a kerosene lamp to light.

MAJOR PEATY

Brilliant.

LT. THOMPSON

Any guess what tomorrow brings?

MAJOR PEATY

I shan't expect breakfast in bed
but I dare hope they provide us
sustenance. (Coughing)

LT. THOMPSON

One day at a time Major. Let's
check on the other men.

Thompson and Peaty enter another barracks.

Sgt. Joe Bill Chastain has survived all the ordeals and steps
forward to ask if he can help.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Lieutenant, what can I do?

LT. THOMPSON

Sergeant, I need you to take a head
count and assess the condition of
the men. Who's ill or needs medical
attention?

SGT. CHASTAIN

Yes, Sir! (Looking over at Peaty
slightly confused.)

LT. THOMPSON

This is Major Peaty, British SIS.
You outrank me but may I give the
orders for our group?

MAJOR PEATY

Please do proceed.

LT. THOMPSON

Thank you Major. Alright Sergeant,
try to get some rest and report
back in the morning.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Thank you Sir.

MAJOR PEATY

Their all so young, your chaps.

LT. THOMPSON
Not any more.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

EXT. POW ASSEMBLY YARD MUKDEN CAMP, CHINA - MORNING

Whistles are heard blown by camp guards awakening the POWs to assemble in the courtyard.

LT. MURADA a tall guard is an American born Japanese.

LT. MURADA
TENKO! Roll Call! Count off!
(English)

The POWs count off numbers for roll call.

Guards discover they are six men short of their total.

Guards run back into the barracks to find men sitting on their bunks with no shoes.

LT. MURADA (CONT'D)
You have disobeyed orders.

SOLDIER 1
We ain't go no shoes, you jerk.

LT. MURADA
Run the fence line until I say
stop, you pigs. Speedo!

The six shoeless men begin running along the fence in the snow.

MAJOR STANLEY HANKINS, the ranking Allied officer wobbles out address the men.

Thompson and Peaty stand together with their barrack's men.

MAJOR PEATY
I dare say he looks bladdered.

LT. THOMPSON
At 7 in the morning?

MAJOR PEATY
Perhaps he sustained a battle
wound.

MAJ. HANKINS

At ease men. (Slurring) Welcome new arrivals at Mukden Camp. I am Major Stanley Hankins, Senior Officer of the camp. I know the conditions are spartan and it is deadly cold but Colonel Matsuda assures me provisions are on the way to help you endure our time here. Do your best and pray we survive.

Colonel Matsuda walks out from his headquarters.

Col. Hankins snaps to attention, nearly loses his balance then deeply bows toward Matsuda.

Many of the POWs looked dismayed at Hankins's behavior.

MAJ. HANKINS (CONT'D)

Dismissed.

A sergeant yells for dismissal except for Barracks #1, 7, 11.

Guards corral those men who are heading to work in the plant.

Thompson and Peaty are included in the group of workers.

MAJOR PEATY

Your man seems to be Matsuda's puppet.

LT. THOMPSON

I agree. He may be our Senior Officer but I wouldn't trust him with anything important.

Four of the running shoeless men have fallen to the ground from exhaustion. The other two attempt to help them but are driven away by the guards.

The rest of the POWs stagger four abreast through the city of Mukden where the local Chinese stare at them.

Japanese Nisei guard, Lt. TORU MIKI 'THE BULL', is a bitter hateful sadist that takes pleasure in whipping POWs with his truncheon.

Cpl. EIICHI NODA the English interpreter, smiles and approves of the violence on the POWs.

THE BULL

Keep moving you pigs. You don't want to be late for your first day at work.

(MORE)

THE BULL (CONT'D)

Be happy to know the parts you make
will help kill more Americans.
(Japanese.)

CPL. NODA

Keep moving you pigs. You don't
want to be late for your first day.
Be happy your work will slaughter
more Americans. Perhaps your
brother or a friend? Ha Ha
Ha.(English)

LT. THOMPSON

(Whispers to Peaty.) Who these hell
are these crazies?

MAJOR PEATY

To my observation, they appear to
be cruel sociopaths with a deep
seated hate for Americans. It would
be wise to avoid antagonizing them.

LT. THOMPSON

I think you hit the nail on the
head.

CUT TO:

INT. MITSUBISHI MKK FACTORY MUKDEN, CHINA - MORNING

SUPER: Mitsubishi MMK Factory Mukden City, China

The POWs enter the plant and are handed white coveralls with
a "Ford Motors" patch on the breast pocket.

The JAPANESE PLANT MANAGER points to the other Chinese
workers who have already started working.

"LAO" DECUN GAO is the Chinese factory foreman who translates
for the MKK plant manager.

JAPANESE PLANT MANAGER

Sorena o mite manabimasu.
(Japanese)
Subtitles:(Watch them and learn.)

LAO GAO

He say learn from them.

Thompson and Peaty stand together.

LT. THOMPSON

That man understands some Japanese and English? (To Major Peaty)

MAJOR PEATY

Fascinating. I shall initiate a conversation.

LAO GAO

Find someone and learn from them!

MAJOR PEATY

Ni Hao wo de mingzi shi Major Peaty. Subtitles: (Hello. My name is Major Peaty.)

LAO GAO

Wo shi Gao Decun danshi meigeren shou Lao Gao, Gongchang lingban. Ni shi yingguo ren? (I am Gao Decun, factory foreman but everyone say Lao Gao. You are British?)

MAJOR PEATY

Shi de. Danshi wode tai tai shi zhongguoren. (Yes but my wife is Chinese.)

LAO GAO

Hen hao. Glad to meet you.

MAJOR PEATY

Where did you learn English and Japanese?

LAO GAO

My parents worked for Christian missionaries in Guangzhou and I learned Japanese after they invaded my country.

MAJOR PEATY

Outstanding.

LAO GAO

And you?

PEATY

I was born and raised in Hong Kong then studied at Oxford. My country is the UK but my heart is in Asia.

LAO GAO
 Together, we must rid these mad
 dogs from China and the world.

PEATY
 Agreed.

Lt. Murada catches them talking and whacks Peaty with a long
 truncheon whip.

Another POW drops a long metal tube near a lathe.

LT. MURADA
 You are damaging the property of
 Emperor! Are you not qualified to
 work this machine? I will put you
 outside into the snow if can not
 keep up.

POW 1
 It won't happen again.

LT. MURADA
 What?!

POW 1
 It won't happen again, Sir.

LT. MURADA
 Much better. You work, you are
 happy.

Then he takes his truncheon and beats him over the shoulders
 until he falls to the ground.

MURADA
 Now I am happy. Back to work.

CUT TO:

YOSHIO KAI, an American-Japanese engineer approaches
 Thompson.

KAI
 Beware of Lt. Murada, he is a
 vicious, bitter young man.

THOMPSON
 You speak English?

KAI
 Yes, I am Yoshio Kai, one of the
 factory Chief Supervisors.

LT. THOMPSON

I'm Lt. Thompson, this is Major Peaty. Where are you from Kai?

KAI

Please call me Yoshio. Like Lt. Murada, I'm from San Francisco. I regret taking this job and fear for my wife here. Mostly, I am ashamed I can't help my parents back home.

LT. THOMPSON

I'm sorry to hear that but this damned war has interrupted all our lives. I do envy you having your wife here and understand the danger you're in.

KAI

Thank you Lieutenant. That means a great deal to me. The Japanese soldiers hate me because I'm American by birth and the POWs hate me because they see me as the enemy.

LT. THOMPSON

Yoshio, I have many sick and starving. Can you help us?

KAI

I will do all I can. Please be careful, the guards are brutal monsters.

Lao Gao whispers something to Major Peaty causing him to laugh then an MKK GUARD begins yelling at them.

MAJOR PEATY

Enough of this! I insist that I make a formal protest to the highest authority, here and now.

MKK GUARD

You talk, Captain Ishikawa.

They walk into CPT. ISHIKAWA's office.

Captain Ishikawa, thank you for allowing me to speak to you.

(MORE)

MKK GUARD (CONT'D)

As you may know, the 1929 Geneva Convention prohibits prisoners of war from being forced against their will to labor in an adversary's factory.

CPL. NODA

(Translates in Japanese)

CPT. ISHIKAWA

Hmm. Japan never ratified the Geneva Convention agreement, therefore not bound by that law. All prisoners of war will work at the factory. They will work on what the factory gives them. And the camp staff will see that they do the work. (Japanese)

CPL. NODA

(Translates in Japanese)

MAJOR PEATY

Does Japan have Law Courts for people who broke the law?

CPT. ISHIKAWA

Yes, the very best Law Courts. (English)

MAJOR PEATY

If in your Law Courts they accepted an excuse for doing wrong, that the law-breaker had never signified his agreement with the laws?

CPT. ISHIKAWA

No, that would be ridiculous. (English)

MAJOR PEATY

International Law is the law which governs the conduct of nations, and that after the war, Japan's conduct will be judged by that standard, and that they too would find it was no excuse to say they had not signified their agreement.

Cpt. Ishikawa pounds the table and jumps from his chair.

CPT. ISHIKAWA

Insolence to an Imperial Japanese Army officer!

(MORE)

CPT. ISHIKAWA (CONT'D)
 I could have locked in the guard-
 house for a month with no rations.
 Get out! (Japanese)

Peaty is hustled out of Ishikawa's office.

LT. THOMPSON
 How was your meeting with Lt.
 Nishijima?

MAJOR PEATY
 I am afraid he has never been to
 Geneva either.

DISSOLVE TO:

The factory whistle blows and the guards start pushing people to remove their overalls and be searched before they leave.

The POWs trudge five miles back to Mukden Camp, exhausted and cold as the local Chinese stare at them.

Once inside the camp, they are ordered to stay in formation and strip naked while guards search them again standing in the freezing weather.

Those not cooperating are slapped, kicked in the shins, or punched in the gut.

CUT TO:

INT. POW BARRACKS #2 AROUND THE STOVE MUKDEN CAMP - NIGHT

Lt. Col. NEVILLE GROW is handing out bowls of cold rice.

Lt. Thompson is rubbing his feet by the stove.

Major Peaty comes in with a sack of vegetables.

MAJOR PEATY
 Would you be so kind to prepare
 this for the officers?

LT. COL. GROW
 Where on Earth did you get those,
 Major?

MAJOR PEATY
 My new Chinese friend Mr. Gao
 Decun, the factory foreman is quite
 a resourceful chap.

(MORE)

MAJOR PEATY (CONT'D)
I enlightened him of our Allied war effort and he provided me with smuggled vegetables.

LT. THOMPSON
And what was the big joke at the factory?

MAJOR PEATY
Oh, nothing really. Mr. Gao informed me some the parts we are producing are measured in British inches while the bloody Japanese think they are metric. His men switched the calibrations.

Everyone laughs and the group breaks up.

LT. THOMPSON
Isn't that risky once they find out? Does Yoshio know?

MAJOR PEATY
One could surmise Mr. Kai has purposely conspired with the sabotage but I shan't mention it. Besides, once the parts are distributed about, there is no way knowing their origin of manufacture.

LT. THOMPSON
Major, I think you have found your match in Mr. Gao.

MAJOR PEATY
He was most delighted to see Americans entering the factory today. He is certain the sleeping giant has awoken to destroy the Japanese.

LT. THOMPSON
I'd like to share his optimism but right now we're back on our heels. If we can just stay alive long enough for our boys to throw a counterpunch, we might have a chance. Thank you Major.

MAJOR PEATY

I believe we can drop the formality of rank now that all we share in this predicament. My friends call me Robert, and you?

THOMPSON

William, I mean Bill, please call me Bill.

They shake hands and smile. Lt. Col. Grow bangs a pot.

LT. COL. GROW

Gentlemen, dinner is served, courtesy of Major Peaty.

MAJOR PEATY

And Mr. Gao!

A cheer goes up and the men crowd around the pot.

Major Peaty pulls a wild herb plant from his jacket.

MAJOR PEATY (CONT'D)

Colonel Grow, Mr. Gao provided this herb for my pestering malady. When you have the opportunity, Could you boil it into soup?

LT. COL. GROW

I'd be happy to Major.

MAJOR PEATY

Cheers.

LT. THOMPSON

For your malaria?

MAJOR PEATY

Correct. Chinese herbal medicine is quite effective.

LT. THOMPSON

Maybe so but it looks like a yard weed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD LEADING TO UNIT 731 PINGFANG, CHINA - DAY

SUPER: UNIT 731 - Imperial Japanese Army Biological and Chemical Warfare R&D Facility - Pingfang, Harbin, China (1935-1945)

Sociopath, Medical Doctor, and Head of Unit 731 - GENERAL SHIRO ISHII arrives by sedan while his staff stands at attention in the freezing weather.

He is greeted by the equally cold-blooded virologist DR. IASHATO YOSHIMURA.

(Note: The entire scene is in Japanese with English and Chinese subtitles.)

YOSHIMURA

Welcome back General Ishii, how was your trip to Tokyo?

ISHII

Prime Minister Tojo demands more progress with our experiments. Show me what you have.

YOSHIMURA

At once General.

By the Cold Chamber test site, a woman is standing in ice tied to a rail with a sadistic guard pouring water onto her frozen arms.

YOSHIMURA (CONT'D)

Let us go inside where it is warmer.

Inside, they walk by dozens of Chinese prisoners in jail cells.

They enter an operating room where gowned and masked doctors are cutting open a pregnant screaming woman.

YOSHIMURA (CONT'D)

Here we have developed a topical ointment that numbs the incision. We plan to manufacture more of the cream for our frontline hospital units.

ISHII

Excellent. Quiet that log.

An orderly puts a towel over her mouth to muffle her screams while another dumps the premature baby on a metal tray.

Another operation room with more doctors observe a man inside a pressure chamber. Blood begins seeps from his eyes and ears until screams for help, banging on the thick glass window.

YOSHIMURA

We have determined that above 4,200 meters our pilots will need to use oxygen and pressurize crew cabins.

ISHII

I see. Get that fool out of there.

YOSHIMURA

But Sir, we must equalize the air pressure.

ISHII

Nonsense.

Ishii hits a safety valve with his riding crop and the air whooshes in. The man heads explodes as he screams.

They enter a long building with dozens of large concrete basins in the floor containing hundreds of scurrying rats.

Yoshimura hands Ishii gloves, mask and long doctor's apron.

YOSHIMURA

General, mind you do not to touch anything. These breeding rodents carry the bubonic plague. Their infected fleas are mixed into a rice slurry then filled inside those ceramic containers.

MONTAGE: Rats, fleas, ceramic bombs, bombers dropping and spraying white goo onto Chinese towns, people vomiting, dying and bodies turning black.

We've targeted several cities north of here and it is quite effective. One of our pilots gave us the idea of filling the mixture into barrels fitted under the wings of his bomber. He just flies low over the target and releases it. Quite ingenious and economical, wouldn't you say?

ISHII

This is the kind of asset Prime Minister Tojo will greatly appreciate. Extermination from above.

They laugh and walk back toward the administration building. Several prisoners are tossing bodies from a push cart onto a pile of frozen ones next to a blazing crematorium that billows black smoke.

YOSHIMURA

Once our experiments are complete and data compiled, we dispose of the logs. Burials are unnecessary and a waste of our resources.

ISHII

Very wise. Concentrate efforts on weaponizing your experiments.

As they walk past the helpless screaming woman tied to the post, the guard uses the butt of his rifle to shatter her frozen arms which drop to the ground, where upon she dies of shock.

Ishii and Yoshimura have no reaction while several doctors scribble notes onto clipboards.

Once back inside Ishii's office, Yoshimura sits while Ishii places a small porcelain figurine on the window sill.

ISHII (CONT'D)

For my wife. Beautiful isn't it? Very rare, priceless Qing Dynasty porcelain.

YOSHIMURA

Yes General. May I report, I am disappointed to report our limb reattachment efforts have been unsuccessful despite dozens of test operations.

FLASHBACK: A dozen men and women are tied to wooden crosses in a field. Then a Japanese army officer pushes down a dynamite plunger box setting off massive explosions in front of the test subjects. Instantly their arms, legs and eyes are blown off as they scream in agony.

ISHII

That is tragic but I applaud your efforts for attempting such a noble experiment in the name of science.

YOSHIMURA

Thank you General. All of our staff are striving to measure up to your high standards of medical professionalism and oath of ethics.

(MORE)

YOSHIMURA (CONT'D)

May I present you our extensive data and research findings?

ISHII

That can wait. General Umezu has given us orders to conduct a set of tests on a unique group of logs.

YOSHIMURA

Please tell me more.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LI FARM HOUSE OUTSIDE OF MUKDEN, CHINA - EARLY SPRING
1942 - MORNING

Young LI LISHUI is loading coal to the fireplace underneath the heated bed and into the kitchen hearth.

Lishui's parents sit down with his younger brothers and sisters for breakfast.

The mother wears a worn red jacket has holes in the elbows and the kids wear hand-me-downs.

BABA

Dahai, Ni ba lanzi dai gei zhen shang de Chen Xiansheng ma?
Subtitles: (Oldest son, did you take the basket to Mr. Wang in town?)

LISHUI

Shi de Baba. (Yes, Father.)

MAMA

Qing zhuyi buyao kaojin rejun.
(Please be careful not to go near the Japanese soldiers.)

LISHUI

Shi de, Mama. (Yes, Mama.)

BABA

Ta kuaiyao dang bingle. Riben ren xuyao sha si de dongxi. (He is almost old enough to be a soldier. What those Japanese need is killing.)

MAMA

Kau ting xia! Ni zai xia me wo he haizimen. (Now stop it. You are scaring the children and me.)

BABA

Duibugi. (I'm sorry.) (He gives a wink to Lilishui.) Dahai, wo xuyao ni zi qu chengzhen. Gei ni mama mai yixie hongxian. (I need you go to town again buy some red thread for your Mama.)

MAMA

Xie xie, husband. (Thank you Laogong.)

Baba stands up and pulls out one yuan from his pocket and hands it to Lilishui then kisses his wife on the cheek. The children giggle with delight and everyone smiles.

LILISHUI

Wo hui Baba. (I will father.)

MAMA

Ji zhu, yao xiaoxin. (Remember to be careful.)

Li Lishui walks across the desolate farmland of melting ice and snow.

As he approaches the city of Mukden, there is a large stone gate with Japanese soldiers.

CUT TO:

INT. CHENS CLOTH STORE MUKDEN CITY, CHINA - DAY

Lishui enters MR. CHEN's cloth store.

(Conversation in Chinese)

MR. CHEN

What can I do for you, young Master?

LISHUI

My mother needs red thread.

MR. CHEN

What will she be sewing?

Lishui looks ashamed to answer.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)
Go on, I must know the thread
strength.

Lishui points to his elbows and makes a circle mark for a
hole.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)
I understand. I have just what she
needs.

Mr. Chen locates and hands him a roll of expensive red silk
thread.

LISHUI
But Sir, I only have one yuan?

MR. CHEN
Are you farmer Li's oldest son?

LISHUI
Yes Sir.

MR. CHEN
He is a very honorable man. Your
kind mother has been here before.
I think she forgot her change the
last time she bought something.
Please accept these in return.

Mr. Chen hands him two large expensive gold embroidered red
patches made of stronger cloth.

Lishui tries to hand him the coin.

LISHUI
What about this?

MR. CHEN
There is no charge.

LISHUI
Thank you Sir?

MR. CHEN
Hurry along. Your Mother is
waiting. Good-bye.

Lishui stuffs the coin and items into his pockets then skips
out of the store.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CITY STREET MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

The POWs are being led to the MKK plant while the Chinese townspeople stop and stare.

Lao Gao and his wife are carrying groceries along the sidewalk.

LAO GAO

There they are, I must hurry to work now.

GAO'S WIFE

Be careful.

LAO GAO

I am not afraid of these dogs.

GAO'S WIFE

But I am.

LAO GAO

I love you Danlu. I will return after work.

Thompson and Peaty march along the street and notice Gao with his wife.

Then Lt. Murada comes up behind Cpl. Paliotto and pushes him into a small icy mud puddle.

Lishui nearest to Paliotto, runs forward to help him up.

Lt. Murada goes berserk and grabs the teen by the collar.

LT. MURADA

Aha! I have one of the little conspirators. You'll pay for this boy. Take him away.

Lao Gao interrupts the mean guard.

LAO GAO

Wait! I know this boy.

LT. MURADA

Who are you to stop me?

LAO GAO

I am Gao Decun, factory foreman at MKK. The boy was just being helpful.

LT. MURADA
 You know him? What is his name?
 (Japanese)

Gao pauses because he doesn't know him.

Lt. Murada pulls out his pistol and puts it next to Lishui's head.

LAO GAO
 No, please don't! I am responsible
 for him. (He puts his arm around
 Lishui.)

LT. MURADA
 Then tell me his name.

Everyone is frozen with fear and no speaks.

LISHUI
 I am Li Lishui and he is my Uncle.
 You are a bad man. (Chinese)

LAO GAO
 Sssh. Be quiet. (Chinese)

LT. MURADA
 What did he say?

LAO GAO
 I am his Uncle.

Lt. Murada laughs and holsters his gun.

Captain TANIGUCHI approaches the crowd.

TANIGUCHI
 What is the hold up, Lieutenant?
 Get these men to work, now!

LT. MURADA
 Yes Sir. Move along! You are all
 yellow! You white pigs.

Thompson and Peaty march to the MKK factory.

LAO GAO
 Li Lishui, do not be frightened.
 You are safe for now. You are the
 bravest young man I have ever met.
 Go home now. Run along.

LISHUI
 Xie xie. (Thank you.)

Lishui runs off toward home while POWs march to the MKK.

LT. THOMPSON

Well that was a close shave.

MAJOR PEATY

Mr. Gao is truly an extraordinary fellow.

Outside the MKK gate in the snow, they are ordered to strip.

MKK GUARD

Speedo!

A Chinese worker rolls out a cart with overalls.

MKK GUARD (CONT'D)

Go to work!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LI FARM HOUSE LIONING PROVINCE, CHINA - AFTERNOON

Lishui runs home.

MAMA

Lishui, what happened? Where have you been?

LISHUI

A bad man wanted to hurt me when I helped an American but Lao Gao saved me.

BABA

What? Who? Slow down now. Catch your breath and tell us what happened.

LISHUI

After I left Mr. Chen's store, I saw the Americans on the street and the bad Japanese man pushed down one of them.

MAMA

You should have not been there. It is none of our business.

BABA

Go on.

LISHUI

He fell right in front of me, so I helped him stand up.

MAMA

What?!

LISHUI

Then the bad man grabbed me and started yelling but I do not understand. A nice man, Lao Gao, came and said something and the bad man let me go.

Mama holds Lishui tight, starts crying and the babies begin crying. Baba tries to calm everyone down.

MAMA

You are never to go to town again.

BABA

Ma, the boy is here and fine. Mr. Gao saved our son and we must repay him for his bravery.

LISHUI

Ma, here is your thread and some patches for your jacket. Mr. Chen said he owed you change from the last time you shopped there.

He hands her the expensive silk thread and gold embroidered patches.

Mama is shocked at how nice but expensive the items must have cost and happily smiles. Baba smiles back.

MAMA

Mr. Chen owed me money?

LISHUI

You must have forget. And Ba, here is your one yuan.

BABA

You keep it. I think you earned it.

LISHUI

Thank you Baba. Mama, will you hold this for me? I want to save more so one day I can buy you a new coat.

BABA

That's very nice of you son.

MAMA
I love you, son.

LISHUI
I love you too Mama.

She hugs Lishui then suddenly she grabs his ear and pulls him around the room.

LISHUI (CONT'D)
Whaaa!

MAMA
Never talk to the Japanese or the
Americans. They are big trouble.
Understand?

LISHUI
Yes! Yes, I promise. Whaaa!

His brothers and sisters all laugh, Baba smiles.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. MUKDEN CAMP HOSPITAL MUKDEN CAMP - SPRING - DAY

A POW enters holding his stomach with feces stained pants and meets Cpt. JOICHI KUWASHIMA aka "Doctor Go Back".

POW 2
Doc, I got the runs somethin' bad.

CPT. KUWASHIMA
Go back.

POW 2
No really, I'm crapping my guts
out. I can't even hold water!

CPT. KUWASHIMA
Go back.

An exhausted Australian doctor, CAPTAIN DES BRENNAN comes to the POW and hands him some pills.

DR. BRENNAN
Soldier, take these every hour
until they're gone. Keep drinking
water to stay hydrated. That's all
we can do. Good luck.

CPT. KUWASHIMA

Go back.

DR. BRENNAN

Yea, yea, go back. We got it, mate.

Young PRV. ROBERT MOSENDAHL walks gingerly into the hospital when Dr. Brennan asks him to sit down for questions.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)

Yes, are you sick?

PRV. MOSENDAHL

I dunno, can you look at my legs
Doc?

The doctor pulls up Mosendahl's pants leg to reveal his legs are puffy swollen two times their size.

DR. BRENNAN

Uh huh! There's more fellas like
you from Cabanatuan.

PRV. MOSENDAHL

That's when I noticed my legs
started swelling.

DR. BRENNAN

I reckon you got beriberi. No
thiamine in your diet. It's a
bloody miracle we all don't have
it.

PRV. MOSENDAHL

Will I die from it?

DR. BRENNAN

Na, but it'll be a right painful
recovery for sure. We get very
little from them but I'll try to
find you something. Understand, we
got fellas with diphtheria,
pneumonia, typhoid fever. Stay away
from them and Doctor Go Back.
Cheers.

MOSENDAHL

Thanks Doc.

More men appear at the hospital all suffering from dysentery and malaria. Dr. Go Back is holding up his hands to stop.

CPT. KUWASHIMA

Go back!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP COURTYARD - DAY

SUPER: 13 FEB 1943 Mukden Camp

Several military trucks and vehicle drive past the cemetery where prisoners are hacking through the icy ground next to more POW corpses.

After the gate, the trucks park at an empty barrack.

About 30 men: doctors, orderlies and military officers in white lab coats, surgical masks and white rubber boots exit their vehicles.

Lt. Murada approaches the men and begins to ask questions.

LT. MURADA

Identify yourselves and your business here?

PETTY OFFICER 1

We are from the Sanitation and Water Supply Branch of the Kwangtung Army.

PETTY OFFICER 2

You know, Unit 731, in Pingfang?

MURADA

Never heard of it.

COL. NAGAYAMA

Pardon me Lieutenant. We are here isolate and eliminate the dysentery bacillus and malaria germs. At this moment, you are delaying my men from beginning their work.

MURADA

Please forgive my intrusion, Colonel. Anything you need, Sir.

COL. NAGAYAMA

Then be so kind as to deliver these orders to your superior, Col. Matsuda.

LT. MURADA
Yes Sir, right away.

Lt. Murada runs off to Col. Matsuda's office.

The medical teams begin moving medical equipment into empty Barracks #13.

Lt. Miki bolts out of Col. Matsuda's office blowing his whistle announcing all POWs to assemble at once.

Cpt. Kuwashima arrives to address the men with interpreter Noda.

CPT. KUWASHIMA
By direct order from General Yoshijiro Umezu, Commander of the Kwantung Army, there will be the investigation and elimination of infectious diseases from Mukden Camp. You will cooperate with the presiding doctors and officers who will exam and treat you.

Kuwashima waves to CPT. ISHIKAWA to make his announcement.

CPT. ISHIKAWA
Those prisoners with dysentery and diarrhea line up over there. And those suspected of malaria line up here.

Over two hundred men line up to be taken to the hospital for treatment by the new team of doctors.

LT. THOMPSON
Robert, aren't you going to get treatment for your malaria?

MAJOR PEATY
I trust Mr. Gao's Chinese herbal medicine over anything the Japanese offer.

LT. THOMPSON
You like that black tar drink?

MAJOR PEATY
I have actually grown fond of the taste and feel much stronger now, thank you.

The soldiers head for the hospital.

CPT. KUWASHIMA
The rest of you are dismiss...

He is stopped by one MASKED DOCTOR before he can dismiss the rest.

MASKED DOCTOR
Excuse me Captain, I will need a
volunteer for a special treatment.

The masked doctor walks the rows of POWs until he spots
SERGEANT HERMAN CASTILLO.

MASKED DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Thank you Doctor Kuwashima, we have
our log... I mean our volunteer.

CPT. KUWASHIMA
Huh, yes Sir.

The doctor removes his mask to reveal he is...

DR. YOSHIMURA
I am Doctor Iashato Yoshimura.
Pleasure meeting you.

CPT. KUWASHIMA
If you need anything Doctor, we...

DR. YOSHIMURA
Thank you, I have what I want.

CUT TO

INT. POW BARRACKS #4 AROUND THE STOVE MUKDEN CAMP - NIGHT

Cpl. Paliotto, Sgt. Bill Chastain and S1C Ferdinand Meringolo
sit around a barracks heater/stove warming their hands.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Jesus, does this place ever warm
up?

S1C. MERINGOLO
Summer's coming, it's bound to warm
up, right?

CPL. PALIOTTO
I was talking with that Gao fellow
and he says the Mongolian border is
about 400 miles from here.

S1C. MERINGOLO
400 miles, are you nuts?

SGT. CHASTAIN
I would rather die fighting on my
feet than live begging on my knees.

CPL. PALIOTTO
I don't think the Army even knows
we're alive. Count me in. I bet we
can make it in a few weeks.

S1C. MERINGOLO
But how do we know where we're
headed?

SGT. CHASTAIN
I'm working on a compass.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Anywhere is better than this place.

Lt. Thompson and Major Peaty enter the barracks and the three
suspiciously straighten up.

LT. THOMPSON
Good evening gentlemen.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Evening Sirs.

MAJOR PEATY
Are you gentlemen formulating your
victory strategy over the Japanese?
If so, I should have the need to
inform Misters Churchill and
Roosevelt.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Not exactly, Sir. But we are
working on an escape plan that has
a good chance.

MAJOR PEATY
Before I attempted such a dodgy
endeavor as you allude to, I should
demand a brilliant proposal over a
mere good chance.

SGT. CHASTAIN
We don't claim to have all the bugs
worked out yet, but I'd rather take
my chances on the run than sit here
and wait for death. Sir.

LT. THOMPSON

As I was reminded on our first day here, it is an officer's duty to try to escape as a POW. You three are enlisted men and are not duty bound.

S1C. MERINGOLO

Begging your pardon Sir, but my only duty is to survive.

MAJOR PEATY

He is quite within his rights to attempt escape. However, what will the ramifications be to the majority once they are discovered missing?

LT. THOMPSON

That's true but escaping will give the others hope. I'd like to hear more of your plan. And not a word to Colonel Hankins, he'll spill the beans to Matsuda and put the kibosh on your plan. Agreed?

All three nod and agree then head to their bunks.

MAJOR PEATY

You are encouraging those men to risk everything on a fantasy.

LT. THOMPSON

If we order them to stop, it would destroy hope and any moral they have left.

MAJOR PEATY

I fear they are on a mission that has a high potential of catastrophic failure.

LT. THOMPSON

Then we should give them a brilliant chance at succeeding.

CUT TO:

In the middle of the night, a series of shrieks comes from the medical team's barrack.

INT. UNIT 731 MEDICAL BARRACKS #13 - MUKDEN CAMP - NIGHT

SUPER: Two weeks later

Sgt. Castillo is inside a metal cage 30"W X 3'H X 50'L.

He is malnourished, manic, and is wearing a shit stained uniform.

Dr. Yoshimura and several orderlies are taking notes.

ORDERLY 1

Doctor, we are about to start the last of the treatments.

DR. YOSHIMURA

Proceed.

An orderly places a small hand bellow through the mesh of the cage.

Castillo runs on his hands and knees like a trained animal to receive his reward. The orderly blows a white powder into his mouth and he chokes the substance down. The doctors take notes.

Castillo doesn't move as an orderly places a feather under his nose until he sneezes. The doctors seemed pleased with his reaction.

Then another doctor arrives with a two foot glass rod.

SGT. CASTILLO

NO! No more! Stop! Let me out of here!

DR. YOSHIMURA

Come, come, sergeant, this is last time we will see each other. Be a good boy and comply.

DR. CASTILLO

NO! Fuck you and fuck your tests. Let me go!

Yoshimura's face turns angry and motions to another orderly who throws a switch electrifying the cage.

Castillo jumps up and bounces on the top of cage screaming in pain until he complies and pulls down his pants.

CUT TO:

Outside of the barracks at night across the blowing snow, we hear a muffled scream of Sgt. Castillo.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. MUKDEN CAMP BARRACKS #2 MUKDEN, CHINA - NIGHT

Everyone in the barracks silently sits by the stove.

MAJOR PEATY

Gentlemen. Sergeant Castillo has undergone a traumatic and despicable experience by our inhumane captors. The sergeant is being looked after in the camp infirmary and will recover his physical wounds but will likely bear psychological scars for some time. Alright then! I would like to speak to you all concerning our situation here. As you know, we are thousands of miles from friendly lines and in my opinion, we have no real possibility of escaping successfully to anywhere. However, we can still perform our duties as soldiers and fight the enemy here.

LT. THOMPSON

With what? We have no weapons, no way of contacting anyone.

MAJOR PEATY

I concede to that point Leftenant. But we can create enough chaos through sabotage and asymmetrical warfare. We slow down production, covertly destroy machines, create distractions and misalign parts rendering them useless. How do you Yanks say it? We gum up their works. The Japanese will be forced to place more valuable troops policing us instead of combating our brothers in the field. It will drive the Japanese absolutely mad.

The men give a collective cheer and Peaty's proposal.

LT. THOMPSON

Yes! How do you Brits say it, brilliant!

MAJOR PEATY
Precisely!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE: POWs sabotaging their work at the MKK plant.
Man putting iron filings into the grease cans.
POW removes machine gears and drops them into the latrine.
Man re-sizes a drill press bit with a larger bit.
POW cuts threads on steel tubes in the wrong direction.

CUT TO:

INT. MITSUBISHI MMK PLANT MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

Yoshio Kai guides tour of Japanese businessmen as Lt. Murada supervises of the groundbreaking for a new factory.

KAI
Gentlemen, May I have your
attention. When your new factory is
complete, right where I stand will
be the 20mm cannon assembly line
for the premier aircraft of the
Pacific, the Mitsubishi A6M Zero.

Behind them, one POW lowers several new lathes with "Made in Dayton, Ohio" stamps on them into a hole while another pours concrete on them.

KAI (CONT'D)
Once full production has been
achieved, your new factory will
meet and exceed your quota,
providing you with sizable
financial gains.

The businessmen clap with excitement.

KAI (CONT'D)
Dare I say, this is the moment that
all of you will remembered for.

Kai laughs and all the businessmen laugh too. Lt. Murada smiles apprehensively.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MKK PLANT ASSEMBLY LINE MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

SUPER: The following day.

A POW asks to go to the outside latrine and the guard wave him to go. He spots large truck parked on the side of the new factory with no driver around.

He peers inside the back to see it is filled with hams, salamis, and bacon. He stuffs as much pork as he can in his pockets and eats handfuls of meat before going back inside.

He whispers to others about his find and one by one they all go out the pork truck.

After three more men ask to relieve themselves, one guard becomes suspicious and follows a POW outside.

The guard goes to the truck, pulls back the tarp door to reveal the truck full of pork meat. The guard nearly falls down from disbelief. The POW freezes in place with a salami in his mouth and bacon in his pockets.

The guard begins to look around and then begins cramming pork meat into his pockets and eating salami too. The POW continues to grab meat until they both grab the same piece and stop.

The POW smiles and lets go then slowly leaves to go back inside with his pockets bulging while the guard gorges himself.

The guard returns inside with his pockets stuffed. He whispers to his fellow guard about the meat truck and that guard goes out to the truck. As he is finishing eating and grabbing pork, another POW is going into the latrine. After the guard returns back inside, the POW runs to the truck for his share.

Lao Gao is tossing whole sides of pork over the fence to awaiting Chinese friends who run away.

Inside the factory, Lt. Murada is never told nor suspects anything.

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER: Two days later.

A Japanese military vehicle drives up to the new factory and two soldiers. One with a clipboard notes the serial number on the truck.

The other soldier goes to the back to look inside then alerts the other to come.

Both soldiers look astonished to find the truck completely empty.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUKDEN POW COURTYARD MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

SUPER: 1 APR 1943

The guard whistles blow for everyone to form up and turn in their winter clothes. A couple of guards count the heavy coats and they are three short of a total.

Miki the Bull orders a barracks check and guards find two coats hidden under the bunks of Paliotto and Chastain. They are immediately arrested and questioned in front of everybody. Cpl. Noda translates.

THE BULL

Planning to escape yes? (In Japanese.)

CPL. NODA

Are you two planning to escape? Big mistake.

Another guard runs out with another coat he found hidden in the latrine house.

Thompson and Peaty watch near their barracks.

CPL. NODA (CONT'D)

Who is the third man?

Miki the Bull starts beating the two accused men.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Stop! I don't know anything!

SGT. CHASTAIN

Don't tell them a God damn thing!

The two fall to the ground and endure the beating.

THE BULL

Put them in the guard house. No blankets. (In Japanese.)

Guards throw the two into the guard-house cell.

CPL. NODA
 Why don't you two cool off until
 you're ready to confess. (In
 English) (Laughs)

Thompson and Peaty go inside Barracks #2.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS #2 MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

LT. THOMPSON
 Happy April Fools Day Robert.

MAJOR PEATY
 And we are the fools for
 encouraging those men.

LT. THOMPSON
 I guess that puts an end of
 breaking out?

MAJOR PEATY
 I would not be so hasty in your
 assumption. The corporal shows much
 resolve.

THOMPSON
 Maybe, but they won't be escaping
 any time soon.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP, POW MAIN YARD - NIGHT

We hear Paliotto and Chastain jumping up and down, running in
 place and clapping their arms on themselves in an effort to
 stay.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP, POW MAIN YARD - MORNING

SUPER: One Week Later

Silence from the guard-house as the POWS line up for work.

LT. MURADA
 TENKO! (Roll Call)

Paliotto starts screaming from his cell.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Alright! God Damn it! Open the damn door!

The Bull and whispers to Lt. Murada who goes inside the guard-house then talks to The Bull who nods.

Lt. Murada runs to a POW in line and begins hitting him with a truncheon.

Guards drag that POW to the guard-cell.

Chastain and Paliotto stagger out of the guard-house.

MAJOR PEATY

It appears they have informed on their confidant to gain favorable treatment.

THOMPSON

They ratted on their buddy so they can all fight another day.

The Bull orders POWs to head to the MKK.

CUT TO:

INT. MITSUBISHI MKK TOOL-AND-DIE FACTORY MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

Lt. Col. Grow notices POWs stealing wood scraps.

Lt. Murada walks up to a Private.

LT. MURADA

Private! Why do you work so slow?
Are you another fat, lazy American?
Hurry up or I will shoot you myself!

Lt. Murada beats the man so severely he passes out.

Kai runs to his aid.

KAI

Wait! Stop! I need this prisoner.

LT. MURADA

What? How dare you...

KAI

Please Lt. Murada, we need this prisoner on the line. His eyesight is exceptional.

(MORE)

KAI (CONT'D)

Only he can see the fine details on these threads while others can not. Look.

Kai holds up the steel pipe.

The prisoner now has a bloody face and swollen eyes.

LT. MURADA

Very well. Get this pig to the infirmary before I change my mind.

KAI

Thank you Lieutenant.

A couple of POWs carry the beaten man out of the MKK factory.

LT. COL. GROW

Lieutenant, may I speak with you?

LT. MURADA

What do you want?

LT. COL. GROW

I hear you're from California like me.

LT. MURADA

I am nothing like you. I'm Nisei, third generation Japanese-American.

LT. COL. GROW

I'm from the Valley, my Pop had a few orange groves.

LT. MURADA

A farmer's boy, ha! My father had the biggest bank in Frisco's Nihonmachi. But that old cripple Roosevelt took everything we owned and sent my parents to prison.

LT. COL. GROW

I am sorry so many people overreacted after Pearl Harbor.

LT. MURADA

Overreacted?! They stole a man's life work, his home, his songen. My mother has not spoken a word since. I will make every American pay for what they have done to my family.

LT. COL. GROW
Can I offer...

LT. MURADA
No! You can offer me nothing! Get
back to work you pig! Now!

He beats Lt. Col. Grow on his back and legs forcing him back
to the work line.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MKK PLANT LUNCH ROOM MUKDEN, CHINA - AFTERNOON

POWs are finishing lunch when the factory whistles blows.

At the guard's table, there is a Japanese student intern.

LAO GAO
Tell me young master, what will you
become after completing your
studies? (Japanese)

INTERN
I will become an architect. Japan
must rebuild the world and I will
one of many to design it.

LAO GAO
Such grand plans my young master. I
wish you and Japan well.

Lao Gao is cleaning up the lunch room when he finds the
intern's school book.

He flips through it and discovers a detailed foldout map of
China that he tears out.

Lao Gao sees Major Peaty.

LAO GAO (CONT'D)
You can use?

MAJOR PEATY
Splendid! Xie xie, Gao Xiansheng.

LAO GAO
China, eternal friends of America
and England.

MAJOR PEATY
I wholeheartedly agree. We share a
common enemy, fascism.
(MORE)

MAJOR PEATY (CONT'D)

That scourge must be destroyed so we can all live free of tyranny.

LAO GAO

I love my country, my wife and new baby.

MAJOR PEATY

You are new father? Congratulations my friend.

LAO GAO

Thank you, my friend Robert.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUKDEN CAMP BARRACKS MAJOR HANKINS OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Lt. Col. Grow knocks on the door of Major Stanley Hankins.

The Major puts away his homemade "hooch".

MAJOR HANKINS

Enter!

MAJOR HANKINS (CONT'D)

At ease Colonel, what is it? I'm very busy this morning.

LT. COL. GROW

Major, the men's moral is low. I thought of something to lift their spirits.

MAJOR HANKINS

What? Tell them the war is over? (Laughs and hiccups.)

LT. COL. GROW

No Sir. I saw lots of wood scraps at the factory. I'm good with my hands and believe, with your permission, I could build some musical instruments for the boys.

MAJOR HANKINS

Instruments? To play music? Ha! This I have got to see, I mean hear that. If you want to waste your time, go ahead.

LT. COL. GROW

Time is all we have, Sir.

MAJOR HANKINS

Colonel, where are those men from
the guard-house?

LT. COL. GROW

They were released a week ago, Sir.

MAJOR HANKINS

Oh damn. If I had it my way, I
would've had them shot for trying
to escape.

LT. COL. GROW

Sir?!

MAJOR HANKINS

Dismissed.

INT. POW MESS HALL, MUKDEN CAMP - SPRING - DINNER HOUR

Chief Warrant Officer BOCKSEL is in the back kitchen and
opens a hidden panel near his stove to pull out a few cans of
peaches, then quickly closes the panel.

Paliotto, Chastain and Meringolo are in a cafeteria style
line getting food when Bocksel comes to the serving line.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Good evening, Chief Bocksel, what's
on the dining menu this fine
evening?

SGT. CHASTAIN

Wait, let me guess, rice and beans?

CHIEF BOCKSEL

OK smart asses, here's your chow.
But I do have a surprise for you
boys.

From a big pot under the counter, he pours a ladle of peaches
into their bowls.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Holy cow, where'd you get these?

SGT. CHASTAIN

Now you're talking.

CHIEF BOCKSEL

Oh, a certain Chinaman liberated a
few cases of these fine delectables
from the Japs.

S1C. MERINGOLO
Will wonders never cease?

SGT. CHASTAIN
Thanks Chief.

CHIEF BOCKSEL
Don't mention it. I'm serious,
don't mention it. Hey good luck to
you boys...for next time, you know?

S1C. MERINGOLO
I know, loose lips, sinks ships.

They three find a table to sit and eat.

S1C. MERINGOLO (CONT'D)
So Joe Bill, what are you gonna do
when you get back home?

SGT. CHASTAIN
Home? Son, I ain't going home. I'll
lickedly split over to Atlantic
City. First thing, I got some
serious drinking to do. Then I'll
throw me some lucky rolls to win a
couple thousand to impress the
ladies. How bout' you partner?

S1C. MERINGOLO
I don't have any big plans like
you. I just want to go home to be
with my Mom and Pop, all my
brothers and sisters.

CPL. PALIOTTO
What is this with you two? You
can't throw in the towel before the
fight starts. I'm volunteering to
be sent back for combat with my
Marine buddies. There's a lot of
Japs that need killing.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP HOSPITAL MUKDEN CAMP - MORNING

Pfc. Mosendahl is checking out of the hospital but must speak
with a Doctor, CAPT. DES BRENNAN.

DR. BRENNAN

Alright Private, you're good to go but don't do any heavy work. You're still in a weakened state.

PFC. MOSENDAHL

OK Doc. I feel pretty good now thanks.

DR. BRENNAN

Several of our Chinese friends smuggled in local herbs to make that awful brew for you.

PFC. MOSENDAHL

Whatever it was, it worked. Maybe they're on to something, Doc?

DR. BRENNAN

With over 2000 years of experience, I reckon they know a bit. G'day mate.

Two more sick POWs enter the hospital when Cpt. Kuwashima approaches them.

CPT. KUWASHIMA

Go back.

POW 3

For Pete's sake, you didn't even look at us!

Mosendahl walks out of the hospital back toward the POW barracks.

He passes by the cemetery where there are more crosses and new graves are being dug by POWs.

He enters his barracks where a few men are gathered around Lt. Col. Grow playing his homemade standup bass cello.

PFC. MOSENDAHL

What did I miss?

CUT TO:

INT. MUKDEN CAMP BARRACKS #6 MUKDEN, CHINA - NIGHT

The three escapees and officers discuss the plan.

MAJOR PEATY

Gentlemen, as best as I can calculate it, in two nights on June 21st, we shall view a full moon. It should provide you with enough light for your initial escape route. Once the sun begins to rise, you must be at least 20 miles away so take a rest for the day. If you adhere to this schedule, you should arrive at the Russian border in two fortnight.

LT. THOMPSON

Now the best place to escape is the blind spot behind Matsuda's building. The men took up a collection. It's not much but it should provide you something of a kit. With any luck you'll soon be toasting vodka with the Russians. I only ask that you inform the highest in command how the Japanese are mistreating us here.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Thank you gentlemen. It's been an honor serving with you.

LT. THOMPSON

Likewise. Now everyone get some rest. God speed.

MAJOR PEATY

I have been not a praying man for quite some time but I shall begin anew for their souls.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

EXT. POW YARD IN FRONT OF BARRACKS - MUKDEN CAMP - NIGHT

SUPER: 2200 Hours 21 JUN 1943

Under a full moon, the three are hiding behind the barracks.

Thompson and Peaty watch from the barracks window.

First to go is Chastain with wire cutters.

He signals Paliotto to wait and he scrambles across the yard.

Watch dogs begin to bark but guards shut them up.

Chastain reappears from around Matsuda's building with a thumbs up.

Chastain gives Paliotto the go sign and he sprints across the yard.

Meringolo sees Chastain reappear and gives him the go signal.

Meringolo runs but trips and falls.

The tower guard heard the thud and turns around his light.

Peaty strolls out the barracks and begins whistling.

The guard swings his search light to him.

TOWER GUARD
HALT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

PEATY
Excuse me, I must use the latrine.

Meringolo quickly crawls to safety.

TOWER GUARD
Go back, now!

PEATY
I understand but I shall hold you personally responsible for the foul mess.

TOWER GUARD
Go! Speedo!

Chastain, Paliotto, and Meringolo quickly crawl under the wire and are gone while Peaty has diverted the guard's attention.

Peaty returns to his barracks to speak with Thompson.

MAJOR PEATY
I was sure the escape was botched when he fell.

LT. THOMPSON
Thanks to your improvisation, they've made it out!

Handshakes and backslapping among them all.

MAJOR PEATY

What? Actually I do have use the latrine.

Everyone laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALONG SIDE STREETS AND SHOP OF MUKDEN, CHINA - NIGHT

The escapees are now making their way through along empty streets of Mukden when Chastain stops in a doorway of a shop to look at the Gao map.

CPL. PALIOTTO

What's wrong, are we lost?

SGT. CHASTAIN

This map is only good for the countryside not the streets of Mukden.

S1C. MERINGOLO

Oh crap, we're done for.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Hold your horses, let me get a compass bearing.

The door opens slightly to reveal the shop owner Mr. Chen, the cloth store owner.

He recognizes the men and wants to help them.

MR. CHEN

Meiguoren, qu damen. (Americans. Go through the gate.)

Mr. Chen points to the big stone gate entrance where no Japanese soldiers are guarding it.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

Zou, zou. (Go, go.)

SGT. CHASTAIN

Thank you.

The men run toward the gate to escape the city into the farms and countryside.

The moon is straight overhead and they can see their shadows as they jump over rock walls, streams, and around trees.

DISSOLVE:

INT. LI FARM HOUSE OUTSIDE OF MUKDEN - LATE AT NIGHT

Li Lishui is awoken by distant barking dogs so he goes outside and looks up at the moon.

He hears sounds of running footsteps when the three escapees come up to the farmhouse, he recognizes the them.

LISHUI
Meiguoren?

CPL. PALIOTTO
Sssh. (Whispers) Yes, meiguoren.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Hey, that's the boy that helped you.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Lee. That way? (He points Northwest.)

LISHUI
Shi de. (Pointing same direction.)

CPL. PALIOTTO
Great. We're headed the right way. Thanks. Come on boys.

Lishui motions to wait and runs back inside.

S1C. MERINGOLO
What's he doing? Let's go.

Lishui returns with a sack and hands it to Chastain who opens it to find some bread rolls and dried pork meat.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Xie Xie, Lee, xie xie.

LISHUI
Bie keqi. (You are welcome.) Ni wode pengyou. (You are my friends.)

The three run away into the night until Lishui can't see them anymore.

The men keep running through the night across farm fields, streams and woods.

Chastain stops to get a compass bearing.

Sunrise approaches and they find a safe area to rest.

S1C. MERINGOLO
I'm beat, I can't go any farther.

SGT. CHASTAIN
We'll rest here for the day.
Sergeant, I'll wake you in 4 hours.

CPL. PALIOTTO
So far so good.

All of them eat a bite then quickly fall asleep.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. MUKDEN CAMP COL. MATSUDA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Col. Matsuda is awakened by Lt. YAMAURA pounding on his door.

COL. MATSUDA
What?! What is it? (Japanese)

LT. YAMAURA
Colonel. Three men are missing.
(Japanese)

COL. MATSUDA
What do you mean missing?
(Japanese)

LT. YAMAURA
Three prisoners have escaped.

COL. MATSUDA
When?! Where?!

LT. YAMAURA
Uh...we think behind your office
Sir. Right there.

He points to Matsuda's window to outside where they escaped. The Colonel looks at his bed next to the window and blows up in anger.

COL. MATSUDA

Sound the alarm at once! Take a detail and find them! NOW!

Yamaura clumsily tries to salute and run away nearly crashing into the closed door.

Matsuda stands there fuming as an air raid siren sounds.

Outside the POWs run in all directions with the guards yelling at everyone.

Thompson and Peaty stand near their barracks smiling.

Major Hankins is trying to go see Colonel Matsuda but the guards won't let him pass.

Squads of guards with rifles and fixed bayonets inspect the fence line and walls for more escape holes.

Miki the Bull is riding a horse in circles trying to corral the men back into their barracks.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUKDEN CAMP, BARRACKS #13 MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

SUPER: DAY 2 Mukden Camp

All the POWs are seated at attention on their bunks as Lt. Murada inspects the barracks.

LT. MURADA

One of the escapees is from your barracks. You must have known they were planning such a foolish thing. You will sit at attention until I tell you to stop. There will be no work until the Commander allows it. Your food rations will be cut in half. Confess where they went and you will be rewarded. (Pauses) Nothing? The leader of this barracks is sentenced to seven days confinement in the guard-house and those who slept near one of the escapees are sentenced to thirty days confinement.

Montage of barracks #4, #13, #23 with men sitting at attention.

Outside in the camp yard, a rope is strung 10 feet from the existing barbed wire fence and stone wall.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREETS OF MUKDEN - DAY

SUPER: DAY 4 Mukden City

Miki the Bull has set up a roadblock checking push carts, vehicles and people on foot.

An OLD MAN refuses to let Lt. Murada look inside his shoulder bundle.

LT. MURADA

Have you seen the Americans? Open the bag. (Japanese)

OLD MAN

Bu shi. Bu yao! (No, I don't want.)

LT. MURADA

Open it now!

THE BULL

Lieutenant! Allow me.

The Bull take his truncheon and puts it under his chin forcing the bent old man to look him in the eye.

THE BULL (CONT'D)

Don't ever look at me!!

The Bull beats the old man unconscious while a growing crowd groans in agony while some begin yelling for him to stop.

LT. MURADA

Show us now, old man.

The farmer lays motionless while Murada shakes him. He checks the old man and realizes he is dead.

Lt. Murada dumps the contents of the old man's bag on top of him. It is used children's clothes that has been mended and patched for reuse.

The crowd begins to shout angrily at The Bull and the soldiers until The Bull takes out his pistol and fires into the air sending the crowd running.

Lt. Murada laughs while he and the soldiers get in the military vehicles and drive off.

Miki the Bull sits in a motorcycle side car while his driver roars the bike down the road.

The old man is left dead and alone on the street covered in children's clothes.

CUT TO:

EXT. HSINGGAN HANSHENG OUTER MONGOLIA - DAY

SUPER: DAY 6 - Hsinggan Hansheng, Outer Mongolia

The three escapees look for food in a farm field.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Where's their crops?

SGT. CHASTAIN
Damn it! There's nothing here.

S1C. MERINGOLO
These poor bastards are worse off than us.

CPL. PALIOTTO
We ain't got nothing. What do we do?

SGT. CHASTAIN
We gotta go in the village and ask for food.

S1C. MERINGOLO
It's too dangerous.

CPL. PALIOTTO
He's right, but what chose do we have?

SGT. CHASTAIN
I'll come up with a story, let's go.

The three walk into the village where three or four men walk toward them while the women and children run away.

MONGOLIAN MAN #1
Stop, who are you? (Chinese)

SGT. CHASTAIN
Hi, we are Germans! We were on our way back to Germany from Japan after our plane crashed.

Chastain pantomime gestures with a Zieg Hiel salute, arms out like an airplane crashing.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Are you kidding me?

One Mongolian nods his head he understands, then retells the story to the others.

More gestures by Chastain - three fingers, death face, digging a grave, three fingers walking, then hand to mouth, hold stomach for hungry.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Three others died, we buried them
and we walked here.

A Mongolian brings a leather pouch of milk for them to drink. Another yells to a woman to bring meat and bread.

The escapees look relieved, shake the villagers hands and devour the food.

The men look so exhausted they are taken to a yurt where they lay down and sleep for a day.

Upon awakening the three men thank the villagers.

A woman gives them some dried meat and a cute little girl gives them each a small bouquet of wild flowers.

The three escapees resume their walk westward where the landscape turns from fields of short grass to patches of sand dunes.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HSINGGAN HANSHENG OUTER MONGOLIA - DAY SUPER: DAY 6 -
HSINGGAN HANSHENG, OUTER MONGOLIA

The three escapees have made it to Hsinggan Hansheng, Outer Mongolia and begin rummaging through a farm field to find no crops.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Damn it! There's nothing here.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Where's the food, the crops?

S1C. MERINGOLO

These poor farmers are worse off than us.

CPL. PALIOTTO

We ain't got no food. What do we do now?

SGT. CHASTAIN

We gotta go in the village and ask for food.

S1C. MERINGOLO

It's too dangerous.

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DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROLLING SAND DUNES OF OUTER MONGOLIA - DAY

SUPER: DAY 8 Liang Jiazi, Outer Mongolia

They spot another village with some building structures.

S1C MERINGOLO
Look another village!

CPL. PALIOTTO
We have no food left, we have to
get something there, anything.

SGT. CHASTAIN
I'll do my act again. Stick to the
same story.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Why not? You're a champion at
charades.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Shut up. You have a better idea?

S1C. MERINGOLO
Come on, I'm starving.

The three walk into the town and get a greeting of panic by the village folk. Only this time a man on a horse approaches them.

SOFU TOKUGAWARA is a policemen from the village of Liang Jiazi. Two other men approach them, BAKU TIAN and GAO FENGSHAN.

SOFU

Who are you? What do you want?
(Chinese)

The escapees are all smiles and Chastain goes into his pantomime with the others now helping to act out the parts.

The villagers react as if the three strangers are bit crazy.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Hi, we are Germans! We were on our way back to Germany from Japan after our plane crashed. Three others died, we buried them and we walked here.

The policeman points to ask where is the airplane crash. Meringolo point southeast but Chastain stop him and point west.

The policeman is a little more than suspicious and insists on having them take them to the crash site.

SOFU

Take us there.

CHASTAIN

Oh no, it's too far away.

He holds up his hands showing five fingers and pointing at the sun.

SOFU

No, we go see airplane now.

Sofu yells to his villagers to bring food and water to give the three escapees.

Other men are giving Sofu and the other food and water provisions for the journey to the "crash site".

S1C. MERINGOLO

Now what do we do?

SGT. CHASTAIN

Shut up. Let me think.

CPL. PALIOTTO

We should'a told the truth.

S1C. MERINGOLO

You're right. What's the worst that could happen? They'll just send us back.

SGT. CHASTAIN

Listen up. We need to get them far away from their village as possible. Then when I give sign, we knock 'em out, take the horse and run. By the time they report us, we'll be long gone.

S1C. MERINGOLO

I gotta bad feeling about this.

SGT. CHASTAIN

I've had it up to here with your feelings. We're talking about survival here.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW MUKDEN CAMP MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

SUPER: DAY 8 29 JUN 1943

Move-in day for the prisoners of war into their new prison facility that features 14-foot high stone walls topped with electrified barbed wire, several tall guard towers with spotlights and more foot patrol guards.

Thompson and Peaty lead a group of officers into the new camp and assess the new walls, barriers and security.

LT. MURADA

You officers are assigned to barracks number eight nearest to Col. Matsuda's new office!

They file past the new guard-house cell.

LT. MURADA (CONT'D)

Halt! Get inside your cage you pig!

LT. THOMPSON

Who me?

LT. MURADA

There are reports you were seen talking to the three escaped. You helped them? Now get in there.

Thompson goes into guard-house and sits on the floor.

LT. MURADA (CONT'D)
I need the names of all the
conspirators.

MAJOR PEATY
Do not worry. I file a protest
immediately.

LT. MURADA
Quiet or I put you in there with
him.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAVELING ACROSS THE GOBI DESERT - OUTER MONGOLIA - DAY

SUPER: DAY 10 Gobi Desert

The group heads further into the Gobi Desert.

The heat is taking its toll on the three escapees.

CPL. PALIOTTO
Water, I need water.

SGT. CHASTAIN
Water, we all need water.

Chastain gestures all three need to drink water and rest.

Exhausted they sit, drink water and rest.

SGT. CHASTAIN (CONT'D)
Alright fellas, we need to make our
move. (To Paliotto) You get the
little guy. (To Meringolo) Just
wave your knife, he'll probably
run. I'll push the cop. Ready, go!

Chastain and Meringolo pull their knives and begin yelling
startling the villagers.

Paliotto grabs the horse reins and Sofu now alert knocks him
down.

Chastain jumps on Sofu's back and the fight begins.

Meringolo a bit shocked just stands there waving his knife at
the third man, Baku who becomes angry and charges Meringolo
knocking him down into a wrestle.

Sofu is punching Chastain who realizes how weak he has become.

In a desperate move, Chastain stabs Sofu in the neck sending blood spewing everywhere.

Baku is beating Meringolo who trying to defend himself by slashing at the strong Mongolian but the knife is not sharp.

Paliotto is now fighting Gao for the horse.

SOFU
Why? (he dies)

Chastain pushes Sofu off himself and now jumps on the back of Baku stabbing him in the back, neck and arms in killing frenzy.

Paliotto is knocked down and Gao escapes on the horse.

Exhausted and in a panic they flee the two dead men.

SGT. CHASTAIN
God damn it! You let him get away.
And we don't have the horse.

CPL. PALIOTTO
To hell with the horse. You killed those men.

S1C. MERINGOLO
Oh my God! What have we done?!

CPL. PALIOTTO
You said we would run them off?

SGT. CHASTAIN
THIS IS WAR! REMEMBER?! It's dog eat dog.

S1C. MERINGOLO
But they weren't the enemy.

SGT. CHASTAIN
We have to get out of here, come on.

CPL. PALIOTTO
In the middle of the desert?

Chastain walks up the highest sand dune and spots a tree line a few miles away.

SGT. CHASTAIN

There's a thicket. It's our only shade. We lay low until night.

CPL. PALIOTTO

Let's go Meringolo, I hate it, but he's right.

The three exhausted, confused and depressed begin their walk to the trees.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. GUARD-HOUSE CELL MUKDEN CAMP - SUNSET

SUPER: DAY 10 Mukden Camp

Major Peaty is outside the barracks headed to the latrine but stops by the guard-house and throws a bag through the bar window.

Lt. Thompson opens the bag to find some food and a small note to read.

MAJOR PEATY (VO)

Bill,
We miss your mealtime tete-a-tete but realize your busy schedule prevents you from attending. There has been nothing of our friends traveling abroad. Find resolve in knowing everyone is thinking of your well-being. Write us a post soon. You know what do with this note. Sincerely, Your scoundrels.

He smiles, tears up the note, and eats it.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE EDGE GOBI DESERT SHORT TREE THICKET - SUNRISE

SUPER: Day 11 Gobi Desert

Six Mongolian men are slowing approaching the tree thicket following the three escapees footsteps in the sand to find them sleeping near a large tree.

The man named Gao who escaped the fight points to the three escapees and nods yes. All six men pounce on the three and a fight briefly ensures until they are bound.

SGT. CHASTAIN

I told you to stop that guy. You've killed us all.

CPL. PALIOTTO

I'm so sorry.

S1C. MERINGOLO

Now we're done.

Gao comes forward to Chastain and punches him in the gut.

FADE OUT AND

FADE IN

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP FRONT GATE AND POW MAIN YARD - DAY

SUPER: DAY 15 6 JUL 1943

The escapees are all barefoot and have been severely beaten.

Meringolo with hands behind his back, tied with rope looks sick and his coveralls are covered in dried blood.

Paliotto also with hands tied looks weak and thin with a big bandage over his head.

Chastain in handcuffs looks thin but stronger than the others.

The guards force them on the ground in front of the Col. Matsuda's office.

Peaty comes outside from the barracks to help them but is held them back by officers.

The guards point their rifles and bayonets at the three returned escapees.

THE BULL

You will now show how and where you escaped.

Lt. Miki has the three returned escapees show them the escape route of how they got from the barracks to the fence.

Then the three prisoners are made to stand in front of the Japanese officers while Miki the Bull beats each prisoner so brutally they fall to the ground unconscious.

They are dragged away to an awaiting truck that drives away.

The whole camp is ordered back into their barracks.

CUT TO:

INT. POW BARRACKS #3 AROUND THE STOVE MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

Lt. Murada returns with several guards for a "shakedown" of the entire barracks.

The prisoners belongings and beds are turned over onto the floor then ordered to sit on their bunks.

LT. MURADA

As you can see the foolish men who briefly escaped have been returned. Their wounds were inflicted upon them when resisting arrest from the Mongolian police authorities. Once Imperial Japanese Army took possession of the prisoners, they were given medical attention and returned. It has come to my attention that these men will be tried in a military court in Hsinking.

MAJOR PEATY

Impossible! These men are not criminals, they are prisoners of war protected under the articles of the Geneva Convention.

LT. MURADA

Silence you pig!

MAJOR PEATY

Lt. Murada, please inform Colonel Matsuda that I will gladly offer my services as legal counsel to represent these men. Furthermore, may we speak with our men to determine if they are fit to stand trial?

LT. MURADA

No. By orders from Colonel Matsuda.

MAJOR PEATY

This is outrageous!

LT. MURADA

Those in barracks where a man has attempted escape will be punished. Food rations will be cut in half.

MAJOR PEATY

Inhumane and excessive.

CUT TO:

EXT. POW YARD IN FRONT OF BARRACKS - MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

A stream of vehicles drive through the front gate and park near Matsuda's office.

Several high ranking officers step out and go into to see Matsuda.

The escapees are taken from a truck to inside Matsuda's office.

At the far side of the camp, along the new wall are three short stakes with crosses driven into the ground.

Lt. Murada open the guard-house cell and drags Thompson out.

LT. MURADA

You don't want to miss the show. There, get a front row seat.

Major Peaty runs to help Lt. Thompson.

MAJOR PEATY

There, there. Go slowly.

Thompson lunges toward The Bull.

THE BULL

Stop or the guards will shoot.
(Japanese)

LT. MURADA

Stop or they will shoot.

MAJOR PEATY

Lt. Murada, I implore you to allow me as counsel for the accused.

Cpl. Noda translates.

THE BULL

There will be no representatives, no witnesses, no testimony.

(MORE)

THE BULL (CONT'D)

The trial will begin now without
you nor anyone else interfering.
(Japanese)

Cpl. Noda begins to translate.

PEATY

Thank you Corporal Noda, I
understand him perfectly. (English)
Without evidence, witnesses or
testimony, there is no fair trial.
It is a precluded outcome from
denying the truth. How can you call
yourselves superior to us when your
legal system is a fraud? The Rule
of Law does not exist here or in
Japan, therefore your civilization
is inferior to us. (Japanese)

Miki The Bull, Lt. Murada and Noda looked surprised at his
perfect Japanese then angry they are just discovering his
secret.

THE BULL

Get out of here before I kill you
myself! (Japanese)

Thompson and Peaty quickly retreat toward their barracks.

MAJOR PEATY

Shall I translate for you?

LT. THOMPSON

No need, I get the gist of his
meaning.

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER: 30 minutes later.

The entire camp is called out into the yard and made to stand
at attention.

The Japanese officers leave Matsuda's office and drive off.

The three escapees were brought out wearing new white
coveralls and their mouths are gagged with cloth.

They were led to the stakes and crosses, then forced to sit
in front of them.

Guards bound their arms to the stakes and blindfolded them
with a cloth strip around their eyes and a white pillow case
over their heads.

Next a squad of six Japanese riflemen kneel about 15 feet in front of them. The commander of the execution squad gives the order.

EXECUTIONER

Ready! Aim! Fire! (Japanese)

Blood spurts out the prisoners head, chest, and they die instantly.

The camp commander gives the orders for all prisoners to get back to their barracks.

The dead prisoner's bodies are untied and thrown into a truck.

One Japanese guard spots a gold cross around the neck of Seaman First Class Meringolo's neck.

The guard rips it from the dead man and quickly pockets it.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. MITSUBISHI MKK PLANT MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

Thompson and Peaty meet up at the lunch room and look around for Lao Gao. Engineer Yoshi Kai approaches them.

KAI

Gentlemen, I bring you bad news.

LT. THOMPSON

Bad news? We've got it in spades.

KAI

Our foreman and friend Lao Gao was arrested yesterday and taken into custody where he confessed.

MAJOR PEATY

I am positive they must have beaten any confession out of him.

KAI

The authorities traced the map to Gao. They had a trial and he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Everyone must be extra careful now.

LT. THOMPSON

That might be the wise chose but
after yesterday's execution, the
men are out for revenge.

MAJOR PEATY

I believe he is correct, I foresee
even more instances of sabotage
here and at the camp that no one
can control.

KAI

I fear for my wife and child.

MAJOR PEATY

This war cannot continue forever.
The Japanese government and those
guilty of crimes against humanity
will be held responsible for their
actions. You are only guilty of
being in the wrong place at the
wrong time.

LT. THOMPSON

You have to hang on a little
longer, just like us.

KAI

Thank you my friends. I wish us all
luck.

Suddenly, there are screams from outside the factory and
smoke is bellowing in.

GUARDS

Fire! Fire! Get out! (Japanese)

POWS

Fire! Fire!

Thompson and Peaty run toward the chaos to discover the
outdoor latrine structure is on fire and out of control.

The guards run in circles while several POWs laugh.

THOMPSON

Wow! A shit house fire. You don't
see that every day.

Peaty begins snickering until both can't hold back the
insanity of the situation and laugh uncontrollably.

CUT TO:

EXT. POW YARD IN FRONT OF BARRACKS - MUKDEN CAMP - AFTERNOON

SUPER: 7 DEC 1944

There is a distant sound of airplanes high up in the sky. Many POWs start to drift out of their barracks to look up for approaching airplanes.

Thompson and Peaty joins in looking up.

MAJOR PEATY

Bill, what exactly are we looking for?

LT. THOMPSON

Maybe I'm going crazy but I'd swear that's the sound of B-29 bombers.

The Japanese nervously look up to the sky as the sound gets louder.

MAJOR PEATY

Oh dear, if true then perhaps we should take shelter.

LT. THOMPSON

Naw, we're no target here. They're probably looking for a munitions plant or something of military value.

MAJOR PEATY

A munitions factory? Like the one right down the road?

LT. THOMPSON

Yea, I suppose.

The sound of bombers is loud and suddenly a POW spots the formation of eighty three B-29s.

Japanese zeros are swarming the formation but not stopping them.

A few bombers are on fire with men parachuting out while some Zeros are exploding and crashing.

POW 4

Look there! Americans! Wahoo!

THOMPSON

Run for cover!

A crowd of POWs is cheering, dancing and saluting.

The high pitch whistling sound of bombs falling is heard.

Explosions begin outside the camp and panicked POWs run in all directions.

The air raid horn wails as the bombers fly closer.

Thomson and Peaty run to the fortified guard-house.

The Japanese guards abandon their posts and run for their lives.

PANICKED POW

Tell them it's us! We're Americans!

Bombs are exploding everywhere in the yard with men being blown up and killed. Barracks are hit and a guard tower explodes.

The bomb explosion pattern continues on toward the MKK factory and the city of Mukden.

Fires are raging around the camp, injured and dead are lying everywhere.

Thompson and Peaty emerge unscathed but deafened and in shock from the blasts to see destruction and wounded.

LT. THOMPSON

We must get to the wounded! Go see if the hospital was hit.

MAJOR PEATY

What? My ears! I cannot hear you.

Thompson points toward the hospital and pantomimes bandages. Peaty runs for help.

A huge hole was blown in the fence, body parts strewn on the ground with cries for help in English and Japanese.

Clothes had been blown off the POWs and are hanging across the barbed wire fence.

The latrine is on fire and part of many barracks are gone.

Suddenly a second wave of bombers is dropping another salvo of bombs onto the camp and nearby MKK factory.

Rescuers in the camp are being blown up and killed.

One bomber is on fire and several parachutes are seen from the men bailing out of the crashing airplane.

The main bomber squadron is leaving and Peaty returns.

MAJOR PEATY (CONT'D)

I still cannot hear you! The hospital was not hit. Are you alright Bill? (Loudly)

LT. THOMPSON

Robert! Sit down over there! (To a POW) Tear down those goal posts and use the wood to make a litter for the wounded. Robert, I must speak with Colonel Matsuda, we need help.

Thompson goes to Col. Matsuda's building where only one guard remains.

SINGLE GUARD

Halt!

LT. THOMPSON

I must see Colonel Matsuda, this is obviously an emergency, you idiot!

SINGLE GUARD

No Matsuda, he gone. You go back.

LT. THOMPSON

What in God's name is he doing abandoning his post in a time like this?!

SINGLE GUARD

You go now.

Lt. Murada approaches Peaty.

LT. MURADA

What do you want Lt. Thompson?

LT. THOMPSON

Night is coming soon and we have no electricity. How will the doctors see to operate?

Lt. Murada hands him a box of six candles.

LT. MURADA

That is all of the camp's emergency lighting supplies.

LT. THOMPSON

You must be joking?

LT. MURADA

I suggest you use them to save your men.

Fires begin to smolder while the POWs using makeshift litters take the wounded to the hospital.

Thompson and Peaty stand observing the carnage.

LT. THOMPSON

Here for the first time in three years my fellow Americans finally struck against these treacherous bastards. And we wind up paying for it. (Loudly)

MAJOR PEATY

Bill, the tragedy before us is horrendous but I sense our redemption is near. Our destiny is to survive and report to all what we have witnessed. (Loudly)

LT. THOMPSON

I know, I know. God damn it!
(Pauses) Somehow, some way, everything will be alright.

Thompson and Peaty move forward to help the survivors.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. MKK PLANT LUNCH ROOM MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

SUPER - Five months later

The men are having a short lunch break in the MKK mess hall when Australian Private GEORGE HARRISS comes to the officer's table where Thompson, Peaty and other officers are sitting.

Private Harriss sits down and the officers give him a questionable look.

MAJOR THOMPSON

Private?

PVT. HARRISS

G'Day. Beggin' your pardon, Sirs.
But I just won me a prize worth sharing.

(MORE)

PVT. HARRISS (CONT'D)
 (He motions shaking dice in his hand.) Can't read Japanese but crikey, a picture's worth a thousand words, Aay?

The photo shows American soldiers next to a destroyed Nazi stone swastika laying in the street.

MAJOR PEATY
 May I have that Private?

PVT. HARRISS
 No worries, mate. I mean Sir.

LT. THOMPSON
 That'll be all Private, thanks. (To Peaty) Robert, can you read it?

Peaty hides the newspaper on his lap under the table and sneaks a look.

MAJOR PEATY
 I shall require more time to translate all the content but I do immediately understand the headline. It says the war in Europe is over. They are calling it VE-Day.

One of the officers gives a loud whoop.

LT. THOMPSON
 Oh my God, is it true?

MAJOR PEATY
 The date printed on here is two weeks old and it is a known publication, therefore I believe it to be genuine. If the war in Europe is over, one can conclude Hitler has been defeated.

LT. THOMPSON
 It also means the full weight of the Allies will now be turned toward Tojo and his thugs.

Major Peaty begins to tear up he tries hold back any emotions.

LT. THOMPSON (CONT'D)
 Robert, are you OK?

MAJOR PEATY

Yes, thank you. I just realized my brother and his family in England are safe now.

LT. THOMPSON

I'm so truly happy for you. We must tell the rest of the camp but in a way not to tip our hand to the guards.

MAJOR PEATY

We must also increase our acts of sabotage. Our subversive attacks will divert the enemy's attention and resources away from what most certainly will be a massive Allied invasion.

LT. THOMPSON

Let's drive those bastards nuts!

MAJOR PEATY

Uh, hm. I believe I just expressed that same sentiment.

The two begin laughing until the whole table of officers is laughing together. The guards are not pleased.

The factory whistle blows signaling everyone back to work.

Several officers give hand signals to the enlisted men in the factory and within a few seconds people start having accidents and work stoppages.

One POW breaks a drill on his drill press alerting his guard his must stop working until another drill bit is retrieved.

Another speeds up his lathe until it dangerously redlines then he slams the brake and clutch sending metal flying all over the work site.

Then two POWs get into a staged fight whereupon the entire factory personnel rushes to see the fake boxing match.

The guards break up the fight but the plant manager has had enough disruptions and orders everyone to leave.

The POWs cheer, whistle and strip naked throwing their coveralls into a pile.

The guards fix bayonets to their rifles and order the men to put on their ragged uniforms for the march back to camp.

Thompson and Peaty are smiling ear to ear.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP, POW MAIN YARD - SUNRISE

SUPER: 6 AUG 1945

Just before sunrise, Thompson is heading to the latrine when he sees Peaty coming out.

LT. THOMPSON

Good morning there, early riser.

MAJOR PEATY

Good morning to you. I am afraid my bladder has been weakened due to our extended stay in Shangri-La.

LT. THOMPSON

We never seem to find the right vacation spot.

MAJOR PEATY

The next long holiday we take together...

At that moment, a bright flash covers the southern part of the sky interrupting their comic relief.

MAJOR PEATY (CONT'D)

Extraordinary! What do you make of that?

LT. THOMPSON

Lightning, bomb explosions? I've never seen anything like that before?

MAJOR PEATY

And nary a sound of thunder. It must be at a great distance.

A Japanese tower guard yells at them to get back in their barracks.

TOWER GUARD

Go back. Speedo!

Thompson and Peaty comply and are walking back to barracks.

Thompson looks to the machine gun installations in the guard towers.

LT. THOMPSON
They know someone we don't?

MAJOR PEATY
It is troubling to see those are not pointed outward as in some type of defensive measure. Instead their aim is toward us who possess no weapons whatsoever.

LT. THOMPSON
Troubling?! It's terrifying.

EXT. FARMLAND TWO MILES FROM MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

SUPER: 16 AUG 1945 OSS Mission Cardinal

Six men are pulling up their parachutes after landing in a farmer's field. MAJOR JAMES T. HENNESSY, MAJOR ROBERT LAMAR, MD, SGT. EDWARD A. STARZ, SGT. FUNIKO KIDO, CAPTAIN CHEN SHIH-WU, CPL. HAL LEITH from the Office of Strategic Services have come to liberate the Mukden Camp with the news the war is over.

MAJOR HENNESSY
OK, Sergeant, Captain Chin, we'll radio you if there is any trouble. Major Lamar, Kido, Leith, you're with me. Let's move out.

The four men reach a dirt road and using a map Hennessy points toward the camp.

Then a Japanese patrol drives up with their guns drawn.

No one moves while Sgt. Kido speaks to the patrol soldiers.

KIDO
Hello, we are Americans here to liberate Mukden Camp. The war is over. Yesterday, Emperor Hirohito declared the war is over.
(Japanese)

PATROL CAPTAIN
You lie! Hands up. (Japanese)

KIDO
Take us to your superiors. (Japanese)

PATROL CAPTAIN
Kempeitai!

KIDO
They're taking us to Kempeitai, the
military police.

The Patrol Captain takes Major Hennessy, Leith and Kido to
Kempeitai HQ in Mukden City.

Other Japanese soldiers grab Major Lamar and make him show
where they landed to Chin and Starz guarding the equipment.

The PATROL SGT. Fires a machine gun burst above Chin and
Starz.

They begin looking through the OSS equipment.

STARZ
Hey squirt, don't touch that!

LAMAR
Steady Sergeant. These fellas don't
know they've been licked yet.

CAPTAIN CHEN
We will soon have our weapons on
them and their hands up.

The patrol guards point their rifle bayonets at them.

PATROL SGT.
No talk!

Then the patrol sergeant motions to them the three to strip
down to their underwear.

STARZ
Major, is this midget kidding?!

PATROL SGT.
No talk!

After nothing is found, the Patrol Sergeant beats the unarmed
Americans with truncheons.

The three OSS men and their equipment are blindfolded and
driven off to Kempeitai HQ.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KEMPEITAI HQ MUKDEN CITY - DAY

Colonel TANAKA is sitting behind his desk with Major
Hennessy, Cpl. Leith, and Sgt. Kido also with the him.

The three blindfolded men are led into the room.

MAJOR HENNESSY
Colonel Tanaka, please remove the
blindfolds from my men.

SGT. KIDO
Remove the blindfolds at once.
(Japanese)

Col. Tanaka snaps his fingers and his goons pull off the
blindfolds.

MAJOR HENNESSY
Major, are you and your men hurt?

MAJOR LAMAR
No Sir, we'll live to fight another
day.

SGT. STARZ
Yea, I already know who to punch
first.

MAJOR LAMAR
At ease Sergeant.

COL. TANAKA
As I said Major, we have no
instructions from Tokyo. (Japanese)

SGT. KIDO
He's heard nothing from Tokyo.

MAJOR HENNESSY
I insist we go and see our men at
Mukden Camp.

SGT. KIDO
He and his men must see the
prisoners at Camp Hoten. (Japanese)

COL. TANAKA
I will take you there but I do not
think Colonel Matsuda has any
orders from Tokyo. (Japanese)

SGT. KIDO
He'll take us there but he thinks
Colonel Matsuda has no orders
either.

CAPTAIN CHEN

May we ask him about the Chinese who he has tortured and locked away?

MAJOR HENNESSY

Certainly.

KIDO

Where are the Chinese prisoners? They must be released as well.
(Japanese)

TANAKA

Those are criminals and an internal matter of the Manchukuo government.
(Japanese)

Kido starts to translate but Captain Chen cuts him off.

CAPTAIN CHEN

Thank you Sergeant I understand him completely. Allow me to reply. (English) As of 10 days ago, Manchukuo ceased to exist. You have no legal authority over anyone here. Furthermore, as a representative of the Republic of China, I order you to immediately release all Chinese citizens being held in your custody. (Japanese)

TANAKA

I must speak to my superiors in Tokyo before I can release anyone. (Japanese)

CAPTAIN CHEN

You are trying my patience Colonel. Mark my words, the Chinese people will never forget nor forgive what you have done to us. (Japanese)

CUT TO:

EXT. MUKDEN CAMP FRONT GATE AND POW MAIN YARD

The entire group drives to the gates of Mukden Camp.

Col. Matsuda is standing on the inside of the gate along with Lt. Miki the Bull and Lt. Murada.

Corporal Leith can see POWs peering through the windows of the all the barracks.

Thompson and Peaty look through their window to see the American walking up to the gate to speak with Matsuda.

CUT TO:

LT. THOMPSON

Are those Americans? Is the war really over?

MAJOR PEATY

Well, from I make of those chaps, one is a Nationalist Chinese officer, another is a Japanese-American and the other soldiers look like extremely well fed Americans.

LT. THOMPSON

Matsuda is not opening the gate.

MAJOR PEATY

I fear I have failed at teaching him any manners.

CUT TO:

MAJOR HENNESSY

Colonel Matsuda, I am Major Hennessy. The war is over, release our men.

Sgt. Kido translates to Col. Matsuda

COL. MATSUDA

I can not Major. I have no instructions from headquarters in Tokyo. You may stay ay the Yamato Hotel this evening and return tomorrow. Perhaps then we can resolve this matter. (Japanese)

Lt. Murada starts to translate to English but Major Hennessy waves him off. Sgt. Kido translates what Col. Matsuda says.

MAJOR HENNESSY

I must also inform you that over a week ago the Soviets declared war on Japan. Their tanks and troops are entering Harbin and are headed this way. Colonel, tomorrow you will open this gate. Good day.

As the OSS team turns to leave, Corporal Leith waves the OK sign and thumbs up to the POWs in the windows.

A huge cheer and whistles goes up from the around the camp.

Col. Matsuda walks head down back to his office.

Lt. Miki and Lt. Murada are starting to look scared and quickly go their quarters.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

INT. LOBBY OF THE YAMATO HOTEL - MUKDEN CITY - MORNING

Major Hennessy and Major Lamar are walking down the staircase at the hotel when Sgt. Starz meets them.

SGT. STARZ

Major, come quick. Sgt. Kido says
that Colonel wants to kill himself.

MAJOR HENNESSY

Good grief, show us the way.

In the lobby is Col. Tanaka in a full dress uniform complete with feathered helmet and long saber.

He steps forward with two of his officers, deeply bows and offers his saber to which Major Hennessy waves no.

Tanaka unfolds a cloth to reveal a short dagger.

COL. TANAKA

May I now perform hari-kiri?
(Japanese)

MAJOR HENNESSY

Good God No! I need you and your
troops to stay in Mukden to
maintain order. You must release
all your prisoners- American,
British, Dutch, and Chinese. Do you
understand?

SGT. KIDO

You must remain in charge to
maintain law and order in Mukden...
(Japanese)

COL. TANAKA

I will obey your orders.(Japanese)

MAJOR HENNESSY

I order you to take us to Mukden
Camp to release all Allied
prisoners of war.

CAPTAIN CHEN

Major, if I may, I need a few of
his men to take me to release the
Chinese prisoners.

MAJOR HENNESSY

Very well Captain Chen. Sgt. Kido
instruct the Colonel of the
Captain's order. Now let's go get
our boys.

As the OSS Team leaves the hotel, Cpl. Leith turns to Sgt.
Starz.

LEITH

Hey Sarge, didn't the Major say
yesterday the Russians were headed
this way? It'll be a slaughter.

STARZ

Yep, I hope he's right.

The mean Kompeitai Patrol Sergeant runs out of the hotel
toward them.

PATROL SGT.

Hey! I have a brother in LA? I
wonder if you know him? (English)

CPL. LEITH

What?! Oh yea, sure we know him. He
doesn't like you either, pal.

CUT TO:

The Kompeitai truck with the OSS Team arrives at the Mukden
Camp to find the gate wide open with Col. Matsuda awaiting
them.

They are invited into his office and follow him in with a
guard escort.

CUT TO:

INT. COL. MATSUDA'S OFFICE MUKDEN POW CAMP - MORNING

The OSS Team stands in Col. Matsuda's office.

COL. MATSUDA

I have been instructed by Tokyo to hand over all prisoners of war to you immediately and to await your orders.

The Senior Allied Officer, MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE PARKER enters the office and deeply bows to Matsuda and Major Hennessy.

MAJOR HENNESSY

No more bowing - the war is over, and, we have come to get all the POWs back home.

Major Hennessy shakes his hand and then hugs him as Gen. Parker begins to cry.

MAJOR HENNESSY (CONT'D)

General, would you like to make the announcement to your men? Sergeant, Corporal open up the barracks.

GENERAL PARKER

Thank you, it would be my honor.

General Parker walks out in front of Matsuda's building and begins to speak.

GENERAL PARKER (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, the war is over.

Starz and Leith run by him yelling to come out.

CPL. LEITH

The war is over! Come out! The war is over!

SGT. STARZ

Let's go you sad sacks, move it.

Some men run out cheering while many more limp out slowly, squinting in the bright sun.

The camp goes crazy with joy, tears, and victory yells by everyone.

The Japanese guards drop their rifles and run to Matsuda's building to huddle in fear.

MAJOR HENNESSY

Sgt. Kido, instruct those guards they are to stay and help our sick to the hospital. And get some men to remove those machine guns.

(MORE)

MAJOR HENNESSY (CONT'D)
 Major, find some men willing to
 stand guard on Col. Matsuda and his
 officers.

MAJOR LAMAR
 My pleasure Sir. I don't think I'll
 have any trouble finding
 volunteers.

Kido has the guards stack their weapons in a pile and he
 points them to the barracks and guard towers while giving
 them orders.

Several men rush toward Cpl. Leith and surround him.

POW 1
 Who won the last three World
 Series?

POW 2
 Is Shirley Temple dead?

POW 3
 Who is president now?

POW 4
 Who is the Prime Minister of
 England?

POW 5
 When did the war actually end?

POW 6
 How much pay do Army Ranks get?

POW 7
 Can we go home now?

CPL. LEITH
 Wait, slow down. One at a time
 fellas.

Lt. Col Grow has brings out his hand made bass and is playing
 American patriotic songs with others.

One has a guitar, another a harmonica, another on makeshift
 drum set. Others just dance around laughing and crying with
 joy.

Captain Chen has returned with a tearful Lao Gao to see
 Thompson and Peaty.

CAPTAIN CHEN

He insisted on coming to see you both.

LT. THOMPSON

My God, you're alive?

LAO GAO

Yes, I am alive, my friends. Their court sentenced me to 10 years but today, only I am free.

MAJOR PEATY

Wode pengyou, what's wrong?

LAO GAO

My freedom means nothing to me now. After I was taken away, there was no money for my wife and child. They had no home, no food, they starved to death, begging in the streets of Mukden. The devils would not allow my people to help them.

Peaty hugs Lao Gao as he sobs.

MAJOR PEATY

I am so sorry, Decun, so sorry.

LAO GAO

Please tell me the Americans will punish these monsters and send them straight to hell for what they have done.

LT. THOMPSON

Mr. Gao, we have been keeping journals of every crime, every infraction made by these criminals since we got here. I promise to submit our logs and testify at any upcoming war crimes trial.

MAJOR PEATY

Please accept my deep felt condolences for your devastating losses.

LAO GAO

I will forever bear scars from this war. But I will value our friendship as long as I live.

They shake hands and hug goodbye.

CUT TO:

Corporal PETAK and two men are kicking down the door of Matsuda's storeroom to reveal a massive pile of mail dating back three years.

Hundreds of Red Cross packages of food, medicine and gifts that the POWs never received are piled to the ceiling.

MAJOR HENNESSY

Corporal, find some men to distribute these. Any medicine found, have a runner take it to the hospital at once.

CPL. PETAK

Alright you mugs, Christmas came late, so let's get these presents to the boys.

CUT TO:

Overhead a B-24 flies low over the camp dropping thousands of leaflets onto the cheering men.

CPL. LEITH

When it rains, it pours!

He picks up the leaflet to read:

NOTICE TO ALIED PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES

The Japanese Government has accepted the Allied peace terms set forth in the Potsdam Declaration. Final negotiations are being concluded.

...and so on...

CUT TO:

Several Army Air Force men walk into the celebrating camp.

PILOT

Are you in charge?

MAJOR PEATY

Captain, I do not believe anyone is in charge at the moment. Where did you come from?

PILOT

We just came to apologize. Nobody told us you guys were here. My orders were to bomb a Jap factory. I'm so sorry.

LT. THOMPSON

Forget about it. There's no way you or anyone could have known we were here until that day. Please come in and join our little party.

He hands them some Red Cross packages and a bottle of booze.

MAJOR PEATY

Cheers.

LT. THOMPSON

Cheers!

They toasted with booze bottles.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUKDEN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT MUKDEN, CHINA - DAY

SUPER: 29 AUG 1945

Exiting a DC-3 is Col. JAMES T. DONOVAN, OSS and nineteen team members are met by Major Hennessy, Major Lamar, Major WATSON, with Cpl. Leith and Sgt. Starz.

Also, the Russian commandant, Col. IVANOV and few of his men are there to greet Col. Donovan.

MAJOR HENNESSY

Welcome to Mukden Colonel, this is Colonel Ivanov.

COL. DONOVAN

Colonel Ivanov, pleasure to meet you.

CPL. LEITH

Please to meet you. This is Major Hennessy. (Russian)

COL. IVANOV

Why do you have so many men with sidearms? Are we at war now or are we Allies? (Russian)

MAJOR HENNESSY

What did he say Corporal?

CPL. LIETH

He asks why do you have so many men with weapons? And are we allies or enemies?

COL. DONOVAN

That son-of-a-bitch. Tell him word for word, it depends on how he and Russia behave.

CPL. LIETH

My Colonel says it is up to how you and Russia behave. (Russian)

COL. IVANOV

How dare he! (Russian)
(Pauses then laughs.)

COL. DONOVAN

Corporal, do we have any vodka?

CPL. LEITH

Cases of it, Sir.

COL. DONOVAN

Good. Colonel Ivanov, let's meet again after I tour the camp.

CPL. LEITH

My Colonel says he would like to meet again after he tours the camp. (Russian)

COL. IVANOV

Otlichno. I'll bring the glasses if he brings his vodka. (English)
(Laughs)

COL. DONOVAN

Why you son of a... (Laughs)

They both laugh and walk off the tarmac together to awaiting vehicles.

CUT TO:

INT. UNIT 731 MEDICAL BARRACKS - MUKDEN CAMP - DAY

The medical staff is burning papers and destroying lab equipment while General Ishii looks around in a panic tightly holding a suitcase.

DR. YOSHIMURA

General! There is no more time!
Russian tanks are coming from
Harbin!

GEN. ISHII

Do you have the data logs? That
information will save our lives.

DR. YOSHIMURA

The documents are in the sedan. We
must leave now!

Yoshimura and Ishii are running to their military car when Japanese soldiers detonate dynamite charges to the crematorium.

Ishii falls dropping his suitcase spilling out money, jewels and his porcelain figurine.

DR. YOSHIMURA (CONT'D)

Leave it! We must go!!

A retreating soldier squashes the figurine with his boot as he runs from the destruction of Unit 731.

Yoshimura stuffs the frightened Ishii into the car and they escape.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUKDEN POW CEMETERY - MUKDEN CAMP - SUNSET

Lt. Thompson and Major Peaty walk with Col. Donovan in the soldier's cemetery.

COL. DONOVAN

Major, I've briefly looked over
your journal and I am impressed
with the many details you compiled.

MAJOR PEATY

Thank you Colonel, Lt. Thompson and
I carefully listed all the enemy's
criminal offenses as well as the
daily mundane minutia.

LT. THOMPSON

Our most accurate count of the fallen are on this list Colonel. I apologize some of these are unmarked. Colonel Matsuda didn't allow us grave markers that first year and crosses were only permitted later. There were just too many Sir.

COL. DONOVAN

Considering the situation, I think you two did an exemplary job.

MAJOR PEATY

Colonel, about the inquest into the war crimes committed by the Japanese. When shall high command begin their arrests?

COL. DONOVAN

Major, my mission is to evacuate our boys and await further orders.

LT. THOMPSON

I agree with Major Peaty. The rats are escaping the ship and must be held accountable.

COL. DONOVAN

I am confident General MacArthur will do the right thing by our men.

Sgt. Starz drives up in a Jeep.

SGT. STARZ

Colonel, there's more trouble with the Russians.

COL. DONOVAN

Good luck to you both.

LT. THOMPSON

Thank you Sir.

Donovan drives off in a Jeep.

MAJOR PEATY

Bill, do you need anything?

LT. THOMPSON

I'm OK, you?

MAJOR PEATY

I am prepared, my flight leaves soon. I shall have much to report to my superiors about our time here.

LT. THOMPSON

Will you stay in MI-6 or continue business as usual in Hong Kong.

MAJOR PEATY

I do not believe one is ever allowed to leave the special services. As for business, I am sure my wife has plans to expand the family empire. However, I am certain I shall revisit my Russian language studies.

LT. THOMPSON

Well, if you're ever stateside, you're always welcome in my home.

MAJOR PEATY

I shall take you up on that offer and challenge you a serious match of golf.

LT. THOMPSON

Now that's a bet I will take.

MAJOR PEATY

All humor aside Bill, I can not find the words to thank you enough for helping me to endure these past horrendous years. I am truly grateful to call you my dear friend and shall forever be indebted to you.

LT. THOMPSON

Robert, I will always treasure your wit and encouragement even during our darkest hours.

MAJOR PEATY

Give my best to your wife and daughter.

LT. THOMPSON

Of course. You take care of yourself.

The shake hands then hug.

A Private drives up in a Jeep.

JEEP DRIVER
Ready Sir?

LT. THOMPSON
Robert.

MAJOR PEATY
William.

Thompson laughs, Peaty smiles.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

EXT. POW CAMP AT HSAIN HSAIN, CHINA - DAY

SUPER: 27 AUG 1945 Hsain Officers Camp Hsain, China

Major Lamar and Cpl. Leith open the gate to see emaciated officers scurrying in fear and disbelief.

In a darkened barrack, they find General Jonathan Wainwright sitting looking bewildered at them.

MAJOR LAMAR
General, it's time to go home.

A weakened Wainwright tries to stand and salute. Leith rushes to help him.

GEN. WAINWRIGHT
I'm so sorry.

CPL. LEITH
I've got you Sir.

CPL. LAMAR
General MacArthur is asking to see you.

GEN. WAINWRIGHT
Doug? The General wants to see me?

MAJOR LAMAR
Yes Sir, we're to put you on a plane headed for Tokyo, ASAP.

CPL. LEITH
General, we won. The war is over. We're all going home.

WAINWRIGHT

Oh thank God Almighty, we're free.

Wainwright leans on Leith and they all walk out into the sunlight.

CPL. LEITH

All the men are saying you're their hero now, Sir.

GEN. WAINWRIGHT

Me a hero? No, it's men like you who my heroes.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ABOARD THE USS MISSOURI TOKYO BAY, JAPAN - MORNING

SUPER: 2 SEPT 1945 USS Missouri, Tokyo Bay, Japan

General Douglas MacArthur in khakis leads the Instrument of Surrender standing over a table of documents on the deck of the USS Missouri.

GEN. MACARTHUR

By Command and on behalf of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Government, Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu step forward and sign the Instrument of Surrender.

Foreign Minister Shigemitsu in a tuxedo and top hat limps forward with a cane to sign the surrender.

DISSOLVE TO:

GEN. MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, I accept the surrender of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Government on behalf of the Allied Powers.

General MacArthur sits at the table and signs the document.

He returns to the microscope on the ship deck.

GEN. MACARTHUR (CONT'D)

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz will sign for the United States.

Admiral Nimitz steps up and signs the surrender.

GEN. MACARTHUR (CONT'D)
 General Hsu Yung-chang will sign
 for the Republic of China.

General Hsu steps up and signs the surrender.

GEN. MACARTHUR (CONT'D)
 Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser will sign
 for the United Kingdom.

DISSOLVE TO:

General MacArthur looks over and nods to General Jonathan Wainwright who stands with a cane in the American delegation.

GEN. MACARTHUR (CONT'D)
 We are gathered here as the major
 warring powers to conclude a solemn
 agreement whereby peace may be
 restored. We may restore it now and
 may God preserve it always. These
 proceedings are closed.

Three hundred fifty B-29 bombers accompanied by squadrons of fighters fly over the many ships anchored in Tokyo Bay.

All the men wildly cheer.

CUT TO:

EXT. QUONSET HUT CLARK FIELD, FT. STOTSENBURG, PHILIPPINES -
 DAY

SUPER: 5 SEPT 1945 Clark Field, Ft. Stotsenburg, Philippines

Pvt. Mosendahl, Pfc. PHILIP HALEY AND Several dozen or so men
 listen to a Sergeant's instruction.

MANILA SERGEANT
 Listen up! Read and sign these
 Security Certificates.

MOSENDAHL
 What are they for, Sarge?

MANILA SERGEANT
 I don't know Private First Class
 Nobody, just sign it. The Captain
 told me if you don't sign - you can
 face a possible five years in jail
 and \$10,000 dollar fine.

MOSENDAHL

Sarge, you got an extra pen?

MANILA SERGEANT

Corporal pass out those pens.

PFC. HALEY

Sarge, what about our back pay?

MANILA SERGEANT

You will receive your back pay and \$1.38 for every day you missed a meal while sitting out the war.

MOSENDAHL

Now, let me see...(reading) Hey wait a minute! It says we can't tell anybody about what happened to us?

MANILA SERGEANT

You are to say nothing to nobody about nothing! Got it?

MOSENDAHL

Yea, and but about the fellas that rescued us?

PFC. HALEY

And all our buddies that died back there?

ANOTHER SOLDIER

Or when the Japs executed our guys.

MOSENDAHL

And what about those shitty medical experiments?!

MANILA SERGEANT

JESUS H. CHRIST!! Didn't I just say you're not to talk about anything you saw, did or happened to you, forever?!

MOSENDAHL

What the hell? If it will get me stateside quicker, give me a pen.

FADE OUT AND
FADE IN:

EXT. COLUMBIA GOLF CLUB CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND - DAY

SUPER: 21 JUN 1946 Columbia Country Club Chevy Chase, MD

Thompson and three friends are putting out on the 18th hole.

GOLF BUDDY 1

This is it, Bill. You make this putt to win the hole and the match.

GOLF BUDDY 2

Boy, that looks like about 23 feet.

GOLF BUDDY 3

That gonna be a tough one to sink.

Thompson studies the ball on the green.

GOLF BUDDY 1

Hold it. I'd like to double our bet if you sink this putt.

GOLF BUDDY 3

Hey Bill, you feeling the pressure now?

Thompson walks up his ball, looks up into the sun and smiles.

THOMPSON

Pressure? Everything is good.

He putts the ball and it drops into the cup.

They all shout and cheer.

GOLF BUDDY 1

Beers are on me! (Laughs)

CUT TO:

INT. THOMPSON'S CAR ARLINGTON, VA - SUNSET

Thompson is driving home on the GW Parkway when he spots a military motorcade ahead.

A Military Police stops the traffic in front of the guard gate at The Pentagon.

As one vehicle makes a slow turn, he sees a Japanese man in the back of the vehicle staring at him.

It is Dr. Isahato Yoshimura from the Japanese Unit 731 in China.

Thompson is stunned as the motorcade enters the Pentagon.

THOMPSON
What the hell?!

Cars behind him begin honking and he drives off.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)
That can't be the bastard from
Mukden? (Pauses) God damn it was.
He poisoned our guys. How did he?
Why? Wait a second. Ft. Detrick is
our biological weapons site. Of all
the dirty sons of bitches! Our
government gave that murdering
bastard a job. Near my home? My
family?

Thompson face turns from rage to sorrow until he begins to weep uncontrollably.

He pulls up into the driveway of his little home and cries.

His daughter runs out from the front door to the car.

LT. THOMPSON
Hold on, wait a second, honey.

DAUGHTER
Daddy? Don't be sad. You're home
now. Mommy and I love you very
much. Please come inside.

His wife comes out to the front porch in tears too.

Thompson looks up the first starlight after sunset.

FLASHBACK: Thompson under the palm tree during the Bataan Death March looking at the starlight after sunset.

LT. THOMPSON
Never give up, never give in,
everything will be fine.

CUT TO:

Thompson gets out of the car and picks up his daughter.

THOMPSON
That's right, little monkey. I'm
home now. Everything is fine.

He hugs and kisses them both.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END