

SCRIPT TITLE

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1 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

1917:

The British trench is under heavy German bombardment, shells are exploding everywhere.

Private JOHN WRAY (20s) is hunched in a corner in order to avoid being hit.

A SERGEANT (30s) joins him and glances in his direction.

SERGEANT

The top man wants to see you Wray.

John nods.

JOHN

Yes Sergeant.

John gets up, salutes the Sergeant, then heads towards the Officer's quarters.

CUT TO:

2 INT. OFFICER'S QUARTERS - DAY

John enters the room.

The OFFICER (30s) is sat at the table with a cup of tea in front of him.

JOHN

You wanted me Sir?

The Officer hands him a letter.

OFFICER

Yes Private. I want you to give this letter to the General at Headquarters, wait and then bring his reply back to me.

John nods and then salutes the Officer.

JOHN

Yes Sir.

The Officer briefly pauses, before looking at John.

OFFICER

On second thoughts, take two men with you. It's vitally important that the letter I've just given you reaches Headquarters by hook or by crook.

John nods.

JOHN

Yes Sir.

John salutes the Officer again, then leaves.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

John dodges the incoming shells as he walks along the trench.

Eventually, he comes to the Sergeant.

He salutes him and then shows him the letter.

JOHN

Sir, the Commanding Officer wants
me to take two men with me to
deliver this to Headquarters.

The Sergeant glances at it, before John puts it into his top pocket.

He then looks around, glances at two SOLDIERS (20s) who are crouched down in an attempt to avoid the incoming artillery fire.

SERGEANT

Privates White and Walsh, get your
gear ready. You are going with
Private Wray. He'll fill you both
in.

Both soldiers salute the Sergeant before starting to gather their supplies.

The Sergeant then glances at John.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Wray, you are in command.

John nods, then salutes.

JOHN

Yes Sir.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

John, and Privates White and Walsh are running towards British Headquarters.

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH
I wonder what's in the letter
that's so important.

John shrugs his shoulders.

JOHN
I neither know nor care Private
Walsh. As long as one of us gets it
there, that's all that matters.

CUT TO:

5 ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John and his comrades continue their journey towards
Headquarters.

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH
Can I ask you a question?

John smiles and then nods.

JOHN
Yes. Of course you can.

Private Walsh smirks.

PRIVATE WALSH
I've often wondered something about
you. You've got a posh voice. How
come you aren't an Officer.

JOHN
Well ...

CUT TO:

6 INT. JOHN'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

FLASHBACK:

John is sat at the table reading the newspaper.

His father PETER (50s) is sat opposite as John stares at the
headline, which reads: GREAT BRITAIN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

JOHN
I'm going to volunteer Dad. It's
something I feel I have to do. Hans
will probably be conscripted.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

I just hope we both get through it unscathed.

PETER

Don't think like that. You'll both be fine.

John smiles.

JOHN

I miss his company. We were close.

Peter nods.

PETER

I know you were. You'll see him when this is all over though.

JOHN

I sincerely hope so dad.

Peter glances at his son.

PETER

You know, you could get in as an Officer.

John shakes his head.

JOHN

That's not for me. I want to go in as a Private.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

7 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH

So, did you do all the training that we had to do?

John nods.

JOHN

Yes. Of course I did.

Private White looks at John.

PRIVATE WHITE

So, who is Hans?

John smiles.

JOHN
So you do speak Private White! Hans
is my friend from university.

Private White gives him a questioning look.

PRIVATE WHITE
Is he German?

John nods.

JOHN
Yes. What difference does that
make?

Private White shrugs his shoulders.

PRIVATE WHITE
None to me.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The trio continue to run towards their destination.

Private Walsh looks at John.

PRIVATE WALSH
Are you into football?

John smiles.

JOHN
Sort of. I sometimes go the odd
game with my dad. He's a big
Darlington fan. He's hoping they
get into the Football League one
day.

PRIVATE WALSH
What league do they play in?

JOHN
The North Eastern League. They
actually won it in the 1912/13
season.

John smiles.

JOHN (CONT'D)
My dad was overjoyed the day they
won the title.
(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'll never forget the smile on his face when he came home.

PRIVATE WALSH

Who did they beat in their last match?

John shrugs his shoulders.

JOHN

You know, I honestly can't remember. I do recall him travelling all the way down to Northampton that season for a FA Cup Replay though.

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH

God, that was a long way to travel for a midweek match. What was the score?

JOHN

They lost 2-0. You are quite right, It was a Thursday night match. He didn't get back home until the early hours of the Friday morning. He only got a few hours sleep before he had to go to work.

John glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Who do you support anyway?

PRIVATE WALSH

Middlesbrough. I think our Reserves play in the same league as Darlington.

John nods.

JOHN

Yes, they do. My dad has mentioned them a few times.

PRIVATE WALSH

I've never been to Feethams before.

Private Walsh smirks.

PRIVATE WALSH (CONT'D)

I might go one day to see Middlesbrough Reserves turn Darlington over.

John smiles.

JOHN
I think my dad would probably have
something to say about that.

Private Walsh nods.

PRIVATE WALSH
I bet he would!

CUT TO:

9 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The threesome continue to run towards Headquarters.

O/S a woman's SCREAM can be heard.

Private Walsh stops and looks and his comrades, who also stop.

PRIVATE WALSH
Did you hear that?

John nods.

JOHN
Yes, I did. Come on let's take a
look.

The trio head in the direction that the scream came from.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. PATH LEADING TO FARMHOUSE - DAY

The three Privates head up the path.

They come to a spot where they can see a farmhouse.

In the yard, near the farmhouse, they see a GERMAN SOLDIER
(20s) stood, smoking a cigarette.

John looks at Private White.

JOHN
We don't know if there any Germans
in the house, or how many. Could
you get behind that soldier and
either slit his throat, or knife
him in the back?

Private White nods.

PRIVATE WHITE
Yes, no problem.

Private White heads off down the track.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. BARN IN FARMYARD - DAY

Private White is crouched behind the barn behind where the German soldier is standing.

He has his bayonet in his hand.

Private White gets up and slowly creeps up behind the soldier.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. YARD NEAR FARMHOUSE - DAY

Private White continues to creep up behind the soldier with his bayonet poised.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. YARD NEAR FARMHOUSE - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Private White is directly behind the German soldier.

He quickly grabs his arms so he can't move with one hand and then slits his throat with the other.

As Private White lets go of his arms, the German soldier drops to the ground with blood spurting from his mouth.

Private then White heads back in the direction which he came.

CUT TO:

14 PATH LEADING TO FARMHOUSE - DAY

After seeing the German soldier fall to the ground, John glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN
Great. He's done it. Once Private White gets back, we'll head for the farmhouse.

CUT TO:

15 PATH LEADING TO FARMHOUSE - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Private White joins John and Private Walsh.

John glances at him.

JOHN

Well done for doing that. You made
it look easy.

PRIVATE WHITE

Thanks. I just followed what I'd
learned in training.

John nods.

JOHN

Now that's sorted, come on you two,
let's go and see what's happening
in the house.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE - DAY

The three Privates glance through a window.

John shakes his head at what he sees.

CUT TO:

17 INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

A semi-naked WOMAN (20s) is laid on the kitchen table.

Her arms are being held down by two GERMAN SOLDIERS (20s).

A GERMAN SERGEANT (30s) is forcibly having sex with the
woman, who is in floods of tears.

One of the soldiers looks at the Sergeant.

GERMAN SOLDIER ONE

Hurry up Sergeant.

The Sergeant smiles.

GERMAN SERGEANT

Don't worry. You'll get your turn
Private.

The woman looks pleadingly at the Sergeant.

WOMAN

Please stop!

The Sergeant laughs.

GERMAN SERGEANT

Shut up you dirty French whore.

Both the other two soldiers laugh as they continue to hold the woman down.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE - DAY

John looks at his comrades.

JOHN

We have to put a stop to this.

He then looks at Private Walsh.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Go and see if there's any doors or windows open. If there is, come back here and we'll all go in together.

Private Walsh nods.

CUT TO:

19 OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Private Walsh returns and glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH

There's a side door open. We can get into the house that way.

John nods.

JOHN

Good work. Come on, let's go.

The threesome head in the direction Private Walsh had earlier.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. SIDE DOOR - DAY

The trio arrive at the side door which is slightly ajar.

All three men ready their rifles.

They then squeeze through the gap and into the house.

CUT TO:

21 INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

John and his comrades creep along the passage.

O/S heavy breathing and laughing can be heard.

They head in the direction that the sounds are coming from.

CUT TO:

22 INT. OUTSIDE KITCHEN DOOR - DAY

The three Privates are outside the kitchen door which is closed.

John glances at his companions.

JOHN

(whispering)

I'll kick the door open, then I'll
kill the one that is on top of the
woman, you two take one of the
other two each.

Private Walsh glances at Private White.

PRIVATE WALSH

(whispering)

I'll take the one on the right of
the woman. You take the other.

Private White nods.

John then kicks the door open.

CUT TO:

23 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

John and the other two Privates enter the kitchen.

Before the Germans can do anything, there's three BANGS and they are all dead.

The Sergeant is laid on the floor next to Soldier Two.

Soldier One is still laid on top of the clearly shocked woman.

John looks at Private Walsh.

JOHN
Get him off her.

Private Walsh grabs the dead German and throws him onto the floor.

John then helps the woman up.

CUT TO:

24 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John hands the woman her clothes.

The woman half smiles as she puts them on.

WOMAN
Thank you.

John glances at her.

JOHN
Are you alright?

The woman wipes her eyes, then nods.

WOMAN
As well as I can be. Thanks to you three.

JOHN
So, how did this happen.

WOMAN
The four Germans came asking for milk. When they saw I was alone, they attacked me.

John shakes his head.

JOHN
The bastards. I'm really sorry, but we have to go soon. Is there anywhere you can go in case if anyone comes looking for them.

The woman shakes her head.

WOMAN
No. I'll stay here.

John gives her a questioning look.

JOHN
Are you sure?

The woman nods.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Have you got anywhere we can help
you to hide the bodies?

Private Walsh looks at John.

PRIVATE WALSH
We could feed them to the pigs.
There's loads of them out there.

John shakes his head.

JOHN
We haven't got time to cut them up.

The woman glances at John.

WOMAN
There's an old cellar in the barn.
If you could help me to put them in
there, I'll cover the trapdoor with
straw. I'll then go to my brother's
farm. He'll come back with me, and
we'll bury them where no-one will
find them.

John nods.

JOHN
That seems like a good idea. One
thing though, where's your husband?

WOMAN
He's fighting the Germans.

JOHN
And your brother?

WOMAN
He was wounded. He walks with a
limp so he was told he couldn't
fight anymore.

John nods.

JOHN
It sounds like you have a brave
family.

The woman smiles.

WOMAN
I like to think so.

CUT TO:

25 INT. BARN CELLAR - DAY

John and Private Walsh lay the German Sergeant's body next to his three comrades.

John looks at his helper.

JOHN
That's the lot. Come on. We can go now.

Private Walsh nods.

CUT TO:

26 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

John and the other two Privates are sat at the table, which has been cleaned and re-set.

John glances at he woman.

JOHN
I'm really sorry, but we really have to go.

The woman nods.

WOMAN
I understand.

The woman kisses each of the soldiers on the cheek.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Many thanks for what you did for me today. I'll never forget any of you.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The three Privates are continuing their journey to Headquarters.

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH
Its terrible what those Germans did to that poor woman.

John nods.

JOHN
Unfortunately, there's good and bad
in every race, they were bad at the
end of the day.

Private White looks at John.

PRIVATE WHITE
They got what they deserved.

JOHN
I can't argue there.

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH
Can we stop for a five minute
break?

John nods.

JOHN
Yes. I think we have earned it
after what we have seen today.

The threesome step off the road and head cross country.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. CLEARING IN A WOOD - DAY

John and the other two Privates stop walking.

JOHN
This place will do. We won't set
any fires in case the smoke is
spotted though.

Private Walsh smirks.

PRIVATE WALSH
So Bully Beef washed down with
water it is then.

John smiles.

JOHN
I'm afraid so.

The threesome each take a tin from their pack and start to
open it.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. CLEARING IN A WOOD - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John looks at his comrades.

JOHN
Come on lads. We need to get going.

Private Walsh smiles.

PRIVATE WALSH
No rest for the wicked, I suppose.

John is already on his feet.

Privates Walsh and White follow suit and the threesome re-start their journey.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The three Privates continue running towards Headquarters.

John looks at his comrades.

JOHN
We are about half way there now.
All being well, we should be there
in just over an hour.

Private Walsh nods.

PRIVATE WALSH
Considering we helped that woman,
we haven't done too bad for time.

John nods, then glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN
I've just thought, she never did
tell us her name.

PRIVATE WALSH
In the scheme of things, I don't
think it matters. At least we were
there to help her, which is the
main thing.

JOHN
Yes, I suppose you are right.

Suddenly, Private White stops running.

John and Private Walsh follow suit.

PRIVATE WHITE
 Sorry for interrupting you two, but
 I thought I heard something.

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH
 Oh no. Not again. We'll never get
 to Headquarters at this rate.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The trio see two GERMAN SOLDIERS (20s) in the distance and quickly look for somewhere to hide.

John points at a ditch at the edge of the road.

JOHN
 Come on, let's get into that ditch
 over there.

The threesome run towards it.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

The three men are crouched in the ditch.

They hear the soldiers approaching and load their rifles.

John takes aim.

There's a BANG.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

One of the German soldiers is hit in the head and falls to the ground.

John glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN
 Got him!

The other German soldier quickly fixes his bayonet to his rifle.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

Private Walsh takes aim as he sees the soldier heading towards him.

His rifle jams.

Private White takes aim.

There's a loud BANG.

He misses the soldier.

PRIVATE WHITE

Shit!

CUT TO:

35 EXT. EDGE OF DITCH - DAY

The remaining German soldier jumps into the ditch and goes for Private White, stabbing him in the leg with his bayonet in the process.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

John manages to drag the soldier off Private White and then hits him with the butt of his rifle.

The soldier falls near Private Walsh.

John seizes his opportunity, grabs the soldier's rifle, before stabbing him in the chest with his own bayonet.

Blood spills from the soldier's mouth.

Within a few seconds he dies.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John glances at Private White, then Private Walsh.

JOHN

I'll bandage Private White's leg up, then we'll need to find somewhere for him to rest up.

Private Walsh nods.

PRIVATE WALSH

That sounds like a plan. I'll also put the other body into the ditch rather than leaving it in the road.

JOHN

Good idea.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John looks at Private Walsh.

JOHN

We'll have to carry him. If we find some shelter, we can then decide what to do.

John nods in agreement.

PRIVATE WALSH

That's fine by me.

They start their journey with John carrying the wounded Private White on his back.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

John is still carrying the now unconscious Private White on his back.

He glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN

I hope he doesn't lose his leg.

PRIVATE WALSH

He won't will he?

JOHN

I almost did.

PRIVATE WALSH

What happened?

JOHN

It all started when I went over the top a couple of years ago ...

CUT TO:

40 EXT. FESTUBERT TRENCHES - DAY

FLASHBACK:

John is in the trench with many other SOLDIERS (20s).

They can hear the sound of the English artillery bombarding the German positions.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. FESTUBERT TRENCHES - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The OFFICER (30s) blows his whistle, then leads John and his COMRADES over the top.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY

Many of the charging soldiers are cut down by German machine guns as they race towards the enemy trenches.

The Officer urges his men on.

JONES
(shouting)
Come on lads. Keep going.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

As he continues his charge, John is hit in the leg by a bullet.

He is then hit in the arm and falls to the ground.

SOLDIERS (20s) trample over him in their haste to get to the enemy lines.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John lays in silence as gunfire can be heard O/S.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - EARLY EVENING

CONTINUOUS:

The gunfire has now ceased and John is still alone.

JOHN
(to himself)
Why hasn't anyone come to get me?

CUT TO:

46 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - NIGHT

CONTINUOUS:

JOHN
(to himself)
Well John, it looks like it's going
to be down to you to get yourself
back to your trench.

John sighs.

JOHN (CONT'D)
It's either that, or you die here.

John starts to crawl in the direction which he came earlier
in the day.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - NIGHT

CONTINUOUS:

In agony, John continues his slow crawl back towards the
British lines.

His journey takes him past many dead bodies, some of which
are either headless or limbless.

John doesn't look at any of them as he continues his
painfully slow passage.

Suddenly, he hears MOANING in the distance and goes to
investigate.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - NIGHT

CONTINUOUS:

John pauses.

JOHN
 (to himself)
 Come on John, you have to carry on.

John resumes his slow crawl.

The moaning sound grows louder as he continues his journey.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - NIGHT

John comes across a fellow wounded SOLDIER (20s).

Both the soldier's legs are badly injured.

John looks at him.

JOHN
 What's your name?

SOLDIER
 William.

John smiles.

JOHN
 Well William, I'm going to drag you
 back to the trench my friend.

William doesn't reply.

John checks whether or not he is still breathing by listening
 for his heartbeat.

Once he is satisfied that he is alive, John slowly starts to
 drag William's dead weight along the ground.

CUT TO:

50 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - NIGHT

A SOLDIER (20s) is on guard duty.

He scourers the area using a periscope.

The soldier spots something in the distance.

He turns around to the COMMANDING OFFICER (30s)

SOLDIER
 Sir, I think I can see something.

The Commanding Officer heads towards him.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - NIGHT

CONTINUOUS:

The Commanding shoves the soldier out of the way and peers through the periscope.

He has an expression of amazement on his face.

COMMANDING OFFICER
My God, it's one of our lads
crawling back. He is dragging
another soldier. Hold your fire
men.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. FRONT OF BRITISH TRENCH - NIGHT

John is laid in front of the trench.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - NIGHT

The Commanding Officer glares at two SOLDIERS (20s) who are stood next to him.

COMMANDING OFFICER
You two, climb over and get them in
here.

The two soldiers do what they are told as gun fire narrowly misses them.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. FRONT OF BRITISH TRENCH - NIGHT

The two soldiers lift John, and then William over the top of the trench to safety.

Soldier One looks at John.

SOLDIER ONE
How the hell did you make it back?

John smiles weakly.

JOHN
Only God knows that my friend.

END OF

FLASHBACK:

CUT TO:

55 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH

That took some guts to drag that
William back to your trench.

John shakes his head.

JOHN

I just did what I had to do. I've
just thought, I've never told
anyone that before.

Private Walsh smiles.

PRIVATE WALSH

I feel honoured. Did you ever see
William again?

John nods.

JOHN

Yes in the military hospital.
Unfortunately, he lost both of his
legs.

John glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN (CONT'D)

That was a shame. At least he is
still alive I suppose.

John nods.

PRIVATE WALSH

You mentioned that you nearly lost
your leg. If you don't mind me
asking, what happened there?

John smiles.

JOHN

You ask a lot of questions. But no
I don't mind at all. It was about
four weeks after I was discharged
from hospital ...

CUT TO:

56 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - DAY

FLASHBACK:

John is laid in bed.

There's a knock at the door.

JOHN
Come in.

The door opens and Peter enters carrying a newspaper. He notices that John has a worried look on his face.

Peter puts the newspaper on the bed, then glances at his son.

PETER
Are you alright?

JOHN
To be honest, I'm not sure.

PETER
What's wrong?

JOHN
It's the wound in my left leg.
Could you have a look?

Peter pauses.

PETER
I'll get your mam.

CUT TO:

57 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Harriet carefully pulls the bandage from John's leg.

John winces with pain as his mother inspects the wound.

Harriet looks concerned.

HARRIET
I think this is infected. We need
to get Doctor Smith to have a look
at it. He'll know for sure.

CUT TO:

58 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

DOCTOR SMITH (50s) enters the room with Harriet.

CUT TO:

59 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

CONTINUOUS:

Doctor Smith examines the wound on John's leg and then glances at Harriet.

DOCTOR SMITH
You are quite right Mrs Wray, it is indeed infected.

Harriet and John both look worried.

DOCTOR SMITH (CONT'D)
(to John)
I've already checked with the army hospital in case you needed to be admitted. It is full. However, there's room at the one in York.

Harriet shakes her head in frustration.

HARRIET
There must be something else that can be done.

DOCTOR SMITH
We need to act quickly, otherwise John will lose his leg.

Doctor Smith then looks at them both.

DOCTOR SMITH (CONT'D)
I have an idea. Let me tell you a story of what happened a few years back when I was an army surgeon in the Boer War.

HARRIET
What's this got to do with John's leg?

Doctor Smith smiles.

DOCTOR SMITH
Be patient Mrs Wray, all in good time ...

CUT TO:

60 INT. FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR LADYSMITH - DAY

FLASHBACK:

Doctor Smith (20s) is examining a SOLDIER (20s) when two ORDERLIES (30s) carry in another wounded SOLDIER (20s) on a stretcher.

The Orderlies put the stretcher down on the floor.

Doctor Smith smiles at the soldier he has just been treating.

DOCTOR SMITH
You'll be alright soldier. You can
go now.

The soldier nods at Doctor Smith.

SOLDIER
Thank you Doctor.

The soldier gets up and leaves.

Doctor Smith washes his hands in a metal dish that's on a table near the operating table.

He uses the bar of soap which is beside the dish.

Orderly One picks the dish up and throws the water outside the tent.

He then rinses it with water from a canteen, again discarding the water outside, before finally filling the dish back up and putting it on back onto the table.

Doctor Smith smiles at Orderly One.

DOCTOR SMITH
Thanks for that. Now, what do we
have here?

CUT TO:

61 INT. FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR LADYSMITH - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The wounded soldier is now laid on the operating table.

Doctor Smith examines the soldier's leg before looking at the Orderlies.

DOCTOR SMITH
This leg is badly infected.

ORDERLY ONE
He'll probably lose it.

Doctor Smith shakes his head.

DOCTOR SMITH
Don't be so hasty young man.

CUT TO:

62 INT. FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR LADYSMITH - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Orderly One puts four drops of chloroform onto a rag and places it over the soldier's mouth.

The soldier struggles.

Doctor Smith smiles at the soldier.

DOCTOR SMITH
Calm down son. You'll be alright.

CUT TO:

63 INT. FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR LADYSMITH - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Doctor Smith looks at Orderly One.

DOCTOR SMITH
He's out for the count now. Make sure he stays that way.

Orderly One nods.

Doctor Smith gets his instrument tray from the table behind him and puts it on the bench next to the operating table.

He then picks up the scalpel and makes an incision on the Soldier's leg.

Doctor Smith cuts out some flesh, before putting it in a metal dish, which is also on the tray.

Orderly One is intrigued.

ORDERLY ONE
What are you doing Doctor?

Doctor Smith glances at Orderly One.

DOCTOR SMITH
I'm cutting out the infected flesh.
This will hopefully saves this
young man's leg.

ORDERLY ONE
Wouldn't it be quicker to just take
it off?

Doctor Smith stops what he is doing and shakes his head.

DOCTOR SMITH
It may well be quicker, but in the
longer term, this will be much more
beneficial for this young man.

ORDERLY ONE
Most Doctors would take the leg off
without a second thought.

Doctor Smith glares angrily at Orderly One.

DOCTOR SMITH
(raised voice)
Well, I'm not 'Most Doctors'.

Doctor Smith returns to what he was doing.

CUT TO:

64 INT. FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR LADYSMITH - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Doctor Smith finishes working on the soldier.

He covers the wound with gauze, smothered in Iodine before
glancing at Orderly One.

DOCTOR SMITH
Change these twice a day. Then
hopefully, the wound will heal
without any infection.

Orderly One nods.

ORDERLY ONE
Yes Doctor.

CUT TO:

65 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - DAY

John looks at Doctor Smith.

JOHN
Did you save the soldier's leg?

Doctor Smith nods.

DOCTOR SMITH
Yes, I did.

JOHN
So, do you think you can do the
same thing for me?

DOCTOR SMITH
I don't see why not. I'll need to
go to the surgery to get my
instruments if you want me to
operate?

John smiles.

JOHN
Let's go for it.

Doctor Smith nods, then heads towards the door.

DOCTOR SMITH
Alright then. I'll be back within
the hour.

CUT TO:

66 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Doctor Smith, carrying his Doctor's bag, enters the room with
Harriet.

He smiles at John, who is sat up in bed.

DOCTOR SMITH
Are you ready for this John?

John nods.

JOHN
Yes, if this will save my leg then
you must do it.

Doctor Smith smiles.

DOCTOR SMITH
Good. Let's get started then.

Harriet gently puts the rag over her son's face, as Doctor
Smith readies his instruments.

CUT TO:

67 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CONTINUOUS:

Doctor Smith smothers the stitched up wound in Iodine as he glances at Harriet.

DOCTOR SMITH
Mrs Wray, would you mind burning
the infected flesh that's in the
tray?

Peter, who is holding a lamp for Doctor Smith, gulps.

PETER
(to Harriet)
I'm pleased he got you to do that.
I'd be sick if he'd asked me.

Harriet shakes her head at her husband.

HARRIET
(to Doctor Smith)
Yes, of course I can, I'll wash the
tray out with boiling water for you
as well.

Doctor Smith smiles.

DOCTOR SMITH
Thanks for that. Once I've washed
up, I'll get away. I'll be back
tomorrow, and indeed every day to
check on the patient.

Harriet nods.

HARRIET
I can't thank you enough Doctor.

DOCTOR SMITH
Don't thank me yet. We still have a
long way to go.

HARRIET
At least you've given John a chance
that's all we can ask.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

CUT TO:

68 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

Private Walsh glances at John.

PRIVATE WALSH

It sounds like Doctor Smith certainly knew what he was doing.

JOHN

Yes, I'm very fortunate that he's our family Doctor. Otherwise, I probably would have had a wooden leg by now. I tell you what though, the night of the operation I didn't half have some weird dreams.

Private Walsh gives him a questioning look.

PRIVATE WALSH

What do you mean?

JOHN

It must have been the chloroform, I don't know, but I dreamed about the war and getting wounded. It was all mixed up though.

Private Walsh nods.

PRIVATE WALSH

You are probably right, it could have been the chloroform. Either way, it's odd having dreams like that.

John smiles.

JOHN

You're not kidding.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Suddenly, John stops walking, looks across the fields, then turns and looks at Private Walsh, who is now carrying Private White.

JOHN

I think I can see a building in the distance. Private White might be able to rest there. Come on let's go and have a look.

Private Walsh stops walking and looks in the direction John had a few second earlier.

PRIVATE WALSH
Yes, I can definitely see
something.

They slowly head in the direction of the building.

CUT TO:

70 EXT. FARMER'S FIELD - DAY

The pair see a barn and head towards it.

CUT TO:

71 EXT. FARMER'S FIELD - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

As they approach the barn, they notice that the door is open.

CUT TO:

72 EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE BARN - DAY

The two men slowly enter the barn.

John has his rifle poised.

CUT TO:

73 INT. BARN - DAY

They quickly look around and soon see the body of a dead
British SOLDIER(20s) with a rifle by his side.

As they look up, they hear rustling noises coming from the
barn loft above.

Private Walsh carefully puts the now semi-conscious Private
White down.

He then removes his rifle from his shoulder.

CUT TO:

74 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

HANS (20s) is crouched, looking down.

CUT TO:

75 INT. BARN LOFT LADDER - DAY

John glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN
You stay here with Private White.
I'll go and see who or what is in the
loft.

Private Walsh readies his rifle.

John slowly walks across the barn to the ladder and starts climbing up it.

CUT TO:

76 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Hans is poised ready to attack John before recognising him.

HANS
(in a German accent)
John! It's me, Hans.

CUT TO:

77 INT. BARN LOFT LADDER - DAY

O/S John hears Hans' voice and stops climbing.

JOHN
Hans?

CUT TO:

78 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

HANS
Come up John.

CUT TO:

79 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John glances at Hans.

After a few seconds, he smiles at him briefly then his expression changes to one of seriousness.

JOHN
Hans, there's two other British
soldiers in the barn. One is badly
wounded.

Hans has a concerned look on his face.

John glances at him.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Don't worry, it'll be fine.

John pauses as he thinks back.

CUT TO:

80 INT. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HALLS OF RESIDENCE - DAY

1909 -
FLASHBACK:

John's room door is open as he unpacks his belongings.

He spots Hans entering the room next door carrying a large suitcase.

Hans look at John and smiles.

HANS
You must be John, my neighbour.

John stops what he is doing, turns towards Hans and returns the smile.

JOHN
Hans?

Hans nods.

John goes out into the corridor and shakes Hans' hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Good to meet you.

HANS
You too John.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

CUT TO:

81 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

As he looks around the loft, John is shocked to see two BRITISH SOLDIERS (20s) tied up in the corner of the loft.

Hans now has a pistol pointed at them.

HANS
I had do to it. They were going to
kill me.

PRIVATE WALSH
(o.s, shouting)
Is everything alright up there?

John pauses.

JOHN
(shouting)
Yes, give me a minute, then come
up.

PRIVATE WALSH
(o.s, shouting)
No problem.

John looks at Hans.

JOHN
I don't know what to do.

CUT TO:

82 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Private Walsh appears in the loft and is shocked when he sees Hans pointing his pistol at the two British soldiers.

He glares at Hans and then John.

PRIVATE WALSH
What's going on here?

JOHN
This is Hans my friend from
Cambridge University. He said that
he had no choice other than to kill
the soldier in the barn and take
the other two hostage.

PRIVATE WALSH
We need to set them free and take
your friend prisoner.

JOHN
Before we decide what to do, let me
try to explain ...

CUT TO:

83 INT. JOHN'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

1910:

FLASHBACK:

Christmas decorations adorn the living room and there's a Christmas tree in the corner.

John, Hans, Peter and Harriet tuck into their Christmas dinners.

CUT TO:

84 INT. JOHN'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The table is now cleared.

Peter looks at John and Hans.

PETER

It's time to open our gifts boys.

John hands his father a gift.

Hans does likewise.

Firstly, Peter opens John's present.

A blue tie is revealed.

Peter smiles and then unwraps Hans' package.

It's another tie; this time it's brown.

Peter continues to smile as he hands John and Hans their presents.

PETER (CONT'D)

At least I won't run out of ties boys!

John and Hans smile.

Harriet doesn't participate in the proceedings.

Hans is puzzled and looks at her.

HANS

If you don't mind me asking, why don't you take part in Christmas?

HARRIET

I'm Jewish. We don't celebrate it.

Hans gives Harriet a knowing look.

John turns to Hans.

JOHN

When I was old enough, I chose to follow Christianity like my father; but we both fully respect the Jewish faith.

Hans looks at John's parents.

HANS

It was good that John was given the choice. I respect all faiths, that is how I was brought up.

Harriet smiles.

HARRIET

That's good to hear Hans. Unfortunately, not everyone is like you.

Hans nods.

Peter looks at John and Hans.

PETER

Do you two fancy coming to the football tomorrow? Darlington are at home.

Hans looks at Peter.

HANS

I'd love to go.

John laughs.

JOHN

You won't be saying that after you've seen them play!

PETER

Very funny John, we'll get into the Football League one day; mark my words.

John smiles at his father.

JOHN

With supporters like you dad, I'm sure they will.

Peter looks at John and Hans.

PETER

Anyway, enough about football for today. You two need to open your presents.

CUT TO:

85 EXT. FEETHAMS FOOTBALL GROUND - DAY

John, Hans and Peter are stood watching the football match.

Peter's friend THOMAS (50s) joins them.

Peter gestures towards Hans, then looks at Thomas.

PETER

Thomas, this is Hans, John's friend from university.

Thomas smiles and shakes Hans' hand.

THOMAS

Good to meet you lad. Are you enjoying the match?

Hans nods.

HANS

Yeah, very much so. I've never been to a game before.

THOMAS

Hopefully it won't be your last son.

HANS

I hope not Sir.

Thomas turns to Peter.

THOMAS

Alec Fraser is having a good game today. He took his goal really well.

John smiles.

JOHN

Thomas, isn't that the lad from Inverness?

Peter is taken aback by the comment and looks at his son.

PETER

How did you know that?

John smiles.

JOHN
I read the newspapers dad.

Peter smirks.

PETER
I think you are a closet Darlington fan really John.

John shakes his head.

JOHN
I wouldn't quite go that far.

Thomas smiles, and then looks at the trio.

THOMAS
Well lads, I'm going to stand with Alan, he'll think I've got lost. If I don't see you later, I hope you all enjoy the rest of your Christmas.

Peter nods.

PETER
You too Thomas, hopefully, we'll catch up after the match.

CUT TO:

86 EXT. FEETHAMS ENTRANCE - DAY

John, Hans and Peter are leaving the ground as Thomas joins them.

Thomas looks at the threesome.

THOMAS
That was a good result today lads, 2-0 against Spennymoor, especially as they look like winning the league this season.

Peter nods.

PETER
Yes, I'd have taken that before kick-off, Thomas.

THOMAS
Me too. Anyway, I have to dash, the wife doesn't like me being late for my tea.

Peter laughs.

PETER
 Alright my friend, you best not
 keep her waiting.

THOMAS
 No, not if I want to stay in her
 good books.

Thomas looks at John and Hans.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 Good seeing you John. Hans I hope
 to meet you again sometime.

Before they can answer, Thomas has sprinted off ahead of
 them.

Peter laughs.

PETER
 He's always been like that. It's
 quite amusing really.

CUT TO:

87 EXT. KAISER WILHELM PARK - DAY

1911:

John looks at Hans as stroll through the park.

JOHN
 This is a beautiful place Hans.

Hans smiles.

HANS
 Yes, it is. I actually came to the
 opening of the park back in 1906
 with my parents. It was designed by
 Walter Von Engelhardt.
 Interestingly, according to local
 records, part of the area that is
 now the park was a slaughterhouse
 in the late 1870's.

John shakes his head.

JOHN
 You certainly know your local
 history my friend.

Hans nods.

HANS
Of course. It's something I've
always been interested in.

CUT TO:

88 INT. HANS' KITCHEN - DAY

John sits at the table with Hans and his parents HANS SENIOR (40s) and GERTRUDE (40s).

Four empty plates, together with four sets of cutlery, are neatly stacked up in the corner of the table.

Hans Senior looks at John.

HANS SENIOR
So, John, have you enjoyed your
stay here in Dusseldorf?

John smiles.

JOHN
Yes, very much so Hans. I'm really
grateful to you both for letting me
stay here.

Hans Senior waves his hands dismissively.

HANS SENIOR
No problem at all. You are welcome
anytime.

JOHN
Thank you for that.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

CUT TO:

89 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH
So what, you two became good
friends. That's not enough.
(MORE)

PRIVATE WALSH (CONT'D)
I still think we need to do the
right thing.

CUT TO:

90 INT. OFFICER'S QUARTERS - DAY

The Officer checks his watch.

OFFICER
(to himself)
Those three are taking a long time.
I wonder what's keeping them.

He then gets up and leaves his quarters.

CUT TO:

91 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

The Officer approaches the Sergeant.

OFFICER
Privates Wray, Walsh and White
aren't back yet. I really need to
get that message through to
Headquarters. We'll give them until
the morning, then if they haven't
returned, we'll send three more
men.

The Sergeant glances at the Officer.

SERGEANT
Private Wray is an excellent
soldier, if anyone can get through
to Headquarters, he will.

OFFICER
How come you know him so well?

The Sergeant smiles.

SERGEANT
I've fought with him before ...

CUT TO:

92 EXT. FLANDERS - FRANCE - DAY

FLASHBACK:

John and his comrades wait in their trench as they are
bombarded by German artillery.

John looks at the Sergeant.

JOHN

The Officer told me that the German railways had been hit and many of their soldiers have been killed.

The Sergeant smiles nervously.

SERGEANT

That may be true, but I bet there's still plenty of them left in their trenches.

CUT TO:

93 EXT. FLANDERS - FRANCE - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The OFFICER (20s) blows his whistle and leads John and his comrades as they go over the top.

They make it to the wire, then many of them are hit by the German machine guns.

The Officer is hit.

John stops to check on him, but he is dead.

He retrieves the Officer's pistol and puts it into his belt.

John now leads the charge.

He is followed by the Sergeant.

94 EXT. FRONT OF GERMAN TRENCH - DAY

John and his remaining comrades climb into the German trench and quickly set out making the area safe, rounding up several GERMAN PRISONERS (20s) in the process.

CUT TO:

95 EXT. GERMAN TRENCH - DAY

John continues to search the trench when suddenly a GERMAN SOLDIER (20s) comes at him with his bayonet.

He dodges it by stepping to one side then quickly gets the Officer's pistol from his belt and shoots the soldier, who falls to the ground.

The German soldier isn't dead.

John is about to help him when a BRITISH COMRADE (20s) runs from behind John and finishes the German off with his bayonet.

John looks at the British soldier.

JOHN

There was no need for that. He was helpless.

The soldier sniggers.

SOLDIER

Helpless or not, the only good German is a dead German.

CUT TO:

96 EXT. NEUVE CHAPELLE VILLAGE - DAY

John and his comrades are welcomed by the INHABITANTS after they have taken the village.

They round up the captured GERMANS (20s) and put them under guard in the village square.

The now wounded Sergeant is laid on a stretcher waiting to be treated.

A SOLDIER (20s) looks at the German captives.

SOLDIER

(shouting)
Lets shoot them.

John steps in.

JOHN

Whilst I'm here, no one harms the German prisoners.

SOLDIER

Who put you in charge?

JOHN

No-one, but you'll have to shoot me first.

The soldier starts to walk away.

SOLDIER

Have it your own way.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

CUT TO:

97 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

The Officer glances at the Sergeant.

OFFICER

It sounds like Private Wray has
excellent leadership qualities.

The Sergeant nods.

SERGEANT

He went to Cambridge University and
could have joined the army as an
Officer but he turned the
opportunity down and enlisted as a
Private.

The Officer shrugs his shoulders.

OFFICER

He must have had his reasons
Sergeant.

The Sergeant nods.

SERGEANT

I suppose so.

CUT TO:

98 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Private Walsh looks at John.

PRIVATE WALSH

We are at war with Germany. We have
to do the right thing.

JOHN

We could let Hans go, no-one would
be any the wiser. We can all walk
away from this.

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH

Too many people know John.

CUT TO:

99 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - MORNING

The Officer heads towards the Sergeant.

OFFICER
 (shouting)
 Sergeant, take two men and see what
 has happened to Private Wray and
 the other two.

The Sergeant salutes the Officer.

SERGEANT
 Yes Sir.

The Officer takes a letter out of his trouser pocket and
 hands it to the Sergeant.

OFFICER
 If you don't find them, make sure
 that one of you gets this letter
 through to Headquarters.

The Sergeant folds the letter and puts it into his top
 pocket.

He then glances at the Officer.

SERGEANT
 Yes Sir.

CUT TO:

100 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

The Sergeant looks at two SOLDIERS (20s).

SERGEANT
 Privates Wright and Carter, get
 your gear ready, you are coming
 with me. Be ready in ten minutes.

Private Carter looks at the Sergeant questioningly.

PRIVATE CARTER
 Where are we going Sir?

SERGEANT
 You'll find out soon enough Private
 Carter.

CUT TO:

101 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John looks at Private Walsh.

JOHN
 There must be another way out of
 this.

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH
 I can't see any other option, apart
 from what I've already said.

Just then there is a noise coming from the barn.

PRIVATE WHITE
 (o.s, shouting)
 What's happening up there?

John glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN
 You go down and make sure he's
 alright.

Private Walsh looks unsure.

PRIVATE WALSH
 But ...

John glares at Private Walsh.

JOHN
 (shouting)
 I'm still in charge. Now do as you
 are told soldier.

Private Walsh heads towards the ladder.

CUT TO:

102 EXT. GERMAN TRENCH - DAY

The German trench is under heavy bombardment from British
 artillery.

SERGEANT MULLER (30s) looks at two SOLDIERS (Privates Werner
 and Braun), (20s) who are crouched down.

SERGEANT MULLER
 You two. The Commandant wants you
 to go to try and find Private
 Eckhart. He was supposed to be back
 with vital information by now.

Sergeant Muller pauses.

PRIVATE WERNER

Yes Sir.

CUT TO:

103 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Hans (who still has his pistol pointed at the hostages) glances at John.

HANS

What are we going to do?

John spread his hands in a gesture of not knowing.

JOHN

I need time to think.

PRIVATE WALSH

(o.s)

I'll be a few minutes. Private White isn't looking good. He's lost a lot of blood. I'll re-bandage his leg. John you need to make up your mind what you want to do.

CUT TO:

104 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The Sergeant and Privates Carter and Wright are running towards the Headquarters.

Private White looks at the Sergeant.

I wonder what happened to Private Wray and the other two.

SERGEANT

I don't know. But I guess we'll find out soon enough.

Private Carter glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE CARTER

John saved my life a few years back.

The Sergeant doesn't look surprised at all.

SERGEANT

What happened?

PRIVATE CARTER

Well, I got mugged and stabbed in the stomach in Darlington town centre. If John hadn't found me when he did, I'd be dead now.

SERGEANT

What did he do?

Private Carter smiles.

PRIVATE CARTER

He carried me to his house, his mother bandaged the wound, then he went and got the Doctor, who stitched my stomach up.

Private Wright glances at his fellow Private.

PRIVATE WRIGHT

You were lucky that John found you when he did.

Private Carter nods.

PRIVATE CARTER

Without doubt. I would have bled to death if it hadn't been for him.

Private Carter pauses.

PRIVATE CARTER (CONT'D)

He even helped to get home after the Doctor had finished.

The Sergeant looks at Private Carter.

SERGEANT

I always thought there was something special about that lad.

Private Carter nods, then glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE CARTER

Although we both live in Darlington, I never saw him again until he came back to the front after he was wounded.

SERGEANT

Sometimes these things happen lad.

Private Wright looks at the pair.

PRIVATE WRIGHT

Didn't he drag someone back to our trench from no man's land, despite being wounded himself?

The Sergeant looks surprised.

SERGEANT

I didn't know that. I must have been in a different platoon at the time.

PRIVATE WRIGHT

He asked to move, to another platoon as he didn't want people to know. I only found out because I know William's brother.

The Sergeant glances at Private Wright.

SERGEANT

Who is William?

PRIVATE WRIGHT

The soldier Private Wray dragged to safety.

The Sergeant looks at both of his men.

SERGEANT

I honestly didn't know anything about this.

The Sergeant pauses to think for a few seconds.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

You two, keep this to yourselves. It is best to respect Private Wray's wishes.

Both Privates nod.

CUT TO:

105 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John looks down the ladder towards the barn.

JOHN

(shouting)
Private Walsh, what's happening?

PRIVATE WALSH

(o.s)
I'm struggling to stop the bleeding, he lost a lot of blood when we carried him here. He's out of it again.

JOHN

(shouting)
Is he going to be alright?

PRIVATE WALSH

(o.s)

To be honest I don't think so. He needs more help than I can give him. I'm not a medic.

John looks concerned.

JOHN

(shouting)

Just try your best. That's all you can do.

Hans glances at John.

HANS

We need to decide what we are going to do.

John nods nervously.

JOHN

I know.

CUT TO:

106 ROAD LEADING TO THE BARN - DAY

Private Werner and his comrade are marching in the direction of the barn.

PRIVATE WERNER

I wonder why Private Eckhart is so important Braun?

Private Braun glances at his comrade.

PRIVATE BRAUN

He is supposed to be really good at collecting intelligence. That is probably the reason.

Private Werner nods.

PRIVATE WERNER

Yeah, that makes sense. Do you know him?

PRIVATE BRAUN

I do. We are both from Dusseldorf and we went to the same school. But we weren't close at all.

PRIVATE WERNER

I have spoken to him a few times. He likes his history, that's for sure.

Private Braun nods.

PRIVATE BRAUN
He went to Cambridge University in
England to study it.

Private Werner smirks.

PRIVATE WERNER
Do you think he's strange?

Private Braun looks puzzled.

PRIVATE BRAUN
What do you mean?

PRIVATE WERNER
He's very studious, not really the
army type.

PRIVATE BRAUN
There's nothing wrong with that.
He's cleverer than a lot of the
guys, to be honest, I think some of
them are envious of him.

Private Werner nods.

PRIVATE WERNER
I think you could be right.

CUT TO:

107 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Hans still has his pistol aimed at the two hostages.

PRIVATE WALSH
(o.s)
I think I'm losing him. He's
bleeding everywhere.

John looks down towards the barn.

JOHN
(shouting)
You need to apply direct pressure
on the bandage.

PRIVATE WALSH
(o.s)
I have done that. But I lifted it
to see whether the bleeding had
stopped. It's like a waterfall now.

John shakes his head.

JOHN
 (shouting)
 You shouldn't have done that.

PRIVATE WALSH
 (o.s)
 Shit! I know that now.

CUT TO:

108 ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The Sergeant and Privates Carter and Wright are marching towards Headquarters.

Private Carter glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE CARTER
 What's that sticking out of the ditch in the distance?

The Sergeant tries to see.

SERGEANT
 I think it looks like a body.

He then looks at Private Wright.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)
 Private Wright, go have a look.
 Private Carter and I will cover you.

Private Wright checks that his rifle is loaded, then glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE WRIGHT
 Yes Sir.

Private Wright slowly sets off down the road.

The Sergeant and Private Carter crouch down with their rifles at the ready.

CUT TO:

109 INT. BARN - DAY

Private Walsh is still struggling to stem the blood flow coming from Private White's leg.

He continues to press the bandage hard on the wound.

Private White is now conscious.

He looks pleadingly at Private Walsh.

PRIVATE WHITE

Don't let me die. I haven't seen my
baby son yet.

Private Walsh briefly touches his comrade's hand and smiles.

PRIVATE WALSH

Where does your family live?

PRIVATE WHITE

York.

Private Walsh looks at a now even weaker Private White.

Private White glances at his comrade.

PRIVATE WALSH

I've been there before. It's a
beautiful place. Don't worry,
you'll see your wife again and
you'll also meet your little lad.

Private White shakes his head, then glances at Private Walsh.

PRIVATE WHITE

I don't think so. Can you look in
my top pocket? There's two letters
in there. One for my parents and
one for my wife. If you get out of
here alive, will you make sure they
get them?

Private Walsh nods, then takes the letters from Private
White's top pocket and puts them into his own.

PRIVATE WALSH

Of course I will.

Private White starts to drift off.

Private Walsh has a worried look on his face.

He pauses for a few seconds, then checks for a heartbeat
coming from his comrade.

He quickly realises that there isn't one.

Private Walsh shakes his head and then closes Private White's
eyes.

CUT TO:

110 EXT. ROAD LEADING TO THE BARN - DAY

Privates Werner and Braun continue their journey.

Private Braun glances at his comrade.

PRIVATE BRAUN

How do we know that Private Eckhart came this way?

Private Werner smiles.

PRIVATE WERNER

Sergeant Muller told me that he did. Apparently, he was sent to gather information on British troops numbers and such like.

Private Braun gestures in questioning way, using his arms.

PRIVATE BRAUN

He could have got into a fight with British soldiers and be dead for all we know.

PRIVATE WERNER

That's what we need to find out. You don't like him very much do you?

Private Braun shakes his head.

PRIVATE BRAUN

It's not that at all.

Private Werner looks at his fellow Private.

PRIVATE WERNER

What is your problem then?

Private Braun pauses for a few seconds, then glances at Private Werner.

PRIVATE BRAUN

I simply don't think it's worth the risk sending us two out to find him.

PRIVATE WERNER

That is a fair point. But who are we to argue with our Commanders? They must have their reasons.

Private Braun nods.

PRIVATE BRAUN

I suppose you are right. Let's hope we find him soon.

CUT TO:

111 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

A visibly upset Private Walsh enters the barn loft.

He looks at John.

PRIVATE WALSH

I tried my best, but Private White has passed away. I stayed with him until the end. He was telling me about his baby son who he hasn't seen. It was all very sad.

Private Walsh then hands John the two letters.

PRIVATE WALSH (CONT'D)

He gave me these to post. Given that you are in charge, I think you should have them.

John puts the letters into his pocket, then glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN

I know you will have done your best to save him.

Private Walsh nods then looks at the hostages, Hans and finally John.

PRIVATE WALSH

I need some air. I'm going outside, when I get back, we need to decide on our next course of action.

Private Walsh heads towards the ladder.

CUT TO:

112 DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

Private Wright comes across to two dead German soldiers.

He looks around and sees no-one else in the vicinity.

Private Wright turns carefully walks back in the direction he came.

CUT TO:

113 ROAD LEADING TO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

FIVE MINUTES
LATER

Private Wright glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE WRIGHT

Sir. There's two dead Germans in a ditch just up the road. I couldn't see you to signal, so I came back to let you know.

The Sergeant nods in the direction of Private Wright.

He then glances at both the Privates.

SERGEANT

Come on you two. I want to take a look for myself.

The trio slowly head towards the ditch.

CUT TO:

114 DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

FIVE MINUTES
LATER:

The Sergeant is in the ditch looking at the two dead German soldiers.

He looks at a patch of ground a little way from the bodies and notices a pool of blood.

As the Sergeant looks further, he notices a trail of blood leading away from the ditch and into the countryside.

He smiles at his two comrades.

SERGEANT

I think I have just found where our lads have gone.

Private Carter glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE CARTER

How do we know it's definitely them Sir?

The Sergeant glances at Private Carter.

SERGEANT

We don't for sure. But we'll soon find out. Come on lads, let's get moving.

The Sergeant climbs out of the ditch and the threesome follow the trail of blood.

CUT TO:

115 ROAD LEADING TO THE BARN - DAY

Privates Werner and Braun are still heading towards the barn.

PRIVATE WERNER

I think we should take a detour, we have been on this road for quite a few miles. Maybe we should go cross country.

Private Braun nods.

PRIVATE BRAUN

That's fine by me.

CUT TO:

116 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Private Walsh returns to the barn loft.

Hans, who still has the pistol pointed at the hostages, looks at him.

HANS

If you let me go, no-one ever needs to know what happened and then we can all walk away from this.

Private Walsh glances at the two hostages.

PRIVATE WALSH

What about those two?

Hans smiles.

Without warning, he shoots them both.

They keel over and are clearly dead.

HANS

Problem solved. They won't tell anyone now.

Private Walsh is shocked and tries to get his rifle from his shoulder.

John quickly grabs the pistol from Hans and glares at the Private.

JOHN

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

Private Walsh puts his hands up.

PRIVATE WALSH
I can't believe you have sided with
a German.

JOHN
I have my reasons Private.

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH
I'd love to know what they are.

JOHN
All in good time.

CUT TO:

117 COUNTRY PATHWAY - DAY

Private Werner stops and looks on the ground.
He notices two trails of blood and glances at his comrade.

PRIVATE WERNER
What do you make of these?

Private Braun pauses.

PRIVATE BRAUN
We need to follow one trail or the
other.

Private Werner nods.

PRIVATE WERNER
I agree. Come on. We'll follow this
one.

The pair start to follow one of the trails.

CUT TO:

118 EXT. TRAIL TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

The Sergeant glances at the two Privates.

SERGEANT
We'll stop here for a ten minute
break. We'll have something to eat
and then get going again.

Privates Carter and Wright stop marching and sit down on the
grass.

The Sergeant sits down next to them.

Private Carter glances at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE CARTER
 Hopefully, we'll find our lads
 soon. I'm due a couple of rest days
 away from the trench in three days
 time.

The Sergeant smiles as he opens a tin of Bully Beef.

SERGEANT
 I think we'll be back long before
 then lad.

CUT TO:

119 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

Privates Braun and Werner arrive at the ditch.
 They quickly notice the two dead German soldiers.
 Private Werner climbs into the ditch.

CUT TO:

120 EXT. DITCH AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Private Werner quickly checks the two bodies by feeling their
 skin.

He then glances at Private Braun.

PRIVATE WERNER
 They are both stone cold. So they
 have been dead for quite a few
 hours.

He then checks the pockets of the dead soldiers and takes out
 their ID's and puts them into his own pocket.

Private Werner looks around the ditch.

He glances at his comrade.

PRIVATE WERNER (CONT'D)
 There's a pool of blood here.
 Leading away from it, there's a
 trail. I think we should follow it.
 It could lead us to Private
 Eckhart.

Private Braun climbs into the ditch.

He glances at the blood trail and then gives Private Werner a questioning look.

PRIVATE BRAUN

It might not though. There's no evidence that Private Eckhart has been here.

Private Werner nods.

PRIVATE WERNER

You could be right. At least if we look and find nothing, we can go back to our lines and honestly tell Sergeant Muller that we did our best and found nothing.

Private Braun nods.

PRIVATE BRAUN

I suppose you are right.

The pair climb out of the ditch and follow the trail of blood at a fast pace.

CUT TO:

121 TRAIL TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

The Sergeant looks at his two comrades.

SERGEANT

Pack up lads. We need to get moving.

The two Privates pack away their belongings and follow the Sergeant who is already on his way.

Private Wright looks at Private Carter and smirks.

PRIVATE WRIGHT

He's keen.

Private Carter nods.

PRIVATE CARTER

He certainly is.

CUT TO:

122 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Private Walsh is now sat down.

He glances at John who still has the pistol pointing at him.

PRIVATE WALSH

So come on, I need to know why you
are siding with this German, rather
than your comrade.

John pauses for a few seconds, then glances at Private Walsh.

JOHN

It's complicated.

PRIVATE WALSH

Try me.

Hans looks uncomfortable.

HANS

Don't John. Just kill him, then we
can go our separate ways.

John pauses again.

He then shakes his head.

JOHN

No. He has the right to know.

Private Walsh gives John a look of frustration.

PRIVATE WALSH

(shouting)
Go on then!

JOHN

Well ...

CUT TO:

123 JOHN'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

FLASHBACK:

John and Hans are sat at the table as Peter and Harriet enter
the room.

Peter looks at the boys.

PETER

Are you two sure that you don't
want to come with us? Thomas and
Olive will be pleased to see you
both.

John shakes his head.

JOHN
No thanks dad. We are going to have
a game of chess.

Peter smiles.

PETER
As long as you are sure?

John nods.

JOHN
Yes, we are quite happy playing
chess and having a glass of wine.

PETER
Alright.

Peter looks at Harriet.

PETER (CONT'D)
Come on love, we better get going.
Otherwise we'll be late.

Harriet nods, and then looks at her son.

HARRIET
If you get hungry, there's plenty
of food in the pantry.

John smiles.

JOHN
Don't worry, we'll be fine.

Peter looks at his watch, then his wife.

PETER
Come on Harriet. We have to go. The
boys will be alright.

Harriet nods.

Peter looks at John.

PETER (CONT'D)
We'll be back around ten.

JOHN
Alright dad. You better get going.
We'll see you when you get back.
Have a good time.

Peter nods.

PETER
See you both later.

With that, Peter and Harriet leave the room.

CUT TO:

124 INT. JOHN'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

CONTINUOUS:

John looks at Hans, before holding his hand.

JOHN
I thought they were never going to
go.

Hans then leans across the table and kisses John, who responds with passion.

After they have stopped kissing, John looks at his lover.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's go upstairs.

The pair get up and leave the room hand in hand.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

CUT TO:

125 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

Private Walsh has a look of utter disgust on his face.

PRIVATE WALSH
You two are a couple of queers.
It's my duty take him prisoner and
place you under arrest. You'll be
chucked out the army in disgrace
for this.

Private Walsh goes for his rifle which is laid next to him.

JOHN
I wouldn't do that if I were you.

John pauses for a couple of seconds.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I thought I could trust you if I
told you the full story.

Private Walsh shakes head.

PRIVATE WALSH

It's not normal. I have to do what
I think is right.

John looks at Private Walsh.

JOHN

You could just let Hans go and that
would be the end of it. As we've
said before, no-one would ever
know.

Private Walsh shakes his head.

PRIVATE WALSH

No! I'm taking your boyfriend
prisoner and placing you under
arrest.

Private Walsh again goes for his rifle.

Hans grabs the pistol and points it at Private Walsh.

There's a loud BANG and Private Walsh drops to the ground and
is motionless.

Hans then looks at John.

HANS

I couldn't let you kill your
comrade.

John has a shocked look on his face.

JOHN

You were certainly ruthless.

Hans nods.

HANS

Sometimes you have to be. Look, you
gave him every opportunity to get
out of this in a way that would
have been suitable to us all. He
didn't take that opportunity. That
was his choice. Not ours.

John half smiles.

JOHN

I suppose you are right.

CUT TO:

The Sergeant looks at the two Privates.

SERGEANT

I'm sure that I just heard a shot.

He then looks at Private Wright.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Go have a look and try and find out where it came from.

Private Wright nods.

PRIVATE WRIGHT

Yes Sir.

CUT TO:

127 EXT. TRAIL TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

Private Werner looks at his comrade.

PRIVATE WERNER

I think I heard a shot in the distance. Come on, let's get going.

Both Privates run in the direction of the shot.

CUT TO:

128 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John looks at his lover.

JOHN

How did you end up here?

HANS

I was sent behind enemy lines to try and gather some intelligence. Before I could, I ran into those three unfortunate soldiers. After I killed the one who is laid in the barn, I captured the other two. I was going to leave them here alive and then head back to the German lines once it got dark.

CUT TO:

129 EXT. TRACK LEADING TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

Private Wright cautiously continues his journey.

CUT TO:

130 FIELD NEAR THE BARN - DAY

O/S the faint sound of footsteps can be heard.

Private Carter looks at the Sergeant.

PRIVATE CARTER
I think I heard something Sir.

The Sergeant glances at Private Carter and nods.

SERGEANT
Yes, so did I. We need to find some
cover son.

Private Carter looks around.

PRIVATE CARTER
There's a bit of a wall over there.
Let's head for that.

SERGEANT
Good idea Private.

The pair head towards the wall.

CUT TO:

131 EXT. TRAIL TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

Privates Werner and Braun head in the direction of the barn.

PRIVATE WERNER
There's definitely some enemy
soldiers in this area. I can feel
it in my bones.

Private Braun nods.

He then points straight ahead.

PRIVATE BRAUN
I can see a wall in the distance.
Maybe we should head for that.

PRIVATE WERNER
Yeah. At least they'll be cover
there.

CUT TO:

132 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John briefly touches Hans' hand.

JOHN

You will need to be away from here by tomorrow as they will come to collect the bodies. I won't be able to help you once that happens.

Hans smiles.

HANS

Don't worry. I'll be long gone by then.

JOHN

Good. Hopefully, you'll get back to your own lines safely.

HANS

I can only hope that this damned war will be over soon, and we'll be in each other's arms again.

John nods and then kisses his lover.

JOHN

I too long for that day.

John senses Hans' arousal.

He pulls him into the hay.

Within seconds, both men are naked.

John smiles as he climbs on top of his lover.

CUT TO:

133 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter looks over the wall and sees two German soldiers heading in his direction.

He takes aim with his rifle.

CUT TO:

134 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

There's a BANG and Private Braun falls to the ground and doesn't move.

Private Werner runs towards the wall.

CUT TO:

135 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

The Sergeant sticks his head slightly above the wall and takes aim with his rifle.

CUT TO:

136 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

Private Werner sees the head appear slightly above the wall. He crouches down and takes aim with his rifle.

CUT TO:

137 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

The Sergeant's rifle jams.

SERGEANT

Shi ...

There's another BANG and he is hit in the head and is clearly dead.

Private Carter carefully aims his rifle at the now oncoming German soldier and FIRES.

CUT TO:

138 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

There's a BANG and Private Werner is hit in the arm. He falls to the ground.

CUT TO:

139 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter quickly re-loads his rifle and takes aim.

CUT TO:

140 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

There's another BANG.

This time Private Werner is hit in the leg.

PRIVATE WERNER

Argh!

CUT TO:

141 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter stares at the wounded German soldier.

PRIVATE CARTER

(to himself)

Shit!

CUT TO:

142 EXT. TRACK LEADING TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

O/S Private Wright hears gun shots.

He stops and pauses.

CUT TO:

143 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

Private Werner tries to stand up, but he can't.

He throws his rifle to the ground.

PRIVATE WERNER

(shouting)

I surrender!

CUT TO:

144 EXT. TRACK LEADING TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

Private Wright is stood in the middle of the track.

He is deep in thought.

After a few seconds, he shakes his head and starts to walk in the direction he was heading in prior to him stopping.

CUT TO:

145 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter is unsure what to do.

He puts his rifle down and pauses.

CUT TO:

146 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John and Hans are laid in each others arms in the hay.

John kisses his lover on the cheek, then smiles.

JOHN
That was great.

Hans smiles.

HANS
Yes it was.

John stands up, then glances at his lover.

JOHN
Come on, we need to get dressed. I
need to go soon.

Hans nods.

CUT TO:

147 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter picks up his rifle and takes aim at the German soldier.

PRIVATE CARTER
(to himself)
I'm sorry, but I can't carry you
back to our lines and it wouldn't
be right to leave you here either.

CUT TO:

148 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

There's another BANG.

Private Werner is hit in the head.

Blood spurts from the newly formed hole in his head.

CUT TO:

149 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter shakes his head.

PRIVATE CARTER
(to himself)
May God forgive me.

CUT TO:

150 EXT. TRACK LEADING TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

Private Wright spots a farmer's field and heads towards it.

CUT TO:

151 EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter looks at the Sergeant's body.

PRIVATE CARTER
I'm sorry you didn't make it Sir.

He then goes through his pockets.

Private Carter quickly finds the Sergeant's ID and puts it into his own pocket, together with the letter for Headquarters.

He then comes out from behind the wall heads towards the dead German soldier.

CUT TO:

152 EXT. FIELD NEAR THE BARN - DAY

Private Wright sees a barn and heads towards it.

CUT TO:

153 EXT. TRACK LEADING TO THE WALL - DAY

Private Carter, with his rifle poised, comes to the body of Private Werner.

He glances at it.

PRIVATE CARTER
I'm sorry soldier, but I had no choice.

Private Carter then walks in the direction Private Wright had done earlier.

CUT TO:

154 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

Both John and Hans are now dressed.

John looks in Private Walsh's pockets.

He quickly finds his ID and puts it into his own pocket.

John does the same with the bodies of the two hostages.

He then looks at his lover.

JOHN

Can you go into the barn and get
Private White's ID for me? Private
Walsh must have forgotten.

Hans nods.

John glances at his lover.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't forget this.

John hands him the pistol.

Hans puts it into his belt.

He puts his helmet on and then heads towards the ladder.

CUT TO:

155 EXT. TRAIL TOWARDS THE BARN - DAY

Private Carter continues in the direction of the barn.

He has his rifle poised.

CUT TO:

156 FIELD NEAR THE BARN - DAY

As Private Wright approaches the barn, he notices that the door is open.

CUT TO:

157 INT. BARN - DAY

Hans is going through Private White's pockets when he hears footsteps O/S.

He stops what he is doing and crouches down behind a bale of hay with his pistol poised.

CUT TO:

158 EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE BARN - DAY

Private Wright slowly enters the barn, with his rifle at the ready.

CUT TO:

159 INT. BARN - DAY

Private Wright quickly looks around and soon sees the body of the dead British soldier.

CUT TO:

160 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Hans lifts his head up just above the hay.

He spots the British soldier.

Hans takes aim with his pistol.

CUT TO:

161 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Private Wright sees the German soldier's helmet behind the bale of hay.

He takes aim with his rifle.

CUT TO:

162 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Hans fires his pistol.

CUT TO:

163 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

There's two BANGS at exactly the same time.

CUT TO:

164 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

Hans is hit in the head and falls backwards.

Blood squirts from the wound, but he is still alive.

CUT TO:

165 INT. BARN - DAY

Private Wright is hit in the stomach.

He is dead before he even hits the ground.

CUT TO:

166 INT. BARN LOFT - DAY

John hears the gun shots.

He quickly heads for the ladder.

CUT TO:

167 FIELD NEAR THE BARN - DAY

Private Carter hears the gun shots and runs towards the barn,
which is now in sight.

CUT TO:

168 INT. BARN - DAY

Johns enters the barn.

He sees the body of Private Wright.

John then hears moaning coming from behind a bale of hay and
quickly goes to investigate.

CUT TO:

169 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John finds the badly wounded Hans.
He is visibly shocked.

CUT TO:

170 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

A weakened Hans smiles at John.
He then starts to shiver as he looks into his lover's eyes.

HANS
I'm cold.

Blood starts to spurt from Hans' mouth.
John holds his lover's hand.

JOHN
I love you Hans. I always have.

Hans coughs.

HANS
I love you ...

Hans then slumps backwards and dies.
O/S John hears footsteps.
He quickly steps away from the body.

CUT TO:

171 EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE BARN - DAY

Private Carter slowly enters the barn, with his rifle poised.

CUT TO:

172 INT. BARN - DAY

Private Carter sees John and glances at him.

PRIVATE CARTER
Are you alright John? Where's the
two soldiers you were with?

John shakes his head.

JOHN

Yes I'm alright considering.
Privates Walsh and White are both
dead.

PRIVATE CARTER

What happened?

JOHN

Private White was stabbed in a
ditch by a German soldier. We
brought him here but he died later
and Private Walsh was shot by one
of three German soldiers who
holding another two of our lads
hostage. They were executed by the
Germans. They also killed one of
our lads who is laid over there.

Private Carter shakes his head.

PRIVATE CARTER

You are lucky to be alive. We found
the two dead Germans in the ditch
and followed the trail of blood.

John nods.

JOHN

I'm glad you did.

John pauses.

JOHN (CONT'D)

For some reason two of them left me
with that one there.

John points at Hans' body.

JOHN (CONT'D)

He was going to let me go, but then
he heard Private Wright.
Unfortunately, they shot each
other.

Again John looks at Hans' body.

JOHN (CONT'D)

He was a good man. He tried to stop
the executions.

John pauses for a few seconds.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What happened to you?

PRIVATE CARTER

We were sent to find you. There were three of us. You know about Private Wright. The Sergeant was killed in a gun fight about a mile away from here.

John shakes his head.

JOHN

That's a pity as I liked the Sergeant, he was a decent man. As were the other men who were killed.

Private Carter nods.

PRIVATE CARTER

I can't argue there.

Private Carter pauses.

PRIVATE CARTER (CONT'D)

I wonder why they took hostages?

JOHN

The German they left me with said they thought the two British lads had some kind of intelligence. They didn't say anything whilst I was here though.

Private Carter nods, then glances at John.

PRIVATE CARTER

I wonder why they didn't kill you as well?

JOHN

I think they would have. They just seemed more intent on leaving. Like they had to be somewhere in a hurry. They told the soldier they left me with to 'sort it' then catch them up.

Private Carter nods understandingly.

PRIVATE CARTER

So they might return?

JOHN

They could do. But somehow I doubt it.

PRIVATE CARTER

That maybe true. But I don't want to be here if they do decide to come back. One of us still needs to reach Headquarters don't forget.

John nods.

JOHN

I haven't forgotten, I hid the letter up in the loft. I'll just get it and then we can go.

Private Carter smiles.

PRIVATE CARTER

Fair enough.

John heads towards the ladder.

CUT TO:

173 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John comes down the ladder with the letter in his hand.

He looks visibly upset.

Private Carter notices and glances at him.

PRIVATE CARTER

Are you alright John.

John composes himself.

JOHN

Yes, I was just thinking of the men we lost: Privates Walsh, White and Wright. Plus the Sergeant and the three others. Such a waste.

PRIVATE CARTER

It's sad, but that's war I'm afraid.

John nods.

JOHN

You are right. It doesn't make it any easier though.

John pauses for a few seconds.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Anyway, what are we going to do? I think we should both go to Headquarters, take the letter, get the reply, then head back to our lines.

Private Carter nods.

PRIVATE CARTER
 That's fine by me.

He takes the letter from his pocket.

PRIVATE CARTER (CONT'D)
 I have a letter as well I took it from the Sergeant after he was killed. Apparently, it's the same as the one you've got.

JOHN
 Destroy it. If I get killed you can take mine.

Private Carter takes the letter from his pocket and rips it into tiny pieces.

He then kicks the pieces all around the barn.

Private Carter then glances at John.

PRIVATE CARTER
 Right. I'll just get Private Wright's ID then we can go.

John nods.

JOHN
 I need to get Private White's. I've already got the hostage's. Can you get the one from the lad laid near the entrance?

Private Carter nods.

PRIVATE CARTER
 No problem.

CUT TO:

174 INT. BARN - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

John and Private Carter are ready to go.

Private Carter hands him a rifle.

PRIVATE CARTER
I took it from that dead soldier.
His name was Private Rice.

John nods.

JOHN
Thanks. Come on let's go.

The pair head towards the barn door.

CUT TO:

175 INT. HEADQUARTERS - EVENING

John and Private Carter are stood in front of GENERAL ROBINSON (50s) who is sat at his desk.

John hands him the letter.

General Robinson looks at the pair and shakes his head.

GENERAL ROBINSON
You two look dishevelled. What the hell happened to you both?

JOHN
I'll go first ...

CUT TO:

176 INT. HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CONTINUOUS:

After John and Private Carter have finished regaling their stories, General Robinson shakes his head.

GENERAL ROBINSON
What a bloody waste. If you both go and get something to eat, I'll write a letter for your Commanding Officer. If you come back in an hour it'll be ready.

Both men salute the General, then leave.

CUT TO:

177 INT. HEADQUARTERS - EVENING

CONTINUOUS:

John and Private Carter enter the room and salute the General.

General Robinson glances at the pair.

GENERAL
Did you get enough to eat?

Both Privates nod.

John smiles.

JOHN
Yes we did Sir. Thanks for that.

General Robinson smirks.

GENERAL ROBINSON
I didn't bloody cook it Private.

General Robinson hands John a letter.

John puts it into his top pocket.

GENERAL ROBINSON (CONT'D)
I've told your Commanding Officer
to try and get the bodies of our
lads picked up, hopefully this will
happen. Give him their ID's.

JOHN
Yes Sir.

Both men salute the General, then leave.

CUT TO:

178 INT. OFFICERS QUARTERS - NIGHT

John enters.

The Officer is sat at the table staring at a map.

John hands him the letter.

The Officer glares at John.

OFFICER
You were a long time Private. I
sent three more men to look for
you. Where are Walsh, White,
Carter, Wright and the Sergeant?

JOHN
Private Carter is outside speaking
to a Sergeant. Unfortunately the
rest are all dead Sir.

John hands him all the ID's.

The Officer glances at them.

He then picks three up.

OFFICER
Whose were these three?

John pauses for a few seconds.

JOHN
Well Sir...

CUT TO:

179 INT. OFFICERS QUARTERS - NIGHT

CONTINUOUS:

The Officer shakes his head.

OFFICER
Well done to you and Private Carter
for getting through to Headquarters
but cost us four good men. What a
bloody shame.

John nods.

JOHN
Yes Sir. It was.

The Officer opens the letter and starts to read it.

OFFICER
Well Private, we are on our own. No
reinforcements are forthcoming from
Headquarters. General Robinson also
said that we should pick the bodies
up tomorrow.

John nods.

JOHN
Yes Sir.

OFFICER
We'll have to see what tomorrow
brings, it isn't like we can do
anything for them now is it?

John shakes his head.

JOHN
No Sir.

John turns to leave, then stops.

He then looks at the Commanding Officer before taking Private White's letters out of his pocket.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Sorry Sir. I almost forgot.
 Private White asked for these to be
 posted onto his family before he
 died.

John hands the letters to the Commanding Officer.

The Commanding Officer glances at John.

OFFICER
 I'll make sure his family gets them
 Private.

CUT TO:

180 INT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

11 NOVEMBER
 1918:

The Officer calls all his MEN, including John, together.

OFFICER
 I've been asked to read you all
 this communication from
 Headquarters.

There's a silence.

The Officer reads from a prepared message which he takes from his top pocket.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 From 11.00 am today, all
 hostilities will cease. The Germans
 have surrendered.

All the men CHEER.

The Officer continues.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 So all you have to do is keep your
 heads down for another hour. Then
 you all can go home.

The Officer put the message back into his top pocket.

The men CHEER again as John walks away from the crowd.

A single tear rolls down his cheek.

CUT TO:

181 INT. BARN - DAY

FLASHBACK:

John holds his lover's hand.

JOHN
I love you Hans. I always have.

Hans coughs.

HANS
I love you ...

END OF
FLASHBACK:

182 EXT. BRITISH TRENCH - DAY

RETURN TO THE
PRESENT:

Private Carter joins John.

PRIVATE CARTER
Are you alright John?

John nods.

JOHN
Yes. I was just thinking back,
that's all.

PRIVATE CARTER
You have to look forwards, not
backwards my friend.

John half smiles.

JOHN
You are right, but it doesn't stop
me thinking about the guys who died
that day. I suppose I'll have to
live with it.

Private Carter briefly touches John's hand and looks at him
for a second longer than he should.

PRIVATE CARTER
We'll have to meet up when we get
back to Darlington.

John smiles.

JOHN
I'd like that Benjamin.

The pair then rejoin the men.

THE END: