

Assignment 2: Adapted Screenplay

By

Heyns de Jongh

Student Number: 21100268

Subject: Screenwriting 200

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Lecturer: Dr. Anette Barnard

The Open Window

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Student Name and Surname Heyns de Jongh

Student Number 21100268

Subject and Level SW 200

Lecturer Dr. Anette Barnard

Project being submitted Assignment 2: Adapted Screenplay

Student's signature 

Date 24 Aug 2022

Synopsis

1917, Passchendaele.

Lying on a battlefield WILFRED OWEN (21) stares into the night's sky as he dies. His last thoughts are of his family back in England. He thinks about how his MOTHER (41) will cry when they receive the telegram of his death. He thinks about the despair his BROTHER (14) will feel when he hears about his death. He thinks about how disappointed his FATHER (42) will be when he hears that his eldest son did not have the strength to survive the war. Before Wilfred dies special moments of his life fill his head.

1899, Brighton.

A TODDLER WILFRED (3) builds a sandcastle with the help of his mother in the sand at the beach. They wave for his father as he exits the sea. The young Wilfred runs towards his father, jumping into his arms.

1903, Oxford.

An OLDER WILFRED (7) walks in the corridors of his childhood home. His BABY BROTHER'S (2) cries echo through the home. Wilfred enters his father's study. He was never allowed in there. Wilfred stares at his father's calvary sword. The reflection of the sun makes the sword shine like a jewel. Finding his son in the study, Wilfred's father takes the opportunity to talk to his son about his years in the military. Wilfred is amazed and astonished by the stories his father tells him.

1914, Yorkshire.

A TEENAGE WILFRED (18) is out celebrating with his FRIENDS after winning their cricket tour. Their CRICKET COUCH hands them a pack of letters. Each boy has a letter addressed to him. They open the letters to reveal their conscription letters.

1914, Oxford.

Standing at the train station Wilfred's entire family sends him off to the war.

1915, Dogger Bank.

Lying in a trench under heavy fire, Wilfred witnesses how his friend he made in basic training gets shot in the head. His body lies in Wilfred's lap.

1917, Passchendaele.

After being pushed back by German forces Wilfred and a couple of other SOLDIERS make their way to the home base. Drunk with fatigue they can barely put one foot in front of the other. Eventually they reach home base. Wilfred falls onto a make shift bed. Dying of exhaustion he tries to sleep. Just before he can fall asleep, the COMMANDING OFFICER screams out: " Gas! Gas!" Wilfred frantically falls out of bed and puts on his gas mask. He makes his way through the mustard gas only to find other soldiers fleeing from GERMAN SOLDIERS. As Wilfred runs he gets shot in leg and falls to the ground. Trying to stand up he gets shot again. This time in his back. Lying on the ground about to die Wilfred speaks his final words. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.

THE OLD LIE.

Written by

Heyns de Jongh 21100268

Logline: A naive young man, brainwashed with propaganda, enlists into the army as WW1 starts. As the war goes on his motives for joining the war change and his sole focus is to survive.

Tagline: Only the dead have seen the end of war.

Adapted from the poem Dulce et Decorum Est written by Wilfred Owen

1. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NO MAN'S LAND - NIGHT

TITLE OVER: 1917, Passchendaele.

WILFRED (21) lies on a battlefield. Facing the sky, stars fill his eyes. His uniform is stained with mud and blood. GERMAN SOLDIERS emerge from a cloud of mustard gas. They run past Wilfred focusing on the fleeing ENGLISH SOLDIERS.

WILFRED (V.O.)

Here I lie. Dying in a war I did not start. Fighting so that the King can keep living in luxury. Would he die for me? A simply boy that was forced to turn into a man. I don't believe so. But I did believe the posters he had printed. The posters telling me that it was my duty as an Englishman to fight for our king. How misguided was I to believe such things. As I lie here about to die. Memories from my life start to flood my brain.

2. EXT. BRIGHTON - BEACH - DAY

TITLE OVER: 1899, Brighton beach.

A TODDLER WILFRED (3) builds sandcastles with his mother PATRICA (23). The young Wilfred screams in joy as he lifts up his sand bucket and a perfect sandcastle is revealed.

WILFRED (V.O.)

We would come here each summer. We would visit the beach everyday. When I was very young I would stay with my mother on the sand. We would build sandcastles and watch how my farther would swim in the ocean.

Wilfred's father OLIVER (24) emerges from the ocean, making his way back to his family.

PATRICA

Go on, Wilfred run to dadda.

Wilfred clumsily walks towards his father, stumbling along the way. Oliver squats down opening his arms.

OLIVER

Come on, my boy. Come to daddy. You can do it.

Wilfred reaches his father's arms. Oliver hoists Wilfred into the air, catching him in his arms. Wilfred screams in excitement.

TODDLER WILFRED
Do it again. Do it again.

OLIVER
You want me to do it again?

Wilfred laughs with excitement. Oliver throws Wilfred in the air catching him as he falls back. Wilfred can't stop laughing.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
My strong and beautiful boy. Let's go to mummy.

Wilfred nods. With Wilfred in his arms Oliver heads towards their spot on the beach.

WILFRED (V.O.)
Once we were done playing, we would enjoy a nice cold ice lolly while watching the sun go down. When I think about my childhood, I always remember our summer holidays at Brighton beach.

3. INT. OWEN'S FAMILY HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

TITLE OVER: 1903, Oxford.

Wilfred's baby brother's screams can be heard echoing throughout the house. An OLDER WILFRED (7) marches up the stairs and heads towards his brother's room.

4. INT. OWEN'S FAMILY HOME - JAMIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

With BABY JAMIE (1) in her arms Patrica notices Wilfred leaning against the door frame.

PATRICA
Hello my dear, I didn't see you standing there. What's the matter?

OLDER WILFRED
Nothings wrong. I just wanted to come and check on Jamie. I heard him crying.

PATRICA
Oh, my dear boy. Your going to be the best big brother, aren't you.

Wilfred goes and tickles Jamie on his stomach.

OLDER WILFRED
I hope so. Can I help with anything?

PATRICA

No, I'm fine my dear. Lunch will be done soon. Why don't you go play outside and I'll call you when it's done.

Wilfred leaves the room.

5. INT. OWEN'S FAMILY HOME - CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Skipping down the corridor, something catches Older Wilfred's eye. The sun is reflecting off of something. It's coming from the study. Wilfred enters the the room.

6. INT. OWEN'S FAMILY HOME - STUDY - CONTINUOUS

As Older Wilfred enters the room he sees what caught his eye. A calvary sword encased in a display case. The sword shines bright in the sun. You can see every mynute detail on the sword. The sword is made out of damascus steel and has a golden guard around the pommel.

Older Wilfred is fascinated by the sword.

OLIVER

What are you doing here boy. You know you're not supposed to be here.

OLDER WILFRED

I'm sorry pappa. I was walking by and I saw the sword.

OLIVER

I wanted to show you the sword when you're older. Guess that plan is ruined.

Oliver goes and takes the sword out of the display case and sits behind his desk. Older Wilfred sits opposite of him. Leaning forward onto the desk to get a close open of the sword.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Our family has a rich history with the army, Wilfred. I was in the Household Calvary. I even met the King once. He shook my hand and thanked me for my service. Besides the day my sons were born and the day I married your mother,

(winks at Wilfred)

I would consider that day to be the best day in my entire life.

OLDER WILFRED

Pappa, what do you mean that our family has a rich history with the army?

OLIVER

Well, my boy. I was in the army, your granddad was in the army, and his dad before him. Granddad fought in the Boer Wars in the southern of Africa. He would tell war stories of how he and his friends would go into battle and win the day. All in the name of his majesty the King. He would also read to us his poems he wrote while in Africa. He would describe the landscape in such a vivid and beautiful way. It often would bring tears to your grandmother's eyes.

Older Wilfred's eyes start to gaze at his father. Astonished by what his father is telling him.

OLDER WILFRED

Wow, pappa. I didn't know granddad was a war hero. Do you have any war stories?

OLIVER

Yes, I do. Do you want to hear them?

OLDER WILFRED

Yes, please.

OLIVER

Okay. I joined the army when I was 19 years old. Granddad went with me to the recruitment offi--

Patrica walks into the study interrupting Oliver.

PATRICA

No. Stop right there. He is too young to have his head filled with war stories. Your father only told you the glamor side of war. He never mentioned all of his friends that died horrible deaths. And I imagine you were going to do the same. Were you going to tell him what happened Edward? I don't think so.

OLDER WILFRED

Who's Edward?

OLIVER

Edward was a friend of mine, that died while we were in the Calvary, Wilfred.

PATRICA

Wilfred, will you please leave the room.

Older Wilfred reluctantly stands up.

OLDER WILFRED

Do I have to?

PATRICA

Wilfred, you are testing my patience.

Older Wilfred heads towards the door. He closes the door behind him. Just before the door closes, his father winks at him.

7. INT. OWEN'S FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sitting around the dinner table the Owen's family eats their dinner.

WILFRED (V.O.)

My mother and father spent the whole afternoon talking and arguing in the study. The lunch that my mother had promised me turned into our dinner. At the dinner table no one spoke. I tried on several occasions to start a conversation but it fell through each time. After we were done eating, my mother instructed me to go to my room. And that's what I did.

Older Wilfred finishes his dinner and runs up the stairs to his room.

8. INT. OWEN'S FAMILY HOME - WILFRED'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Older Wilfred sits by his window and looks up at the stars.

WILFRED (V.O.)

They continued to argue all night long. As for me, I tried not to pay attention to their yelling. Instead I created scenarios in my head.

(MORE)

WILFRED (CONT'D)

In these scenarios, I bask in my glory as I tell my future sons the tales of my time in the army. How all of the girls lined up to hear my war stories. Oh, how wrong was I.

9. INT. YORKSHIRE - HOTEL - WILFRED'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

TITLE OVER: 1914, Yorkshire.

TEENAGE WILFRED (18) sits on his bed. In his room he is joined by his friends, JOHN (18), ALEX (18) and HENRY (18). All of them are still dressed in their cricket clothes. Henry and John stand opposite each other practicing their slip catches.

WILFRED (V.O.)

This is the last night, I can truly say all was well in my life. My friends and I just won our cricket tour. We were so excited, because we all knew the girls at school would line up to be our dates for the end of year dance. Our school had never beaten the Yorkshire schools on their home grounds. Our names would forever be a part of our schools history. We felt like we were on top of the world. And we were for a brief moment.

JOHN

Hey, Wilfred. Do you still have the match ball?

TEENAGE WILFRED

Yeah. Why?

JOHN

Because I want to show the girls back home the ball that won us the match.

TEENAGE WILFRED

Well, It wasn't the ball that won us the match. It was my impeccable bowling that won us the game.

JOHN

Oh come on. You know the girls will go crazy for it.

TEENAGE WILFRED

The answer is still no.

JOHN

Fine, be a spoiled sport.

ALEX

Are you two seriously still practicing your slip catches?

HENRY

Of course. Just because we won the cricket tour doesn't mean we can start taking it easy.

JOHN

Yeah, plus I heard coach talk to some guys from the cricket association. They might come and scout us out for a spot in the big leagues.

TEENAGE WILFRED

The chances of one of us getting to the big leagues are the same as Henry getting a date to the end of year dance. Absolute zero.

All of the boys laugh except for Henry.

HENRY

You taking the piss at me? For all of your information I already have a date for the dance.

ALEX

You know getting dropped off by your mum doesn't count as having a date.

HENRY

(sarcastically)

Haha, very funny.

Henry stops practicing and puts all of his concentration on talking to the group.

HENRY (CONT'D)

You know I actually have a date for the end of year dance.

TEENAGE WILFRED

And if I may ask. Who is this unlucky girl?

HENRY

Her name is Suzie Westwood.

JOHN

Wait. Does she have brown hair and ties it in ponytails and does she have freckles on her face?

HENRY

Yeah, why?

JOHN

Holy crap. Ok. Does she wear very thick librarian type of glasses?

HENRY

Yeah. Why are you perfectly describing my date?

JOHN

Because she goes to my church and is constantly hitting on me.

Everyone in the room is shocked. Alex and Teenage Wilfred try to contain their laughter.

HENRY

Wait. Are you telling me, that the girl I'm taking to the most important dance of the year, is in love with one of my friends?

JOHN

I'm afraid so my friend.

HENRY

I'm gonna kill you.

Henry jumps onto John forcing them both of them to the ground. Alex and Teenage Wilfred burst out into laughter. John and Henry roll around each landing semi-brusing hits to each other's abdomen. Teenage Wilfred and Alex add fuel to the fire.

ALEX

Come on, Henry! Are you just gonna let John take your girl?

TEENAGE WILFRED

Come on, John! Defend yourself. Show Henry who's boss.

They roll around for a few moments before they hear a knock on the door. The two boys get up from the ground and Alex and Teenage Wilfred stop their laugh. The door open and their cricket couch MR. POULTER (50s) walks into their room with his hands behind his back. They all line up.

MR. POULTER

Why are you're faces red and
sweaty? I'm looking at you Henry
and John.

HENRY

We were practicing our slip
catches, sir.

MR. POULTER

On the hard tile floor? Interesting
why to practice.

JOHN

Yes, sir. We heard some scout's
might come to our games in
Birmingham. So we want to stay in
top shape sir.

MR. POULTER

Well, you were right John. I had
arranged that some scout's were
coming to look at you boys.
Unfortunately that won't be
possible anymore.

ALEX

Why is that sir?

Mr. Poulter starts to pace.

MR. POULTER

Well, Alex it's hard to show off my
boys when their off fighting in the
war.

Mr. Poulter hands each boy a letter with their name on it.

MR. POULTER (CONT'D)

I wish each and every one of you
the best of luck. And I want all of
you to know that it was a privilege
to teach and know each of you
personally. Not as a soldier in an
army but as players and students of
the game of cricket.

Mr. Poulter leaves their room. They each move to a separate
area of the room. Teenage Wilfred sits on his bed leaning
against the wall. He opens the letter with anticipation. He
takes a deep breath before reading it.

TEENAGE WILFRED

(reading)

"Dear Mr. Wilfred Owen/ You are
hereby ordered by his majesty the
King, to join the British army.

(MORE)

TEENAGE WILFRED (CONT'D)
 / You are hereby ordered to report
 to camp Blackwood on the 27th of
 August 1914./ Failing to do so will
 result in a warrant being issued
 for your arrest. You will be
 charged with treason and face the
 full extent of the law./ Signed by
 Peter Swan. Commanding officer of
 the 191th battalion."

The room is silent.

WILFRED (V.O.)
 It was in that moment, when I
 received my conscription letters
 that I started my transition from a
 boy into a man. When we received
 our letters, a silence fell upon
 the room. Nobody dared to make a
 sound. Internally I was ecstatic.
 But I wouldn't dare my friends see
 it. My dream of serving in the army
 and finding eternal glory was at my
 finger tips. If I only knew then
 what I know now. Perhaps I too
 would have sat there in silence.

10. INT. OXFORD TRAIN STATION - PLATFORM 9 - MORNING

Standing on the platform of the train station Teenage Wilfred
 stands with his trunk at his side. Patrica, Oliver, and a
 YOUNG JAMIE (11) stand in a circle around him.

WILFRED (V.O.)
 This is the part that where I feel
 the most regret, for not
 appreciating moments like these
 more. This is the last time in my
 life that I would see my parents.
 The last time that I would see my
 brother. If I could go back in time
 and talk to them again I would. We
 would talk about the most random
 things just so that I can hear
 their voices. I would ask them why
 didn't they stop me from getting on
 the train. I would give my mum an
 extra tight hug, just so that I can
 feel her love once more. I would
 shake my dad's hand one more time,
 so that I can feel the strength he
 has in his hands. I would make my
 brother laugh one more time, so
 that I can hear his laughter just
 one more time.

Patrica goes in for a hug.

PATRICA

You be safe now. Write every week.
I want to know how and where you
are.

TEENAGE WILFRED

I will mum.

Oliver sticks his hand out. Teenage Wilfred musters all his strength trying to match his father's grip strength.

OLIVER

Go on my boy. Make the family
proud. And when you're back you can
tell me all of your war stories.

Teenage Wilfred nods. Tears fill young Jamie's eyes.

TEENAGE WILFRED

Don't cry, I'll be back before you
know it. Meanwhile I want you to
hold on to this.

Teenage Wilfred hands Jamie the match ball from their tour in Yorkshire. Jamie's eyes lit up with excitement.

TEENAGE WILFRED (CONT'D)

Once I'm back I'll teach you how to
swing the ball like I do. Then
you'll definitely make first team.

The TRAIN CONDUCTOR steps off the train and takes a look at all of the YOUNG BOYS standing on the platform waiting to board the train.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR

All aboard for the train to
Blackwood camp. We will be leaving
in 5 short minutes. Say your final
goodbyes.

Teenage Wilfred picks up his trunks and prepares to board the train. Before he can leave, Patrica hugs her son for a final time. Oliver goes to pull Patrica off of Teenage Wilfred.

OLIVER

Come now, Patrica. You have to let
him go otherwise he's going to be
late.

Patrica lets him go and the tears start to roll down her powdered cheeks.

11. INT. TRAIN - COMPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Teenage Wilfred finds an empty compartment. As the train leaves the station he sticks his head outside of the window to catch a final glance at his family. They wave to him as he disappears into the horizon.

WILFRED (V.O.)

When I said my final goodbyes to my family something changed within me. I didn't feel the way I used to feel. I think that's the moment my subconscious tried to warn me that what I'm doing would mean the end of myself. I didn't listen to that feeling. Oh, how I wish I had listened to that feeling.

12. EXT. BLACKWOOD CAMP - TRAINING COURSE - DAY

MONTAGE - WILFRED'S BASIC TRAINING AT BLACKWOOD

A Obstacle Course - Teenage Wilfred races along the obstacle course. Climbing up rope ladders, climbing underneath wooden logs, leopard crawling underneath barbed wire.

B Shooting Range - Teenage Wilfred learns the basics of how to handle a rifle. He learns how to assemble and disassemble a rifle in under two minutes. He learns how to shoot a target two hundred meters away. He learns how to attach a bayonet to his rifle and how to stab a person so that they die instantaneously from it.

C Communications Office - Teenage Wilfred learns how to properly communicate enemy positions, call in artillery strikes, and write at a speed of one hundred and sixty words per minute.

D Medical Wing - Teenage Wilfred learns how to apply a basic tourniquet and how to do stitches.

WILFRED (V.O.)

In those ten weeks I had learned more than I had learned in twelve years of school. At that time I felt like I was on top of the world. And why wouldn't I? I was in the best shape of my life, I had just learned a bunch of new and useful skills, and the friends that I made felt like brothers that I had lost at birth. I felt invincible. We were told we were invincible.

(MORE)

WILFRED (CONT'D)

We were fed lies by our commanding officers that eternal glory and riches wait for us when we return from the war. Little did we know that we were lambs raised for the slaughter.

END OF MONTAGE

13. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - GALLIPOLI - DAY

TITLE OVER: 1915, GALLIPOLI.

Wilfred and his friend GALEN (19) duck behind cover as the OTTOMAN SOLDIERS fire at them from their trenches three hundred meters away.

WILFRED (V.O.)

The battle of Gallipoli was my first taste of battle. All of the skills that I learned in basic training fell away. My mind was only set on one thing. Surviving.

A COMMANDING OFFICER screams at Wilfred and Galen to cover fire, a SOLDIER running towards the enemy trench entrance. The soldier is carrying a bag filled with dynamite. Galen and Wilfred emerge from their cover to provide cover fire for the runner.

GALEN

Remember take time to line up your shot. Squeeze the trigger, don't force it.

They provide cover fire for the soldier on his run towards the enemy trench. At the halfway mark an ENEMY SNIPER shoots the bag with dynamite and it explodes. Bits and pieces of the runner are now scattered across no mans land.

Galen and Wilfred look at each other in horror.

WILFRED

That's unfortunate.

GALEN

Very.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Dammit. Alright next runner come here!

The battle continues. Mortar shells fall all around Galen and Wilfred. They don't even flinch at the sound of a mortar falling. They have grown numb to it. They alternate their firing pattern.

Once Wilfred has fired all of his rounds in his magazine, Galen shoots his rifle while Wilfred reloads his. They do this for the remainder of the day.

14. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - GALLIPOLI - NIGHT

Once it is nightfall, a cease fire is called. Both sides attend to their wounded.

COMMANDING OFFICER
Tomorrow we take their stronghold
men, you have my word.

GALEN
(whispering to Wilfred)
I'm not so sure about that.

COMMANDING OFFICER
Did someone say something? Huh.

Galen doesn't dare to say another word.

COMMANDING OFFICER (CONT'D)
Rotate your sleeping patterns with
a war buddy. We don't want any
filthy Ottoman's sneaking up on us.

Wilfred, Galen and a group of ENGLISH SOLDIERS all nod their heads. The Commanding officer walks down the trench to spread the word.

WILFRED
Why didn't you think we would take
the enemy trench tomorrow?

GALEN
Well, think about it. We've been
her for a whole month. We haven't
gained a sing inch of land.

WILFRED
Yes, but to be fair, neither has
the enemy.

Wilfred and Galen find a spot to hunker down for the night. They both lie against opposite sides of the trench.

GALEN
Exactly my point. We've been here
for a month and neither side has
made any progress. All I'm saying
is, I think this war is gonna go on
for a long time. And I don't know
if I have the strength to see it
out.

WILFRED

What. Why would you say things like that? Don't you want go home and tell everyone your war stories. How glorious you were in the war.

GALEN

Glorious? What about any of this is glorious? Huh? The fact that I killed another human being. The fact that I took a son away from a mother and a father. The fact that person , a human being can never feel anything again except for the horror he faced when he was about to die. What part of that do I want to tell other people. What part of that is honorable?

WILFRED

If you hate the army so much. Why did you join then?

Wilfred sits upright now.

GALEN

I didn't join the army, Wilfred. Neither, did you.

WILFRED

Are you taking the piss? Of course I joined the army. Why would I be here otherwise?

GALEN

You didn't join out of free will Wilfred. You were conscripted to join the army.

Galen joins Wilfred by sitting upright.

WILFRED

I like to believe that I joined out of free will. You know you had the choice not to go to basic training

GALEN

Oh, yes. I had a choice between the army and jail. Not very compelling choices. And let me remind you that you'll be labeled a traitor. They say that they'll treat you fairly in your court case, but lets be honest once your branded a traitor your as good as dead.

WILFRED

I don't believe that. And besides when I'm finished here, I'm scheduled to meet his majesty The King.

GALEN

Who told you that fantasy?

WILFRED

My father. He met the King when he was in the Household Calvary. And I saw it on a poster saying that if I fight for my King he'll be forever grateful. And usually when someone is grateful for something that you've done for them, you meet them in person.

GALEN

You really are a nob.

Wilfred grabs Galen by the collar on his uniform.

WILFRED

I'm a what?

GALEN

Your a nob. Only a nob would believe the propaganda that the government plasters on every street corner.

WILFRED

(struggling to say the word)

Propa- propaganda? What the bloody hell is that.

GALEN

If you let me go, I'll explain it to you.

Wilfred lets go of Galen's collar.

WILFRED

Go then. Explain it to me.

GALEN

Propaganda is when you purposefully mislead someone to believe a certain point of view. In your case you were lead to believe that you, were going to met the King once all of this is done. I can tell you now that's never going to happen. He doesn't care about us. All he cares about is living his luxurious life.

WILFRED

Whatever. At least I don't want to die. I want to live my life after this war.

GALEN

And I'm sure you will.

A awkward silence follows.

GALEN (CONT'D)

I'll take the first watch. You can rest for now.

WILFRED

Thanks.

Wilfred goes to lie down on his side. Firmly gripping his rifle as he falls asleep.

15. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - GALLIPOLI - MORNING

Galen lies on the sleeping with his rifle in his hands. Wilfred wakes him.

WILFRED

Come on, Galen time to wake up. We have a trench to take today.

Half awake galen looks at Wilfred. In the sky above Wilfred's head he can see something approach them. Galen pushes Wilfred's face out of the way. He makes out what he sees.

GALEN

Mortar strike incoming!

BOOM! A mortar shell hits the English trench.

The shock blast of the shell disorientates everyone. Being the closest to the blast Wilfred and Galen's ears ring. Their vision is distorted. Galen can barley hear the Commanding officer shout out commands.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Infantry! Infantry fight back! Get up and shoot.

Galen checks up on Wilfred.

GALEN

Are you okay? Are you hit?

WILFRED

I'm fine. I'm fine.

GALEN

Come on we have to move. If we stay here were dead.

Galen manages to get back to his feet. He helps Wilfred back to his feet. They move towards an area where they can see the enemy trenches all while dogging the debris that the mortar shells are creating. Once they are in position Wilfred takes a look at the enemy trench.

WILFRED

Dammit!

GALEN

What?

WILFRED

Looks like they got reinforcements.

GALEN

How can you tell?

WILFRED

Well, yesterday we were fighting their infantry. Today it looks like were fighting their infantry and a whole battalion with machine guns.

GALEN

Great.

Suddenly the mortar shells stop. An unholy silence fell upon the battlefield. The only sound you hear are from injured ENGLISH SOLDIERS crying in pain. Some English soldiers took this opportunity to get ready themselves on the trench as they took aim at the enemy trench.

As quickly the silence fell. All hell broke loose. With deadly precision the enemy trench littered the English trench with machine gun fire. All English soldiers that ready themselves on top of the trench were soon dismembered by machine gun fire.

The Commanding Officer saw some soldiers coming down from the trench.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Where are all of you going? Get back up there! Fight cowards, fight!

An ENGLISH SOLDIER lies on the floor shivering, with his hands covering his head. The Commanding Officer spots this soldier and yanks him up to his feet.

COMMANDING OFFICER (CONT'D)

If any man isn't fighting upon the trench I'll shoot him myself for being a traitor.

ENGLISH SOLDIER

Please, sir. Don't make me go up there. I don't want to die.

The Commanding pushes him back against the trench and takes out his pistol.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Then your a coward. And the King won't have any cowards in his army.

The Commanding Officer shoots the Soldier in his chest. The soldier falls to the ground lifeless. Wilfred, Galen, and the rest of the soldiers look in horror. They cannot believe their eyes.

COMMANDING OFFICER (CONT'D)

Guess, I'll Have to show you ladies how it's done.

The Commanding Officer garbs a rifle from the ground and climbs up the trench. As he reaches the top an OTTOMAN SOLDIER bayonets him and they fall to the ground. Suddenly swarms of OTTOMAN SOLDIERS invade the English trench.

The English soldiers rush to a secret tunnel in their trench.

WILFRED

Come, on Galen. We just have to make it to the tunnel.

GALEN

I'm right behind you , Wilfred.

WILFRED

We can make it.

Five meters away from the entrance galen gets shot in the back. He falls to the ground. Wilfred notices this and runs back to pick him up. They make it through the tunnel. A MINER sets a piece of dynamite on fire. The dynamite explodes and the tunnel collapses in on itself.

Lying on the ground and against a wall, Wilfred puts Galen's head on his lap.

WILFRED (CONT'D)

Medic! I need a medic! You stay with me. You hear me, your gonna make it.

GALEN

No, I'm not. I told you. I'm not strong enough.

Galen starts to go into shock. He shivers uncontrollably.

GALEN (CONT'D)

When you tell your family about your time in the war, leave this part out please. And if you ever meet the King ask him how he lived in the war.

WILFRED

I will, I promise.

Galen stops shaking. He is dead.

WILFRED (V.O.)

Galen was the only friend I made in the war. He looked after me when no one else did. He was only a year older than me at the time but he was far more wiser than I could ever be. I kept my promise. In all of my letters to my family I never mentioned him or any of our conversations. Whenever I get the chance, I practice how I'll meet the King in my head. How I practice asking him how he lived in his palace while we bled for him in the mud. Galen was also right about the war. We were in Gallipoli for over a year. Not gaining any ground. I was later reassigned to another battalion, and then another one and after that I was reassigned again and again and again. This kept on happening until I was reassigned to the two hundred and twelfth battalion.

16. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - PASSCHENDAELE - DAY

TITLE OVER: 1917, Passchendaele.

Sitting on his helmet a withered Wilfred smokes a cigarette.

WILFRED (V.O.)

We've all caught up now. This was this morning. I had my usual cigarette. And while smoking my cigarette I was thinking about all of the things I've seen during my time in the war.

(MORE)

WILFRED (CONT'D)

And every morning I came to the same conclusion. Galen was right. There is nothing honorable about war. Every night I have nightmares of the things that I've done to survive. All the people that I've had to kill. All in the name of finding my so called eternal glory. And the the best part of it. I'm fighting for a King that would as much shake my hand if we were to meet in the street.

Wilfred sits in deep thought when PETER (18) taps him on the shoulder. Wilfred snaps out of his thoughts.

WILFRED (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I was lost in my own thoughts. I hope you haven't been standing there too long.

PETER

Oh no, it's not a problem. I also daydream quite often. Helps me remember what life was like before the war.

Wilfred chuckles.

WILFRED

(muffled)

Yeah. Life before the war.

PETER

What was that?

WILFRED

Nothing just a scratch in my voice.

PETER

Oh, okay. The Captain wants to see us in his tent.

WILFRED

Okay. I'm on my way.

Wilfred takes a final pull of his cigarette before throwing it away.

PETER

Mind if I walk with you?

WILFRED

Sure.

Wilfred stands up and puts his helmet back on. They march towards the captain's tent.

PETER

Have I seen you before?

WILFRED

Could be.

PETER

I know you transferred from another battalion. From which battalion did you transfer from?

WILFRED

Well before the 212th I was at the 201th and before that I was with 3 or 4 other battalions. But I started out in the 191th battalion.

PETER

Oh, wow. I've never met someone that's been in more than two battalions.

WILFRED

It's because their dead.

Peter's complexion had suddenly turned from a warm soft color into an icy white one.

PETER

Oh.

WILFRED

And you? In what battalion were you before you joined the 212th?

PETER

Oh this is my first battalion. I just finished my basic training a few weeks ago.

WILFRED

Define a few weeks ago.

PETER

2 weeks ago.

WILFRED

Damn. So your a fresh one.

PETER

Fresh one?

WILFRED

Yeah, a fresh one. A soldier that hasn't seen what war can do to a man. You're fresh to the war.

PETER

Oh, yeah a fresh one.

WILFRED

Don't you worry. You won't stay
fresh for long.

Wilfred and Peter enter the captain's tent.

17. INT. CAPTAIN SMITH'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN SMITH (34) stands at a table with a map spread across it. A GROUP OF SOLDIERS also stand in a circle around the table. Wilfred and Peter join them.

CAPTAIN SMITH

Gentlemen, we are here
(points to a x on the map)
We believe that the Germans are
over here.

(points to a circle on the
map)

However, we cannot truly rely on
this information. So I must ask the
few good men that I have at my
disposal to do a scouting mission.
Your orders are to travel to the
suspected German trench line and
gather as much information as
possible. It is crucial that we
know how many troops there are,
what type of machinery they have
and if they have any chemical
weapons at their disposal. This is
a time sensitive mission as we plan
on striking the enemy in two days
time.

ENGLISH SOLDIER

Sir, if the suspected German
location is more than 20 km away
sir.

CAPTAIN SMITH

And your point being, private?

ENGLISH SOLDIER

It's a long way to the suspected
area sir. Will we be receiving
horses?

CAPTAIN SMITH

Unfortunately, you will not be
receiving horses as they are all
busy bringing up our heavy guns.
This will be done by foot.

All of the soldiers moan.

CAPTAIN SMITH (CONT'D)
You will complete this mission or I
will have all of you tried for
treason. Do I make myself clear.

WILFRED
Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN SMITH
Excellent, I want you all to leave
in 5 minutes time. Dismissed.

All of the soldiers leave the tent.

18. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - THE PLAINS OF PASSCHENDAELE - MOMENTS
LATER

The soldiers walk in their marching order. They struggle to
walk in the thick mud. Wilfred and Peter are in the front of
the marching order.

PETER
Have you fought the Germans.

WILFRED
Yes, I have.

PETER
What do they look like?

WILFRED
They look like us. They just sound
different. We're all human after.

PETER
I know that. It's just the posters
back home say they look a bit
different from us normal folk.

WILFRED
Don't believe everything you read
on posters. Especially the ones
back at home.

PETER
Why?

WILFRED
It's too complicated to get into
now. Just trust me.

PETER
Okay.

ENGLISH SOLDIER

If you two are finished arguing like an old married couple. We should be almost be at the location of the Germans. If these coordinates are correct, then their trench line should be just beyond that hill over there.

WILFRED

Great, lets get this over with.

They travel towards the hill.

19. EXT. HILL TOP - MOMENTS LATER

They finally reach the hill. All of them leopard crawl towards the top of the hill. Once there they take out their scopes and spy on the German forces.

WILFRED

Okay someone write down the following. The Germans have the following at their trench line. 15 crates of ammo reserves my estimate is somewhere between 15 to 20 thousand rounds of ammunition. They have 20 Lewis machine guns each with 5 crates of ammunition. I cannot see any signs that they may have chemical warfare devices, but I may be wrong as I see gas masks lying in a container. They also have a crate full of grenades. I would estimate that they have somewhere between 5 to 7 thousand men down there. They also have long range artillery guns.

PETER

Damn, they have an entire army down there.

WILFRED

Yes they do. Time to move out and report back to camp.

Peter stands up from his prone position. As he gets up he shifts the dirt causing rocks to fall of the hillside. An ENEMY SNIPER spots them and alerts the camp.

WILFRED (CONT'D)

Run!

They run off the hill back to their home base. As they run mortar shells start to fall alongside of them. Taking out a few members of the group.

They run and run as fast as their tired legs can take them.

20. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - PASSCHENDAELE - AFTERNOON

Struggling to put one foot in front of the other the remaining men limp towards the English trench.

Finally they reach the camp and most of them fall to their knees in exhaustion. Wilfred goes to give Captain Smith their report.

21. INT. CAPTAIN SMITH'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Wilfred enters the Captain's tent and hands over the report they made.

CAPTAIN SMITH

Excellent work, private. You've done a great deal for your country.

The Captain salutes Wilfred and dismisses him. As Wilfred leaves the tent he chuckles.

22. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - PASSCHENDAELE - CONTINUOUS

Exhausted Wilfred finds a place for him to sleep. He finds a hole in the trench line where he can sleep. He climbs into the hole and closes his eyes.

23. EXT. BATTLEFIELD - ENGLISH TRENCH - PASSCHENDAELE - NIGHT

Fast asleep in his hole Wilfred is woken up by the screams of men.

ENGLISH SOLDIER

Gas! Gas! Quick boys, put on your gas masks.

Wilfred fumbles out of his hole, trying to put on his gas mask. Just in time he manages to put his mask on. He grabs his rifle and heads towards the trench. On his way there he sees a dead body. He goes to inspect the body and finds Peter dead. His eyes are rolled back and his mouth is full of foam. A soldier bumps into him knocking him down. Wilfred now lies next to the corpse of Peter.

Determined to stay alive Wilfred gets up and climbs out onto the trench. Looking behind him Wilfred sees a hoard of GERMAN SOLDIERS approaching them. Wilfred retreats with the other English soldiers.

As Wilfred is running he gets shot in the leg. He falls to the ground. With all his might he tries to stand up.

As he gets up he gets shot once more. This time in the back. He falls to the ground again. He rolls over onto his back and stares into the sky.

WILFRED (V.O)

This is where the story ends.
You've seen my life as I remembered
it. You've seen all of the events
that lead me to this moment. My
final moment. Let these be my final
words and let them serve as a
warning to all of those who seek
glory in war: Dulce et decorum est
pro patria mori.

Wilfred dies.

FADE TO BLACK.