

LAND OF MINE

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1 EXT/INT. JEEP - WEST COAST OF JUTLAND - AFTERNOON

1

May 1945. World War 2 is over.

CU A Danish soldier, **Carl (41)**(military rank: Sergeant) is driving along in a jeep. He turns into a gravel road. After a while he comes to the dunes overlooking the beach. Carl parks the jeep and steps out. He walks over the dunes. On his back is a big backpack from which little black flags are sticking out. Carl stops on top of one of the dunes and looks across the beach. Clearly, this is a post-war landscape. As far the eye can see the beach is covered with lines of barbwire and signs saying. 'DANGER! MINES.'

Carl pushes some sand off with his foot. (He looks at a mine map) A wooden plank (Pansermine) appears beneath the sand. Carl puts his backpack down and digs further up ahead. Another plank appears. Carl puts his backpack back on and walks along the planks down towards the sea. He treads carefully, it is obvious that the entire beach is littered with mines. You can even see some of them poke up through the sand.

Carl goes all the way to the water before he stops. He looks down the beach. He pulls a flag out of his backpack and sticks it into the sand. Then we walks along the water.

2 INT. ARMY TRUCK - AFTERNOON

2

CU of young German soldier on the back of an army truck. This is **Sebastian(16)**.

Besides Sebastian are 11 other German boys.

We see their faces one by one. **Manfred(16), Werner(17), Ernst(17), Helmut(19), Ludvig(16), Wilhelm(15)** and so on. 12 boys in all. They are just teenagers, nevertheless their youngish faces have a worn-out look to them. Like they have borrowed them from much older, and more experienced men. Hard and weary. The boys all look like they have been starving, some more than others. They are in various types of uniform. All of which are worn and torn.

Two of the boys (**Werner and Ernst**) are like two peas in a pod. They are obviously twins. Hidden from the view of the others, they are holding hands.

Sebastian peers out through the a gap in tarpaulin cloth that covers the back of the truck. He squints as the setting sun gets in his eyes. The truck is driving along a straight road through a forest near the Danish North Sea coastline.

3 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON**

3

Carl is driving his jeep along. He drives past long lines of German prisoners of war walking south along the road, heading back down towards Germany.

Further ahead there is a scuffle between some Danes and the German POV's. Carl pulls up to them. Honks the horn. He stops and gets out.

Carl drags the Danes away. The Germans are about to continue walking. Carl turns towards them.

CARL (in German)  
You stay here. Understood?

The Germans wait.

Carl goes over and talks to the Danes. (From afar) We can't hear what they are saying. The Danes point over at the Germans.

Carl turns around and goes over to the Germans. He smiles at them. He stands there for a bit. He offers one of them a cigarette. The German takes one and smiles back. Carl takes out a lighter.

Long beat.

Carl headbutts the German. He goes down. Carl looks at the other Germans. They make no move to interfere. They look scared.

Nobody speaks.

The German who was knocked down by Carl gets back up. They start walking.

4 **EXT. ARMY BARRACKS SØNDERBORG AREA - LATE AFTERNOON**

4

The truck with Sebastian and the boys drives through a gate. It stops on a large open square. We see several trucks pull up next to it. Pebbles crunch under the heavy truck tires.

German prisoners of war in all ages spill out from the trucks and settle in the square. A few Danish armed soldiers are there to receive them.

5 **EXT. ARMY BARRACKS SØNDERBORG AREA - LATE AFTERNOON**

5

About 70 German prisoners of war of various ages are lined up outside of the square outside the main building. Quite a few of them are teenagers. They look wretched in their worn-out torn uniforms.

A young Danish officer, **Ebbe**(29) (rank: Lieutenant) comes out of the main building. Ebbe walks briskly and stops in front of the Germans.

Ebbe smiles and addresses the POW's in German.

EBBE

My name is Lieutenant Ebbe Jensen  
from the Danish Pioneer Corps.  
(Minenkommando  
Dänemark)

EBBE (CONT'D)

To those of you who are still  
unaware of what you are doing  
here: You have been brought here  
to Denmark to clean up after the  
war.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Denmark is neither your friend,  
nor your enemy. Having said that,  
do not expect the Danes to welcome  
you with open arms. Nobody wants  
you Germans here. For us you  
serve one purpose only: To clear  
the Danish west coast of German  
land mines that you put there in  
the first place.

EBBE (CONT'D)

I know that most of you have never  
done any minesweeping or de-mining.  
That is why we have brought you  
here, before you are to de-mine  
the beaches. We will teach you  
as much as we can in the little  
time we have. In other words. We  
are here to help.

Beat.

EBBE (in German) (CONT'D)

Welcome to Denmark!

6 **INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS/ BARRACKS - EVENING**

6

Sebastian and the other boys walk in a line down a long hallway. They are shown into the sleeping quarters. A small room. Filled with bunk beds without mattresses.

Sebastian looks around. It seems most of the beds are occupied.

Sebastian spots an empty bed, next to the window. He sits down on the bed.

One of the older boys, **Helmut**(19), comes over. He looks at Sebastian.

He stands there for a long time before he speaks.

HELMUT

Move. That's my bed.

Sebastian looks at the boy. Clearly, this is not his bed. Sebastian thinks about standing his ground. Decides against it. He gets up.

SEBASTIAN

Of course.

Sebastian finds a spot on the floor, where he sits down. He looks around the room. He pulls his blanket around him.

There is not enough beds for everyone and several others have also had to settle for the floor.

Sebastian lies down. Looks around at the others before he shuts his eyes.

7

**INT. INTERIM CLASSROOM - MORNING**

7

Sebastian and most of the boys he came with in the truck are standing to attention in a small classroom. The young commanding officer Ebbe comes in. He is flanked by two Danish soldiers. He stands in front of the boys. On a table are several land mines.

Ebbe looks around the room. He pulls down a map of Denmark.

EBBE

Good morning!

EVERYONE

Good morning, lieutenant!

Ebbe smiles. Ebbe outlines the western coast of Denmark on the map with his cane.

EBBE

There are currently 2.2 million land mines spread out along the Danish west coast.

He looks at the boys.

EBBE (CONT'D)

This is more than in all the other European countries together ... Someone must have thought that the invasion from the west would take place right here..

Ebbe points again.

EBBE (CONT'D)

..On the Danish coastline to the North Sea. What a shame for him. And what a shame for you lot too!

Beat.

EBBE (CONT'D)

My only purpose here is to teach you lot how to find and disarm these mines. Nothing else. This is what I do. This is what I am good at. In other words, I don't need to know your names, your background. I don't need to get to know you. You have each other for that. I am simply not interested.

Nobody says anything.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Understood?

EVERYONE

Yes, lieutenant!

EBBE

How many have seen or handled a land mine?

Most of them raise a hand.

EBBE (CONT'D)

How many have disarmed one?

Only a few hands.

Ebbe walks over to the table. He picks up a German teller mine.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Who has seen one of these before?

Most of them put their hands up.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Good. They are also the most common ones.

The two soldiers pass the mine around for inspection.

EBBE (CONT'D)

For an optimal impact these mines are buried 15 to 20 centimeters below the sand. This makes them relatively easy to find.

Ebbe picks up another type of mine.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Who knows what this is?

Everyone puts their hand up.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Yes, you.

Ebbe picked Wilhelm, the youngest of the boys.

WILHELM  
It is a Schrapnell mine,  
lieutenant.

EBBE  
Correct. We call it Bouncing  
Betty. This kind of mine is always  
placed in the heather or in the  
dunes. If the grass is not too  
long they are visible - in most  
cases.

Ebbe puts two schrapnell mines on the table. He strings  
an almost invisible wire between them.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
A thin metal wire is strung between  
them. If you trip it, one or  
more mines will launch a meter  
into the air and ...

Ebbe gestures an explosion.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Ka-BOOM! Out comes hundreds of  
little iron pellets. Not good!

8 **INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS/ BARRACKS - NIGHT**

8

Sebastian and the boys are in their beds. Most have gone  
to sleep. Sebastian looks around. **Ernst** (one of the  
twin brothers) is having a nightmare. **Werner**(17) his  
brother carefully wakes Ernst up. He whispers to him.  
Holds him. Ernst calms down. Werner keeps watch over  
his brother.

Sebastian closes his eyes.

9 **EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - DAY**

9

Following day. Sebastian and some of the other boys are  
crawling around in a giant sand box. Ebbe, flanked by  
two soldiers, is walking among the boys. Ebbe speaks  
while observing the boys.

EBBE  
Faster, everyone! Each one of  
you must disarm at least 6 mines  
an hour!

Cut to:

A bit further away. Carl is over by a barn. He is loading wooden planks onto a trailer. **Peter (39)**, a Danish soldier is helping him.

While working Carl looks over at Ebbe.

Peter looks at Carl.

PETER

I thought you two were inseparable?

Carl doesn't answer. He keeps loading the trailer.

Peter stops.

PETER (CONT'D)

In my opinion you should put it behind you, Carl. The war has ruined too God damn much already, right?

CARL

Did anyone ask for your opinion?

PETER

No, but I am just saying, that he did everything he could to help you from over there.

Carl looks at Peter. He goes over to him. Carl puts his face right up against Peter's. This makes Peter nervous. Carl smiles at him.

CARL

Did he? And what do you know about it, little Peter? How did he help me, exactly? Or my dad for that matter? None of you did shit. You all sneaked out and ran. You call that help?

Peter says nothing.

CARL (CONT'D)

3 years we were locked up. Not you. Not him!

Carl gently slaps Peter on the side of the head.

CARL (CONT'D)

And what did you do, exactly, over there in Sweden? Tell me.

PETER

We were mobilizing.. Training.



CARL  
Mobilizing ... More like hiding  
out and fucking all the Swedish  
women and having a good time.

CARL (CONT'D)  
And then you return all hero-like..  
After the danger is gone, promoted  
with pretty new ranks?

Carl looks at Peter's uniform.

CARL (CONT'D)  
What are you now? Senior Sergeant?  
How the fuck did that happen?

Peter says nothing.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Is there anything else you want  
to say to me?

Peter shakes his head.

CARL (CONT'D)  
No? I didn't think so. So keep  
your mouth shut.

Cut to:

Ebbe is walking in between the boys.

EBBE  
60% of the mines you will be de-  
mining are made from non-metals.  
That is, things like concrete,  
plastic, glass or like this one,  
wood.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
What do you think that means for  
you guys?

No one answers.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Nobody?

EBBE (CONT'D)  
It means that the metal detectors  
you see over there are absolutely  
useless to you.  
(Ebbe points)

Ebbe holds up his little wooden stick.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
This stick, however, can.  
(MORE)

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Unlike me, the stick is now your  
 new best friend.

Suddenly Ebbe whacks one of the boys **Ludvig** (16) across  
 the hands with the stick.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Boom! You just lost your hands.

Ebbe is standing over him.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Keep going. Go on. There is no  
 time to feel sorry for oneself.

Ludvig fiddles with the mine once more. Ebbe whacks him  
 again.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Boom! You are dead.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Again!

Ludvig fiddles again. His hands are red from the blows.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Boom! I believe we have our first  
 terminal casualty here. You don't  
 want to see your family again?

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Are you really going to be the  
 first one to die?

Ludvig mumbles.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 What? I can't hear you.

LUDVIG  
 No.

EBBE  
 No, what?

LUDVIG  
 No, lieutenant! I am not to be  
 the first one to die!

EBBE  
 I am happy to hear it! Try again.

Ludvig's hand are shaking. He tries again.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
 Boom! Dead again.

Sebastian and the other boys are taking note of what is happening, while they are prodding away in the sand. **Manfred** (16) is digging next to Sebastian.

MANFRED

Idiot.

Ebbe hears it. He comes over to Sebastian and Manfred.

EBBE

Is there anything you want to share with the group?

Ebbe addresses Manfred.

MANFRED

No, sir!

Ebbe looks over at Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

No, sir. I have nothing I want to share with the group.

EBBE

No really. I saw you smile. Do tell. Lord knows, your friends here could do with something to smile about.

SEBASTIAN

It was nothing.

EBBE

Are you sure?

SEBASTIAN

Yes, sir, lieutenant. Absolutely sure.

Most of the boys look down again and keep searching for mines.

EBBE

Show me what you got then!!

Sebastian prods with the stick, carefully.

Sebastian hits something. He carefully digs with his hands. A teller mine (a practice mine) appears. He quickly disarms it. He picks it up and puts it away. We see that this is his fifth one.

EBBE (CONT'D)

What is your name?

Sebastian doesn't answer.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
What is your name soldier?

SEBASTIAN  
I didn't think the lieutenant was  
interested in knowing our names,  
sir?

Ebbe whacks Sebastian's fingers with his cane. Sebastian  
pulls his hands back.

EBBE  
Good work. Keep it up.

Ebbe walks on.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Remember that your stick is your  
best friend now. Your own little  
magic wand!

Ebbe stops behind one of the others boys - **Helmut**(19)(the  
boy who took Sebastian's bed). Ebbe whacks Helmut's hands.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Boom! You are dead too!

Helmut pulls his hands back.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Get moving! Show me some magic!

Ebbe stops and looks over at Carl, who drives off in a  
jeep.

10 **INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS / BARRACKS - NIGHT**

10

Sebastian is sitting / lying down with some of the other  
boys in the sleeping quarters. The boys are talking in  
hushed voices. Manfred(16) is telling jokes.

LUDVIG  
Tell it again..

MANFRED  
No, I don't want to.

Ludvig laughs.

WILHELM  
Go on, we want to hear it too. I  
will tell one afterwards.

Beat.

MANFRED  
Okay then..  
(MORE)

MANFRED (CONT'D)

So Hitler and Göring are standing on top of the Berlin radio tower. Hitler shakes his head and says, "Berlin sure isn't what it used to be, eh?" Göring shakes his head.

MANFRED (CONT'D)

Hitler looks at Göring and says how he longs to put a smile back on the lips of the Berliners. Göring looks at Hitler and says, "Then why don't you go ahead and jump?"

The boys all burst out laughing. All, except Helmut. He is stone-faced.

Manfred smiles at Helmut.

MANFRED (CONT'D)

Come on, man. That is funny.

Helmut looks at Manfred.

HELMUT

Yeah? What was the funny bit?

The others laugh even harder.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

I don't see what is so funny.

MANFRED

Well, you know ... It would have prevented the war.

HELMUT

Yeah, I get that. And? You think that is funny?

The others don't know whether to continue laughing or ...

Helmut looks angrily at Manfred.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Why are you shaking your head!? Because of me?

Manfred doesn't answer.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

You think you are funny? Or do you think I am stupid?

MANFRED

No.

HELMUT

What then?

Manfred doesn't answer.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

You! I am talking to you.

MANFRED

No, of course not. I am just goofing around, man.

HELMUT

You think this is funny?

He spreads out his arms to include their whole situation. Manfred doesn't answer.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

What about this? Is that funny?

Helmut gets up and grabs hold of Manfred.

Sebastian steps between them.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, calm down. He was just joking around, right?

Manfred nods.

Helmut lets go of Manfred and turns to Sebastian.

HELMUT

You want something? You think you are special, don't you?

SEBASTIAN

No.

HELMUT

Then why don't you stay the fuck out of it? Do you think that you are better than the rest of us?

Sebastian doesn't answer.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Where did you serve?

Again, Sebastian doesn't answer.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Do you know what I did?

HELMUT (CONT'D)

I was an officer.

SEBASTIAN

So?

There is high tension in the air.

HELMUT

So? I will tell you what. You would never have been able to do, what I did in the war. You know why? Because you lack courage! A good leader and soldier should have courage and never show fear.

Sebastian doesn't answer.

Helmut is right in front of Sebastian. Right in his face.

In a calm voice he says.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

You think I don't know your kind? Is that what you think? You think I don't recognize a stupid little blue-collar boy, when I see one?

Helmut smiles.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Oh yes. A stupid little working-class nobody. That is what you are, right?

Sebastian suddenly looks up at Helmut. With a quick movement Sebastian grabs Helmut by the throat with one hand. He tightens his grip. Helmut tries to get Sebastian to let go. Sebastian stares straight into Helmut's eyes.

SEBASTIAN

You! I don't know you. You ask me all these questions and think you are entitled to an answer?! Why?

Helmut can hardly breathe.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Why?

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You don't wanna know, where I was. If I told you, where I was and what I did, you would be shitting your pants right now ...

Beat.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Are we clear ..?

Helmut manages to nod even though he can barely breathe. Sebastian lets go of Helmut.

Beat.

Helmut is stunned. He goes back to his bed.

The others are quiet.

11 **EXT. ARMY BARRACKS / SANDBAG SILO - MORNING**

11

Ebbe, flanked by two soldiers, is in a kind of silo made from sandbags. The boys are standing around them. In the middle on the ground lies a teller mine. Spread out with ample distance between them are several other teller mines.

EBBE

These mines are not dummy mines. I repeat; they are not dummies!

EBBE (CONT'D)

This means that if you slip up, you will either get hurt very badly or die. Do I make myself clear?

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

EBBE

Good. Who volunteers to go first?

Nobody answers.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Either someone will volunteer or I will pick one. There is no way around it. You are all going to disarm a real mine today.

Still no reply.

EBBE (CONT'D)

You didn't think that your first live mine would be on the beach, did you?

Helmut raises his hand. Ebbe sees it, but ignores him and points to one young Wilhelm(15).

EBBE (CONT'D)

You! Yes, you. Come over here.

Wilhelm stands to attention in front of Ebbe.



EBBE (CONT'D)  
You will go first.

WILHELM  
Thank you, sir.

EBBE  
When you have disarmed the mine,  
you leave through there. You  
bring the top of the mine out  
with you, as proof. Understood?

WILHELM  
Yes, lieutenant.

EBBE  
Good. The rest of you come with  
me.

Ebbe, the two soldiers and the rest of the boys leave the  
silo.

EBBE (Shouting) (CONT'D)  
Are you ready in there?

WILHELM  
Yes, lieutenant.

EBBE  
Begin!

Wilhelm begins. His hands are trembling. (CU) The mine.  
Wilhelm does it. He wipes the sweat from his brow and  
leaves the silo.

He shows the lieutenant the fuse.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Good.

Wilhelm puts it in the box that one of the soldiers is  
holding.

The boys are lined up.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Next.

Helmut goes in.

Ebbe shouts.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Ready?

HELMUT  
Ready, lieutenant.

EBBE

Begin!

Helmut is quick. He comes out and throws the fuse in the box.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Well done, and quick. Good!

Ebbe pats Helmut on the shoulder. Helmut almost grows 3 feet from the praise.

Ludvig tries to hide his nervousness. His hands are shaking out of control. He clutches them behind his back. It is as if time is standing still for him. He hardly notices how the line is getting shorter and shorter, that it will be his turn very soon.

Now only Sebastian, Ludvig and Manfred remain.

Sebastian goes in. He comes out again, almost immediately.

Ebbe is surprised. Helmut smiles. His eyes say 'finally everyone sees that I am both quicker and more brave than Sebastian'.

Sebastian lifts up his arm, opens his hand. The top of the mine - the fuse - is in his hand. He puts it in the box.

SEBASTIAN

That would be one disarmed mine, Sir.

Sebastian smiles. So does everyone else. Except Helmut. Sebastian winks at Ludvig, when he walks past him.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You've got this.

With heavy steps Ludvig walks into the silo. He stops just inside the entrance. Ludvig looks at the mine, then at all the disarmed ones. He goes over to the mine. There are only two left. Ludvig sits down and looks at the two mines, then he picks one up. (CU) the mine. His hands are shaking.

Outside Sebastian, the boys, the two private soldiers and Ebbe are waiting.

EBBE (shouting)

Come on. The others would have done the lot by now.

Inside the silo. Ludvig hears Ebbe's cry faintly. His right hand slowly turns the fuse.

Outside. Ebbe looks at his watch.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
Are you asleep in there?

No answer.

SEBASTIAN  
Permission to go in and get him,  
sir?

EBBE  
Not a chance!

EBBE (CONT'D)  
God damn it!

Ebbe goes over to the silo.

EBBE (CONT'D)  
I am coming in!

Ebbe enters the silo.

When Ebbe comes into the silo, Ludvig is sitting in the middle cross-legged looking at the mine.

Ludvig slowly looks up at Ebbe.

LUDVIG  
I can do this..

EBBE  
Get up.

LUDVIG  
No, I can do this.

EBBE  
Put that mine down right now,  
soldier! That is an order!

LUDVIG  
No, I can do this! I want to do  
it.

Ebbe looks at Ludvig's shaking hands.

The boys outside cover their ears.

Ebbe comes out.

Ludvig turns the last of bit of the top. Nothing happens. He carefully disconnects the copper wires. He did it.

Ludvig gets up. He proudly exits the silo. He drops the top in the box. The others applaud. Even Ebbe is smiling.

The only one who hasn't been in yet is Manfred(16). He looks at the boys.

Ebbe sends in Manfred.

The others are still thrilled that Ludvig made it.

Suddenly there is a huge explosion.

Black smoke pour out of the silo.

Fade to black

Cut to:

12     **EXT. WEST COAST - MORNING**     12

Total (bird's eye) of the Danish North Sea coastline. The dunes, the bunkers, the sea, a truck is driving along the sea front on a gravel road.

13     **INT. ARMY TRUCK - MORNING**     13

As in the beginning Sebastian and the boys are back in an army truck. They look at each other and out through the back at the Danish landscape. They are down to 11 boys. One of them is missing. Manfred.

A Danish soldier is standing at the back of the truck. He reads aloud from an official set of rules.

SOLDIER (in German)

1. At all cost avoid interfering with Danes.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

2. All German de-miners are under strict curfew.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

3. Maintaining law and order is now a task overseen by the Danish authorities.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

4. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to mingle with Danish civilians.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

5. Attempt of escape will be punishable by prison or prison camp.

Cut to:

14     **EXT. GRAVEL ROAD / WEST COAST - DAY**     14

The army truck stops. This is the end of the line for them. The boys jump off the truck which drives off.

The boys are assembled in the quietness. They look around. They are outside a barbwire fence. A sign says: *Achtung Minen! Danger Mines! No Access!*

In front of the entrance are two guards armed with guns and rifles. Sebastian and the boys pass the guard point. They head down the small gravel road. Towards the dunes and the sea.

15     **EXT. GRAVEL ROAD / WEST COAST - DAY**

15

The boys march along a gravel road with barb-wire on either side.

CUT TO:

The boys and Sebastian reach an old tarred wooden fishing hut inside the fenced off area. The hut is right in the middle of the dunes. It is a beautiful setting.

If it hadn't for all the barbwire and the fencing it would have been scenic.

Not far from the fishing hut is a little run-down two-winged farmhouse. We see, that a **girl** (5) is playing just outside the farmhouse.

16     **EXT. FISHING HUT - DAY**

16

A military jeep with a trailer pulls up in front of the fishing hut. The boys, who were sitting down, get up and stand to attention. Carl is driving the jeep. He stops the jeep in front of the hut. He looks casually at the boys before he jumps out and walks over to the farmhouse.

Carl knocks on the door to the farmhouse.

It takes a while before Karin(52), the owner of the farmhouse, opens the door. They talk a little before Karin puts on her wooden clogs and follow Carl across to a barn. They stop in front of a traditional wooden door. Karin unlocks it.

17     **INT. CARL'S ROOM - DAY**

17

Inside. A tiny room with a low ceiling. Carl goes in first. The room has a simple bed with a mattress, a small table and a chair.

His expression says it all. He is clearly not happy with the standard of the accommodation.

KARIN

I know it is not much, but ...

CARL

No, it's fine. We appreciate that you can accommodate us.

Karin is just standing there. She looks at Carl somewhat perplexed. Carl notices.

CARL (CONT'D)

Yes?

KARIN

I don't know if I need to mention it, but I don't want any Germans near the farmhouse. The fishing hut is okay. As long as they stay over there.

Carl looks up at Karin and smiles.

CARL

They will keep to the hut.

Karin smiles.

KARIN

Okay then ... if you need anything or have any questions, let me know.

CARL

Okay.

Karin goes out and closes the door.

Carl sits on the bed a while. Carl takes out a bottle of whisky from his bag. He pours himself a glass. He drinks it down.

18 **EXT. FARMHOUSE - AFTERNOON**

18

Carl comes back out. He walks over to the fishing hut, where the boys are still standing to attention.

Carl whistles. Carl's dog, Otto, comes running from the jeep and over to Carl. He plays with it. Carl fill up a bowl of water and sets it down. The dog drinks from the water.

Carl washes his neck and hands from the tap on the outside of the farmhouse. He fills up his canteen.

Carl sits down on the stairs to the fishing hut. The dog comes over and sits next to him. He strokes it.

The sun is high in the sky and it is hot.

Carl is carrying a gun and wearing an English army uniform, with a **red arm band** with yellow text saying "**Dansk Minekontrol**".

Carl drinks again. The boys are thirstily eyeing his canteen, and the tap.

Carl gets up and stands in front of the boys. He looks at the boys. He looks tough. The boys are still standing to attention.

Carl goes over and stands in front of one of the boys.

Wilhelm (15) is the youngest of the boys. Evidently.

CARL  
Name?

WILHELM  
Hahn. Sir.

CARL  
First name?

WILHELM  
Wilhelm Hahn. Sir.

Carl moves on to the next boy.

CARL  
Name?

HELMUT  
Morbach. Helmut Morbach. Sir!

He stands in front of the twins.

CARL  
And you two. I take it that you  
two are brothers?

WERNER  
Twins, sir!

CARL  
Really? And you are?

WERNER  
Lessner. Werner and Ernst Lessner.  
Sir.

CARL  
Did I ask about your brother's  
name?

Carl stares at Werner and is about to move on.

WERNER  
Sorry, sir.

Carl stops. He smiles to Werner.

CARL  
Sorry for what?

Werner just stands there for a while.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Sorry for what? What exactly are  
you apologizing for, huh?

Werner looks down.

WERNER  
For saying my brother's name,  
sir.

Carl slaps Werner in the face.

CARL  
Look at me when I am talking to  
you!

Werner looks up.

Carl smiles.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Try again. What are you  
apologizing for?

WERNER  
I am not sure I ...

Carl slaps him in the face again.

CARL  
What do you want to apologize  
for?

Werner doesn't say anything.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Speak up, man!

WERNER  
I don't know what I am supposed  
to say, Sir!

Carl leans in close to Werner and whispers in his ear.

CARL  
Do I really need to tell you?

Werner looks timidly at Carl. Hesitantly he says:

WERNER  
The war?

Carl looks at him and around on all the boys. He slaps  
him on the shoulder.

CARL  
Your excuses are no good to me.



WERNER  
Yes, sir. Sergeant, sir!

Carl now looks at Ernst.

CARL  
Name?

Ernst replies quietly.

ERNST  
(quietly)  
Ernst. Lessner. Sir!

CARL  
Speak up, boy!

ERNST  
Ernst Lessner, sir.

Carl moves on. All the boys are a little uneasy. They can't figure him out.

CARL  
Name?

LUDVIG  
Hafke. Ludvig Hafke, sir.

Carl goes around to everyone and comes to the last boy.

CARL  
And you?

SEBASTIAN  
Schumann. Sebastian Schumann.  
Sir.

Carl goes a bit further back and faces the boys.

Carl looks at his dog.

CARL  
What do you say, Otto? Shall we  
let the boys have some water?  
Shall we? Do you think they are  
thirsty or what?

The dog (**Otto**) shakes his tail. Carl crouches down. He lets the dog lick his face.

He looks at the boys.

CARL (CONT'D)  
You may go get some water.

EVERYONE  
Thank you, sir!

The boys run over. They take turns filling up their canteens. Drink. They drink like they have never tasted anything sweeter in their lives.

19 **EXT. DUNES - AFTERNOON**

19

A little later. Carl is walking through the dunes. The boys walk after him in single file.

They reach the top of the dunes. Carl stops. He looks out across the sea and down to the beach. Despite the bunkers and all the barbwire spread out along the beach, it is a stunning sight for Carl and the boys. Waves crash onto the beach.

Carl walks down the dunes and onto the beach itself. The boys follow. Single file. He climbs onto a bunker, 6 meters up.

20 **EXT. BUNKER - DAY**

20

Carl is standing on top of the bunker looking down.

CARL

Come up here.

The boys climb up.

Carl is balanced on the very edge of the bunker. He leans into the wind. The wind is strong enough to hold him at an angle without him falling over.

Carl looks back at the boys. He smiles.

CARL (CONT'D)

Can you see the black flag down there?

Carl points to the north along the beach. The boys look for the flag. They see it. It is a long way away. At least 500 meters.

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

Carl turns around and looks south. He points again. Down the beach is another flag.

CARL

In the area between those flags and the road are 22.000 mines.

CARL (CONT'D)

You will disarm all of them. You do this, and you get to go home. Do you understand? Then you can go home. But not a second before.

(MORE)

CARL (CONT'D)

With six mines an hour, and provided you don't blow yourselves up, it will take you three months.

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

The boys grimace despairingly.

Carl turns and look at Sebastian. Sebastian looks at him skeptically. Carl goes over to him.

CARL

Do you want to say something?

SEBASTIAN

No, sir.

CARL

Are you sure?

SEBASTIAN

Absolutely sure, sir!

Carl looks at the boys. He stands there for a while.

CARL

Do I need to point out what happens to anyone who tries to escape?

EVERYONE

No, sir!

Cut to:

The boys are ready with long sticks and long yarns of string. Carl is crouching on the sand. He scoops away some sand to reveal a wooden beam just below the sand.

CARL

Can everyone see these?

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

CARL

These rafters run from the dunes down towards the sea approximately every 150 meters. You can step safely up to 1 meter on either side of such a rafter. Some are almost impossible to see, some have rotted away. You must find every single one of these rafters in the area, before we begin. It is absolutely essential that we clear the beach systematically in a precise grid.

CARL (CONT'D)

You start by clearing out a safe path here. We need a passage from here and all the way up to the dunes. Is that understood?

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

Beat.

CARL

You. Yes, you with the map.

Carl looks at Ludvig.

LUDVIG

Ludvig, sir.

CARL

Come here.

Ludvig quickly goes over and stands to attention in front of Carl.

CARL (CONT'D)

Did they teach you to read maps in your training?

LUDVIG

Yes, sir.

CARL

What is the name of the area we are standing in right now?

Ludvig looks down at the map. Not sure.

CARL (CONT'D)

Guess!

LUDVIG

Area number 3, Sir!?

Carl smiles.

CARL

Try again. This time give me the correct answer.

Ludvig is sweating nervously.

Sebastian next to Ludvig points to area number 7 on the map. Carl sees this, but makes no comment.

LUDVIG

Area number 7, sir.

CARL

Correct! And how many mines are buried within this area, according to the map?

Ludvig looks at the map. He is not sure. He looks to Sebastian for help.

CARL (CONT'D)

We want an answer today, Ludvig.

Ludvig spots a number next to area 7, but he is still not sure.

LUDVIG

1200 mines, sir!?

Carl smiles.

CARL

Correct! This area is to be your main thoroughway, your safe zone to and from the beach. From here we work our way into the other areas. We always use this passage when going up to the house or carrying disarmed mines up to the pickup point by the road. No shortcuts through other areas. Is this clear to everyone?

EVERYONE

Yes, sergeant!

CARL

There are mine maps for almost all the areas.

The boys are standing around him as Carl points to the map.

CARL (CONT'D)

The area is defined by a number - the dots or stars tell us what type of mine we are dealing with. The number is always in the left corner.

CARL (CONT'D)

Those of you who will be in charge of the count must make sure that these mine maps are always up-to-date. This task is as important as the de-mining itself. Don't you ever forget that!! This map is the only thing, that proves that a given area has been cleared of mines. Do you understand?

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

Helmut walks a few steps into the sand to get a better look.

Carl sees it. He lets him stand like that for a moment.

CARL

Stop!

Helmut stops and turns.

CARL (CONT'D)

What is your name, soldier?

HELMUT

Helmut, sir.

CARL

Helmut ..

HELMUT

Yes, sir?

CARL

Helmut, are you stupid?

HELMUT

No, sir.

CARL

Well, do you have a death wish?

HELMUT

No, sir.

Carl looks really irritated at Helmut.

CARL

How many meters from the raft did I say?

HELMUT

One meter, sir!

Helmut looks down. He realizes that he has walked 3-4 meters onto the beach.

Helmut freezes. Carl turns around and walks away. From a safe distance he shouts.

CARL

The rest of you, come with me.

The boys look at Helmut and then follow Carl.

Otto, Carl's dog, stays and looks at Helmut.

HELMUT

Here boy, come here, boy.

Carl whistles. Otto turns around and runs to Carl and the other boys.

Helmut just stands there for a while. Then he nervously walks back towards safety.

Cut to:

Carl with the boys up by the road.

CARL

You.

Carl points to Sebastian.

CARL (CONT'D)

Repeat!

SEBASTIAN

This is where we deposit the disarmed mines that we do not detonate ourselves. The teller mines are to be lined up in straight lines of 25 each. With the front of the mine pointing forward.

CARL

And?

SEBASTIAN

Always remember the mine count and take down the precise number. Every time.

Carl stands a while. Then smiles.

CARL

Good.

21 **EXT. DUNES - EVENING**

21

Sebastian and Wilhelm are walking along the gravel road. They are gathering blocks of dry grassy peat. Nobody speaks.

We see the other boys doing the same.

22 **INT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

22

Sebastian and Wilhelm are standing in the door way of their sleeping quarters, the tiny fishing hut. It is a small room with bunk beds that have no mattresses. A smoky, tarry smell hangs in the air.

They place the blocks of peat on the bunk beds, to sleep on. **Helmut is there too.** Wilhelm looks at Sebastian.

WILHELM

This is not so bad ... this whole thing.

Sebastian doesn't answer.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

So what are you going to do when we get back home?

Sebastian doesn't answer.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

I am going to be a machinist. My dad's friend owns a factory. A real nice place. He will take me in as an apprentice.

Beat.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

That's good, right? He promised me that I can start as soon as I get back home.

Helmut smiles sarcastically.

HELMUT

Aren't you forgetting a minor detail?

SEBASTIAN

Stay out of this.

Wilhelm looks puzzled.

HELMUT

Why? He might as well understand that his bright future is a fairy tale fantasy.

WILHELM

It is no fantasy. It is reality. He already promised me.

HELMUT

And what if ...

Sebastian stops Helmut.

SEBASTIAN

Stop it.

Wilhelm doesn't really understand what is going on.



Helmut stays quiet. He shakes his head .

WILHELM  
 (to Sebastian)  
 If you want, I could ask if he  
 will take in one more apprentice?

Beat.

WILHELM (CONT'D)  
 Only if you want to?

Sebastian fakes interest.

SEBASTIAN  
 Sure. Yeah. That would be great.

Wilhelm smiles. Helmut gets up and leaves. He shakes his head.

WILHELM  
 No problem. I will ask him. I  
 am sure they can use one more.  
 Especially when I tell them how  
 good you are.

Beat.

WILHELM (CONT'D)  
 Then we could go to work together  
 each day.

SEBASTIAN  
 Yeah.

Sebastian forces a smile.

23 **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

23

The sun is low on the horizon. The boys are sitting outside the fishing hut. Carl is eating his food a little distance from the boys. In his jeep. The boys are eyeing the food hungrily.

WILHELM  
 Look at him.

Carl puts his plate on the ground. Carl's dog, Otto, quickly laps up the food.

Wilhelm looks at Sebastian.

Carl gets up and walks over to the boys.

He stands in front of them.

CARL  
 If anyone has to piss, this is  
 the time to do it.

24 INT/EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING

24

The boys are in the house. Carl puts a board across the door and lock the boys inside.

Carl goes back across to his jeep. He starts up the engine and drives off.

The boys just sit there. Looking at each other.

25 INT. PUB IN THE VILLAGE - EVENING

25

Ebbe walks in through the door to a crowded pub. He looks around. He sees Carl in the bar, drinking. He walks over.

Ebbe sits down in the bar. There is a barstool between them. They don't speak.

Long beat.

CARL

Rank or not. You still look like a little boy.

Ebbe smiles.

EBBE

Well, I would rather be a boy in charge than a powerless old timer.

Carl smiles.

CARL

Congratulations ..

It really hurt him to say that.

Ebbe smiles.

EBBE

Thanks.. It means the world coming from you.

Carl sucker-punches Ebbe on the shoulder.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Ow!

Ebbe sits there a moment. Then he punches Carl back.

Carl smiles.

Ebbe sits a while. Then he leans forward.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Listen. I know you think that perhaps you should be the one wearing these instead of me.

Ebbe points to his lieutenant insignia.

CARL

Just count yourself lucky that you and I are friends. And you don't want to know what I think.

Beat.

EBBE

Hey, man. You are good at what you do, Better than me ..

Carl punches Ebbe again.

CARL

You still look like a little boy.

Ebbe sits a while. Ebbe smiles and points to his insignia on the shoulder.

EBBE

You see these? I think you should show me the respect I deserve.

Carl smiles.

CARL

You want my respect?

EBBE

Yeah.

Carl sucker punches Ebbe in the face.

EBBE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

God damn it. You fucking punched me!

Carl sits a while.

Carl smiles.

An officer comes over. He grabs Carl by the shoulder. Carl gets up and pushes him off. He stares at him viciously.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Look. It is fine. I deserve it.

The officer stays. He is staring at Carl.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Hey, did you fucking hear me? It is fine. He is a friend of mine!

The officer leaves.

They sit a while.

EBBE (CONT'D)

I am sorry about your dad..

CARL

Yeah, so you say.

EBBE

I am serious, Carl. I am really fucking sorry about it. I know you think I didn't try to do anything about it. But I did ..

Carl turns and looks Ebbe straight in the eyes.

CARL

Listen, let's just forget it, okay? I moved on. You moved on. I can see you have. It is just the way life is.

Ebbe sits there a while.

CARL (CONT'D)

Order a drink for us. No more talk..

Ebbe sits a while. Then he turns to the bartender. He motions him over.

Cut to:

26     **INT/EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**     26

The sun comes in through the windows where the boys are sleeping. Sebastian is awake.

27     **INT. CARL'S ROOM - MORNING**     27

Carl is sleeping. He wakes up with a jolt. Next to him in the bed is a half-naked woman.

28     **INT/EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**     28

Carl looks pretty thrashed. He removes the board in front of the door and opens. The boys hear him.

CARL

Five minutes, and we are out of here!

EVERYONE

Yes, sir.

29     **EXT. BEACH - DAY**     29

The boys have been ordered to begin de-mining. They are crawling along, spread out evenly along the beach in a long line.

Carl is observing from a safe distance. The dog is by his side.

The area they are in has already been precisely measured out into smaller squares.

Sebastian is inching himself along, carefully prodding the sand in front of him using his stick. He is moving ahead of the others.

Suddenly his feels something. He yells out.

SEBASTIAN  
I've got one, sir.

CARL  
Good!

Someone else shouts out as well.

HELMUT  
Here is another one.

WERNER  
Me too!

ERNST  
And here.

WILHELM  
I have one.

LUDVIG  
There is one here.

They all cry out, they have all found one.

Total.

Panorama of the entire beach.

This task seems endless.

Foam from the salty waves tumbles playfully across the beach in the wind. The sight is strangely mesmerizing ... even beautiful.

30 **EXT. GRAVEL ROAD / WEST COAST - DAY**

30

Later. The sun is shining. It is very hot. Ludvig, Werner and Ernst are dragging a trolley full of disarmed mines along the gravel road. They can see Carl and his dog further down the road. The trolley is heavy with its load of disarmed mines.

LUDVIG  
First two things when I get back home ... Beer and pussy.

Werner looks at Ludvig and smiles.

WERNER

Yeah? You have a girlfriend back home?

LUDVIG

No.. But it is the first thing I am gonna get. Believe me..

WERNER

What about your mum and dad? Aren't you going to find them first?

LUDVIG

Hey, they will have to wait..

Werner laughs.

LUDVIG (CONT'D)

What about you guys? What are you gonna do?

Ernst shouts back across his shoulder from the front of the trolley.

ERNST

Make money! Work and get rich, right Werner?

WERNER

That is correct, my friend.

LUDVIG

What kind of work?

ERNST

Bricklayers .. What else? The entire Reich has been bombed to oblivion. It needs rebuilding, and that is where we come in: 'Werner, Ernst & Sons'.

LUDVIG

And sons?

ERNST

Yeah, when we have kids they will take over the company.

Werner smiles.

WERNER

It just sounds bigger if we call it sons. I mean we'll be the owners AND the sons. But nobody will know that.

LUDVIG  
 Pretty clever. Maybe I should do  
 that too. Ludvig & Son. Got a  
 nice ring to it, don't you think?

WERNER  
 Yeah. Almost as nice as Werner,  
 Ernst & Sons.

Ludvig laughs.

LUDVIG  
 But first: Beer and pussy, right?

They laugh.

Cut to:

Carl is showing the boys how to stack the mines correctly  
 by the side of the road.

Ludvig has accounted for the mines on the mine map.

CARL  
 How many personnel mines?

LUDVIG  
 32, Sergeant!

CARL  
 Stock mines?

LUDVIG  
 56, Sergeant!

Carl counts.

CARL  
 Correct!

The boys are waiting. Carl is waiting for them to make a  
 move.

CARL (CONT'D)  
 What are you standing around for?  
 Get going!

The boys run off with the trolley.

Carl walks after them. The dog is by Carl's side at all  
 times.

31 **EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON**

31

Later. Sebastian is disarming yet another mine. He is  
 sweating profusely now and his hands are shaking. He  
 almost messes it up. But he makes it.

Behind Sebastian are 9 disarmed mines already. He carefully places the 10th one with the others

Helmut seems annoyed that Sebastian's speed. The others are nowhere near as fast as Sebastian.

They are all belly down on the sand. Several have taken off their uniforms in the intense heat.

Wilhelm the youngest of the boys are on top of the dunes. He throws a handful of sand down onto the boy below in the sand. The sand startles the boy. When he looks up. Wilhelm ducks down out of sight.

William does it a few times. The boy finally gets up and looks around. Still nothing to see.

BOY

Stop it! It is not funny!

No reply. Wilhelm is still ducked down out of sight. He is claspng his mouth, in tears laughing.

BOY (CONT'D)

I know that somebody is there ..

Wilhelm makes no reply. The boy gives up and goes back to work.

A little while later Wilhelm is about to do it again. This time Carl is standing right behind him. Carl pushes Wilhelm with his leg, so he falls to the sand. He steps on Wilhelm's hand, pushes it down into the sand. Wilhelm is in pain. Carl looks at Wilhelm's pile of disarmed mines: only two.

CARL

You wanna stay here forever?

WILHELM

No, sir.

Carl yells in Wilhelm's face.

CARL

Then stop playing and get to work!!

WILHELM

Yes, Sergeant!

Further down the beach we see several more German POV de-mining platoons, they look like lines of tiny ants crawling on the beach.

Suddenly we hear a thud from far away. A cloud of smoke appears on the horizon. Cold fear runs through the veins of the boys. A reminder of what happens, if they are not careful.



The boys get up. They look at the cloud of smoke. Then they keep going. Nobody says anything. They know that it could just as well have been one of them.

CARL

Six mines an hour!! Get on with it!!

The boys lie down on the sand and get back to work.

32 **EXT/INT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

32

Later. Outside the fishing hut. Some of the boys are sitting outside. Wilhelm is sitting on an old fence trying to use a leaf of grass to whistle.

Two other boys have a little throwing game going where they take turns throwing stones into a boot.

The doors and windows to the hut are open. Sebastian is lying down inside, looking out the window. He can see the others outside. Sebastian is building a wooden frame.

The little girl (**Elizabeth**) from the farmhouse is walking around just outside the barbwire surrounding the area of the fishing hut. Sebastian smiles when he sees her.

She is dressed in a home made dress - vaguely resembling a princess' gown. She is pushing an old-fashioned pale blue baby stroller with a doll in it.

She walks up to the fence. She looks at the boys sitting outside. Initially, the boys ignore her.

The twins Werner and Ernst are sitting next to each other. Werner smiles at the girl.

Helmut is sitting close by. He looks at the twins.

The girl walks back and forth a couple of times. She picks up her doll from the cart and shows it the boys.

The doll is very worn and almost all its hair has fallen out. She strokes the doll's bald head.

She holds up the doll, so the boys can get a good look.

The girl moves the arm of the doll so it looks like it is waving.

Werner waves back and smiles.

Suddenly the girl picks up a piece of bread and takes a bite from it. She puts the bread back in the doll's pram.

Werner, one of the twins, sees this and goes to the fence.

Werner crouches down and smiles to the girl.

WERNER (in German)  
What is her name?

The girl looks at Werner, perplexed.

WERNER (CONT'D)  
Do you understand German?

The girl smiles.

GIRL (in Danish)  
Today is her birthday. She turns  
five.

Werner knows that she doesn't understand him. But then again, he also has no clue what she is saying either.

Sebastian can see and hear everything that is going on outside.

WERNER (in German)  
Well, she is really cute.

GIRL  
You can all attend her birthday party, if you want. There will be layered cake and hot chocolate.

Werner reaches through the fence and strokes the doll's head. His other hand is reaching for the bread.

GIRL (CONT'D)  
She has a boo-boo. Look.

The girl points to a band-aid on the doll's leg.

Werner pulls his hand back and covers his mouth. The girl smiles.

GIRL (CONT'D)  
Ow.

WERNER (tysk)  
I'll say. Ow, indeed.

Werner takes out a tiny strip of gauze from his pocket and reaches for the doll. Through the barbwire.

WERNER (CONT'D)  
May I?

The girl hands him the doll. Werner carefully wraps the doll's leg.

WERNER (CONT'D)  
There you go. As good as new.

The girl touches the gauze and smiles.

GIRL

Thank you.

WERNER (in German)

You are welcome.

Suddenly Karin, the girl's mother, is standing behind the barbwire to the farmhouse.

KARIN

Elizabeth. Elizabeth!! Get over here right away!

Karin runs over and grabs the girl by the hand. Pulls her away. Away from them.

KARIN (CONT'D)

Come on.

The girl is resisting. She doesn't want to follow.

KARIN (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you? Come here!

Karin pulls the girl along. The girl reluctantly lets herself be pulled away.

On the way back the little girl turns around and waves. Werner waves back. He smiles at both of them. The mother ignores him.

Werner straightens up and goes back and sit down. Helmut gets up and stands directly in front of Werner.

HELMUT

We were told; No contact with Danish civilians!

Werner ignores Helmut.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Are you deaf?

Sebastian looks out at them through the open door. Werner gets up and stands in front of Helmut. He puts his face an inch in front of Helmut's face.

WERNER

Did you want something, Mr. officer?

Helmut stands there a moment. Werner shows no fear. Helmut turns around and goes into the fishing hut. From behind his uniform Werner takes out the bread he took from the girl. He tears it in half and gives Ernst half.

WERNER (CONT'D)

Eat, brother.

33 **INT. FISHING HUT - CONTINUOUS**

33

Helmut sits down on his bed. Unties his boots and takes them off.

He looks at Sebastian, who is still sitting on his bed.

Helmut lies down. He clutches his stomach. He is hungry.

SEBASTIAN

You are good at making friends,  
huh?

HELMUT

Mind your own business.

Beat.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

You know, just because you are  
quick, doesn't make you the leader.

SEBASTIAN

Good. I don't want to lead  
anybody.

Beat.

HELMUT

Arr.. why the fuck can't we get  
some food.

Beat.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

I know what you all think of me.

SEBASTIAN

No, I don't think you do. But  
most of us here recognize an  
asshole from Rotherbaum, when we  
see one.

Helmut is somewhat surprised that Sebastian knows where he comes from.

34 **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

34

Carl locks the hut off. He walks back across to the farm house.

35 **EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**

35

The following day. The boys are standing to attention looking at Carl who is eating, sitting down on the stone doorstep. There is no food for the boys.

36 **EXT. THE BEACH - DAY**

36

Later. The boys are de-mining the beach. Carl is on top of the dunes eating a sandwich. The boys look up at him. They are starving by now.

LUDVIG

He is eating again. Right in front of us. I bet he is sitting there just to rub it in.

SEBASTIAN

Forget it, Ludvig.. Just keep working.

LUDVIG

What a fucking pig.

37 **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

37

The boys are sitting outside looking across to the farm. There is a light behind the windows. Carl's door is open.

HELMUT

I think Sebastian should do it.

None of the boys say anything. Sebastian looks at Helmut.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Those who want Sebastian to do it raise your hands.

Only a couple of boys raise their hands.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

What is with you guys?! Are you not hungry?

(to Sebastian)

And you ... why don't you do something? You think we don't notice how he looks at you. You are his favorite. You ..

SEBASTIAN

He has no food! Don't you get it? And if he had food, he would never give it to us! He doesn't care about us. They all hate us. Get it into your heads! We are here, because they don't give a shit if we die.

Helmut is shocked by hearing the truth. Despondent he sits down.

38 **INT. FARMHOUSE - EVENING**

38

Sebastian carefully opens the door.

He carefully opens the door. Slowly, he enters. Inside is another door.

Sebastian knocks again, politely.

CARL

Yes?

SEBASTIAN

It is me, Sebastian. Sorry, Sergeant.

Carl is lying on the bed. An almost empty whisky bottle is on the table. Carl is drunk. He looks up at Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Sergeant, sir. Sorry for the disturbance.

CARL

What do you want?!!

CARL (CONT'D)

Answer me, boy!

SEBASTIAN

I am here on behalf of everyone, Sergeant.

CARL

And?

SEBASTIAN

We just wanted to hear if the sergeant has maybe heard anything about any food?

Sebastian is just standing there.

Sebastian tries to say something, but Carl cuts him short.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I think that if we don't get some..

CARL

WHAT do you think?

Carl gets up.

Beat.

He stands in front of Sebastian.

CARL (CONT'D)

What exactly do you think?

Carl grabs hold of Sebastian's face and and shoves him up against the wall.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Do you think I feel sorry for  
you?!

SEBASTIAN  
No, sir.

CARL  
I don't give a shit about you.  
Do you understand?! You can all  
die for all I care.

Beat.

SEBASTIAN  
I know that, sir.

Carl smiles and lets go of Sebastian.

CARL  
You know that? What else do you  
know if I may ask?

Sebastian stands there for a moment.

CARL (CONT'D)  
What do you know?

SEBASTIAN  
I know that the sergeant do not  
care about us.

Carl looks at Sebastian. Carl looks furious.

Beat.

CARL  
Good night, Sebastian.

Sebastian is about to leave.

CARL (CONT'D)  
And Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN  
Yes, sir?

Carl smiles.

CARL  
I think it will be better, if you  
stick to the fishing hut. No  
contact. Remember that.

SEBASTIAN  
Of course, Sergeant. Good night.

39     **INT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

39

Sebastian comes in. Everyone is looking at him with great expectations. Sebastian shakes his head. Helmut shakes his head.

SEBASTIAN

I told you ...

The disappointment on their faces is clear. They are starving.

Sebastian goes in and lies down on his bed and shuts his eyes.

40     **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

40

Helmut is behind the fishing hut. He is loosening some boards.

Cut to:

Carl puts the board across the door to the fishing hut and locks up.

41     **INT. FISHING HUT - NIGHT**

41

Helmut is in bed. He is awake. He looks around on the other guys who are sleeping. He crawls out of bed.

Wilhelm sees him.

WILHELM

(whispering)

Are you running away?

HELMUT

(whispering)

Shh.. No.

WILHELM

Where are you going?

HELMUT

I am going to find something to eat. Go back to sleep. I'll be back soon.

Helmut crawls out through the hole in the wall.

42     **EXT. BEACH - MORNING**

42

Following day. CU Carl. We see that he is looking at Werner and Ernst (the twins). Ernst is shaking.

WERNER

Honestly, Sergeant. He can't keep going.

(MORE)



WERNER (CONT'D)

I know my brother, sir. I have been watching him the entire morning. He keeps throwing up.

Ernst looks like a walking dead.

CARL

Ernst?

ERNST (mumbles)

It is true, sir. I am sorry. I don't feel well. I don't know what it is. I just feel sick as a dog. If only I could go lie down. Just for an hour.

CARL

Ernst, you know I can't accept that.

ERNST

I know, sir. But I am really feeling sick.

They stand there a while. Carl looks sternly at the twins.

Ernst looks up. Carl forces a smile. He lifts up his hand and gently touch Ernst's chin.

CARL

Aw.. What a shame.

ERNST (mumbling)

I am begging you ..

CARL

I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

ERNST

I am begging you, sir.

Carl looks down at Otto the dog that is sitting next to him.

CARL

We could let him rest for an hour. What do you say Otto? Should we believe them? Or are they trying to trick us?

Carl looks at Ernst. He smiles at him.

Beat.

CARL (CONT'D)

Get back to work.

WERNER

Sir?

CARL

You heard me. Get back to work!

Carl looks at Werner. Smiles. He puts his index finger across his lips. Signaling that the conversation is over.

WERNER

Yes, sir.

Ernst and Werner go back along the beach.

43 **EXT. BEACH - MORNING**

43

Later. Sebastian is disarming a teller mine. He is struggling. It is not going his way. Sebastian curses. In the end he manages to get it done.

44 **EXT. THE BEACH - MORNING**

44

Wilhelm, the youngest of the boys, is not far from Sebastian. He looks in a terrible state. His hands are shaking violently. He blows on his hands, as if to warm them up. He suddenly vomits.

45 **EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - MORNING**

45

Meanwhile. Carl is up by the road. During the night, someone has put up a scarecrow wearing German uniform. They have used a round teller mine for the face.

Someone has painted smiling face on the mine and written "Die you German swine".

GUARD

Should we take it down, sergeant?

CARL

Leave them.

Carl walks back down the gravel road. Towards the fishing hut.

46 **EXT. BEACH - DAY**

46

Meanwhile. Sebastian stops working his own line, gets up and walks over to Wilhelm, who looks like he is in trouble with one of the mines.

Suddenly the mine goes off. Sebastian who was on his way over is thrown back by the blast.

47 **EXT. FISHING HUT - DAY**

47

Carl is down by the fishing hut. He hears the explosion and looks up. He sees the cloud of black smoke coming from the beach. Otto the dog is barking.

Carl sits down and puts his arms around the dog.

CARL

There goes the first one...

48

**EXT. BEACH - DAY**

48

Sebastian gets back up. He pats himself down to check if he is wounded. He runs to Wilhelm.

Sebastian sees that Wilhelm, apart from being wounded to the face and all over his body, is also missing both his arms. Wilhelm looks up at Sebastian, smiling.

WILHELM

I am fine ... I am fine ...

Sebastian smiles back.

SEBASTIAN

That is good, Wilhelm, that is good. It doesn't look too bad.

WILHELM

If I could just rest for bit. Maybe just for an hour. Then I'll be good to go ..

The other boys on the beach are frozen in their positions - in their own areas.

Sebastian is calmly holding Wilhelm. Evidently this is not the first time he has dealt with death and mayhem.

Sebastian looks up at Helmut, Ernst and Werner. He yells.

SEBASTIAN

Help me!!

They do not react.

Sebastian starts to put pressure on the wounds to slow down the bleeding by wrapping his belt around what is left of Wilhelm's arms. Sebastian looks at Helmut who is standing a short distance away.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Helmut. I need your help. We need to get him off this beach.

Helmut is still horrified. He doesn't react.

Sebastian starts lifting and dragging Wilhelm across the sand. He is looking for someone to come and help him.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

For christ's sake, help me, **Helmut!**

Helmut is just standing there, catatonic. Werner now comes running over to help.

WERNER  
What are you doing? Help him,  
for Christ's sake!!

Werner grabs hold of Wilhelm.

SEBASTIAN  
We need to get him up to the house.

Werner and Sebastian carries Wilhelm up through the dunes, towards the fishing hut.

49 **EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**

49

Gently they put Wilhelm down on the ground.

SEBASTIAN  
Hold this tight!

Werner doesn't do it right.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
No, like this. Tightly, Okay?  
You got him?

Werner nods.

From the farmhouse Karin peers out his front door, curiously. She quickly shuts the door once she realizes what has happened.

Sebastian runs over to the jeep and finds a first aid kit. He opens it. It is half empty. He empties the contents of the bag on the ground. Other than a bit of gauze there really isn't anything of use.

Cut to:

Sebastian applies pressure and wraps gauze on Wilhelm's arms, trying to prevent him bleeding to death.

Sebastian yells for Carl.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Sergeant!!

Wilhelm is now crying and screaming. His face is a pale white mask.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Sergent!! We need you!!

Cut to:

50     **INT. FARMHOUSE / CARL'S ROOM - DAY**

50

Carl is in his tiny room. We hear Sebastian's cries for help and Wilhelm screaming.

Carl sits on the bed a while. He takes out a small leather pouch. Inside are several ampoules of methadone. He takes one out of the pouch.

Cut to:

51     **EXT. FISHING HUT - DAY**

51

Carl is walking towards the two boys and the wounded Wilhelm. He kneels and breaks open the ampoule. Carl administers the methadone to Wilhelm. He looks at Wilhelm and smiles.

CARL

Shh...

Beat.

SEBASTIAN

Thank you, sir.

Carl doesn't say anything. He gets up and walks back.

Sebastian looks at Carl walking away. Did Carl help to stop the screaming or because he actually felt sorry for the boy?

52     **EXT. FISHING HUT - DAY**

52

Wilhelm is on the back of a military truck. A samaritan is behind the wheel. Sebastian and Werner are looking on. The jeep drives off.

53     **EXT. FARMHOUSE / CARL'S ROOM - AFTERNOON**

53

Later. Sebastian knocks on Carl's door. No answer. Sebastian goes in. He is still covered in blood.

SEBASTIAN

Sergent?

Carl is lying on the bed. He looks briefly over at Sebastian.

CARL

What did I tell you about the farm being off limits?

Beat.

SEBASTIAN

I think we have a problem, sir.

Carl and Sebastian come in. Inside the boys are lying on the floor and in the beds cramped up in fetal positions, clutching their bellies. They are sweating and shaking. In turns they scream and cramp up. It is a nightmarish scene. They are all pale and seriously sick.

Both Sebastian and Carl are surprised.

In his bed Helmut props himself up on his elbow as they enter.

HELMUT

Sergeant! Everything is my fault, sir.

CARL

What is? What happened?

HELMUT

It is my fault, sergeant. We were all so hungry last night, that I went over to the farm last night and took some animal feed. I am sure that is what made everyone so sick.

Carl takes it in. Then he smacks Helmut hard across the face.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

I am so sorry, sir. I am the only person to blame. We have had no food for several days now.

Beat.

Carl looks furious. He looks around at the boys. Many of them are throwing up onto the floor.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

I am so sorry, sir.

Carl hits him again.

CARL

Shut up!!

Beat.

CARL (CONT'D)

Did everyone eat it?

HELMUT

Everyone except Sebastian, sir.

Carl looks at Sebastian.

55     **EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY**

55

Carl knocks on the door to the farmhouse. No one comes to the door.

Carl knocks again. Hard this time.

The daughter opens. She looks at Sebastian, who is standing behind Carl. Karin comes to the door.

KARIN

What is he doing here? I told you that I want nothing to do with them. No contact. That was the deal.

CARL

Come with me.

56     **INT. BARN - DAY**

56

Carl pushes open the barn door. Carl and Sebastian enter. Karin follows.

KARIN

When I tell you, that there is nothing edible in here, I am not kidding.

They look around. Evidently it has been many years since this was a farm with animals.

CARL

They said that they had stolen some animal feed from in here.

Karin walks down through the empty barn

KARIN

As you can see, there is nothing here.

Carl stops at the stairs leading to a small loft.

CARL

What is up there?

KARIN

What do you mean? This is the hay loft.

They go up. Upstairs is a sack of very old animal feed.

CARL

What is in that one?

Karin looks into the sack.

KARIN

If they have eaten from this it is no wonder they got sick. It is full of rat shit. You see?

Karin picks some of it up in his hand. She shows it to Carl and Sebastian. She can't help smiling.

KARIN (CONT'D)

Hell, that right here could kill a horse.

CARL

And what is funny about that?

KARIN

So I finally did get me a few Germans after all.

KARIN (CONT'D)

Hey, they can finish it off if they like.

Carl and Sebastian leave.

57 **EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY**

57

Carl and Sebastian cross the yard. Karin and the little girl are watching them from the door.

SEBASTIAN

What was she laughing about?

Carl stops. He looks at Sebastian.

CARL

Let me just clarify one thing for you. You and I don't talk. You understand? You don't speak to me. I ask you, and the you answer. And you address properly. Are we clear?

SEBASTIAN

Yes, sir!

Carl and Sebastian walk across the yard.

CARL

Why didn't you eat any of it?

SEBASTIAN

He didn't offer it to me, sergeant.

Carl acknowledges his answer.



58     **EXT. THE BEACH - DAY**     58

Sebastian is down by the edge of the sea, he is filling up a big canteen with sea water.

59     **EXT. FISHING HUT - DAY**     59

The boys are lined up. They are drinking sea water. And throwing up.

SEBASTIAN

Listen up! You have eaten rat shit. All of you. Which can be fatal. So get it all out of you system.

Sebastian helps out where he can.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Yes, I know. It is horrible. But you have to swallow it. Drink it down. empty those stomachs.

The boys vomit, emptying their stomachs. Carl is sitting some distance away. Watching the spectacle. He shakes his head.

60     **INT. FISHING HUT - AFTERNOON**     60

Later. The boys are sleeping. Shaking, freezing, sweating.

Cut to:

Sebastian nails the two boards back around the back of the hut. He checks the rest of the hut for loose boards. Carl follows him around, making sure it is done properly. Nobody speaks.

61     **EXT. FARM HOUSE / CARL'S ROOM - EVENING**     61

Carl is drinking whisky, outside, alone. He throws a stick across the yard. Otto happily retrieves the stick over and over.

62     **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**     62

Carl is standing in front of Sebastian, who is sitting outside.

CARL

Get inside!

Sebastian gets up. He looks at Carl.

SEBASTIAN

Permission to show you something, sir?

Carl nods.

Sebastian goes into the hut and comes out with the frame he built earlier. He has attached 4 strings to it so they make 9 squares.

Sebastian puts the frame on the ground. He puts a stick in each square.

Carl is impressed although he doesn't show it. This will no doubt lessen the risk and make the de-mining work easier.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I know how much the sergeant hate us. And that the sergeant don't care where we die of starvation or get blown up by a mine. But I believe that it will look much better for you if we die on the beach, de-mining ... Sir.

Beat.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I mean the beach has to be cleared, right?

Beat.

CARL

Get in the house.

Sebastian stands there for a moment.

CARL (CONT'D)

Get inside, I said!

Carl puts the board across the door to the hut. He stands there for a moment. He walks back across the yard.

63 **INT. FISHING HUT - CONTINUOUS**

63

Sebastian is sitting inside the fishing hut looking at the sick boys.

64 **INT. KITCHEN / BARRACKS - MORNING**

64

The following day. Carl walks down a long hallway. We follow him from behind. He goes through a door and into a kitchen. He is alone. Carl looks around. Then he goes into the pantry. He fills a crate with potatoes, onions and loaves of bread.

Suddenly a chef enters. He looks at Carl.

CHEF

What are you doing here?

CARL

What does it look like? I am being the fucking gofer and picking up the food you should have delivered to the officers already.

CHEF

I haven't heard anything about that.

CARL

Du you want to go and deliver it yourself?

The chef doesn't answer.

CARL (CONT'D)

I didn't think so.

Carl smiles to the chef and leaves.

65 **EXT. BARRACKS - MORNING**

65

Carl is driving through the barracks' military area. He drives past the military hospital and stops. He sits there a while. The he backs up to the red cross building.

66 **INT. WOODEN BARRACKS / RED CROSS - MORNING**

66

Carl enters the building. It is very busy and there are lots of wounded patients.

Carl speaks to a nurse.

CARL

Good morning.

NURSE

Good morning..

CARL

Wilhelm Hahn? His hands had been blown off. They brought him in the other day.

She checks a journal.

NURSE

Wilhelm passed last night.

Carl stands there a moment.

NURSE (CONT'D)

He is still here if you want to see him?

CARL

No, thanks.

Carl turns around and goes back out again.

67     **EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**

67

Carl puts the box of food in front of the fishing hut. He unlocks the door and goes over to his own place.

Cut to:

Sebastian is ladling out food to the boys. It is a thick broth of potatoes, onions and bread. They all look better already. He boys sit outside the hut. They wolf down the food as if it was their last meal ever.

Sebastian looks thankfully over at Carl who sits some distance away looking at them.

Cut to:

Later. Carl is now over by the fishing hut.

CARL  
Attention, everyone ..!

The boys look up.

CARL (CONT'D)  
I have good news and bad news.

Beat.

CARL (CONT'D)  
The good news is that I have just been to see Wilhelm. They are taking good care of him and he is well, considering the circumstances. The most important thing is that he will survive. And as soon as he is well enough, he will go back to his family. He sends his regards to you all.

Helmut looks relieved. The boys are happy.

Carl stands there a moment looking at the boys.

CARL (CONT'D)  
The bad news is that we are far behind on our schedule, and we have to sped up a lot. We will be doing long shifts with a minimum of 8 mines an hour for the rest of the week.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Understood?

EVERYONE  
Yes, sir!

CARL  
Be ready in ten minutes.

The boys get up and run into the house to get ready. Carl looks at Sebastian. There is something about his gaze.

68     **EXT. THE BEACH / THE DUNES - DAY**

68

The boys are once more clearing mines. Their pace is quicker now. It seems like they have been re-energized. And they are using Sebastian's new invention, the frames. Carl walks around among them. He shouts:

CARL  
Eight mines an hour!! Tempo!

Cut to:

Carl whistles loudly. That is the signal for the end of the shift.

Cut to:

the boys are walking through the dunes. Towards the fishing hut. They look exhausted.

69     **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

69

Carl locks the door to the fishing hut.

Fade to black

Cut to:

70     **EXT. FARMHOUSE / CARL'S ROOM - NIGHT**

70

A few days later. Carl is lying on his bed. He is asleep. An empty whisky bottle is on the table. A half-naked woman (one we haven't seen before)

We hear a lot of noise coming from the yard out in front. People are laughing and yelling.

Carl wakes up and gets up with great difficulty. He opens the door and looks out. By the hut is a truck and two jeeps.

Carl looks at the woman who is rummaging around for her clothes.

CARL  
You just stay there until I tell  
you you can go! Do you understand?

Carl puts on his uniform and goes outside.

71 **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

71

In front of the fishing hut Ebbe and a group of high-ranking Danish and British officers are standing in a circle. They are laughing loudly and are obviously drunk.

Ludvig is on his knees in the circle. In front of him is an English officer. He is pissing all over Ludvig's face.

Carl comes over.

EBBE

Good evening, Carl..

CARL

What the hell are you doing?

EBBE

What we are doing? What does it look like, Carl?

Ebbe grabs Carl by the shoulders in a friendly manner.

EBBE (CONT'D)

We are having a bit of fun.

Carl doesn't comment on Ebbe's comment.

CARL

I'll say..

Ebbe smiles.

EBBE

Right?

Another officer steps into the circle and starts peeing on Ludvig's face. The officer is laughing.

Carl is looking on. Sebastian and the other boys are standing just near by.

One of the officers takes out his hand gun. He aims it at the boys. He changes his aim from boy to boy.

A third officer steps forward to piss on Ludvig. He pulls out his dick, but nothing comes out. He can't piss. The others laugh.

BRITISH SOLDIER

Shit in his mouth instead!

The others laugh.

The officer laughs and pulls his pants down and turns around. He sits places his ass over Ludvig's face.

OFFICER GARTH

Open your mouth, Nazi boy!!

Ludvig is crying.

Carl looks around at this madness. Something inside a transformation takes place. He is repulsed by these Danish and British officers.

The officer with the gun goes over and points it at Ludvig.

OFFICER GIVENS  
Do as your fucking told, Nazi  
boy!! Open your goddamn mouth!!

Ludvig opens his mouth.

The others are laughing loudly. Sebastian jumps in and protects Ludvig.

OFFICER GIVENS (CONT'D)  
Aww, isn't that sweet. Two nazi  
brothers looking out for each  
other.. Think I won't just shoot  
you both?

The officer puts the gun to Sebastian's head.

OFFICER GIVENS (CONT'D)  
How 'bout I start with you, eh?

Suddenly Carl steps in. He puts his hand on the gun.

CARL  
As much as I would like to see  
him dead too, I need him on the  
beach..

Beat.

The British officer turns around and sends Carl a look. Carl smiles back to him. He is calm.

CARL (CONT'D)  
I need him down there, okay? I  
need all of these boys down there.  
6 mines an hour, remember?

Carl points towards the beach. After a while the officer smiles at Carl.

OFFICER GIVENS  
Just having a laugh, eh?

He pats Carl on the shoulder. He shouts to the others.

OFFICER GIVENS (CONT'D)  
Alright, we should get going,  
boys.

Cut to:

Carl is next to Ebbe and the Brits behind a truck. On the back is a bunch of metal detectors. A guy takes a few of them and drops them on the ground.

Ebbe and Carl are standing next to each other.

CARL

This is not cool, Ebbe.. I had just managed to get a real good pace going on the beach..

EBBE

What is this I hear about you picking up food for the Germans?

CARL

Yeah? Where did you hear that?

EBBE

Is it true, though?

CARL

I picked up some food for myself. I have a healthy appetite.. And a few bits for my dog.

EBBE

If I were you I wouldn't even think about doing that again. It upsets people, you know? They get uptight.

CARL

You mean it upsets you?

EBBE

Maybe I just find it very peculiar that you need to go and get food, when we are paying the old farmer here very generously for your board and lodging.

Ebbe doesn't answer.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Do you hear what I am saying, Carl?

CARL

Yeah, yeah. I hear you, Ebbe.

EBBE

Hey, look at me when I am talking to you!

Carl turns to Ebbe.



CARL

I hear you ... And now I see you too .. Do you hear me?

CARL (CONT'D)

You forgot to tell me that I would be given a bunch of German kids. That pretty much changes the whole damn situation, don't you think?

EBBE

Does it? I don't see why. If they were old enough to go to war, they are old enough to clean up after it.

CARL

I want you to help me get some older and more experienced men for my unit.

Beat.

EBBE

Do you know what they call it when a child steals?

Carl smiles.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Oh, you know this one?

CARL

You are not answering my request.

EBBE

Yes I am. Just listen carefully.

Ebbe smiles.

EBBE (CONT'D)

If a child steals, it is called a 'mania'. Right? If grown-ups steal, it is 'klepto-mania'. You with me so far?

Ebbe smiles.

EBBE (CONT'D)

But what is it called when a country steals?

Ebbe provides the answer.

EBBE (CONT'D)

'Ger-mania'!

He bellows with laughter at his own joke. Carl is stone faced.

CARL

None of these boys have a clue  
about what they are doing...

Ebbe smiles.

EBBE

Well, you will just have to teach  
them then, won't you? After all,  
that is why you are here..

Ebbe smiles and looks at Carl.

EBBE (CONT'D)

They are Germans, Carl. Young,  
old ... all Germans. Relax.  
Enjoy life, for christ's sake..  
It is just a bit of payback, right?  
If we lose a couple here and there,  
so be it. It is part of the job.

Ebbe smiles to Carl.

EBBE (CONT'D)

You haven't started caring about  
the enemy have you?

CARL

Fuck no. I mean, they don't mean  
shit to me.

EBBE

Good. Better them than us, right?

CARL

Yeah .. Hell, yeah.

EBBE

Good, Carl. You had me worried  
there for a second..

CARL

No, no. It's all good, you know?

Carl clenches his fist. Ebbe sees.

Ebbe looks at Carl. He pats him on the shoulder.

EBBE

See you later, my friend. Enjoy  
your Saturday..

72

**EXT. GRAVEL ROAD / WEST COAST - MORNING**

72

Carl is by the road. He is looking at the three  
scarecrows. The two guards are standing next to him.

CARL

Why is this still here?

GUARD  
Sir?

CARL  
Get rid of it.

GUARD  
But?

CARL  
Now!!

The two guards crawl over the ditch and start taking down the scarecrow.

Carl looks over at a big stack of disarmed mines by the roadside.

CARL (CONT'D)  
And get someone to come and pick up these mines immediately!

GUARD  
Yes, sergeant!

73 **EXT. BUNKER - EARLY EVENING**

73

Sebastian is sitting on top of a bunker. The sun is huge, very beautiful and almost completely red. Carl climbs up and joins him. He sits down.

Carl look out across the sea. The wind is blowing gently in his face.

SEBASTIAN  
I would like to thank you, sir.

CARL  
For what?

SEBASTIAN  
For pretending to look out for us, sir.

CARL  
You think I don't mean it?

SEBASTIAN  
It doesn't matter that much, sir. It helps them. That is what is important.

They sit for a moment.

CARL  
Wilhelm didn't make it.

SEBASTIAN  
I know, Sergeant.

Sebastian looks at Carl.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
It was for the best, Sergeant.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
So we could get on with the mines.  
So we can go home ... eventually.

A necklace with a small silver cross hangs around Sebastian's neck. Carl looks at it.

Sebastian notices that Carl is looking at the cross. He tucks it under his shirt.

CARL  
It is alright.. I am not going  
to take it.

Beat.

CARL (CONT'D)  
Does it help you?

SEBASTIAN  
Sometimes.. Sir.

Beat.

Sebastian sits a while, then he takes off the necklace and hands it to Carl.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Try holding it, sir.

Sebastian smiles.

CARL  
No, thanks.

SEBASTIAN  
Yes, go on, sir. Try holding it.

CARL  
No, thanks.

SEBASTIAN  
Really, take it, sir. Try holding  
it.

Hesitantly Carl reaches for the cross.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
BOOM!

Carl jumps up. They both laugh.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

My dad gave it to me. That is the main reason I wear it. He always did that. Gave me a fright every time. That is mainly why I wear it.

They sit a while without saying anything. Carl gets up.

CARL

Good night, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

Good night, sergeant.

Carl gets up and leaves.

Sebastian remains.

74 **EXT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

74

Carl puts the board across the door to the hut. He stands there for a moment. Then he removes the board and goes back to the farm.

75 **EXT. THE BEACH/THE DUNES - DAY**

75

The following day. Sebastian is on the beach. The sun is shining. He is disarming a mine and is about to lift it up, when he sees another mine just underneath it. Two mines on top of each other.

SEBASTIAN

Shit!

Sebastian puts it back carefully. He gets up and shouts to the others. They can't hear him.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Ludvig! Stop! There are two mines on top of each other!

Ludvig hears him and stops.

LUDVIG

What is the matter, Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

They've put two mines on top of each other!

LUDVIG

What? I can't hear you.

CUT TO:

Werner and Ernst (the twins) are far away. They are doing their sweeping routine with three meters between them. They can't hear Sebastian.

Werner is cursing the mine in front of him. He struggles to disarm it. But finally gets it done.

WERNER

Ahh.. I got you, you little bastard.

Ernst suddenly hears the other boys shouting at them.

ERNST

Hey, Werner, stop. The others are shouting at us. Something is wrong.

Werner keeps on working.

Werner lifts up the mine. He smiles. Suddenly his facial expression changes. Underneath the mine is another mine. Werner looks over at his twin brother, Ernst. An enormous explosion goes off. The effect of two mines. Werner evaporates.

Ernst's face gets splattered by the blood and flesh of his own brother. He is stunned. Then he jumps up and runs desperately over to Werner's area.

He looks for his brother, calls out his name. Werner is spread all over the place. Ernst staggers about inside the mine field, confused, shocked looking for pieces of his twin brother.

He screams. Ludvig and Sebastian come over. They overpower Ernst and hold him down.

Helmut who has seen everything just sits there, stunned, his hands keep on working, though.

Out of the corner of his eye, he sees a piece of Werner's body stuck in a low sand pine tree just off to his side. Helmut works faster and faster.

Sebastian runs over and try to stop him.

SEBASTIAN

Helmut stop!

Helmut pushes Sebastian away.

HELMUT

Leave me be.

Sebastian tries again.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Leave me be!

Helmut gets up and pushes Sebastian to the ground.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

What do you want? What do you want from me?! You have everything. Do you understand! You have won!

Helmut sits down and begins working. He is crying.

Carl comes running.

CARL

That is enough, soldier! You are a danger to us all, when you are digging like that!

Helmut keeps digging. Carl draws his gun. He points it at Helmut.

CARL (CONT'D)

Stop or I will shoot you!

Sebastian gets up.

He speaks calmly.

SEBASTIAN

Helmut. Stop. You hear me? Stop digging.

Helmut stops digging.

Sebastian sits down and holds him. Helmut breaks down crying.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Helmut, look at me.

Helmut can't look at him.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Helmut, look at me. It is okay. You hear? It is okay. We need your strength now. I need you. You hear? We must stand by each other now, right?

Helmut looks up.

Helmut believes him. He smiles through his tears.

Carl looks at them. And at Sebastian. Then he finally lowers the gun.

Later. Four of the boys are carefully walking in the minefield picking up the bits and pieces of Werner. They put it in buckets. It is very macabre. The mood is very heavy.

77     **INT. CARL'S ROOM - AFTERNOON**

77

Carl finds the leather pouch. He takes out an ampoule of methadone.

78     **INT. FISHING HUT - AFTERNOON**

78

Sebastian and Helmut are sitting by Ernst in the hut. Ernst is on the bed shaking.

Carl enters. He sits down. Carl breaks off the top of the ampoule and injects it into Ernst's arm.

ERNST

Sergeant. Is that you? Have you found my brother? We have to go down and get him. We can still save him.

CARL

We will look again tomorrow, it is too dark now.

ERNST

Okay. Good. That is good ..

Helmut and Sebastian look at Carl. Carl pats Ernst on the shoulder.

CARL

Just sleep now, okay?

Ernst dozes off.

Carl gets up and leaves.

Fade to Black.

79     **EXT. GRAVEL ROAD / WEST COAST - DAY**

79

A jeep stops. Two young German boys (**Gustav(19)**, **Albert(17)**) that we haven't seen earlier sit in the back.

The jeep drives off.

The two German boys look around. Everything is quiet. They are standing just outside the guards and the barbwire fence.

They gather themselves and go through the gate. Down the gravel road. Down towards the dunes and the sea. Towards the fishing hut.

80     **EXT. THE BEACH - CONTINUOUS**

80

The boys are in the shallow of the sea. Carl's hund is running around with the boys. They are having fun.



The two new boys are standing on top of a dune. Carl sees them. He calls Ludvig.

CARL

Ludvig!

Ludvig looks up at Carl. Carl points to the two new guys. Ludvig runs up to them.

LUDVIG

Hello.

GUSTAV

Hello. Is this the de-mining unit?

LUDVIG

Yes.. We are it.

GUSTAV

We are supposed to join your platoon. Where is Sergeant Rasmussen?

LUDVIG

Yeah, that is him over there. But you can report to me.

Ludvig smiles to them. Holds out his hand.

LUDVIG (CONT'D)

My name is Ludvig.

GUSTAV

Gustav Becker.

ALBERT

Albert Beyer.

LUDVIG

Come with me.

The new guys follow.

LUDVIG (CONT'D)

We are not working today.

They walk down to the sea.

Cut to:

Helmut and Sebastian are standing in the wet sand. They are about to have a competition.

SEBASTIAN

Are you sure you want to do this?

HELMUT

Are you?

The smile at each other.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

1-2-3-Go!

Sebastian and Helmut race along in the wet sand near the water.

The run. They are both very fast.

They have a bet going. Whoever reaches the black flag down at the far end is the winner. It is a long way. Helmut just gets there first. He grabs the flag and raises it triumphantly.

Both Sebastian and Helmut collapse on the sand.

SEBASTIAN

You are crazy..

For the first time Helmut's smile is genuine.

HELMUT

Maybe..

SEBASTIAN

Peace?

HELMUT

Peace.

81 **EXT. THE BEACH / DUNES - EARLY EVENING**

81

Later. The two new boys, the old crew and Carl with his dog are walking towards the dunes and the fishing hut. Everyone is in high spirits. They are walking in area 7, their safe passage that they cleared out initially. Carl throws the tennis ball across a little stream that runs down the beach. Otto runs to get it. Otto jumps through the stream. He picks up the ball. And runs back towards Carl.

Suddenly there is a huge explosion. Otto the dog stepped on a mine.

Everything is dead quiet. The only sound is Otto whimpering. The dog is not dead. Carl runs over. He sits down. Holds the dog.

The boys stay in the background, watching. They don't know what to do.

Helmut is about to go to them. Sebastian holds him back.

Carl lifts up the dog and walks, a lone figure, up towards the fishing hut.

The boys just stand there. They don't know what to do.

A few moments later. When the boys carefully approach the fishing hut, Carl is nowhere to be seen.

A shot rings out from the barn.

Helmut looks at Sebastian.

HELMUT

I think one of us should go over to him.

Sebastian shakes his head.

SEBASTIAN

Let's just leave him alone.

HELMUT

Leave him alone? Why? It was an accident. Who knows what he might do?

Suddenly the boys see Carl walking towards them. The boys quickly get into their uniforms and lace up their boots. They know this means trouble. The boys run out and stand to attention.

Carl goes over and stands in front of Ludvig.

CARL

Private, Ludvig [Hafke](#). You were responsible for area number 7, correct?

LUDVIG

That is correct Sergeant. And everything was accounted for! 1.200 mines buried, 1.200 mines found, disarmed and accounted for, Sergeant!

Carl stands there. His expression has changed. He suddenly has killer eyes. He moves his faces close to Ludvig's. There is a lot of tension.

CARL

But everything wasn't accounted for, now was it? You miscounted, didn't you, soldier?!

LUDVIG

No, sergeant, sir. I counted them several times to be sure, Sergeant. 1.200 mines buried. 1.200 mines taken out. Sir!

Carl knocks Ludvig over and places his knee right on his chest.

He is squeezing hard on Ludvig's throat and neck, pinning him down.

CARL  
Are you calling me a liar?

The boys are very surprised at Carl's aggressive reaction. The two new guys are shocked.

Tears well up in Ludvig's eyes. He can barely breathe.

LUDVIG  
No, sir.

CARL  
It sounds to me like you are calling me a liar, soldier?!

Ludvig can't breathe. He gasps.

Sebastian run over and pushes Carl off.

SEBASTIAN  
Stop it!!

Carl sits on the ground. Ludvig holds his neck. He is crying.

LUDVIG  
(while sobbing)  
No, sir. I am just saying ... that maybe the mine maps are incorrect?

Carl smiles a sinister smile. Just like he did a lot in the beginning.

CARL  
Maybe the maps are incorrect?

LUDVIG  
Yes, sir.

Carl gets up. He goes over to Sebastian and punches him in the face. Sebastian takes the punch and keeps quiet.

Carl looks at Sebastian, then he looks at all the boys. He shakes his head.

CARL  
Idiots! You are a bunch of German idiots. All of you. You know that? Idiots.

The boys just stand there. Carl just stands there. He keeps shaking his head.

CARL (CONT'D)  
 What do you think will happen  
 next?

None of the boys speak.

CARL (CONT'D)  
 How can we know for sure, that  
 there are no more mines in that  
 area? How can I guarantee that  
 the beach is safe?

HELMUT  
 We could do a re-count, sergeant?  
 See if the numbers add up?

Carl looks at Helmut. He yells.

CARL  
 Fuck if the numbers add up! What  
 good are the numbers now? Tell  
 me. Can you say for sure that  
 that area is secured?

HELMUT  
 No, sergeant.

Carl stands a while.

CARL  
 I have been too nice to you.  
 That is the problem. You have  
 taken advantage of me and my  
 generosity!

Then he turns around and goes to his room.

The boys stay where they are. They look at each other,  
 perplexed.

83 **INT. FISHING HUT - NIGHT**

83

The boys are inside the fishing hut. Helmut is cursing  
 and swearing. He looks at Ludvig, who is sitting next to  
 Ernst, who is still in his bed.

HELMUT  
 You idiot! You know that? This  
 is your fault!

Sebastian interferes.

SEBASTIAN  
 Stop it, Helmut. It was an  
 accident.

HELMUT  
 No it wasn't. He miscounted.

Beat.

HELMUT (CONT'D)  
It was an act of stupidity. And  
now we will all pay for it!

Nobody speaks.

HELMUT (CONT'D)  
You don't get it, do you? Nobody  
gets it. He practically told us.  
What will happen next? That dog  
could have been either one of us.  
How do you know, that he is not  
going to punish us?

SEBASTIAN  
Because he is a good man.

Helmut rolls his eyes back.

HELMUT  
A good man! What the fuck do you  
know about that? Tell me!

Helmut gets up. He pushes Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN  
Don't do that.

Helmut pushes again.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Stop it.

Helmut pushes him once more.

The two boys jump each other. They fight hard for a long  
time.

The other boys barely manage to separate them. Helmut  
gets up and leaves the house. He heads down to the beach.

The other boys stay with Sebastian. Ludvig looks at  
Sebastian

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Stop looking at me!

Ludvig looks away. Sebastian is furious.

84 **EXT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING**

84

Next day. Carl is digging a hole. He bends down and  
carefully lowers the dead dog, Otto, into the hole.

All the boys are standing a little distance away. They  
watch.

Following day. Carl is in the dunes. He is looking down onto the beach.

All the boys are lined up forming a long chain across the beach. Their arms are interlinked. Two armed guards, we haven't seen before, are standing behind them. The boys look confused and scared.

Carl walks down there. He stands in front of them.

CARL

A mine field is secure, when we have found and disarmed the same amount of mines as indicated by the map. Correct?

EVERYONE

Correct, sir!

CARL

Not correct!! A mined area is secure, when all the mines have been removed. What happened yesterday clearly indicates that you have not done your job well enough!!

EVERYONE

Yes, sir!

CARL

Do I need to remind you that a civilian could have stepped on that mine?!

EVERYONE

No, sir!

CARL

From now on, every time you have cleared an area, you will walk through that area arm in arm, side by side, and make sure that no mistakes have been made. My mistake was to place my trust in you.

Beat.

CARL (CONT'D)

Are we clear?

The boys look at each other. They are terrified.

CARL (CONT'D)

I said, Are we clear?!

EVERYONE

Yes, sir!

HELMUT (whispering)

I told you. He might as well line us up against the wall and shoot us ..

Carl hears him. He goes over to Helmut.

Carl punches him in the face.

CARL

Were you saying something, soldier?

HELMUT

No, Sergeant!

Carl looks at the boys with an ice-cold stare.

CARL

Forward march!

The young boys walk in a daisy-chain across the entire demined area. Fully aware that every step might literally be their last.

CARL (CONT'D)

The entire beach. We will canvas every inch of this beach until we are sure.

Sebastian looks over towards Carl.

Carl turns his back to them and walks off. The two guards stay.

86

**EXT. BUNKER / THE BEACH - EVENING**

86

Later. Carl is sitting on a bunker. He looks down at the beach and the boys down there.

The boys are still marching arm in arm.

The two armed guards follow at a safe distance.

They have a lot more ground to cover.

One of the guards are talking to the boys. We see this from Carl's point of view. The guard comes up to Carl.

GUARD

Sergeant. They are asking if they can have a break. And some food?

CARL

They can have some food when they are done.



GUARD

Yes, sir.

Carl sits and watches for a while. Then he gets up and leaves.

87 **INT. FISHING HUT - EVENING**

87

Sebastian and the boys are sitting in the fishing hut. They hear Carl put the board across the door and lock up.

The boys sit a while. Helmut looks around at all of them.

HELMUT

I say we get the fuck out of here now. Before we all die.

Nobody says anything.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Hallo? You accept this? Personally I would rather be shot by the Brits, than walk on that beach one more time.

Sebastian looks at him.

SEBASTIAN

We stay until its done. Then we go home. That is the best option. We finish our job. The sergeant promised that we get to go home, when we are done.

HELMUT

And you think he is a man of his word?

Sebastian doesn't answer.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

Well, I am getting the fuck out of here. If anyone wants to come along, they are welcome.

He looks around at the others. Nobody makes any response.

SEBASTIAN

You stay.

Helmut gets up.

HELMUT

If you want to do his march of the dead, you are welcome. But you don't tell me what to do. Nobody does.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, that maybe so. But happens to us when he sees that you are gone? I cannot allow it.

HELMUT

It is not up to you. I am leaving!!

Beat.

HELMUT (CONT'D)

You don't get it, do you? You think he is your friend? He detests you ... all of us! You know the other de-mining units use armored vehicles to check the beaches? But us? We have to walk. You think that is because the sergeant is our friend?

Sebastian looks at the other boys.

SEBASTIAN

Get hold of him. Tie him down..

The other boys look at Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I said, Tie him down!

The other boys jump Helmut and ties him down on the bed. He is yelling and screaming.

Sebastian stuffs a piece of cloth in his mouth.

HELMUT

Mmmmmmm.

SEBASTIAN

Are you going to shut up?

Helmut tries to get out but he is pinned down.

HELMUT

Mmmmmmm.

SEBASTIAN

I will only remove the cloth if you are quiet. Will you be quiet?

Helmut nods.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Are you sure?

Helmut nods again. Sebastian takes out the gag. He looks at Helmut.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Everybody stays 'til we're done..

Sebastian lies down on his bed. He looks up at the ceiling.

88     **EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**     88

The following day. The boys are still in their beds. The sun is rising and the rays come in through the windows.

89     **EXT. FARM HOUSE / CARL'S ROOM - MORNING**     89

Karin comes running across the yard. She opens the door to Carl's room. Carl isn't there.

90     **INT/EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**     90

Karin tears off the board to the fishing hut and opens the door. Karin is so out of breath that she can hardly speak.

KARIN (In Danish)  
Where is the sergeant?

KARIN (in Danish) (CONT'D)  
Quick, quick, you must come and help me.

The boys are just waking up. They all look befuddled at each other. There is no reaction from Ernst, who is still in his own world.

HELMUT (In German)  
What is she saying?

Ludvig unties Helmut.

SEBASTIAN  
I don't know.

KARIN  
(in Danish)  
Where is the Sergeant?!!

Karin looks around frantically. Then she runs back out again.

91     **EXT. DUNES / THE BEACH - MORNING**     91

The boys are running towards the beach. Through the dunes. Karin is running up ahead of them.

92     **EXT. THE BEACH - MORNING**     92

When they come down onto the beach they see, what is going on. The little girl, Elizabeth, has walked out into one of the mine fields that has not yet been de-mined.

The girl is standing still. Frozen. She is holding her doll.

93 **EXT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**

93

Total of the fishing hut.

The jeep drives up in front of it.

Carl gets out of the jeep and walks over to the fishing hut.

Carl sees that the board is on the ground and the hut is open. He looks inside.

94 **INT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**

94

Except from Ernst with his back to him, nobody is there. Silence. Carl walks over to Ernst.

CARL

Where are the others, Ernst?

Ernst doesn't answer.

CARL (CONT'D)

The others. Where are they? How did they get out??

Still nothing.

Carl pulls Ernst up from the bed.

CARL (CONT'D)

Where are they, Ernst?! Have they run away?

Ernst is blank.

95 **EXT. THE BEACH - MORNING**

95

When Carl gets to the dunes, he sees the boys.

By the time Carl gets down there, he knows what is going on.

Sebastian and Helmut have already started clearing a passage to the girl.

They are going as fast as they can. Struggling. Sebastian turns around.

SEBASTIAN

It is going to take a while..

Suddenly the girl starts moving. Everyone starts yelling!

EVERYONE

Sit down!

KARIN

You have to sit down, my little  
darling!

The girl doesn't hear them. She smiles and waves.

Ernst suddenly appears behind the crowd. Nobody notices him.

Suddenly he walks through the crowd. Past Carl. Past the other boys. He steps over the barbwire and into the fenced-off area.

Ernst walks into the mine field. Going in a straight line. He walks past Sebastian, who is disarming a mine. He heads straight towards the girl.

Everyone drops to the ground.

Sebastian stops working and looks up at Ernst, astounded.

But no mines go off and Ernst reaches the girl. He sits down and smiles to her.

ERNST (in German)

Shall I take a look at her?

The girl smiles, she thinks he is Werner to whom she spoke earlier.

GIRL

You talk funny.

ERNST (pointing to the doll)

Boo-boo?

The girl smiles and hands Ernst the doll. Ernst looks at the bandage around the doll's leg. It is dirty. Ernst unwraps it. And gets out a new piece of gauze from his pocket.

He is going to wrap the doll's left leg. The girl shakes her head. Ernst understands. It is no longer the leg which is injured.

Ernst tries various places. Right leg? Right arm? Left arm? In the end Ernst and the girl agree, that the doll needs her head bandaged. They help each other wrap the doll's head.

The girl smiles. Ernst has tears in his eyes.

Meanwhile Sebastian has cleared a narrow path through the mine field out to the girl and Ernst.

SEBASTIAN

Ernst? Hand her to me.

Ernst lifts the girl up and passes her over to Sebastian.

Sebastian carries her back.

Karin takes her.

Slowly everyone gets up. Ernst is still out there. He looks at everyone and the mother, who is crying and frantically hugging the girl.

Sebastian looks out towards Ernst.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Are you coming, Ernst?

Ernst looks at Sebastian for a long time. He smiles at him. Sebastian returns the smile.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Come her, Ernst. Please.

All of a sudden. Ernst turns and walks on further into the minefield. Ernst keeps walking. And walking ..

The others are shouting for him to stop. Sebastian is about to run after him. Suddenly we hear a loud click.

Ernst looks down at his right leg. A shiver runs through his body. He looks around. Looks back at the others. At Sebastian. Somehow Ernst looks at ease, almost relieved.

Explosion. Ernst is blown to bits. He is gone.

All that's left is a cloud of black smoke, slowly dispersing in the wind.

Silence falls on the beach. We see the faces of the crowd. Carl, Sebastian, the girl, Karin and all the boys. They are quiet. The joy has been replaced by an eerie emptiness.

CU Sebastian.

96

**EXT. FISHING HUT - LATER**

96

Carl comes walking from the farm. He goes over to the fishing hut. Helmut and Ludvig are sitting outside.

CARL

Where is Sebastian?

Ludvig points behind the fishing hut. Carl goes around to Sebastian.

Carl stops. He looks at Sebastian who is sitting motionlessly, staring vacantly into the air. Carl goes over to him. He holds out his hand to Sebastian. Sebastian ignores Carl completely. Carl leaves his hand in front of Sebastian for a long while. In the end, Sebastian slaps the hand away. Carl tries again.

Sebastian gets up. He looks angry. For the first time Sebastian can no longer hold back his feelings. He pushes Carl. Carl doesn't budge. Sebastian pushes him again. Carl lets him. He is a lot bigger than Sebastian. Sebastian is furious. Carl stands right in front of him.

CARL (CONT'D)

Go ahead and hit me, if that is what you want.

Sebastian lock eyes with Carl. Then he punches Carl in the face. Carl doesn't budge.

CARL (CONT'D)

Again. Do it again.

Sebastian hits Carl again. Carl still doesn't budge.

CARL (CONT'D)

Again..

Sebastian shakes his head. A tear runs down his cheek.

SEBASTIAN

Why do you do it?

CARL

Why do I do what, Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

You don't care about any of us.. So why do you pretend to be my friend? It is messed up. Hate me, that's fine. I can take it. But don't pretend to be our friend!!

Carl stands there for a while.

Sebastian breaks down. Carl embraces him. Sebastian tries to break free from his embrace.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Let me go!!

Carl holds on.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I said, Let me go!

Carl is still holding on. Sebastian breaks down in Carl's embrace.

CARL

There, there. Everything is going to be alright.

Sebastian sobs.

CARL (CONT'D)

I will be there for you. I promise. It's going to be alright.

Sebastian tries to break free from Carl's embrace one more time.

SEBASTIAN

Let go of me. You don't understand.

CARL

Take it easy, Sebastian... You are done soon. It is going to be okay. Then you can go back home again.

Carl finally lets go of Sebastian. Sebastian wipes his eyes. He looks into Carl's eyes.

SEBASTIAN

You are right to hate me. I am a very bad person. If you knew some of the things I have done.. Oh, my God.

Sebastian breaks down completely. Carl holds him again.

CARL

You did what you were told..

SEBASTIAN

No.. I did more than that.. Much more.

Sebastian can hardly breathe.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

We all did..

Cut to:

We now see that Helmut is sitting inside the hut, just on the other side of the wall. He has heard everything.

97 **EXT. THE BEACH - MORNING**

97

Carl is walking on the beach. He is carrying the same backpack as he had in the beginning. He is now collecting the black flags and putting them in the backpack.

Cut to:

98 **EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - MEANWHILE**

98

6 of the German boys are up by the road. They are loading up a Danish military truck with a trailer with mines. The driver helps out.



A lot of mines are being loaded. It is a pretty overwhelming sight to behold.

99     **EXT. FISHING HUT - MEANWHILE**

99

Sebastian, Helmut, Ludvig and a fourth German boy are rolling up barbed wire and depositing it in big piles ready to be picked up.

Suddenly a giant explosion sounds from the road. Sebastian and the others fall to the ground.

Cut to:

100    **EXT. THE BEACH - CONTINUOUS**

100

Carl who is still on the beach sees a giant cloud of smoke rise from behind the dunes. He drops his backpack and runs towards it.

101    **EXT. FISHING HUT/ GRAVEL ROAD - CONTINUOUS**

101

Sebastian, Helmut, Ludvig and a fourth German boy get up. They turn towards the road and the black cloud of smoke. They sprint.

Sebastian and the boys stop ten meters away from the blast site. They are shocked by what they see.

Carl comes running up to Sebastian and the boys. He stops in his tracks. Flabbergasted.

All the mines on the truck have exploded. There are dead bodies and loose body parts all over the place. The truck has disintegrated except for its bent and blackened frame, which is now burning.

Fade to black:

Cut to:

102    **INT. FISHING HUT - MORNING**

102

Sebastian, Helmut, Ludvig and a fourth boy are packing up their few belongings. They are the only four boys remaining of the original 14.

There is a knock on the door. It is Karin holding Elizabeth's hand.

Karin has brought a large basket with food and drinks. She has a piece of paper in her hand. She reads from it in German, slowly and with a strong Danish accent.

KARIN

I would like to thank you for all that you have done. Thank you for saving my daughter's life.

The boys are just standing there. Karin sets the basket down on the floor.

KARIN (CONT'D)

Thank you..

103 **INT. ARMY TRUCK - MORNING**

103

The boys are in the back of an army truck. Carl comes over. He stands at the back of the truck. Looks in.

CARL

Best of luck.

The boys thank him. Sebastian and Carl look at each other.

The truck starts and drives off. Carl keeps looking at it as the truck drives away.

104 **INT. HQ BARRACKS - DAY**

104

Later. Carl is walking quickly inside the HQ building greeting a few people in passing. Evidently most of the staff know him or know of him.

Carl stops in front of a young private.

CARL

Is he in?

PRIVATE

Yes. Go right through.

Carl goes through another door.

CARL

Lieutenant!

Ebbe is standing in front of the open window.

EBBE

Smell that.

Ebbe breathes in deeply through the nose.

EBBE (CONT'D)

Can you smell it? The smell of Denmark, of spring and summer. It is going to be a great year. Don't you think?

Carl smiles.

CARL

Yeah, a great year.

EBBE

You are probably wondering why you have been summoned?

CARL  
You can say that again.

EBBE  
The reason that I am here, is  
that we are going to need more  
experienced men at Skallingen

CARL  
Yeah? Okay. I can do that. But  
I thought you wanted me in  
Ringsted?

EBBE  
Oh, I do. I wasn't talking about  
you.

Carl doesn't understand.

CARL  
Okay.. So what are you saying?

EBBE  
We really need to reassign "your  
German boys" down there. The  
whole place is one big mess. All  
the mines have shifted and they  
need some skillful Germans with  
experience. The men are dying by  
the handfuls down there.

CARL  
Yeah? Well, I wish I could help  
you. But my unfortunately my  
boys have already left.. They  
have been shipped back to Germany  
just this morning.

EBBE  
Yeah, I heard.

CARL  
Out of 14, 4 made it.

Clearly Ebbe couldn't care less.

EBBE  
"Your" German boys are not on  
their way home, Carl.

Carl doesn't understand.

CARL  
Excuse me?

EBBE  
Like I said, we really need their  
experience.

(MORE)

EBBE (CONT'D)

And that is why they have been reassigned to Skallingen. Which is where they will remain until all the mines down there have been cleared.

CARL

With all due respect, you promised me that they would be allowed to return home after clearing that area. I made them a promise God damn it! How does that make me look..?

Ebbe looks at Carl.

EBBE

There is nothing we can do about it.

CARL

What are you talking about? When was this decided? I was specifically told that these boys could return home after their job was done!!

EBBE

Carl. This isn't just your boys. All German soldiers still in the country are retained until all the mines are gone. And I mean all.

Carl stands there a few moments.

CARL

God damn it, Ebbe.. I am asking you as your friend. You and I have been friends for how long? I am begging you, just let those four boys return home. Let them go. They will die down there.

EBBE

Of course, you want them to go home. I totally understand. But unfortunately, the order has already been carried out.

CARL

It is only four boys, God damn it!!

EBBE

Now listen to me, Carl!

(MORE)

EBBE (CONT'D)

I don't know what the fuck is going on with you, but if I hear one more word about those boys I will personally go down to Skallingen and shoot them myself. You hear me?!!

Carl says nothing.

EBBE (CONT'D)

You think these are nice boys! They are not. They have been brainwashed by monsters from early on! You have no idea what they have done in the war!

Carl goes over and grabs hold of Ebbe's neck. Ebbe can't breathe. Carl really squeezes hard. He looks Ebbe straight in the eyes.

CARL

You lied to me.. I can tell just by looking at you. You knew this all along ... These boys are just little boys, Ebbe. They cry out for Mommy, when they are afraid, or when their hands get blown off. You understand? The tables have turned. We are the monsters now.

Carl lets go of Ebbe.

Carl turns around and leaves.

105 **EXT. BARRACKS - LATER**

105

Carl gets in the jeep. He is furious. He starts the engine and drives off.

106 **INT. CARL'S ROOM - DAY**

106

Carl comes into his room. He sits down on his bed.

Carl pulls out a bottle of whisky from under his bed. He opens the bottle and sits a while before he chugs from the bottle.

He stares emptily into the air. We see his face.

He notices a little package on the table. He picks it up and opens it. Inside is Sebastian's silver cross and a note. The note says: "BOOM!"

107 **EXT. OKSBØL CAMP / SKALLINGEN - DAY**

107

Sebastian and the boys are now part of a new and much larger platoon. They are standing to attention.

An older Danish sergeant is standing in front of them. All the other soldiers in the unit are older than Sebastian, Helmut, Ludvig and the fourth boy.

SERGEANT

Welcome to the Oksbøl Camp and Skallingen! We have reason to believe that roughly 72.000 mines have been laid down here on Skallingen. So this place is not for sissies

He grins.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

The reason I use the terms 'reason to believe' and 'roughly' is that some of you have had the luxury of having detailed mine maps at your disposal... At Skallingen we have no such maps!

The boys' faces have the look of betrayal written all over them.

Zoom in on and CU of Sebastian. We stay with him for a long time.

The sound fades down completely. We hear only Sebastian's breathing.

Sebastian's POV. A soldier comes over to the sergeant. He passes him a note. The sergeant looks irritated.

Cut to:

Sebastian wakes up when he is slapped in the face.

SERGEANT

Sebastian Schumann!!? Do you hear me? Report to the mess hall on the double!

Sebastian re-focuses his attention. He looks over at Ludvig, Helmut and the 4th boy, who have already stepped out of the ranks.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Get going. Now!

Sebastian goes over to the others. They leave.

108 **EXT. MESS HALL SKALLINGEN - DAY**

108

Sebastian and the others are heading to the mess hall. A Danish soldier is there, behind a military truck. He walks up them them.

DANISH SOLDIER

Sebastian?

Sebastian and the boys stop.

DANISH SOLDIER (CONT'D)

Sebastian Schumann? Is that one of you?

SEBASTIAN

Yes, it is me.

The soldier lifts aside the truck's tarpaulin.

DANISH SOLDIER

Get in..

Sebastian, Ludvig, Helmut and the fourth boy are not sure what is happening.

DANISH SOLDIER (CONT'D)

Come on, get in. We don't have all day.

The boys climb into the back of the truck. They sit down.

The soldier closes the tarpaulin after them. He slams the side of the truck with his hand. The truck starts up and drives off.

Sebastian and the others look at each other, dumbfounded.

Cut to: **(scene 108B)**

Later. The truck stops. We hear the sound of the driver opening the door, getting out and walking around to the back of the truck. Ludvig looks nervously at Sebastian.

The tarpaulin is pulled aside. Carl appears.

CARL

Come on, get out.

The boys jump out. Carl points to the forest nearby.

CARL (CONT'D)

That way.. The border is a hundred meters that way. Then you are in Germany.

Sebastian looks at Carl. Carl looks back at him.

CARL (CONT'D)

Run..

Sebastian and the boys run across the field.

CU Sebastian stops and looks back at Carl.

Sebastian and the boys disappear into the forest.

Fade to black.

**THE END**

Nordisk Film Production