An exploration of the psychological and political dimensions of violence and aggression within the war film genre

A screenplay, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts

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OPENING.

EXTERIOR - THE DESERT - DAY.

The time is now. The War on Terror or the Long War is now in its third year. An SAS team arrives for its tour of duty inside Iraq. They are heavily armed, their faces a picture of grim determination. SERGEANT G.H. ASH is one of them. He looks down on hundreds of American soldiers in desert camouflage gear, battle jackets zipped up against the bitter cold of the desert winter.

INTERIOR - A MILITARY PRISON INSIDE IRAQ - NIGHT.

SERGEANT G.H ASH and other members of an SAS team walking down the corridor of a dank military prison. It is airless and oppressive. They are led by an AMERICAN PRISON GUARD. They stop at the door of a cell. The PRISON GUARD knocks hard on the door. A few seconds later the door is opened.

INSIDE THE CELL, A PRISONER OF IRAQI ORIGIN IS SITTING WITH A PLASTIC BAG COVERING HIS HEAD AND SECURED AROUND THE NECK. HE IS ON HIS KNEES WITH HIS ARMS BEHIND HIS BACK. AN AMERICAN INTERROGATOR AND IRAQI INTERROGATOR STAND OVER HIM. THE IRAQI INTERROGATOR IS WHACKING A TRUNCHEON OVER THE PRISONER'S HEELS. THE AMERICAN INTERROGATOR TURNS TO THE CONTINGENT THAT HAS JUST ARRIVED.

AMERICAN INTERROGATOR
Give us a couple of more minutes we'll have everything you need...

CUT TO:

ASH and the team preparing for their first mission.

CLOSE UP OF EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM: CAPTAIN BLACKMORE, CORPORAL HARRIS, TROOPER'S RANDELL, BINER, KITCHENER, SMYTHE, SWALLOW AND KANE.
They are loading and checking weapons and vehicles, sharpening knives, applying camouflage paint, tying down all loose pieces of their equipment; profiles of hardened discipline. The camp and its occupants fade into the distance as the SAS troops get into their vehicles and head off in the dead of night.

CUT TO:

Montage of images:

ASH and the team hiding from enemy forces in a wadi, shooting up an enemy truck, or a bus.

Finding a US Army Humvee with the occupants burnt to a crisp.

BACK TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VILLAGE - DAY.

ASH, BLACKMORE and the rest of the team are on top of a series of hills overlooking a village somewhere in the Middle East. Each man is silent, as if his life depended on it, taking in whatever activity is going on. Through BLACKMORE'S eye line through his binoculars, rests on a particular building. He notices a guard on the roof but not much else in the way of security.

BLACKMORE
That's gotta be it. Only place they could keep him.

ASH
How long has it been?

BLACKMORE
Three weeks.

ASH
And he's still alive?

BLACKMORE
Spooks have it on good authority they don't plan on killing him just yet..

SWALLOW
Why don't the CI fucking A rescue their own officers....

BLACKMORE
Because we can...with a lot less drama.
ASH
And because you volunteered us for it right Boss?

BLACKMORE says nothing.

BLACKMORE
Get everyone together sergeant for a final run down. Where's Ash...

ASH is already walking up behind him.

ASH
Here Boss...

BLACKMORE
I want you the first in that door. You have the most experience in that sort of thing.

ASH
What...kicking in doors?

BLACKMORE
Shooting terrorists dead old boy. Last count you're still the winner.

ASH's face bears no response to this comment.

ASH
This is bullshit. The intel fuckin dodgy captain.

BLACKMORE
Shut up.

ASH
You're just a fuckin glory hound.

BLACKMORE
And you'll obey. Get ready. Now.

ASH
What about close air support.

BLACKMORE
We've got an F-14 for the next hour. After that it's tactical support only....

ASH silently indicates to three other SAS TROOPERS to gather round him. ASH draws a basic map in the sand. BINER, RANDELL and SMYTHE joinASH'S little group.
ASH
We’re the entry team.

BINER
No fucking kidding. We’re always the entry team.

ASH
From what we can see there are two guards here and here. The hostage is supposed to be in this house.

SMYTHE
Who the fuck is he again?

BINER
CIA mate.

SMYTHE
Then how did he get fuckin caught?

ASH
Insurgents raided where he was staying.

SMYTHE
What about Blackmore....

ASH
He’s setting up Harris and Swallow at both points overlooking the village with direct line of fire onto the safe house.

BINER
If he is the safe house..... He’s been wrong before.

ASH looks at him and for a second betrays his own doubts on the matter.

BINER
C’mon Ash you know. He’d fuckin have us raid a souvlaki stand if there was a terrorist in it.

ASH can’t help but smile at this comment.
ASH
We'll split into two groups coming in from these directions, taking care of any obstacles along the way.

RANDELL
Why two?

ASH
If either group has difficulty getting in, we know not to go out the same way.

SMYTHE
Why don't we wait until it's a little quieter. It's a friggin' picnic down there.

ASH
No time. Yanks want him back yesterday.

BINER
You mean the Yanks won't give us air support when we requested it.

RANDELL
Why not?

KITCHENER enters the circle.

KITCHENER
What have I missed?

BINER
About fuckin' time.

ASH
You're with Smythe and the Turk.

HARRIS
Better make it quick Ashie boy. You know I don't like fighting in the dark.

ASH
Just don't fall asleep on me alright mate?

HARRIS laughs.
With great precision each of the men gets his gear in order. All equipment attached to their camouflage uniforms is resecured. Weapons are loaded and given a quick inspection. ASH joins BLACKMORE briefly before setting off.

BLACKMORE
Make it quick.

ASH
What's this bullshit of one hour air support?

BLACKMORE
That's all we could get.

ASH
That's all you requested.

BLACKMORE
What's the matter sergeant? Nervous? With all your experience...

ASH
If we lose any more men...

BLACKMORE
What?

ASH
It'll be a long fuckin war alright.

BLACKMORE checks on the position of his sniper team.

CUT TO:

EXTERIOR-INSIDE OF THE VILLAGE-DAY

CHILDREN are playing in the dusty streets of the village. One of them, a LITTLE GIRL, about four years old, holds a little doll in her hands and walks about with it quite protectively. She passes one of the GUARDS casually holding his AK 47 who smiles at her. Behind them, we can see the images of figures stealthily creeping up on the outskirts of the village. The GUARD has his back to them, watching the children playing. SMYTHE comes up behind him and slits his throat, gagging his mouth at the same time. The GUARD struggles violently. SMYTHE is doing all he can to control the convulsions.
SMYTHE
(muttering under his breath)
Just fuckin die will ya..

With the help of BINER and KITCHENER, they take his body behind one of the houses. As they reappear, the LITTLE GIRL turns around and smiles. BINER puts his finger to his mouth and gestures for her to keep quiet. They continue on with their mission. The CHILDREN continue to play.

CUT TO:

ASH, KANE and RANDELL are creeping up on the village from another direction. They see another GUARD who for a second thinks he notices something and unslings his rifle. ASH and the TROOPERS hug the ground.

CUT TO:

BLACKMORE watching all this from his position. He signals SWALLOW who gets his sights on the GUARD who has now been joined by his WIFE and CHILDREN who give the GUARD some food which he gratefully accepts. SWALLOW watches all this through his telescopic sight.

SWALLOW
Nothing like a last meal.

CUT TO:

ASH and the TROOPERS watching this exchange between the GUARD and his family. A spurt of blood jets out of the GUARD'S head. Suddenly the GUARD collapses forward onto his family who start screaming.

CUT TO:

The WIFE and CHILDREN holding onto the GUARD who has died instantly. Their faces are distraught.

CLOSE UP OF THE WIFE AND CHILD TRYING TO STOP THE FLOW OF BLOOD.

ASH and the TROOPERS rush past them without even looking. The VILLAGERS, now alerted to the danger, have quickly gone indoors, most of them taking their children with them. The LITTLE GIRL continues to walk through the village. She sees ASH who looks at her briefly then motions her to get off the street.

CUT TO:
BLACKMORE looking at the unfolding events in the village from his position. He talks into his radio head set.

BLACKMORE
Too fucking slow Ash. Get it moving. He'll die of boredom before we save him.

CUT TO:

ASH
(to himself)
I'll give you fucking boredom.

ASH and his group make contact with the second team outside the building. They work in unison with each other, setting up defensive positions outside the house before the entry team goes in. ASH glances at the others before preparing himself to enter the house. ASH holds up his fingers and mouths the words to his accomplice.

ASH
One...two....three...GO!

The door is kicked in. BINER and ASH storm in with handguns drawn and in the firing position. They find themselves staring at a family having their evening meal. There is an OLD COUPLE, the MOTHER, a TEENAGE DAUGHTER and two YOUNG CHILDREN. BINER questions them in Sunni dialect.

BINER
(in dialect)
Where is the American?

KITCHEREN
(To BINER)
I knew you'd come in handy one day.

BINER
(without even looking at KITCHENER)
Fuck off.

MOTHER
(in dialect)
No American...only family. Please...leave.

BINER looks at ASH, shaking his head.

ASH
Waste of fuckin time. Check upstairs.
ASH, BINER and KITCHENER carefully walk up the stairs. Once they reach the top, they prepare themselves, kick the door in and enter. The family watch their actions from the dinner table. By this time the second team are inside the house. ASH his team come back out empty handed. KITCHENER goes over to the MOTHER, grabs her hair and pulls tightly.

KITCHENER
Where's your husband heh? Fuckin terrorist isn't he?

BINER walks over to KITCHENER and loosens his grip. KITCHENER thinks about resisting but changes his mind. BINER indicates the basement entrance over in the corner of the room. They had all missed it. Silently they walk over to the entrance. A noise emanates from the basement. ASH, BINER and KITCHENER surround the entrance and prepare to fire. All of a sudden the door opens and large German shepherd bolts upstairs It gives them all a fright.

KITCHENER
SHIT...

He aims his rifle at the dog which runs towards the family who takes her under control. The rest are amused by KITCHENER'S reaction.

KITCHENER
This is the house. Where the fuck is he?

SMYTHE
See if the dog'll talk Kitche. He speaks your language.

ASH and the rest suddenly realise the television has been on in the room. They look at it and are transfixed by the image of a Western man about to be beheaded by masked TERRORISTS. All carefully watch the screen. They give each other a brief glance. ASH pulls out a photo of the HOSTAGE they are there to rescue. He holds it up in front of the TV screen.

ASH
There's your American officer.

The TV shows the HOSTAGE on his knees begging for his life. One of the TERRORISTS mocks him and attempts to place the HOSTAGE'S military cap on his head. The HOSTAGE breaks down. This is all muted. The TERRORIST is reading from a prepared script. He stops for a minute as the lighting is adjusted by one of the other TERRORISTS. Then he pulls out a huge knife and grabs the HOSTAGE by the hair. ASH walks over and switches the TV off.
RANDELL
You're missin the best bit.

ASH
Well that's him and he definitely ain't fuckin here.

KANE turns around from the door.

KANE,
Hurry up there's a big crowd gatherin and they look nasty.

BINER
Wonder why...

ASH shakes his head and opens the door. BLACKMORE greets him.

BLACKMORE
Well?

ASH walks past in him disgust.

KITCHENER
He's on television.

BLACKMORE sees the remote and picks it up. He switches on the TV, sees the aftermath of the execution, briefly flinches, then turns the channel. There are images of a Presidential election in progress. In the background we hear a familiar sounding Presidential voice.....

PRESIDENT'S VOICE
American lives will not be needlessly wasted in the deserts of the Middle East...

BLACKMORE then switches the TV off and throws the remote on the table. BLACKMORE exits the house. As he looks around his face becomes more and more alarmed. He looks to ASH who is automatically checking the magazine on his rifle. BLACKMORE decides to do the same.

ASH
There's your terrorists. Seems as though we popped off a few of the village elders...who just happen to be related to these people.

BLACKMORE
They were armed....

ASH give BLACKMORE a weary look.
ASH
Yeah... so? The whole fucking country's armed.

VILLAGERS of all ages and descriptions gathering around the SAS.

ASH
How you gonna get us out of this mess?

BLACKMORE doesn't answer.

CUT TO:

SWALLOW looking at the gathering storm through his telescopic sight.

SWALLOW
What do you think Sir? Pop a few off and disperse'em.

KITCHENER comes out of the house.

KITCHENER
We better do somethin' sir. They're all packin' AK 47's.

SMYTHE
Try calm them down.

BLACKMORE
What do you suggest?

SMYTHE doesn't answer.

CUT TO:

The LITTLE GIRL walking up the stairs of her house to the roof. She stares blankly at the scene below.

CUT TO:

SWALLOW sighting the LITTLE GIRL with his rifle.

By this time the SOUND and SCREAMS of the crowd are growing louder and louder.
CLOSE UP OF THE FACES OF EACH OF THE SAS TEAM SHOWING THE FATIGUE EXHAUSTION AND CREEPING FEAR THAT THE MISSION HAS GONE COMPLETELY AWRY.

BLACKMORE
Biner you speak the lingo...sort out who their leader is.

BINER looks at BLACKMORE with a faint smile of contempt on his face. ASH picks this up.

ASH
No need. Right over there.

ASH indicates a MALE VILLAGER in his early forties. He shouts and gestures forcefully to the SAS, indicating the bodies of the GUARDS.

BINER
They want to know why we killed their relatives...The guards were only protecting their families. There's been a lot of bandits lately.

CUT TO:

The LITTLE GIRL leans over the edge of the roof. A tile starts to loosen from its fastening. The LITTLE GIRL doesn't notice it.

CUT TO:

BLACKMORE, ASH and the rest of the team grouping closer together, not wanting to antagonise the VILLAGERS any further but ready to take any evasive action necessary.

BLACKMORE
(to SWALLOW)
On my command take out the insurgents in the front row, we'll deal with the rest...

ASH
Insurgents...what the fuck are you talking about...?

CUT TO:

The LITTLE GIRL leaning over a little further on the ledge. The tile finally breaks free and falls to the ground hitting ASH on the back of the head. ASH, stunned, turns around and fires half of his magazine toward the roof.
The body of the LITTLE GIRL falls to the ground like a rag doll, landing between the SAS and the VILLAGERS with a sickening thud.

The LITTLE GIRL does not move. For a second nobody moves.

ASH rushes to the body which is on its stomach and checks the pulse. All the SAS have grabbed their weapons a little tighter. ASH turns the LITTLE GIRL onto her back and turns his head away briefly. Her stomach and chest have been completely opened up by the impact of the bullets.

WE SEE ASH'S GRIEF STRICKEN FACE LOOKING DOWN ON HIS VICTIM. THE OTHER SOLDIERS TRYING TO PULL HIM AWAY, THEIR VOICES GETTING SMALLER AS SHE DIES.

BINER tries to grab ASH and pull him away from the body. ASH grabs some field bandages from his webbing and attempts to staunch the flow of blood but it is useless. Her upper torso is completely red. KITCHENER comes along and tries to be more forceful. The VILLAGERS haven't made a move, knowing that someone must pay for all that has just occurred. BLACKMORE walks up to the body of the LITTLE GIRL and nudges it with his boot. No response. He bends forward and checks her pulse.

BLACKMORE
She's dead. Better get ready gentlemen.

CLOSE UP OF FACES OF THE MEN AS THEIR EYES DART TOWARDS EACH OTHER AND THOSE OF THE VILLAGERS WHO ARE NOW BOILING WITH HOSTILITY. RANDELL ATTEMPTS TO PULL ASH AWAY.

RANDELL
C'mon mate. Nothin you can do for her.

ASH shoves him away.

BLACKMORE
Fire at will.

All at once the SAS pour fire into the crowd of VILLAGERS as SWALLOW picks out targets of opportunity. By this time the women and children that have not been killed or wounded in this initial exchange have fled in all directions. Some of them continue to fall as SWALLOW indiscriminately shoots anything that moves. ASH wakes from his stupor and seeing what is happening screams into his headset.

ASH
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?!

CUT TO:
SWALLOW reloading his sniper rifle.

SWALLOW
Killing the enemy sergeant.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP OF HARRIS WATCHING THE CHAOS UNFOLD IN THE VILLAGE. HE TURNS TO SEE SWALLOW FIRING AND LOADING WITH LETHAL PRECISION.

HARRIS
What are we shootin' at?

SWALLOW (Over HARRIS' radio)
Anythin' in sandals...

HARRIS
Jesus...

HARRIS looks through his telescopic sight but can only see frightened and angry villagers. He picks out one hiding by the side of a building and fires. The villager collapses and dies.

By this time the SAS troopers are hugging the walls of the buildings. KITCHENER tries to enter the house they raided only to find it the door locked solid. He prepares to shoot the door in but is grabbed by BLACKMORE.

BLACKMORE
Never mind that.

An armed villager suddenly turns the corner and fires an rocket propelled grenade towards the SAS. It hits the wall above them sending debris and concrete over them. SMYTHE is knocked out by a huge piece of concrete. He lays there. KITCHENER goes over to pick him up and rolls him over.

CLOSE UP OF SMYTHE'S FACE. HE IS CLEARLY DEAD. A HUGE POOL OF BLOOD FORMS BEHIND HIS HEAD.

KITCHENER
Death by fuckin' concrete

Shots ring above his head. The rest of the team continue to retreat as armed villagers flit back and forth between alleyways, some of them now reaching the rooftops of the houses. They begin to pour fire down onto the besieged SAS soldiers. BINER grabs ASH who appears almost paralysed by what is going on and is oblivious to his own safety. KITCHENER fires up towards the rooftops and kills one of the villagers.
He shouts out in satisfaction. BINER notices movement behind them.

BINER

Watch out...!

Another VILLAGER with an Rocket Propelled Grenade has turned the corner behind them. He aims his weapon directly at RANDELL who is caught totally unawares. The RPG is launched, coming directly at RANDELL’S midsection. The rest of the SAS hit the ground. RANDELL literally disappears, leaving only his boots remaining. The band of men stare at each other in complete shock before realising there is no time to even think about what has just happened. BINER continues to help ASH as they make their way out of the village.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VILLAGE - TWILIGHT.

The whole team reaches the clearing just outside of the village. In an instant they all fan out turn around and prepare to fire on anyone behind them. Suddenly a group of children emerge from the street and begin to throw rocks at them. SWALLOW responds.

SWALLOW

They could be a decoy sir....

BLACKMORE

Scare’em off corporal...

SWALLOW

That’s not what I had in mind..

BLACKMORE

NOW!

SWALLOW fires at the ground in front of the CHILDREN. One of the bullets ricochets and hits a YOUNG BOY in the leg. He goes down screaming in pain. The rest run off in fear leaving the YOUNG BOY there.

BLACKMORE

Alright. Two at a time working from my left. GO!

KITC HENER and another KANE quickly look at each other then realise they are the first ones to go. They quickly jump up and race back to the safety of the Long Range Vehicles just over the hill.

CUT TO:
The US WARTHOG Ground Attack Fighter flies over at some distance.

THE PILOT’S POV: WE CAN SEE THE VILLAGE AND SAS RUNNING FOR SAFETY.

BACK TO:

BLACKMORE and the rest of the team catching their breaths, checking their weapons, scanning the perimeter of the village for signs of danger. Only BINER and ASH are left.

BLACKMORE
Don’t dawdle gentlemen.

BINER and ASH look at each other. They prepare to jump up when bullets tear at the dirt just in front of them. They quickly hug the ground.

ASH
Swallow...did you see where it came from?

SWALLOW scans the rooftops of the village.

SWALLOW
Nothing.

BINER turns to ASH.

BINER
You ready?

ASH nods his head. They both turn onto their backs check their magazines, recock their weapons and wait.

BINER
On a count of three...

CUT TO:

EXT. SWALLOW’S POSITION - TWILIGHT.

SWALLOW
(glances at rooftop)
Captain...third house on the left....

BLACKMORE scans the area with his binoculars. There is the same reflection.
BLACKMORE
I don't see anything. Move gentlemen...

BINER and ASH jump up simultaneously. The nozzle of an AK 47 appears over the ledge of the rooftop. There is a shot. Through the site we see BINER shot in the middle of the back. He falls to the ground. ASH stops, leans down and turns him over.

SWALLOW
There's the bastard...

KITCHENER
No fuckin kiddin...

BLACKMORE
Suppression fire on the rooftops.

All the SAS team take a firing position and aim at the rooftops. The SNIPER lowers his weapon briefly. ASH looks at BINER whose face tells him there is no hope. ASH removes a field bandage from his bumpack, but BINER grabs his hand forcefully and whispers hoarsely to ASH.

BINER
Morphine...

ASH pauses for a moment then reaches for some morphine syringes. He opens one of them up and jabs BINER in the leg. He opens one or two more and leaves them in BINER'S hand. BLACKMORE sees the exchange.

BLACKMORE
We haven't got all fuckin day Ash.

The suppressing fire continues. ASH gets up and starts running again. The nozzle of the AK 47 re appears once more. ASH runs for his life. Another shot rings out. ASH is struck in the leg. He stumbles and falls. Another shot rings out. ASH grabs his side which starts to turn a deep blood red.

ASH'S FACE CONTOURED IN PAIN.

BLACKMORE looks through his binoculars.

BLACKMORE
He's had it.

HARRIS
Jesus sir..we can't just..you know..
BLACKMORE
You volunteering...

KITCENER
Call in an air strike... give him some cover so he make it out.

HARRIS
Make it out?! He cant fuckin move!

ASH has grabbed his field bandage and placed it on his side. He is incredible pain. SWALLOW looks through his site.

SWALLOW
He’s gone.

BLACKMORE goes over to their radio and grabs the microphone attachment.

BLACKMORE
This is Mustang Leader to Maverick. We require assistance over.

A few seconds transpire. Suddenly the SOUND of the PILOT of the WARTHOG crackles over the airwaves.

PILOT’S VOICE
Mustang Leader this is Maverick. Identification code is accepted. How can I help Australian Special Forces today?

BLACKMORE
We are outside a terrorist camp. It is hot, I repeat it is hot.

PILOT’S VOICE
Sounds like a hornet’s nest. Looks pretty from up here though. Will bring in the exterminators.

BACK TO:

The PILOT inside the aircraft places a CD into a cassette deck. MUSIC from Living Color’s “Cult of Personality” blares inside of the cockpit.

All of the SAS TROOPERS look into the distance and watch the WARTHOG come in for its attack on the village. It dives low. The MUSIC becomes the soundtrack for the rest of the battle.

CUT TO:
The faces of VILLAGERS hiding in their homes, listening to the SOUND of the aircraft getting LOUDER and LOUDER.

CUT TO:

BLACKMORE and the TEAM watching as the first napalm explosions engulf the small village.

CUT TO:

The image of the HOSTAGE on his knees, surrounded by masked TERRORISTS carrying AK 47's and rocket launchers. We see one of the TERRORISTS adjusting a movie camera onto the COLONEL like a film director.

CUT TO:

Images of people screaming about on fire. BLACKMORE and the rest of the team watching the destruction in a similar pose to the TERRORISTS, almost looking like them with their Middle Eastern head scarves draped over their desert combat fatigues. The WARTHOG repeats this with some high explosives. The village is almost in ruins. Bodies are lying everywhere.

CUT TO:

SURVIVORS attempt to rescue loved ones from the rubble. BLACKMORE surveys the damage through the binoculars.

CUT TO:

The PILOT preparing for another run.

CLOSE UP OF THE PILOT’S FINGER HITTING THE CANON SWITCH INSIDE HIS COCKPIT.

PILOT
Now let’s make the place glow in the night.

The WARTHOG now attacks spraying the village and its inhabitants with depleted uranium shells. Images of the shells going straight through walls and metal containers. SWALLOW surveys the damage.

SWALLOW
So much for environmental protection.

BLACKMORE’S POV: SOME OF THE VILLAGERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SAS VEHICLES.
BLACKMORE
Excellent Maverick. But there are a few heading our way.

PILOT'S VOICE
Roger that....

ASH'S POV: THE VILLAGERS RUNNING TOWARDS HIM. HE LOOKS UP AND SEES THE WARTHOG BEARING DOWN ON THEIR POSITION.

HARRIS notices the Warthog about to do a run where ASH still lies wounded.

HARRIS
What's he doing....?

ASH drags BINER'S body on top of him as the Warthog lets loose with concentrated cannon fire and finally a napalm bomb over the area.

CLOSE UP OF BINER'S BODY GETTING HIT.

The VILLAGERS are all torn to pieces.

PILOT'S VOICE
I think that just about does it Mustang Leader. Time to head home.

ASH by this time is unconscious. BLACKMORE turns to the rest of the team.

BLACKMORE
Ash is finished. We have to move on.

HARRIS
We've just lost four men Boss. Can't leave Ash out there...he might still be alive.

BLACKMORE
The mission's over. We found the hostage too late and suffered four fatalities for our troubles. Any questions?

HARRIS LOOKS AROUND AT THE REMAINDER OF THE TEAM: SWALLOW AND KITCHENER. THEY SAY NOTHING.

They get their equipment together, get into the vehicles and speed off into the distance. ASH is left for dead.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. VILLAGE - DAY.

Montage of images:

A US ARMoured COLUMN enters the destroyed village. The SOLDIERS look about at the dead and decaying bodies.

A US SOLDIER shoots some animals about to feed on the corpses.

Another VILLAGER grievously wounded, is quickly despatched by one of the SOLDIERS.

A mass grave is dug with tractor and the bodies dumped inside of it.

US FORCES burying the YOUNG GIRL in the village with the rest of the bodies in a single ditch.

CLOSE UP OF TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS FINDING BINER’S BODY AND SEEING THE FOOTSTEPS LEADING AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF DESTRUCTION. THEY FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS.

The remnants of the buildings are crushed to rubble and scooped into a heap. The village exists no more. The War on Terror continues.

CUT TO:

ASH walking through the desert, bleeding and seriously wounded, his uniform showing all the wear and tear of combat. In the distance he sees vehicles coming towards him. They drive right up to ASH. The faces are covered but the helmets and uniforms indicate they are AMERICAN TROOPS. The OFFICER in charge removes his face cover and looks at ASH. ASH stares right back at him saying nothing. The OFFICER looks at ASH up and down.

AMERICAN OFFICER

This has gotta be him.
Christ...what a mess.

ASH holds his side which starts to fill with blood. A look of concern comes to the AMERICAN OFFICER’S face. ASH falls to the ground. ASH is taken onto one of the vehicles.

CUT TO:

ASH lying outside a Military Hospital in the desert. A DOCTOR is doing triage on the wounded in the casualty ward. He notices ASH lying unconscious. He checks for vital signs and then quickly turns to MEDICAL ORDERLY.
DOCTOR
Why hasn't this man been brought in?

ORDERLY
He just got here... anyway he's not one of ours.

The DOCTOR checks for insignia of any kind. He sees the upturned parachute wings on the sleeve, notices the side arm on strapped to the leg, a very dangerous looking knife strapped to below his shoulder. His sergeant stripes are visible on the arm of his uniform.

DOCTOR
(muttering to himself)
Well he's not a supply sergeant we can be sure of that.

He notices something inside ASH'S jacket and tries to pull it out. ASH'S hands quickly stop him. They are holding a sandy beret.

THE BERET'S INSIGNIA: A DAGGER WITH WINGS ON EITHER SIDE WITH THE MOTTO UNDERNEATH "WHO DARES WINS".

The DOCTOR gently lets him hold the beret.

DOCTOR
Aussie. Special Forces.

He turns to the ORDERLY.

DOCTOR
Get him in now.

INT. MILITARY HOSPITAL- NIGHT.

A surreal image as ASH wanders down the corridor of a hospital in full parade dress uniform. The SOUND of wounded and suffering in the background.

CLOSE UP OF ASH AS HIS FACE REGISTERS NO EMOTION.

ASH'S body being lain on an operating table, his uniform expertly cut away from his body. Screams of other men not so lucky.

DOCTORS PEERING INSIDE THE HEAD WOUND OF AN AMERICAN SOLDIER MISSING BOTH HIS LEGS.

CUT TO:
I N T.  H O S P I T A L  P L A N E - N I G H T.

ASH is lying down on a stretcher inside a hospital plane. He sees ORDERLIES and NURSES tending to the wounded on board. SOUND of a radio or TV in the background. A WOUNDED SOLDIER next to ASH tries to start up a conversation.

WOUNDED SOLDIER
Where did they get you?

ASH remains silent. The SOLDIER looks at his identity card above his head.

WOUNDED SOLDIER
Ash of the SAS. Got a ring to it. Don’t feel like talkin huh? Secrets service stuff right? Don’t worry mate, I won’t tell anyone if you don’t.

He laughs at his own joke. ASH remains silent. The SOUND of the TV becomes louder. ASH picks up key words like “terrorism,” “suspects arrested”, “severe injuries”, “many casualties”. ASH rolls over as the SOUND gets louder and louder.

REPORTER VOICE OVER
It has been said that Australia’s involvement in the Middle East could, or has opened Australia up to the possibility of more terror here at home...

SAS SOLDIER VOICE OVER
I can’t comment on that. It’s none of my business.

REPORTER VOICE OVER
But this is what you do and quite forseeably the SAS would be called in to deal with such a threat.

SAS SOLDIER VOICE OVER
We’re prepared for any contingency that might occur whether it’s on foreign land or domestic terrorism.

CUT TO:

A surreal tableau of ASH standing above a recently dug pit with the VILLAGERS bodies inside it.
ASH is full parade dress uniform with not a scratch on him. A earth mover with an AMERICAN SOLDIER driving it, prepares to cover it up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL-DAY.

ASH wakes up startled in the hospital. The NURSE is administering an IV into his arm. It is a picture of nursing proficiency and professionalism. She leaves. The room is eerily quiet. ASH painfully gets out of bed. He walks over to the window and looks out at a courtyard of trees.

Flashback: The YOUNG GIRL is sitting with the GUARD from the village. He is reading to her. They briefly look up. ASH stares at them unable to move. Behind ASH a DOCTOR enters his room.

DOCTOR
For only six months...you've recovered remarkably well.

ASH stares straight ahead.

DOCTOR
Not long to go. A few more tests and you should be on your way.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL-NIGHT.

ASH is sitting inside a doctor’s office inside the hospital. He stares at the walls of the room, looking at the qualifications of the doctor. He focuses on the word “Psychiatrist”. Across from the desk the PSYCHIATRIST looks through his file. Occasionally he looks up at ASH before going back to the file.

PSYCHIATRIST
Very impressive. You’ve seen a lot of action...

ASH
We all have.

PSYCHIATRIST
Do you enjoy killing?

ASH
(dryly)
As much as the next man.
PSYCHIATRIST
Your record certainly shows no aversion to it. That's not necessarily a bad thing of course.

CUT TO:
Flashback of ASH abseiling down the wall of a building. There is no SOUND except for his laboured breathing.

BACK TO:
PSYCHIATRIST
Do you like being in the SAS?
ASH
The pay's pretty lousy I must admit.

PSYCHIATRIST
And it is a highly stressful, dangerous occupation.
ASH
Christ what have I been doing all these years...

PSYCHIATRIST
You may think this is a joke but I can assure you my report will weigh heavily in whether you have a future in this military..
ASH
Military? I want back to the Regiment. There's nothing else....

CUT TO:
Flashback to ASH stopping on the wall catching his breath, doing a visual check on the sub machine gun braced across his chest with one hand on the trigger.

BACK TO:
The PSYCHIATRIST checks his file.
PSYCHIATRIST
Military Cross in Afghanistan when you were only twenty. East Timor before that....and three charges of assault in the last five years..
ASH
As you say, it's a highly stressful occupation.

PSYCHIATRIST
Maybe you need a change.

ASH stares at the PSYCHIATRIST long and hard. The PSYCHIATRIST doesn't flinch.

PSYCHIATRIST
How are the headaches going?

CUT TO:

Flashback of ASH pushing himself off the wall and crashing through a glass window, spraying his machine gun around the room as he does so.

BACK TO:

ASH pauses for a moment.

ASH
Manageable.

PSYCHIATRIST
And the flashbacks?

CUT TO:

Flashback of ASH searching through the debris and bodies inside the room.

BACK TO:

ASH
Hardly any.

PSYCHIATRIST
Really?

ASH
Right as rain.

CUT TO:

Flashback of ASH watching the AMERICAN SOLDIERS pick up the body of the YOUNG GIRL and carry it towards the ditch.

BACK TO:
PSYCHIATRIST
Tell us about the incident with the little girl.

ASH
How do you know about that?

PSYCHIATRIST
It’s part of the after action report submitted by your commanding officer.

ASH
No incident. She died of gunshot wounds sustained during the operation.

PSYCHIATRIST
And that’s what triggered the firefight...

ASH is becoming visibly upset by the PSYCHIATRIST’S revelations.

Flashback of ASH turning around and shooting at the source of the loose tile, bullets ripping into the small torso of the LITTLE GIRL.

ASH
Civilians die. Sometimes...it can’t be helped.

PSYCHIATRIST
What about your team members? Were you close to them.

Flashback of ASH’S distraught face as he leans over BINER’s wounded body.

ASH
I’ve got nothing more to say.

PSYCHIATRIST
Biner, Smythe...Randell...were your friends. Correct?

ASH
There’s no secret there.

PSYCHIATRIST
Nobody said there was but surely-
ASH

(aggressively)
They're fucking dead do you understand?

The PSYCHIATRIST is taken aback by his response. He looks at ASH for a second or two before continuing. He is far more matter of fact.

PSYCHIATRIST
Do you think you might be suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

ASH
Doesn't exist.

PSYCHIATRIST
In your unit?

ASH doesn't appreciate this comment.

PSYCHIATRIST
You woke up screaming in the night...threatened your nurse.

ASH
I was just been having a bad dream.

No response from the DOCTOR.

ASH
I thought she was someone else.

PSYCHIATRIST
Obviously.

ASH
Anyhow...she's fine.

The PSYCHIATRIST is silent.

ASH
Look...it was soon after the mission. I was pretty beaten up.

PSYCHIATRIST
According to this report...you're a very lucky man. Four separate wounds, none of them crippling.
ASH
Yes I'm very lucky. Please. I'm ready. There's nothing else.

The PSYCHIATRIST pauses for a moment before putting his signature to ASH's psychiatric evaluation.

PSYCHIATRIST
You're fit to return to unit Sergeant. Good luck.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAINING HANGER SWANBOURNE BARRACKS SAS BASE PERTH AUSTRALIA - DAY.

ASH is standing in his dress uniform with his belongings in a large military issue duffel bag. Next to it lies his webbing, consisting of large pouches, water bottles and various other essentials for survival. He looks around the large cavernous space. SOUND of a helicopter blades whirring overhead, getting louder and louder.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF TRAINING HANGAR - DAY

ASH walks outside and looks at two Blackhawk helicopters about to land. Once they do, SAS TROOPERS laden with arms and equipment emerge from the bodies of the two choppers.

HARRIS is the first to get out of the chopper and see ASH. He smiles warmly and heads over to where ASH is standing.

HARRIS
How the hell are ya brother?

ASH
Fine.

HARRIS
You sure about that?

ASH
I'm here aren't I?

HARRIS
In body yeah. Didn't leave your spirit there heh?

ASH
Lost that a long time ago mate.
HARRIS
You and me both.

HARRIS
It's good to see ya. This place hasn't been the same since...you know.

ASH
What? No one to stir the pot?

HARRIS
Ah you know... too many dumb cunts. Think we're all one big happy family cos there's a black fella in the Regiment.

ASH
You settin' em straight?

HARRIS
Now that you're here I don't have to.

ASH notices the sergeant stripes on HARRIS' uniform.

ASH
Movin up in the world...

HARRIS
It was the Boss' idea.

ASH
For all the good work right mate..?

ASH turns his attention to the rest of the team that are checking equipment before heading to the armory.

ASH
What are the new ones like?

HARRIS
See that fella?

HARRIS
That's Ulf mate. South African Special Forces before comin' out here. Got more experience that some of our NCO'S. Been a merc at some stage but doesn't talk about that much.
ASH
You trust him?

HARRIS
Other than the fact he was brought up to hate black fellas all his life, sure I like him.

HARRIS
You back...like operational and shit?

ASH
That’s up to the boss Jimmy. But yeah...I’m ready to go.

HARRIS
It’s even harder now mate. Old cunts like us got to keep up.

ASH
Wouldn’t think of it.

HARRIS and ASH glance at BLACKMORE as he walks across the parade ground.

HARRIS
You gonna request he bring you back in the team?

ASH looks at him like he’s lost his mind.

ASH
It’s the past mate. Leave it there I say.

ASH
(flash of anger)
They were your fuckin mates too....

HARRIS
It don’t matter. He’s got the power and the others just know what he tells ’em. Don’t give a rat’s ass for past reputations mate.

ASH
So I’m ancient history is that what you’re saying?

HARRIS indicates the new comers.
HARRIS
Fightins all they care about. And
how good you are at it.

CUT TO:

INT. MILITARY OFFICE SWANBOURNE BARRACKS - DAY.

ASH is standing to attention in front of the COLONEL YOUNG who is seated behind his desk. He is leafing through ASH'S file.

COLONEL YOUNG
At ease Corporal.

ASH
Thank you sir.

ASH stands at ease. YOUNG motions to the seat across the desk. After a moments hesitation, ASH seats himself down.

COLONEL YOUNG
How are you feeling?

ASH
Pretty good sir. My fitness is up.
I guess I was pretty lucky.

COLONEL YOUNG
That's one way of looking at it.

ASH
I just want to get back to doing
what I'm trained for sir. I'm ready.

COLONEL YOUNG
So what happened in Iraq?

ASH
You must have heard from the others-

COLONEL YOUNG
I want your opinion.

ASH
We hit the wrong village. The Intel
was dodgy at best but he still
wanted to go through with it.

COLONEL YOUNG
Captain Blackmore.
ASH
Yes sir.

COLONEL YOUNG
Is that all?

ASH
Blackmore ordered the village destroyed.

COLONEL YOUNG
You were attacked by insurgents.

ASH
Insurgents? We killed a few of the locals on the way in.

COLONEL YOUNG
That's sometimes unavoidable.

ASH
Yes sir. But we attacked them.

COLONEL YOUNG
There are a few things that need to be understood before we go any further.

ASH
Such as?

COLONEL YOUNG
I should warn you that what you are alleging against your commanding officer contradicts his official report which is corroborated by the survivors of your team as well as the official CIA position on our efforts to rescue one of their operatives.

Pause.

COLONEL YOUNG
Are you sure this is what happened.

ASH
It was the wrong fucking village.

The COLONEL gives ASH a reproving look.
COLONEL YOUNG
Given the extent of your injuries and the fact that you were considered KIA, no charges will be brought.

ASH
Charges....?

COLONEL YOUNG
You can thank Blackmore for that. Look, there was a point when your survival from injuries sustained was...seriously in doubt. But now you're here...

ASH stares at the COLONEL, barely able to control his feelings. COLONEL YOUNG notices ASH is gripping the side of his chair with all his might.

COLONEL YOUNG
If you pursue this, it will be the end of you in the SAS. You only have a few more years left. Any formal investigation is unlikely to side against a regimental officer who appears to be giving you a second chance.

ASH
At least transfer me out of the squadron.

COLONEL YOUNG
Nobody else will take you. After what happened...

ASH remains silent.

COLONEL YOUNG
Look, we’ve got a team of Indonesian Special Forces arriving next week. Close quarter combat...the usual drill. Then we’ll be acting in an advisory capacity on their turf. You’ve trained with one of these fellas before...Coehlo.

ASH
Coehlo? I trained him Sir.
COLONEL YOUNG
Well you must have done an excellent job. He’s Major Coehlo. Prove yourself...and we’ll see what we can do. You’re dismissed.

CUT TO:

INT. ASH’S ROOM- NIGHT.

ASH is slowly unpacking what little belongings he has. A few books, articles of clothing. The room itself is bare, with no evidence of usage for many months. He lifts up the mattress looking for something which obviously isn’t there. BLACKMORE enters. ASH notices.

ASH
Sir.

ASH makes an effort to stand to attention.

BLACKMORE
No need. How are you feeling?

ASH
Fine.

BLACKMORE
Really.

ASH
It’s been six months. I’m ready.

BLACKMORE
A drop in the ocean.

ASH
For some.

BLACKMORE
Anyway glad you’re back.

BLACKMORE
What did you expect?

ASH
Sir...?

BLACKMORE
You knew the score. If a wounded man jeopardises the completion of the mission-
ASH
The mission was over.

BLACKMORE
We were under fire. Any more casualties would have been unacceptable.

ASH
Why did you do it?

BLACKMORE
They were terrorists.

ASH
That's a pretty loose interpretation of the word.

BLACKMORE
What did you say?

ASH
They weren't....terrorists.

BLACKMORE
You ready to argue the point...

ASH
Biner..the others, would still be alive-

BLACKMORE
If you hadn't shot the girl-

ASH
If you hadn't agreed to some bullshit mission-

BLACKMORE
Listen Ash. You think I'm gonna sit here and take this fucking crap from you?

ASH is silent and wary of BLACKMORE'S growing hostility.

BLACKMORE
You were dead, or should have been. So don't talk to me about who's responsible for killing a bunch of ragheads.

ASH
I'm going to press charges.
ASH is silent. They stare at each other. Suddenly BLACKMORE grabs him, pushes him against the wall and holds him there. ASH groans.

BLACKMORE
Still a bit painful mate?

BLACKMORE
You say another fucking word and this is what will happen....

ASH struggles against BLACKMORE who simply exerts more pressure.

BLACKMORE
Are you listening? One night you'll be in this room. I'll come in with two of your good mates...like Swallow and Kitchener. You've gone off the rails again, suffered too many flashbacks and attacked another trooper just trying to help. You did it once before didn't you Ash? Before you know it, there you are lying in hospital drugged up to the gills, probably straightjacketed. You'll be psychiatrically discharged...or worse. Never to return.

BLACKMORE releases ASH who drops to the bed, leaning against the wall. He starts coughing violently.

BLACKMORE
And you know I'll do it.

BLACKMORE prepares to leave.

BLACKMORE
I've just seen the Boss. You're demoted to Corporal. Tomorrow morning 6.00am. A light run. 20 klicks. Webbing and rifle.
BLACKMORE leaves ASH’S room.

CLOSE UP OF ASH FIGHTING THE PAIN.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A DIRT TRACK NEAR SWANBOURNE BARRACKS - DAY.

THE HEAT OF THE MIDDAY SUN BEATING DOWN ON THE BITUMEN OF THE OUTBACK ROAD. IN THE DISTANCE A CLUSTER OF SOLDIERS HUDDLED TOGETHER SLOWLY MAKING THEIR WAY UP A HILL.

BLACKMORE is at the head of the team. Their faces are all showing signs of fatigue but the pace is relentless. Each man is wearing his regulation webbing and holding his rifle across his chest position.

TROOPER SWEET, TURNS AROUND TO SEE WHERE HE IS. ASH IS SWEATING PROFUSELY, A PICTURE OF GRIM DETERMINATION WHILE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE. SWEET TURNS BACK TO THE FRONT.

MI ELKE
Is he still there?

SWEET
Just.

KITCHE NER
Not a good start.

CARAMI DES
Who the fuck is this guy.

KITCHE NER
Your new corporal.

CARAMI DES
I thought you were our new corporal...

BLACKMORE
Quiet now Caramides...that’s a good lad.

CARAMI DES
(under his breath)
I’m not a fucking good lad...

MI ELKE
We know Alex old son...don’t you worry.
HARRIS
Do you want us to slow the pace down sir?

BLACKMORE
NO. I want you up the front here now and I want the pace increased do you understand.

HARRIS
Yes sir.

HARRIS goes to the head of the group. KITCHENER and SWALLOW exchange a bemused look with each other. The pace is quickened. All adjust to the increased intensity. ASH notices it and tries to do the same. He falters and stops for a second. MIELKE notices first. He separates from the pack and drops back. SWALLOW is the first to notice.

SWALLOW
Where the fuck are you going...?

MIELKE smiles and doesn’t answer. He approaches ASH who is attempting to regain his pace.

ASH
Fuck off.

MIELKE
Thought I might see how you’re goin’....

ASH
I don’t need your fuckin help.

MIELKE
I’m not here to give it. But let me give you a word Corporal. If this is the best you can do you’re gonna have a hard time gettin these blokes to listen to ya. No matter what you’ve done in the past.

ASH takes a look at MIELKE before speaking.

ASH
Why don’t you take that accent of yours and-

MIELKE hands him one of his canteens on the run.

MIELKE
Would you like some water Corporal?
ASH

Got my own.

MI ELKE

But they're all empty aren't they.
Started hearing the jangling of your canteens miles back.

ASH, parched with thirst, relents and takes the canteen. He takes a long swig and hands it back. He nods his head in gratitude. MI ELKE takes the canteen back and puts it back in his webbing.

MI ELKE

Just keep the pace Corporal.
Whatever you do, don't drop out of sight.

MI ELKE puts up the pace. ASH manages to keep up.

MI ELKE

Used to run like this across my family's farm all day long...

They both rejoin the pack.

BLACKMORE

Nice of you both to join us.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BUSH- DAY.

The run is finished. Each man is taking care of his own equipment or drinking water. A truck is slowly appearing in the distance.

CLOSE UP OF ASH ALONE FROM THE REST OF THE GROUP. HE IS BENT OVER DOUBLE STILL TRYING TO CATCH HIS BREATH.

SWALLOW and KITCHENER are huddled together.

KITCHENER

There's a sight.

SWALLOW

This is bullshit. He can't cut it anymore.

KITCHENER

Trade him in you think...?
SWALLOW and KITCHENER smile at the thought. They are clearly taking pleasure in seeing ASH having a tough time of it.

ASH’S FACE IS DISTORTED IN PAIN. HE IS BARE CHESTED. HIS BODY BEARS THE SCARS OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS.

BACK TO:

ASH goes to his back pack and retrieves his beret, his fingers touching the emblem.

SWALLOW walks past and notices ASH’S actions.

SWALLOW
Might have to hand it back in mate.

CLOSE UP OF ASH’S FACE. HE IS WOUNDED BY THIS COMMENT BUT DOES EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER NOT TO SHOW IT.

ASH and the rest of the team slowly get their kit together and get on the truck.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWANBOURNE BASE - DAY.

CLOSE UP OF MAJOR CHEIRON COEHLO OF THE INDONESIAN KOPASSUS SPECIAL FORCES ARRIVING BY HELICOPTER WITH HIS TEAM OF SIX MEN. HE SURVEYS THE BASE BELOW HIM.

VOICE OVER
I believe that engagement with the Kopassus can be justified on essentially three grounds. First, in the new, more threatening environment that Australia faces, it is imperative that the opportunities for effective security cooperation with our regional neighbours be maximised.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM SWANBOURNE BARRACKS- DAY.

BLACKMORE addresses the TEAM. A grainy photo of COEHLO appears behind BLACKMORE. He is giving orders to one of his men in the jungle.

BLACKMORE
Captain Cheiron Coehlo of the Indonesian Kopassus, is essentially... SAS trained.
He is familiar with all SAS patrolling, ambush and jungle fighting techniques... completed the Foreign Legion Jungle Training Obstacle Course in record time, qualified from the Royal Malaysian Jungle Training School...

CLOSE UP OF COLONEL YOUNG AS HE WAITS PATIENTLY ON THE TARMAC FOR THE HELICOPTER.

VOICE OVER
Second, Kopassus is a highly capable well trained force that is an integral part of Indonesia's counter terrorist machinery and it would be counter productive to exclude the special forces from bilateral initiatives to combat terrorism in Indonesia.

The helicopter lands and COEHLO and his TEAM exit. They are greeted by COLONEL YOUNG as he escorts them to their quarters.

VOICE OVER
Third, strong personal ties between the Australian Defence Forces and its TNI and Kopassus counterparts is not only crucial to an effective regional counter terrorist strategy, it is also essential to the long term health of the Australia - Indonesia relationship.

CUT TO:

BLACKMORE, ASH, and the rest of the team in full close quarter combat uniform and kit retrieving semi automatic hand guns, pump action shot guns and Heckler and Koch automatic machine pistols from the armory.

CUT TO:

INT. “KILLING HOUSE”- DAY.

BLACKMORE addresses the team who are busy doing last minute checks on their designated weapons. COEHLO and his TEAM are off to the side checking their equipment. They are all proficient and comfortable with their handling.
BLACKMORE
To maintain your operational status in this Squadron you must each place two shots in each of the dummies, one to the chest and one to the head. Your designated partner will be seated amongst the dummies to ensure you take aim at a legitimate target. Coehlo as our guest... why don’t you go first up... do I have any volunteer dummies?

The team are silent. No matter how trained and professional they are, everyone of them knows there is an element of risk. ASH suddenly comes forward.

ASH
I will...

ASH enters the killing house. There are four seats with three dummies sitting on each one. ASH stares at the empty seat.

COEHLLO checking his hand gun before he prepares to enter the room.

CLOSE UP OF ASH’S FACE AND THOSE OF THE DUMMIES.

COLONEL YOUNG is sitting in the control booth of the killing house.

COLONEL YOUNG
Take any seat Corporal.

ASH takes a seat between the dummies.

COLONEL YOUNG turns a switch causing the green light outside the killing house to go on. COEHLLO readies himself and burst through the door.

COEHLLO aims his pistol at the face of ASH who stares right back at him. COEHLLO turns the pistol to the faces of the dummies and begins to fire.

CUT TO:

EXT. A WORKING CLASS SUBURBAN HOUSE- DAY.

The scene outside the home is borderline chaotic. POLICE are running back and forth as AMBULANCE OFFICERS treat the wounded POLICE out on the street. AMBULANCES and POLICE CARS litter the street. JOURNALISTS and TELEVISION TRUCKS are being redirected away from the scene.
CLOSE UP OF ASH, BLACKMORE, COEHL0 AND THE REST OF THE TEAM SORTING THROUGH THEIR GEAR OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

BLACKMORE and a POLICE SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER go over a plan of the house and surrounding area.

BLACKMORE
How many did you lose?

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER
Four.

BLACKMORE
I thought only two were supposed to enter.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER
The second team rushed in once they heard the shots.

BLACKMORE
On your orders?

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER
No.

BLACKMORE
Fair enough.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER
They made the father hold a gun to his wife and kids. When my team went in, they naturally thought he was one of them.

BLACKMORE
So one hostage dead by police fire. Four dead.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER
Three. Three dead police. One seriously wounded. They just came out of nowhere. One of them was hiding...kneeling behind the children and just opened fire between their heads...

Silent flashback of one of the ATTACKER’S shooting between the heads of the frightened children.

BLACKMORE
Who are left?
SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER

We think the rest of the family are still alive. Only the father was hit.

BLACKMORE

How old?

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER

What?

BLACKMORE

The children.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER

From what the neighbours tell us...

BLACKMORE

What about immigration?

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER

They haven't shown up.

ASH

What have they got to do with it?

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER

The family was supposed to be deported for overextending their visa. But they wouldn't budge.

BLACKMORE

So they're being given a neighbourly hand.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER

Something like that. The boys are twins, fourteen or so, and one daughter about sixteen.

SWALLOW has just joined them and overheard this last piece of information.

SWALLOW

She'll be the last.

BLACKMORE turns to ASH and the rest of the team.

BLACKMORE

Right. Ash, you're leading the entry team going in through the front. Take Caramides with you-
ASH
I'd rather choose sir...

BLACKMORE
Nonsense. He's the best shot. Aren't you Alex?

CARAMIDES
Whatever you say sir.

ASH
I'd rather go in with someone more experienced-

BLACKMORE
Squeamish Corporal?

ASH
Caramides hasn't done this before-

CARAMIDES
Fuck you Ash.

COEHLO steps in.

COEHLO
I'll go in.

BLACKMORE
Ash has done this more times than he can remember. Or I for that matter.

COEHLO
I want to go.

It is more an order than a request.

CLOSE UP OF BLACKMORE AND COEHLO STARING AT EACH OTHER.

BLACKMORE
Alright Major.

BLACKMORE turns to ASH and COEHLO.

BLACKMORE
You go in ten minutes. Everyone synchronise your watches. It is now...3.30pm. Ash and Coehlo are through the door at 3.40pm. Where's Swallow.

BLACKMORE turns to SWALLOW.
SWALLOW
Already found it sir. Good perch on the roof of that shop.

BLACKMORE
Needless to say...if you have a clear target....

SWALLOW nods and makes his way to the roof of the building. BLACKMORE turns to the rest of the team.

BLACKMORE
Harris and Sweet, you will be ready as back up entry team. I want you positioned and ready on either side of the front fence out of sight. On my command you will fire tear gas through the living room window. Kitchener, Mielke, Milosevic, position yourself on the other side of the back neighbours fence. The police have already told them to expect you. If anything other than Ash or Coehlo comes through the back, you know what to do. Caramides, you follow up from behind once they're through the front rooms.

CARAMIDES
Got it Boss.

BLACKMORE is silent for a moment.

BLACKMORE
Good luck. Check your audio equipment. I will co-ordinate from the vehicle. Remember to shoot first. We're not a rescue party. The family is more than likely all dead. I don't expect any casualties out of this gentlemen.

ASH turns to COEHLO.

ASH
Get over here Major.

COEHLO, smoking a clove cigarette, confidently approaches ASH.
ASH
You can put that out for starters.
Stinks like a bastard...sir.

COEHLO considers his comment, then stubs the cigarette out.

ASH
You ever done this before?

COEHLO
Many times.

ASH
When we go in, whatever direction I point my gun, you do the opposite so that all arcs of fire are covered. You got it?

COEHLO
You sound nervous Corporal.

ASH
(forcefully)
In other words you’re watching my back.

COEHLO considers ASH for a moment then nods. They check their weapons, don their gas masks and get into position.

MONTAGE of images:

SWALLOW getting into position on the building opposite the house. He pulls out his sniper rifle, checks the magazine and looks through the sight.

THROUGH THE SIGHT OF SWALLOW’S RIFLE, WE WATCH THE OTHERS GET INTO POSITION.

BLACKMORE setting up communications at the Police vehicle nearby.

ASH, COEHLO and CARAMIDES placing themselves behind the fence of the house next door. HARRIS and SWEET following suit. KITCHENER, MIELKE and MILOSEVIC circling the block and entering the backyard of the house behind that of the ASYLUM SEEKER FAMILY and setting up position, watching through the cracks the fence.

BLACKMORE
One minute to zero. Ash...

ASH
Sir....
ASH CHECKS HIS WATCH, LOOKS AT COEHLO, SWEET BEHIND HIM, THEN UP AT SWALLOW IN POSITION AS THE SOUND OF HIS HEAVY BREATHING BECOMES MORE NOTICEABLE.

BLACKMORE
Tear gas now. Ready to move.

SWEET and HARRIS step forward and fire tear gas through the front window of the living room. One of the canisters hits a window pane and falls uselessly onto the front porch. The other bursts through the window and lands on the body of one of the POLICEMAN. It starts to fill the room with gas.

BLACKMORE
GO.

ASH and COEHLO burst through the front door and go straight into firing stance. They are greeted by the sight of the bodies of the FATHER and three SPECIAL OPERATIONS POLICE. They are all covered in blood.

THROUGH HIS MASK ASH LOOKS AT THE FROZEN FACES OF TERROR ON THE THREE POLICE OFFICERS.

ASH’s breathing is getting heavier and heavier.

ASH MOVES HIS HECKLER AND KOCH SUB MACHINE GUN AROUND THE ROOM, PAST THE HALLWAY, STOPPING AT A BEDROOM DOOR AND A CUPBOARD.

ASH signals to COEHLO that he is going to check the inside of the front bedroom. ASH places himself outside the door as COEHLO covers the hallway. ASH kicks in the door way of the bedroom and swings his weapon around the perimeter of the room, looking for targets. He notices a body on the bed. It is the MOTHER of the family. She is lying half naked. ASH checks her pulse. She is dead. ASH then notices the long slash across her throat. He leaves the room and indicates to COEHLO that they are to move further into the house.

BLACKMORE
What’s the situation Ash?

ASH
Front living room and bedroom secured. Both parents dead. Moving to back of house.....
ASH and COEHL0 stealthily and slowly make their way down the hallway, looking forward, behind them, up on the ceiling. The approach the door of another bedroom. They notice a movie poster on the bedroom door.

CLOSE UP OF THE FACE OF ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER LOOKING STERNLY AT THE CAMERA AND THE TITLE OF THE FILM "COMMANDO."

ASH
Outside what must be the boy's bedroom.

SOUND of whimpering and crying inside the room. ASH and COEHL0 burst in. ASH looks down and sees one of the brothers lying on the ground with a bullet hole in his skull. He looks up and one of the ATTACKERS has the other brother in a headlock with a pistol to his head. In a split second he fires. The BOY falls to the ground. COEHL0 aims and fires. The ATTACKER collapses in a heap. He screams in agony and starts trying to stop the bleeding from the multiple bullet holes with his fingers. COEHL0 delivers the coup de grace. They make their way to the other bedroom. The tension has noticeably increased.

ASH
Both brothers dead. One bad guy shot.

ASH and COEHL0 wait outside the next bedroom. ASH indicates to COEHL0 to watch the hallway towards the back of the house as he prepares to go in. ASH bursts through the door.

THE SECOND ATTACKER WITH ONLY HIS PANTS ON HOLDING THE DAUGHTER AROUND THE THROAT. SHE IS BARELY CLOTHED AND HAS A GUN TO HER HEAD. THE LOOK ON BOTH FACES IS ONE OF COMPLETE TERROR.

ASH prepares to fire.

THE TWO OF THEM ARE A TARGET THROUGH ASH'S SIGHT. ASH'S BREATHING IS FASTER AND FASTER. HIS HEARTBEAT IS AN AUDIBLE SOUND FOR THE AUDIENCE.

The SECOND ATTACKER attempts to hide his head behind that of the DAUGHTER who is now screaming.

SECOND ATTACKER
Shut the fuck up!

ASH's hands are sweating. His weapon begins to tremble.
ASH’S FINGER TREMBLING ON THE TRIGGER.

COEHLO comes up behind ASH pushes him out of the way and shoots the SECOND ATTACKER right in the face. He crumples to the ground. The DAUGHTER falls to the ground sobbing. ASH stumbles to his feet. He rips the gas mask off his face gasping for breath. COEHLO steps out of the door and is fired upon by the THIRD ATTACKER concealed in the back area. The bullet barely misses him. COEHLO goes to a firing position and lets off a hail of bullets. CARAMIDES has entered the house and from the corner of his eye sees ASH on the ground and COEHLO firing at the THIRD ATTACKER. CARAMIDES coolly aims from his position in the hallway and shoots the THIRD ATTACKER in the back. He falls down dead.

BLACKMORE
What is the situation Ash?

CARAMIDES
Ash is out of it. One bad guy still alive somewhere in the back of house.

All of a sudden the FOURTH ATTACKER rushes out of the house into the backyard.

HE STARES IN EACH DIRECTION FOR A POSSIBLE PATH TO SAFETY. RED LASER LIGHTS APPEAR OVER HIS TORSO. HIS BODY IS RIDDLED WITH BULLETS FROM SEVERAL DIRECTIONS. HE FALLS DOWN DEAD.

COEHLO followed by CARAMIDES check the rest of the house.

CARAMIDES
Place is secure.

BLACKMORE and the SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER watch as ASH storms out of the front door of the house, ripping his gas mask off as he does so, and head towards the SAS Command Vehicle. He starts taking off his equipment. He is visibly exhausted and harried by what has just happened. BLACKMORE CARAMIDES and HARRIS approach ASH.

BLACKMORE
What was the delay?

ASH doesn’t answer.

BLACKMORE
I asked you a question corporal.

ASH
They’re all dead aren’t they...
BLACKMORE
You'd obviously sighted a target and delayed executing your orders.

ASH
I didn't have a clean shot.

BLACKMORE
You were in the same room.

ASH
I... I don't know.

CARAMIDES
He froze.

HARRIS
Shut up Caramides.

CARAMIDES
Ask the Major.

BLACKMORE
Is that right Major?

COEHLO
(Referring to ASH)
What the Corporal says might be true.

CARAMIDES
This is bullshit...

BLACKMORE
Shut up.

ASH
I didn't want to hit the girl.

CARAMIDES
You couldn't fuckin pull the trigger. If it wasn't for the Major here you'd be dead.

BLACKMORE
I guess we have a lot to thank him for.

HARRIS physically pushes CARAMIDES away.

HARRIS
Just fuck off.
BLACKMORE
(to HARRIS)
Back off Sergeant.

BLACKMORE focuses on ASH.

BLACKMORE
That's why we train you Ash; to not think but react.

CARAMIDES
I had to plug the bastard.

BLACKMORE
(to CARAMIDES)
And for that your country is eternally grateful.

BLACKMORE NOTICES THEIR LITTLE GATHERING IS ATTRACTING ATTENTION.

BLACKMORE
(to HARRIS)
Get everything sorted out. We're out of here in two minutes.

BLACKMORE addresses his microphone.

BLACKMORE
Swallow...

SWALLOW
Yes sir.

BLACKMORE
You can abandon your little perch.

SWALLOW
Sir....

ASH slowly gets to his feet and surveys the scene; ambulances removing the bodies of the ASYLUM SEEKERS and the ATTACKERS. The DAUGHTER in shock being comforted by AMBULANCE STAFF. POLICE securing the area. ONLOOKERS attempting to get a better look at the proceedings.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MESS HALL- NIGHT.
ASH is sitting alone at the bar having a drink.

CUT TO:
The tension inside the vans heading back to the base. ASH and CARAMIDES are inches away from each other. Both hold onto their weapons.

CUT TO:

ASH and the rest of the team handing their weapons back in the armory. The ARMORER noticing that ASH’S weapon is the only one that has been used.

CARAMIDES lunging at ASH as they leave the armory. A struggle ensues. The others pull them off each other. MIELKE and SWEET push CARAMIDES and MILOSEVIC away. KITCHENER and SWALLOW do nothing but clearly would have liked to see the fight continue.

COEHLO WATCHES THE REACTIONS OF EVERYONE IN THE TEAM.

BACK TO:

COEHLO enters the Mess Hall and approaches ASH.

COEHLO NOTICES THE REST OF THE TEAM DRINKING SEPARATELY FROM ASH. ALL ARE PRESENT EXCEPT FOR HARRIS.

COEHLO
Your men don’t trust you.

ASH
They ask you to tell me that?

COEHLO
Once it was because they were afraid of you...now, they don’t trust you.

ASH is silent. COEHLO looks him over.

COEHLO
The years haven’t been to kind to you have they?

ASH
Wish I could say the same about you.

COEHLO takes a seat next to ASH at the bar.

COEHLO
After this morning I reviewed your file.
ASH
How nice of the Captain.

COEHL0
You were an exemplary soldier. Decorated by your country.

ASH briefly looks down at the campaign ribbons on his chest.

ASH
I can get you one if you like...

COEHL0
A man like you shouldn't lose his nerve.

ASH
I'll try to remember that.

COEHL0
You were afraid to shoot.

ASH
Maybe I just didn't fuckin feel like it Major. And with all due respect, don't talk to me about fear.

COEHL0
Your captain is tolerant in ways that would be unacceptable in the Kopassus.

ASH
Yes. The SAS is well known for its tolerance.

COEHL0
I have spoken with Blackmore. My men do not have confidence anymore in your ability as a soldier. The rest is up to your Commanding Officer.

ASH
Such a brief romance.

COEHL0
We have been fighting rebels and insurgents for decades Ash. There is no room for error.
ASH
I've seen you in action. 6 years ago in Timor.

COEHLO
Those were difficult times..

ASH
You were a captain then. A church burnt down with a whole village inside it. Women, girls raped. How difficult was that...

COEHLO
You, your men could have stopped us. But that's not why you were there... was it?

ASH
No. It wasn't.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

Flashback:

ASH is walking through the jungle in full combat gear. He is surrounded by fog. Slowly to fog clears. The silhouette of a burnt out church. ASH warily steps through the debris.

ASH TAKES IN THE SCENE.

Inside the church are the bodies of dozens of women and children. ASH begins to shake.

CLOSE UP OF HIS HAND GRIPPING HIS RIFLE TIGHT.

SOUND of talking in a foreign language. ASH looks up to see some SOLDIERS of the Indonesian Special Forces Group, "Kopassus," casually smoking cigarettes amongst the carnage.

COEHLO TURNS TOWARDS ASH. ASH MOVES CLOSER AND NOTICES A FEW OLD MEN AND YOUNG BOYS LINED UP AGAINST A WALL. SUDDENLY ASH SEES THREE TO FOUR KOPASSUS SOLDIERS LINED UP IN FRONT OF THEM. COEHLO GIVES AN ORDER. THE SOLDIERS START FIRING.

CUT TO:

ASH'S ROOM - NIGHT.

ASH wakes up screaming in the middle of the night. SWALLOW and KITCHENER enter his room.
KITCHENER

Shut the fuck up!

ASH lunges for them grabbing KITCHENER by the neck, pushing him hard against the wall. SWALLOW viciously attacks ASH from behind. ASH'S grip faulters. HARRIS enters and throws SWALLOW to the side. CUT TO:

EXT. PARADE GROUND - NIGHT.

CLOSE UP OF COEHL O ON THE PARADE GROUND SMOKING A CIGARETTE. HE HEARS THE NOISE COMING FROM THE BARRACKS. HIS FACE REGISTERS NO EMOTION.

BACK TO:

INT. ASH'S ROOM - NIGHT.

KITCHENER meanwhile has gotten ASH in a choke hold.

HARRIS
Let him fucking go.

KITCHENER
Cunt should learn some fuckin manners.

HARRIS
Leave it. I'll take care of him alright?

KITCHENER releases his hold on him. He and SWALLOW prepare to exit. They watch HARRIS gently lay ASH down onto his bed.

SWALLOW
That's it wrap him in fuckin cotton wool Harris. Then stick him in a cupboard.

HARRIS
FUCK OFF.

KITCHENER and SWALLOW leave. ASH sits by the side of his bed. He starts coughing up phlegm. HARRIS looks for a bucket and grabs a rubbish bin inside his room. ASH nods his head in thanks and spits into the bin. HARRIS goes over to ASH and puts his arm around his shoulder.

CUT TO:
INT: CO’S OFFICE, SWANBOURNE BASE- DAY

COLONEL YOUNG is seated behind his desk. BLACKMORE is standing on the other side.

COLONEL YOUNG
Sit down Captain.

BLACKMORE
I won’t take too much of your time.

COLONEL YOUNG
What is it then?

BLACKMORE
Ash. What else...

COLONEL YOUNG
So..what do you want me to do?

BLACKMORE
He’s lost his nerve. By hesitating-

COLONEL YOUNG
What if his gun jammed?

BLACKMORE
But it didn’t.

COLONEL YOUNG
And he’s not likely to use that as an excuse is he....

BLACKMORE
No sir. He froze. Caramides will testify-

COLONEL YOUNG
Testify? Are you a fucking lawyer Captain?

BLACKMORE
No sir. But if an investigation was to take place Caramides is absolutely sure-

COLONEL YOUNG
I don’t give a fuck what that...it’s irrelevant.

BLACKMORE
Sir?
COLONEL YOUNG
I want you to lay off him.

BLACKMORE
What?

COLONEL YOUNG
You heard me.

BLACKMORE
I’ve treated him just like the others sir.

COLONEL YOUNG
But he’s not like the others is he? In good ways and bad.

BLACKMORE
Maybe he’s just not up to the job.

COLONEL YOUNG
He’s a survivor Captain. It’s all in his record. Not to mention he’s got more experience in jungle fighting and counter terrorism than any man in your team. Possibly the whole squadron.

BLACKMORE
I’m not going to coddle him...

COLONEL YOUNG
Coddle him? You left him out in the middle of the fucking desert...?!

COLONEL YOUNG has to check his temper over this comment.

BLACKMORE
We were under fire. My report was corroborated by the CIA. Sir.

YOUNG is tempted to take this conversation further but changes his mind. BLACKMORE is about to leave. He doesn’t wait to be excused. YOUNG pulls him up in his tracks.

COLONEL YOUNG
You’re taking Ash with you.

CLOSE UP OF BLACKMORE CONTROLLING HIS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

BLACKMORE
The men don’t have any confidence in him.
COLONEL YOUNG
Considering where you're going, I don't think they'll mind too much.

BLACKMORE
He could get us all killed.

COLONEL YOUNG
I doubt it. He's your most experienced scout.

BLACKMORE
We have Swallow sir. He also speaks Indonesian. And for the record Coehlo doesn't want him either.

COLONEL YOUNG
This is a fucking training exercise. And for the record I don't give a shit what he wants.

BLACKMORE
No sir.

COLONEL YOUNG
Ash speaks Bahasa Indonesian and Tetum or whatever it's called. He was with Interfet in East Timor soon after he joined the Regiment. At the ripe old age of 19. Don't tell me he couldn't be useful to this little excursion.

BLACKMORE
No sir.

COLONEL YOUNG
And if all goes smoothly, he can have his transfer once he gets back with your glowing recommendations. Do I make myself clear?

BLACKMORE
As day. Sir.

COLONEL YOUNG
Good. I want everyone prepped and ready by 0400.

BLACKMORE pauses for a second.

SIR.
CUT TO:

INT. TRAINING HANGER- NIGHT.

The team are in a huddle towards a corner of the hanger. MIELKE and SWEET are the last to join in.

MIELKE
This is nice and cosy.

KITCHENER
Shouldn't take too long.

MIELKE
That's what they all say...

SWEET
So... what is it.

SWALLOW
He's got to fuckin go.

SWEET
Go where?

CARAMIDES
This is serious.

MIELKE
If you say so.

MILOSEVIC
And me.

KITCHENER
He's dangerous.

SWEET
I thought that was the general idea...

SWALLOW
To us you idiot.

SWEET
Watch your fuckin mouth...

SWALLOW
Or?
KANE
Shut it Swallow.

SWALLOW
Moses speaks.

KANE
Get fucked.

Everyone is silent for a moment.

KITCHENER
Enough both of you. This is about Ash.

KANE
He’s still part of the team.

SWALLOW
Not for long.

KANE
What are you gonna do to him?

SWALLOW and KITCHENER exchange a glance.

KITCHENER
He doesn’t belong in this fuckin team.

KANE
Bullshit.

SWEET
I don’t care what you say Ash knows his shit.

SWALLOW
It’s all past tense. He’s used up.

CARAMIDES
He fuckin froze when it was close quarter. I swear it.

MIELKE
Maybe he kills better at a distance.

KITCHENER
What do you think Milo?
MILOSEVIC
As long as he keeps out of my way.

CARAMIDES
Milo doesn't like him. Doesn't want anything to do with him. Thinks he's real-

MILOSEVIC
Shut up. I've said nuthin. He just looks... I don't know.

MILOSEVIC
Like what?

MILOSEVIC
Like he could kill anything that moved one minute and wouldn't hurt a fuckin fly the next.

MILOSEVIC
So he's in touch with his gentle side.

SWALLOW
You saw what happened today he's unfuckinstable!

MILOSEVIC
Depends on how you define unstable.

MILOSEVIC
Getting smart with me Africa boy?

MILOSEVIC
Wouldn't dream of it. And with a name like that...

MILOSEVIC
And proud of it mate.

MILOSEVIC
Decides to ignore MILOSEVIC.

CARAMIDES
So what are we gonna do?
SWALLOW
Listen boys, if I go to the Captain and tell him quietly that if Ash stays on our team, no one's gonna look after his back.

KANE
Like we did in Iraq?

MIELKE
Do tell..

SWALLOW and KITCHENER can't believe KANE has said this. The others are a little confused. MIELKE is interested. There is a general sense that this is territory best left unexplored. SWALLOW decides to press on.

SWALLOW
We're gonna be goin into some hairy situations. I don't want him fuckin anything up. Your lives are on the line too.

HARRIS appears.

HARRIS
Should keep it down fellas. I can hear ya half way cross the Parade Ground.

KITCHENER
We're talkin about Ash..

SWALLOW
He's gonna get us killed.

KITCHENER
You've seen it Harris. He's burnt out.

HARRIS
Ash still got more nerve than the lotta you cunts.

KITCHENER
I know you guys are close....

HARRIS
So why did ya bring me here....?

SWALLOW
We're goin to the Boss. Tell him we don't have any confidence in Ash-
HARRIS
Why isn't he here then?

CARAMIDES
We're not a fuckin jury. We just don't want him around.

HARRIS
Get fucked you lame bastard.

SWALLOW
Watch it mate.

HARRIS looks at the faces of the whole team.

HARRIS
So this is a vote.

There is a silence all around.

SWALLOW
Nah mate. Just lettin ya know where it stands.

HARRIS
What about the rest of you fellas? Kane? When were you ever popular?

KANE
The team can't be divided. If Ash isn't fitting in...

MIELKE gets up abruptly.

MIELKE
I've heard enough. Do what you fucking well like but don't attach my name to it.

MIELKE leaves. SWEET gets up at the same time. He walks out. HARRIS turns to SWALLOW and KITCHENER.

HARRIS
You may not have to bother. Ash has met with the Colonel.

SWALLOW
And..?

HARRIS
He's going. We leave in 24 hours.
HARRIS pauses for a moment, turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM SWANBOURNE BARRACKS - DAY.

BLACKMORE is standing at the front of the room. A high resolution photo sits behind him. He addresses the team. COLONEL YOUNG stands in the back of the room.

MIELKE
What exactly are we going to be doing in East Timor Sir?

BLACKMORE
We're not going to be in East Timor. Kopassus has asked our help to track down some terrorists operating on the border. Apparently there's been some raids into West Timor by former Fretelan guerillas and the locals are pissed off about it.

MIELKE
Probably in retaliation for one of their little excursions into East Timor...

BLACKMORE
That's none of your business. I don't really care who wins as long as it doesn't involve us any more than what we're supposed to be doing.

ASH
And how are we going to help them?

BLACKMORE
As our scout you're going to track them down so Coehlo can kill them. Any questions?

MIELKE raises his hand.

MIELKE
Maybe we could train both sides at a discount?

This brings laughter from the rest of the team. Even BLACKMORE faintly smiles.
BLACKMORE
You will take three days rations and 500 rounds of ammunition each. Mielke, Caramides, you will take an extra 500 rounds for Milo's M60. Full jungle camo, packs weight no more than 30 kilos for this one. Seal everything. I don't want your boots to squeak. We leave at 0600, inspection of equipment will be at 0400. Any questions?

The room is silent.

BLACKMORE
That will be all.

CUT TO:

Montage of images:

BLACKMORE cornering ASH on the parade ground.

BLACKMORE
Don't fuck up on this one Ash and you may get your wish.

CUT TO:

The team preparing their weapons and equipment.

BACK TO:

BLACKMORE
Do what you're told. Question nothing. Some of what happens may be new for the others. You act like it's any other fuckin day.

ASH
Sir.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP OF HANDS DEXTEROUSLY HANDLING THE WEAPONS, CHECKING FOR ANY POSSIBLE MALFUNCTION, THE SYNERGY BETWEEN METAL AND REPEATED DRILL AND TRAINING.

Each man alone before the final briefing. They go through rituals of preparation.
CARAMIDES places crucifix around his neck. A brief flashback of CARAMIDES as a youth retrieving a crucifix from the ocean as part of a Greek religious festival, a glowing smile written across his face.

MILOSEVIC taking out a photo of his father, uncle, cousins, dressed in the uniform of Serbian paramilitaries with Arkan the Tiger during the Bosnian War in 1992. He places it inside his camouflaged shirt.

SWALLOW examines his ammunition like rare artefacts, placing individual bullets in the bore of his sniper rifle, aiming at an imaginary target then taking the bullet out.

KITCHENER calling his wife and family, telling them he won't be around for about a week and not to worry about him.

ASH changing into his jungle fatigues. He pulls out the propanabol bottle. He prepares to throw it into the rubbish then changes his mind and places it inside his shirt.

CUT TO:

EXT-INSIDE OF HELICOPTER. NIGHT.

Two helicopters flying across the ocean. ASH, and the rest of the team are huddled inside one of the Blackhawk helicopters as it flies through the night. Everyone is silent. In the other, COEHLO and his team are the same.

CLOSE UP OF ASH LOOKING OUT INTO THE NIGHT AS THEY CROSS THE TIMORESE STRAIGHTS AND ARE OVER LAND AGAIN.

The CO PILOT turns towards BLACKMORE and gives a signal.

CO PILOT

Ten minutes. Good luck.

The TEAM awake from their individual thoughts and begin some last minute checks.

BLACKMORE

Just remember. Our first LUP is on the perimeter of the Landing Zone. You will maintain a star formation. No ponchos, no movement at all. You can brew up at first light.

No one says anything. This is Standard Operational Procedure.

CUT TO:
EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. NIGHT

The Blackhawk hovers about 100 feet off the ground. Methodically the team hook their carabiners to the nylon ropes, and prepare to abseil off the skids of the helicopter. Inside the chopper, BLACKMORE gives the signal. The first group abseil to the ground. They quickly make their way to the edge of the clearing. They watch as the second group repeats the manoeuvre. They join the others and stealthily head towards a deeper part of the jungle. They methodically go into a star formation with their rifles at the ready. Everyone is silent.

Each member of the team is looking out, their eyes and ears straining for any sight or sound of movement. The night slowly becomes the dawn. The movement hasn't changed. The faces, slightly worn by the vigil stare into the jungle.

BLACKMORE gives a signal to the others. ASH, MIELKE, HARRIS and SWEET go to their packs and start cooking up a brew of tea using their hexamine tablets and portable stove. For food, they take out some chocolate energy bars. MIELKE moves off a few yards and prepares to defecate. Once he has finished he gets out a plastic bag and scoops it into the bag. He does this as if it is the most normal thing in the world. He carefully checks the area he used and spreads the soil out. He then places the bag inside his pack. BLACKMORE calls the team together. Some remain facing outwards. They are joined by COEHLO and his SERGEANT. BLACKMORE holds a Magellan compass in one hand and a map in the other.

COEHLO
The GPS co-ordinates place us exactly 10 klicks North West from our destination.

BLACKMORE
That's the shortest route sir.

COEHLO
Yes.

BLACKMORE
There's virtually no cover for half the distance. When we came in last time it was further up north and we headed south. The jungle-

COEHLO
There is no time. The attacks from Fretelin are through this village. By coming from behind we will not alert them to our intentions.
ASH
They don't exist anymore. Not as a guerilla force anyway.

BLACKMORE
Shut up Ash.

ASH
What are we fuckin here for?

BLACKMORE
(to COEHLO)
Maybe we should go around to the east a few klicks where its denser..

COEHLO
We're going straight. If its the guerilla as you are worried about, we're still close enough to the East Timor side of the border. They shouldn't give us any trouble.

BLACKMORE
I'm not worried Major. But I thought the idea was to find their weapons cachet without being detected.

COEHLO
If we are, then the mission will be over and we will all be extracted before it makes any difference.

Each of the team think about this statement, none of them quite convinced it will work out this way. But they all remain silent.

ASH
How long would it take to go around this stretch?

COEHLO
Too long. We have only three days.

ASH
This is a pretty big group..

COEHLO
We travel separately. We will meet a kilometer from the village at this point here.
Everyone is silent. COEHLO signals to his men who promptly put their equipment on.

BLACKMORE
We leave in fifteen minutes. Ash, you're on point. I want a zig zag formation 10 metres apart. Keep an eye in front and behind you gentlemen.

MI ELKE walks up to ASH.

MI ELKE
Why separate now?

ASH
So if the shit hits the fan we're on our own.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- DAY.

The team is spread out in a zig zag formation, all their jungle training skills coming into use.

ASH as he carefully places each step on the ground, watching for any movement through the foliage. Occasionally his foot gently taps the ground, stops for second then is placed in another spot. ASH squints his eyes and scans ahead.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

Montage:
ASH and Team making their way through the jungle and scrub. They continue in a diamond formation.

COEHLO and his KOPASSUS TEAM silently moving through the jungle.

The sun beating down on each team member. Signs of tension on each face.

ASH checking the weather, noticing the clouds forming.

ASH indicating to the rest of the team to come to him. They quickly move towards ASH. They all assume the kneeling position.
ASH
This is as good a Lay Up Point as we’re going to find.

The team stare at the dense jungle area.

BLACKMORE
Fine then. Use a star formation.

BLACKMORE turns to the rest of the team.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Don’t worry about brewing up. No sleeping bags. Ponchos only.

ASH
So who are we hiding from?

BLACKMORE
Do what you’re told Corporal.

SWEET
Who’s gonna see anything in this rain?

KITCHENER
Keep your mouth shut.

ASH
This is fucking black operation isn’t it? We’re not supposed to be here.

BLACKMORE
(ignoring this comment)
Rotate sentry duty. Caramides...you can kick things off.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- TWILIGHT.

The team are positioned in a star formation, all facing out. They are vigilant, all their senses straining for any sign of movement or danger. As the sun sets they are enveloped in darkness. The team settle into their ponchos. MI ELKE notices ASH next to him. He whispers to him.

MI ELKE
So what is it with you and the boss?
ASH
Nothing.

MIELKE
That's some bullshit Ash. Either you two were married in another life or you're the worst enemies I've ever come across.

ASH
I don't hate him.

MIELKE
But you don't trust him do you...

ASH considers whether to answer the question.

ASH
Not particularly.

MIELKE
Not particularly.

MIELKE considers this answer for a moment.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
Why?

ASH
(not without irony)
We have a history.

MIELKE
You're a fucking pain in the ass you know that?

ASH
Could have let me die of thirst when you had the chance.

MIELKE
Don't remind me.

Pause.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
One of you is gonna get us all killed and every time you open your mouth...I'm sure I know who it is.

ASH
I didn't think you were the worrying type.
MIELKE scrutinises ASH for a moment.

MIELKE
Corporal huh? After 12 years and a Military Cross. You must have pissed a few people off Ash.

MIELKE settles into his poncho and closes his eyes. Before he does so, he notices that ASH’S eyes are burning with intensity, scanning the night.

ASH
Just a few.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- DAY.

Montage of images as ASH and the rest of the TEAM move through the jungle and dense scrub, the terrain becoming progressively hillier. ASH struggles with the heat, his fitness still not what it should be. He reaches for one of his canteens, shakes it to see how much is left, realises he must preserve some water and places it back on his webbing.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE OUTSIDE OF VILLAGE- DAY.

BLACKMORE is looking through the binoculars at the village. The rest of the team are all in concealed positions on either side.

IT IS AN IMPOVERISHED ENVIRONMENT, WITH A FEW HUTS SURROUNDING AN AREA NO BIGGER THAN A BASKETBALL COURT. THERE IS A FENCED OFF AREA FOR THE ANIMALS, A COW, SOME CHICKENS. ON ANOTHER SIDE IS A SMALL GRAVEYARD WITH CROSSES MARKING PARTICULAR GRAVES. OUT OF ONE OF THE HUTS EMERGES TWO CHILDREN, A GIRL APPROXIMATELY 12 OR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND HER YOUNGER BROTHER WHO IS ABOUT TEN. THEY ARE PLAYFUL WITH EACH OTHER AND UNSUSPECTING.

SWALLOW and KITCHENER arrives from doing a recce around the village. They take a position on either side of BLACKMORE.

BLACKMORE
Well..?

SWALLOW
Nothing other than those two kids. One track leading into and out of the village.
HARRIS
Where the hell are the rest of 'em?

ASH
Maybe we're too late.

BLACKMORE
But they'll know if anything's happened recently.

BLACKMORE can see ASH doesn't like what is thinks is about to happen.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Don't worry. No more accidents.

ASH
They won't be any help.

KITCHENER
Their parents are up the track on the west side. Foot prints on the mud are still fresh.

BLACKMORE looks at the position of the sun.

BLACKMORE
So they'll be back for lunch. Swallow, Kitchener, move into the village, grab the children. Try not to scare them.

MILOKE looks at ASH bemused by this comment. BLACKMORE turns to the others.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Harris, Caramides, set up an OP two hundred meters up the track. Make sure you can see what's coming before they see you. Caramides, take Milo's mini gun.

MILO hands CARAMIDES the mini gun which is like a normal semi automatic weapon but carries a huge magazine underneath it. It is the next best thing to a heavy machine gun.

HARRIS
What if it's guerillas?

BLACKMORE
Don't engage unless you're spotted. Then shoot and scoot and get back here asap.
HARRIS and CARAMIDES take off.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Kane, Sweet, I want both of you watching our backs 100 meters out north and south. Any movement same drill.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
The rest of you are with me. Get moving. All of you.

They all take off. KITCHENER and SWALLOW enter the village. They go up behind the children and grab them from their shoulders, lifting them up and dragging them over. The GIRL starts to scream and SWALLOW places his hand over her mouth. SWALLOW gets very annoyed.

SWALLOW
Shut the fuck up ya bitch.

MI ELKE looks ahead.

MI ELKE
Spoken like a true parent.

KITCHENER and SWALLOW take the children over near the animal compound. The children are released and are clearly frightened out of their wits. The LITTLE BOY starts whimpering. SWALLOW becomes really agitated. He makes a gesture of killing all the animals.

SWALLOW
Shut up alright or I'll kill your fuckin pets.

MI ELKE
I think you got their attention.

BLACKMORE
(to SWALLOW)
Back off.

BLACKMORE indicates for the others to enter the compound. They quickly check inside all the huts before joining the others.

ASH WALKS INTO A HUT AND LOOKS AROUND. HE SEES SOME CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN ENGLISH, PICKS ONE UP, SCANS THROUGH THE PAGES THEN RETURNS IT. HE WALKS OUT.

ASH
Empty....
MI ELKE
Empty...

MILOSEVIC
Same.

MILOSEVIC (CONT'D)
Where the hell is everybody?

BLACKMORE
Ash... ask them where the rest of the village has gone.

ASH speaks to them in the Tetum dialect of East Timor. The CHILDREN answer.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
(understanding what ASH actually did ask them)
I'm not interested in their parents. Ask what I said.

ASH asks them again. The children reply.

ASH
They've all gone, except for their parents.

KITCHENER
That's helpful.

BLACKMORE
Ask why.

ASH asks them. The children reply.

ASH
Soldiers came, dressed like us, frightened the villagers.

ASH continues to speak to the children, pulling out his beret from inside his shirt and showing it to the children and indicating the parachute wings on the side of his arm. The children shake their heads at first then become a little more animated. Ash asks them another question and they affirm whatever it is ASH has asked them.

BLACKMORE
What are you saying...

ASH
They were Special Forces. Indonesian.
This is not what anyone wanted to hear.

BLACKMORE
How do they know.

ASH
A couple wore red berets and all of them in cam's had parachute wings on their shoulder.

BLACKMORE gives him a withering look.

MILOSEVIC
(agit at ed)
That's bullshit. They'll agree to anythin you tell 'em.

ASH
They corrected me. I asked them if they saw any head gear like ours.

SWALLOW
(aggressively)
Ask'em where all the men have gone.

ASH looks to BLACKMORE who nods his head. ASH asks them the question. The children are silent. ASH repeats it. The children shake their heads. They appear even more scared. The GIRL quickly blurts out something.

ASH
There were soldiers. The other villagers left.

MILOSEVIC gestures towards the children.

MILOSEVIC
Leave it with me captain I'll get it out of'em.

ASH instinctively puts his hand on MILOSEVIC'S chest.
MILOSEVIC glares at him.

BLACKMORE
Ash. Back off. Relax Milo, we'll have this sorted out in no time. Grab the little boy for us.

MILOSEVIC grabs the LITTLE BOY.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Hold him still.
All of a sudden the MOTHER and FATHER appear out of nowhere. The MOTHER rushes towards the CHILDREN but is stopped by KITCHENER. The FATHER grabs his machete which is hanging from a belt on his side. Suddenly behind them appears COEHLO and his team. COEHLO gives an order to his team. They aim their weapons at the FATHER while one of them roughly grabs the MOTHER, holding her from her hair. SWALLOW and MIELKE now raise their weapons.

ASH shouts out to the FATHER in his native tongue. The FATHER does not listen. ASH tells him again raising his own weapon this time. The FATHER reluctantly lowers the machete. He turns to ASH and shouts out a question.

ASH
He wants to know what we want.

MIELKE
Fair question.

COEHLO addresses the FATHER in his native tongue.

COEHLO
Where are your friends.

The FATHER doesn't answer.

ASH
Maybe he doesn't speak Indonesian.

The FATHER shakes his head. COEHLO loses his patience. He pulls out his pistol and checks the magazine. All eyes are averted to this action, particularly the FATHER'S. The FATHER turns to ASH and speaks. ASH translates.

ASH (CONT'D)
He says the others have moved away since the attacks from across the border.

COEHLO
There have been no attacks. Tell him.

ASH
That's his story.

BLACKMORE
Ask him again.

ASH translates. He pauses before turning to BLACKMORE.
ASH
He doesn't know.

COEHLO gives an order to the KOPASSUS SERGEANT. He grabs the DAUGHTER and takes her to one of the huts. The SERGEANT orders two of the KOPASSUS SOLDIERS to join him.

MI ELKE
What's this then a fuckin beach party?

BLACKMORE
Shut up.

MI ELKE
That's right I forgot. We're just observing.

COEHLO starts circling the parents, then moving closer to the LITTLE BOY being held by MILOSEVIC.

ASH translates. The urgency in his voice has increased.

BLACKMORE
What else did you tell him?

ASH looks directly at BLACKMORE.

ASH
That the Indonesians are going to kill his family if he doesn't comply.

SWALLOW
Not all of them.

BLACKMORE turns on SWALLOW.

BLACKMORE
Enough.

ASH
Anyway, he has no idea. He doesn't.

COEHLO
Tell him I think he is lying.

ASH
He's not.
BLACKMORE
Tell him Ash.

MIELKE
Who the fuck's running this show...?

ASH translates for BLACKMORE. THE FATHER shakes his head vigorously. He is clearly scared out of his mind. COEHLO cocks the pistol and places it to the head of the LITTLE BOY.

ASH
There's your answer.

COEHLO
He has 30 seconds to tell me the truth or I will shoot his son. His daughter will live a little longer.

MIELKE
You're kidding..

ASH is silent. He stares at BLACKMORE.

ASH
You do it.

BLACKMORE
(forcefully)
This is a group effort. I want you to tell him.

ASH translates. The FATHER is beside himself. ASH walks off.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Where the fuck are you going...

ASH does not reply. MIELKE goes up to ASH.

MIELKE
What's he gonna do..

ASH looks at him like that must be the stupidest question he has ever heard. MIELKE turns and strides towards the FATHER. He hits the FATHER forcefully across the face a couple of times.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
Tell him for Christ's sake! Do you want to see your boy killed?!

COEHLO
Order your soldier to step back Captain.
COEHLO, as a final gesture, pulls out a silencer and attaches it to the pistol.

SWALLOW
Wouldn’t want to wake up the neighbours.

KITCHENER turns to SWALLOW, not amused.

KITCHENER
Turn it off will ya.

The little boy looks to his father to help him. The father breaks down completely. The mother is screaming, pleading with the father. The daughter is thrown to the ground and forced into the hut. One of the Kopassus soldiers enters the hut. Muffled screams are heard.

Close up of Coehlo’s face as it starts to show the strain of what he is about to do. He places the gun to the side of the little boy’s head and starts to count to three.

COEHLO
One...

The father is muttering to himself. Ash looks at his pistol for a moment, considering whether to intervene. He remains silent.

COEHLO (CONT’D)
Two....

SWALLOW
Wish they’d get this over and done with.

Coehlo looks at his own men and that of the SAS and knows he must follow through. The little boy starts to struggle to get out of Milosevic’s grip in a wild panic.

COEHLO
Hold him tight.

The Kopassus troops holding the little boy brace themselves for what is about to come. The screams of the daughter get louder. Two more Kopassus soldiers enter the hut. Mielke tentatively strides towards the hut. Coehlo looks at Blackmore to do something about it.
MIELKE
Jesus Captain what the fuck has she
got to do with-

BLACKMORE
Shut up trooper. Get away from
there.

MIELKE reluctantly turns away from the hut.

ASH SCANS THE SCENE OF EVENTS TAKING IN THE POSITION OF THE
HUT AND THE LITTLE BOY ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED. HE TURNS HIS
BACK AND COCKS HIS RIFLE. THE SOUND IS HEARD BY MOST OF THE
SOLDIERS. BLACKMORE TURNS TOWARDS THE SOUND, LOOKING AT ASH
ALMOST IN DISBELIEF.

COEHLO
Three...

COEHLO readies to fire.

BLACKMORE
Jesus.

ASH spins around and shoots the two KOPASSUS SOLDIERS holding
the LITTLE BOY. They fall down screaming. ASH strides towards
the hut. The KOPASSUS SOLDIERS inside come out in a panic and
are all shot dead.

COEHLO SEES HIS MEN DEAD AND DYING AROUND HIM. HE PREPARES TO
SHOOT THE BOY WHO IS STANDING THERE FROZEN IN PANIC. THE
MOTHER LEAPS TOWARDS COEHLO AND IS SHOT DEAD. HE QUICKLY
TURNS AROUND TO FIND MIELKE WITH HIS RIFLE AIMED STRAIGHT AT
HIM.

BLACKMORE (CONT’D)
(To MIELKE)
Put the fucking thing down!

MI ELKE
Bit beyond that sir.

COEHLO aims his weapon at MIELKE. He turns to BLACKMORE as
ASH brings the DAUGHTER out of the hut, terrified and
dishevelled. MILOSEVIC, KITCHENER and SWALLOW tentatively
raise their weapons towards COEHLO. The FATHER rushes towards
his DAUGHTER. COEHLO grabs the LITTLE BOY placing his arm
around his neck and the pistol to his head.

SWALLOW
What do we do sir....
CLOSE UP OF CARAMIDES AND HARRIS rushing from their position as the remainder of COEHLO'S men do the same. They come across the chaotic scene.

CARAMIDES

What the fuck...

In a classic Mexican stand off they turn their weapons on each other.

THE KOPASSUS SOLDIERS AS THEY WITNESS THE CARNAGE IN FRONT OF THEM.

COEHLO

Tell your men to drop their weapons.

COEHLO orders his men to draw their weapons solely on ASH. KITCHENER and SWALLOW breath a sigh of relief.

SWALLOW

Thank bloody Christ...

BLACKMORE

Put your weapons down.

The KOPASSUS SOLDIERS move towards ASH who prepares to fire on them.

MIELKE

Sir they'll fuckin kill him.

SWALLOW

If we're lucky.

MIELKE aims his rifle at COEHLO.

ONE OF THE WOUNDED KOPASSUS SOLDIERS INSIDE THE HUT SLOWLY GETS UP, PULLING OUT HIS PISTOL AND EXITING THE HUT.

EACH OF THE SAS SOLDIERS SEE THE WOUNDED KOPASSUS TROOPER TRY TO AIM HIS PISTOL. HIS BODY IS SUDDENLY HIT BY A HAIL OF BULLETS AS ALL THE SAS FIRE ON HIM. HE IS DEAD EVEN BEFORE HE REACHES THE GROUND.

Mayhem ensues. The remaining KOPASSUS SOLDIERS fire their weapons but are immediately cut down. COEHLO releases the LITTLE BOY and aims his pistol. ASH prepares to fire. BLACKMORE sees ASH prepare to fire and knocks COEHLO unconscious from behind. Then all is silent except for the weeping of the children. SWALLOW spins around, clearly rattled.
SWALLOW (CONT'D)
Shut up...

KITCHENER
We won't get far enough before they realise what's happened here.

BLACKMORE
I know that.

KANE and SWEET run into the village from their positions can't believe their eyes.

SWEET
What the fuck...

MIELKE goes past him.

MIELKE
Don't ask.

The FATHER touches the ground and picks up some mud and dirt that contains traces of his WIFE'S blood.

EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM TAKES IN THE CARNAGE, AS THEY REALISE THEIR LIVES ARE NOW IN JEOPARDY. THEY TURN TO BLACKMORE FOR ORDERS.

BLACKMORE
Well we can't stay here. Make your way to the last LUP.

SWALLOW walks up to BLACKMORE.

SWALLOW
(indicating the family)
What about them...?

BLACKMORE
That's fuckin Ash's problem.

The team quickly move out of the village. ASH stands there surveying the destruction.

ASH WATCHES THE FATHER HOLDING THE MOTHER WITH HIS TWO CHILDREN. IT IS A PITIFUL SIGHT. HE CHANGES MAGAZINES ON HIS RIFLE AND MOVES THE BARREL TOWARDS THE FAMILY. HE KNOWS THIS IS WHAT BLACKMORE WANTS HIM TO DO. EXPECTS HIM TO DO.

ASH LOOKS THROUGH THE TELESCOPI C SIGHT OF HIS RIFLE AT THE FAMILY. HE LOWERS HIS WEAPON, TAKES A DEEP BREATHE AND Prepares to fire. THE FATHER REALISES WHAT ASH IS DOING. HE REACHES FOR HIS MACHETE. ASH AIMS AT THE FATHER.
ASH

Put it down.

FATHER
(in dialect)
Your Captain would have let us be killed. My daughter raped.

ASH

Now.

FATHER
What are you going to do.

ASH says nothing. He aims his weapon once again at the FATHER.

THE FATHER LOOKS AT ASH AND SENSES WHAT ASH IS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Please...do not kill the children.

ASH

What fuckin chance they got without you...

FATHER
Then shoot me first.

ASH
I intend to. Now just turn around.

The FATHER complies. His children look on, petrified.

FATHER
Why did you save us?

ASH LOOKS AT ALL THE BODIES LYING AROUND AND FINALLY COEHLO, UNCONSCIOUS BUT STILL ALIVE. HIS HEART STARTS TO BEAT FASTER, HE BREATHING GETS HEAVIER. WITH GREAT EFFORT HE BRINGS HIMSELF UNDER CONTROL.

ASH
(referring to COEHLO lying unconscious)
You're dead no matter what happens. They'll will come back. At least for this one.

FATHER
Then I will kill him myself.
The FATHER turns and grabs his machete and prepares to bring it across COEHLO'S head. ASH steps in and grabs his arm. ASH can barely match his strength. He then shoves his rifle barrel into the FATHER'S chest and pushes him to the ground. The CHILDREN rush to their FATHER. He pushes them away, staring defiantly at ASH.

FATHER
You are a killer just like the rest. Finish your job.

ASH looks on in despair, realising he cannot kill them or leave them. He points his rifle barrel up.

ASH (CONT'D)
I'll get you away from here, give you some time to...I don't know...disappear.

THE FATHER LOOKS AT ASH, NOT BELIEVING HIM, BUT KNOWING THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- DAY.

BLACKMORE, KITCHENER and SWALLOW are the first to reach their designated RV point. They are quickly going through their backpacks, taking ammunition, food and other essentials and stuffing them into their webbing. The others soon join them and do the same, SWEET, HARRIS, MILOSEVIC, MIELKE and finally KANE. HARRIS is the first to notice ASH'S absence.

BLACKMORE turns to KITCHENER.

BLACKMORE
Get an encryption on the beacon. Emergency exfiltration from these coordinates in 12 hours.

CARAMIDES
12 fuckin hours?

BLACKMORE gives CARAMIDES a withering look.

CARAMIDES (CONT'D) (Sheepishly)
Sorry Sir.

MILOSEVIC
Why don't they pick us up from here?
BLACKMORE
Because we've just killed a team of Indonesian Special Forces. Our only hope is to get picked up somewhere in East Timor. Otherwise..

KITCHENER
We're fucked.

BLACKMORE
And if we stay here we'll need air support to get us out. This way, if we survive another 12 hours, likelihood is we won't be endangering our rescue team.

SWEET
Wouldn't want to see anyone else get shot at.

BLACKMORE
This is our fuckin problem matey. Thanks to Ash. Do you understand? If we don't make it back...

HARRIS
We'll be listed as a training accident over the Timor Sea.

BLACKMORE
Exactly.

In the background, KITCHENER gets on the encryption beacon and sends the message...

KITCHENER VOICE
This is Bravo Leader, I repeat this is Bravo Leader...emergency evacuation required...I repeat...emergency evacuation required...our co ordinates are....

MIELKE
We're getting rescued now hey? So much for silent and deadly.

In the background KITCHENER receives confirmation of their pick up at the designated RV.

KITCHENER goes to BLACKMORE.
KITCHENER
A US Sea King will be picking us up at the emergency RV.

MIELKE
Why don't they send an albatross with towel in its fuckin mouth..what a joke.

SWALLOW
No air cover?

BLACKMORE
The likelihood the Indonesian military would shoot down an American aircraft is not very high.

SWEET
God Bless America..

MIELKE
But an Australian one on the other hand..

BLACKMORE purposely ignores this question.

SWALLOW
The Yanks didn't waste a team of their Special forces. Can't fucking believe this...

KITCHENER
Those bastards didn't have a chance...

MIELKE
Fuck'em. Got what they deserved.

SWALLOW
Ash shot'em in the back like dogs.

MIELKE
Should he have asked them to turn around.

SWALLOW
Listen you fuckin prick you're just as responsible-

MIELKE
You saw what they were gonna do.
KITCHENER
Their country.

BLACKMORE steps into the increasingly heated discussion.

BLACKMORE
We leave in five minutes.

HARRIS
What about Ash?

BLACKMORE
You can wait for him if you like.

ASH emerges from the jungle holding the LITTLE BOY. He is followed by the FATHER and DAUGHTER. Everyone goes silent, not quite believing he has shown up with them.

EACH MAN LOOKS AT ASH AND THE FAMILY AS THEY TAKE IN ANOTHER UNEXPECTED TURN.

BLACKMORE walks up to ASH.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
This is your problem.

ASH
What do you expect me to do?

BLACKMORE
Follow orders. You can start by putting them out of their misery.

ASH gives a look to BLACKMORE that makes it very clear this isn’t an option. BLACKMORE grabs ASH by his lapel.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
We can’t take’em with us.

ASH removes his hand.

ASH
Then they’re dead and you know it.

BLACKMORE
I want to make sure none of us are dead in the next 48 hours do you understand?

ASH goes to his pack and takes out some food and rations. He gives it to the LITTLE BOY and DAUGHTER. All the men see this. SWEET makes a move to his pack.
MIELKE notices the looks of the others and takes SWEET'S hand away from his pack. He does not resist. ASH has observed all of this. He turns to BLACKMORE.

ASH
Let's just get to the RV. I'll look after 'em.

BLACKMORE
And who'll look after you?

ASH realises this is as much a threat as a question.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
You'll be our tail the whole way with your new family. Can't keep up...that's your problem. When we get to the exfiltration RV, it's over.

ASH says nothing. He goes to the FATHER.

ASH
How are they?

FATHER
Their mother has been killed. And their rescuers would prefer them dead.

ASH goes to pick up the LITTLE BOY but is stopped by the FATHER. He grabs his SON and lifts him up. ASH waits till the three of them are in front of him starts to move himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE VILLAGE - DAY.

COEHLO surveys the detritus of the battle. Behind him a team of his Kopassus Special Forces awaits his command. They look on expressionless.

COEHLO LOOKS AT THE DEAD AND THE DYING.

COEHLO takes out a map and begins to go over it with another KOPASSUS OFFICER.

COEHLO
This is not to be reported. Do you understand? My men will find them.

CAPTAIN
If they are in East Timor Major then there is little we can do.
COEHLO
(Pointing to the map)
See these co-ordinates? Send a team to await their arrival.

CAPTAIN
How do you know...?

COEHLO
They took the villagers. This is the most likely place.

CAPTAIN
What is there?

COEHLO
A Catholic mission.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- DAWN.
The team emerge from their LUP and move off towards their expected RV with the rescue team. They are hyper vigilant.

Montage of scenes:
The team moving through the jungles and dense scrub.
The heat bearing down on each member.
ASH cutting through the scrub with his machete. He looks up to see a snake curled around the branch of a tree. He carefully by passes the tree, hand signalling behind him to the next person to watch the tree.
The team readying to cross a fast flowing river.
COEHLO and his TEAM finding the abandoned back packs.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MISSION- DAY
TEAM'S POV; They are hiding in the jungle surrounding a Mission. In front of the Mission are two cemeteries, one on either side. There is a clear area in front of this. A few domestic animals are lingering about. In the centre of the clearing is a well. All is quiet. BLACKMORE scans the area with his binoculars. ASH and SWEET are nearest to him. The FAMILY hover in the background, the rest of the team acting as if they are not even there.
BLACKMORE
No one's about.

SWEET
It's pretty quiet.

SWALLOW joins them.

SWALLOW
Nothing. I've scanned every fuckin' bush and it's all clear.

ASH
What if no one's home?

BLACKMORE
Then we take what's available and wait for the helis.

BLACKMORE notices the look of apprehension on SWEET'S face.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
You'll be covered all the way. Anything moves, Swallow will take care of it.

SWALLOW prepares to go back to his position.

ASH goes to the FATHER.

ASH
Just stay put.

FATHER
Why is he sending you?

ASH
No reason.

FATHER
The others...?

ASH
You'll be fine. So will they.

The FATHER looks hard at ASH.

FATHER
If anything happens to you, your friends will kill us.
ASH
Whoever said they were my friends.

ASH goes over to BLACKMORE.

BLACKMORE
What is it.

ASH
If this Sea King arrives, why don't we bring 'em.

BLACKMORE
Not enough room.

ASH
Bullshit.

BLACKMORE
Take a good look Ash. Remember the Tampa? We're trying to keep these people out. Not give them a military escort.

ASH turns to SWEET.

ASH
Let's go.

ASH and SWEET grab their weapons, check the safety's and move towards the Mission. They enter the clearing and stop for a moment. They pass the well. SWEET notices the two cemeteries.

SWEET
Why two of 'em?

ASH
One side goes to heaven the other....

A wry smile creases the edge of ASH'S lips.

SWEET
Very funny. So why?

ASH
One side is those killed by Indonesian Militia, or Special Forces...

SWEET
And the others?
ASH
Indonesian military killed by the East Timorese guerillas.

SWEET
And the church tends to both.

ASH
It has no choice.

They arrive at the front of the Mission.

SWEET
It's too fuckin quiet.

ASH doesn't disagree. He scans around the building but notices nothing. But his instincts have been aroused.

ASH
Go around the other side.

SWEET hesitates then moves off. ASH knocks on the door of the Mission. The door opens and a PRIEST is there. He looks at ASH up and down, quickly taking in who he is and what he does, without saying anything. ASH is the first to speak.

ASH (CONT'D)
(in dialect)
I am here with a few friends. We will be picked up soon. Do you have any food and water till they arrive.

The PRIEST stares impassively at ASH. He nods his head.

PRIEST
(in dialect)
Tell them to come down from the jungle and I will give them food. The well is out front.

SWEET is at the back of the Mission which is almost about to be overwhelmed by the jungle. Suddenly a small hand drops onto the ground in front of him.

A STACK OF BODIES LIES IN A TANGLED MASS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH MISSION.

SWEET stops and thinks of checking it out further cannot will himself to do so. He looks around the surrounding jungle, gripping his weapon tighter. He makes his way back to the front of the Church Mission.
ASH
Anything...?

SWEET doesn't answer. ASH picks up his distress.

ASH (CONT'D)
Alright let's go.

As they walk away SWEET becomes animated.

SWEET
There's something...bodies are in the back of the...

ASH
Relax...just keep walking. Whatever you do, don't turn around.

SWEET
What if they start shooting?

ASH
Go behind the well.

SWEET looks at the well, not sure ASH is serious since it could provide little cover in the event of a firefight.

CUT TO:

The FATHER holding his SON and DAUGHTER closely. The LITTLE BOY shivers with panic and exhaustion.

THE FATHER LOOKS AT THE FACES OF THE OTHER SAS MEN WHO TOTALLY IGNORE THEIR PRESENCE, THEIR EYES FOCUSED ON ASH AND SWEET.

CUT TO:

THE MISSION- DAY.

CLOSE UP OF TWO KOPASSUS SPECIAL FORCES HIDING IN THE JUNGLE AREA BEHIND TO THE SIDE OF THE CHURCH MISSION. THE SERGEANT GIVES THE ORDER TO ONE OF HIS MEN TO FIRE AT THE DEPARTING SAS. THE KOPASSUS TROOPER TAKES AIM AND FIRES.

SWEET is shot in the knee. ASH dives for cover behind the well.
SWEET FALLS TO THE GROUND, LANDING ON HIS KNEES THEN FALLING FLAT ON HIS FACE. HE SCREAMS IN AGONY.

ASH does his utmost to conceal his body behind the well. He sees SWEET'S body lying there and realises there is nothing he can do.

SWEET, BARELY ALIVE, TRIES TO MOVE HIS BODY TOWARDS THE TREE LINE. A KOOPASSUS SOLDIER PREPARES TO FIRE.

HE SEES THAT SWEET IS STILL ALIVE AND TAKES AIM TO FINISH THE JOB.

CUT TO:

The rest of the team watch with growing unease.

MIELKE
What are we gonna do sir?

BLACKMORE looks at him impassively but says nothing.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
Captain...they'll kill' em.

The Sea King helicopter suddenly appears over the Mission.

THE PILOT WATCHES THE FIRE FIGHT BELOW.

PILOT
Bravo Leader this is Phoenix. Looks pretty hot down there. Cannot effect rescue unless all activity neutralised. Please acknowledge.

CUT TO:

The team realise their rescue is now in jeopardy. All eyes turn to BLACKMORE.

BLACKMORE
Kitchener...get on that fuckin radio and tell them to hang on.

KITCHENER goes to the radio.

KITCHENER
Phoenix this is Bravo Leader. We are in the area. I repeat we are in the area. Gunfire will be neutralised.
PILOT'S VOICE
Well you better get a move on Bravo Leader. This is the last coach out of town. After this you're on your own.

BLACKMORE
Ask him what the fuck he's talking about..

KITCHENER
Phoenix this is Bravo Leader. Situation critical need immediate evacuation..

PILOT'S VOICE
Bravo Leader, aware of situation. If gunfire not neutralised, Navy will evacuate from Liquicia on East Timor coast. Will await signal in 24 hours. Good luck.

CUT TO:
The KOPASSUS SOLDIER fires. SWEET is riddled with bullets. He is dead.

BACK TO:
ASH peeks the muzzle of his weapon on either side of the well and fires of a few rounds back and forth to either side. His magazine runs out and he quickly replaces it.

BLACKMORE watches ASH desperately hanging on, fighting for his life.

BLACKMORE
We're going in. Two groups, flanking both sides. Make it quick...

KANE, MILOSEVIC, CARAMIDES and MIELKE all check their weapons and fan out to their original positions. They start making their way to the edge of the clearing. BLACKMORE turns to SWALLOW and KITCHENER who are ready to fire. They turn to BLACKMORE. He finally nods his head.

SWALLOW aims his rifle at the flashes on either side of the Mission and begins to fire well aimed shots.

KITCHENER aims his grenade launcher and fires off three rounds, one after the other. The explosions cause a brief lull in the firing.
ASH realises the firing has stopped. There is the sound of the dying and wounded coming from the jungle. This is heard by the rest of the TEAM. BLACKMORE and KITCHENER join the others at the edge of the clearing. They look relieved that he is there to direct them. BLACKMORE points to CARAMIDES, MILOSEVIC and KANE to one area and KITCHENER and MIELKE to follow him. He mouths the words, one, two, three....

CARAMIDES making a sign of the cross. MILOSEVIC notices this gesture and takes out a crucifix hanging on his chest. He looks at it dispassionately for a second as if handling a worthless trinket then tucks it back into his shirt.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)

NOW!

The two groups come bursting out of their positions and charge towards the enemy positions firing as they do so. The energy and aggressiveness behind their action throws the remaining KOPASSUS soldiers.

THE TEAM IN A SEMI CIRCLE FACING OUTWARD FIRES INTO THE CONCEALED POSITIONS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CHURCH MISSION.

KANE fires wildly from left to right and then fires his grenade launcher through the window of the Church Mission. The explosion blows out all the windows of the structure. Some of the KOPASSUS rush out to engage their attackers but are quickly cut down. The TEAM pour into the enemy positions and check their handiwork. Any wounded are quickly dispatched. MIELKE looks around for ASH and realises he is still behind the well. He helps ASH to his feet.

The Sea King helicopter has turned around and is flying off into the distance.

EACH TEAM MEMBER STARES AS THE HELICOPTER FLIES, NOT QUITE BELIEVING THEY ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND.

SWALLOW

I don't fucking believe it.

ASH checks out the aftermath of the fire fight as the rest of the TEAM reload their weapons and survey the damage done. He sees SWEET lying in the same position face up. MILOSEVIC is looking at him intently. He notices SWALLOW and KITCHENER finishing off the survivors. The father is holding the little boy who is in a complete state of shock.

ASH goes to SWEET. MILOSEVIC looks up.
MILOSEVIC

Should have been you.

ASH says nothing. BLACKMORE goes up to ASH.

BLACKMORE

They were waiting.

ASH nods his head.

MIELKE

How the fuck did they know?

BLACKMORE

We signal all our moves as long as they tag along.

ASH and BLACKMORE look at each other for a moment.

SWALLOW and KITCHENER join them.

SWALLOW

Sweet is fuckin dead. We're left here all by our fuckin selves. No rescue.

HARRIS

Shut up Swallow.

KITCHENER

What do we do?

SWALLOW

There's only one fuckin thing isn't there.

SWALLOW goes over to the FATHER and begins to drag him away from his children. The LITTLE BOY remains passive, the DAUGHTER begins to scream. SWALLOW roughly casts her aside. He takes the FATHER to the clearing throws him to the ground. The rest of the team stand there in exhaustion and disbelief. ASH cocks his weapon. KITCHENER and MILOSEVIC aim their weapons at ASH.

KITCHENER

Don't even think about it.

MILOSEVIC

Has to be done.

SWALLOW is preparing to shoot the FATHER.
ASH
(Referring to the CHILDREN)
What about them..?

SWALLOW
Laws of natural selection.

KANE
(To ASH)
They're slowin us down mate.

MIELKE is watching this with keen interest. He realises ASH can't stop what is about to happen.

MIELKE
Put it to a vote.

BLACKMORE
What?

SWALLOW has held off for a moment.

MIELKE
Put it to a vote. Long straws they're on their own. Short straws...they come with us.

SWALLOW
I don't fuckin believe this....

CARAMIDES
Yeah why the fuck not. Get it over and done with.

MILOSEVIC
Can't say we didn't give' em a chance.

KITCHENER
That's big of you Milo..

MIELKE
(with steely determination)
C'mon Boss. (He goes up to BLACKMORE). If Swallow shoots the father, I can't guarantee he'll be alive tomorrow.

BLACKMORE says nothing. MIELKE collects some straws and hands them to each team member.
ASH
(Pointing to the FATHER)
What about him?

MIELKE stops in his tracks for a moment.

BLACKMORE
You got no say in this.

ASH
His life. Should be able to vote on it.

The FATHER stands up. MIELKE breaks a straw and hands it to him.

MIELKE
Just hold it in front of you.

To the others...

MIELKE (CONT'D)
Alright behind your back. Like I said, long straw... they stay here, short straws they come with us.

Each team member places the straw behind their backs. A moment later, MIELKE goes around with his cap in his hand.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
Just place it in there fellas.

Each team member drops the straw in the cap from behind their back so nobody can see what the other team members have voted. ASH is the last.

MIELKE looks at ASH's straw and sees that it is the only broken straw. He places his own in there, thinks for a second before breaking it, then quickly grabs two of the other straws and breaks them in the cap.

MIELKE grabs the FATHER's straw then goes to the centre of the group and turns his hat upside down. He separates the short straws from the long ones.

THERE ARE SIX SHORT STRAWS AND THREE LONG STRAWS.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
I guess they're coming with us Boss.

EACH TEAM MEMBER TRIES TO FIGURE OUT WHO WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR THE FAMILY TO STAY WITH THE TEAM.
ASH looks at MIELKE, attempting to suppress his gratitude to MIELKE for what he did. The father quietly goes over to his children and gathers them up.

BLACKMORE
Grab Sweet’s weapon, ammo, anything we might need. Split it up.

MILOSEVIC
What about the body?

BLACKMORE
No time. Leave it as it is.

MIELKE
What’s this about the coast....

BLACKMORE
There won’t be any more helicopter extraction.

MIELKE
Sir...if it isn’t too fuckin clear as yet, these bastards are hunting us down. I don’t think they’re gonna stop cause they sent in the B team.

KITCHENER
He’s got a point Boss.

BLACKMORE
We’ve got 24 hours.

CARAMIDES
What are you sayin’ sir?

BLACKMORE
No quick extraction. They know...

The men are concerned about this news.

SWALLOW
What is this Death Race fuckin 2000? Why don’t they just get us out of here?

BLACKMORE goes up to ASH.

BLACKMORE
You’re going point. The family stays in the rear. They fall back...
ASH heads off.

THE LITTLE BOY WATCHES MIELKE TAKE A SANDY COLOURED BERET OUT OF SWEET’S SHIRT AND STUFF IT INTO HIS OWN.

BLACKMORE turns to the rest of the team.

BLACKMORE (CONT’D)
No one gives away any of their rations. Understand?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HELICOPTER - EVENING

COEHLO surveys the wreckage of the recently fought skirmish. Bodies lying in the yard, cemetery and jungle.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MISSION- DAY

COEHLO looks closely at the aftermath of the battle, his eyes finally resting on the body of SWEET, noticeable for being the only caucasian body in the area. He also notices the magazine pouches are empty. He gives a few orders to the four to five KOPASSUS SOLDIERS who have disembarked from the helicopter. They begin to check out the bodies and remove dog tags from their compatriots. COEHLO looks around at the carnage.

SERGEANT
(in dialect)
They may have escaped already.

COEHLO
(in dialect)
They were not extracted by air. Particularly after this mess.

SERGEANT
So where would they go from here Major..

COEHLO
Their only option is the coast. The Australians won’t risk another incident. Either they make it alone or not at all.

COEHLO checks the direction they headed in.
COELHO (CONT'D)
They will go towards Liquicia. I want a Militia team to occupy the village. Make sure they have to go around it. They must be low on food and water by now.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- DAY.

BLACKMORE and the rest of the team wait outside a village which bears all the hallmarks of recent destruction; huts are burnt with all the belongings turned out, animals killed or wandering about unfettered or outside their enclosures. But there are no bodies. ASH comes up to BLACKMORE.

ASH
Nothing.

BLACKMORE
You sure...

ASH
The only place they could be is further down that track on the other side of the village.

MIELKE approaches from another direction.

MIELKE
Deserted boss.

BLACKMORE thinks for a second. ASH interrupts.

ASH
We should by pass this place. Militia have been here...they could still be around.

SWALLOW
Or miles away by now. We need water and food.

BLACKMORE
(to ASH)
I want you to go around the other side, set up an OP 200 metres or so from the village.

ASH looks at the family.
ASH says nothing but goes on his way. BLACKMORE signals to the team. In a line they make their way into the village, taking in the upheaval that has recently occurred.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)

We're after supplies. Watch out for booby traps. Mielke, Kane, take those two huts. Swallow, Kitchener over there. You two, (indicating MILOSEVIC and CARAMIDES) check out that supply shed. Harris...keep an eye on them.

HARRIS goes over to the family. He pulls out some chocolate and is about to put it inside his mouth.

THE LITTLE BOY STARES HUNGRILY AT THE CHOCOLATE. HARRIS Notices. He Checks to see if anyone is looking and Hands it to the little boy. He splits it with his sister and they devour it. HARRIS allows himself a brief smile.

MIELKE and KANE hesitate at the entrance of a ramshackle wooden hut. The door is ajar. Hesitantly they open the door and enter. The inside is in total disarray; clothes, beds, food, the odd appliance, all over the place.

MIELKE scans the inside of the hut for any indication that there is something worth taking.

KANE

Let's get the fuck out of here.

MI ELKE

We'll be eating the grass pretty soon so I'd start looking.

MI ELKE turns over a mattress and finds a couple of cans of red beans. He throws one to KANE who catches it. A smile comes to his face.

MIELKE (CONT'D)

Not that you deserve it.

KITCHENER and SWALLOW are inside another hut. SWALLOW indicates to KITCHENER a spot on the wall. There is a large pool of congealed blood. The rest of the hut is dishevelled, with all signs of a rapid violent departure.

CARAMIDES and MILOSEVIC enter the shed. It is empty.
CARAMEDES

Fucking great.

BLACKMORE stands in the centre of the village. He observes the rest of the team emerge from the huts, shaking their heads. He points to CARAMEDES.

BLACKMORE (pointing to a well)

Check the well.

CARAMEDES walks over to the well.

CARAMEDES looks down the well. He sees the carcasses of two or three chickens floating in the water which is of a deep red colour.

CARAMEDES

Shit....

The DAUGHTER sees a vegetable patch to the side of one of the huts which none of the TEAM have noticed. She walks towards it.

CLOSE UP OF THE SPIKE OF AN ANTI PERSONNEL MINE STICKING OUT OF THE GROUND. THE GIRL’S FOOT JUST MISSES IT. SHE GETS ON HER KNEES AND PULLS OUT SOME MEAGRE LOOKING VEGETABLES.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE- DAY.

ASH is standing over at the edge of a ditch. His face is grim and expressionless.

ASH STANDS OVER A DITCH WHICH IS FULL OF BODIES, SOME OF WHICH ARE STILL ALIVE BUT OBVIOUSLY TOO FAR GONE TO HELP. HE GETS ON ONE KNEE, PICKS UP SOME DIRT AND THROWS IT OVER THE BODIES.

ASH hears a muffled scream. He brings his weapon to the ready and heads in the direction. The SOUND becomes louder. ASH stops and peers through a brush leading into a small clearing.

CUT TO:

HARRIS looking for the daughter. He notices her in the patch gathering up some of the vegetables. He then sees the spikes sticking out of the ground. He goes up to the father.

HARRIS

I thought I told you to stay put...
HARRIS walks into the patch careful to avoid the spike of the mine that he can see.

HARRIS (CONT'D)
Leave those there...listen there are mines....

HARRIS reaches his arms out to grab the DAUGHTER.

BACK TO:

ASH SEES A YOUNG VILLAGE GIRL IS LYING ON THE GROUND WITH A MILITIA SOLDIER SITTING ON HER HEAD FACING AWAY AS ANOTHER SOLDIER PREPARES TO RAPE HER. SHE IS NAKED, HER DRESS DISCARDED TO THE SIDE BEARING THE SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN RIPPED OFF HER BODY.

ASH looks at his weapon for a second and realises he cannot use it for fear of alerting any other MILITIA. He places it gently on the ground and pulls out his combat knife. He stealthily walks into the clearing and comes up behind the MILITIA SOLDIER who is now on top of the YOUNG GIRL with his pants down. ASH comes up right behind the MILITIA SOLDIER and in one quick move grabs him from behind and runs the knife across his throat, at the same time throwing his body to the side.

CLOSE UP OF THE MILITIA SOLDIER GRABBING AT HIS THROAT TO HALT THE FLOW OF BLOOD FROM HIS FATAL WOUND. SOUND OF GURGLING.

SOUND of an explosion.

ASH LOOKS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE AS HE REALISES SOMETHING HAS GONE TERRIBLY WRONG.

ASH quickly grabs the SECOND MILITIA SOLDIER and prepares to do the same. The YOUNG GIRL rolls away to the side and grabs her dress and attempts to cover herself. She is petrified with fear.

ASH HAS HIS ARM AROUND THE THROAT OF THE SECOND MILITIA SOLDIER, HIS KNIFE ARM RAISED IN THE AIR, PREPARING TO BRING IT DOWN INTO THE CHEST CAVITY OF THE HAPLESS SOLDIER.

CUT TO:

HARRIS is screaming in agony, holding his abdomen which has been ripped apart by one of the mines. The DAUGHTER is lying distressed by the side of the patch. The FATHER grabs her and holds her tight. BLACKMORE and the rest of the team come rushing over.
BLACKMORE
WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED?!

CARAMIDES
I saw it Boss. Harris tried to get the girl out of the minefield.

SWALLOW
What the fuck was she doin in there anyhow...

MIELKE
It’s a vegetable patch. Not a fuckin minefield. I think she finally realised we weren’t going to feed them.

BLACKMORE

CARAMIDES and MILOSEVIC look at each other then gingerly step into the patch and drag HARRIS out of there.

EACH TEAM MEMBER LOOKS AT HARRIS TO SEE THE EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES. WITHOUT SPEAKING THEY GATHER THEIR MORPHINE CONTAINERS FROM AROUND THEIR NECKS AND HAND THEM TO MIELKE WHO HAS PUSHED CARAMIDES AND MILOSEVIC OUT OF THE WAY.

MIELKE
Could have just as easily been you two bastards...

MIELKE (CONT’D)
(To HARRIS)
You know what I have to do old son.

HARRIS nods. He is in agony, barely suppressing the screams that are building up inside his body. MIELKE gets to work, injecting the morphine into HARRIS’ femoral artery, one syringe after the other. HARRIS slowly quiets down.

KANE
Is it enough...

MIELKE
He won’t be waking up.

BLACKMORE, barely suppressing his rage signals to KITCHENER and SWALLOW to grab the FAMILY.
BLACKMORE
(Nodding in the direction
of the edge of the
village)
Over there. Make it quick.

KITCHENER and SWALLOW drag the FATHER and his CHILDREN to the
edge of the village. BLACKMORE follows behind. MIELKE notices
and rushes to his feet grabbing his weapon.

KANE
Leave it alone mate. They fuckin
deserve it....

KANE grabs MIELKE'S shoulder who shirks him away.

MIELKE
Piss off...

MIELKE goes up to BLACKMORE.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
What are you doing...?

BLACKMORE
They’ve become too much of a
liability..

MIELKE
They just wanted to fuckin eat!

BLACKMORE
Stand back.

BLACKMORE points his weapon at MIELKE who freezes on the
spot.

CUT TO:

SOUND of a jeep approached the village. ASH stops himself,
holding the MILITIA SOLDIER in this position. The SOUND gets
louder. ASH quickly throws the MILITIA SOLDIER face down and
covers him with his body.

AN OPEN AIR JEEP IS COMING DOWN THE PATH LEADING INTO THE
VILLAGE. INSIDE ARE THREE MILITIA SOLDIERS ARMEED TO THE
TEETH; AN OFFICER AND TWO ENLISTED MEN. THE OFFICER IS
WEARING SUNGLASSES.

ASH presses the knife against the side of the MILITIA
SOLDIERS neck. He whispers into his ear.
ASH
(in dialect)
Make a sound and I'll cut your head off.

ASH looks to the side and notices the YOUNG GIRL taking dirt and placing it inside the mouth of the FIRST MILITIA SOLDIER to muffle his dying sounds. The Jeep passes by. ASH realises they are heading into the village.

ASH (CONT'D)
Shit.....

ASH thinks fast. He looks for the MILITIA SOLDIER'S weapon and takes out the magazine. He then orders the MILITIA SOLDIER to remove the bullets out of the magazine. ASH looks at the traumatised YOUNG GIRL who is in a state of shock. He pulls a headband off the MILITIA SOLDIER'S head and uses it to gag him. ASH then takes the belt off the SOLDIER'S fatigues and binds his hands behind his back. He then leads him away.

CUT TO:

The FAMILY are now fighting as hard as they can but SWALLOW and KITCHENER grab them even tighter.

BLACKMORE
Fuck it. Do it here.

KITCHENER and SWALLOW throw them to the ground and cock their weapons. The rest of the team look on in bewilderment or acceptance of what is about to happen. MIELKE aims his weapon at BLACKMORE but cannot pull the trigger.

BLACKMORE, KITCHENER AND SWALLOW PREPARE TO FIRE. THEY HEAR THE SOUND OF THE JEEP AND EACH TURN THEIR HEADS TOWARDS THE DIRECTION OF THE SOUND.

The Jeep comes careening down the path leading into the village. The whole team are caught out in the open. All look to BLACKMORE who quickly looks around.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Don't move......there's only three of them. Safety's off.

The jeep screams to a halt in the middle of the village. Without missing a beat the THREE MILITIA SOLDIERS jump out and aim their automatic rifles at the team. They quickly realise they are outnumbered, making them more jittery and nervous. The OFFICER starts screaming out orders.
SWALLOW
What’s he saying boss...

BLACKMORE
He wants us to put our weapons down.

KITCHENER
Fuckin cheek...

By this time all the team have levelled their weapons at waist height directly at the MILITIA SOLDIERS.

SWALLOW
Go on make your move arsehole...

The MILITIA OFFICER screams his orders even louder.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE VILLAGE - DAY.

ASH and the MILITIA SOLDIER are on a steep rise overlooking the village and the road leading into it. The MILITIA SOLDIER is still bound and gagged.

ASH SEES THE POSITIONS OF EACH OF THE TEAM MEMBERS AND THE THREE MILITIA MEMBERS WITH THEIR BACKS TO HIM.

ASH turns the MILITIA SOLDIER to him and sticks the knife under his chin.

ASH
(in dialect)
I am going down there as your prisoner. You will one pace ahead of me. If you move behind me at any time I will kill you. Understand?

The MILITIA SOLDIER nods his head. ASH turns him on his back and cuts the bindings. SOUND of another vehicle, much larger bounding into the village.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The team watch as a large military truck rumbles at high speed into the village. It is carrying 15-20 MILITIA SOLDIERS.
EACH OF THE TEAM MEMBER REALISE HOW BADLY THE TABLES HAVE BEEN TURNED.

MI ELKE
I think we’re well and truly fucked sir.

KANE
What are we gonna do sir...?

BLACKMORE is silent. The truck pulls to a halt. Immediately the MILITIA SOLDIERS apprise the situation and aim their weapons at the SAS TEAM. The MILITIA OFFICER turns to the MILITIA inside the truck and barks out orders to their most SENIOR OFFICER.

CARAMIDES
What’s he saying?

BLACKMORE
To shoot us.

Automatically each of the SAS TEAM raise their weapons and step back. SWALLOW and KITCHENER grab the LITTLE BOY and DAUGHTER off their feet and use them as human shields.

ASH STARES INTENTLY AT SWALLOW AND KITCHENER WITH THE CHILDREN IN FRONT OF THEM.

The MILITIA in the trucks prepare to fire. ASH sees the MILITIA ready to fire. He looks at the MILITIA PRISONER who smiles briefly, believing ASH has no chance. ASH thrusts his empty weapon into his hands. He then adjusts the strap of his automatic rifle and straps it bandolier style so that the muzzle of his rifle is pointing to the ground and the butt of the rifle barely sticking above his shoulder. ASH then places his hands behind his head as if a prisoner himself and motions the MILITIA PRISONER to the centre of the village.

BLACKMORE NOTICES AT THE PERIPHERY OF HIS VISION TWO FIGURES WALKING TOWARDS THE TRUCK. HE MAKES OUT ASH AND THE MILITIA SOLDIER. HE CAN’T BELIEVE ASH IS A PRISONER, SCANNING HIS BODY AND FINALLY NOTICING THE WEAPON STRAP DIAGONALLY ACROSS HIS BACK.

The MILITIA OFFICER sees the MILITIA SOLDIER approaching with ASH and orders two of the MILITIA inside the truck to assist with ASH.
ASH WATCHES THE TWO MILITIA SOLDIERS JUMP OUT OF THE TRUCK AND APPROACH HIM. THE CLOSER THEY GET THE MORE SERIOUS THEIR EXPRESSION BECOMES. THEY CALL OUT TO ASH’S CAPTOR WHO FAILS TO RESPOND. ASH REALISES THEY ARE BECOMING SUSPICIOUS AND HE HAS ONLY SECONDS TO ACT.

CLOSE UP OF ASH HOLDING HIS BROWNING 4 AUTOMATIC HANDGUN BEHIND HIS NECK IN HIS RIGHT HAND.

AS ASH AND HIS CAPTOR COME CLOSER, THE MILITIA SOLDIERS FINALLY NOTICE THE WEAPON ATTACHED TO ASH’S PERSON AND BRING THEIR WEAPONS UP.

ASH quickly aims his hand gun at the two MILITIA SOLDIERS and shoots them, placing two shots in the chest of each. He then quickly turns to MILITIA PRISONER and shoots him in the head. This takes seconds. Instantaneously he swings his automatic weapon to his side underneath his arm and pours fire into the back of the truck.

ASH SLAUGHTERS THE MILITIA IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK, CAUGHT IN THE RAGE OF BATTLE.

In the enclosed space, the MILITIA SOLDIERS are like pigs to the slaughter. Some of the MILITIA SOLDIERS have jumped over the side of the truck but are cut down by ASH or the SAS TEAM who have hit the deck and are also pouring fire into the numerically superior but totally surprised MILITIA. ASH reloads and continues to pour fire into the back of the truck even though he is only metres away. Suddenly the return fire die away. A few of the MILITIA including the OFFICER have dropped their weapons, raised their hands and stand there mute. One of them starts pissing in his pants and breaks into convulsions.

EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM LOOKS AT THEIR VICTIMS, RELIEVED AT THEIR SUDDEN RESCUE BUT HELL BENT ON REVENGE.

Without the need for an order, the SAS cut down the remaining MILITIA till all of them are lying dead in the centre of the village. SILENCE. All is still as the TEAM take in what has just happened.

Methodically ASH starts going through the bodies to make sure there are no survivors.

THE MEN WALK THROUGH THE BODIES AND DESPATCHING THE WOUNDED. THE MILITIA OFFICER LIES WOUNDED, PLEADING FOR HELP.

BLACKMORE and ASH both notice his predicament. ASH, without hesitation walks over to the MILITIA OFFICER and shoots him in the head. ASH notices HARRIS’ body and walks over to it. This is noticed by SWALLOW.
SWALLOW
Another mate of yours dead huh?

ASH stops, turns and looks directly at SWALLOW. He makes a beeline for SWALLOW who is taken off guard by ASH’S speed and fury. SWALLOW puts his arms up but ASH swings the butt of his rifle across SWALLOW’S face. He goes down screaming.

BLACKMORE REGISTERING SOME SURPRISE AT THE IMMEDIACY OF ASH’S RESPONSE.

No one goes to help SWALLOW who is still writhing on the ground. MIELKE walks past him....

MIELKE
You’re right mate. Ash is past it. I thought he would have killed you...at least.

ASH WALKS OFF ALONE, HIS BREATHING GETTING MORE LABOURED. HE IS HIGH FROM ALL THE KILLING YET TERRIFIED WHAT THIS SAYS ABOUT HIM. HE REACHES INTO HIS POCKET FOR THE PROPANABOL. HE TAKES TWO TABLETS OUT AND QUICKLY SWALLOWS THEM, WASHING THEM DOWN WITH A SWIG FROM HIS WATER BOTTLE. HE HEARS A SOUND AND GRABS HIS RIFLE.

Standing in front of him are the LITTLE BOY and DAUGHTER. They hand over HARRIS’ beret to ASH. For a brief moment he smiles at them and nods his head. He can feel the tears welling up inside of him. Quickly he gets up and strides past the children back to the village.

BLACKMORE and the rest of the team are lying on the ground overlooking the coast. BLACKMORE points to a small inlet protected by two large sand dunes on either side and a tributary running in front of them. A natural killing ground.

BLACKMORE
There’s our spot. Put some claymores on either side, M60’s on the dunes...it’ll be just like home.

The rest of the men look to where BLACKMORE is pointing. They gather their equipment and make their way down the hill.

CUT TO:

ASH crossing the stream behind the rest of the team. He turns around to see the FATHER carrying his SON who is asleep. The DAUGHTER is close by his side. The FATHER is exhausted.
ASH goes up to him and takes the LITTLE BOY off him. The FATHER does not resist.

CUT TO:

BLACKMORE and the rest of the team unload their equipment and rest for five. They see ASH lay the LITTLE BOY gently on a patch of grass. He goes through his pack trying to find some food but comes up empty. CARAMIDES notices the children who look half starved. He takes off his pack and pulls out some ration bars. He is about to hand them out to the children. BLACKMORE notices and kicks them out of his hand.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
What the fuck do you think you're doing?

CARAMIDES
They're hungry sir.

BLACKMORE
So will you be if you give away all your food.

CARAMIDES
Captain, they haven't eaten in fuckin' how long...

KITCHENER
Wouldn't waste it mate.

CARAMIDES
They're starvin'.

SWALLOW
Won't be for long.

CARAMIDES
Can't just leave 'em here sir.

BLACKMORE
They're too old for regimental mascots trooper.

KITCHENER
Anyway what do ya think would happen to 'em back on Oz? Heh? Some fuckin' detention centre in the middle of nowhere...

CARAMIDES
At least they'd be alive...
BLACKMORE
Better off....here.

ASH WATCHES AND LISTENS TO THIS CONVERSATION.

CARAMIDES picks up the rations and gives them to the children. MIELKE and MILOSEVIC go through their webbing and do the same. KITCHENER remains impassive to their fate. KANE walks off while SWALLOW stands there defiantly. The children hungrily devour the food that is handed to them. BLACKMORE realises it is futile to try to stop them.

BLACKMORE (CONT'D)
Kitchener...get on that radio. I don’t care who hears us. Give them our co ordinates and find out when they’re going to be here.

He walks off and checks his map. ASH goes over to BLACKMORE. KITCHENER’S voice is in the background.

KITCHENER’S VOICE
This is Bravo Leader, I repeat, this is Bravo Leader, we are ready for exfiltration..

BLACKMORE
They’re not coming along.

ASH
It’s three of them.

BLACKMORE
I wouldn’t take one.

ASH
You know what’s going to happen.

BLACKMORE
The same thing that’s happens to thousands of them all over the fucking place. Stop pretending this is any different.

ASH
They’re my responsibility.

BLACKMORE
Like hell they are. Just because you can’t bear to leave them behind. You’re supposed to do as you’re told. Understand? Otherwise...
ASH
Fuck otherwise. You do what you like if we get back.

BLACKMORE
It’s over for you Ash. When all is said and done you’ll wish you died in that shithole in Iraq.

ASH
That shithole is no more Captain. Just like this team. You ripped the fucking guts out of it.

ASH walks off. He grabs HARRIS’ old weapon on the way.

IN THE BACKGROUND KITCHENER’S VOICE CONFIRMS THEIR EXPECTED TIME FOR PICK UP.

KITCHENER takes the receiver and gives the teams call sign. After a few seconds he stands up exited and agitated.

KITCHENER
They’re here...the Navy...they’ve got our position and are two klicks from shore....they thought we were goners but the CIA sent some satellite photos of what happened back in the village.

BLACKMORE
We better hurry we’ve only got a couple of hours of daylight left...

ASH goes up to the FATHER.

ASH
They’re going to leave you behind.

FATHER
And you?

ASH pauses for a moment. He knows what he says will determine his fate, one way or another.

ASH
I’m staying.

FATHER
Why do you want to die...?
ASH is confronted by this question. He is disarmed by its piercing honesty.

ASH
I have no family. All my friends are gone.

The FATHER silently nods his head.

FATHER
What are you going to do?

ASH
Try and stop him.

FATHER
He won’t be by himself.

ASH
They’ll kill all of you either way. Stay here...look after your family.

The FATHER nods. ASH walks inland and investigates the terrain he will fight and likely die in.

ASH looks out across the stream the runs parallel to the beach, left and right to the dunes that may provide some protection, and finally, the dense bush/jungle on the other side of the stream. There is a killing area of about 100 metres.

ASH looks into the bushes and can barely make out the point of the barrel.

ASH goes to the Claymore mines that were planted on their arrival. He gently takes each one out and repositions them so that their killing area covers a wider arc. He then places HARRIS’ weapon which has a tripod strategically behind some scrub. He goes to the front of the concealed area to see effective it is. The rest of the team notice what ASH is doing.

SWALLOW
What the fuck is he doing?

MIELKE realises instantly and walks hurriedly towards ASH who does not stop.

MIELKE
What’s going on...?
ASH
I thought you'd have figured it a little sooner.

MIELKE
You're setting up a bloody ambush?!

ASH says nothing, continuing his preparations.

MIELKE (CONT'D)
Are you fucking mad! The bastards know where we are even before we arrive! Why should this be any different...?

ASH
Cos you'll all be gone and they won't see me. Not right away.

MIELKE is visibly angry.

MIELKE
You saved everyone's fucking life after getting us into this mess. You can't stay here and....

ASH
What...?

MIELKE
You can't die for these people.

ASH looks over at the FATHER and his CHILDREN who are quietly sitting by themselves.

ASH
Why not. I've grown fond of them.

MIELKE
Don't...please Ash. There's nothing more you can do.

ASH
I'm not leaving.

MIELKE looks at ASH. There is nothing he can say that will change his mind. MIELKE does all he can to check the well of emotion rising inside of him. ASH has become a comrade in arms.

ASH checks his own weapon. He counts his magazines.
There are four to keep him alive.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - SUNSET.

COEHLO arrives with his men following the trail left by the SAS.

COEHLO looks through his binoculars across the space between the jungle line and the beach with the stream running parallel.

COEHL’S KOPASSUS SOLDIERS form up on either side of him. A pair on each side set up two light mortars.

CUT TO:

EXT. TIMOR STRAIGHTS - SUNSET.

AERIAL POV OF THE ZODIAC RESCUE CRAFT LOWERED FROM THE NAVAL FRIGATE AND SKIMMING ACROSS THE CALM SEA.

BACK TO:

THE TEAM STANDING ON THE SHORE LINE LOOKING STRAIGHT OUT AT SEA, INTO OBLIVION. THEY ARE SILENT.

SOUND of explosions creeping closer and closer.

MIELKE
Oh well... they know we’re here.

THE FATHER ATTEMPTS TO CALM HIS FAMILY AMIDST THE EXPLOSIONS WHICH ROCK THE BEACH.

MIELKE looks at his watch.

IT INDICATES THE DATE IS APRIL 25TH.

MIELKE starts laughing to himself.

SWALLOW
What’s so fucking funny...?

MIELKE
Wouldn’t you know it... it’s Anzac Day.
ALL OF THE MEN ARE AFFECTED BY THIS INFORMATION.

ASH checks his weapon and darts over to the concealed gun. He clears sand and dirt from the weapon and repositions it. He then races over to the position of the FAMILY.

THE FAMILY IS HUDDLED TOGETHER, PETRIFIED WITH FEAR. ASH REALISES NO ONE HAS BEEN HURT AND GOES BACK TO HIS FIGHT.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - SUNSET.

COEHLO orders his KOPASSUS TROOPS to cross the stream and engage any resistance. The SERGEANT turns to COEHLO.

SERGEANT
It could be a trap.

COEHLO
There are no more than seven or eight of them. We cannot wait.

The SERGEANT gives some orders to a CORPORAL and the men proceed to move towards the beach.

ASH WATCHES THROUGH HIS GUN SIGHT THE FIRST WAVE OF KOPASSUS SOLDIERS ENTER THE KILLING FIELD. THE MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE STREAM.

ASH LOOKS AT THE CLAYMORE MINES POSITIONED ON EITHER SIDE OF HIS POSITION.

The KOPASSUS SOLDIERS continue. The bulk of them are in the stream which is just below knee depth.

THE KOPASSUS TROOPS FORGE AHEAD.

SOUND of explosions. The KOPASSUS SOLDIERS nearest the claymore mines almost are shredded to pieces by the thousands of ball bearings contained in them. SOUND of the screams of the dead and the dying.

THE KOPASSUS SOLDIERS THAT ARE WOUNDED DESPERATELY TRY TO GET TO SOME COVER. THEY ARE SCREAMING IN AGONY, FEARING THEINEVITABLE MACHINE GUN FIRE THAT IS TO FOLLOW.

COEHLO WATCHES THE LINE OF DUNES ABOVE THE STREAM TO TARGET THE SAS POSITIONS BY THE FLASHES OF GUNFIRE.

ASH waits a few seconds to target the rest of the KOPASSUS SOLDIERS, some of whom were now rushing forward.
CLOSE UP OF ASH'S FACE AS HE PREPARES TO SLAUGHTER THE FIRST LINE OF TROOPS RUSHING BLINDLY AHEAD.

ASH fires. The rest of the KOPASSUS TROOPS are blown apart by the accurate fire from ASH. Bullets rip into the torsos and faces of the TROOPS closest to ASH.

ASH NOTICES SEVERAL TROOPS ATTEMPTING TO RUSH HIS POSITION FROM HIS LEFT FLANK.

ASH rushes to the concealed position and readies BLACKMORE'S weapon which has a telescopic sight.

THE KOPASSUS TROOPS ARE ALMOST ON TOP OF HIM. ASH FIRES KILLING THEM ALL ALMOST INSTANTLY.

COEHLO WATCHES THE FIGURE OF ASH, SILHOUETTED BY THE SUNSET, DASHING BACK TO HIS CENTRAL POSITION.

In the brief lull, the SERGEANT and two KOPASSUS SOLDIERS reach the line of the jungle. COEHLO is still looking through the binoculars.

COEHLO (CONT'D)
It is one soldier.

SERGEANT
That is not possible.

COEHLO
He knows how to fight. Take more troops flank him on both left and right while still committing to a frontal assault.

The SERGEANT hesitates for a second. COEHLO turns on him.

COEHLO (CONT'D)
NOW!

The SERGEANT organises three groups from the next group of KOPASSUS SOLDIERS.

CUT TO:

The SEVEN remaining SAS check their weapons and prepare for battle.
BLACKMORE, SWALLOW, KITCHENER, KANE, MILOSEVIC, CARAMIDES AND MIELKE. METHODICALLY REPLACE MAGAZINES, COCK WEAPONS, COUNT GRENADES, CHECK THEIR KNIVES IN PREPARATION FOR WHAT THEY KNOW WILL BE THEIR FINAL BATTLE.

They rush behind the nearest sand dune.

BLACKMORE LIFTS HIS EYE LEVEL ABOVE THE SAND DUNE AND SEES ASH LOADING HIS NEXT MAGAZINE. HE LOOKS FURTHER THAN ASH'S POSITION AND SEES THE TROOPS RUSHING ACROSS THE STREAM, WITH OTHER TROOPS ATTEMPTING TO FLANK ASH'S POSITION. HE LOWERS HIMSELF BACK DOWN.

BLACKMORE

No time to get acquainted. They're on the attack, comin round both sides. You three, (indicating MILOSEVIC, CARAMIDES and MIELKE) go to ASH'S left, the rest cover the right. Alright...LETS GO!

The SEVEN SAS TROOPERS leap over the dune and rush to either side of ASH'S position. ASH commences firing at the oncoming KOPASSUS TROOPS who immediately seek cover and return fire. The element of surprise is gone. The two groups rush to either side of ASH and fire at the groups of KOPASSUS who are almost upon them.

COEHLO watches the appearance of the SAS on either side of ASH firing into the KOPASSUS TROOPS that are almost upon them. COEHLO orders more TROOPS into the fray.

Montage of images:

MILOSEVIC shooting a KOPASSUS SOLDIER in the stomach and collapses to the ground. Another KOPASSUS SOLDIER rushes MILOSEVIC and takes him to the ground.

CARAMIDES is firing from the hip. He takes down two KOPASSUS SOLDIERS, turns to see MILOSEVIC struggling with the SOLDIER on top of him. CARAMIDES shoots the KOPASSUS SOLDIER, saving MILOSEVIC'S life. CARAMIDES extends his hand to MILOSEVIC.

MILOSEVIC SEES CARAMIDES SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD AND COLLAPSE TO THE GROUND. ANOTHER KOPASSUS RUSHES FORWARD AND BAYONETS MILOSEVIC WHO IS STILL ON THE GROUND.

MIELKE fires his weapon which jams. He uses it as a club against an oncoming KOPASSUS SOLDIER, clubbing him to death. MIELKE pulls out his hand gun and starts firing at the other KOPASSUS. He turns and runs to ASH'S position. He is shot in the back.
MIELKE IS IN HIS DEATH THROES. HE COLLAPSES TO THE GROUND.

MIELKE

Ash.....

ASH TURNS AND SEES HIM LYING FACE DOWN. HE RUSHES IN A BLIND FURY AGAINST THE ATTACKERS AND MOWS THEM DOWN. HIS WEAPON JAMS. HE PULLS OUT HIS HAND GUN, GOES TO A KNEELING POSITION AND CONTINUES TO FIRE.

BLACKMORE, SWALLOW, KITCHENER and KANE watch the KOPASSUS TROOPS stealthily trying to outflank their position. At the same time, they open fire. Two of the KOPASSUS are killed outright, the rest hit the ground and return fire.

TWO OF THE KOPASSUS TROOPS PREPARE TO PULL THE PIN OUT OF THEIR GRENADES. THEY THROW THEM.

SOUND of explosions.

KANE lies there screaming with his intestines pouring out of his stomach. KITCHENER realises there is nothing that can be done and shoots him. The KOPASSUS rush their position. KITCHENER and SWALLOW engage in hand to hand combat with their attackers.

Montage of images:

SWALLOW is grabbed from behind while another TROOPER stabs him in the chest.

BLACKMORE shoots two KOPASSUS SOLDIERS who are about to throw grenades. One explodes in the arms of the KOPASSUS SOLDIER, disintegrating his body. The other lands near BLACKMORE, explodes and concusses BLACKMORE.

KITCHENER shoots SWALLOW'S assailant but is suddenly riddled with bullets.

CLOSE UP OF ASH FIRING HIS LAST MAGAZINE AT THE TROOPS WHO HAVE JUST FINISHED OFF THE REMAINING SAS.

SOUND of explosions. ASH hits the deck.

COEHLO PINPOINTS THE POSITION TO THE MORTAR TEAMS.

ASH rushes towards the beach and is hit by fragments from an exploding shell. He falls to the ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT; THE STREAM AND JUNGLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF BATTLE-
The battle is over. There is a deathly silence over the area. Only the sounds of the wounded and the dying. ASH slowly regains consciousness. He turns his head and sees from the corner of his eye KOPASSUS TROOPS making their way through the battlefield, checking for wounded. A KOPASSUS SOLDIER stops and shouts out something to his men who come rushing over. They drag to his feet MILOSEVIC who is gravely wounded. One of the KOPASSUS SOLDIERS pulls out his pistol and executes him. MILOSEVIC crumples to the ground. The search continues. ASH realises he must get out of there and desperately turns his head in all directions searching for an escape. ASH begins to crawl away from the sounds of COEHL0'S MEN and finds some brush which he drags himself into. ASH takes a quick look at the battlefield strewn with the dead. He checks his body for injuries and realises he has been shot in the waist through the flesh. It is his old wound. He grimaces in pain, gets to his feet and makes his way to the shore.

CUT TO:

EXT- THE SHORE LINE- EVENING

The FATHER hears a noise in the brush. He takes a position near a tree and motions the CHILDREN to go back to their hiding places. ASH's figure appears like a ghost in the twilight of the jungle. The FATHER is about to take a swing when one the LITTLE BOY calls out:

LITTLE BOY
STOP! IT IS ASH!

The FATHER quickly notices ASH's wounds and helps him. ASH collapses to the ground. The FATHER tries to take his rifle away from ASH who clings to it for dear life.

ASH
You must go. In a few minutes they'll be here.

FATHER
What do you want us to do.

ASH
Just fucking go. Everyone's dead. I will be too pretty soon.

FATHER
Go where?
ASH hands the FATHER his pistol. The FATHER looks at his CHILDREN, realising ASH is giving them the only real escape from capture and execution. He doesn't take it.

DAUGHTER
We can't leave him behind....

ASH
Yes you can. It's easy. Just place me over there.

ASH gestures to point near the jungle which is concealed and from where he can pick off the KOPASSUS TROOPS before they know what's going on.

ASH (CONT'D)
Don't worry I'll be fine.

ASH, still in great pain opens his medical kit and pulls out a couple of morphine syringes and gestures to the DAUGHTER.

ASH (CONT'D)
Just give a little shot. I'll take care of the rest.

The DAUGHTER takes the syringe and places it close to the brachial artery of ASH'S left arm. ASH looks on with anticipation. She injects the morphine. She prepares the next syringe.

ASH (CONT'D)
No...that's enough.

All of a sudden there is a noise breaking through the jungle. ASH quickly inspects the weapon and brings himself to his feet.

BLACKMORE COCKS HIS WEAPON.

BLACKMORE says nothing, he aims his rifle and fires it at the feet of ASH who stops for a brief second then continues. ASH doesn't move. BLACKMORE takes deadly aim.

BLACKMORE
The next one will kill you.

ASH starts heading towards BLACKMORE, brandishing his weapon. Meanwhile the FATHER has placed himself in front of ASH to prevent him from shooting him. BLACKMORE violently thrusts him to the side.
BLAC MORE (CONT'D)

What the hell do you think you
people are up to...?!

BLA C MORE kicks him while he is on the ground. He re aims his
weapon.

CLOSE UP OF ASH AIMING HIS WEAPON AT BLAC MORE.

ASH
Put it down.

BLAC MORE looks at ASH then re aims. ASH prepares to fire.

The FATHER tries to attack BLAC MORE who thrust him to the
ground and aims his rifle down at his head.

ASH (CONT'D)

Don’t...

BLAC MORE ignores ASH. He readies to fire. A shot rings out.

BLAC MORE’S FACE REGISTERS THAT HE HAS BEEN SHOT. HE DROPS
his weapon and grabs his stomach. BLAC MORE FALLS to the
ground dead. ASH quickly turns around. The shot did not come
from his weapon.

COEHLO appears from the jungle brush. More KOPASSUS TROOPS
appear from the jungle, their weapons pointed to at them. The
situation looks entirely hopeless. ASH swivels the sight of
his weapon through an ever widening arc of KOPASSUS SOLDIERS.
They stand in a line. COEHLO gives a command and all weapons
are checked, ready to be fired. Magazines are changed and
weapons re cocked. A KOPASSUS SERGEANT points to ASH with his
weapon.

SERGEANT
(derisively)
Look at the one man army...

All the KOPASSUS SOLDIERS laugh at this comment except for
COEHLO who takes in the situation. ASH aims his rifle at the
SERGEANT who stops his chuckling. ASH, occasionally gesturing
with one hand towards his wounded side, remains unflinchingly
in his firing position. COEHLO orders his men to aim their
weapons. The KOPASSUS SOLDIERS grimly prepare for their task.

The FATHER has his arms wrapped around both children, as he
attempts to console them while staring defiantly at the
KOPASSUS TROOPS.

COEHLO takes his own rifle and cocks it. He takes aim at ASH.
He fires at ASH.
The bullet hits the sand right in front of ASH. ASH awkwardly, almost pathetically adjusts his position. Another shot is fired, this time hitting ASH in the leg. ASH goes down, looks at the wound, then gets back to his position. His pain is immense. The FAMILY look at ASH, for a moment more concerned with his plight than their own. COEHLO now takes aim directly at ASH'S head. ASH aims his weapon directly back, no longer covering an arc. THE KOPASSUS TROOPS prepare to take out ASH, just waiting for the command.

ASH IS BARELY HANGING ON BUT UNPREPARED TO GIVE UP.

COEHLO lowers his weapon. He orders his TROOPS to do the same. COEHLO turns around and abruptly walks away. The rest of the TROOPS follow suite. ASH lowers the barrel of his weapon and collapses to the ground semi conscious. The FATHER and the DAUGHTER take ASH and carry him to the shoreline.

The rescue craft appears in the distance, slowly making its way to the shore. There are two SAILORS in it. One of the CREW jumps out and grabs ASH, helping him into the craft. The FATHER and his family wait on the shore. The LITTLE BOY sees ASH'S rifle which now lies discarded on the sand. He tugs at the FATHER'S leg and points at the weapon. The FATHER nods his head. The LITTLE BOY picks up ASH'S weapon with both hands. The SAILORS see the FAMILY waiting on the shore. For a brief moment the two SAILORS look at each other. ASH notices their hesitation.

ASH
What are you waiting for...?

The FIRST SAILOR grabs the LITTLE BOY and DAUGHTER, placing them in the craft. The FATHER and SAILOR push the craft out to sea and jump in. The craft then turns in the direction of the open sea.

COEHLO SURVEYS THE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE, TAKING IN THE NUMEROUS CASUALTIES OF HIS OWN MEN AND FINALLY THE BODIES OF THE DEAD SAS, INCLUDING THAT OF BLACKMORE.

The SERGEANT approaches COEHLO.

CORPORAL
(in dialect)
What do you want us to do with their bodies Sir?

COEHLO pauses for a second as he watches his men carry the bodies of their comrades to a central position before burial.

COEHLO
Bury them with ours.
COEHLO walks off.

THE KOPASSUS TROOPS SLOWLY, SOLEMNLY COLLECT ALL THE BODIES AND PLACE THEM TOGETHER. MIEKLE'S BODY IS THE LAST BODY PLACED ALONGSIDE THAT OF THE KOPASSUS DEAD.

The Zodiac heads towards the Australian Naval Frigate waiting off shore as the sun sets over the horizon.

THE END