

**A FAR CRY**

**A SHORT FILM SCREENPLAY**

**BY**

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BLACK SCREEN - CREDITS

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. FRENCH FOREST (SUMMER 1944) - DAY

An ensuing BATTLE within a smoke-filled, chaotic and bullet-crazy environment.

BRITISH SOLDIERS, MILES (mid 30's), STRONGE (mid 20's) and O'BRIEN (late 20's) cut through the trees and undergrowth, aiming and firing their rifles at the UNSEEN ENEMY ahead.

O'Brien takes a hit in the chest, the bullet forcing him off his feet.

BACK TO:

BLACK SCREEN - CREDITS

EXPLOSIONS all-around; BULLETS ping; CRIES ECHO all around as lives are lost in the fighting.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. FRENCH FOREST - DAY

MILES, now alone, goes down on one knee. Aims. FIRES!

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. FRENCH FOREST - DAY

GERMAN SOLDIER #1 takes Miles' bullet in the face and is killed instantly.

BACK TO:

BLACK SCREEN - CREDITS

Further GUNFIRE, EXPLOSIONS and CRIES.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. FRENCH FOREST - DAY

Miles savagely butting GERMAN SOLDIER #2 in the face with his rifle.

German Soldier #2 head snaps back violently.

Miles takes out his knife with some skill. Lets go a GUTTERAL ROAR. Knife-hand is plunged into German Soldier #2's gut before twisted ferociously.

German Soldier #2 falls to the ground.

Suddenly Miles spots German Soldier #3 take aim with a GRENADE. Miles picks up German Soldier #2's weapons and takes him out.

Not before we see the grenade flying through the air.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN.

BANG!

BOOM!

THE GRENADE EXPLODES.

WHITE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles muddy, blooded face fills the frame.

SILENCE is omnipresent.

Miles EYES open wide.

Suddenly he stands up gasping for breath.

Panic.

He feels his dirty brown British uniform as if checking whether he is hit.

Hand reaches his head. Some blood around his face. Blinks. It's German blood. He's okay. Just about.

Miles takes a deep breath. Then sees a:

KIT BAG.

Reaches down for it but is overcome by nausea.

Miles throws up. Something catches his eye: the bloody face of the German Soldier he was fighting lying dead on the ground.

Miles picks up his rifle. He fiddles with the action. Throws it down. It's broken. THEN:

A faint WHIMPER IS HEARD. Miles looks up. Is he hearing things?

The WHIMPER becomes a CRY.

Miles ducks down in the green brush. He may not be alone.

Miles listens intently. It sounds like a BABY. Tries to work out where the CRY is coming from.

Miles notices entrails lying by his feet. His eyes follow their path. He looks away rapidly when he realizes they've spilled from his compatriot, Stronge.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles creeps through the body-littered forest full of British and German soldiers.

Miles picks up a German rifle. Opens the chamber. It's empty. Throws it to the floor. The CRYING continues.

INT. FOREST - DAY

Miles continues his search for weapons also watchful for potential survivors. He comes across O'Brien; peaceful in his bloody sleep.

Miles bends down. Feels O'Brien's neck. Closes the dead soldier's eyes. Makes the sign of the cross.

Miles notes O'Brien's holding a HANDGUN. He unpeels dead fingers. Opens the chamber. Pours the shells out onto his hand. Picks out the empty/disfigured casing revealing only ONE round is unfired.

He's getting closer as the CRYING gains volume.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The BABY lies on its own wrapped in a blanket. Testing its lungs to the full.

Miles - KIT BAG on back - handgun in hand enters frame.

He finds the Baby. Hesitates. Mile turns away from the child. BUT SEES:

The Baby's DEAD MOTHER face down in the soil. In her hand she clutches a BROWN SUITCASE, split open on the ground.

Baby stops CRYING.

Mile turns back. Bends down. Stares eye-to-eye with the Baby. Thinks for a moment, THEN:

Miles puts the handgun into his pocket. Scoops up the Baby.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles walk past A BLOODY DEAD GERMAN (BDG) on the ground and spots his rifle. He stops. Reaches for the weapon. Tries to grab it but it is tangled round the BDG's body.

Off-screen Miles hears GERMAN VOICES. He turns and SEES:

Two GERMAN SOLDIERS some way in the distance.

Miles pulls at the gun when SUDDENLY:

The BDG COUGHS, spouting blood into the air. Startled, Miles, dumps the rifle down and bolts.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles runs away at pace.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles - Baby in hand - strides purposefully toward camera.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles struggles through the dense woodland.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Miles stops for a breath. Wipes sweat from his brow. Takes a look over his shoulder and continues his journey.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles' rifle/kit-bag lean against a tree.

A MAP is sprawled on the ground showing the territory. Lying on the map is the Handgun and the Baby - currently quiet.

Miles stabs a finger at the area and:

MONTAGE SEQUENCE BEGINS:

EXT. FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY - MONTAGE SEQUENCE

Miles makes his way across the terrain.

EXT. FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

Miles picks up his FLASK and pours water into the CAP. Feeds the water to Baby.

EXT. WALL - DAY - MONTAGE

Miles walks along. Stops briefly. Takes on water himself.

EXT. BROOK - DAY - MONTAGE

Miles SPLASHES through the water careful to protect the Baby from the overhanging tree branch.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE ENDS:

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Miles slows when he sees the road. Suddenly -- in the distance -- he hears a BUZZING noise.

EXT. FOREST ROAD (FARTHER DOWN) - DAY

A GERMAN MOTORCYCLE with SIDECAR whizzes along the road.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Miles ducks behind a tree and from his POV:

the GERMAN MOTORCYCLIST comes into view.

Baby lets out a WHIMPER. Miles looks at Christine and lifts a finger to his mouth.

Miles darts a looks around the corner SEES:

the GERMAN MOTORCYCLIST (mid 20's) slowing the vehicle down.

EXT. BEHIND THE TREE - FOREST - DAY

Miles ducks his head back. Looks at Baby. She's not crying but is restless, and could give them away.

Miles brings Baby closer to his face.

MILES  
(finger to his mouth)  
Sssshhh. . .

Miles darts a look at the road.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

The Motorcycle has now stopped.

The German Motorcyclist's passenger, A STOUT GERMAN SOLDIER (mid 30's), gets out and walks slowly toward the tree that hides Miles and Baby.

EXT. BEHIND THE TREE - FOREST - DAY

Miles, stands up slowly, carefully takes out his handgun. Checks the chamber. Still only ONE bullet.

EXT. FRONT OF TREE - FOREST - DAY

The Stout German stops and faces Miles' tree.

EXT. BEHIND THE TREE - FOREST - DAY

Miles looks at Baby. She's still quiet.

EXT. FRONT OF TREE - FOREST - DAY

Stout German UNZIPS his trousers. Urinates against the tree.

EXT. BEHIND THE TREE - FOREST - DAY

Miles cocks the gun.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

From the side of the tree we SEE:

The Stout German pissing against the tree. On the other side Miles - Baby in one hand and gun in the other - waiting in anticipation.

EXT. FRONT OF TREE - FOREST - DAY

The Stout German finishes. ZIPS up. Idles back to the motorcycle.

INT. BACK OF TREE - FOREST - DAY

On Miles: as the MOTORCYCLE ROARS off. He then looks at Christine. Then up to the darkening sky.

INT. BARN - DAY

Miles is sat back against the barn beam muttering to himself. Shaking his head. Baby is asleep.

MILES

That was too close.

Miles stands up. Paces up and down. Opens his handgun. ONE bullet remains.

Miles looks at the bullet. Looks at Baby. Closes the chamber. COCKS the weapon.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Miles walks away from the Barn.

Suddenly Baby CRIES. Miles stops.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles walking along with Baby in arms once again.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Light is fading. Evening approaches the golden hour.

As Miles walks a red sun sets behind him.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A SMALL FARMHOUSE is framed in shot.

Miles and Baby enter the frame.

INT. KITCHEN - FARMHOUSE - DAY

Blood and bone paint a trail of dark patterns on the kitchen table. They belong to a DEAD MAN (40s) lying face down. On the table are a tin of tobacco, bottle of vodka and loaf of bread.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Miles' raises his handgun.

INT. KITCHEN - FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Sound of SMASHING GLASS. DOOR OPENING. Glass crunches under feet.

FOOTSTEPS pass across CREAKY floorboards.

Miles enters the room. SEES the:

DEAD MAN.

Miles' eyes flicker but apart from that he reveals no emotion.

Miles picks up a tin of tobacco. Shakes it. There's something in there.

Miles prizes the vodka away from the Dead Man. Takes a swig. Grimaces.

Baby WHIMPERS. Miles turns her head away.

Miles picks up the bread. Feels it. BANG-BANGS it against the wall. It's as hard as a rock.

He turns on the taps. Bangs them. Only DUST where water once was.

INT. HALL - NIGHT

Stairs CREAK as Miles slowly walks up them.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Miles pokes the handgun in then LOOKS:

room is empty but for a single bed with dirty, scruffy bedclothes sprawled across it.

Miles places Baby down carefully. Wipes his tired eyes.

Hold on Baby - awake but peaceful. We hear Miles' movement and the other DOORS in the house open.

Miles comes back in the room. Sits on the bed.

He opens the tobacco tin. Finds some tobacco and papers.

MILES

You don't mind if I smoke?

Miles starts rolling a cigarette.

MILES

We'll rest here. Not far to go now.

Miles lights up. The tobacco burns quickly. He takes another swig of vodka.

MILES

We'll be safe soon.

Miles adjusts the blanket to make her more snug.

FADE TO BLACK:

BLACK SCREEN

Sound of GUNFIRE is audible outside.

Christine is CRYING.

SMASH CUT:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Miles wakes up suddenly. Looks out of the window and SEES:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

BRITISH SOLDIER #1 lying dead on the ground. Standing beside him is BRITISH SOLDIER #2, alive, but with his hands tied behind his back.

A GERMAN OFFICER (50's) stands by as two GERMAN SOLDIERS - one tall and the other short - push BRITISH SOLDIER #2 to his knees and shoot him dead.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Miles' flinches.

Baby is still CRYING. LOUDER and LOUDER.

He takes another glimpse out of the window and SEES:

The German Officer pointing to the window of the farmhouse.

EXT. FIELD/FARMYARD - DAY

Two GERMAN SOLDIERS run toward the farmhouse.

Miles gulps. Maybe they've heard the Baby.

MILES

Sssshhhh. . .

INT. KITCHEN - FARMHOUSE - DAY

TALL GERMAN SOLDIER (TSG) and SHORT GERMAN SOLDIER (SSG) storm the kitchen in search mode.

Do not even give the Dead Man's Body a moment's thought before vacating the room.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Baby continues crying. Miles puts his hand over her mouth.

MILES  
Ssssshhhh. . . Please.

Miles sweeps his kit bag, tobacco, boots etc. under the bed. Picks up Christine. SCRAMBLES under the bed.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

TSG and SSG smash up the stairs.

INT. UNDER THE BED - BEDROOM - DAY

Miles holds the Baby tight to his chest. Her CRIES are now muffled but still audible to anyone who enters the room.

SOUND of the GERMAN'S thudding around the other rooms.

TSG (O.S.)  
(in German/subtitles)  
Clear.

SSG (O.S.)  
(in German/subtitles)  
Clear.

Miles head visibly shakes as he holds Baby. Tightly. Then tighter.

MILES  
(a whisper)  
No. No.

From MILES' POV WE SEE:

A pair of GERMAN BOOTS (belonging to SSG) enter the room. Stand still as the soldier scans the room.

TSG (O.S.)  
(in German/subtitled)  
CLEAR?

SSG (O.S.)  
(in German/subtitled)  
Yes! CLEAR!

SSG's boots leave the room.

The two soldiers can then be heard STAMPING down the stairs, leaving the house.

MILES' POV ENDS.

INT. UNDER THE BED - DAY

Time is frozen as Miles holds Baby tightly. He cannot look at what he's done.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

An empty bed fills the screen. From underneath we hear CRYING. It's Miles.

Move away from the BED as this is TOO painful. We HEAR:

Miles roll out from under the bed. Places Baby on the bed.

MILES (O.C.)  
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Miles moves into shot, wiping tears from his eyes.

Behind him Baby lies lifeless on the bed.

Miles takes a DEEP BREATH. Pulls out his handgun. Points it at his temple.

Hold for a moment as Miles decides whether to kill himself.

CRUNCHING SOUND/CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY - (CREDITS ROLL)

A spade strikes the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD/EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

Miles pats down the earth on the Baby's grave.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD/EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

Miles stabs a makeshift cross into the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD/EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

Miles says a little prayer to himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD/EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

Miles SNAPS his Kit Bag into place on his back. Checks his handgun.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Miles marches on. Alone. Walks past the camera and into the forest.

FADE OUT.