

**THE PASSING BELLS**  
**EP.3 UK TX**  
**POST PRODUCTION SCRIPT**



The Passing Bells - Ep.3

MUSIC IN 5M01 10:00:00

RECAP IN

**CAPTION OVER: Previously**

MICHAEL

There's a war...

CUT TO:

10:00:01

THOMAS walks along in uniform with the other SOLDIERS.

MICHAEL (V.O. - CONT)

... we have to fight.

CUT TO:

10:00:02

THOMAS

D'you think we'll come back?

A moment before BEN breaks the pensive silence:

BEN

Does it matter that I don't speak French?

They all laugh now, horseplay, YOUNG MEN on an adventure. THOMAS, thoughtful, not knowing what the future holds.

CUT TO:

10:00:06

THOMAS and the SOLDIERS put their masks on.

CUT TO:

10:00:07

Poisonous gas is emitted into the air.

CUT TO:

10:00:08

FRANK and THOMAS run for cover from the gas cloud. Shells explode nearby.

CUT TO:

10:00:09

MICHAEL

You see life...

CUT TO:

10:00:10

MICHAEL (CONT - V.O.)

... disappear in front of you and as it goes, you realise...

MICHAEL is attacked by a RUSSIAN SOLDIER who pins him down and tries to strangle him. FREDDIE next to him is fighting with another RUSSIAN SOLDIER on the floor.

MICHAEL finally gets up, breaths deeply.

CUT TO:

10:00:14

MICHAEL (CONT - V.O.)  
... just how precious it was.

CUT TO:

10:00:16

SUSAN  
He seems so much older.

WILLIAM sits at the table.

CUT TO:

10:00:18

KATIE stands facing MICHAEL.

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
I don't have the ring that I promised you...

CUT TO:

10:00:20

MICHAEL and KATIE with their FAMILIES walk from the church as newlyweds.

MICHAEL (V.O. - CONT)  
...but will you just marry me anyway?

CUT TO:

10:00:21

THOMAS and JOANNA smile at each other. He takes off his cap.

CUT TO:

10:00:24

THOMAS is leaving. He's on the cart. He blows her a kiss as he goes. JOANNA watching him go back towards the front line, tears in her eyes.

TO BLACK.

MUSIC IN 5M02 (TITLES) 10:00:29 **OPENING TITLES SEQUENCE**

MUSIC OUT 5M01 10:00:30

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**THE**  
**PASSING BELLS**

**TO BLACK**

**CAPTION OVER BLACK: 1916**

MUSIC OUT 5M02 (TITLES) 10:01:02

10:01:03

EXT. OPEN FRENCH ROAD. DAY

FREDDIE (O.S.)

That is the third letter you've written to her this week.

A platoon of weary GERMAN SOLDIERS take a break from a march, most just relax. MICHAEL writes a letter. RUDI, FREDDIE, LANZO and STEFAN sit and eat from mess tins. A cavalry passes.

**CAPTION OVER: German Regiment re-deploys to The Western Front**

SOLDIER (O.S.)  
Katie.

SOLDIER (O.S.)  
Miss you.

FREDDIE  
Give her a kiss from me.

RUDI  
And me!

LANZO & STEFAN  
And me!

MICHAEL looks up for a moment.

FREDDIE  
Must be coming up to your first anniversary...

MICHAEL

Soon.

FREDDIE

See that's the secret to a good marriage, just spend a week at home once a year.

MICHAEL looks at FREDDIE and smiles.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

My feet are aching in these boots. I think I might join the cavalry.

STEFAN looks around at the assembling TROOPS that march past.

STEFAN

I don't know where we're going, but they don't normally move this many people without good reason.

RUDI

Well let's hope we're not reinforcements.

MICHAEL

Why?

RUDI

Well think about it, why do they need reinforcements in the first place? Because the ones that were there first are dead.

A moment as that sinks in. They laugh.

10:01:58

INT. OLD RUIN. DAY

**CAPTION OVER: British Regiment re-deploys to The Western Front**

THOMAS and KEVIN take a break. THOMAS looks subdued, a bit miserable as they sit against the wall. ANTHONY approaches.

ANTHONY

Next time somebody tells me something's gonna be over by Christmas, I'm gonna check which Christmas.

THOMAS

Home on Christmas morning.

ANTHONY  
Imagine.

KEVIN  
Don't make him any more miserable than he already is.

BEN marches over to them.

BEN  
There's something going on. Have you seen how many big guns are moving forward?

KEVIN  
Yeah, well the more the merrier as long as they're on our side.

CYRIL bounds up.

CYRIL  
On your feet boys. We just volunteered.

THOMAS  
What for?

CYRIL  
Stretcher detail. A couple of blokes need patching up, medics are over by those old barns.

KEVIN  
They're miles away, haven't they got any carts?

CYRIL  
All being used, that's why I volunteered.

ANTHONY  
Wing nut! Two miles carrying a stretcher, have you gone mad?

CYRIL  
I hope so, then they might send me home. Come on!

WHISTLING IN 10:02:35

EXT. COUNTRY PATH. DAY

CYRIL whistles The British Grenadier.

WHISTLING OUT 10:02:40

CYRIL, walking behind the MEN, carries the map as BEN, ANTHONY, KEVIN and THOMAS carry two stretchers, each with a wounded SOLDIER on.

BEN

Hang on, if this is his idea, how come he's not doing any of the carrying?

CYRIL

I'm carrying the map.

ANTHONY

We don't need a map!

CYRIL

Look, this is my mission, I give the orders.

KEVIN

You'll be needing your own stretcher in a minute...

THOMAS

It's okay, we're nearly there...

CYRIL

Exactly. Besides it's not the journey that's important, it's what's at the other end...

CYRIL grins but no one has any idea what he's talking about.

10:02:58

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL, RUDI, FREDDIE, LANZO and STEFAN in the trenches with the rest of the MEN, all adding sandbags to the parapet and digging new dug outs. A CORPORAL barks out orders.

GERMAN CORPORAL

Dig deep! Everything away!

MICHAEL and the OTHERS dig.

MICHAEL

What's going on..?

LANZO

The British must be planning something.

10:03:09

EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

CYRIL, THOMAS, BEN, KEVIN and ANTHONY arrive at the Field Hospital and deliver the two stretchers to waiting MEDICS.

CYRIL

Here you are boys. They're all yours.

SOLDIER

Thanks mate. Okay lads. Pick em up. That's it.

KEVIN

(of CYRIL)

I know he's up to something. Come on then, what's here?

ANTHONY

A canteen? Hot grub?

BEN

A roast dinner...

CYRIL

Better than that.

THOMAS

What?

CYRIL

Little birdy told me they had a visitor. Reckoned it was worth a two mile hike to put a smile on that miserable gob of yours...

MUSIC IN 3M03 10:03:30

They approach a Little Curie Truck and stop. THOMAS grins.

10:03:35

INT. FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

JOANNA in the hospital as CYRIL enters.

CYRIL

Excuse me, Nurse! - can you come and see my mate please? He's in a really bad way.

JOANNA

I'm not really a nurse, I'll get someone...

CYRIL

No, no, no it's urgent, I think he's broke something!

CYRIL leads her to where KEVIN, ANTHONY and BEN are carrying THOMAS by his arms and legs.

CYRIL (CONT'D)

It's his heart we think. Love sick he is, it's the worst case I have ever seen!

JOANNA realises it's THOMAS and gasps; the OTHERS let him down and they embrace.

JOANNA

Why didn't you tell me?!

THOMAS

I thought you were fifty miles away!

They kiss. There's a "cough" off to the side. They turn to see CYRIL, KEVIN, ANTHONY and BEN.

CYRIL

You'll have to excuse his manners, he hasn't got any.

THOMAS

Joanna, these are the boys I wrote about, this is Wing Nut, Kev, AJ and Jonesy.

MUSIC OUT 3M03 10:04:04

JOANNA

I'm very pleased to meet you. Thank you for looking after him.

BEN

It's nothing to do with us, we keep chucking him over the top, but he keeps finding his way back.

ANTHONY

Like a flamin' homing pigeon he is.

KEVIN

Can't get rid of him...

THOMAS

Alright, you can get lost now, boys...

THOMAS begins to lead JOANNA away.

KEVIN

(calls to JOANNA)

Got any friends pretty as you nursey?

THOMAS

Go!

ANTHONY

(to THOMAS)

Make the most of it, we've got an hour.

The BOYS drift away.

10:04:21

EXT. FIELDS. DAY

THOMAS and JOANNA walk back to the Field Hospital holding hands.

JOANNA

Your friends are funny.

THOMAS

They think they are.

JOANNA

They care about you, I can tell.

THOMAS

We look out for each other, that's all.

JOANNA

So you're close by?

THOMAS

Couple of miles. You wouldn't believe how much stuff they're sending in. It's the biggest push yet. It feels like we're near the end...

JOANNA

I hope so.

He studies her.

THOMAS

Are you alright? You look sad? Aren't you pleased to see me?

JOANNA

Of course.

(a beat)

My brother has been killed.

THOMAS

Oh...I'm sorry.

JOANNA

He was fighting at Verdun with the French.

THOMAS

I heard it's pretty bad up there. Is your dad alright?

JOANNA

(tears welling up)

I think his heart is broken. But he said he will stay on and fight, he won't go home until Poland's free again.

THOMAS

And when it is, you can take me there to meet him.

JOANNA

(laughs) I think I want that more than anything else. Every time they bring wounded in, I feel sick, thinking it could be you.

THOMAS

You told me to keep my head down remember?

JOANNA

Boys never do as they're told.

There's a whistle.

MUSIC IN 3M04 10:06:12

THOMAS looks across to see CYRIL, KEVIN, ANTHONY and BEN waiting for him on the road.

THOMAS

I have to go.

They kiss. She whispers in his ear...

JOANNA

Come back.

A moment between them, JOANNA tearful. THOMAS takes out a folded piece of paper and hands it to her before re-joining the OTHERS.

She unfolds the paper to see a sketch of a bird. She looks up to see THOMAS leaving.

Out on JOANNA, crying.

10:07:06

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. NIGHT

**CAPTION OVER: German dugout, Western Front**

MICHAEL, FREDDIE, RUDI, STEFAN and LANZO and other SOLDIERS are deep down in a dug out.

A CORPORAL stands in the dugout entrance.

GERMAN CORPORAL

The British and French are about to throw everything they've got at us. We will dig in deep, and wait. When the bombardment is over and they think we are all dead they will come. And we will be ready for them. There will be a final mail collection in 2 hours.

The CORPORAL leaves. Out on the GROUP as they all look at each other.

10:07:31

INT. BRITISH DUGOUT. NIGHT

**CAPTION OVER: British dugout, Western Front**

MUSIC OUT 3M04 10:07:32

THOMAS, CYRIL, ANTHONY and BEN enter the dugout. There are a few other YOUNG SOLDIERS who have arrived. They greet each other and shake hands.

ANTHONY

Hello.

(of other SOLDIERS)

Are they getting younger or are we getting older?

(he calls to the nearest)

Where are you lot from?

HARRY looks back at him.

HARRY

I'm Harry. From Southport, Lancashire. All of us are from Lancashire.

BEN

How long have you been out here?

HARRY

We landed last week.

BEN

You seen any Germans yet?

HARRY

Not yet.

BEN

You will.

THOMAS notices that one of the YOUNG BOYS (DEREK) is scratching.

THOMAS  
You itching?

DEREK  
Haven't stopped since we got here.

THOMAS  
It's the lice. Everyone's crawling with 'em... I remember my first few days, couldn't sleep for scratching.

He picks up a small tin can and walks across to sit with DEREK.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
There's a bit of paraffin in here, rub it on your skin, it keeps 'em off. Just careful when you spark up.

DEREK  
Thanks.  
(beat)  
I'm Derek.

THOMAS  
Tommy. How old are you?

DEREK  
(tentatively)  
I'm sixteen. I had to try three recruitment offices before I got in.

THOMAS  
Your mum and dad know you're here?

DEREK  
I left them a note.

THOMAS  
You stay close to me alright? When you're out there, keep your head down. And write home.

DEREK shakes his head.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Your family'll wake up every morning and think you're dead. Letters are the only way of

telling them you're not. My little brother told me that...

THOMAS smiles.

ANTHONY

How about a friendly game of cards boys.

THOMAS goes to his bunk and grins as he sees ANTHONY dealing cards to a couple of the new RECRUITS.

Suddenly KEVIN bursts in.

KEVIN

Oh boys, come and have a look at this!

They follow him out of the dugout.

10:08:54

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. NIGHT

CYRIL, ANTHONY, BEN, THOMAS, YOUNG DEREK and the OTHERS all follow KEVIN into the trench to see a battered old piano at the end of the trench.

CYRIL

You must be joking!

KEVIN

It was in that old bombed-out house we passed.

ANTHONY

Can anyone play it?

DEREK

I can.

DEREK steps forward smiling.

10:09:06

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. NIGHT

All the SOLDIERS write letters. A real air of expectancy. RUDI posts his letter.

RUDI

When do you think it'll start?

STEFAN

Tomorrow.

LANZO kisses his letter and posts it.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

All the officers have been standing round a map all day. That's always a bad sign.

FREDDIE

It feels different.

STEFAN

We're dug in, it'll be alright.

LANZO

D'you think this is it? That whatever happens here. It'll be the end of it?

Silence. No-one knows the answer to that. MICHAEL finishes his letter and puts it in a box.

SINGING IN 10:09:38

A moment before they all hear music in the near distance, a piano, singing.

BRITISH SOLDIERS (O.S.)

If you want to find the Sergeant I know where he is, I know where he is...

10:09:49

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. NIGHT

THOMAS, CYRIL, KEVIN, ANTHONY, BEN amongst OTHERS gathered around the old piano. Young DEREK plays.

They're singing.

BRITISH SOLDIERS (CONT'D)

I know where he is, if you want to find the Sergeant, I know where he is, he's lying on the canteen floor. I've seen him, I've seen him, lying on the canteen floor...

It's surreal, YOUNG MEN in the trenches gathered around an old piano singing, the best of times...

10:10:04

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. NIGHT

BRITISH SOLDIERS (O.S. - CONT'D)

I've seen him, I've seen him, lying on the...

The GERMAN SOLDIERS listen.

10:10:09

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. NIGHT

BRITISH SOLDIERS (CONT'D)  
...canteen floor... I've seen him, I've seen him, lying on the canteen floor, I've seen him, I've seen him...

FADE TO BLACK.

BRITISH SOLDIERS (CONT'D)  
...lying on the canteen floor...

BRITISH PRIEST (V.O.)

MUSIC IN 3M05 10:10:26

You will not...

10:10:27

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAWN

The end of the singing can be heard as the BRITISH SOLDIERS are gathered in the trench. A PRIEST gives prayer.

BRITISH PRIEST (CONT'D)

...fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday, a thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you...

SINGING OUT 10:10:31

10:10:45

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAWN

GERMAN SOLDIERS gathered in the trench as a PRIEST gives prayer.

On the faces of the SOLDIERS.

GERMAN PRIEST (V.O.)

....you will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked...if you make the most high your dwelling...

10:10:52

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAWN

BRITISH SOLDIERS gathered in the trench as a PRIEST gives prayer.

BRITISH PRIEST (V.O.)

...even the lord who is my refuge then no harm will befall you...

10:10:56

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAWN

GERMAN SOLDIERS gathered in the trench as a PRIEST gives prayer.

GERMAN PRIEST (V.O.)

...no disaster will come near your tent... for he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways...

10:11:06

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAWN

BRITISH SOLDIERS gathered in the trench as a PRIEST gives prayer.

BRITISH PRIEST

...with long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. Amen.

SOLDIERS

Amen.

The PRIEST exits and the SOLDIERS stand.

CORPORAL BOND

(to PRIEST)

Thank you Father...

CORPORAL BOND watches him go and turns to address the men.

CORPORAL BOND (CONT'D)

But we are going to shell the shit out of them, all day every day. Then we'll go over there and mop up what's left. We'll be home soon boys. Everyone will remember that this is where we won the war. Here at the Somme.

10:11:43

EXT. BRITISH GUN POSITION. DAWN

British soldiers shout orders.

We look down the barrel of a huge piece of artillery. The barrel is raised up. Cut to the hand of a SOLDIER as he pulls a handle. The BRITISH SOLDIERS reload their weapons and fire.

10:11:51

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

A huge explosion as the shell lands on a now empty trench.

10:11:52

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. DAY

MICHAEL and the other SOLDIERS together in their dugout as the bombardment rains down on

them, shaking the earth. Soil and dust fall on them.

EVERYONE terrified, but grimly determined.

10:11:55

EXT. BRITISH GUN POSITION. DAY

The BRITISH SOLDIERS reload and fire their artillery. It is a relentless attack. BRITISH SOLDIERS shout orders.

10:12:04

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. DAY

MUSIC OUT 3M05 10:12:05

MICHAEL and the other SOLDIERS underground as the bombardment gets ever louder, shaking the earth around them.

10:12:07

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

Another big explosion on the German trench.

10:12:08

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. DAY

MICHAEL and the OTHER SOLDIERS underground.

10:12:11

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

Another big explosion on the German trench.

10:12:12

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. DAY

MICHAEL and the OTHER SOLDIERS underground. The sound of the bombs and shells making them some of them cover their ears.

10:12:17

INT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS, CYRIL, BEN, KEVIN, HARRY, YOUNG DEREK and OTHERS in a line holding their mugs to get their daily rum ration. They listen to the shells whistling above them and the explosions in the distance.

THOMAS  
Poor bastards.

10:12:25

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

Another big explosion on the empty German trench.

10:12:27

INT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS looks in the direction of the bombardment.

10:12:31

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

Another big explosion on the empty German trench.

10:12:33

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. NIGHT

MICHAEL and the OTHERS wait as dust and debris fall from the ceiling. The noise of the bombs and shells over head.

The roof of the dugout begins to cave in as some of the SOLDIERS escape leaving MICHAEL and FREDDIE behind.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Move. Move, move. Go up the stairs. Move, move. Move.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

The roof's coming down.

The debris falls on MICHAEL. He looks around for FREDDIE who is under a mound of earth.

MICHAEL

Freddie!

MICHAEL frantically starts digging.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Freddie! It's fine, it's fine. Freddie.

The shelling continues unabated, above and around the dugout.

MICHAEL eventually uncovers FREDDIE, wiping mud and dirt from his face.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Here, water, water, Here.

He pours water into his mouth. FREDDIE then starts to splutter.

10:13:29

Later: An exhausted and relieved MICHAEL cradles him in his arms as the bombardment continues.

FREDDIE

We're gonna die here Mikey, we're gonna die here in this hole...

MICHAEL

No we're not.

FREDDIE starts to sob.

FREDDIE

I don't even know where I am...

MICHAEL

I know...

FREDDIE

I don't want to die...

MICHAEL

Ssshhh...

We're not going to die. Freddie, we're not going to die.

10:13:52

Later - An exhausted and battered MICHAEL and FREDDIE are still in the destroyed dug out. Bombs fall over head as more debris and dust falls from the ceiling.

FREDDIE

When do you think they'll come?

MICHAEL

Soon. They must think we're dead.

FREDDIE

Maybe we are.

On MICHAEL.

10:14:18

INT. BRITISH DUGOUT. NIGHT

The constant "boom" of the big guns.

THOMAS, CYRIL, ANTHONY, BEN, KEVIN, HARRY, YOUNG DEREK and the OTHERS in their dugout.

CYRIL

They've had six days and nights of this, with no let up. There can't be any of them left.

BEN  
Let's hope not.

ANTHONY  
It's horrible though, it could just of easily have been us.

BEN  
Exactly, that's why I don't feel sorry for 'em.

ANTHONY  
I'm not saying you should...

BEN  
What then?

ANTHONY  
I don't know.

A moment. CORPORAL BOND appears.

CORPORAL BOND  
Clean your rifles and bayonets then get some shut eye, boys. We go over the top in the morning. 7.30 ack emma. Clear up what's left.

And he's gone. On HARRY fearful.

ANTHONY (O.S.)  
Bloody hell.

CYRIL  
Be alright. The shells will have cut a path through the wire, destroyed all their trenches...

KEVIN  
You go first then, be right behind you.

BEN (O.S.)  
And I'll be behind him.

THOMAS  
No-one's survived that. This is it, it's over. We could be going home!

A moment, almost with a new resolve, they begin.

10:15:08

INT. GERMAN DUGOUT. NIGHT

STEFAN and the OTHERS arrive to lift MICHAEL and FREDDIE out. STEFAN peers through a gap in some fallen wood.

STEFAN

They're alright, I can see them! They're here.

FREDDIE

Stefan!

A relieved MICHAEL and FREDDIE.

10:15:20

INT. BRITISH DUGOUT. NIGHT

THOMAS at his bunk. DEREK approaches.

DEREK

So we're going to do some proper fighting then?

THOMAS calm, ready to go.

DEREK (CONT'D)

(lying)

Can't wait.

THOMAS

If there's any shooting there'll be shell holes everywhere, jump in the nearest one you see and keep your head down.

(glances at the others)

When you get the shout to move up, don't go straight away, there'll be a burst of gun fire, wait until it stops, and then go. Run as fast as you can to the next shell hole.

DEREK

Saying there won't be many Germans left.

THOMAS

It only takes one bullet to kill you.

MUSIC IN 3M06 10:16:00

THOMAS holds his bird encyclopedia and carefully puts it into his bag.

10:16:05

Later - THOMAS lays on his bunk, going to sleep, thinking about what the following day will bring. He glances over at DEREK fast asleep in his bunk, child-like.

10:16:35

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAWN

Silence. The sun comes up. The barbed wire still in place.

10:16:42

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. DAY

The piano can hardly be seen in the cloud of dust.

The SOLDIERS line up silently to make their way out of the dugouts to take their place in the trenches. CORPORAL BOND shouts.

CORPORAL BOND

Wait until the line end of their mine is detonated, then we all go together. We're not expecting too much resistance so keep moving forward. Let's finish this up and go home! We go on the whistle.

Close on THOMAS looking scared and worried.

10:17:03

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

There is chaos in the German trenches as the ragged, exhausted and dishevelled SOLDIERS are all coming out of the dugouts preparing to defend their lines.

A CORPORAL barking instructions.

GERMAN CORPORAL (O.S.)

The bombardment has stopped. They'll be coming over. At your guns.

MICHAEL moves to his gun post.

GERMAN CORPORAL (O.S. - CONT'D)  
In your positions.

10:17:14

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL waits nervously.

10:17:19

EXT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE. DAY

KATIE stands alone reading MICHAEL'S letter. SUSAN comes outside and puts a comforting hand on her shoulder;

10:17:28

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL waits at his gun post.

10:17:31

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. DAY

THOMAS and the others lined up waiting. CYRIL is behind THOMAS.

OFFICER (O.S.)

Walk forward in an orderly fashion.

CYRIL

How's your guts?

OFFICER (O.S.)

Keep your shape.

CYRIL

I've got butterflies...

MUSIC OUT 3M06 10:17:39

How stupid's that?

THOMAS

Me too.

CYRIL

Maybe it's wind. Or worse...

ANTHONY

Who wants a race? Ten bob says I reach the German trenches first.

BEN

You're on.

All smiles, anticipation...

10:17:51

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

The GERMAN SOLDIERS wait.

10:18:02

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. DAY

Everyone waiting.

BEN

Come on...come on....

10:18:13

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

The GERMAN SOLDIERS wait.

MICHAEL sits at the gun poised.

10:18:21

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. DAY

On THOMAS. Everyone waiting.

The whistle sounds as CORPORAL BOND runs round the corner.

CORPORAL BOND

(shouts) Come on boys! Move, move! Come on! Move! Move! Move! Move! Go up! Come on, let's go! Get up! Come on!

The SOLDIERS go over the top.

MUSIC IN 3M07 10:18:39

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

The SOLDIERS move forward.

CORPORAL BOND (CONT'D)

Move up!

Their guns point in front of them as they surge forward.

All looking more relaxed as there's seemingly no resistance.

CYRIL

Looks like no one's home.

THOMAS laughs.

SOLDIER

Looks like your ugly mug's scared them off Kev.

The SOLDIERS laugh.

Suddenly the noise of hundreds of machine guns fill the air and bullets whistle all around them.

THOMAS watches in horror as CYRIL falls beside him.

TOMMY

Wingnut!

A shocked THOMAS goes to help CYRIL.

TOMMY

Cyril!

He dies.

THOMAS re-joins the MEN leaving CYRIL dead on the ground.

10:19:25

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MUSIC OUT 3M07 10:19:27

MICHAEL sits at the machine gun firing at the BRITISH SOLDIERS coming towards him.

10:19:31

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

SOLDIERS are shot and fall to the floor. THOMAS surges on, tripping and falling as he goes.

TOMMY

Ben!

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Come on move. Don't just bloody stand there!  
Keep moving!

MUSIC IN 3M08 10:20:00

THOMAS looks up along the line to see BEN, ANTHONY and HARRY, mown down by bullets from the machine gun fire.

Heavy breathing. THOMAS gets up and moves on.

Orders can still be heard being shouted in the b/g.

10:20:17

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL sits at the machine gun firing at the BRITISH SOLDIERS coming towards him.

10:20:21

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

KEVIN now in front hit by machine gun. THOMAS behind him sees him fall to the floor.

THOMAS

Kev!

He walks on, now in a trance like state. He finds himself in line with DEREK looking back at him, traumatised, bewildered.

10:20:56

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. DAY

ANNIE on her hands and knees scrubbing the kitchen floor, a little manic, losing herself in the physicality of it.

10:20:59

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS in No Man's Land.

10:21:00

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. DAY

ANNIE on her hands and knees scrubbing the kitchen floor.

10:21:02

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS and other SOLDIERS in No Man's Land.

10:21:05

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL fires the gun. Dirt and shrapnel rain down on him. A bomb goes off nearby.

MICHAEL showered with debris from an explosion close by throws him backwards.

GERMAN OFFICER  
Back at your guns!

They all scramble to take up their positions again.

MICHAEL looks around for RUDI, but can't see him.

MICHAEL  
Rudi!

The OFFICER shouts at MICHAEL. MICHAEL turns to see him, dead in bottom of the trench.

GERMAN OFFICER  
At your guns!

MICHAEL takes up his position once again.

10:21:30

EXT. FOREST. DAY

KATIE hurries through the forest.

10:21:34

EXT. VILLAGE SHRINE. DAY

KATIE, alone, kneeling and praying silently.

10:21:40

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL runs through the trench, explosions go off nearby.

A big explosion as the SOLDIERS fall onto the ground. MICHAEL looks around, the DEAD everywhere.

FREDDIE

Come on. Come on. Up you get.

He is helped to his feet. He grabs his rifle, climbs to the top and begins to shoot.

10:22:24

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS moves forward, explosions all around him as MEN fall and die every inch of the way. He keeps on going.

10:22:36

EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

JOANNA in the middle of complete chaos as WOUNDED are brought by MEDICS.

She sees a YOUNG SOLDIER in a British uniform being carried past on a stretcher; she freezes, thinking it's THOMAS but then realises it's not him. She takes a breath then carries on.

10:22:46

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS carries on running, explosions all around. MEN fall in front of him but he carries on running toward enemy lines. SOLDIERS fall into the barbed wire.

He stumbles and falls into a shallow shell hole, to find it littered with DEAD SOLDIERS. A YOUNG SOLDIER alive but frightened, cries and holds his ears, protection against the constant sound of bombs.

THOMAS climbs out of the shell hole.

10:23:35

EXT. THOMAS' HOUSE. DAY

ANNIE throwing out her bucket of dirty water.

10:23:37

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

A determined look on THOMAS' face as he continues on. Explosions from shell fire and machine gun bullets continue to whistle around THOMAS and SOLDIERS as they inch their way forward.

They hit a bank of barbed wire. A SOLDIER with wire cutters tries to cut a way through.

THOMAS moves forward, all hell around him.

He moves into another shell hole and looks up to see DEREK, laying in a shell hole. He grabs him.

10:24:19

EXT. THOMAS' HOUSE. DAY

ANNIE holds on to the curtains, struggles to breathe.

10:24:22

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE. DAY

WILLIAM finds SUSAN curled up asleep on MICHAEL'S bed.

10:24:45

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MUSIC OUT 3M08 10:24:47

Quiet now.

An unconscious MICHAEL sits in what's left of their trench as he starts to come too. He is dirty and weary as he opens his eyes.

There are no words, nothing to say.

DEAD BODIES all around him.

10:25:09

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS in a shell hole surrounded by DEAD BODIES. He comes too.

10:25:24

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL looks around him. He reaches out to FREDDIE who opens his eyes.

10:25:32

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS pulls at DEREK'S clothing. He wakes. They lift their heads to see the carnage around them.

10:25:44

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL begins to stand.

10:25:48

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS starts to clamber out of the shell hole.

10:25:52

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL stands and begins to climb out of the trench.

10:25:57

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

From the shell hole we see THOMAS reach the top and he looks out around him.

10:26:02

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL walks away from the trench, into No Man's Land.

10:26:06

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS walks away from the shell hole, into No Man's Land.

10:26:10

Cut to THOMAS' feet walking through some dead SOLDIERS. Cut to his face as he sees the full scale of the war. He sees the DEAD - his FRIENDS.

On the other side of No Man's Land, MICHAEL stands alone, viewing the self-same carnage.

RUDI, STEFAN, LANZO amongst the dead.

MUSIC IN 3M09 10:26:57

Quick cuts of DEAD BODIES, one by one and their personal belongings they hold.

MICHAEL and THOMAS both take this all in.

The camera rises up, looking down at the battlefield, littered with dead bodies, the full horror of the first day of the Somme...

Cut to MICHAEL then THOMAS.

TO BLACK.

MUSIC OUT 3M09 10:28:09

TEASER IN

**CAPTION OVER: Next Time**

BRITISH SOLDIERS jump over and fight the GERMAN SOLDIERS.

CUT TO:

MUSIC IN 5M01 10:28:11

DEREK beside THOMAS.

THOMAS

What if this is all there is.

CUT TO:

10:28:13

JOANNA sees THOMAS - a moment between them through the CROWD. She runs to embrace him.

GORDON (V.O.)

Get them up!

CUT TO:

10:28:15

MICHAEL is amongst some GERMAN SOLDIERS who are now prisoners of war. THOMAS joins them.

CUT TO:

10:28:18

THOMAS is saying goodbye to JOANNA.

THOMAS

Go as soon as you can.

JOANNA

I will.

CUT TO:

10:28:19

DEREK sees a young BRITISH SOLDIER, no more than a boy, being marched past, held by TWO SOLDIERS. SERGEANT BOND is beside DEREK as everyone watches the YOUNG BOY marched past.

DEREK

What's going on?

SERGEANT BOND

Deserter.

THOMAS (V.O.)

I'll meet you there.

CUT TO:

10:28:23

THOMAS with DEREK as he gets ready to leave.

DEREK

But I don't want to go without you.

CUT TO:

10:28:24

ERICH takes aim. DEREK runs, THOMAS runs after him.

THOMAS

Derek!

CUT TO:

10:28:27

FREDDIE runs away.

GORDON

Hey!

CUT TO:

10:28:28

MICHAEL runs through the woodland. THOMAS chasing him.

THOMAS moves his finger to the trigger.

TO BLACK

MUSIC IN 5M12 10:28:35

**END CREDITS.**

MUSIC OUT 5M01 10:28:38

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MICHAEL	JACK LOWDEN
FREDDIE	WILF SCOLDING
STEFAN	CHARLES FURNESS
LANZO	FELIX AUER
RUDI	JOHNNY GIBBON
KEVIN	BEN McGREGOR
ANTHONY	ADAM LONG
BEN	JORDAN MURPHY

CYRIL	HUBERT BURTON
GERMAN CORPORAL 2	ADAM FIDUSIEWICZ
JOANNA	ERIKA KARKUSZEWSKA
HARRY	RYAN WATSON
DEREK	BRIAN FLETCHER
BRITISH PRIEST	LECH DYBLIK
GERMAN PRIEST	MACIEJ ROBAKIEWICZ
KENNY BOND	MATTHEW AUBREY
KATIE	SABRINA BARTLETT
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MUSIC OUT 5M12 10:29:05

