

THE PASSING BELLS
EP. 4 UK TX
POST PRODUCTION SCRIPT



MUSIC IN 5M01 10:00:00

RECAP IN

CAPTION OVER: Previously

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

GERMAN CORPORAL (O.S.)

The British and French are about to throw everything they've got at us.

LANZO (V.O.)

D'you think this is it? That whatever happens here.

CUT TO:

10:00:06

LANZO (V.O. - CONT'D)

It'll be the end of it?

Silence. No-one knows the answer to that. MICHAEL has finished writing his letter.

BEN (V.O.)

Seen any Germans yet?

CUT TO:

10:00:09

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

HARRY (V.O.)

Not yet.

BEN (V.O.)

You will.

CORPORAL BOND (V.O.)

Everyone...

CUT TO:

10:00:11

CORPORAL BOND addresses the men.

CORPORAL BOND (O.S. - CONT'D)

...will remember that this...

CUT TO:

10:00:12

CORPORAL BOND (V.O. - CONT'D)

... is where we won the war...

A SOLDIER pulls a handle. The BRITISH SOLDIERS reload their weapons and fire.

CUT TO:

10:00:15 A big explosion hits the German trench.

CUT TO:

10:00:15 In the dugout dust and debris fall from the ceiling as some of the roof begins to cave in.

CUT TO:

10:00:16 THOMAS and the other SOLDIERS file out and go over the top of the trench.

CORPORAL BOND shouts.

CORPORAL BOND (V.O.)
Here at...

CUT TO:

10:00:17 COPORAL BOND addresses the men.

COPORAL BOND (CONT'D)
... the Somme.

CUT TO:

10:00:18 The SOLDIERS move forward.

CUT TO:

10:00:19 THOMAS moves forward, explosions all around him as MEN fall and die every inch of the way. He keeps on going.

CUT TO:

10:00:21 Activity in the German trench. MICHAEL sits at the machine gun firing at the BRITISH SOLDIERS coming towards him.

CUT TO:

10:00:22 THOMAS looks around, he sees the full scale of the war.

CUT TO:

10:00:23 MICHAEL stands alone, viewing the self-same carnage.

CUT TO:

10:00:24 The camera rises up, looking down at the battlefield, littered with dead bodies, the full horror of the first day of the Somme.

10:00:33 TO BLACK.

MUSIC IN 5M02(TITLES) 10:00:35 **OPENING TITLES SEQUENCE**

MUSIC OUT 5M01 10:00:36

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THE
PASSING BELLS

TO BLACK

CAPTION OVER BLACK: 1917

MUSIC OUT 5M02(TITLES) 10:01:07

MUSIC IN 4M03 10:01:07 FX: Rain

10:01:08 EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

Rain. MICHAEL and FREDDIE in their trench, sitting on the fire step. Weary. Dispirited.

CAPTION OVER: German trench, Northern France

10:01:18

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

CAPTION OVER: British trench, Northern France

Rain. THOMAS sits on the fire step. He's trying to sketch a bird, but the rain drips on his paper, smudging the charcoal. His hands shake.

He looks along the trench, a line of new haunted faces, haunted expressions.

Bangs are heard in the distance.

10:01:42

FLASHBACK

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS remembers the Somme. The sound of machine gun fire as a SOLDIER falls to the floor.

10:01:44

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS closes his eyes.

10:01:45

FLASHBACK

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

He sees all his FRIENDS mown down by machine gun fire.

10:01:48

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

He sits with his eyes shut.

10:01:50

FLASHBACK

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS with a dying CYRIL.

THOMAS

Cyril.

10:01:51

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

He opens his eyes. A pained look on his face. His hand shakes as he holds his charcoal. He looks up; a small bird lands on a sandbag,

10:02:01

FLASHBACK

INT. RUIN NEAR FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

THOMAS remembers the bird that landed on the window sill where he lay with JOANNA.

10:02:03

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS looks at the bird.

10:02:05

FLASHBACK

INT. RUIN NEAR FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

THOMAS lays facing JOANNA.

10:02:08

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS looks at the bird.

10:02:10

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. THOMAS' BEDROOM. NIGHT

THOMAS' imagination -

A dirty, wet and muddy THOMAS, stands in the doorway of his bedroom. His bird encyclopaedia on the side table.

He is looking down at himself. At least the boy he used to be before going to war.

ANNIE (V.O)
I can see him.

10:02:22

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. THOMAS' BEDROOM. DAY

ANNIE runs her hands over THOMAS' bird drawings, outlines them with her fingers. She picks up a feather.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Every night before I sleep, if I sleep. Then again every morning. Sometimes I'll forget, lost in a task, then I'll remember and it's like watching him go for the first time all over again.

ANNIE sits on the THOMAS' bed talking to DAVID.

10:02:47

FLASHBACK
EXT. TOWN HALL. DAY

THOMAS waves excitedly through the window of the bus as the NEW ARMY RECRUITS are being waved off. THOMAS blows a kiss.

10:02:49

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS remembers.

ANNIE (V.O.)
We've lost him.

DAVID (V.O.)
Course we haven't.

ANNIE (V.O.)

Yes we have.

10:02:55

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. THOMAS' BEDROOM. DAY

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Even if he comes back, he won't be the same boy who left will he? (DAVID sits next to ANNIE on the bed) Our little boy. How could he be?

DAVID

You have to stop thinking like this, Annie.

ANNIE

Then tell me he will.

DAVID can't.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Lie to me!

A tear falls down ANNIE's cheek.

DAVID is just as lost.

10:03:24

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

THOMAS stares at the bird as it flies away.

10:03:26

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

It's still raining. MICHAEL and FREDDIE amongst soldiers in their trench, sitting on the fire step. They're Weary. Dispirited.

FREDDIE

It's coming up to three years. We're fighting over a patch of ground ten miles from here.

MICHAEL

We're bringing troops back from the east.

FREDDIE

So we get more troops and the Americans will join the British. Whatever happens we're going round in circles. The whole world's going nowhere. We're fighting over the same field.

MICHAEL
We can still win.

FREDDIE
Win what?

An artillery barrage. MICHAEL and FREDDIE cover their head in protection. Shells explode around them then suddenly stop.

FREDDIE peers over the top.

FREDDIE
Raid! (shouts) They're coming!

They all scramble for their rifles but it's too late as BRITISH SOLDIERS start to jump over the parapet.

They begin to fight, other GERMAN SOLDIERS coming up from the dugout to join, more BRITISH SOLDIERS coming over the top.

10:04:29

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

Behind the lines, BRITISH SOLDIERS gathering, ready to move out. It's snowing.

CAPTION OVER: British supply line, Northern France

Carts and supplies. DEREK and THOMAS help with the work.

SERGEANT
Come on get it on the lorry.

SOLDIER
Yes Sergeant.

MUSIC OUT 4M03 10:04:48

THOMAS suddenly stops, drops the box and leans against the wall.

THOMAS
They're moving us back up to where we started.

DEREK
Started the war?

TOMMY
All this time we won't have moved.

A beat.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What if it never stops? What if no-one wins and no-one gives up?

THOMAS coughs. DEREK stands beside him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I mean what if this is all there is, all there's ever gonna be? They tell us we're moving forward, or north or east or back where we started but half the time we have no idea where we are. We fire at these figures in the distance, but we don't really know who we're shooting at. This isn't a war like I read about in school, like I thought it was gonna be. I'm not conquering anything, marching into towns with flags. So what if, what if it never ends?

DEREK

Wars end.

THOMAS

Yeah but there's never been a war like this has there? So if there's never been a war like this how do we know it will end?

DEREK

It will. It has to.

THOMAS

Maybe when there's no-one left to fight anymore?

THOMAS gets up and leaves, leaving DEREK alone.

10:06:29

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

THOMAS stands to attention in front of KENNY BOND. He's now a Sergeant.

SERGEANT BOND

There's no more leave before we go, Edwards, I'm sorry.

THOMAS

It's just I haven't seen her for a month...

SERGEANT BOND

It's orders. We have to move out this morning.

THOMAS gutted but accepting.

SERGEANT BOND (CONT'D)

Been a rough ride, aye? In the thick of it.

THOMAS

Same for everyone. I'm just...

SERGEANT BOND

I know.

A moment, KENNY thoughtful, he looks at TOMMY he's bedraggled, a troubled child, something in him relents...

A moment.

SERGEANT BOND (CONT'D)

Look we ran some raids this morning. There's a BWI prisoner detail leaving in half an hour, they could use another man. The camp's half a mile from where she'll be. Now I dare say they'd let you stop off there, if something terrible happened, like you sprained your ankle on the way.

KENNY writes out a slip and gives it to THOMAS.

THOMAS

Yes, Sergeant. Thank you, Sergeant.

MUSIC IN 4M04 10:07:13

THOMAS bounds away, excited.

DEREK (V.O.)

But I don't...

10:07:18

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

THOMAS with DEREK as he gets ready to leave.

DEREK (CONT'D)

...want to go without you.

THOMAS

You'll be fine, just stick with the other lads, I'll meet you there. Save me a decent bunk. Alright?

DEREK watches him go.

A moment later, THOMAS falls in line with a West Indian CORPORAL WILLIAM GORDON.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

The Sergeant said you needed a hand.

THOMAS hands the CORPORAL the slip of paper.

GORDON
Mission of mercy I was told.
(grins)
Girlfriend?

THOMAS
That's right.

GORDON grins knowingly. They approach a GROUP OF MEN.

GORDON
Alright, get them up!

GUARD (O.S.)
Come on, come on, up!

GUARD (O.S.)
Everybody!

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

10:07:54

EXT. FOREST. DAY

MUSIC OUT 4M04 10:08:02

MICHAEL and FREDDIE walk along the forest amongst the other GERMAN PRISONERS.

THOMAS is at the front of the group with GORDON. TWO OTHER GUARDS at the rear.

FREDDIE
They don't seem so different to us. I bet if we'd met before the war, in a bar, we'd have talked, laughed together.

MICHAEL
Maybe.

FREDDIE
Anyway. At least the war's over.

MICHAEL
What?

FREDDIE
We fought hard, and now we're prisoners. What, what else can we do?

MUSIC IN 4M04 10:08:32

MICHAEL

We can escape. Get back to our lines.

MICHAEL determined, FREDDIE concerned.

10:08:37

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

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. Time to move out.

SERGEANT BOND walks away and DEREK follows. A fusillade of shots rings out from behind him. SERGEANT BOND turns to look around but DEREK does not.

MUSIC OUT 4M04 10:09:15

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE ROAD. DAY

The PRISONER PARTY continues on its way.

GUARD(O.S.)

Keep quiet. We're watching you.

They stop.

GORDON

We'll rest up here.

GUARD (O.S.)

Gentlemen, fall in a line. Now. Line up, line up.

As everyone sits down to take a break, GORDON turns to THOMAS.

GORDON (CONT'D)

MUSIC IN 4M04 10:09:29

You have an hour. A minute longer, you'll be a deserter.

GUARD (O.S.)

Just don't move.

THOMAS runs towards the hospital.

GUARD (O.S. - CONT'D)

Do not move.

MICHAEL watches him run across the forest.

10:09:46

EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

THOMAS walks through the melee.

He then sees JOANNA. She is ushering a SOLDIER on a stretcher. She then turns to see THOMAS - a moment between them through the CROWD. She runs to embrace him.

THOMAS

I haven't got much time, they're moving us on again and I had to see you. Can you get a break?

JOANNA

Wait...

She kisses him then leaves to organise it.

10:10:30

EXT. RUIN NEAR FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

THOMAS and JOANNA sit in a quiet spot behind the Field Hospital.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

THOMAS

Yeah, I am now.

JOANNA

All those sweet boys...

A moment, then he kisses her. She looks troubled, something on her mind.

THOMAS

What's wrong?

A moment, JOANNA trying to form the sentence in her head, then:

JOANNA

I'm pregnant.

THOMAS shocked to his core. JOANNA studies his expression, searching for his reaction.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

You hate me?

THOMAS
No! No! No! I love you. I'm just shocked!

JOANNA
Good. Me too. But you're happy?

THOMAS laughs and nods. A thought occurs to him.

THOMAS
Yeah! Yeah! We'll have to get married!

JOANNA
You don't have to...

THOMAS
(cuts in)
No. No I want to! I dunno how it all works and
that, but I can find out.

He stops, sensing her unease.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
What?

THOMAS knows from her reaction that something is
wrong.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
I just thought...

JOANNA
I want to marry you.

THOMAS
Then what's wrong?

JOANNA
I always dreamed the day I'd get married.
I'd be on my father's arm. I don't know where he
is, I don't even know if he's still alive.

THOMAS
He's alive, alright. And we'll wait for him.

JOANNA
You don't mind?

THOMAS
No.

A beat, JOANNA laughs with her next thought:

JOANNA
We'll have to think of a name. Two names!

THOMAS
(shock)
Two?

JOANNA
One for a boy, one for a girl?

THOMAS
(relief)
Oh right. Yeah...

JOANNA
Maybe we don't need to do it right now?

THOMAS
Yeah. Y'know when it comes? I mean you can't stay here.

JOANNA
I could go home but I don't have one. I can't go back to Cracow. One of the medics said there is a convent not far from here.

THOMAS
No! No, I'll write to my parents, you can stay there.

JOANNA
(not sure) I don't even know them.

THOMAS
They will love you just like I do...

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE ROAD. DAY

10:13:12

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE ROAD. DAY

MICHAEL and FREDDIE amongst other PRISONERS.
MICHAEL looks across at the nearby woodland to
their left.

MICHAEL
Our lines should be on the other side of those
woods.

MUSIC OUT 4M05 10:13:23

FREDDIE
They'll shoot us.

MICHAEL
There's only four of them. There's eight of us. If we scatter the odds will be good.

FREDDIE

Does it look like any of us can run?

MICHAEL looks around at the other GERMAN PRISONERS, exhausted, battle weary, FREDDIE'S right.

10:13:38

EXT. RUIN NEAR FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

THOMAS is saying goodbye to JOANNA, he's giving her a note.

THOMAS

Here's the address, I'll write home and tell them you're coming.

MUSIC IN 4M06 10:13:42

He kisses her hand.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Go as soon as you can.

JOANNA

I will.

They kiss. THOMAS jogs away, turning and blowing her a kiss as he goes. JOANNA, not knowing if she'll ever see him again.

10:14:04

EXT. FOREST. DAY

The PRISON PARTY preparing to leave as MICHAEL sees THOMAS running back to join them.

GORDON

(to the PRISONERS) Alright on your feet!

MUSIC OUT 4M06 10:14:16

MICHAEL and FREDDIE start to get up.

GUARD (O.S.)

Right you heard the Corporal. On your feet, on your feet now. Get up!

GORDON

(to THOMAS)

How was she?

THOMAS

(huge grin)

Beautiful. Thanks corporal.

MICHAEL and FREDDIE stand.

FREDDIE
I can't do this...

MICHAEL looks at FREDDIE, who's embarrassed but certain.

MICHAEL
You have to come with me.

FREDDIE
No, I can't do it anymore...I'm done...It's over...

MICHAEL
You don't know where they're taking us.

FREDDIE
We're prisoners of war.

MICHAEL
What does that mean? How do we know they're not just gonna take us somewhere and shoot us?

FREDDIE
They can't.

MICHAEL
How can you say that? After all we've seen?

FREDDIE
I'm tired, Mikey.

A moment between them, FREDDIE looks down.

MICHAEL
I need to get back to Katie. I have to finish this, for Stefan and Lanzo and Rudi. Finish it and go home!

FREDDIE
I know.

A moment.

MICHAEL
Look I'm a fast runner, I'm used to running over fields...

FREDDIE
No...

MICHAEL

They won't, they won't catch me.

FREDDIE
But a bullet will.

MICHAEL
I have to try.

MICHAEL clearly ready to run.

FREDDIE
I can get you a head start.
(nods)
I'll run that way, not far and not fast, as soon
as they shout, I'll stop and put my hands up.
Should give you a few seconds.

They look at one another in the eye.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)
I'll see you when the war's over.

MICHAEL
No, Fre...

MUSIC IN 4M07 10:15:27

FREDDIE starts to walk away from the GROUP, then
run.

The GUARDS see him and call out and raise their
rifles.

GORDON
Hey.

MICHAEL takes his chance to run as fast as he can
in the opposite direction.

GORDON (O.S. - CONT'D)
Stop or we'll shoot! Stop!

FREDDIE stops running and slowly raises his arms,
as a shot rings out from behind him. He falls to
the floor. Dead.

MICHAEL stops running as he hears the shot. He
turns to see FREDDIE on the floor. He turns and
continues to run.

GORDON notices MICHAEL.

GORDON
There's another one!

THOMAS takes off to follow.

GORDON (O.S. - CONT'D)

Don't let him escape. Stay with the prisoners!

Out on FREDDIE - dead.

10:15:43

EXT. WOODLAND. DAY

MICHAEL runs through the woodland.

GORDON and THOMAS give chase. After a while, MICHAEL stops to catch his breath, slumping down against a tree.

He hears THOMAS approach.

MUSIC OUT 4M07 10:16:36

THOMAS stops and looks around.

MICHAEL sits against the tree. THOMAS looks around.

MUSIC IN 4M08 10:16:51

MICHAEL slowly gets up and takes off again. THOMAS sees him.

THOMAS raises his rifle. MICHAEL in his sights. He obviously has a clear shot at MICHAEL'S back, but for some reason he hesitates. He has his finger on the trigger. But doesn't fire.

And MICHAEL reaches the edge of the woods, disappearing from view.

An out of breath GORDON joins THOMAS as he lowers his rifle.

GORDON

Where is he?

THOMAS

Long gone. There's no chance we'll catch him.

GORDON

Lucky bastard. Come on. Let's get back.

MUSIC OUT 4M08 10:17:28

THOMAS starts back but glances over his shoulder at where MICHAEL had been before following GORDON back through the woodland.

MUSIC IN 4M08 10:17:41

10:17:43

Out on MICHAEL still running.

10:17:48

INT. BRITISH DUG OUT. NIGHT

CAPTION OVER: British dugout, Northern France

MUSIC OUT 4M08 10:17:55

THOMAS enters the dug out. He looks around.

He finds DEREK sitting on his bunk.

THOMAS

You didn't think I'd leave you on your own, did you?

MUSIC IN 4M09 10:18:05

DEREK watches as THOMAS turns to sit and talk to another SOLDIER. THOMAS keeps an eye on DEREK.

10:18:18

INT. GERMAN DUG OUT. NIGHT

MICHAEL enters the dug out, puts down his rifle. In the background we can hear the echoey voices of RUDI, FREDDIE, LANZO and STEFAN.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

Give her a kiss from me.

10:18:24

FLASHBACK

INT. GERMAN DUG OUT. NIGHT

RUDI (V.O.)

And me!

LANZO & STEFAN (V.O.)

And me!

MICHAEL looks up to see RUDI, FREDDIE, LANZO and STEFAN fooling around on the other bunks.

LANZO (V.O.)

Oh I can smell bacon.

FREDDIE (V.O.)

They say run, we run, they say pack, we pack.

STEFAN (V.O.)

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

RUDI (V.O.)

Because the ones that were there first are dead.

10:18:35

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. GERMAN DUG OUT. NIGHT

But then the image has gone as quickly as it came, nothing but MICHAEL'S imagination. He stands and looks at the empty bunks, feeling very alone.

10:18:39

FLASHBACK
EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL sees RUDI as he lays dead in the trench. Cut to all the OTHERS dead on the floor.

10:18:43

FLASHBACK
EXT. FOREST. DAY

FREDDIE falls to the floor having been shot.

10:18:46

BACK TO PRESENT
INT. GERMAN DUG OUT. NIGHT

MICHAEL in the dug out remembering.

10:18:51

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL steps outside for some air.

CAPTION OVER: German trench, Northern France

MICHAEL takes a deep breath.

10:19:00

FLASHBACK
EXT. VILLAGE STREET. DAY

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

10:19:07

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

MICHAEL with his eyes shut.

ERICH (O.S.)
You got away from the British?

ERICH, a sentry is in position on the fire step. He looks at MICHAEL.

MICHAEL
Yeah.

ERICH
How many of you?

MICHAEL

(thinking of FREDDIE)
Just me.

MICHAEL lost in his own thoughts.

ERICH
What were they like? The British?

MICHAEL turns away and doesn't respond.

10:19:56

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

Snow. DEREK sits alone on the fire step, troubled, simply staring into space.

An explosion, startles him, he covers his head.

He looks at the OTHERS, but no-one's reacting. Then another explosion and another. He covers his head for protection but the OTHERS seemingly ignore them. Then it's silent again. DEREK gasps for breath. A raindrop falls.

10:20:26

FLASHBACK
EXT. BATTLE OF THE SOMME. DAY

DEREK flashes back to him seeing THOMAS across No Man's Land before an explosion takes over.

10:20:27

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

DEREK shuts his eyes tightly and pulls at his hair. He can hear more explosions.

10:20:28

FLASHBACK
EXT. BATTLE OF THE SOMME. DAY

A SOLDIER falls into the barbed wire.

10:20:29

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

DEREK shuts his eyes tightly, the sound of explosions still in his head. The sound of the rain like machine gun fire.

10:20:32

FLASHBACK
EXT. BATTLE OF THE SOMME. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

The GERMAN SOLDIERS fire at the BRITISH as they get near the trench.

10:20:32

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

The sound of the rain like machine gun fire in DEREK'S head. He can't bear it.

10:20:37

FLASHBACK
EXT. BATTLE OF THE SOMME. DAY

An explosion.

10:20:38

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

DEREK sits with his eyes shut, reliving the moments.

10:20:39

FLASHBACK
EXT. BATTLE OF THE SOMME. DAY

DEREK in No Man's Land seeing the carnage.

10:20:40

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

DEREK gasps for breath.

10:20:44

FLASHBACK
EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

The YOUNG DESERTER being led away.

10:20:45

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

On DEREK.

10:20:47

FLASHBACK
EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

The YOUNG DESERTER being led away.

10:20:48

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. DAY

On DEREK as he hears the YOUNG DESERTER being shot. He breathes heavily.

DEREK stands and starts to wade through the trench, then passes THOMAS as he comes out of the dugout.

SOLDIER
Oy!

Then to THOMAS'S horror, DEREK climbs up on to the fire step, then the ladder and over the parapet, walking away into No Man's Land. THOMAS drops his mug of tea, then runs along the trench. He barks at a nearby SOLDIER.

THOMAS
Cover for us!

THOMAS then climbs up and follows DEREK over the parapet.

10:21:15

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

DEREK runs towards the German trenches. THOMAS runs after him.

THOMAS
Derek!

10:21:17

EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. DAY

ERICH is standing on the fire step on lookout. He thinks he sees a shape, he stares closer and on the other side of the wire he sees a BRITISH SOLDIER running away from the British trenches, a SECOND SOLDIER running towards him.

ERICH lifts his rifle and takes aim as MICHAEL joins him on the step.

MICHAEL
What is it?

ERICH
There's someone out there.

MICHAEL sees DEREK in his sights.

ERICH
(takes aim) I'm going to shoot him.

He shoots.

10:21:37

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

MUSIC OUT 4M09 10:21:38

DEREK runs, THOMAS runs after him. The bullet whizzes by.

THOMAS
Derek!

10:21:40

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

ERICH reloads, taking aim.

MICHAEL
Leave them.

ERICH in disbelief; he looks round to see if anyone heard.

ERICH
What?!

10:21:45

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

THOMAS gains on DEREK.

THOMAS
Derek!

THOMAS throws himself at DEREK as they fall to the ground.

DEREK
Get off me!

THOMAS
You'll get us both killed!

THOMAS grabs DEREK and rolls him into a water-filled shell hole.

10:21:53

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

MICHAEL watches them.

10:21:56

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. SHELL HOLE. DAY

THOMAS and distressed DEREK huddled together in the shell hole.

DEREK
Please, I just want to go home.

THOMAS
And how you gonna get there, you daft sod?

DEREK now faces THOMAS, pleading.

DEREK

Please, just let me go. Please.

THOMAS

If I could, I'd carry you all the way home on my back, I swear it, but there's no way through...

DEREK

Please. Please.

THOMAS

There's Germans on one side and our officers on the other. And shot as the enemy or a deserter, you're just as dead.

DEREK

I want to go home!

THOMAS

I know you do.

DEREK

Yeah.

THOMAS

Yeah, and you will!

DEREK

I won't.

THOMAS

I promise. You just can't go yet that's all. Alright?

DEREK

You said it! You said that there's nothing else, and that this is all there is and all there ever will be. You said it Tommy!

THOMAS

I know I did and after three years that's how I feel sometimes, but we can't just give up hope. We have to keep trying to do the best that we can. Joanna told me she's having a baby. Yeah. A baby that's gonna need a dad. You've got your mum and dad and they need a son. So however bad it gets, even if it's only for them you can't give up. And if it wasn't us here doing it, it'd be someone else, someone else with people worrying about 'em.

MUSIC IN 4M10 10:23:26

DEREK
I'm so scared all the time.

THOMAS
I know you are and so am I. Right? So don't leave me to be scared on my own alright? It's dark now. We can't see any light but there will be, there has to be.

The TWO MEN lay in the shell hole, huddled together.

10:23:48

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. DAY

ERICH puts his rifle down.

ERICH
They've gone now.

MICHAEL
What you think I was wrong?

ERICH
I don't know.

ERICH goes. MICHAEL looks out.

10:24:05

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE. NIGHT

MUSIC OUT 4M10 10:24:11

SUSAN and WILLIAM sit together at the kitchen table.

SUSAN
There were nineteen boys in his class at school, eleven of them are dead. Eleven! We have no food, there are riots. I just, I just want it to be over. I don't care who wins anymore. I go into the village, and I smile and nod but Hilda and Eva I can't even look them in the eye any more. I feel guilty because our son is still alive while theirs aren't.

WILLIAM
That's only natural.

SUSAN
Hmm, maybe that's the problem. We've created a world where something like that is normal.

WILLIAM

Michael will be alright. He told us in his letters he's been looked after, he's safe, he's not too close to the fighting.

SUSAN

And what do we say when we write to him? That there's no food? No oil? No medicine? No. We tell him everything's all right, everything's exactly the same as it was the day he left. There's a fire burning in the grate, there's food on the table, his bed freshly made waiting for him.

WILLIAM

One of those is true.

SUSAN

But if we're lying to him, what if he's lying to us? What if things are so bad, he's afraid to tell us? How could he bear it?

MUSIC IN 4M11 10:25:56

She gets up to carry on with her chores, to stop herself breaking down. KATIE enters and joins WILLIAM at the table.

10:26:12

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. NIGHT

MICHAEL walks through the trench in the pouring rain.

10:26:18

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. HALLWAY. NIGHT

An exhausted ANNIE enters her house, she takes off her coat.

A moment, before she wearily walks through to DAVID in the sitting room.

10:26:33

INT. THOMAS' HOUSE. SITTING ROOM. NIGHT

As she enters, she sees JOANNA standing with a bump. A moment between them, before they hug.

10:26:54

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. NIGHT

THOMAS walks through the trench in the pouring rain. He taps a SOLDIER who stands down. THOMAS stands on the fire step, gun at the ready.

10:27:12

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. NIGHT

MICHAEL in the trench.

He taps a SOLDIER who moves on. MICHAEL takes over his watch.

Now up on the fire step, he grips his rifle tightly and looks out over No Man's Land with a grim determination to finish this.

10:27:23

EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. NIGHT

THOMAS on the fire step, rifle ready.

10:27:27

FLASHBACK
EXT. FIELDS. DAY

JOANNA bids farewell to THOMAS.

JOANNA
Come back.

10:27:29

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. BRITISH TRENCH. NIGHT

THOMAS on the fire step, rifle poised.

10:27:32

EXT. GERMAN TRENCHES. NIGHT

MICHAEL in the trenches, rifle poised.

10:27:34

FLASHBACK
EXT. VILLAGE. DAY

MICHAEL and KATIE, just married as MICHAEL goes off to war. KATIE holds up her hand to show him her wedding ring.

10:27:37

BACK TO PRESENT
EXT. GERMAN TRENCH. NIGHT

MICHAEL remembers.

Though they'd never know it in the blackness, the two young men stand facing each other across the divide.

TO BLACK

MUSIC OUT 4M11 10:27:43

MUSIC IN 5M01 10:27:43

TEASER IN

CAPTION OVER: Next Time

In the bedroom, JOANNA is in labour. JOANNA screams as she pushes.

ANNIE and a MIDWIFE are with her.

CUT TO:

10:27:45

THOMAS sits in the shell hole. A BABY cries.
Shells go off around him.

CUT TO:

10:27:46

MICHAEL snaps and grabs ERICH.

MICHAEL

D'you think I want to be here?

MICHAEL, ERICH and other GERMAN SOLDIERS lay
barbed wire across a field from a huge coil.

MICHAEL (CONTD)

D'you think any of us want to be here?

CUT TO:

10:27:49

DEREK

D'you think I'm a coward?

THOMAS

Don't ever say that.

CUT TO:

10:27:52

THOMAS is with SERGEANT BOND.

SERGEANT BOND

If this armistice happens, we'll all be home
for good soon.

DEREK (V.O.)

It's got to be over soon.

CUT TO:

10:27:56

DEREK is besides THOMAS who has his rifle
poised.

CUT TO:

10:27:57

THOMAS is with DEREK as they march along amongst a
group of SOLDIERS.

DEREK

I don't know if I can do much more.

CUT TO:

10:27:58

In the boardroom, ARMY OFFICERS and POLITICIANS sign papers.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

You think this is it?

CUT TO:

10:28:00

MICHAEL and some other GERMAN SOLDIERS eat at the table. ERICH has entered.

ERICH

Something's happening.

They all sit in silence.

DAVID (V.O.)

Germans are becoming....

CUT TO:

10:28:02

DAVID reads the newspaper to NEIGHBOURS gathered around him. ANNIE beside him as is JOANNA holding the BABY.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(reads)

"... isolated..."

CUT TO:

10:28:03

THOMAS, DEREK and OTHER SOLDIERS on the fire step, firing back across No Man's Land.

One SOLDIER falls back.

DAVID (V.O. - CONT'D)

"and the armistice grows nearer by the day."

CUT TO:

10:28:05

SUSAN sits with WILLIAM.

SUSAN

But they won't keep fighting will they, not while they're talking?

WILLIAM

Probably.

CUT TO:

10:28:08

ERICH

Who knows what we'll be going back to.

MICHAEL takes off his wet clothes.

MICHAEL

Does it matter? As long as we're home.

SERGEANT BOND (V.O.)

All we're...

CUT TO:

10:28:13

THOMAS is with SERGEANT BOND.

SERGEANT BOND (CONT'D)

...hearing is push forward.

CUT TO:

10:28:15

SUSAN sits with WILLIAM.

SUSAN

Why let more boys die?

WILLIAM

That's not the way they see it.

SUSAN

Why not?

CUT TO:

10:28:19

Firing continues. As MICHAEL reloads, TWO SOLDIERS next to him.

CUT TO:

10:28:20

DEREK and MICHAEL on fire step, firing.

CUT TO:

10:28:21

TO BLACK.

MUSIC IN 5M12 10:28:22
MUSIC OUT 5M01 10:28:24

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BEN	JORDAN MURPHY
KEVIN	BEN McGREGOR
JOANNA	ERIKA KARKUSZEWSKA
ANNIE	AMANDA DREW
DAVID	ALEX FERNS
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The Passing Bells - Ep.4

MUSIC OUT 5M12 10:28:52