

ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE

1 EXT. MITCHELL BOMBER - MOROTAI ISLAND APRON - DAY 1

Super: August 1945.

JOHN O'NEILL (37), is a one-legged, tall muscular, businessman who is now an Army Captain.

He hobbles from the rear hatch of a camouflaged aircraft in sweat-stained uniform.

His crutches are passed to him.

On the tarmac, he is met by a Senior Officer, who waits casually.

CAPTAIN PETER VAN ARKEL (45), is a tall flimsy Dutch intelligence officer.

VAN ARKEL

(Dutch accent)

Welcome John, so they finally convinced you to be an Intelligence Officer.

John reaches out and shakes his hand.

JOHN O'NEILL

Peter, is it always this hot up here?

2 EXT. VERANDAH OF MESS TENT - MOROTAI - DAY 2

John sits in a wicker chair with his crutches beside him.

He is surrounded by Van Arkel and a motley group of soldiers.

JOHN O'NEILL

My job is to collect intel on the Japanese, as quickly as possible.

Van Arkel nods to his men.

John is sweating profusely.

JOHN O'NEILL (CONT'D)

I want you to set up a listening post immediately. We can't afford for the runway to be bombed again.

A Sergeant steps forward.

SERGEANT

(Dutch accent)

Right now, Sir?

VAN ARKEL
Right now, Sergeant!

A MURMUR of disquiet runs through the troops.

JOHN O'NEILL
We need to find out what they are
up to, and how their morale is.

The men stand, defiantly.

VAN ARKEL
Now!

The men shuffle away.

VAN ARKEL (CONT'D)
Don't misunderstand them, John. The
Moluccans are loyal servants of the
Dutch. They will do the job.

3 INT. JEEP - MORATAI JUNGLE - DAY

3

John bounces in the passenger's seat, beside a driver.

In the rear a soldier lies on a stretcher, bleeding from a
bullet wound to his hip.

The soldier, AHMED (20's), a Moluccan, tugs on John's
shoulder.

AHMED
(Dutch accent)
I didn't shoot first, Boss.

JOHN O'NEILL
(turns)
It wasn't your fault, Son.

AHMED
Boss ...

BANG!

The driver swerves the Jeep into a ditch and switches it off.

The men in the other vehicles, scatter.

John crawls amongst tall ferns, stops and COCKS his rifle.

He pushes a frond aside, with his rifle.

A glint of light draws his attention to a kneeling figure
beside a tree.

John raises his rifle and takes a bead on the figure.

The figure remains still.

John's finger wraps around the trigger.

The figure swings his rifle toward John.

John's finger squeezes.

BANG!

The figure reels back and drops out of sight.

John lowers his smoking rifle and turns to look at the Jeep.

John kneels up, and vomits.