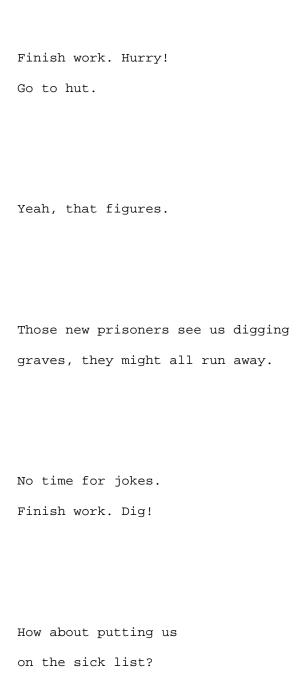
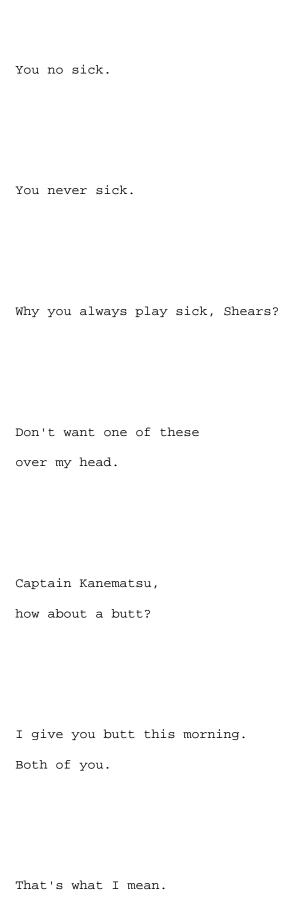
Bridge On The River Kwai Script



Have a heart, Captain.

Put us in the hospital.



I want to return the favor.

When a man gives me something from the goodness of his heart...

like you gave me that this morning,

I remember it from the heart.

That's why I want you to keep this lighter.

Think I stole it?

It belonged to that English kid we just buried over there.

He willed that lighter to me for a favor I done him.

Before I pass on,
I want to do the same for you.

You funny man, Shears.

You go on the sick list.

Him too.

One day, Colonel Saito

will catch you bribing him.

Then what?

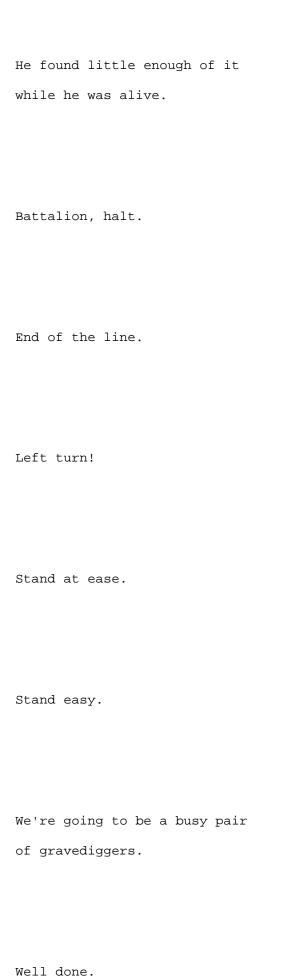
Before that happens,
we'll be far away from here, chum.

Let's knock off.
Here lies
- Weaver, I've forgotten who we buried. - Thomson.
Ah, yes.
Here lies Corporal Herbert Thomson
serial number
valiant member of the King's own

or the Queen's own

```
who died of beriberi
in the year of our Lord ...
for the greater glory of--
- What did he die for?
- Come off it.
No need to mock the grave.
I don't mock the grave or the men.
May he rest in peace.
```

or something...



That colonel doesn't know what he's in for. - You going to tell him the truth? - Of course not. You're neither an officer nor a gentleman. My name is Nicholson.

In the name of His Imperial Majesty...

I am Colonel Saito.

```
I welcome you.
I am the commanding officer
of this camp...
which is Camp ...
along the great railroad...
which will soon connect
Bangkok with Rangoon.
You British prisoners
have been chosen...
```

to build a bridge across the River Kwai.

```
It will be pleasant work, requiring skill...

and officers will work as well as men.

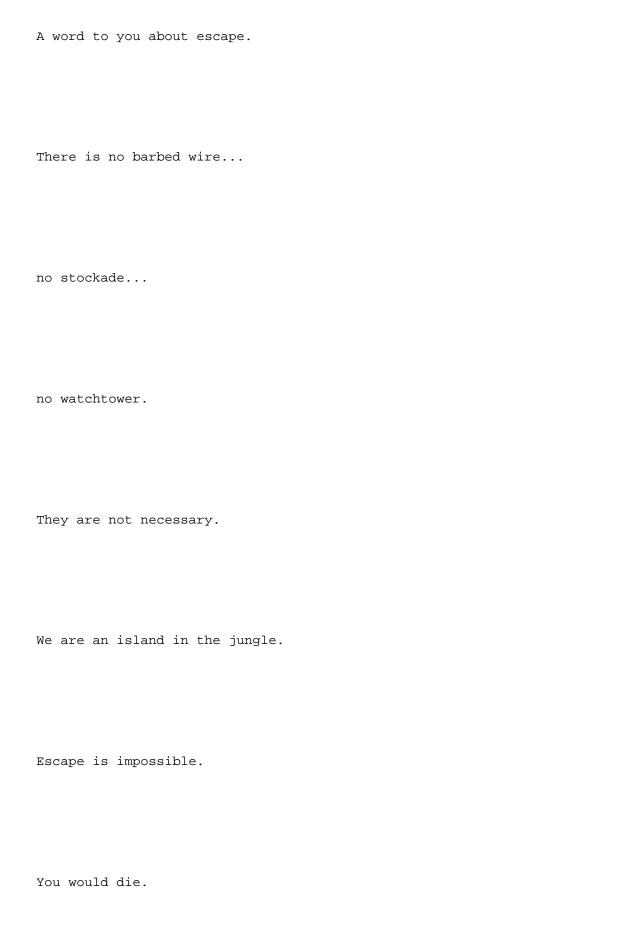
The Japanese Army cannot have idle mouths to feed.
```

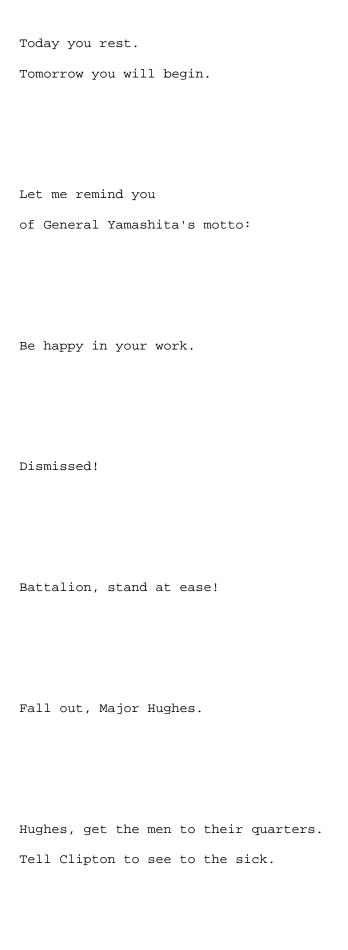
If you work hard,

you will be treated well.

But if you do not work hard...

you will be punished!





- I'll have a word with this fellow.
- Very good.

I heard your remarks just now, sir.

My men will carry on in the way one expects of the British soldier.

Naturally, my officers and I will be responsible for their conduct.

You may have overlooked that the use of officers for manual labor...

is expressly forbidden by the Geneva Convention.

I have a copy
of the Convention with me
and would be glad to let you
glance through it if you wish.
mbat will not be negation.
That will not be necessary.
Attention.
Sit down, please.

Is that so?

Yes, sir.

- I'll speak to Clipton. See you later.
- Very good, sir.

Clipton, don't let me interrupt.

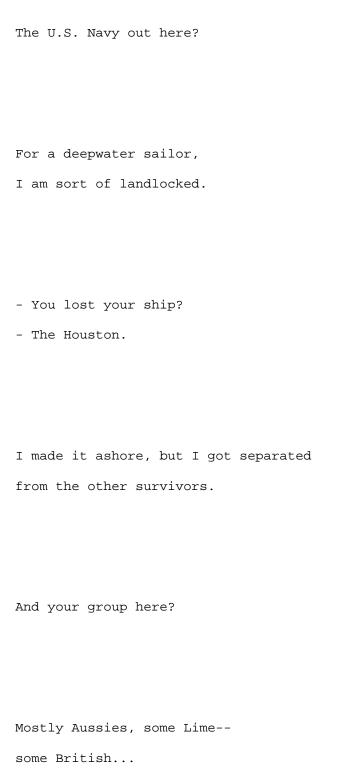
- How's the arm, Jennings?
- Nearly healed, sir.

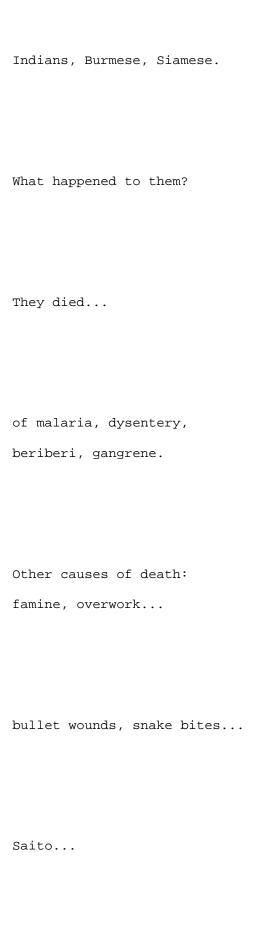
Sir, this is Commander Shears of the United States Navy.

- Good heavens.
- How do you do, sir?

We found him and an Australian in the hospital here.

They're all that's left of the prisoners who built the camp.





and then there were some who just got tired of living.

Has Clipton looked at you?

Just about to, sir. Commander, you can finish that shave later.

All right.

You'll stay with the officers, and we'll find some decent clothing.

Don't bother about me, Colonel.

I'm not anxious
to get off the sick list.

Besides, this is working kit.

It's the fashion out here.

The officers in your party did manual labor?

You could call it that.

Actually, I raised that very point with Colonel-- What's his name?

I think he understands the situation now.

- Is that so?
- Yes. He's seems a reasonable type.

```
There's an officers' meeting at : .
Get me a list of your requirements.
Yes, sir.
- Anything we can do.
- Thank you, sir.
- What is it?
- Never mind.
Go on, say it.
I can think of a lot of things
to call Saito, but ''reasonable''?
```

I must be pushing on.

Perhaps Colonel Nicholson defines the word differently. Any other points? - By your leave, sir. - Yes, Jennings? About the escape committee, sir. I've talked with Commander Shears--There won't be any escape committee.

I don't understand, sir.

LieutenantJennings has a plan.

That's a new one.

Yes, I'm sureJennings has a plan, but escape? Where?

Into this jungle?

Saito was right.

No need for barbed wire here.

One chance in a hundred of survival.

I'm sure a man of Commander Shears' experience will back me up on that.

I'd say the odds against a successful escape are a hundred to one.

```
Please.
The odds against survival
in this camp are even worse.
You've seen the graveyard.
There are your real odds.
To give up hope of escape,
to even stop thinking about it...
is like accepting a death sentence.
```

Why haven't you tried

- Right.

- But may I add another word?

```
I've been biding my time, waiting
for the right moment, the right company.
I understand how you feel.
Of course, it's normally the duty
of a captured soldier...
to attempt escape...
but my men and I are involved
in a curious legal point...
```

of which you are unaware.

to escape, Commander?

In Singapore, we were ordered
to surrender by Command Headquarters.

''Ordered.''

Therefore, in our case, escape
might be an infraction of military law.

- Interesting?
- Yes, sir.

- Interesting point.

- I didn't quite follow you.

You intend to uphold the letter

Without law, Commander,

of the law, no matter what it costs?

there is no civilization. That's just my point: Here there is no civilization. Then we have the opportunity to introduce it. I suggest we drop the subject of escape. Is there anything else?

I think we're all clear

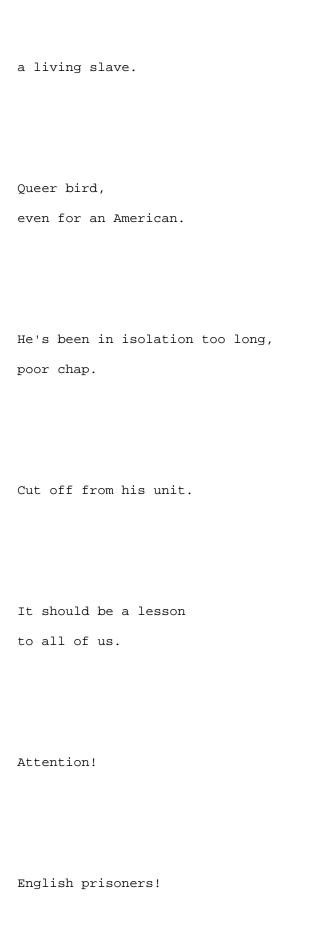
I want everything to go off without

a hitch starting tomorrow morning.

on the program.

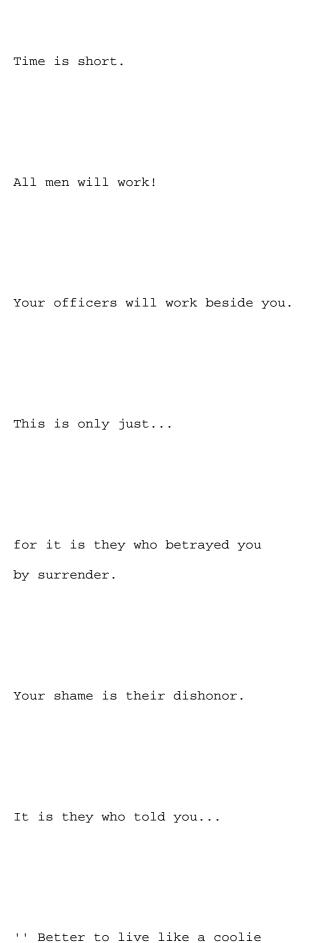
Remember this: Our men must always feel they are still commanded by us... and not by the Japanese. If they have that idea to cling to, they'll be soldiers and not slaves. Are you with me, Commander? I hope they can remain soldiers, Colonel.

As for me, I'm just a slave,



```
Notice I do not say,
'' English soldiers.''
From the moment you surrendered...
you ceased to be soldiers.
You will finish the bridge...
by the th day of May.
You will work under the direction
of a Japanese engineer...
```

Lieutenant Mioura.



```
than die like a hero.''
It is they who brought you here,
not I!
Therefore...
they will join you
in useful labor.
That is all.
Officer prisoners,
collect your tools.
```

Bradley, back in your place.

```
Colonel Saito...
to Article
of the Geneva Convention.
'' Belligerents
may employ as workmen...
prisoners of war who are physically fit
other than officers--''
- Give me the book.
- By all means.
You read English, I take it?
```

- Do you read Japanese?

I must call your attention,

```
- I'm sorry, no.
If it's a matter of precise translation,
I'm sure that can be arranged.
The code specifically states
that the--
Stand fast in the ranks!
Stand fast in the ranks!
You speak to me of code?
What code?
```

The coward's code!

```
of the soldier's code, of Bushido?
Nothing!
You are unworthy of command!
Since you refuse to abide
by the laws of the civilized world...
we must consider ourselves absolved
from our duty to obey you.
My officers
will not do manual labor.
We shall see.
```

All enlisted prisoners to work!

What do you know

Sergeant Major, take the men to work.

Yes, sir.

Battalion, take up tools.

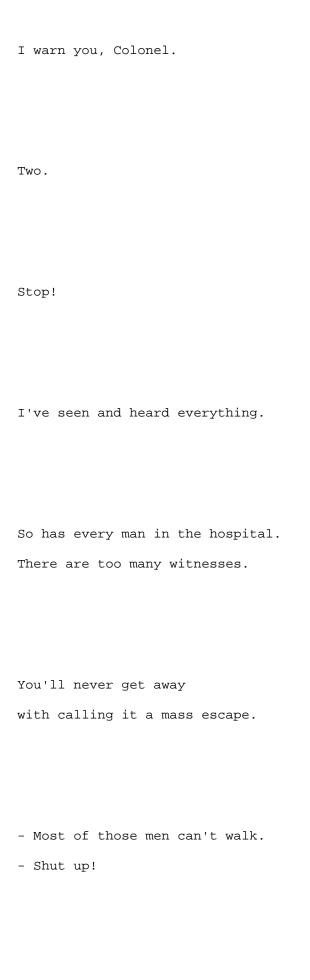
What's he up to?

Looks like he doesn't want any witnesses.

Now you will be reasonable.

You will order your officers to work.

```
I will count three.
If by the third count...
you and your officers
are not on the way to work...
I will give the order to fire.
He's going to do it.
Believe me,
he's really going to do it.
One.
```



```
Is this your soldier's code,
murdering unarmed men?
You see, there are certain advantages
to being on the sick list.
I'll say this for the old man:
He's got guts.
Into the valley of death
rode the .
```

- How's that, sir?

- That kind of guts.

Also the kind they had in

when your officers went over the top...

with nothing but a swagger stick.

- I see what you mean.
- You don't see what I mean at all!

The kind of guts that can get us all killed.

Excuse me, sir.

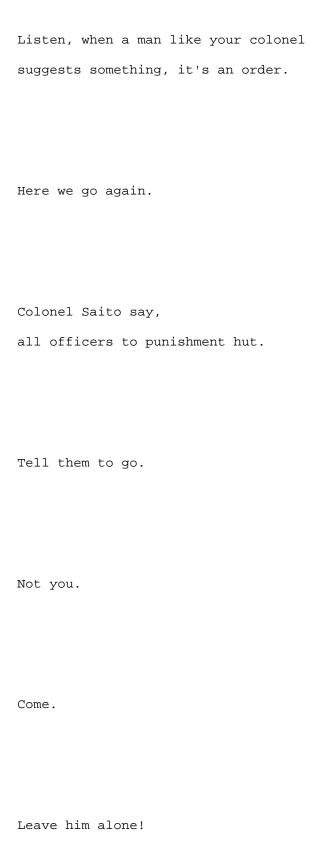
I'd like to go along too.

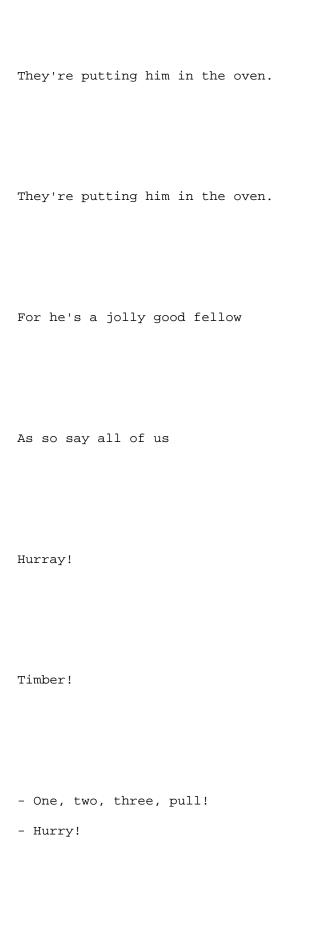
Arm's almost healed, sir.

Really it is.

What about him?

He didn't actually order us not to escape. He only suggested--





You wish to see me?

I've been trying to see you for three days.

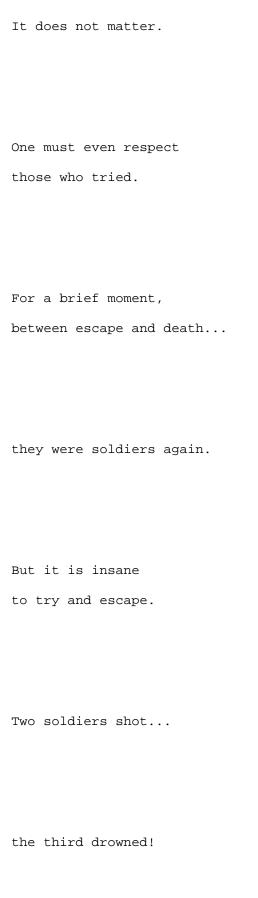
It's about Colonel Nicholson.

He's been shut up in that hut--

I could have you shot.

Those prisoners who tried to escape were in your charge.

I knew nothing about the escape.

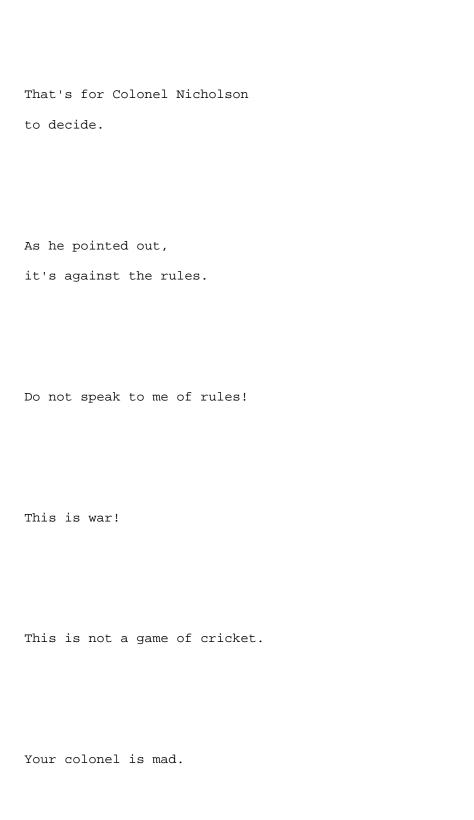


```
To what end?
It was an escape from reality.
Here is reality.
This shows the position work
should have reached by noon today...
and this shows the position
of actual progress.
Because of your colonel's
stubbornness...
```

we are far behind the schedule!

That is not all. Enlisted prisoners sabotage the work. Yes, I have seen it. I could have them all shot. Then who would build your bridge? Besides, are you sure it's sabotage? Perhaps the men don't work well without their own officers to direct them.

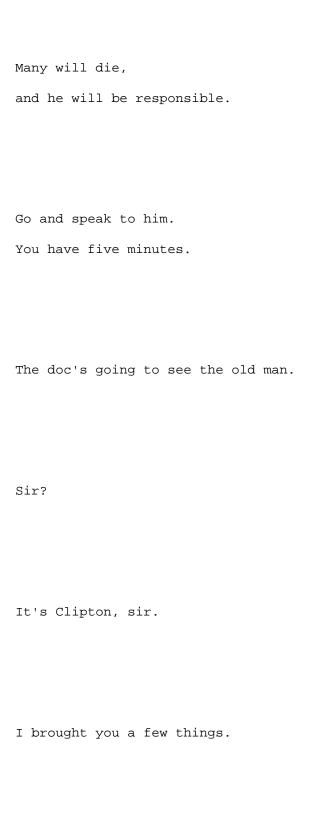
My officers will direct them.



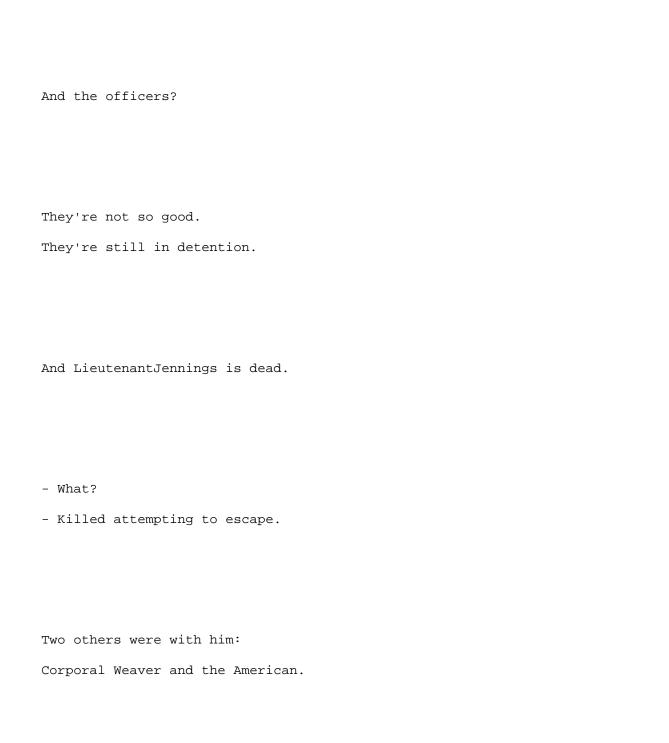
Your officers will work beside them.

```
Quite mad.
Sit down, please.
I have decided to allow you
one visit to your colonel.
Thank you.
Tell him that
if his officers will not work...
I'll be forced
to close the hospital...
and your patients will work
```

in their place.



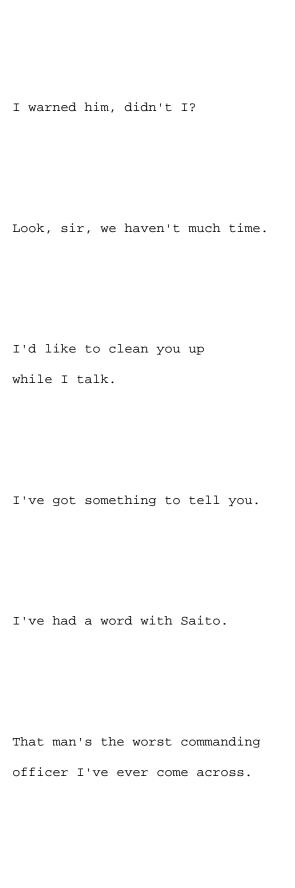
- How are the men?



- Fine, sir.

We scraped together

a little meat and a coconut.



Poor, brave lad.

Actually, I think he's mad.

Carry on.

- Blackmail.
- I know, sir, but he means it.

It's a question of face,
pure and simple.

- He can't give in.
- It's still blackmail.

Sir, you can't stand much more of this.

And wouldn't the officers be better off working than suffocating in that hole?

```
as slow on it as they dare...
but Saito's cut their food rations.
If he makes the sick men work,
they're going to die.
- That's all there is to it.
- Yes, I truly understand...
but it's a matter of principle.
If we give in now,
there will be no end to it.
```

Sir, we're lost in the jungle

a thousand miles from anywhere.

The men are going

We're under the heel of a man who will stop at nothing to get his way.

'' Principle''? No one will ever know or care what happens to us.

- Give in, sir, please.
- I'm adamant.

I will not have an officer from my battalion working as a coolie.

- Time.
- All right.

Please thank those concerned.



```
Yes, sir.
Shot and drowned.
```

It's insane to plan escapes.

Three men killed, and to what end?

Here is where we must win through.

The doc just looked at us and shook his head. What does that mean?

It means only one thing:
The colonel won't give in.

It's like this: Colonel Nicholson won't give in to force.

It's a question of principle.

As medical officer, I must protest at the way he's being treated.

It's a wonder he's still alive.

Should a tragedy occur, it would be tantamount to murder.

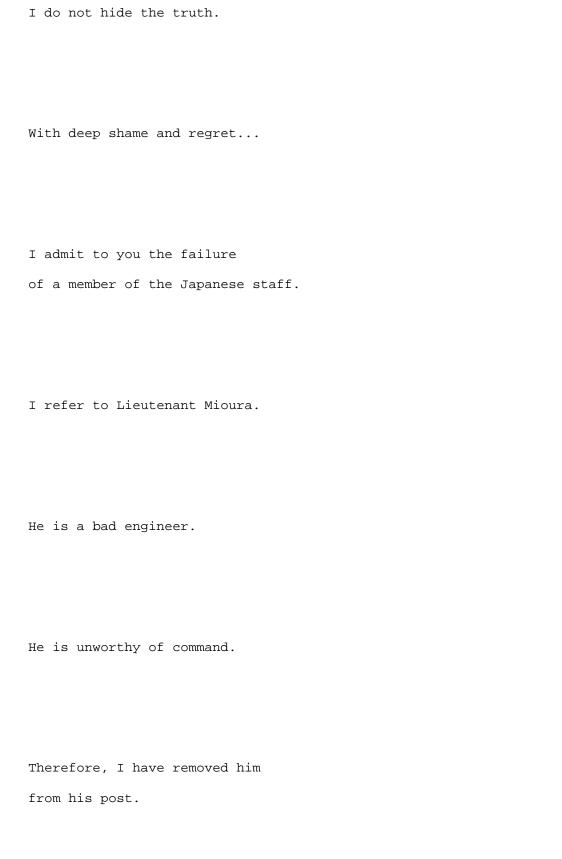
He is responsible, not I.

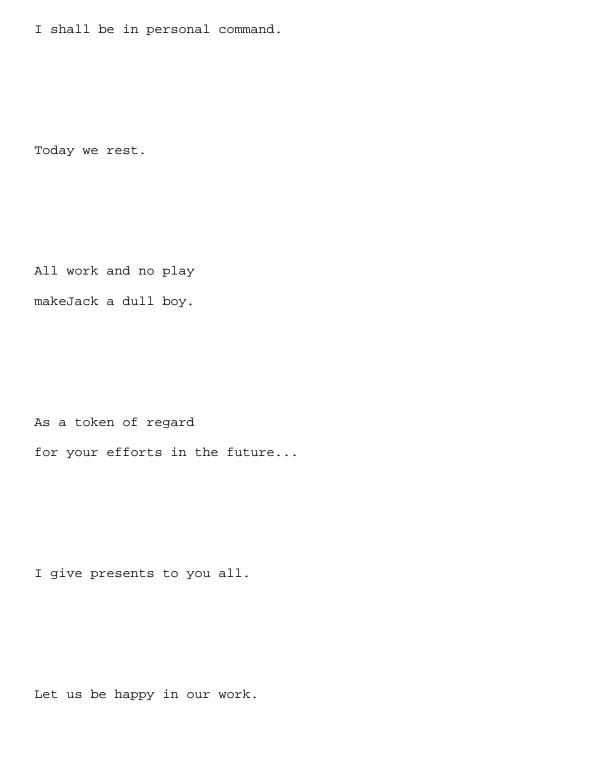
You sick?



```
not progress?''
You know why.
Because your officers are lazy!
They think themselves too good
to share your burdens.
This is not just.
Therefore,
you are not happy in your work.
Therefore,
the bridge does not progress.
```

But there is another cause.



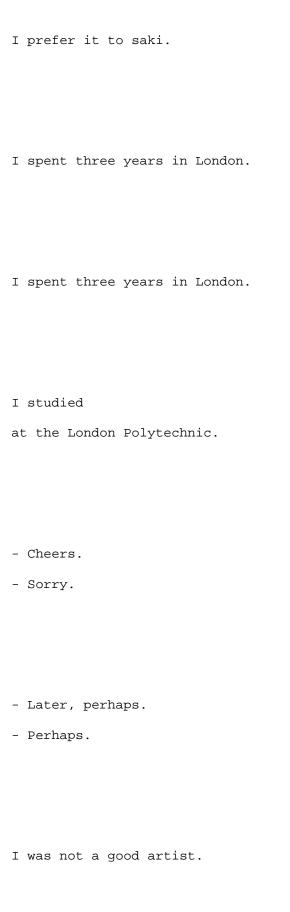


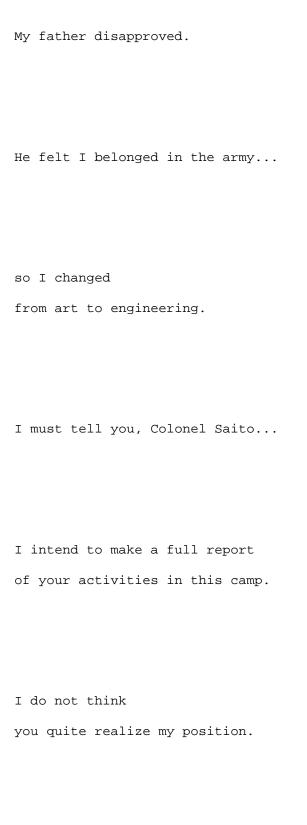
Tomorrow we begin again.



Company, dismiss.







- I must carry out my orders.

- Quite.

My orders are to complete the bridge by the th day of May.

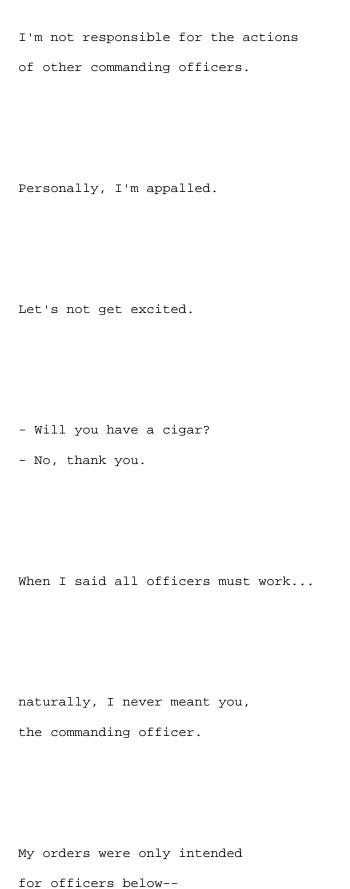
- Time is short. I only have weeks.
- No doubt.

Therefore, I am compelled to use all available personnel.

But no officers, except in an administrative capacity.

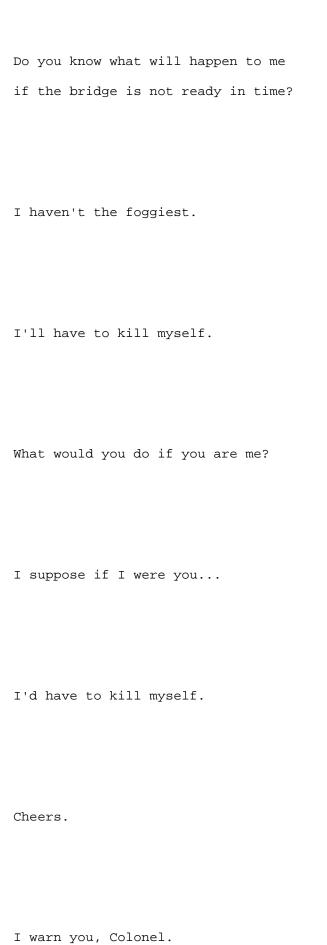
But officers are working along the entire railway.

You know it! I know it!



will do manual labor. Please. I was about to say, I have been thinking the matter over... and decided to put majors and above on administrative duties... leaving only the junior officers to lend a hand. I'm afraid not. The Convention's clear on that point.

None of my officers



If I am to die,
others will die before me.

Do you understand that?

Major Clipton did mention something to that effect.

That won't solve your problem.

I'm sure we can arrive at a proper solution.

Please sit down.

Now, tell me, Colonel...

do you agree that the first job of an officer is command?

- Of course.
- Good.

Take this bridge of yours.

It's quite
an enormous undertaking.

I have grave doubts whether your lieutenant--

- What's his name?
- Mioura.

Is he capable of tackling a job of such importance?

On the other hand,

my officers Reeves and Hughes...

have built bridges all over India.

The men respect them.

It's essential for an officer to have that respect.

If he loses it, he ceases to command.

Then there's demoralization and chaos.

```
I would be a poor commander
if I allowed that to happen to \ensuremath{\mathsf{my}} \ensuremath{\mathsf{men}}.
Perhaps you are not aware...
that the bridge is now
under my personal command.
Really?
Are you satisfied with the work?
- I am not!
- You prove my point.
I hate the British!
```

You are defeated, but you have no shame.



Please.

- Do you know the date today?I'm afraid I've lost count.
- It's the anniversary of our great victory over Russia in .

Throughout East Asia, we are celebrating this date.

In honor of this occasion...

- I have given your troops a day of rest.
- Many thanks.
- I am declaring a general amnesty.

You and your officers may return to your quarters. As part of this amnesty... it will not be necessary for officers to do manual labor. He's done it. Somebody deserves a medal, sir. How many men in your party, Corporal?

- I don't really know, sir.

- You don't know?

Twelve usually, but one of the men took sick suddenly this morning...

and it took three or four others to help him to the hospital, sir.

He took terrible sick, sir.

A corporal should always know exactly how many men he has under him.

Yes, sir.

Have you a nervous affliction?

If not, stop making those faces.

it's done with the best motives... but it's not military behavior. No, sir. We must put a stop to these demonstrations. Yes, sir. - Reeves. - Yes, sir?

Have you ever constructed a bridge

across a stream like the Kwai?

It may be funny, and I'm sure $\,$

Yes, sir. Half a dozen of them in Madras, Bengal.

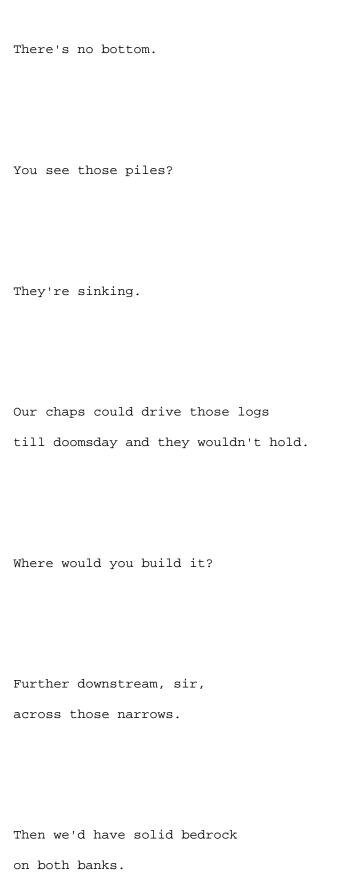
If this were your bridge, how would you get it underway?

Get it underway, sir?

First of all,
I wouldn't build it here.

- Why not?
- As I was trying to tell you, sir...

the Japanese couldn't have picked a worse location.



Hughes, if this were your bridge, how would you use the men?

Not the way they're doing it.

It's utter chaos, as you can see.

It's a lot of uncoordinated activity;
no teamwork.

Some parties are actually working against each other.

Yes.

I tell you, gentlemen, we have a problem on our hands.

```
Thanks to the Japanese,
we now command a rabble.
There's no order, no discipline.
- Our task is to rebuild the battalion.
- Yes, sir.
It won't be easy,
but we have the means at hand.
- The bridge.
- ''The bridge,'' sir?
We can teach these barbarians a lesson
in Western methods and efficiency...
```

that will put them to shame.

We'll show them what the British soldier is capable of doing.

Yes, I see your point, sir.

It's going to be difficult in this godforsaken place...

where you can't find what you need.

- But there's the challenge.
- I beg your pardon, sir.

You mean you really want them to build a bridge?

You're not so usually slow on the uptake, Evans. I know our men.

You've got to keep them occupied.

If there weren't any work for them to do, we'd invent some.

- That we would, sir.
- So we're lucky.

But it will be a proper bridge.

Here again, I know the men.

It's essential that they should take pride in their job.



- Right, gentlemen?

Reeves, you're the key man

- Yes, sir.

then arrange a conference with Saito...

and set him straight.

I think that takes care of all the procedural matters.

Now-- Oh, yes.

The next point is somewhat unpleasant for all concerned.

We feel the position of the bridge was fixed rather hastily...

and incorrectly.

Major Reeves, our engineer,
has made a careful study of the site...

and has come to the conclusion
that the river bottom there is too soft.

Mud. All the work up to now
has been quite useless.

Unfortunately, yes.

- Reeves, carry on.

- Reeves, carry on.

- Yes, sir.

- Yes, sir.

Colonel Saito, I've made tests.

Those piles of yours could be hammered below water level before they'd hold.

That bridge would collapse under the first train to cross it.

Look, it's all here.

These are the pressure and soil resistance figures.

Just a moment, Reeves, before you get too involved.

Colonel, can we have a cup of tea?

Then we all agree that if we're to avoid disaster...

we build a new bridge at the site selected by Major Reeves...

yards downstream.

Let's proceed to the next point.

Let's proceed to the next point.

I've decided to alter the daily work quota of our men.

- Alter?

- Yes, I've increased it...

from a yard and a half of earth moved to two yards.

It's in the general interest,
and I was sure you would approve.

Major Hughes has all facts and figures.

Hughes, will you take over?

Major Hughes has all facts and figures.

Hughes, will you take over?

Yes, sir. I've done a time study of the entire project.

As you can see, the available forces have been badly distributed.

I would strongly urge we revise the organization of the working parties.

Just a moment.

Colonel, it would save considerable time if we could carry on during dinner.

Would it be possible to have a meal served here?

Of course.

Carry on, Hughes.

If we increase the number of squads and specialize the functions of each...

I'm certain the total daily output can be increased by percent.

Now, Colonel Saito,

I have one more point.

There's another important decision that can't be postponed.

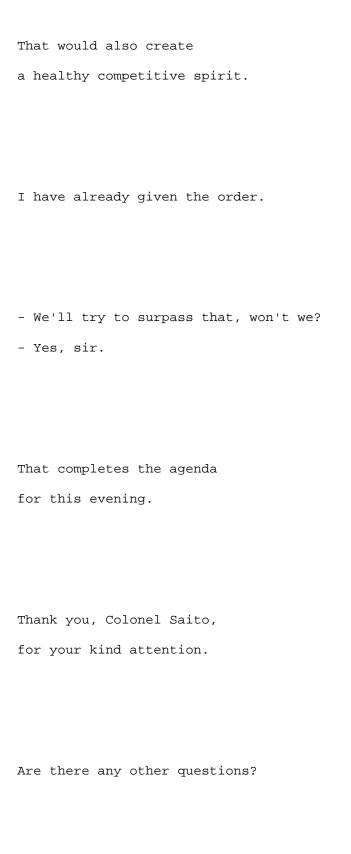
As most of the British soldiers will be working on the bridge...

only a small number will be available for railway work.

So I must ask you, Colonel Saito,

to reinforce the railway gang... so the final stretch of track can be completed as quickly as possible. I have already given the order. We must fix the daily work quota for your men. I thought of setting it at a yard and a half, not to overtire them... but wouldn't it be best if we made it the same as the British soldiers?

to lend us some of your own men...



One question.

Can you finish the bridge in time?

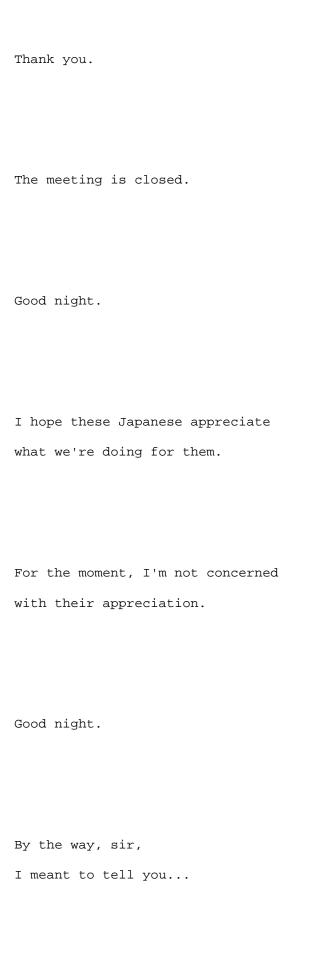
Frankly, the consensus of opinion is that it's impossible...

We mustn't forget that we've wasted over a month...

but we'll certainly give it a go.

through an unfortunate disagreement, for which I was not to blame.

Is there anything else?



there are trees in this forest very similar to elm.

The elm piles of London Bridge lasted years.

- Six hundred years?
- Yes, sir.

That would be something.

Good morning. I'm looking for an American named Commander Shears.

- Yes. Down on the beach.
- Thank you very much.

Kiss!

Too many eyes. Too many eyes. You give me powders, pills, baths, injections, enemas... when all I need is love. It's true. All you really need is love.

Because I'm a civilian at heart, lover,

What makes you so sure

you'll get a medical discharge?



```
Yes, sir.
Brass ahoy.
He wants to see you,
and he's all yours.
- I'm going for a swim.
- Don't leave me.
- Commander Shears?
- Yes.
My name's Warden.
- How do you do?
```

- I'm sorry to intrude.

That's okay, Major.

I'm used to it by now. Like a martini?

- That's very kind, but I think not.
- Mind if I have one?
- How did you manage to get that?
- This is a hospital, Major.

Where there's a hospital, there's alcohol.

Of course. Jolly good.

I'll be as brief as possible.

I belong to a rather rum group called Force . Our headquarters is up in the botanical gardens. Protecting rare plants from the enemy? Not quite. - Are you sure you won't have a martini? - No, thanks. Among other things, we have a particular interest in that railway you worked on. You could give us no end

of very valuable information.

You know, Major, I'm leaving for the States in a few days...

and I've already told your intelligence people everything I know.

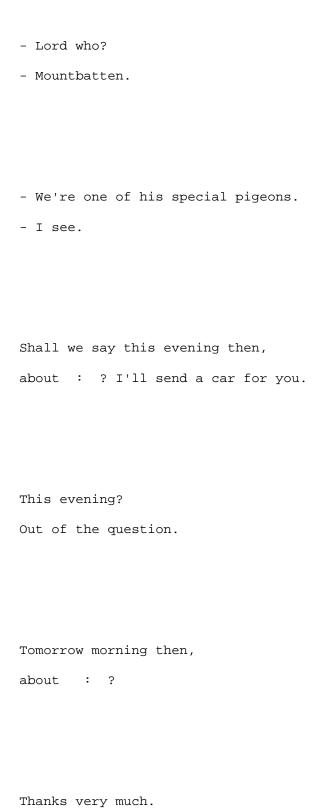
Yes, but you could help us in a rather special sense.

I know it's a terrible imposition, but could you come out and see us?

If you want to go over it again, I'll come.

That's very kind of you.

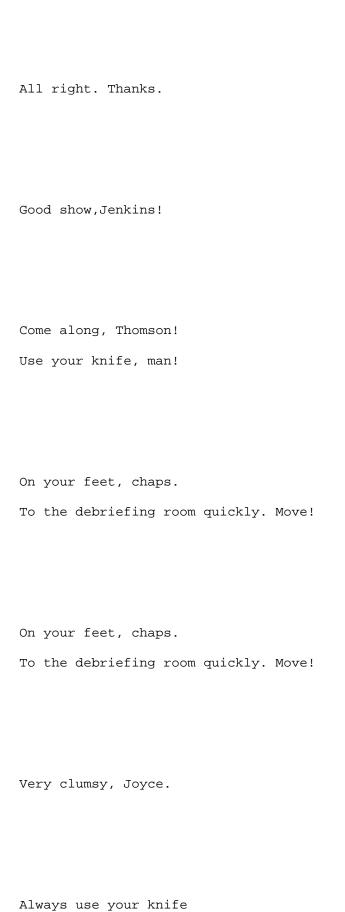
Lord Louis will be most grateful.



Cheerio.

```
Good luck.
Thanks.
I know. You're terribly sorry,
but you're standing me up tonight
You couldn't be more wrong.
- May I see your pass, sir?
- Yes.
Carry on, driver.
Major Warden's bungalow
```

is at the end of the pathway, sir.



```
immediately, Joyce.
You see?
He's gained the initiative.
Wait a minute.
- I'm terribly sorry, sir.
- You're sorry?
So am I, sir.
I thought you were the enemy, sir.
I'm an American,
if that's what you mean.
- That will be all.
```

- Yes, sir. Sorry, sir.

What can I do for you, sir?

- I was on my way to see Major Warden.
- Yes, I'll show you the way, sir.

He should be finishing his lecture at any moment now.

- That's the end of his lecture, sir.
- Thunderous ovation.

The major believes in keeping training as close to real life as possible, sir.

The major believes in keeping training as close to real life as possible, sir.

- Major Warden, sir?
- Yes?

Very good of you to come along.

Have they been taking care of you?

- They certainly have.
- Thank you.

Come along then. Colonel Green is looking forward to meeting you.

Fascinating place, isn't it?

Utterly charming. I didn't realize it was a commando school.

```
We're discouraging
the use of that word.

It has such a melodramatic air.
```

- What do you do here?

- Sabotage, demolition.

We're using plastic explosives now.

It's wonderful stuff.

We're using plastic explosives now.

It's wonderful stuff.

That last little pop was made with a lump half the size of this.

It's twice as powerful as gelignite and only half the weight. Here.

It's quite harmless
until it's detonated.

Thanks for telling me.

It's completely waterproof
and actually plastic. See?

You can do what you like with it.

Go ahead.

This is my place.

- A drink?
- No, thank you.
- A pot of tea for one, Peter.
- Very good, sir.
Do you read this?
Do you read enis.
I taught Oriental languages
at Cambridge before the war.
I never congratulated you
on your escape. It was a good show.

I'm dying for a cup of tea.

- Would you care for one?

- No, thanks.

I was lucky. If your sea rescue plane hadn't spotted me, I wouldn't be here.

I suppose not.

Would you like
to see where you were?

Would you like
to see where you were?

All right.

Our information's rather scanty.

It's mostly based on your report.

But we think the camp is about here.

Do your intelligence people have any idea what happened to Colonel Nicholson?

Do your intelligence people have any idea what happened to Colonel Nicholson?

He had the guts of a maniac.

They were about to shoot him, and he didn't bat an eye.

I suppose if you're about to be shot, there isn't a great deal you can do.

Here is the River Kwai...

Here is the River Kwai...

and here is the Siamese village where you were helped...

and here is the railway.

You must be fairly familiar with all this area.

Not really.

I was out of my head half the time.

Now then, the railway starts down here in Singapore.

Their idea is to drive on through into India. Where was I picked up? About here. As you know, the Japanese aim to open the Bangkok-Rangoon section by mid-May. Naturally, we'll try to prevent them. Naturally, we'll try to prevent them.

Malaya, Bangkok, Rangoon.

It's too far for bombers to carry an adequate load...

so we shall have to go in and smash it up on the ground.

- How will you get there?
- Parachute drop and then march.
- With demolition equipment?
- Yes.

Our chief problem is lack of firsthand knowledge.

None of us have ever been there.

- I don't want to discourage you, but-- It should be interesting.

Colonel Green has given me the Kwai bridge.

I'm taking a team in and blow it up.

Lucky you.

- Are you sure you won't have tea?
- No, thanks.
- I don't want to be rude, but I have
- a luncheon date, and she's beautiful.
- So if there are any questions--
- Yes, of course. I am sorry.

There is only one question, actually.

How would you feel about going back?

Come again?

I know under the circumstances
it's a bit much...

but you do have a unique knowledge
for our purpose...

You mean to tell me

you brought me here to ask me this?

and we'd love to have you with us.

Major, I just got out of there.

My escape was a miracle.

Now you want me to go back?

Don't be ridiculous.

- This is embarrassing.
- I can't go back!
- I don't belong to you.
- I belong to the American Navy.

Actually, Colonel Green has already taken up the manner with your people.

- With my people?

My navy's made a mistake.

- Yes, your navy turned you over to us.

Look, I'm not a navy commander.

I'm not even an officer.

Look, I'm not a navy commander.

I'm not even an officer.

The whole thing's a fake. I'm just an ordinary swab jockey, second class.

When the Houston sunk,

I made it ashore with an officer.

Later, we ran into a Japanese patrol, and he was killed.

I figured I would be captured, so--



So you changed uniforms

with a dead man.

```
so when I arrived here
at the hospital...
I looked at the enlisted men's ward
and the officers' ward...
and I said to myself,
'' Let's let it ride along for awhile.''
There were certain
definite advantages.
```

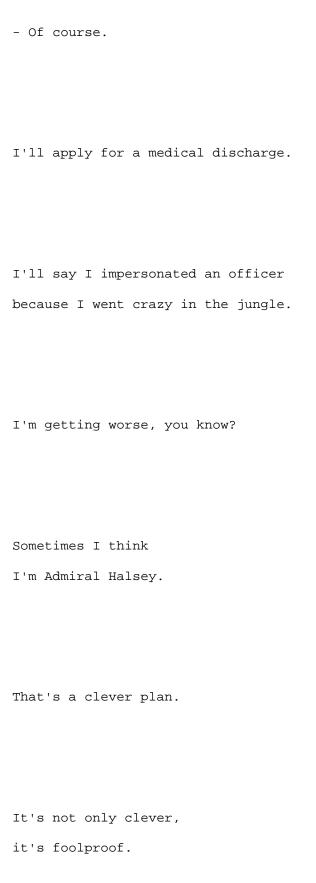
Yes, I saw one on the beach.

Anyway, that's the whole story.

You want an American commander named Shears, and he doesn't exist. When the Navy brass learns the truth about me, they'll say... ''Ship him home in irons for impersonating an officer!'' Once that happens, I've got it made. - Got it what? - '' Made.''

- I'd like that drink now.

The point is that you can't use me.



When my navy finds out who I am...

those temporary orders won't be worth
the paper they're written on.

Is this your photograph?

- Where did you get this?

Naturally, your people couldn't identify you at first.

- It took a bit of doing.

But finally your C in C Pacific sent us a copy of your service record:

the photograph, fingerprints.

It has everything.

Would you care to have a look?

We've known about your actual rank for nearly a week.

Your navy's in an awkward position.

In one sense, you're a hero for making an escape from the jungle.

In one sense, you're a hero for making an escape from the jungle.

But they can't very well bring you home...

and give you the Navy Cross for impersonating an officer.

I suppose that's why they were happy to hand you over to us.

- You see?
- Hot potato.

As far as your present rank is concerned...

we're fairly informal about those things in Force .

So you'll have a simulated rank of major.

```
A simulated major.
That figures.
As long as I'm hooked,
I might as well volunteer.
Good show.
Colonel Green,
this is Major Shears.
He has just volunteered to go back
and help me blow up the Kwai Bridge.
Really?
Good show.
```

Jolly good show, Major.

Get up to sick bay, Baker.
This foot's infected.

The colonel might think
I'm malingering, sir.

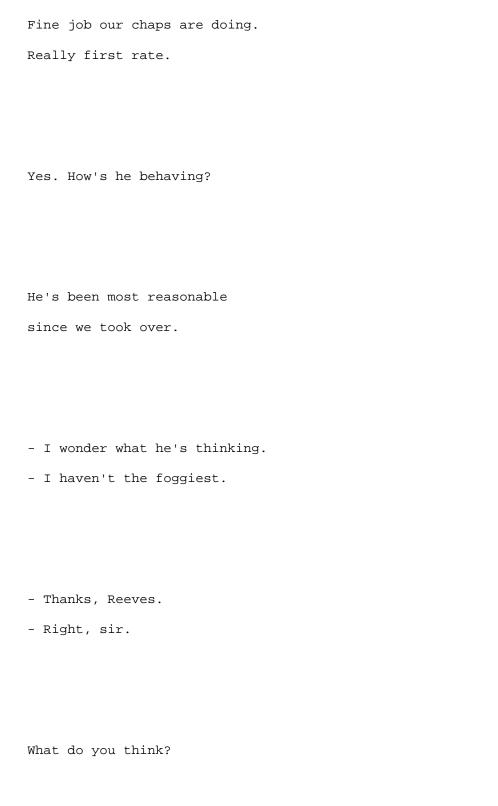
I'm the medical officer.

Get cracking.

Will someone tell me why the old man wants us to build a proper bridge?

Don't worry about old Nick.

He knows what he's doing.



It's about time you paid a visit.

```
Quite a challenge, isn't it?
Sir, are you convinced
building this bridge is a good idea?
- Are you serious?
- Yes, sir.
''A good idea''?
Let's take another look.
You don't agree
the men's morale is high...
that discipline has been restored...
```

that their condition

has been improved?

- Aren't they a happier lot?

- Yes, sir, but--

They feel better, and they are no longer abused or maltreated.

- That's all true.
- Well then?

Honestly, Clipton, there are times when I don't understand you at all.

I'll try to make myself clear, sir.

The fact is, what we're doing could be construed as...

```
collaboration with the enemy...
perhaps even as treasonable activity.
Are you all right?
We're prisoners of war.
We haven't the right to refuse work.
I understand that, sir,
but must we work so well?
I understand that, sir,
but must we work so well?
```

Must we build them a better bridge

than they could have built themselves?

If you had to operate on Saito, would you do your best or let him die?

Would you prefer to see this battalion disintegrate in idleness?

Would you have it said that our chaps can't do a proper job?

Don't you realize how important it is to show these people...

they can't break us in body or in spirit?

Take a good look.

One day the war will be over.

I hope the people who use this bridge in years to come...

will remember how it was built and who built it.

Not a gang of slaves,

but soldiers.

- British soldiers even in captivity.
- Yes, sir.

You're a fine doctor, but you've a lot to learn about the army.

Use your boot.

Get your boot in there.

Good morning.

What on Earth are you people staring at?

Get on with your jobs!

Get him with your boot!

⁻ I'm sorry I'm late, sir.

⁻ Four minutes late, to be exact.

of medical attention?
- Sir?
- I was referring to the nurse.
Yes, very ingenious.
Warden was right.
Sit down.
Now, the main reason
I asked you here today
was to help us pick the fourth member
of your team.

You were in need

- Ask Mr. Joyce to come in.
- Yes, sir.

Chapman here wants Joyce, but I have my doubts about him.

I think he has too much imagination as distinct from cold calculation.

As I've told you before, in a job like yours, even when it's finished...

there's always one more thing to do.

He's the best swimmer in the school, sir, and we'll need a good swimmer.

Yes, I'm well aware of your evaluation,
Chapman. I want Shears' opinion.

All right, at ease.

These gentlemen are thinking of taking you for a little hike into the jungle.

Yes, sir.

You were an accountant in Montreal?

Yes, sir. Not really an accountant, sir. That is, I didn't have my charter.

Exactly what did you do then?

 $\operatorname{Sir},\ \operatorname{I}\ \operatorname{just}$ checked columns and columns

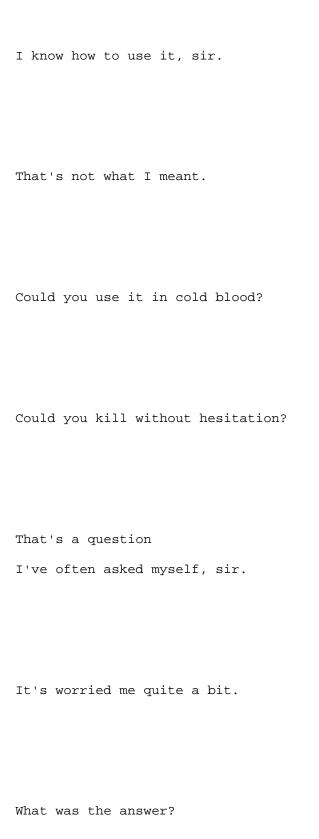
```
which three or four people
had checked before me...
and then other people checked them
after I had checked them.
Sounds a frightful bore.
Sir, it was a frightful bore.
How did you wind up here?
Sir, in ' I came over to London
to enlist...
```

of figures...

- You volunteered? - Yes, sir. You see, the regular army--Go ahead. You can be frank. Sir, the regular army sort of reminded me of my job in civilian life. They don't expect you to think. Think about this. Are you quite sure you'd be able to use it in cold blood?

and about two years later,

I volunteered for this work.



I've tried to imagine myself—

I suppose I find it hard to kid myself that killing isn't a crime.

It's an old army problem.

I think that's all.

Thank you, Joyce.

- Am I to go with the team, sir?

- We'll let you know.

Now you see what I mean?

I don't honestly know, sir.

None of us ever knows the answer to that question until the moment arises. What's your opinion, Shears? He's Canadian. That's in keeping with the international composition of this outfit. If he wants to go that bad, he can even take my place.

If you're all agreed on Joyce,

he's yours.

At least he was honest about it, sir.

Now then, I've had a report from air reconnaissance on that village.

There's sufficient clearing to make your jump at last light.

- You've had parachute training?
- No, sir.

Blast. This is awkward.

Silly, it never occurred to me.

- In that case, maybe--
- Yes, he's right.

We'd better arrange some practice jumps for him immediately.

I'll pop over and check with Freddy right away.

All right, Chapman.

You can run along.

Yes, sir.

- Feel like a sniff of air?
- Yes, sir.

You don't realize what a plum you are for us.

Your knowledge of the area, your making friends in that village.

It's almost as if your whole escape had been planned with us in mind.

By the way, here's something that will interest you: the new L pill.

- '' L pill''?

- L for lethal; instantaneous, painless.

Much better than the old ones.

For capture of course.

In other words,

you're telling me not to be taken alive.

I wouldn't recommend it.

You see, if any of you get hurt or wounded on the trek...

the others will have to leave him behind.

The objective comes first in our work.

Colonel, you want my honest evaluation of this team?

I didn't want to speak out in front of the others.

I understand. Go ahead.

```
Chapman will be fine.
Ice water in his veins.
Joyce is-- He'll be okay.
- It's Warden I don't get.
- Why not?
Cambridge don and all that.
It's one thing to play with explosives
like a kid with firecrackers, but--
He's not without experience.
When we lost Singapore, he stayed behind
and blew up a couple of bridges...
```

```
one or two trains and I don't know
how many other installations...
before the Japs caught him.
- ''Caught him''?
- Yes. Fascinating story.
Sir, it's most annoying.
They say,
in view of the time element...
they don't think a few practice jumps
would be worthwhile.
```

They say if you make one jump,

```
you've only got % chance of injury...
two jumps, % and three jumps,
you're bound to catch a backache.
The consensus is that the most sensible
thing for Major Shears to do...
is to go ahead and jump
and hope for the best.
With or without parachute?
Very good, old man.
```

''With or without--''

He's in the trees.

Yai says we'll never reach the Kwai by the route you took.

There are too many

Japanese patrols now.

We'll have to swing north through heavy jungle.

We'll have to swing north through heavy jungle.

- Who's leading?
- Yai himself.

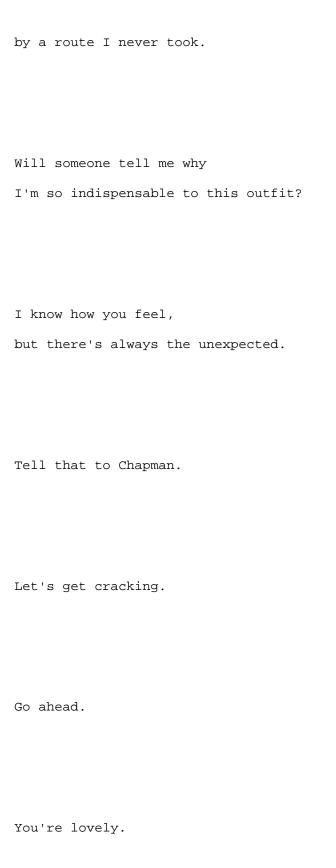
He hates the Japanese. They've taken

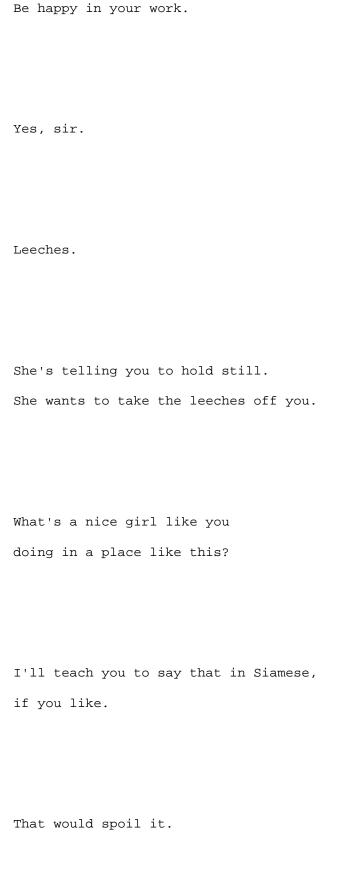
which means we shall have to use women bearers. - Women bearers. - They're very capable, I'm told. - Women bearers. - They're very capable, I'm told. He says it's dangerous to spend the night in the village. There's an enemy post about three miles away...

so we shall have to sleep

all his men for railroad work...

```
in the jungle.
- What about Chapman, sir?
- Yai's people will bury him...
and his chute.
Is there something wrong?
I was just thinking.
You speak Yai's language,
I don't.
He's leading you back
to the river Kwai himself...
```





- What's wrong with that thing, Joyce? - I don't know, sir. It's taken a beating. I can't get a strong signal. I'll tell you what's wrong with it. It's wet, mildewed, corroded, rotten... like everything else

Too much talk always spoils it.

You might as well dump it.

in this rotten jungle.

This is Radio Tokyo signing off. This is your friendliest enemy... reminding you to take it easy... and never volunteer for anything. If we stay here much longer, we'll be up to our necks.

Yes, sir. ''One: Original bridge works reported abandoned.

- I have it all decoded, sir.

- Right. Read it.

New construction downstream from first site. Two: Enemy intends to open railway... with passage of special train, Bangkok for Rangoon... with troops and VI P... estimated to arrive target morning th. Three: You should synchronize demolition

with passage this train.

Four: Good hunting. Have fun.''
That's all, sir.

A train and a bridge would be something.

Yes, sir, that would really be a show.

Can we get there in time, sir?

Yai says we're two to three days' march from the Kwai.

If we set a faster pace, we could make it before sundown on the th.

It's worth having a go for the train,
don't you think?

By all means.

Good hunting. Good show. Jolly good fun. If you hadn't fixed the radio, we wouldn't know about the train. There's always the unexpected, isn't there? Heave!

- Half a pint, sir.

- Quinine.

We'll complete this later.

- Clipton, we're facing a crisis.
- Yes, sir?

I've spoken with Reeves and Hughes, and we won't finish the bridge on time.

We just haven't the manpower.

I've asked the officers to help and they've agreed, but that won't do it.

The officers are working on the bridge?

Yes. I explained the situation, and they volunteered, but it's not enough.

- Ask Saito for some of his men.
- Wouldn't dream of it.

This is our show.

We must use our own resources.

I came to talk to you about the sick list.

Sir, there's not a man in this hospital who doesn't belong there.

Don't jump to conclusions.

No reflection on you, but there are always a few malingerers.

```
Be honest.
Keep an open mind is all I ask.
Come along. Let's see.
Don't move.
What's the matter with Haskins?
He has amebic dysentery
and blackwater fever.
- His temperature was last night.
- Right, I see.
- And this man?
- Leg ulcers.
```

I may be able to save the leg if I do some more cutting tonight.

Do you really want to send him out to work, sir?

Don't talk rot.

- And that man there?
- His arm's infected.

Most of them are so run-down, their wounds won't heal properly.

Yes, but I wonder if fresh air and light duties...

```
\  \  \, \text{might do him more good}
than being cooped up here.
It's not our policy
to keep a man in the hospital...
just because
he scratched his arm, is it?
- '' Not our policy''?
- Is it?
A man may not be on the top of his form,
but he can still make himself useful...
trimming and finishing jobs.
```

Stand easy, Baker.

Tell me, do you feel up to doing a little light work on the bridge?

- Anything you say, sir.
- Good show.

What about you?

Nothing difficult.

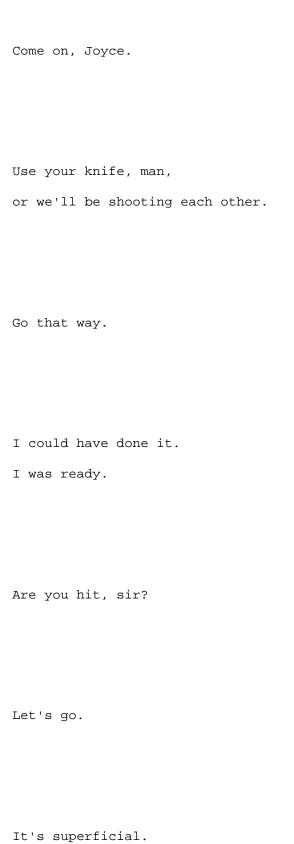
- I'll try, sir.
- Good man.

Look here, men.

It goes without saying,
I'm proud of all of you...



but we are facing a crisis.



There's nothing broken.



We're still five hours fast march



Sir, when the job's done, who knows if we can return by this route...

or whether we could find you if we did.

If you were in my shoes, you know

I wouldn't hesitate to leave you here.

He doesn't know it, but I do.

You'd leave your own mother here if the rules called for it.

You'll go on without me.

That's an order.

I won't obey that order. You make me sick with your heroics. There's a stench of death about you. You carry it in your pack like the plague. Explosives and L pills go well together.

destroy a bridge or destroy yourself.

it's just one thing or the other:

With you,

You're in command, Shears.

This war is just a game.

You and that Colonel Nicholson are two of a kind.

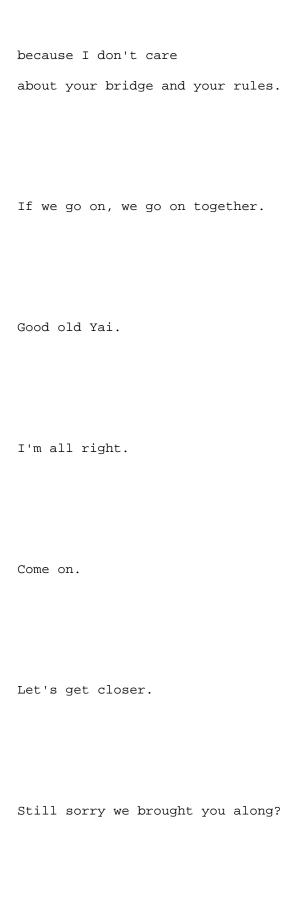
Crazy with courage!
For what?

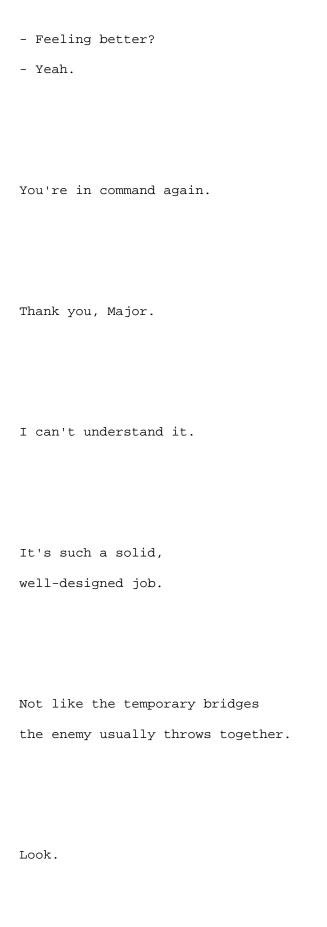
How to die like a gentleman.

How to die by the rules.

The only important thing is how to live like a human being!

I'm not gonna leave you here to die, Warden...





Those poor devils down there.

Imagine being forced
to build something like that...

in the condition they must be in.

They've got a British officer
working down there on his knees.

The Japanese seem to be enjoying it.

it might boost his morale a little.

we could set a time fuse and leave.

If he knew we were here,

If it wasn't for the train,

If it wasn't for the train, we could set a time fuse and leave.

But since we don't know what time it will cross tomorrow morning...

we'll have to do the job manually.

We'll set the charges against the piles...

about three feet under the water, I should think...

and run the main wire downstream to the plunger.

```
where to hide it.
Our side of the river is quite
obviously used by the Japanese.
They'd spot it at once.
Look.
You see those fallen tree trunks...
and the gray rock just below them
on that little beach?
Yes, sir, I see them.
```

That's our key position.

The problem is

It's on the wrong side
of the river...

but it's the only hiding place within feasible distance.

As soon as the bridge goes up...

whoever's there will have to swim back.

It's not likely to be a pleasant swim.

Sir, I was the best swimmer in my course.

I'll set up the mortar here to create

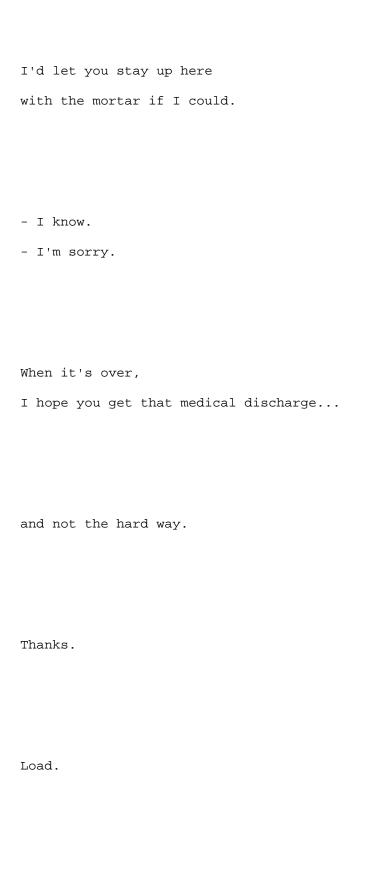
an additional diversion if necessary.

Yeah.



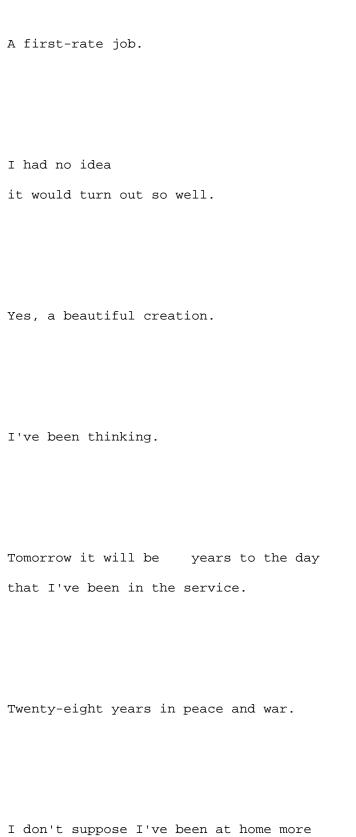
Yai will take three women to help you build the raft. One will stay here with me. Get cracking. If it wasn't for my ankle, I'd take Joyce's assignment. I know. Do you think he'll be all right? I think so. Want me to handle it?

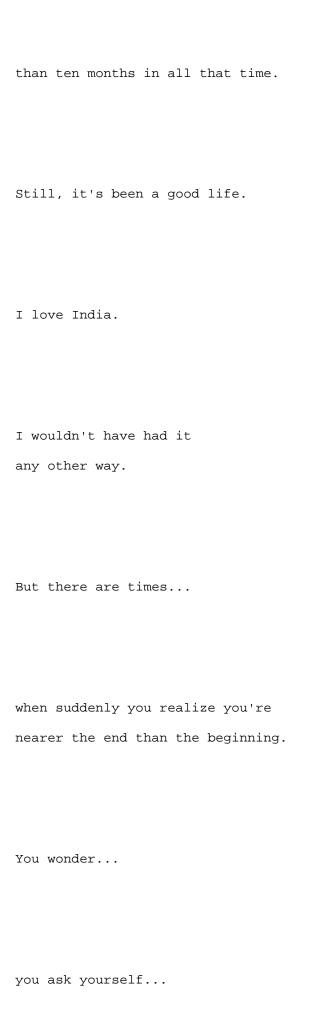
which means building a raft.



- Yes, beautiful.

- Beautiful.





what the sum total of your life represents...

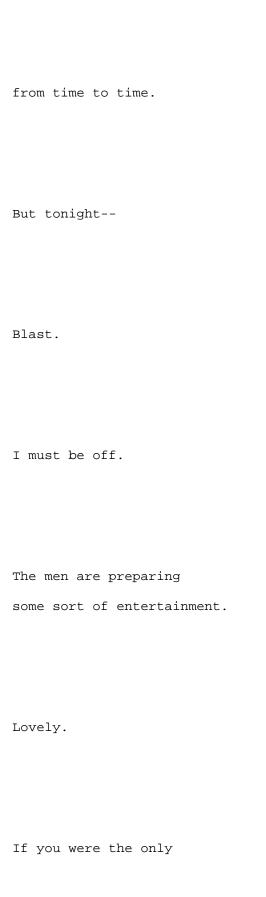
what difference your being there at any time made to anything...

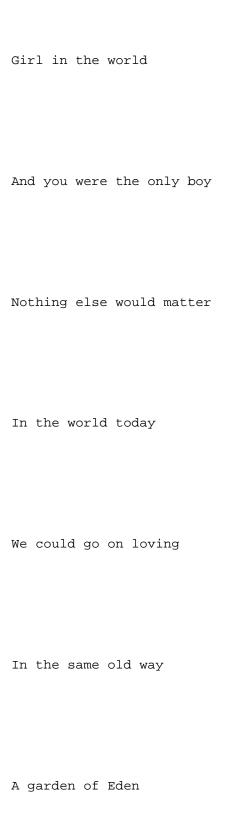
or if it made any difference at all really.

Particularly in comparison with other men's careers.

I don't know whether that kind of thinking is very healthy...

but I must admit I've had some thoughts along those lines...





Just made for two

I'm sure I speak for all of us $\label{eq:speak} % \begin{center} \begin{center}$

this has been an enjoyable evening.

Most of you move on tomorrow to a new camp and new construction.

It's a pity you won't be here to see the first practical use of the bridge.

However,

you'll be glad to know...

the completion of this link in the railway...

will enable us to transport the sick and the disabled...

to the new camp by train.

Colonel Saito
has kindly permitted me...

to stay behind with Major Clipton and the sick men...

and we'll rejoin you
in a few days' time.

Now that your work here is finished...

```
Now that your work here
is finished...
I suppose many of you
feel somewhat let down.
That's quite understandable.
It's a very natural reaction.
But one day,
in a week, a month, a year...
or that day when, God willing,
we all return to our homes again...
you're going to feel very proud...
```

```
of what you have achieved here...
in the face of great adversity.
What you have done
should be...
and I think will be...
an example
to all our countrymen...
soldier and civilian alike.
```

You have survived with honor.

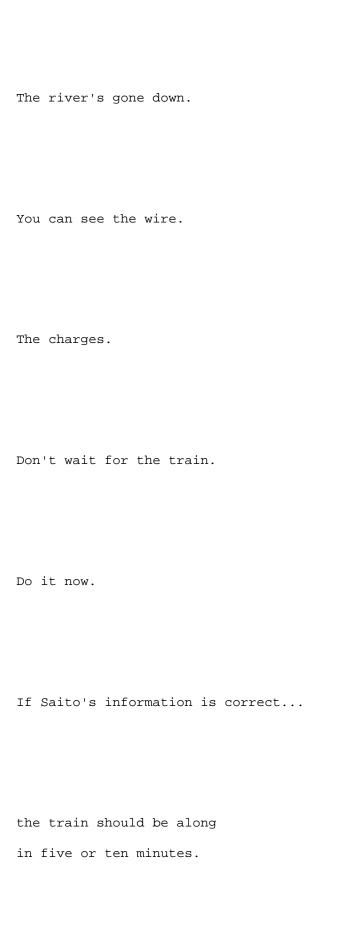
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That and more...
here in the wilderness.
You have turned defeat
into victory.
I congratulate you.
Well done.
The King.
You're in business.
You got everything? Stand,
ammunition, pack, canteen, knife?
```

```
I'll be directly across the river.
The professor says there's
always one more thing to do...
but I can't think
of what it could be...
except to wish you
a long and happy life.
```

Yes.

Thank you.

What's happened?



If you don't mind, sir, I'll watch the ceremonies from up on the hill.

Why? You'll get a better view from the bridge.

It's hard to explain, sir,
but I'd rather not be a part of it.

As you please.

Honestly, sometimes I don't understand you at all.

As you once said, sir,

I have a lot to learn about the army.



Our own man.

```
I was right.

There is something going on.
```

You have to do it now!

You have to do it, boy.

Colonel Saito, have you a knife?

I just realized the bridge has been mined.

'' Mined''?

```
'' Mined''?
Good boy.
British officer, sir,
here to blow up the bridge.
- Blow up the bridge?
- Yes, sir.
British commando orders, sir.
Look out.
There's no time.
```

Help!

Let me go, sir.
You don't understand, sir.
Kill him!
W0
You?
You!
What have I done?
Madness!

Kill him!

I had to do it.

They might have been captured alive.

It was the only thing to do!

Madness.