

"Victory in Europe (VE-Day)"

While working at the Mitsubishi munitions plant, a fellow soldier hands Anderson and Perry a worn newspaper that bears the headline declaring victory in Europe, with the defeat of Nazi Germany. This news infuses the POWs with a renewed sense of hope, emboldening them to intensify their efforts to sabotage weapons, pilfer food, and ignite latrine fires.

During a morning roll call, a squadron of US bombers appears overhead, unleashing a barrage of bombs on the nearby Mitsubishi plant and by accident, the Mukden Camp. The devastating chaos briefly reigns, Perry loses his hearing briefly, but the bombing also kindles a spark of hope among the men, until the commandant and his guards regain control.

One early morning, as Anderson and Perry are permitted to take a stroll, they witness a brilliant flash on the southern horizon, prompting them to wonder if the Allies have launched an invasion along the Chinese coast. A few days later, a US plane drops leaflets confirming that the war has ended and revealing the use of the new atomic bombs on Japan.

A few days later, American OSS parachutists land near the camp, boldly entering without resistance from the guards, who relinquish their weapons and surrender. Under the cover of night, Matsuda escapes, fleeing for his life, closely pursued by his cruelest guards, including Sgt. Ono, who fear the imminent arrival of the Russians. OSS Sgt. Hal Leith confirms the news to Anderson and Perry that the war has ended and he promises medical attention, nourishment, and swift transportation home for all.

"No More Bowing"

Officers break open the storehouse to find three years of Red Cross packages then hand out everything to the partying, joyous soldiers. Anderson and Perry take Leith to the POW Hujia cemetery and Mitsubishi munitions factory for a tour of the past three years of Japanese war crimes. Leith indicates he has no authority over punishing the Japanese and responds he needs the weaponless Japanese to help the hospitalized and handicapped.

Lao Gao is released from prison and arrives at the camp a broken man. While Gao was imprisoned for helping POWs, his wife died of starvation in the cold streets of Mukden. Perry and Anderson commandeer a truck load of food and medicine then give Gao the keys knowing the gesture is hollow but he stoically accepts their gift and attempt at kindness.

At Unit 731, hysterical Japanese soldiers and doctors are trying to destroy all evidence of the lab and camp. Fearing for his own life from the advancing Russians, Gen. Ishii drives off with suitcases of scientific documents he will use to bargain for a deal with the Americans.

Anderson and Perry say their final goodbyes while surviving American soldiers and sailors are flown on transport planes headed for hospitals and debriefing camps in the Philippines. They are handed non-disclosure agreements they must sign or face fine and imprisonment if they ever mentioned their POW experience in China. Bewildered and furious, they complain but sign anyway, with the only goal of returning to their families in the USA.

