

"Cruelty Is The Point"

Near Manchukuo's capital of Harbin, Japanese military doctors have set up the notorious Unit 731, a covert biological weapons testing laboratory and human experimentation camp using kidnapped Chinese villagers. Japanese doctor General Shiro Ishii arrives to command the lab and inspect the human experiments. An imprisoned Chinese woman stands outside in sub-zero temperatures while a sociopathic Japanese guard pours water onto her frozen arms. A young Chinese boy undergoes a live vivisection, a man is injected with a deadly virus, a woman is operated on while awake, men tied to posts in front of bomb explosions, and frozen bodies pile up near train tracks like cords of wood. Unit 731's house of horrors is an insane asylum of craven torture and cruelty.

Back at Mukden POW Camp, young Private Robert Mosendahl is admitted to the camp hospital with beri-beri to learn there is no treatment medicine for him or other patients. Lao Gao supplies a map and local contacts for the prisoners planning their escape. Anderson and Perry openly support the escape plan but privately doubt its chance of success. In a risky move, the three POWs cut the barbed wire fences near the latrines unnoticed by the tower guards. The escapees meet up with villagers who hide them in wagons leaving Mukden and later on foot they encounter Li Lishui who gives them a sack of food from his father's farm. The next morning during POW head count, the guards discover the three missing prisoners and launch a frantic search.

"Desert Fugitives"

Anderson and Perry misinform Major Hankins, telling him that the escaped prisoners are heading south for the coast, when in reality, they are headed northwest towards the Russian border, aligned with the Allies. Hankins quickly informs Matsuda, leading to his increase in alcohol rations. Anderson is placed in solitary confinement for not stopping the escape.

Along the northern route, a Japanese patrol with Miki the Bull halts a horse-driven wagon in their pursuit of the escapees but in a fit of madness they murder an old man and steal his meager belongings. After a few weeks, the trio reaches the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, seeking the help from locals. Unfortunately, they are mistaken for German spies by the village police. In a tragic altercation, they kill a policeman from a search party. Subsequently, all three escapees are apprehended and returned to the POW camp, bearing severe injuries.

Matsuda conducts a mock trial, with Perry acting as their lawyer. However, Matsuda does not allow the defense based on the Geneva Convention, finding them guilty of espionage and sentencing them to death. All three are executed by a firing squad at dawn, in front of the entire POW camp. Lao Gao receives a 10-year prison sentence for providing a map to the escapees.

The following day, doctors from Unit 731 distribute virus-infected oranges to selected POWs, who subsequently fall ill with fevers, diarrhea, and body aches. The monstrous doctors cage Sgt. Herman Castillo stripped naked then sadistically torture him into madness. Anderson and Perry implore Hankins to challenge Matsuda, but he is too incapacitated in the throngs of alcoholism.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Ono receives news of his mother's death in a Utah relocation camp, prompting him to go on a violent rampage until Anderson intervenes. The POWs find themselves in the depths of despair.

