

MINES OF MESSINES

By

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH — DAY

June 6, 1917.

Two months after the Bloody April, the British Soldiers are inside the Yorkshire Trench.

COMMANDER YOUNG

I can't believe the Germans shot down the British planes in Arras two months ago.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

We're not pilots, Young. We're soldiers and we came here to fight our enemies in the mud and blood on the trenches.

COMMANDER YOUNG

I'll be happy if I signed up for the British Royal Flying Corps to take down the Red Baron and his Flying Circus.

Major Adams AND THE ROYAL ENGINEER came to see them in Ypres.

MAJOR ADAMS

Captain Smythe and Commander Young, may I introduce Ensign Hill of the Royal Engineer.

Ensign Hill shakes his hand to Commander Young.

ENSIGN HILL

Hello, Commander Young.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Hello, Ensign Hill. It's nice to see you.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

What have you got here?

CLOSE-UP. LAND MINE

Ensign Hill showed the explosive device to them.

ENSIGN HILL

This is the land mine, Captain Smythe. It is an explosive device to destroy enemy trenches with a powerful explosion.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What about the mines on the sea?

ENSIGN HILL

The naval mine is different from the land mine. You see, the naval mines were designed to sink the enemy ships and submarines, but we're going to place every mine in the enemy trench of Messines.

COMMANDER YOUNG

How many explosives, Ensign Hill?

ENSIGN HILL

19, Commander Young.

COMMANDER YOUNG

19? How do we get to Messines?

ENSIGN HILL

We must sneak into the German Trench undetected.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

What about the German Gunners?

ENSIGN HILL

You're the sniper, Smythe. Make sure the Germans doesn't alert our presence.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

If the Germans use poison gas on
us, then we'll give THEM a taste
of our own medicine.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE: THE GREAT WAR

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE EPISODE: MINES OF MESSINES

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH — DAY

The British Troops are outside trench while Major Adams gives the briefing to the British Soldiers for a mission before deadline.

MAJOR ADAMS

The Germans have fortified their positions with their artillery and machines guns in Messines. They're planning to strike in our lines again.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Are the Germans going to use poison gas on us again?

MAJOR ADAMS

Not this time, Young. We can't let the Germans attack our lines again.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

What are we going to do now?

ENSIGN HILL

We need our air support to knockout the German defense positions before we can advance to Messines.

The German artillery shells STRIKE on the British Trench from a distance.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Oh no, not this again!

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

At least the Germans don't use poison shells this time.

ENSIGN HILL

Major Adams, we need air support!

MAJOR ADAMS

Don't worry. I'll call the air support right away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH - DAY

Major Adams calls General Wright on the phone.

GENERAL WRIGHT

Hello, this is General Wright, speaking. Can I help you?

MAJOR ADAMS

Yes, General Wright. We need air support to clear the enemy trench, immediately.

GENERAL WRIGHT

I'll send my squadron for a ground attack on the German Lines.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH - DAY

Overhead, the British Soldiers saw the British Squadron are preparing for an attack run on the German Lines.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.: MESSINES TRENCH - CONTINUOUS

The bombers DROP THEIR BOMBS on the German defense positions, destroying the artillery pieces. The British Fighters STRAFED on the German Soldiers with Vickers Machine Guns to buy the British more time to capture Messines.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH - DAY

The British Soldiers looked at the black smoke rises from the German Trench.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

Is it over?

Commander Young looks at the enemy trench with the binoculars.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Smythe?

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

Yes?

Commander Young lowers the binoculars.

COMMANDER YOUNG

The German Artillery Guns are out
of commission, but only few German
Soldiers are still inside the
Messines Trench.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH - DAY

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

It's good thing the Germans won't use artillery to attack us this time.

COMMANDER YOUNG

And the Germans don't use poison gas this time.

MAJOR ADAMS

Now it's our chance to take Messines from the Germans.

ENSIGN HILL

But the German Machine Guns are still intact.

MAJOR ADAMS

Captain Smythe, take out the German Machine Gunners so we can advance, quickly.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

Yes, Sir.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.: MESSINES TRENCH - DAY

Some of THE GERMAN MEDICS treat the wounded men from the British aerial attack, but the German Artillery Officer and rest of the German Soldiers were killed, but the German Machine Gunners are still fortifying their positions.

THE GERMAN COMMANDER

Was hier geschah?

GERMAN MEDIC

(Speaking in German)

We've lost our artillery guns. I'm treating the wounded men as soon as possible.

THE GERMAN COMMANDER

(Speaking in German)

Call the reinforcements.

GERMAN MEDIC

Jawohl.

The German Medic went inside the trench to call reinforcements.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.: SHELL HOLE - DAY

On 50 miles to Messines, four British Soldiers are in the shell hole as Commander Young looks through the binoculars at the German reinforcements along with the artillery.

COMMANDER YOUNG

They brought reinforcements!

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

And artillery! We can't let them call the artillery strike again.

ENSIGN HILL

I have an idea. Smythe, aim for the Machine Gunners. You two, follow me to Messines.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

Yes, Sir.

Three British Soldiers are in a stealth mission behind the enemy lines.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.: MESSINES TRENCH - DAY

Three British Soldiers took out the German Soldiers undetected with their trench shovels, while Captain Smythe kills the German Gunners with his sniper rifle.

ENSIGN HILL

Take these charges, boys.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What are we going to do with the explosives?

ENSIGN HILL

Plant the explosives on the German artillery positions on both sides before they start shelling in our trench.

MAJOR ADAMS

What about you, Ensign Hill?

ENSIGN HILL

I'll plant the explosives inside the trench.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What is Ensign Hill thinking?

MAJOR ADAMS

I don't know, Commander Young. Ensign Hill will get himself killed in the tunnel area.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT.: MESSINES TRENCH - CONTINUED

Ensign Hill planted the explosives inside the tunnel.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.: MESSINES TRENCH - DAY

Two British Soldiers plant the explosives on the German artillery guns on both sides.

COMMANDER YOUNG

There. That's the last of them.

Major Adams hurried back to Commander Young.

MAJOR ADAMS

Where's Ensign Hill?

COMMANDER YOUNG

Bloody Hell! He's still inside the trench!

MAJOR ADAMS

What? We got to get him out of here before enemy reinforcements arrived.

The British Soldiers looked inside the German Trench.

COMMANDER YOUNG

(Calls out)

Hello? Ensign Hill, are you there?

ENSIGN HILL (O.S.)

I think we're done here, Young. Get as far away you can. I'll catch up with you.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Right-O.

Three British Soldiers escaped from the German Trench before the German Soldiers walked into a trap.

GERMAN SOLDIER

(Shouting in German)

*Commander, the British set up the
explosives in our trench!*

The German Commander was shocked!

EXTREME CLOSEUP ON THE EXPLOSIVES ON THE GERMAN ARTILLERY.

THE GERMAN COMMANDER

(Shouting in German)

Get back!

The German Commander and his soldiers were killed with a massive explosion offscreen, along with its defense positions. Captain Smythe witnessed an explosion in Messines Trench on the background as three British Soldiers escaped from the carnage.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

(Stammers)

What's that noise back there?

ENSIGN HILL

We took out the German Commander.

CAPTAIN SMYTHE

What about the others?

COMMANDER YOUNG

They're trapped inside the German
Trench.

MAJOR ADAMS

We must get back in our lines to
attack the remaining forces in
Messines. Let's move!

Four British Soldiers went back to the Allied Lines.

CUT TO:

EXT.: THE YORKSHIRE TRENCH - DAY

June 7, 1917.

Four British Soldiers made it back to the Allied Lines.

BRITISH SOLDIER

Sir, we're ready to attack.

MAJOR ADAMS

Fixed bayonets!

The British Soldiers fixed their bayonets as the British artillery shells hitting the German positions.

MAJOR ADAMS

Charge!

The British Soldiers charged toward the Messines because the German reinforcements weren't prepared. The Germans fired with their rifles, but some of the British Soldiers fired with their rifles.

CUT TO:

INT.: MESSINE TRENCH - CONTINUOUS

The German Soldiers killed only few British Soldiers, but the rest of the British Soldiers broke through the German lines. Both sides were either killed or wounded inside by either a gunfire or get stabbed by bayonets. With the German Commander dead, the Germans were easily defeated, but some German Soldiers retreated to the next sector, while others were captured by the British.

MAJOR ADAMS

Your Commander is dead, Jerry.
You've lost.

GERMAN SOLDIER

*This isn't Messines Ridge.
Messines Ridge is in the east.*

The British Soldiers knew the Battle of Messines is far from over.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

INT.: MESSINES TRENCH - DAY

The German Soldier explains everything.

GERMAN SOLDIER

We've set two positions here and there.

MAJOR ADAMS

Two positions?

GERMAN SOLDIER

Ja. Zwei.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What did he say?

ENSIGN HILL

He said the Messines Ridge is to the east.

MAJOR ADAMS

We must get to the other side of Messines Ridge and destroy the anti-aircraft guns.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What about the German Observation Balloon?

MAJOR ADAMS

I called the air support at the Somme, but one of our tanks took out the German Observation Balloon.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Why don't you call an air support, again?

ENSIGN HILL

We can't! We're under enemy territory.

MAJOR ADAMS

If we do that, we'll lose more air support just like they did last time.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Then we must do this the hard way. Ensign Hill, do you have any explosives left?

ENSIGN HILL

I've got four left, Young. I want you and Adams to take out anti-aircraft guns.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Don't tell me you're going inside the tunnel again!

ENSIGN HILL

That's exactly what I'm going to do.

Ensign Hill went inside the tunnel, again.

MAJOR ADAMS

We need to take out the German Anti-Aircraft Guns before they destroy our air support.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What about Ensign Hill?

MAJOR ADAMS

We'll be fine. Just focus on the anti-aircraft guns first.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Yes, Sir.

The British Soldiers went on a stealth mission to take out German Soldiers with bayonets and trench shovels without being detected. The British take out the German Soldiers to buy more time for Ensign Hill to plant the mines inside the tunnel, while Commander Young and Major Adams plant the explosives on the anti-aircraft guns. Ensign Hill crawled out of the tunnel just in time.

ENSIGN HILL

I finished the mining---

SIXT VON ARMIN (O.S.)

Halt!

GENERAL FREDRICH BERTRAM SIXT VON ARMIN and the Germans already captured Commander Young and Major Adams. They disarmed the explosives on the anti-aircraft guns.

ENSIGN HILL

General von Armin! I should've known!

SIXT VON ARMIN

You're the one who killed our Commander on the west side of Messines Sector. Your soldiers are dead, and you'll die here in our lines.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

FADE IN:

INT.: MESSINES TRENCH - DAY

The British have blown their cover as the Germans defused the explosives away from the anti-aircraft guns.

SIXT VON ARMIN (CONT'D)

Surrender now or you all be dead.

Ensign Hill did what General von Armin told him and put the weapons down to let Major Adams and Commander Young live.

ENSIGN HILL

Alright. We surrendered.

SIXT VON ARMIN

You made a wise choice, Hill. Now, tell me where you plant those mines.

ENSIGN HILL

I've already planted those mines, General. You'll never find those mines in the tunnel!

SIXT VON ARMIN

If you don't know where the mines are, then you all be executed.

Before the Germans execute Major Adams and Commander Young, the British Fighters prepare for a strafing run on the German Soldiers. Soon, they broke free and General von Armin spotted the British Fighters attacking the German Soldiers in Messines.

SIXT VON ARMIN (CONT'D)

(Shouting in German)

Shoot them down!

The Germans OPENED FIRE at the British Squadron with anti-aircraft guns, but the British make a second pass killing the German Soldiers on the ground, forcing General von Armin and his men to retreat away from Messines.

SIXT VON ARMIN (CONT'D)

Ruckzug! (x2)

The British Soldiers cheered for the Royal Flying Corps for saving their lives.

MAJOR ADAMS

That's more like it.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What about your mission?

ENSIGN HILL

We need to blow this trench into smithereens. Order your men to go to the west side of the trench. It's not safe here.

COMMANDER YOUNG

But Sir...

ENSIGN HILL

Just go! I'll be right with you.

The British Soldiers left Messines as Ensign Hill threw two grenades at two German Flak Guns. Ensign Hill escaped from the wreckage just in time.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Did he make it?

MAJOR ADAMS

Let's find out.

As the smoke cleared, Ensign Hill arrived at the other side of the trench.

COMMANDER YOUNG

He made it!

MAJOR ADAMS

Ensign Hill, how did you escape from the blast?

ENSIGN HILL

I tricked General von Armin. I refused to remove the mines from the trench tunnel.

MAJOR ADAMS

Any news?

ENSIGN HILL

Good news, Commander Young. THE AMERICANS entered the war on the Western Front.

MAJOR ADAMS

Americans? Who are they?

ENSIGN HILL

They joined the Allied Powers against Germany on the Western Front.

MAJOR ADAMS

But why?

ENSIGN HILL

Because they embarked on a deadly gamble.

COMMANDER YOUNG

You mean we can play games here?

MAJOR ADAMS

No, it's not about playing games or a bet. It means the Americans took a risk to defeat the Germans in the Western Front.

COMMANDER YOUNG

Are there any casualties, Ensign Hill?

ENSIGN HILL

We killed 21,886 German Soldiers in the west side of Messines and 26,087 German Soldiers here. We only lost 24,562 soldiers while fighting on the west side of Messines.

COMMANDER YOUNG

What about the Americans?

MAJOR ADAMS

The Americans haven't fought in Europe before.

COMMANDER YOUNG

But the Americans aren't experienced enough to defeat the German Army of the Western Front.

ENSIGN HILL

Don't worry, Commander Young. You'll see the American Forces when you get a chance.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.: BAVARIA - DAY

Meanwhile, in Bavaria, General von Armin explained to PRINCE RUPPRECHT about his actions in Messines.

SIXT VON ARMIN

(Speaking in German)

Your Highness, we lost control of Messines and the Americans landed on the Western Front.

PRINCE RUPPRECHT

(Speaking in German)

Are you telling me the Americans joined the Allies against us?

SIXT VON ARMIN

Ja.

(Speaking in German)

*I lost my men, and the Commander
is dead.*

PRINCE RUPPRECHT

(Speaking in German)

*I ordered you to stop the British
from using their explosives and
now we must deal with the
Americans before they doomed us
all!*

SIXT VON ARMIN

(Speaking in German)

*Please, your Highness! Give me
another chance to redeem myself at
the Western Front.*

PRINCE RUPPRECHT

(Speaking in German)

*Very well. I'm going to give you a
last chance to redeem yourself to
win the war on the Western Front.*

SIXT VON ARMIN

(Speaking in German)

What will be then, your Highness?

PRINCE RUPPRECHT

(Speaking in German)

*Send our soldiers to deal with the
Americans on the Western Front.
It's time to teach them and their
Allies a lesson.*

SIXT VON ARMIN

Jawohl.

General von Armin left Bavaria.

PRINCE RUPPRECHT

(Speaking in German)

*I hope the Allies won't mess up
our plans before the Americans
show up in the Western Front. Once
we defeat the Allies, then we will
crush the Americans once and for
all.*

FADE OUT.

THE END