

Bud's body begins to convulse, causing some townsfolk to jump. Ms. Stapleton begins to writhe, and Stan steps away. Everett and Stan slowly look up to see the Bandit Leader hanging from the noose, struggling against his restraints.

EXT. UNDERTAKER'S - CONTINUOUS

As people back away from the newly risen posse and others, the last corpse to emerge is the little girl. She catches Carl's attention. He falls to his knees, tearing up.

CARL

Molly? Oh my God.

Molly begins to move in Carl's direction. Carl opens his arms to her. She opens her mouth when she's close, bearing teeth.

INT. FORT BLISS - BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Scarface rouses his fellow soldier from Epitaph.

SCARFACE

C'mon. Get up. We're missing chow.

The other soldier gets up to get dressed while Scarface steps into the hallway. In one direction, he can see the mess hall and hears the din of breakfast. He glances in the other direction toward the infirmary. He does a double take.

In the doorway is the dead Epitaph soldier, now risen.

SCARFACE (CONT'D)

What in blazes? You died!

At the sound of a human voice, the dead soldier stumbles forward, swaying side to side like on a ship in rough sea.

EXT. ARIZONA DESERT TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Captain JEBEDIAH HAYES (45) rides his horse as he leads his company of men up a trail towards Fort Bliss. The report of rifle fire draws his attention, and he pauses to focus. He hears more rifle fire from the fort.

JEBEDIAH

Men! We need to march, double quick time! The fort is under attack.

He nods at his officers, and the company picks up speed as they cross ground quickly. Drummers help maintain the ranks.

They come over a bluff and can see smoke rising from the fort a quarter mile away. Concern twists Jebediah's voice--

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Charge!

The company roars as Jebediah leads the charge, riding ahead.

EXT. FORT BLISS - CONTINUOUS

He's confused when he finds the gates open and no attackers in sight. Instead, he sees a score of soldiers firing into the barracks frantically. He rides to them.

JEBEDIAH

Lieutenant Jones! Report!

Jones is too gripped in terror to respond. He and the handful of Fort Soldiers keep firing. Jebediah dismounts and grabs Jones by the collar.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Jones! Report, dammit!

It takes Jones a moment to realize who's talking to him.

JONES

The men, sir. They won't die.

Jebediah's face screws up in consternation.

JEBEDIAH

Why are you shooting the men?

Jones sputters, unable to speak until Jebediah shakes him.

JONES

They're eating each other, sir. And then they came for us. That look in their eyes. Like an animal. We had to defend ourselves. But when we shot them, they just got back up. We kept shooting. We kept shooting!

Jebediah looks back incredulously. Then he hears chilling screams echo from inside the barracks. There's a streak of excitement in the screams as they get closer.

JONES (CONT'D)

Oh God! They're coming. They're coming! Reload and fire!

The Fort Soldiers fire blindly into the barracks. Jebediah's company arrives, and he begins issuing orders.

JEBEDIAH

(to officers)

I want a firing line here and another on the wall. Be ready to fire on whatever comes out of the barracks!

The drummers and officers marshal the forces into formation. Jones and his small force retreat to the firing line. Jebediah mounts his horse and positions himself behind the firing line as well. The screams from the barracks approach.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Ready!

(the screams increase)

Aim!

(they get louder)

Suddenly, half a dozen soldiers burst from the darkness inside the barracks. Some are missing facial features, like eyes. Others have flesh hanging in strips from their bodies. Nevertheless, they charge madly at the firing line.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Fire!

The firing lines unleash a volley, and the infected soldiers fall dead. Jones and his small group of survivors reload.

JONES

(to all)

Reload!

(beat)

Reload, damn you!

The dead infected soldiers begin writhing and slowly stand. Incredulous--

JEBEDIAH

Reload!

His company reloads. The undead soldiers shuffle forward.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Aim!

Before he can give his next order, Jones and men open fire. The undead stagger back, but are undeterred. More undead emerge from the barracks -- enough to unnerve the front firing line, which instinctively recoils.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Fire!

Another volley of bullets. Undead are knocked back and to the ground, but they get up -- impossibly.

JONES

I told you -- they don't die!

Jebediah's men look to him for guidance.

JEBEDIAH

Fire at will!

The gun fire is sporadic now, with Jebediah joining in with his pistol. Nevertheless, the undead close the distance.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Fix bayonets!

His men barely have time to do so before the undead are upon them. Some infected soldiers from the barracks join the pitched battle making it difficult for the firing line on the wall to know who's an enemy. Some living soldiers get shot.

Through the fray, Jebediah observes that the attackers shrug off any wound. He carefully aims at an undead's temple and fires. It falls and doesn't rise. To his men on the wall--

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Aim high!

Another volley takes heads off shoulders. Recognizing the weakness in their enemies, Jebediah's company quickly dispatches the undead with bayonet stabs through eye sockets. The skirmish ends but with the company decimated.

Jebediah dismounts and approaches Lieutenant Jones.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Jones. What happened here?

JONES

Sir. I'm not sure. Soldiers arrived last night from Epitaph. One of them had died from sickness on the way here. We welcomed them in and put the body in the infirmary.

(pause)

I swear, Captain, that man was dead. I checked the body myself. But this morning, during mess, there he was in the doorway. Just staring at us with those dead eyes.

(MORE)

JONES (CONT'D)

Then the two soldiers who brought him here must have been sick too, because they came running like wild boars and just started biting the men. Not just biting but...eating the men.

Jebediah squints skeptically.

JONES (CONT'D)

I know it sounds crazy, but the men that got bit must have picked the disease, because they started acting just like the ones that bit them. By the time we mounted a defense, half the men were infected, screaming nonsense.

He wants to say more, but movement in the barracks catches his eye. Slowly, the sick soldier from Epitaph emerges. Jones backs away reflexively. Jebediah draws his pistol and fires a round into the undead's leg. Hobbled, it keeps approaching.

Jebediah fires another round, this time through the heart. No effect. When the undead is within arm's length, Jebediah fires into its skull. It drops dead.

JEBEDIAH

Jones. Have the men police these bodies, then line up any of our wounded against the wall.

Jones nods and barks orders to soldiers who go about stacking bodies and helping wounded to move to a wall. Meanwhile, Jebediah examines the gruesome undead he just shot as well as the carnage around him. Finally--

JONES

Sir, the men have done as you asked. What are we going to do with the wounded?

Jebediah shoots him a grim look before addressing the men who rush to stand at attention.