

# **“SO NOW THEY ARE FREE”**

## **MISSION PLAN**

D-Day –4 Hours: Takes out 88 position, unit is shot to pieces McBride one of only survivors.

1<sup>st</sup> Mission: Must destroy a fuel dump in a coastal town, but due to giving aid to a decimated infantry unit attempting an assault on a radar dish, McBride, Charlie and an engineer arrive late and five of the SS 10<sup>th</sup> Panzer division (commanded by General Friedrich Aerhardt; perhaps McBride gets a glimpse of his future “friend”) have already refuelled. McBride and team proceed to destroy the dump, but as they are exiting the town the engineer is shot in the shoulder whilst on point. The sniper is in a town hall bell tower and continues to shoot the engineer in non-vital areas (first his legs, then his arms) in an attempt to lure the other soldiers out. McBride orders Charlie to keep the sniper targeting his position (despite Charlie’s protests) whilst he sneaks round the back and takes him out. Charlie can’t stand watching the engineer in agony, so he attempts to crawl out and save him. As McBride is inches from capping the sniper, Charlie is spotted and shot in the stomach. McBride hears the shot, rushes out and shoots the sniper. Looking out from the deceased shooter’s vantage point, McBride can see both his team are down – his best friend has been shot. In a fit of anger he empties the remainder of his Thompson clip into the dead sniper’s body, despite the scarcity of ammo. McBride manages to escape and carry Charlie back to the mobile CP, but the medics cannot save him, he dies through loss of blood.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mission: McBride, now promoted to Captain and fully seconded by OSS, is charged with eliminating a resistance agent turned traitor. Colonel Grey briefs McBride, giving him a photo of the agent – a slightly built French girl – and detailing the information she has been leaking to the Nazis. Not sure exactly who is involved with the conspiracy, OSS have decided to send in an outsider to assassinate her. En route to the town the girl operates out of, McBride slides down an embankment – his equipment belt is severed and he loses both it and his Colt 1911 (he is not issued with a primary weapon as this is a stealth mission and an automatic would be too loud). Without his sidearm, McBride continues. Through a stealthy search he eventually locates his target praying in a church, in front of the altar. McBride enters and confronts the girl, he has not yet discovered any sort of love for killing and believes he must tell the girl what she is about to die for. Up to this point, McBride has absolutely believed in his mission, but this girl changes all that - she repeatedly insists that she is innocent, that US intelligence is mistaken. Now McBride has discovered the grey area in which he will reside for the rest of the war – is what he’s doing actually right? And if he thinks not, then why do it? McBride, weaponless, rips the back leg off one of the pews – a good 3 or 4 ft of wood – and raises it aloft. In terms of loyalty, he chooses his countrymen, something he wasn’t able to do in his last mission, and finishes his job by beating the girl to death. This is a very violent and committed action, there’s no question that *he* has killed her, done it with absolute physical exertion in a pure act of aggression and in front of a church altar. Seeing the bleeding, shattered corpse on the floor, McBride begins to weep, then to sob uncontrollably. He stumbles into a side chapel and bends down, clutching his bloodied stick, his tears falling onto the top (close up). A German patrol has heard the screams of the girl and they enter the church, a machine gunner taking up position to the rear, a grenadier advancing towards the end of the church in the direction of this strange sobbing. The grenadier braces his weapon and yells, “hande hoch amerikaner!”. Reacting instantly, McBride throws the length of wood with great force out of the chapel, smacking the German between the eyes (but from beneath, so avoiding his helmet) and knocking him out. Seeing their comrade fall, the other Germans begin yelling for McBride to show himself, hands up, etc. McBride peers out from the chapel, then dives out, sliding across the smooth flagstones in front of the altar, grabbing the strap of the KO’d German’s Kar as he goes – a smattering of machine gun fires follows him, but always a couple of inches behind. Now with a weapon, McBride leans out from behind a pew and shoots the machine gunner right between the eyes, rolls forward quickly over the aisle and commando crawls towards the wall of the church. Briefly standing, McBride takes down a third German who is proceeding towards the front of the church, the two remaining Germans both having targeted the wrong end of the pew and now one of them having paid for this mistake with his life. McBride now ducks under the pew as the final, panicking German moves quickly to the front of the church, checking behind each one as he does. He gets to the front and spins around ready to shoot McBride, but McBride has crawled beneath the pew, out the other side and ducks out behind the oblivious German. Firing a shot squarely in the German’s back, McBride makes his escape.

3<sup>rd</sup> Mission: In his 3<sup>rd</sup> mission, McBride is charged with making a stealth entry into a U-Boat CP, feeding false instructions to a “Wolf pack” (a unit of U-boats), to send them to the wrong location (so some Allied ships can pass without incident, delivering vital supplies to the inland force), then destroy the equipment so said orders cannot be countermanded. This mission coincides with a simultaneous operation tasked with taking down any nearby relay stations capable of broadcasting to the wolf pack. The mission is successful, and in every sense of the word a justified

one. However, after his previous two experiences McBride has acquired the 'thousand yard stare', he is becoming less and less mentally stable and begins to notably enjoy killing. He will linger over Germans to pump extra rounds into them and laugh, he is getting a visible 'high' out of what he does, but it is sharply contrasted with the extreme lows he feels after the mission when he reflects on how many he's killed and how he felt. Looking at his bloodied, dirt strewn face in the mirror, his expression turns to desperation. He no longer knows who he is.

4<sup>th</sup> Mission: Now promoted to Major, a rank that McBride does not think he warrants or deserves, the 4<sup>th</sup> and final mission is the real head spinner. McBride is ordered to guard and keep alive at all costs SS panzer general Friedrich Aerhardt. The General is holding some information that OSS have planted for him and will take it to Berlin, delivering it personally to Hitler when his relief arrives in two weeks time. The information will not be transmitted over the airwaves, because the Nazis are aware that the allies have broken all their codes in this area and hold a great deal of their relay stations. When Colonel Grey says 'at all costs' – that is precisely what he means – McBride must even kill his own men if they are in a position to take Aerhardt's life and McBride has no alternative. Not only has McBride begun to *see* himself as the enemy, someone who kills for dubious means, he may now have to *physically become* the enemy and act against his own side. The information Aerhardt has falsely details weakened allied defences in the west and enhanced Russian defences in the east, the theory being that when Hitler sees this he will send 20 new panzer divisions to the eastern front and not to the west as originally intended. This may slow the Russian advance and prevent communists getting to Berlin first. The Americans are aware of what may happen to eastern Europe if overrun by communism; although they are on the same side as Stalin, they've never fully trusted him. This, combined with German scientific advances and the desire to prevent new technology falling into Russian hands, justifies this extreme mission in the eyes of OSS. The McBride of old would not have agreed, maybe would have even risked a court martial before participating, but his humanity has been weakened, his morals destroyed by a battery of blood, carnage and his own inhumane actions. If he does not survive, will it really be that bad? Whatever happens cannot hurt him more than he deserves. With that in mind, he accepts the mission and travels to a point where Aerhardt's tanks are assaulting a bridge in an attempt to flank an allied position held on a river bank. The allies are combating strong German resistance the opposite side of the river and their attempts to blow the bridge have apparently been thwarted; an American unit has been sent to intercept Aerhardt, McBride must ensure that the General is not harmed...

5<sup>th</sup> Mission: Set shortly after the 4<sup>th</sup> (really a continuation). McBride, moving with the infantry division across the river (in order to stay close to Aerhardt, but not to tip Germans or Americans off), participates in an assault on a town. The Germans have been routed and are in disorderly retreat, this triggers a rapid allied advance and unit command temporarily breaks down. As the allies begin to mop up German resistance, a sniper finds himself in a position where he has an SS general in his cross-hairs – a real coup for a relatively new recruit, unproven in battle. McBride is with the unit commander and a couple of men, two of whom have binoculars. Seeing Aerhardt moving through a square towards a tiger tank, one of the men asks if he should take him down. The commander replies, 'don't bother, we've got a sniper up in that tower, he ain't gonna know what hit him.' Hearing this, McBride disappears from the unit, the commander turns to talk to him but he is gone. Next thing we see is McBride arriving at a staircase at the base of a tower, the roof is holed and rain drips from the roof, through gaps in each floor and spats with a clink onto the helmet of a dead German, who lies at the foot of the staircase. McBride moves the corpse to one side with his foot and spies a P38, fallen from the German's belt holster, laying on the stairs. Picking this up, McBride begins to climb the stairs. At the top of the staircase, intercut with shots of Aerhardt running between rubble (scope POV shots), we see the sniper's finger move from outside the trigger guard to be placed on the trigger, then to apply pressure. McBride arrives at the top of the staircase to see the sniper almost ready to fire. Reacting instantly, he fires five shots, killing the sniper and spinning his body over. The second before this young guy dies, both he and McBride lock eyes. A flash – the corrupt versus the innocent. McBride then runs downstairs, outside he can hear yelling. He drops the Luger by the German body, draws his 1911 and takes two shots at the corpse. A few Americans run in, crying that the General has escaped... What happened here? McBride says that he heard shots, he saw this guy coming down the stairs and killed him. What happened to your sniper? One of the Americans runs up the stairs, what he finds we already know...

6<sup>th</sup> Mission: Less of a mission, more the part where McBride is captured and the tortured by Aerhardt in a stalag. Aerhardt knows the information he has is fake and wants McBride to tell him the real deal. McBride refuses and pays for this with his trigger finger and one of his eyes...