

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE STREET - CONTINUOUS

START

Montford, Edward and Boggy emerge from the hotel, grope through smoky darkness on the street. The only illumination is the angry orange and red from the nearby flames. The roar of flames mixes with the sound of shouting, alarmed people.

SOLDIER

It's the hospital! There's people in there.

Montford and Boggy race towards the old St. Augustine hospital, now engulfed in flames. Tom Hannah and OTHER TOWNSPEOPLE have already formed a bucket brigade -- they splash water onto the hungry furnace. A man races out, an unconscious child in his arms -- Boggy wets his handkerchief in a fire bucket, races inside.

Lt. Pratt, Sgt. Richter and other soldiers from the 10th arrive and join those already battling the inferno.

Sgt. Richter slips on his heavy cavalry gloves, then slides a red-hot pot-bellied stove in front of the closed door, blocking it -- he yanks the smoking gloves off, throws them aside.

SGT. RICHTER

Yeah, it's dangerous up here, Mr. Montford Thomas Johnson.

TWO SOLDIERS hurry past him.

SOLDIER

Best get outta here!

The Soldier double takes -- he notices the stove in front of the door, but it's too hot and smoky in here to give it much thought.

SGT. RICHTER

I'm comin'!

Montford looks to the burned gloves in Boggy's hands, then to Sgt. Richter, who lingers behind Lt. Pratt. He weakly takes one of the gloves, holds it up.

MONTFORD

(to Sgt. Richter)

You've disrespected your uniform, Sergeant.

Lt. Pratt looks to the Master Sergeant.

LT. PRATT

What happened?

The Soldier who saw the stove in front of the door appears. He salutes his Lieutenant.

SOLDIER

Sir? I'd like to report something I just saw...

Lt. Pratt is all ears.

END

Scene  
A