

INT. SMALL ROOM - EVENING

On Screen:

In August 2020 Britain finally left the European Union.

This followed with the coup of a tyrannical regime known only as the Union Party.

Those who found themselves oppressed by the regime rose up and managed to push back their oppressors.

Yet, across the English channel, eyes turned west towards the rebellion and prepared to "stabilize" the region.

In October a German led coalition lands its first invasion in Essex.

This is the story of the beginning of world war 3

Title: Æðelboren

Fade in slowly, on ARTHUR switching on a webcam, his face sunken into an almost sorrowful expression. ARTHUR looks to the camera and lets out a small sigh.

ARTHUR

If you are watching this, I am either dead, or you have been given the USB that contains this file.

ARTHUR looks away from the camera, gathering his thoughts.

ARTHUR

In five days I will lead the most important and hopefully the final covert mission of this war.

ARTHUR leans back in his chair and looks to the ceiling, grimacing at a pain in his chest, leaning forward once more he returns to the camera.

ARTHUR

We've been fighting so long, I have seen so much, done things I am not proud of, and if this has found its way into the wrong hands then let this not be an admission of guilt, but a admission of regret.

Arthur looks away from the camera once more, trying to hold in the well of emotion that begins to wash over him.

ARTHUR

I regret that from the first chance I got I left home and left my family in the dust, I regret that I didn't look after my mum like I should have, but most of all I regret that this war has taken whats left of my youth and I regret, that even if this mission succeeds, I won't get fix any of this, this is a one way trip.

ARTHUR takes hold of a Celtic chain around his neck and gulps.

ARTHUR

Don't miss me, hell, I'm just glad I got three days to see everyone before this all kicks off, Numquam Dedite (Never Surrender)

ARTHUR leans forward and switches off the camera.

EXT. WOODLAND - AFTERNOON

ARTHUR walks ahead of NADIYA and EDWARD, the three moving stealthily through the bushes of the woods. The trees stand silently over the trio as they make a steady advance towards their rendezvous point. A wood pecker can be heard

EDWARD

Jesus that wood pecker's annoying, why couldn't just take some cars?

ARTHUR

Because I'd rather we didn't have Union spies clocking where our family lives and using them as leverage.

EDWARD

I highly doubt that would happen, we're beating the shit out of the Union last time I checked

ARTHUR

And a few years ago the Union said the exact same about us

EDWARD

A few years ago No-one died
fighting a pointless war

ARTHUR

You think all this was
pointless?

EDWARD

We have bled into the dirt for
almost five fucking years, for
what?

ARTHUR

To live free Edward, to live
free

NADIYA

Shut up, both of you, if I get
pot shot-ed because you two
couldn't keep it down I will
personally come back from the
grave and kill you myself

ARTHUR and EDWARD continue the walk in silence, moving stealthily through the trees. ARTHUR eventually settles the group for a rest in a small clearing. The wood pecker can still be heard.

EDWARD

How much further?

ARTHUR

Should be just around the
corner, no more five minuets
walk

EDWARD

Quick question, how is a
helicopter more conspicuous than
a convoy of cars

ARTHUR

Because we're a two-hour walk
from home you dick

NADIYA

Enough you two, Jesus

ARTHUR

Sorry, just getting a little
stressed

NADIYA

I know, just take a breather,
we're safe here, no-one uses
these woods anymore

ARTHUR
(smirking)
I remember when we used to use
these woods a lot

NADIYA
(smiling)
shut up

EDWARD rolls his eyes and stands up.

EDWARD
Whilst you two mentally
procreate I am going to take a
slash and I pray someone shoots
me in the head

NADIYA
Don't talk like that Edward

EDWARD
Whatever

EDWARD walks out of the scene. ARTHUR quickly turns to
NADIYA smiling.

NADIYA
What?

ARTHUR
Nothing, I'm just, glad I had
you

NADIYA
What are you on about

ARTHUR
Through all of this

NADIYA
You know I would never leave
your side, someones gotta make
sure you don't get yourself
killed

ARTHUR
I just
(Looks away from Nadiya
to compose himself)
We both know this is a one way
mission

NADIYA
Thats not a certainty, you've
survived
(pauses)
We have survived far worse

ARTHUR opens his mouth to respond, just as EDWARD walks back from green bushes. ARTHUR rolls back into the tree he was resting on and falls silent. The wood pecker can still be heard

EDWARD

We all ready to move?

NADIYA

Just about, how long till the helicopter gets to the rendezvous?

ARTHUR

(Checking his phone)
Roughly five minutes, if we head off now, we'll be on the helicopter and out of here with perfect timing

EDWARD

Brilliant, I do not think I can walk another mile

ARTHUR

Quit complaining and let's get moving

ARTHUR pushes himself up off of the tree and proceeds to help NADIYA to her feet, EDWARDS look on, clenching his jaw.

EDWARD

(mumbling)
I wasn't complaining

The trio continue their walk, moving close to the tree line to avoid detection. The sky pierces through the tree line like a shade of hope against the dark mud of the woodland floor. NADIYA scans the trees for any movement with an eagle like precision, suddenly, she notices a flash of movement, just off to the side of the group, she immediately grabs the others' attention.

Silently NADIYA moves forwards and grabs ARTHUR on the shoulder, pointing to her eyes then at the area of the woods she spotted the movement, giving a thumbs down to signify a potential enemy force, quickly she turns and motions the same to EDWARD. EDWARDS eyes widen and he turns suddenly in the direction pointed out by NADIYA, his eyes darting wildly.

ARTHUR motions for the group to get down and into cover, each diving towards the nearest tree and crawling the rest of the way. EDWARD smashes into the stump of an old oak and gasps for air. ARTHUR looks over at his brother to make sure he's ok, before moving his head out slowly to check for anymore movement, as he pans around the

woodland, he sees nothing. The wood pecker can no longer be heard.

NADIYA
What do you see?

ARTHUR
Nothing

NADIYA
Are you sure?

ARTHUR
There's nothing out there, are you sure you saw something?

NADIYA
Yes, I am certain something is out there

EDWARD
You sure you didn't just see a dog or some shit?

NADIYA
No it wasn't a fucking dog

ARTHUR
Guys, keep it down

There's silence for a few seconds, nothing but the wind, the wood pecker is still vibrantly silent. EDWARD looks out from behind his tree, his eyes wide with fear and his breaths shallow, as if trying to stifle them in a vain attempt to hide his fear.

EDWARD
Do you here that?

NADIYA
Hear what?

EDWARD
The wood pecker

ARTHUR
What about it

EDWARD
I can't hear it

ARTHUR
Well it was bugging you earlier so.....

ARTHUR looks out from his tree, his heart racing, he looks up at the tree line, desperately looking for signs of life, he looks back to EDWARD, their eyes lock. At this

exact moment the crack of a rifle can be heard, and the round flies past EDWARD'S head.

EDWARD

What the fu...

Before EDWARD can finish his sentence a crescendo of rifle fire flies towards the trio. EDWARD curls up into a protective ball while ARTHUR and NADIYA drop to their stomachs. ARTHUR raises his head to locate where the fire is coming from, he notices its just east of the rendezvous. ARTHUR looks towards NADIYA, the pair lock eyes, and a rejuvenated fire explodes forth from ARTHUR, he won't let them die here.

Quickly he spots a tree large enough to hide the three of them and allow them to form a plan, looking to the others he barks an order.

ARTHUR

(yelling)

ON ME, TO THE TREE TEN METERES
FROM US, 3 O'CLOCK!

In a flash the trio are up, sprinting for their lives towards the tree, EDWARD lands first and dives onto his stomach and into the cover. ARTHUR is a close second but just as he reaches the tree he takes a shot to the leg, collapsing onto the ground in agony. NADIYA slows down to help him but ARTHUR urges her to move past him.

ARTHUR

DON'T STOP, DON'T FUCKING STOP!

NADIYA lands in the tree alongside EDWARD, ARTHUR manages to crawl the last few feet, resting behind the tree, the gunfire falls silent, the trio look to each other in panic.

NADIYA

(To ARTHUR)

Can you run?

ARTHUR

Very much doubt it

NADIYA

Can you walk?

ARTHUR

Nadiya, don't you dare think
about dragging me

NADIYA

I'm not leaving you

ARTHUR pulls NADIYA close, looking intensely into her eyes. EDWARD looks back at the pair and to the ground, shaking his head.

ARTHUR
You are not leaving me, I'll be
right behind you

Tears begin to form at the edge of NADIYA's eyes, ARTHUR too is filled with emotion but desperately tries to hold back the tears. The pair embrace in a final kiss, it seems to last forever, yet not long enough. As they finally part the world seems to fall silent, a dull grey cloud befalling them, until ARTHUR moves his attention to EDWARD and motions for him to move closer. ARTHUR then pulls EDWARD in tight and whispers in his ear.

ARTHUR
Make sure she gets out safe

EDWARD
I will

ARTHUR
I know you'll make me proud

EDWARD
I will

ARTHUR
On the count of three, I want
you to run for those trees and
I'll distract them

EDWARD pulls away and nods, ARTHUR returns his gaze to NADIYA and reaches out his hand. Handing her a small USB, she takes it silently whilst EDWARD looks on, a jealously creeping across his face.

ARTHUR gives both a smile and motions for them both to get ready. He begins his count down.

ARTHUR
One

NADIYA gives ARTHUR one final look

ARTHUR
Two

NADIYA looks away, containing the tears in her eyes and bracing for the run. ARTHUR forces himself up and leans on the tree.

ARTHUR
Three!

ARTHUR rolls round the tree and begins making a painful charge at the German firing positions, screaming as he does. Meanwhile, the others sprint as fast as they can away from the ear-splitting cries of rifle fire coming down on ARTHUR.

ARTHUR continues his charge, rounds flying past him with the sound of cracking whips and small fireworks, tears begin to pool from his eyes as he accepts his fate.

NADIYA and EDWARD continue sprinting through the trees, now away from the firing line, EDWARD smashes into NADIYA. As she falls to the floor he attempts to take the USB, momentarily grabbing it until NADIYA brings a kick straight into his stomach, causing him to collapse. NADIYA quickly grabs the USB, EDWARD grabs her ankle and climbs on top of her and attempting to strangle her, holding tightly NADIYA begins to gasp for air, she knees him in the groin.

ARTHUR's charge continues, until a round finds its place squarely in his chest and he is thrown backwards, falling to the floor, he screams in agony, spitting out blood.

NADIYA grabs a nearby rock and brings it down onto EDWARD's head, she collapses next to his body, mouthing one word "Why".

ARTHUR gasps for breath, each one more shallow than the last, slowly the death rattle begins and the world around him turns dark, the faint sounds of a helicopter can be heard as ARTHUR smiles one last time, a single tear dripping down his cheek.

THE END