

The Most Daring Voyage

by

K. Wunsch

Copyright(c)2016

This screenplay may not be used or reproduced without the
written permission of the Author

FADE IN:

TEASER

EXT. SOMEWHERE AT THE GUINEAN COAST, 1735 MID-JUNE.

GEORGE ANSON stands on the quarter deck of his ship, the Centurion. He is engaged in a battle with a french vessel. Cannon balls wheeze through the air; people are hit either by the cannonballs directly or by things that are flying around.

GEORGE ANSON Up until later events an average captain whose career shows no sign of anything extraordinary. He is connected to Whitehall: His aunt married the Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Chancellor of this time. He has a north-western English accent due to his aorigin from Staffordshire. He mumbles a little bit. He is old-fashioned to his fellows.

WHITE SMOKE almost covers the scene.

Cannon shots, cracking wood in the background.

The smoke clears.

Two ships are side by side.

ANSON
RELOAD.

Cannons are hastily reloaded by the crew. The noise of loading a whole side is amazing.

ANSON (CONT'D)
FIRE!

Sizzling sound, when the torch meets the fuse.

A few seconds later - boom - immense cannon fire sounds

Wounded men are crying out. Nobody has the time to take care of them.

The enemy ship fires.

A man is hit by a ball and torn to pieces. ANSON looks at the remains with horror. Blood and flesh cover his ship.

ANSON (CONT'D)
(shocked)
RELOAD!

The CENTURION fires back.

The rail is damaged. The chaotic events do not allow clear shots.

GUNNER (V.O.)
FIRE AT WILL!

Men are thrown over board - most of them cannot swim.

Voices of horror and pain.

Mortars fire, throwing death and destruction on the enemy.

The french flag at the back of the enemy ship is burning.

The french sailors use their muskets and fire at the English sailors. Almost all miss.

The french ship delivers a broadside. Several English sailors are hit and torn apart.

An entering crew is ready for taking the french vessel. They throw the grappling hooks and start to pull. The french sailors cut lose most of the hooks, while the english are pulling. The english attempt is repelled.

The french shoot again with their muskets. A bullet hits an english officer close to ANSON. The officer looks at ANSON, sinks down and dies.

The CENTURION delivers a broadside - Ironclad death and destruction rains down on the french vessel.

Mortars deliver explosives to the french ship.

Onboard the french ship the sailors cry from pain. mutilated bodies lie around.

Cannon shots and cracking wood everywhere.

The french ship burns.

The CENTURION's crew has the upper hand.

The french ship sinks. French men are crying for help.

Anson's men cheer, he however looks terrified and weakened by the burden he had to carry and the brutality with which war has struck his crew.

They do not attempt help any of the sailors struggling with the water.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHARLES WAGER'S OFFICE, 1739 15. NOVEMBER -DAY

CHARLES WAGER, the Earl of MACCLESFIELD and JOHN NORRIS sit in the Earl's office. They talk about the War against Spain and the events so far. They rethink the nomination of ANSON for the post of Commodore of the squadron sent out to annoy and distress the king of Spain.

CHARLES WAGER respected member of the naval board and strategic mastermind of the endeavour. A London-original. used to the procedure in both Navy and Parliament.

JOHN NORRIS respected elderly member of the naval board, friend of CHARLES WAGER. fears that ANSON has been chosen due to his boundary to MACCLESFIELD: Norris is a politician, from the north, his accent is almost washed out from the many years he spent in London.

EARL OF MACCLESFIELD Lord Chancellor and GEORGE ANSON'S uncle in-law. Like Anson, from Staffordshire. Likes to gamble. He knows how to use others to his need. He is a politician through and through.

CHARLES WAGER

(continues to talk)

The War lasts for over 10 years now and yet, we have achieved nothing!

MACCLESFIELD

This expedition will change everything. We will overcome the Spanish obstacle. Together with Admiral Vernon's endeavour, this expedition will weaken the Spaniards and turn the tide in our favour.

NORRIS

You are quite confident, Mylord. Lord Anson has proven that he is a good captain. However, he seems to be just that, a good captain, lacking everything that makes a great captain.

MACCLESFIELD

He is young and determined and he will not displease any of us. My wife, Janet, thinks very highly of him: a worthy gentleman and a good nephew who never displeased her in any way.

(MORE)

MACCLESFIELD (CONT'D)

I can assure you, he will succeed or die while doing his utmost to ensure the success of the undertaking.

NORRIS

I really hope you did not only choose him, because you bed his aunt!

EXT. WAGER'S OFFICE, SAME DAY.

George Anson arrives at the house and demands to talk to Lord Wager. The servant walks him in and announces him.

SERVANT 1

Good afternoon, Mylord. You have business with Lord Wager?

ANSON

Indeed. Here is the letter I received in which I was ordered to be here on this day. Would you just tell Lord Wager that I'm here.

SERVANT 1

(reads the letter Anson has given to him, nods)
Well, Lord Anson, Lord Wager is attending a meeting with the Earl of Macclesfield and Lord Norris, I will see whether he is ready to see you. Please, follow me.
(Walks Anson to a chair at the office door)
Would you please wait here, Mylord?

ANSON

Sure.

INT. CHARLES WAGER'S OFFICE, SAME DAY.

The servant knocks and announces that George Anson has arrived. Lord Wager wants Anson to enter. The Lords reveal to Anson, that he is supposed to wage war against the spanish in their own territory. They even name the captains and the ships that will be at his command. Anson has not

only to deal with the surprise but also with one of the Lords aversion.

SERVANT 1

Mylord, Lord Anson is waiting outside. He says he has business with you.

WAGER

Finally. Mylords, shall we bring him in and reveal his mission to him?

(noises of agreement;
the servant walks Anson
in)

Ah, Lord Anson. This is Lord Norris and I believe you know the Earl of Macclesfield.

ANSON

Mylords (nods at everyone) Dear uncle, how's aunt Janet? It has been quite a long time.

MACCLESFIELD

Hello George, She's fine, the mansion is being renovated and the garden rebuilt. She overlooks the change and she is happy with it.

ANSON

Very good. Maybe I can visit her during the next days. I miss the time there. I have a lot of joyful memories to that place.

NORRIS

(Norris clears his
throat)

Shall we begin?

NORRIS (CONT'D)

(with dislike, adressing Anson)
I have heard about your role in fighting at the guinean coast. From what I have read I'd say you are a good captain.

Norris does not look at ANSON while talking to him

ANSON looks at NORRIS wondering what'S the deal with him.

ANSON

Yes, Mylord, I took command over the Centurion a year ago, with orders to protect trade at the Guinean Coast. I made contact with our enemy. In this fight I lost good men and even better friends. I was ordered to return and now I am eager to know what I am doing here.

MACCLESFIELD tries to calm ANSON down by putting his hand on his shoulder.

MACCLESFIELD

George, my dear. You have done good overseas and you have gotten into focus of the Naval Board. A great journey lies ahead. This endeavour might change everything. If we succeed, Spain will no longer interfere with our overseas undertakings.

WAGER

After Jenkin's incident with the spanish, we are finally ready to end this war. For doing so, the king needs men he can trust, men that will do their utmost to succeed in their mission. From what Lord Macclesfield has told, I'd say you are such a man.

ANSON

Thank you mylord. But what am I supposed to do? Take the Centurion and wage a war against the whole spanish fleet on my own?

NORRIS

(shocked about Anson's objection)

Your uncle in-law told us, you'd be the man to succeed in such an endeavour. Tell me, he was right! Tell me you are the man that we are in so desperate need of for this undertaking!

WAGER

Lord Anson, besides being related to the Lord Chancellor, your reputation precedes you - Determined and perseverant do you follow your orders and do not stop until you have reached your goal!

MACCLESFIELD

George, you are a good Captain and IF you succeed in this endeavour, you are looking at a bright future. You have proven that you can fight aside a leader, now we need you to be that leader!

NORRIS

Or things will get complicated.

WAGER

Mylords, Lord Anson has been chosen.

(turns to Anson)

You have your orders and they are to take upon you the duty of Commodore of a squadron and to annoy and distress the king of Spain in any way possible! We have provided seven ships and captains to be at your hand. Maybe you have heard of the captains, who are

(V.O.: Wager names the captains and pictures of them fighting and sailing are shown)

Captain MATTHEW MITCHELL, who sailed with me and had a hand in freeing Gibraltar. He will be Captain of the *PEARL*.

Captain GEORGE MURRAY, the captain that all his officers love, will command the *TRYAL*.

Captain DANDY KIDD, the old warhorse, who has seen everything the ocean may throw at you, will be commanding officer on board the *Wager*. And the fearless Captain PHILIP NORRIS, who served as commanding officer on the *Adventure* in the colonies, will command the *GLOUCESTER*. And you most certainly know captain EDWARD LEGGE. He will command the *SEVERN*

DISSOLVES TO:

EXT. SPITHEAD THE HARBOUR MID-JUNE 1740 - DAY

Anson and the other captains inspect the ships; they realize with horror that the ships are not fitted for high sea sailing and the task that lies ahead.

NORRIS

These ships are not ready for sailing.

ANSON

They are not in good shape, indeed.

NORRIS

(agitated)

They are overload with cargo. Imagine we make contact with an enemy ship! We cannot fire back as the cannon scuttles are below the water line.

LEGGE

Philip is right: Men will suffer. Water will moulder and the provisions will rot.

KIDD

Worse, the ships will sink! Look at the WAGER, whom I shall command. Holes in the side. rotten wood.

He drives his knife into the ship's hull without to much effort.

KIDD (CONT'D)

We need the ships rebuilt, or we will suffer severely.

INT. DUKE OF NEWCASTLE'S OFFICE IN LONDON, JUNE 28 1740 - DAY

Anson receives his orders, a sealed letter that specifies them. They talk about the expedition and the ongoing war. He complains about the illfitted ships.

THOMAS PELHAM Duke of Newcastle. Member of Parliament AND The Naval board. His accent is that of a true northerner, however he sometimes overcompensates his accent.

PELHAM

Lord Anson, I have heard about your deeds overseas at the coast of Guinea.

ANSON

Mylord?

PELHAM

During this task you have raised our attention. Because you did succeed with a difficult task, we have decided to give you command over a squadron. This letter contains detailed information about your upcoming journey. Do not show them to anyone and do not open the letter until you have left England behind. (hands Anson a sealed letter)

ANSON

Mylord, I need to know what I am supposed to do and I need the ships refitted. They are not ready for sailing the high seas. I was promised extensive refitting and nothing has happened so far!

PELHAM

Lord Anson, things have changed. I think most changes are done and there is no more money for this endeavour. The ships will not be rebuilt any further

ANSON

Mylord. They cannot sail the high seas.

EXT. AT THE DOCKS OF SPITHEAD, JUNE 1740 - DAY

Anson supervises the process of refitting the ships chosen for his expedition. The ships(Centurion, Gloucester, Severn, Pearl, Wager, Tryal) are in the dry docks, repairs are being made. Craftsmen work on them, repairing damages done during previous endeavours.

EDWARD LEGGE is an old captain, who has his merrits. He knows his way around very good in battle and sea-side sieges. He comes from a poor family and therefore offers promotions not only to those next in line but to those that resemble him as a ship boy to a degree.

GEORGE ANSON
(staring at the ships)
The ships are not in good shape.

CAPTAIN LEGGE
(approaches George
Anson)
Mylord, I highly doubt that the
ship under my command is fitted
for such heavy cargo. It makes her
ride so low that I fear the gun
ports have to be caulked up.

GEORGE ANSON
(turns to the Captain
and answers)
Captain, I understand your fears
and I do understand what you're
saying. But we cannot do anything
about this. Even if it means
making the lower deck basically
uninhabitable. There will no more
repairs be granted for our ships.

CAPTAIN LEGGE
Not only will the men suffer, but
also will the provisions rot and
the water moulder.

GEORGE ANSON
Captain, I can see your concerns.
I have seen the ships as well!
They are not fit for an overseas
expedition. The Centurion needs a
new mast, as does the Severn.
Furthermore there is not enough
room for the people!

Anson and Legge walk towards the end of the pier.

CAPTAIN LEGGE
(sighs, looks at Anson
slightly irritated)
Commodore, Is there nothing that
can be done to get more repairs
and a better refitting?

GEORGE ANSON
(sighs, turns to Legge
and puts his hand on his
shoulder)
I ' ' ll make some requests.
(MORE)

GEORGE ANSON (CONT'D)
However, Due to the upcoming war,
this expedition has been put on
low priority. There are more
important ships to be refitted and
schemes going on than ours.

INT. PELHAM'S OFFICE 18. JULY 1740

ANSON complains to PELHAM about insufficient refitted
ships.

PELHAM
Commodore. You asked for a
meeting?

ANSON
Mylord. I have been revising the
refitting process with my fellow
captains. We have some problems.

PELHAM
(nods)
Hmhm?

ANSON
The cannon holes are below water
line, as soon as the ships are
laden. We cannot fire.

PELHAM
There is nothing I can do about
it. The refitting process is
finished.

ANSON
(very agitated, but
controlled)
MYLORD. AM I supposed to talk the
enemy into surrender? I cannot
fire a single cannon or mortar.

PELHAM
You will find a way!

ANSON
I won't be able to achieve
anything. I will not be able to
take a single ship - let alone a
town, without firing my weapons.

PELHAM

Lord ANSON, I cannot help you.
Parliament decided that there are
more important things that need to
be financed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPITHEAD, DOCKS, MID-AUGUST 1740 - DAY

The ships are finally ready to make sail. Bad weather and heavy winds prevent the squadron to leave. Forced to wait Anson and his crew grow anxious, when a spanish ship is seized. A boy brings bad news to Anson.

(A boy is approaches the
Centurion anchoring at
Spithead, ready for
sail)

BOY

I have a letter for the Commodore.

SAILOR 1

Follow me.

The sailor walks the boy towards an officer and claims that the Boy has a letter for Anson's eyes only. The officer walks the boy into Anson cabin and leaves them. Anson gets the letter and gives the boy a shilling. After the boy has left and Anson is alone, he breaks the seal and reads the letter. The spanish know of Anson's mission and his greatest advantage is gone. Due to the heavy storm Anson cannot make sail as quickly as he'd like to and the Spaniards have time to elaborate a counter scheme. Anson stands sits at his table.

WAGER (V.O.)

Lord Anson, your expedition and its goals are no longer hidden from the enemy. We need to alter plans and you have to leave as soon as possible, or this undertaking will fail before it even began.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN ABOARD THE CENTURION, AUGUST 29 1740

Anson and the Captains discuss their further actions and the changes necessary after the spanish found out about the expedition.

ANSON
 Mylords. I have sent for you,
 because something has come up.

Anson throws the letter on the table, Legge grabs it and reads it out to the captains.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PORTSMOUTH THE SQUADRON IS FINALLY MAKING SAIL
 SEPTEMBER 18 1740

The ships make sail for Madeira. Officers yell orders, men work the ship. Anson stands on the Quarter deck and looks to the horizon. Finally they are on their way.

END OF THE TEASER

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT 1: THE JOURNEY

EXT. SOMEWHERE ON THE ATLANTIC - OKTOBER 10 1740

The squadron is hit heavily by a storm. Men work the rigging and screaming orders. Some of the more faithful (or fearful?!) start to pray.

ANSON
 (V.O.)
 Methinks I still hear the humble
 roaring of the Winds, and sea the
 Sea rising into Mountains, the
 ships clambering as it was those
 Hills, and then sinking into the
 most frightful valley.

Ships are going up and down in the waves. Desparation reaches for the hearts of the men.

INT. CAPTAINS CABIN ABOARD THE CENTURION, OKTOBER 25 1740

Anson writes a report to THOMAS PELHAM, the Duke of Newcastle, stating how the bad weather has delayed their journey further.

ANSON

(V.O.)

Mylord Duke, We are now at FUNCHAL. Heavy rains and storms delayed our voyage so that we have reached Madeira only today on the 25th. October in the year 1740. We have lost Arnaud and Colley during the storm(...)

PHILIP NORRIS knocks at the captains cabin, Anson asks him to enter

NORRIS

Mylord Commadore.(weakened voice)

Norris looks sick. He limps and has to hold on to the door in order to stand upright.

ANSON

Captain, are you okay?

NORRIS

I fear not. My hearing is almost gone, my backbone hurts and I can barely walk straightforward.

ANSON

(shocked) Sit down, captain.

Anson walks Norris to a chair and leaves him there. He's going to get the THOMAS WALLER, surgeon of the Centurion.

The surgeon, Thomas Waller, a man of small figure, wearing glasses, clear cut oxford accent, and Anson return. Without further explanation he starts examin NORRIS.

WALLER

Commodore, I fear Captain Norris would be ill-advised to continue a journey with such hardships and privations. I recommend you send him home, as long as he still can return there!

EXT. AROUND MADEIRA 25. OCTOBER 1740 DAY

Pizarro and his ships scan the ocean.

PIZARRO(V.O.)
 (with spanish
 accent/english
 subtitle?)
 We need to find Anson and put an
 end to his plans!

EXT. PORT OF FUNCHAL 30. OCTOBER 1740 DAY

Seamen and craftsmen are working to get the poor-shaped ships ready for sailing again.

VOICES.Hammering, sawing. Everyone has a place to be, a job to do. The machinery works. sailors that cannot use the tools supply the craftsmen with resources for their work or do the heavy-lifting.

Between decks common sailors are crammed, each having only very little space. From the rotting provisions flies are humming and there is almost no ventilation.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN ABOARD THE CENTURION SAME DAY

Anson has ordered the captains to join him and to discuss further plans.

The captains are already seated, when Norris walks in using crutches, groaning from pain.

ANSON
 We have lots to discuss, so let's
 not waste any time!

Anson stands up, looks out the window, scanning the beach, where the craftsmen are working.

ANSON (CONT'D)
 I have permitted Captain NORRIS to
 return home. The Navy cannot
 afford to lose men like him. The
 empty seat at the Gloucester will
 be taken by Matthew MITCHELL,
 Captain of the Pearl, in whom I
 have great trust. You, gentlemen,
 will need to take another post, as
 an unfortunate result of Mr.
 Norris' sickness.

They are opposed to the idea of being assigned to another ship.

ANSON (CONT'D)

Dear captains. There are rules to follow. The biggest ships need an experienced captain. DANDY, you will take the post of MATTHEW. George, you will transfer to the WAGER and you will name a successor from the TRYAL. THIS IS NOT PART OF ANY DISCUSSION, MYLORDS!

MURRAY

I think DAVID CHEAP will fit right in, alhtough he is quite young, he is a promising lieutenant.

Norris addresses his fellow-captains, his voice is very weak, he supports his stand with his hands pushed on the table.

NORRIS

Before I return home: I think we should seize the opportunity and made some adjustments on the ships. More scuttles for easing the situation for our sailors and the provisions.

MURRAY

(slightly agitated)

Indeed. My people are suffering from the lack of fresh air. The high number of landforces limits the restricted space even more. My people have to be in good shape. Not only to be of any use, but they simply deserve that we do our best to make their situation at least endurable.

MITCHELL

Pizarro is close! We cannot risk being stopped by that Spanish pirate!

MURRAY

If our men are dead our mission ends anyway!

KIDD

I have seen this before: I've been to the South Seas, with a crew similar to this one. Complaining about provision and supply.

(MORE)

KIDD (CONT'D)

Turns out those were right. We could have needed the extra power our men would have got by adding scuttles and improve ventilations.

MITCHELL and MURRAY listen to it. The older captains are not amused by this excuse, LEGGE interrupts him

LEGGE

Dandy, We all know that you have been there as well as you have been everywhere and have seen everything before. I'd say let's not lose any more time and leave as soon as possible. This situation is different! Believe me, I have seen whining sailors before!

ANSON

I have been told that Pizarro has been seen on the ocean not far from here. We have to leave as soon as possible. We'll make sail in the night of the 5. of november and head for St. Catherine.

All get up and go out of the room.

KIDD

(to himself, while walking out of the room)
We will regret this!

EXT. PORT OF FUNCHAL 5. NOVEMBER 1740 NIGHT

The ships make sail at night, without any light. As Anson ordered before.

INT. BETWEEN DECKS ABOARD THE TRYAL 10. NOVEMBER 1740

Flies are humming around between decks. Sailors try to wave them off. MURRAY inspects the room.

MURRAY

This is almost unbearable. Go on deck and get some relief. You know how not to be in the way of the working crew! I will adress this to the Commodore again!

INT. CAPTAINS CABIN ABOARD THE CENTURION 10. NOVEMBER 1740

ANSON has met the victualler from the INDUSTRY, a merchant ship that is part of the squadron. They argue about the necessity to keep one victualler aboard the flagship at all time.

VICTUALLER 1

Stands in front of Anson's desk; almost screaming.
I have a contract with the Navy
and you are dragging it in the
mud.

ANSON

Gets up and talks to the Victualler very calm.
Listen very carefully. We need a
victualler in order to know how
much provisions we have, what kind
of supplies we are in need of...

VICTUALLER 1

Voice gets louder; he is very angry about Anson changing the deal

You are dishonoring the very body
you have sworn your allegiance to.
This will have consequences!

ANSON

Anson gets angry and starts a rant
against the Victualler.
Don't you ever question my
allegiance to the Navy! Never
again. My order stands. One
victualler remains with me at all
time!

VICTUALLER 1

I demand the contract to be
carried out as negotiated. You
violate the contract, fine, I'm
out. I am returning to Madeira
with my ship.

ANSON

You will never get a contract with
the Navy again!

EXT. PORT OF FUNCHAL AGAIN, 15. NOVEMBER 1740 EARLY MORNING

The cargo from the INDUSTRY is loaded unto the other ships,
restricting the space for the people even further. MURRAY

thinks it appropriate to talk to ANSON again about the problem with the provisions.

MURRAY

Walking towards ANSON, eager to talk to him.
George. A word.

ANSON

George. What is it?

MURRAY

After our last conversation on restricted space between decks and rotting provisions I took upon me a survey of the room in question. People are sick! We put the whole undertaking at risk by ignoring these complaints!

ANSON

I'll make arrangements for the needed alterations.

The ships are prepared while ANSON reads out this letter.

ANSON (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

After doing a strict and severe survey of the room between decks aboard the Centurion and the Pearl, I do hereby order you to add to the ships further scuttles, in addition each sailor is granted an hour on deck, no matter if he's off or on duty.

EXT. PORT OF FUNCHAL 20 NOVEMBER 1740 - MORNING

The ships are making sail again. Anson stands at the quarter deck, his men work the rig. They leave Europe into the less known parts of the world.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2: CROSSING THE OCEAN

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN ABOARD THE WAGER 26 NOVEMBER 1740 DAY

George MURRAY thinks the situation aboard his WAGER unbearable and decides to give more food and Water to his men.

Sailors are holding hands of sick mates and help them eat and drink.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN ABOARD THE PEARL 28 NOVEMBER 1740
MORNING

DANDY KIDD is concerned with the wealth of his men and has without asking Anson ordered each man to drink more water.

DANDY KIDD
I knew it.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN ABOARD THE CENTURION 01 DECEMBER 1740
DAY

Sunny weather, the sea is calm. People are dying.

Typhus and dysentery are spreading among the crew.

THOMAS WALLER tries to ease their pain, handing Brandy and extra food to them, when he himself can barely set one foot in front of each other.

EXT. AT ST. CATHERINE'S CAPTAIN'S CABIN, CENTURION ,21
DECEMBER 1740

The squadron has crossed the Atlantic, but at which Price?

People are weak. ANSON himself is worn.

He issues another captains' meeting in his cabin.

DANDY KIDD
Imagine we had not added the extra
scuttles!

The captains discuss vividly, how to improve the situation.

DAVID CHEAP a former lieutenant aboard the Tryal, now captain since NORRIS resigned. Promising career but stil very inexperienced; he shows that by overrecating sometimes. He feels challenged very easily.

MURRAY
We should give our crews a break,
before ordering anything. We
cannot force them to endure even
more. They are barely alive.

CHEAP

They should stop complaining about everything - The provision is more than sufficient and they get enough water.

KIDD

Kid, you have not served as captain very long. Let me advice you not to underestimate the power of the people.

MURRAY

David, you have to remember, they are doing all the heavy work. They deserve being treated as human beings.

LEGG

Mr. Cheap, they may be of humble origins, but they may turn out great captains some day!

ANSON

Enough! We are all working for a greater good. In this room there is no room for animosities of any kind. We are one!
We have lost good men. Not only did our surgeon, THOMAS WALLER, pass away but some very promising young sailors and old seamen, who knew their way around the ship.

LEGG

I admit. I agree with George. We should take a break. And since we have lost Pizarro we can afford a little time.

CHEAP

(to himself)

They are soft

ANSON

We'll stay here and allow our people to recuperate!

ANSON (CONT'D)

We need to adress the problem at its root.
How can we prevent further damage to our crews and improve their situation?

The captains take their seats again. Starting to discuss scrubbing the ships clean etc.

EXT. AT ST. CATHERINE'S 21 DECEMBER 1740

ANSON/MITCHELL/LEGGE/MURRAY/KIDD/CHEA
P

(V.O.)

Reads out the numbers of the sick
and dead sailors on board the
*Centurion/Gloucester/Severn/Tryal/
Wager/Anna*

The ships are scrubbed clean and the provisions are carefully examined by the pursers and their assistants. Meanwhile sailors are sick, some even dying.

EXT. AT. ST CATHERINE'S 23 DECEMBER 140

The camera moves through the camp and shows poor creatures that suffer from the unpreventable ship diseases: dysentery, typhus and scurvy! A close-up shot stops at JOHN BYRON, who shows discomfort at sight of these hardships. The camera continues its journey, faceless sailors are suffering and crying. They spit blood in the dirt and are almost zombie-like. Moving on the camera catches a glimpse of JOHN BULKELEY and JOHN CUMMINS.

JOHN BYRON, future Lord Byron, and Navy Captain, always has bad luck with the weather - Foul-Weather-Jack. Today he is a midshipman

BYRON talks to HAMILTON, a fellow midshipman aboard the WAGER.

BYRON

I have a feeling this foul weather
will stick with us.

HAMILTON

Watch out that nobody hears you
talking like that Jack, or you' ll
end up having a foul nickname!

BYRON

The journey is full of hardships:
When there is no roaring thunder
and no lightning, the sun burns
everything.

HAMILTON

That's why we all have hats! Don't
you have a hat?

BYRON

Of course I have a hat. A good hat, I like it very much!

HAMILTON

Then stop complaining! We are lucky to not suffer from those awful diseases.

BYRON

Yeah, poor fellows. I wish there was something to do about their bad condition. Death almost seems like a relieve.

MURRAY walks in, overhearing the conversation.

MURRAY

Oh dear. There is always something that can be done! Go to a sick comrade, help him eat, drink or simply be there for him. It might happen to you on this very journey and you will end up the same. And, believe me, you would give a lot for someone who takes care of you.

JOHN BULKELEY, very charismatic and strong gunner aboard the WAGER. A key figure of the events to come.

JOHN CUMMINS, experienced good carpenter. Befriends with John Bulkeley and is also an important player in the upcoming WAGER-events!

BULKELEY

Captain Kidd is a good captain. He knows how to govern his people.

CUMMINS

He sure does. He does not care too much about the rules. I needed the extra share of water!

BULKELEY

He's a strong man and smart.

CUMMINS

That he is. Although our ship is not manned properly, he can work the ship and be good to his men. MURRAY is a fine fellow, too. He really cares about the common sailor as much as about his officers.

BULKELEY

Aye to that. We have had two good captains so far. Let's hope nothing bad happens to any of them.

Bulkeley and Cummins continue their talk as the camera moves on towards the ships.

EXT. AT ST. CATHERINE'S CHRISTMAS' EVE 1740

The crews celebrate Christmas. Mass is held by Richard Walter. They have a feast, compared to their usual meal. However, scurvy is still killing the crew.

ANSON

Captains, Officers, Sailors! We have come this far. We have lost many men, comrades, and friends. Today is a holy day. The day that Christ came into this world to save us all. Let's pray together for the Lord's mercy, not only on our passed friends, but on us and the world.

Richard Walter recites a Lord's Prayer. The men have closed their eyes, and recite it with the Chaplain.

ALL

AMEN!

EXT. ON THE OCEAN , CLOSE TO ST. CATHERINE'S - MORNING

Ships are heading towards St. Catherine's.

EXT. MEANWHILE AT ST. CATHERINE'S, CROW'S NEST CENTURION...

A boy spots ships.

SHIP'S BOY

(hectic)

Ship ahoy! Ship ahoy!

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3: HURRY UP

EXT. ST. CATHERINE'S AT THE BACH 18 JANUARY 1741 - A LITTLE LATER

The ships officers tell Anson about the approaching vessels. He orders the ships to prepare for the continuation of the journey.

PEIRCY BRETT an officer aboard the centurion. From Kent. His accent is quite kentish and his language very vivid.

PEIRCY BRETT

Commodore, Ships have been spotted near the horizon. They are flying towards this very island. Closing in on us. Even worse, they have set the flag of our enemy nation, Spain.

ANSON

I hoped we could get our people a little rest before we have to continue.
Ready the ships for making sail!
This might be Pizarro.

EXT. CLOSE TO CAPE HOORN 18 JANUARY 1741 - DAY

PIZARRO is ready for making passage through the STRAIT OF LE MAIRE. The passage is quite light on them and they make it through very easily. Behind them, a heavy thunder storm builds up.

PIZARRO grins.

PIZARRO

Quite an easy passage! Let's prepare for when this Englishman arrives with his ships.

EXT. AT ST. CATHERINE'S - 18 JANUARY EARLY MORNING

Anson has ordered his squadron to make ready for sailing. Men are bustling about, carrying supplies and provision on board the ships. Some sailors help sick and invalid comrades onboard their ships. They leave behind what is too heavy to carry away fast - Including some provisions. They weigh anchor and leave for the sea.

SAILOR 2

Let's hope Pizarro does not catch us. He is a devil.

SAILOR 3
What did you say?

SAILOR 2
A devil - Pizarro. I have heard
some rumours about him...

An officer interrupts their chat and wants them to continue their work, not talk.

OFFICER
Work! Or your devil will catch us
all!

The sailors look at each other - horror in eyes.

ANSON approaches the SAILORS (2+3) and looks at them.

SAILOR 2 notices him and nudges his colleague.

ANSON
You know that Pizarro is a man,
just like me. The only difference
is that he is a spaniard: while
I'm born and raised in
Staffordshire he was born in some
spanish town not to different from
your or my hometown!

ANSON smiles at them and offers them a jug of water.

After taking a gulp and thanking their captain the sailors
continue their job.

EXT. ST. CATHERINE - OUTSIDE THE CAMP - DAY

People carry caskets, baskets and chests onboard the ships.
The officers oversee the process. The captains gather
aside. Captain Kidd shows signs of typhus: fever, shivering
and coughing.

ANSON
We are almost done. We'll make
sail as soon as the last caskets
are on board. We have no time to
lose.

LEGGE
So we are heading for the STRAIT?

KIDD
(takes a huge gulp of
water)
(MORE)

KIDD (CONT'D)

At this advanced season this might
pose a problem!

KIDD seems prophetic ...

MITCHELL

Are you afraid of some waves?

MITCHELL laughs at KIDD

KIDD

(clears his throat)

I have seen the STRAIT in summer
and it was not a nice journey.
(needs a break- breathes
heavily)I'll remind you of these
waves after our trip - If you live
to see it through!

MURRAY tries to calm the other captains down.

MURRAY

Mylords. The expedition is hard on
everyone. Least we have our cabin
to retreat to. Let's not forget
who the real sufferers are -
Sailors that either lie between
decks, crammed and in desperate
search for space or above deck,
working the ship, no matter what
the weather is like!

ANSON

What's the alternative? The ship
cannot work itself and we have to
pass the STRAIT at any cost.
Pizarro is still out there,
looking for some Englishmen to
sink.

KIDD

(coughes and drinks some
water again)

I agree, we must pass the STRAIT -
better now than in two weeks.

MURRAY

Before we start this endeavour we
have to cover further 500 miles.
And I could need more officers.

KIDD

We are all lacking men.

LEGGE

DANDY is going for it. We cannot risk being disunited. DANDY, don't be so rude. You have good men.

Returns to topic

LEGGE (CONT'D)

George, why?

MURRAY

I do not have any officer aboard but the Master - Robert Baynes. And frankly, he is a nice fellow, but he is not the sharpest tool in the box.

MITCHELL

Have you talked to him? Maybe it's something you're doing wrong with him.

MURRAY

Of course, I have talked to him. IT'S no use.

ANSON

GEORGE, I fear I cannot help you very much. But, I am confident that you can handle a ship, even if there is an idiot on it!

ANSONs gesture implies that he does not think idiot is the appropriate word for a person.

EXT. ONBOARD THE SHIPS - READY FOR MAKING SAIL - AFTERNOON

The ships hoist the anchor - ready to make sail for the STRAIT OF LE MAIRE

They are hit by a storm again. BYRON and HAMILTON talk about the weather.

HAMILTON

Storm, again!

BYRON

Now you are getting into this!

HAMILTON

This foul weather, Jack, is making me sick!

BYRON
Brighter days will come!

EXT. ATLANTIC COAST OF PATAGONIA NIGHT

The ships sail in formation, hardly keeping sight at each other. Waves crush at the vessels. Rain falls down. The rigging is pushed back and forth. The Gloucester almost capsizes. The Wager hits the waves hard. The Anna is pushed left and right. Meanwhile: People are crying, praying for god. They try to appease Neptune. The Centurion ploughs through the waves. Some men go over board. Boats are dragged away. Sails are damaged by rain and hail. People cry.

The situation aboard the ships is bad.

Aboard the CENTURION, ANSON helps his men stay on track.

ANSON
Fight the wind. cut loose the
sails.

As the storm is too loud, his men cannot hear him. Instead of screaming out, he runs towards the rail and cuts loose the sail with his knife. From then he works hand in hand with his crew, to fight the primal power.

PEIRCY BRETT
Neptune, oh mighty Lord, save our
poor souls and lead us to save
harbour!

Aboard the GLOUCESTER, the pilot cannot turn the steering wheel, MITCHELL notices, runs towards him and helps him push. Still nothing changes.

MITCHELL
SAILORS! we cannot steer, it seems
like something blocks the rudder

LEGGE supports his sailors aboard the Severn. They are young and inexperienced. He on the other hand is very capable and has endured a lot during his seafaring career. He helps a young sailor to strike the sail as he sees him struggling with it.

On board the WAGE, MURRAY fears more dead sailors.

MURRAY
No one works alone! Each member of
my crew supports his comrade in
his task.

(MORE)

MURRAY (CONT'D)

Hold him, while he works, support
his stand, while he cuts. WE WON'T
LOSE A SINGLE SAILOR to the sea.

EXT. ON BOARD THE TRYAL 17. JANUARY 1741 DAY

Aboard the TRYAL the situation is very bad. Wood is
creaking and bending in the wind. The mainmast has a crack.
The boys in the crow's nest are crying.

[[cam moves down]]

The sailors are running back and forth, carrying out there
duties. Helping each other.

CHEAP

All hands on deck!

People are running on deck.

CHEAP (CONT'D)

Hurry up, cut the sails loose or
we are lost!

Wood creaks. the side is heavily hit by a wave. The ship
rises and falls. It almost capsizes.
Thunder-lightning-thunder. Heavy gales blow. A sailor is
taken by the waves. His comrades have not noticed it.

The Mast creaks loud. People try to cut loose the sail. The
Mast breaks. The boys are thrown over board and cannot be
saved - heavy waves. The Mast comes down, hits some
sailors, cripples them and is gone in the waves. the ship i
hit heavily, rail damaged. Holes in the floor.

CHEAP (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Useless scoundrels!

EXT. ON BOARD THE PEARL 22. JANUARY 1741 DAY

KIDD stands at the rail, he looks for the other ships,
almost falls over into the seas. MCGOWAN helps him into his
cabin. Thunder is roaring, lightning is striking.

THOMAS MCGOWAN, master of the PEARL; good and faithful
sailor. Trusts his captain.

MCGOWAN

Captain, we'll bring you to your
cabin, where you can rest!

KIDD

No, I need to give the orders. I
AM captain, after all!
(in delirium, sweating,
barely understandable)

MCGOWAN

I could do that, while you're
recovering from that fever.

KIDD

(Supporting his stand)
(breathes heavily)
Let go the main... mast's sail or
we are gone!

His order is regiven by officers.

KIDD (CONT'D)

Make ready to strike the sails.

The sailors are doing as told.

KIDD (CONT'D)

(Heavy breath.)

KIDD looks at the horizon tries to catch himself at the
rail. He attempts to continue when his feet give up and he
falls down.

The People are scared - Their Captain - powerless.

MCGOWAN attends the captain. He is conscious but weak.
Sailors gather around, trying to see what has happened.

Their captain lies on the floor, breaths heavily, sweats
even worse. He starts talking. As he continues his voice
turns lower and lower. He barely utters the last word

KIDD (CONT'D)

(breathes heavily. water
or sweat is running down
his face)

This journey ... cursed. There ...
lies nothing good .. ahead ..but
poverty (breathes heavily),
v..v.vermin..an.....death a-----nd
dest... destruction ...

He closes his eyes and passes away.

The sailors aboard the PEARL are devastated. MCGOWAN is
shocked.

MCGOWAN
Take him inside!

Two sailors carry the captain into his cabin and put the body on the bed.

MCGOWAN takes command and gives orders.

MCGOWAN (CONT'D)
strike all sails! We need to push
her through this storm. That's
what the captain would have wanted
us to do!

EXT. SOMEWHERE ON THE ATLANTIC SOME DAYS LATER - IS IT DAY?

Dark skies, heavy clouds. it is impossible to tell the time of day. Rain is pouring down, sails and pieces of wood are float around the ships. The reduced and hard-hit squadron ploughes through the troughes of the sea. Desorientation. Chaos aboard the ships as well as on the ocean take away the confidence and high spirits of the sailors.

BYRON (V.O.)
This storm is worse than anything
I've seen before.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN UNKNOWN DATE - MORNING

The GLOUCESTER tows the TRYAL. The other ships gather together. Although the worst is over, rain continues.

INT. BETWEEN DECKS OF THE WAGER - UNKNOWN TIME OF DAY,
UNKNOWN DATE. END OF JANUARY?

BYRON complains about the weather. HAMILTON taunts him in a friendly way.

BYRON
Will this rain ever stop?

HAMILTON
Jack, stop complaining about the
foul weather, or it will, indeed,
stick with you forever!

BYRON
I have seen enough rain for a
lifetime, already!

EXT. SOMEWHERE AT THE PATAGONIAN COAST IN THE ATLANTIC
ASHORE AN UNKNOWN ISLAND

The sailors still do not know exactly, what day it is. The rain is only a shower. The ships search shelter. ANSON tells his men to signal the ships that they have to seek anchorage. They stop at a small island, hoping to find refreshment and rest, as well as a chance of burying the captain and the other lost sailors. The rain finally stops!

ANSON

(at the issued captain's
meeting)

Captains, we have lost one of us.
Dandy KIDD has passed away.

LEGGE

HE who has seen everything is
taken by a storm! The old pirate!

MURRAY

He was a good captain. His loss
must render his men hopeless.

MITCHELL

I have overheard crew members of
the PEARL talking about his
legacy. Is it true, he promised
them nothing but poverty, vermin
death and destruction?

CHEAP

Quite the exit, dear captains.
Imagine how unsettling this must
be for the morale of the ship's
crew.

LEGGE

Kid, watch your mouth! Dandy was a
great captain, don't you dare drag
his memory to the mud!

CHEAP

Easy. I'm just saying, my crew
already is foolish, light-hearted
and barely capable of working a
ship. I cannot have a single whiff
of superstition aboard my ship!

MURRAY

I tend to agree. The people may
suffer from Dandy's last words. Not
only did their captain pass away,
but also promise them a grand
failure.

ANSON

I hope the crews can be eased by rest at this island and recuperation off shore. Let's arrange a funeral fit for this great character and wise man!

The captains stand together, out of earshot and talk.

BULKELEY and CUMMINS are standing near them.

HENRY COZENS: well-liked midshipman, likes liquor. is superstitious and a critic of total authority

BULKELEY

I wonder what they are taling about.

CUMMINS

The young captain is somehow agitating LEGGE.

BULKELEY

You're talking about CHEAP?I bet he lives up to his name as captain!

CUMMINS

(laughs)

He'll get better. I've seen lots of young captains. Most grow with their tasks

HENRY COZENS walks in on them.

COZENS

(half-hearted)

My fellow sailors! Have you heard, KIDD passed away during this hellish storm!

They look at him in surprise.

COZENS (CONT'D)

KIDD is dead. The pillar his crew built their trust on.

CUMMINS

(turns to BULKELEY)

That's what they are talking about!

BULKELEY nods, looks at the captains.

COZENS

Word is, KIDD promised, the expedition will end in desaster!!

BULKELEY

(laughs)

You do know, only God knows the future. DANDY was lots of things, God was non of it.

CUMMINS

(smiles gently)

Take a break, Henry. Take a drink as the captains allowed. Tomorrow the world will be brighter already.

COZENS goes to the purser and gets a bottle rum.

EXT. NAMELESS ISLAND NEAR THE PATAGONIAN COAST 29. JANUARY
1741 - MORNING

A funeral service for captain KIDD is prepared. ANSON and the fellow captains have to find a replacement.

ANSON

(heavy-hearted)

Friends. Once again we are looking for a replacement for one of ours.

MURRAY

I can imagine the PEARLS crew is shocked and close to black despair!

LEGGE

You bet, they are. Losing that old shrewd and cunning fox. They need a captain that knows his way around one's grieve.

MITCHELL

George. When I was made captain, I heard rumours about you and your big heart and compassion. Word was that you would not make a sailor endure more than you were ready to tackle by yourself and you would always have an ear for a sailor in need for talking.

CHEAP

(disdainful)

Imagine, the Navy would stop to
pet its sailors, what great things
we could achieve!

LEGGE

(angry)

Commodore, I request permission to
hit that kid!

MURRAY

Edward, He soon will know. We need
to be strong together or our
endeavour can only end in
desaster.

MITCHELL

George, You are the most
compassionate man that I have met.
If any of us, besides the
Commodore, can ease their terror,
I'd say it's you!

EXT. NAMELESS ISLAND NEAR THE PATAGONIAN COAST 29. JANUARY
1741 - ABOUT NOON

The funeral is held. The crews stand together, sorted by
ship at the burial side. They stare at the body wrapped in
cloth. ANSON stands in front of the People, the captains
lined up behind him. RICHARD WALTER, chaplain of the
Centurion, delivers a speech. Some people are whispering.

RICHARD WALTER, chaplain of the Centurion, 22yrs old. A
true Londoner...

WALTER

(v.o.)

We have lost an old captain today.
A good Soul that never thought of
himself first. He commanded many
ships and people. Those of you who
had the honour to serve beyond
him, People of the WAGER, People
of the PEARL, we moan with you at
this loss. Captains, you have
known him better than any of us,
we are sorry for your loss. As the
captain would have said. "I knew
this day was coming" For hadn't he
seen it all, been everywhere.

WALTER (CONT'D)

He was old and cunning. He fooled his enemy many a times, he wrenched the sea its treasure. Now she came to collect. Not from enemy hand, for there is no enemy that can add up to him, but from the destructive and striking hand of the sea, he fell. She, who was betrayed by him her just price, uncounted times, took him. His journey lead him over the oceans of this world, now that he knew every inch of them, he is exploring those beyond death. May he rest in Peace.

Sailors have dug a hole. OFFICERS form a guard of honour. ANSON is ready to deliver a speech. Some people are causing a tumult.

COZENS

He is gone! Even our captains are not save!

BYRON

(runs towards COZENS,
trying to calm him down)
HENRY, calm down

COZENS

DEATH! he promised us death!

Some sailors that had not heard of that before are shocked.

BULKELEY and BYRON help COZENS back in line and quiet him.

ANSON can deliver his burial adress now.

ANSON

Even our captains are not save? Indeed. We can suffer the same that you can. We all have lost more men, acquaintances than any man should have to. We all have lost dear friends. On this journey, we all have to fear disease, storm, and the sea. On this journey, we all will probably lose more friends. This journey may have cost lives of good friends. Their journey ended before ours.

(MORE)

ANSON (CONT'D)

The captain, whom I held very dearly, once told me that to surpass and overcome any obstacle, a captain needs his crew at least as much as they need him. on this dark day, I summon you, not as your Commodore, but as a sailor, let us stand together, let us fight together, and if needed let us die together. We owe that to our fallen captains, comrades, and dearly missed friends. Let's make this journey not one of many. Let us honour our friends memory by making it the most successfull undertaking. Together we continue our journey for the sake of our friends who will never see their family again. They cannot tell their story - WE will tell it for them!

The ships cannons fire in salute. The guard of honour carries the body to the hole, and carefully lowers it into it. The officers fill up the hole with sand/earth. MURRAY puts a wooden cross on top the grave. The cross reads "CAPTAIN DANDY KIDD - 1741"

END OF ACT 3

ACT 4: THE ORDEAL BEGINS!

EXT. AT KIDD'S GRAVE 29. JANUARY 1741 - AFTERNOON

The people pay their respect to Captain KIDD. Anson decided to stay at this Island for a little while, recuperation and grieve demand it.

EXT. NAMELESS ISLAND NEAR THE PATAGONIAN COAST 03. FEBRUARY 1741 - MORNING

The weather is good, necessary repairs are made. The captains have met to discuss the vacant position(s).

ANSON

It is a wicked situation. GEORGE, you are good with people. I'd like to have you command the PEARL!

MURRAY

I already have a crew!

ANSON

I know. The WAGER will from now on be commanded by Mr. CHEAP, who has proven capable of commanding a ship.

CHEAP

I will govern them and ensure that discipline is upheld aboard the WAGER.

LEGGE

(to himself)

He still does not get it...

MURRAY

The poor fellows need me, too. DAVID also has a ship below him.

ANSON

I recollect, you all know CHARLES SAUNDERS, I will make him captain of the TRYAL, so that Mr. CHEAP will be free for his duty aboard the WAGER, which allows you to go aboard the PEARL and take upon you the duty of captain!

EXT. ABOARD THE PEARL 18. FEBRUARY MORNING

GEORGE MURRAY addresses the PEARL's crew. They show signs from scurvy, some are so sick, they cannot even stand upright while listening to him.

MURRAY

We have endured much. You are suffering from the lack of space, air and ventilation, as well as from rotting provisions. We have lost good sailors and good friends. Wives lost their husband, children have lost their father. I cannot undo this. We all have endured too much. We cannot endure much more, I will do everything in my power to prevent any further losses!

The people cheer low at this words.

MURRAY (CONT'D)

For that, I need you to follow my orders and commands.

(MORE)

MURRAY (CONT'D)

Together we can endure this and subdue any enemy, no matter whether Spaniard, Storm, or the Sea.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 18. FEBRUARY 1741 MORNING

CHEAP addresses his crew. The Crew seems okay with him, but BULKELEY and CUMMINS think he's a setback at captain's post. COZENS is still superstitious about the journey.

CHEAP

Due to the unfortunate events I am your captain now. And as the Rules of the Navy demand of you, I await you to follow my orders at any time. I AM YOUR CAPTAIN.

He steps back and enters his cabin.

BULKELEY

How he walks and talks. That peachick.

CUMMINS

He is a setback! Let's hope he grows into his role.

COZENS

If he gets the chance to do so. Mark the captain's words - destruction awaits us!

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 25. FEBRUARY 1741 MORNING

The ships have gathered at Port St. Julian and are readied for passaging the STRAIT OF LE MAIRE. ANSON delivers orders for rendezvous, in case the squadron is scattered by any events.

LEGGE

The passing of the STRAIT is not an easy task at any time of the year. I can only imagine the hardships it means passing it in autumn!

ANSON

I know the task at hand is difficult, but after so much hardships, faith will be with us, I am confident. We need to make that passage.

MURRAY

I have to tell you, the PEARL's crew cannot suffer much more. Not only are men dying from scurvy, but the death of their captain is also hard on them.

LEGGE

George is right. My crew is struck with scurvy and other sicknesses. Shipfever is spreading, they can barely work the ship!

CHEAP

They can bear it, I am sure.

MITCHELL

My people also could need a break, but I see that we have to start the passage as soon as possible. It may be a bad idea to pass the STRAIT in autumn, but have you thought of passing it in winter?

ANSON

After the passage, we will take a break at Juan Fernandez! We then will recuperate and refresh and deal with the sicknesses.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

The ships have an relatively easy time. They sail towards the STRAIT OF LE MAIRE. the sun is shining and everything looks good. However, zooming in to the ships, suffering people can be seen.

EXT. AT THE OPENING OF THE STRAIT OF LE MAIRE 07. MARCH
1741

The last few days have been easy on the crew and spirits are relatively high. The ships have entered the STRAIT when the Sky darkens behind them.

BYRON

Storm again! I knew the weather
was to good to be true.

HAMILTON

Imagine Jack. Foul-Weather Jack.
Noone would sail with you, if you
had that name!

The squadron cannot turn back and wait until the storm has passed. They hope that they can escape. It starts to rain. The waves get higher and higher.

The storm hits the ships heavily.

EXT. ABOARD THE SEVERN 09 MARCH 1741

LEGGE tries to lift the crew's spirits. A man goes over board, They cannot save him. the waves almost crash the ship, the longboats are taken by the sea, leaving them no means of survival in case the ship hits the rocks. People are dying. scurvy, waves, sickness. The situation gets worse

EXT. ABOARD THE PEARL 09 MARCH 1741

MURRAY helps his men work the ship. Some men are crying. The waves hit them heavily. People are not only suffering from scurvy, but also from the weather. The situation is almost unbearable.

MURRAY

(exhausted)

Let's do this.

INT. BETWEEN DECKS ABOARD THE PEARL 10. MARCH 1741

Scurvy is carrying off the people slowly. They are loosing teeth. They are close to insanity.

EXT. ABOARD THE GLOUCESTER 10. MARCH 1741

MITCHELL makes a good figure. He can endure it, his men are in relatively good shape and master the storm with excellence.

MITCHELL

Support each other. We cannot
survive alone.

INT. LOWER DECK WAGER SAME PERIOD - DAY

Coughing sick sailors and soldiers are crammed in the deck. Rotting provisions and water pollute the air.

EXT. ABOARD THE CENTURION 11. MARCH 1741

ANSON supports his men. Every hand is on deck, helping working the ship. The storm hits it heavily. They work hand in hand, noone doubts the captains orders.

The chaplain prays for the people.

The crew works hard to keep the ship on track.

ANSON
Heave out the sails. The wind is
to heavy.

The cargo is sliding back and forth in the cargo bay, making crackling noises.

The men cannot fasten the cargo again, one is hit by a chest, and his leg broken.

EXT. ABOARD THE TRYAL - SAME DAY

The main mast breaks again. People are taken by the sea.

SAUNDERS
Strike the Sails!

Sailors do as told. Officers help them. They secure the rigging. One Man falls down the mast, landing on a beam - he is dead.

EXT. ABOARD THE ANNA - SAME DAY

She ploughs through the waves, her men are wounded and tired, they do not give up. orders are screamed.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER

CHEAP orders his people to work the ship.

CHEAP
Work harder, or we will not make
it through this storm!

He moves away from BULKELEY and CUMMINS

BULKELEY
 (without CHEAP noticing
 it)

The men are exhausted. They need
 someone to lift their spirits.

CUMMINS
 That kid-captain needs to learn a
 lot faster!

The common sailors work the ship: the rigging needs fixing.
 The sails need to be struck. Screams. The mast creaks. Men
 are crying.

EXT. ABOARD THE PEARL MID MARCH -AFTERNOON

The heavy storm ebbed away - it is only raining heavily.

MURRAY and LEGGE are meeting on the PEARL, they discuss
 what should be done.

MURRAY
 EDWARD, my people cannot suffer
 much more.

LEGGE
 I see. We have lost our longboat.
 So IF anything happens, we are all
 doomed.

MURRAY
 (almost crying)
 People are dying! I promised them
 that they would not have to suffer
 much more. They deserve better.

LEGGE
 We should tell the others. We
 cannot continue the journey in
 this condition.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ABOARD THE CENTURION 01. APRIL 1741 MORNING

Scurvy, dysentery and typhus are killing the crew.

Men are too weak to surrender their fallen comrades to the
 sea. Bodies are wash about the deck and lie in their
 hammocks.

EXT. TRYAL, QUARTERDECK 01 APRIL 1741 DAY

The Tryal is damaged, but not sunk. Men are ill, they need a break. Her look-out spots the CENTURION.

EXT AT CAPE HOORN , PEARL AND SEVERN 10. APRIL 1741

The Captains (LEGGE and MURRAY) have a meeting aboard the SEVERN. They decide what to do.

LEGGE

I have suffered heavy losses. They are so sick. They cannot be of any service. they are numbed.

MURRAY

Since we began the rounding of the Cape I have lost two or three men at least every single day.

LEGGE

My men cannot endure more. I think we should turn back to England.

MURRAY

Being disobedient to the Commodore?

LEGGE

I doubt that that's what they will call it.

MURRAY

Hmhm. My men really cannot take it anymore.
I agree, that my men cannot take more. They already are disheartened.

EXT. ABOARD THE CENTURION 13. APRIL 1741

ANSON has not spotted the SEVERN and the PEARL for some days now. He worries about them.

ANSON holds his long glass in front of his eye and attempts to spot either the SEVERN or the PEARL. HE is able to spot the ANNA, the WAGER, the GLOUCESTER and next to his ship lies the TRYAL, which was once again hit hard.

EXT. ABOARD THE SEVERN 17. APRIL 1741

LEGG and MURRAY decide to return round the CAPE and save their men.

EXT. NEAR CAPE HOORN 21. APRIL 1741 - NIGHT

The reduced squadron sails through rain and wind.

ANSON recounts the numbers of dead sailor, while the ships are in peril of sinking.

The wind fastens, destroying the sails and canvas onboard the ships. The ships are uncontrolled and carried in different directions by the wind

EXT. ABOARD THE GLOUCESTER 24. APRIL 1741

MITCHELL complains about the sail

MITCHELL
(very angry)
Bad canvas! Rotten twine! That's
all the navy has got for us!

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 24. APRIL 1741

The WAGER is on its own. CHEAP acts up and demands very much from his people!

The WAGER is in a storm. Men work the ship, they try to get her through. The wind tears down the sail, makes the mast creak and break.

CHEAP blames his people

CHEAP
(angry)
Useless landlubbers! Give me some
capable sailors, one at least!

The ship is thrown back and forth in the high waves. Men suffer from the sicknesses.

CHEAP (CONT'D)
And where to hell is the rest of
the squadron?

The storm fastens again. A wave hits the ship. The captain just started to walk down the stairs from the quarterdeck towards his cabin. He stumbles, almost falls over board. Another wave hits the ship. CHEAP is washed over deck and

hits the rail heavily. He grunts. BYRON and HAMILTON attempt to help him.

CHEAP (CONT'D)
My shoulder!

His shoulder is dislocated. The two midshipmen, BYRON and HAMILTON, help him into his cabin. They then get the surgeon.

CHEAP (CONT'D)
(to himself)
If anyone else had done his job,
we would not be in this situation!
Useless, all of them.

The surgeon, ELLIOT gives him opium, to ease the pain.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 01 MAY 1741

The storm turns heavier again. The wager is in peril.

ROBERT BAYNES, lieutenant of the WAGER, only other commissioned officer aboard said ship. good lieutenant but not the best bet for captain's post

THOMAS CLARK, Master aboard the WAGER.

BAYNES
(fearful look)
What would the Captain do?

CLARK
KIDD? He would have saved us, by his experience. You cannot compete with him.

EXT. IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ABOARD THE CENTURION

The Squadron is scattered, no one knows, who is still alive. ANSON suffers from not knowing what has become of his fellows.

ANSON
We need to figure out, where exactly we are! Then we need to make it to JUAN FERNANDEZ.

BRETT
This heavy sea has brought us far from any safe havens. Port Juan Fernandez might be a million miles away!

ANSON

PEIRCY. Don't you think I know that.

BRETT(V.O.)

Scurvy takes our people. They are perishing every minute. A safe harbour is what we need and refreshments and food is what they need.

During the V.O. : People are shown, suffering heavily from scurvy. Some of the dead are surrendered to the sea. People have grim looks.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 12. MAY 1741

The WAGER is almost torn apart, thrown back and forth. BAYNES, in charge after the captains unfortunate accident, tries to steer her through the storm.

Thunder and lightning make the situation worse. The ship hits the rocks.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN ABOARD THE WAGER SAME DAY.

BAYNES

I do not know, what to do! People are quarreling on and on.

CHEAP

(high on opium)
Pistols! Arm the officers! and seize control over those scoundrels.

Baynes hears a cry that land was close, he leaves the captain

EXT. WAGER

CUMMINS has spotted land and reports it to Baynes.

CUMMINS

LAND AHOY! There is land on our lee side!

BAYNES

Impossible! Your eyes must have betrayed you!

BULKELEY

I trust the carpenter. His eyes
have not betrayed him. Why don't
you alter our course, or we will
all die here!

BAYNES

There cannot be any land. We are
too far off the coast!

As he utters this sentences, a coastline becomes visible to
all aboard the ship. BAYNES goes below decks, towards the
lietnants cabin, he grabs a bottle of rum.

INT. LIEUTNANTS' CABIN 12. MAY 1741 -NIGHT

BAYNES finished the first bottle and attempts to get
another one, when the ship is struck by a cracking sound.

He storms out the cabin.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER

The rudder broke as the ship was thrown against a rock.

BAYNES falls down.

People are running around.

COZENS

(disturbed)

That's the end. Captain KIDDs
promise has come true!

The ship is thrown against a rock. wood cracks.

V.O.

Water in the Hull!

COZENS

We are sinking! The end has come!

Sailors are crying; praying. Two sailors start a fight over
some earthly possessions. Fists fly, noses are bleeding.
Total Chaos before total desaster?

BULKELEY gathers some people around him and talks some
sense into them.

BULKELEY

Land is close! We are not lost,
yet!

CUMMINS leads men towards the longboats and life boats. They enter them. It is BYRON's turn to enter a life boat.

BYRON
The captain!

He runs towards the captain's cabin, seeing men fight and drink. The events are chaotic. The most despaired sailors have opened the alcohol-stock and are drunk. They turn violent on each other. A pistol shot. BYRON runs faster. He opens the cabins door. The captain is awake but drugged.

CHEAP
GET the men first. I am captain
after all!

BYRON
Others are helping those that want
to leave. It's chaos.

They walk towards the exit, when the ship makes a sudden move right. They stumble, but are able to catch their step.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 13 MAY 1741 EARLY MORNING

Bodies lie on the floor. Some show signs of a fight. stabbing-wounds gunshot wounds etc.

Waves crush over the ship.

EXT. ABOARD THE WAGER 12 MAY 1741 LATE NIGHT

The ship is rendered a plaything of heavy waves and gales. They cannot steer.

THE WAGER floats towards the land. People are readying for impact. The ship cracks again, stops its move - It is stuck between two rocks.

BULKELEY grabs COZENS and throws him into a boat, alongside others that want to get of the sinking ship.

BYRON and CHEAP move closer to the longboat. BULKELEY ordered it to be lowered into the water already. There are only a few boats left. However, most of the sane sailors already took a boat to the island that seems not too far away.

HAMILTON turns to BYRON and helps him carry the captain the last few steps towards the boat. They place him inside.

HAMILTON
What about those poor souls?

BYRON

We need to save as many as possible!

BULKELEY

They refuse to leave! They say that GOD has come to get them. They want to spend the rest of their lives drinking and fighting. TAKE OFF!

The boat hits the water and all hands row towards the Island.

EXT. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CAPE HOORN ABOARD THE ASIA

Pizarro and his men are preparing a trap for the squadron. Setting the ships up and practising at the cannons etc. They see clouds forming up behind them.

PIZARRO

This storm may as well do our job for us! (grinning)

THE END

(CONT'D)