

HMS Bagworth

By

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INT. HMS BAGWORTH, SUBMARINE, CONTROL ROOM - DAY (OR NIGHT)

The action starts with chaos in the control room of the British Submarine "HMS Bagworth". There are three members of the crew in the control room and they are being knocked about the room by the force of impact from an enemy DEPTH CHARGE.

The Crew Members in the control room are:

CAPTAIN QUINTON, 42, Commanding officer. FIRST OFFICER FALCONER, 33, Second in command. OFFICER HUGHES, 22, Welsh.

The crew members steady themselves and slowly return to their positions. Captain Quinton grabs the intercom.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Chief Engineer, damage report?
Come in. Are you there?

Crackle from the intercom and a response.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
Of course, sir. Everything
alright?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Er well. Not really. I thought
you were a gonner?

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
Oh no, sir. Definitely not. Spurs
fan. It's bad, sir. The whole of
the stern's been hit.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Close the watertight doors.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
I Cleansed them this morning,
sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
You what? I said CLOSE the
watertight doors.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
I did hose them.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
What's the matter with you
Dawkins. I said CLOSE!

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
Oh? They're already closed, sir.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Dawkins is suffering from a touch
of deafness at the moment, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Really? How?

OFFICER HUGHES
He was on the lavvy when we dived
this morning. He tipped off the
bowl and hit his head. Then the
contents of the bowl...

CAPTAIN QUINTON
That's quite enough, Hughes. I
didn't give the order to close
the doors. Who did?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
I ordered them closed, Captain.
When the first one hit.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
You did? How many doors have been
closed?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Not sure, sir. All of them, I
think?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
You think? Well find out
Falconer. Find out!

Falconer is waiting for Captain Quinton to relieve himself
of the intercom.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
May I, sir?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Be my guest.

First Office Falconer takes the intercom.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Chief Engineer. How many doors
are closed?

Crackle from the intercom again.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
All the doors to compartments one
to seven.

Captain Quinton interjects.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Ask the Chief engineer which
compartment the engine room is
in.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
I heard that. We are in
compartment five. Why's that?

The Captain takes the intercom.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
How do you propose to get to the
bridge or even the dining
quarters if you have closed the
watertight doors to both
compartments either side of you?

Violent crackle from the intercom. In between the hiss and
crackle we hear the word "Bugger" spoken in haste. The
intercom then goes dead.

CAPTAIN QUINTON (CONT'D)
Spiffing! I've been on this damn
underwater sausage for three
months and there's not one crew
member with an ounce of intellect
on board.

OFFICER HUGHES
That's a bit harsh, sir. Half the
crew would be underwater by now.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Half the crew?

OFFICER HUGHES
Yes. I'm afraid Navigating
officer Mills was in section
three. Petty officer Harrison was
paying out the card school debts.
So most of the crew were down
there.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
(to Falconer)
Did you know about this,
Falconer?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Er. Yes, sir. I'd asked Periscope
operator Fairfax to collect my
winnings.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
What about the second officer?

OFFICER HUGHES
He'll be submerged too, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Coxswain? Torpedo gunner?
Helmsman Gibbs?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Nope. All gone, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
What about ship's cook?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Private Kidd?

OFFICER HUGHES
No. He was collecting food
supplies from the supply room. He
should be alright.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Don't just stand there, man.
Summon him up here. Get him to
bring all rations.

Hughes gets on the intercom. Quinton continues...

CAPTAIN QUINTON (CONT'D)
First Officer. How much air do we
have left?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
By my calculations, considering
we only have four usable
compartments, and we are still
taking on seawater, about three
and a half hours, worth.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
(sarcastic)
Oh Good. I do like a challenge.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
(Enthusiastically)
We did get so close though, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
First Officer. Let me tell you
this... We've been trawling three
months in the Baltic Sea in a
hundered and fifty feet vessel
that resembles a hot dog sausage.
Our mission, using HMS Bagworth,

(MORE)

CAPTAIN QUINTON (CONT'D)
the oldest and least equipped submarine in the fleet, was to trace and destroy Germany's largest, fastest and most deadly battleship "The Battenberg". We barely got within five miles of the enemy, when my Navigating Officer decides to call in his debts, leaving us all to face certain death. The German's lob a few depth charges our way and now half the ship is blown to bits. We will have to try and survive on my strength and cunning alone.

The Control room door opens and PRIVATE KIDD enters, carrying a bag. Private Kidd salutes the Captain. The salute is returned.

PRIVATE KIDD
You wanted to see me, sir?

Captain Quinton looks the Private up and down.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
You're a little short for an able seaman?

PRIVATE KIDD
Er Yeah. It runs in my family.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Take your cap off, Cook.

Private Kidd removes the cap and a length of FEMALE long hair tumbles down.

CAPTAIN QUINTON (CONT'D)
Well, well. What do you know. A stowaway. How were you allowed on board?

PRIVATE KIDD
I was asked, sir. The boys didn't seem to like the last cook's cooking.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
That's right, sir. Half the men ended up chucking their tucker overboard, sir. When we broke the surface of course.

OFFICER HUGHES
So that's why we always had the seagulls following us.

CAPTAIN QUINTON

What?

OFFICER HUGHES

Well that bird mess was a bugger to get off the hull, sir.

Captain Quinton shakes his head.

CAPTAIN QUINTON

You do realise, Kidd, that women have been banned from the submarine core since 1901?

PRIVATE KIDD

Well I knew I shouldn't be here officially. I didn't realise we were banned?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER

I didn't know that either, sir??

CAPTAIN QUINTON

Falconer, not one female has graced the King's vessels for over forty years and you let one on because the lads were... Peckish? (pause) Kidd, you were getting supplies. What did you retrieve?

PRIVATE KIDD

Well, only these, sir.

Kidd passes the bag to the Captain.

CAPTAIN QUINTON

Four cans of baked beans. Is that all?

PRIVATE KIDD

I just grabbed the first thing I could.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER

At least we've got some food, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON

Have you ever eaten baked beans before, officer?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER

Why, yes. Of course, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
You will realise the problem,
then.

OFFICER HUGHES
I don't understand, sir?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Let me give you a frank appraisal
of the situation. We appear to be
currently the four surviving
members of the HMS Bagworth...

OFFICER HUGHES
Remember the engine room,
Captain.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Numskulls. Their own fault. Here
we are, trapped in a room,
seventy feet under water... The
only food we have is four tins of
baked beans. You know what
happens when you eat beans...

OFFICER HUGHES
Oh Yes. (Laughs) Gas, sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
And how many hours, worth of air
do we have, Falconer?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Um. Three hours, Twenty minutes,
sir.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Spiffing. Running out of air and
the only meal is baked beans.

OFFICER HUGHES
It is a bit of a poser, sir.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Well I'm not going to starve to
death. Kidd, hand me the tin
opener.

PRIVATE KIDD
Tin opener, sir?

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Yes. The tin opener.

PRIVATE KIDD
I haven't got a tin opener.

Captain Quinton throws the bag down.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Well that's solves the question
of whether baked beans will be
the final supper. Any
suggestions, anyone?

There is a slight pause.

OFFICER HUGHES
I spy?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Certainly not!

PRIVATE KIDD
Poker?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Hughes, if you suggest strip
poker..

The radio hisses into life. Crackles galore. Germanic
language. "Schnell... Schnell..."

Falconer checks some instruments and gauges.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
I would suggest the enemy is
directly above us.

OFFICER HUGHES
We're done for. I thought I'd get
out of this in one piece. We're
all DOOMED!

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Piffle! Absolute piffle! Pull
yourself together, man. Stiff
upper lips, all round. We're
British. We fly in the face of
danger... We...

PRIVATE KIDD
..wee back into the wind of
misfortune.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
Not quite but that's the spirit,
Kidd.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Looks like they're about to drop
another one, sir.

PRIVATE KIDD
I just have. I had a tin of those
beans earlier and all this
doesn't help.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 Terrific! Facing certain death
 with a pathetic excuse of a first
 officer, a transvestite Chef and
 a Welshman. oh well... Down with
 the ship as all great captains
 do.. Right, now. Everyone brace
 yourselves...

There is a long silent pause until the intercom cracks
 into life once more...

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
 Are you still there, sir?

Everyone looks bemused. Captain Quinton reponds.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 Dawkins? Is that you?

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
 Of course, sir. Are you alright?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 We're not gonner's yet, Dawkins.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
 Told you earlier, sir. Spurs fan.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 No. No. I thought you'd bought
 it.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
 Sorry, sir. Bad line. Well, last
 time we were in port I got some
 coasters for the wife.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 Have you gone mad, Dawkins?

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
 Sad, sir? Well I haven't seen her
 for three months.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 I thought the stern was hit.
 Ablaze.

CHIEF ENGINEER (V/O)
 I thought so too, sir. Turns out
 it was Private Stearn being a
 tit. Miscommunication I'm afraid.

CAPTAIN QUINTON
 So there's nothing wrong with the
 hull?

The radio hisses once more.

A Beat.

BRITISH COMMANDER (V/O)
Hello chaps. We're right above
you. What have you stopped for?
Jerry's going in the other
direction. What?

The Captain does not reply.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Shall I give the order, sir?

CAPTAIN QUINTON
I am surrounded by fools and
idiots!

OFFICER HUGHES
Take that as a yes.

Falconer takes the intercom.

FIRST OFFICER FALCONER
Full ahead.

The rest of the control room go about their duties normally. Captain Quinton collapses into his seat with his head in his hands.

FADE OUT