

SHARPE

That's what I'm saying! That's why we got to leave, we got to cut this here loose!

MILLER

Bill where you gonna find anything out there making even a lousy thirteen dollars a month, HUH? It may be bad but it IS food and clothes and a roof...and maybe, maybe it'll be gettin' better.

SHARPE

And maybe not, maybe it'll get worse! You know where they gonna put us -- way out in the middle of no where, far from town as they can find -- fighting them red skins cause they AIN'T gonna let no colored men 'round no white folks with guns! Am I lying!

GRAY

Amens Bill, amens.

MILLER

(Stands.)

All you saying is true, Bill. You a smart man, you ain't no fool. I don't know what's gonna happen to us if we stay in here. But I know more about THIS than I does that out there.

(Pointing to the door.)

I ain't got nothing to lose by staying here. See, I done looked at all sides and I don't expect much. In fact I "x-pects" the worst! You better get your mind right, NOW. 'Cause as long as you a colored man in this here country you gotta PROVE you got the right to live. This HERE'S where I prove it! Where YOU gonna prove it!

(The two men stare each other down. Finally, Sharpe sits down, followed by Miller.)

MILLER

Let's play some cards.

(Fade down SOLDIERS, lights up, WARD.)

WARD

Yeah, it was rough in the beginning. When they allowed us to join up in the cavalry, negroes showed up in droves. But them white officers didn't want nothing to do with it. They even approached the "boy general", George Armstrong Custer...

(Black out WARD, lights up CUSTER.)