

WARD

One day Satanka and some other chiefs slipped off and went down to Texas to stop the slaughter of the land by the homesteaders. There they fought, killed some Texans. When they came back General Sherman asked him if he knew about the raids in Texas...He said yes, they had done it. We arrested Satanka and escorted him back to Jacksboro, Texas to stand trial.

(Lights up on Satanka.)

He was sentenced to be hung but they commuted his sentenced to life. Ole Satanka rottin' away in a prison hospital, couldn't take no more, threw himself from a high window. Died.

(Lights fade down on SATANKA, black out.)

(As the lights slowly come up, we see several troopers dancing around a campfire. One is playing a fiddle while MILLER is sipping on a cup of coffee. He steps out to us and speaks.)

MILLER

We tried to have a good time...best we could. We ain't no angels...We drank, fought, was rawdy like ALL soldiers, we like the company of women. Had to have something to keep from going loco. Because of this they sometime talked bad 'bout us, like we was porch monkeys, bafoons. Shoot the white soldiers did it -- all soldiers do! Them people that talked that bad talk couldn't withstood a minute of what we withstood. Hell, during some of the hard campaigns our horses and mules would just collapse, die right under us...We never had no good boots. Hell, half of us went barefoot, soles of ya feet bleeding from the sharp rocks, sand burrs.

SHARPE

Your watch Miller.

MILLER

Yeah, alright. Our clothes would be in tatters, some of the men fought battles in nothin' but they underwear. Quartermaster sent us that junk they'd call supplies, bad rifles, bad ammo...We had to grow some vegetables keep that scurvy from killing us. Good thing most of us ain't never seen no better. Some of us ran off in the beginning, went to Mexico joined up with Indians, desperados, but now we got the lowest desertion rate in the army. Let me tell right now, for a white man, Colonel Grierson is a good man, respects us, treats us like men. He's tried to do the best he could for us, they ain't gonna let him do too much on account we colored. It's odd to see a white man treat ya that way. Some of us don't quite know how to take it. You can trust a white man that treats ya bad, that's honest. You gotta watch one that offers ya manhood.