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Chapter – The Oakfield Vein

"Is there anything else Colonel" the room filled with a slight aroma of freshly brewed coffee and lingering smoke of centurion mild cigar echoed a very deep voice.

"No General" the Colonel Travosky was standing straight like a redwood in the forest without looking General Rehmann in the eyes

"At ease my boy" General took another puff and leaned back on his chair "I am much more interested in the situation at Oakfield"

"Yes sir" Colonel related his shoulders put a red green file in-front of his "here are the details that we have gathered so far sir"

General took the file and started going through the pages and then took a deep sigh "is there anything that is different than the last report? I need something to convince the brass that we need an all out assault"

"Isn't the war itself sufficient for them to order a good assault?" The General let out a small chuckle "you need to learn a lot of the world, Colonel. There is no profit, yet, for them to issue an order"

Quite chuckle made the Colonel's blood rose to his brows "I apologise for my rudeness General, but how can you laugh at this. Dozens of our boys are dying every day because of such inaction"

General leaned forward keeping both his hands on his table "and I have seen more of my boys perish then you have yet to meet because of such

inaction, but... We cannot ignore the brass." His dagger throwing eyes went back to normal and voice became calm again "then give me a reason to tell those bastards to let us go"

Colonel thought for a few moments as if contemplating the information he has "You know General, there used to be a Gold mine about 13 kilometres north-west of Oakfield"

"And that my mine dried up almost a decade ago" general replied while sighing

"This is not set in stone but" Colonel pickup up the file and started rummaging through the pages "here, there have been surveys done and there might be a possibility of a new gold vein to be present in there."

"Are you certain?" General's eyes lite up

"As I said General, it is not yet set in stone because this information has not been made public yet. However, this can make the brass act up"

"Very well Colonel" General rose from his seat and held up the file "when we win the war, you will be working directly under me Colonel"

"That will be an Honour General" the Colonel saluted as he knew he might have just taken them one step closer to the victory.

"Has the information confirmed yet?" Major General Salazar was standing near his table looking through the spread out maps and documents

"To my knowledge, the government has yet to receive the reports" Colonel flammings was standing behind him looking over his shoulders

"And what is our ground position?"

"We are currently in a favourable in Oakfield, but it is almost a stalemate" Colonel said in a low tone

General walked around the table and sat on his chair "Colonel, what do you think about the possibility of a Gold vein?"

"It is highly unlikely, to be honest" Colonel spoke in a Frank tone "it has been dried up for the last decade and there has been no signs of significant findings. It would be suspicious to find a new vein so suddenly, and that too when the enemy is just 10 kilometres away"

Salazar leaned forward and pointed at the map "look at the map around the Oakfield" and then he started tracing a line around the area "this is most likely the area of confrontation, but have you seen something interesting"

Colonel looked at the map for a considerable amount of time, this somewhat irritated Salazar. Then he broke a loud laughter "you seriously are not seeing this?"

"No sir"

"See here" Salazar pointed at the highway connecting a southern town about 27 kilometres from Oakfield "this is town is very important in the enemy territory. If we can hold this position then We can access the enemy's highways and train lines all for free. And if we want, we can even sabotage their supply chain"

"Sir.... That is amazing" Colonel was truly amazed "I never thought something like this"

Salazar leaned back on his chair and took a deep sigh "the stalemate will be broken soon, either by us or by them. If the information about gold vein is not leaked then it will be us, otherwise them."

"I believe we should be the one launching the strike first sir." Colonel who was hovering over the map "even if the information about vein is false, we cannot let this opportunity go away"

"Then prepare the draft, we are going"

The air smelled of iron and gunpowder, and even the dark night turned into day by the blinding lights focused on two men standing on the opposite sides of barbed wire.

"How are you today, Captain?"

"I am in great shape, how about you?"

"Just fine"

The captains of the opposite sides were standing face to face talking as two old friends who met after a long time.

"Can you please ask your snipers to stop pointing at my head?"

"Only after you tell yours" both the captains started laughing and then gestured their men to lower their weapons

"How about a few drinks?"

"I would have loved to but we are not allowed on-duty. But we can have coffee"

"Oh I have heard that the coffee from southern province is delicious. Do you have that?"

"It is your lucky day Captain" the man jumped in excitement "that's the region I live in and have the best coffee for us"

"Then please"

"SERGEANT!" the Captain shouted "BRING A SITTING AND TWO CUPPA COFFEES"

A man rushed to the Captain to confirm what he had heard was correct. "Sir" the Sergeant came cautiously and stood behind him "Sir can you please repeat what you said?"

"I said bring a sitting and two cup of coffee, please"

"Sir?" Sergeant was confused

"Please don't embarrass me in front of our friend here"

"Captain" the captain said "Don't worry about it, I understand it is hard, we can have it some-other time."

"No no captain, please I insist" then Captain turned to Sergeant "Sergeant, can you please carry out the order?"

"Yes Sir" saying this Sergeant ran back and immediately brought back a few man, a table, two chairs and two cups and a thermos filled with coffee. But then how to keep the table? They started contemplating where to put down the table. No matter where they kept it, it would be like inviting the enemy into their territory. But then a genius idea came into Sergeant's mind. Then put the table one the barbed wire and chairs on the both sides. And it created a no man's table. The Sergeant was proud of his accomplishment, but Captains face was getting red and the

other Captain was laughing "it is truly amazing Captain. You have some really good men on your side"

"Thank you sir" Sergeant said instinctively to the enemy's Captain, and then went back leaving both the man as they were. They both sat down and Captain poured the coffee.

The other Captain chuckled "I wish we could have shared a drink so we could have a toast"

"Well, we can toast with the coffee"

"Yeah, that's a great idea" and both of them raised their cups

"Toast to the friendship that might end tomorrow"

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