

# The Return of The Deadly Attachment

By Niles Schilder

Based on the series by Jimmy Perry and David Croft

## SCENE 1

*Wilson is in the office reading the newspaper, Mainwaring enters.*

**Wilson:** Hello, Sir.

**Mainwaring:** Hello, Wilson, it's good news, isn't it.

**Wilson:** What is, Sir?

**Mainwaring:** They've relaxed social distancing measures for Home Guard; we no longer have to stand two meters apart.

**Wilson:** Oh, that is good news Sir, it was getting rather tiresome.

**Mainwaring:** Yes, although I like my men to set a good example to the rest of the town.

**Wilson:** Indeed, have you heard the news about the U-Boat crew?

**Mainwaring:** No, I don't think I have, what is it?

**Wilson:** Well the day after they furloughed half the guards at the prisoner of war camp, a whole U-Boat crew escaped.

**Mainwaring:** Oh dear, I don't entirely approve of the furloughing of members of the British Army. I'm sure we will be roped in to recover them.

**Wilson:** Yes, well they weren't British sir, they were Polish guards.

**Mainwaring:** Well what do they expect one load of foreigners, being guarded by another load of foreigners.

**Wilson:** Well you see Sir, they are not foreigners to them only foreigners to us. Anyway that wasn't the point I was making, I was wondering if they are the same U-Boat crew we dealt with a couple of months ago.

**Mainwaring:** I should think it would be highly unlikely; they are bound to get caught though. I mean how do they expect to get across the country during a lockdown, they would need a damn good disguise.

*Knock at the door*

**Wilson:** Come in.

**Mainwaring:** Excuse me Wilson, what makes you think you've got the authority to say to someone to 'come in', this is my office. I'll tell them to come in thank you, come in.

*Enter Jones*

**Jones:** Excuse me Sir, but there's a captain Smith with his platoon outside who wants to speak to you.

**Mainwaring:** Oh very well, Jones.

**Mainwaring:** Wilson and Jones exit into Courtyard.

## SCENE 2

*Mainwaring, Wilson and Jones enter into Courtyard, Frazer, Godfrey, Walker and Pike are all standing around Jones' van. The U-Boat captain with his crew are also there dressed as a Home Guard platoon.*

**Mainwaring:** (to **U-Boat captain**) You must be Captain Smith, how can I help you?

**U-Boat Captain:** (in thick German accent) my name is Captain Smith, myself and my platoon have been roped in to find the escaped prisoners of war, we will like to use your platoon transport.

**Mainwaring:** Oh why of course, anything to add the recovery of the prisoners.

**Wilson:** Excuse me Sir; do you think I could have a word with you in private?

**Mainwaring:** Oh yes of course, excuse me.

*Wilson speaks to Mainwaring in private.*

**Wilson:** Are you sure they are entirely British.

**Mainwaring:** Why of course, they are wearing British uniforms.

**Wilson:** Yes well the accent doesn't exactly match, does it?

**Mainwaring:** Well you don't have to be British to be on our side you know, they could be Scandinavian.

**Wilson:** Yes, but it's not only that but he is the spitting image of that U-Boat captain we dealt with a couple of months back.

**Mainwaring:** You're just paranoid because that U-Boat crew escaped from that prisoner of war camp.

**Wilson:** No, no I'm not Sir, I'm just being cautious.

*Jones approaches*

**Jones:** Permission to speak, Sir. Me and the men has had a bit of a chat and we've concluded we are suspicious of these people.

**Mainwaring:** Not you as well, Jones. Oh very well, gather all the men around and we will discuss it.

*All the men gather around. Mainwaring smiles at the U-Boat captain, and the U-Boat captain grins in return.*

**Mainwaring:** So listen hear all you men, I understand many of you have doubts about the authenticity of this platoon. We need a way to find out whether they are British or not.

**Jones:** Permission to speak Sir. Why don't I stab one of them with my bayonet, if he shouts out in German he's not British, is he.

**Mainwaring:** I think you are going into the realms of fantasy now Jones, we are not barbarians.

**Frazer:** We can ask to look at their identification papers.

**Mainwaring:** Yes, that is a good idea.

**Wilson:** But wouldn't that seem a bit rude if they do turn out to be British.

**Pike:** I don't see why we just can't ask them if they are British or not.

**Mainwaring:** Stupid Boy! If they are not British they are not going to tell us, are they?

**Walker:** Leave it to me Mr. Mainwaring, I'll show you (calling out to the U-Boat captain) Hitler is an absolute idiot!

*U-Boat Captain and crew remain silent and motionless.*

**Walker:** Well it was worth a try I suppose.

**Wilson:** Why don't we ask them some questions on their background in a roundabout sort of way, and see if we catch them out.

**Mainwaring:** Very good Wilson, I was wondering who would be the first to spot that. I will go and speak to them.

**Godfrey:** I think Sergeant Wilson should do it he's so charming and polite.

**Mainwaring:** Oh very well, off you go Wilson and don't be too boring.

*Wilson goes over to the U-boat Captain and his crew.*

**Wilson:** Hello, me and my friends were just wondering where exactly you come from, you see we can't quite place your accent.

**U-Boat Captain:** *(In thick German accent)* I come from Somerset *(turn to crew member)* isn't that right Charles old bean. I play for their cricket club.

**Wilson:** Thank you, I'll just tell them.

*Return to Platoon.*

**Mainwaring:** What did he say?

**Wilson:** Now let me see, he comes from Somerset and plays cricket.

**Mainwaring:** If he plays cricket, he must be British.

**Godfrey:** Indians play a lot of cricket to you know.

**Walker:** Does he look Indian?

**Godfrey:** No, I just thought I might say though.

**Frazer:** Anyway the Indians are on our side you silly old fool.

**Jones:** Don't you speak to Mr. Godfrey like that.

**Mainwaring:** I think we are straying from the point somewhat here men, what we need to do is...

**Pike:** Sir?

**Mainwaring:** Not now Pike, what we need to do is...

**Pike:** Sir?

**Mainwaring:** If you interrupt once more Pike, I shall send you home!

**Pike:** But sir, I know they are nor real Home Guards.

**Mainwaring:** How do you make that out?

**Pike:** Because there're pointing guns at us.

**Mainwaring, Wilson, Jones, Frazer, Walker, Godfrey and Pike** all turn around slowly to see the **U-boat Captain** and his crew pointing their guns at them, they all slowly put their hands up.

**Mainwaring:** (*whispering*) Alright Wilson pass me the gun.

**Wilson:** I don't have a gun, Sir.

**Mainwaring:** What do you mean you don't have the gun?

**Wilson:** I left it in the office.

**Mainwaring:** I distinctly told you to pick up the gun.

**Wilson:** No sir, the word gun never passed your lips.

**Mainwaring:** What is the point of having a gun, if sits there, doing nothing for months, and when you finally need it, it is in an office.

**U-Boat Captain:** So Mainwaring we meet again, remember me.

**Godfrey:** I say, I do believe they are the same U-boat crew we dealt with last time.

**U-Boat Captain:** Yes, the old man is right but this time you are my prisoners.

**Wilson:** He seems awfully cross, Sir.

**Mainwaring:** Don't panic men, I'll think of something.

**Jones:** Permission to speak sir! I'm the one who tells people not to panic, that's my job.

**Mainwaring:** Be quiet, Jones.

**U-Boat Captain:** I almost forgot (*reaching in to his pocket*) we can examine the list.

**Walker:** Oh god, not this again.

**U-Boat Captain:** You. Weedy boy, what is your name?

**Mainwaring:** Don't tell him P... Ah ha you're not going to catch me out this time. Once bitten twice shy.

**Frazer:** You're not going to trick us, you damn Kraut.

**U-Boat Captain:** Your name shall also go on the list, what is it?

**Mainwaring:** Don't tell him Frazer! Damn!

**U-Boat Captain:** I hate to leave you Captain, especially when we are having such fun but my men and I must be getting on.

**Mainwaring:** I suppose you are going to march us all down to the docks with a grenade down Jones' trousers again.

**U-Boat Captain:** No, I am going to march you all down to the docks with a grenade down your trousers.

**Mainwaring:** WHAT!

**U-Boat Captain:** If I remember rightly that is what you wanted when I put it down that silly old fool's trouser last time.

**Frazer:** He is right, I was there.

**Mainwaring:** Don't encourage him, Frazer.

**U-Boat Captain:** Just like last time, one false move and I pull the string.

**Frazer:** What a terrible way to die, but it's quicker than the Virus.

**Pike:** Yes, but your much more likely to die with a grenade down your trousers.

**U-Boat Captain:** Once we reach the docks we will hijack a fishing boat and sail to France, and when we get there we can examine the list.

**Mainwaring:** You are forgetting one thing; you also forgot it last time if I remember correctly. The Royal Navy, you'll be blown out the water before you get anywhere near France.

**U-Boat Captain:** That would usually be so Captain, but The Royal Navy has been furloughed and all sent home. So to the docks!

### **SCENE 3**

*Both genuine Home Guard platoon and the U-Boat crew are marching down Walmington-on-Sea High Street, the grenade is down **Mainwaring's** trousers and the string which is attached to the grenade is being held by the **U-Boat Captain**. **Mainwaring** turns to whisper to **Wilson** as they march.*

**Mainwaring:** I trust like before there is a dummy detonator in the grenade.

**Wilson:** Oh no, Sir.

**Mainwaring:** What!

**Wilson:** Well, you see last time you were so cross I put dummy detonators in, I thought I better do it properly this time.

**Mainwaring:** But this time the grenade is down my trousers.

**Wilson:** Yes, you see having a German U-Boat Captain put a grenade down someone's trousers is not something you expect to happen more than once. So I thought we were safe.

**Mainwaring:** Yes, but we're not safe are we?

*Attention moves to **Pike and Wilson.***

**Pike:** Uncle Arthur.

**Wilson:** Yes, what is it Frank?

**Pike:** I don't think you should have told Mr. Mainwaring that it's a real grenade down his trousers. He might get cross.

*Attention moves to **Walker, Godfrey and Frazer***

**Walker:** Err, I don't like the look of that U-Boat Captain.

**Godfrey:** In what way?

**Walker:** He doesn't look very well; he's going a funny colour, a bit green maybe.

**Godfrey:** He does have quite a vacant expression.

***U-Boat Captain coughs***

**Frazer:** Did you see that. He gave a little cough.

**Godfrey:** What's so significant about that?

**Frazer:** Aye it's one of the symptoms of Covid-19....he's doomed, doomed.

**U-Boat Captain:** Halt... (*Letting go of the string*).

*All the men stop and gather around the **U-Boat Captain**.*

**Mainwaring:** What's the matter with him?

**U-Boat Captain:** (*groaning*) I don't feel well.

**Walker:** Well it weren't those soggy chips 'cos you didn't make him eat them this time.

**Wilson:** You better have a look at him Godfrey.

**Mainwaring:** Godfrey get back, this man's dangerous, he's obviously faking it.

**U-Boat Captain:** I feel so ill.

**Pike:** I think he's really telling the truth this time Mainwaring.

**Mainwaring:** Nonsense, boy.

***U-Boat Captain** makes horrible wailing sound then passes out.*

**Walker:** Blimey he really is ill.

**Mainwaring:** Good Lord, we better get him to a doctor quickly.

#### **SCENE 4**

*It is the next day in **Mainwaring's** office at the Bank. Both **Mainwaring** and **Wilson** are present; **Mainwaring** is on the telephone to the **Colonel**.*

**Mainwaring:** So what exactly was wrong with him?

**Colonel:** (*on the other end of the telephone*) He tested positive for the Coronavirus shortly after you got him to the doctor. Last night he was moved to a critical ward.

**Mainwaring:** Oh dear very nasty, very nasty indeed.

**Colonel:** Well Mainwaring, well done for capturing them, I'll keep you informed of his progress. Cheerio.

***Mainwaring** puts the receiver down.*

**Wilson:** Was it?

**Mainwaring:** Yes, Coronavirus.

**Wilson:** It just goes to show anybody can get it, even somebody who only a few moments before held so much power.

**Mainwaring:** Yes indeed, it affects the enemy just the same as it affects us.

**Wilson:** Sir, I've just had a thought, we've all been in contact with him.

**Mainwaring:** Good God, I could have it!

**Wilson:** I'll book you a test in the morning, Sir.