

THE HORSE SNORTS AND ITS HOOVES SLOW TO A STOP.
JOSELITO DISMOUNTS AND WALKS THROUGH THE CAMP.
THE HORSE SNORTS BEHIND HIM AS HE LEADS IT BY
THE REINS.

006 SOLDIERS
(overlapping)
Pass me that oil. / Saw movement on
the ridge this morning. / Mashed
potatoes? Always mashed potatoes...
/ Heard the federales are moving
south...

JOSELITO KEEPS WALKING, SCANNING THE CAMP.

007 JOSELITO
(to himself)
I must find Macario and Miguel.

SUDDENLY, A SOLDIER STOPS JOSELITO.

START >>>

008 **LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ**
Halt! What are you doing here, boy?

JOSELITO STOPS.

009 JOSELITO
I am -

MIGUEL AND MACARIO APPROACH JOSELITO AND
LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ.

010 MIGUEL
(disbelieving)
José?

011 MACARIO
¡Dios mío! Did something happen at
the ranch? Is *Mamá* alright?

012 **LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ**
Macario, Miguel, settle down. Do
you know this boy?

013 MACARIO
Yes, Lieutenant Ramírez. He's our
brother.

014 MIGUEL
But he's leaving soon!

015 JOSELITO
I am not going anywhere. I have a
letter! From General Mendoza.

016 MIGUEL

What?

JOSELITO HANDS THE LETTER OVER. LIEUTENANT
RAMÍREZ TAKES IT.

017 **LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ**

(reading)

To the officers of the Cristero
Army. I, General Mendoza, hereby
accept José Sánchez del Río. He is
to be given duties as seen fit for
the cause of Christ the King.

018 MACARIO

What? He's fourteen!

019 MIGUEL

Lieutenant, please. He has no
business being here!

020 MACARIO

José, you turn that horse around
and go home before -

021 JOSELITO

I am not going. The General said I
could stay. Besides, I don't come
to fight. I come to serve.

022 MIGUEL

Maybe the bull hit him in the
head...

023 JOSELITO

You heard me. I won't be carrying a
rifle. I'll be helping you. All of
you.

024 **LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ**

The General said he will serve in
non-combat capacity, effective
immediately.

025 JOSELITO

Now, where is the kitchen? And
where do you keep the water
barrels?

026 MIGUEL

But Lieutenant -

027 **LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ**

Back to your posts. José, report to the supply tent and help the cook.

◀◀ END

THE LIEUTEANT WALKS AWAY.

028 JOSELITO

Sí, Lieutenant!

JOSELITO TURNS AND WALKS AWAY.

029 MACARIO

(calling out)

José! We're not finished talking! Come back here!

030 JOSELITO

(calling out)

We'll talk later. I'm here to serve. The General said immediately. So I'm starting immediately.

DETERMINED MUSIC SWELLS.

6

EXT. CRISTEROS' CAMP - NIGHT

6

CRACKLE OF A DYING CAMPFIRE AND THE OCCASIONAL DISTANT HOWL OF A COYOTE. NEAR THE MEDICAL AREA SOMEONE IS GROANING IN PAIN.

031 WOUNDED SOLDIER

Ah... It hurts...

032 MEDIC

Someone get me clean bandages -

033 JOSELITO

I can help.

034 MEDIC

You? You're a child -

035 JOSELITO

M-My age doesn't matter. Tell me what to do.

036 MEDIC

Fine. Hold his shoulder steady. I have to peel this old cloth back. It's stuck to the skin.

037 JOSELITO

Like this?