

THE GREAT EMU



WAR

by

Nole Balaniz and Zach Chaloux

Michael Chaloux
Your Address
Your phone number
Your e-mail address

FADE IN: EXT. AUSTRALIAN DESERT- DAWN

A sorrowful and barren violin track begins to slowly play as we see the beautiful but unforgiving deserts of Queensland.

the only thing heard under the violin is the wind from the desert. After a few moments this is finally broken by the deep but still dry voice of the NARRATOR, who sounds eerily like Ken Burns.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

'No new days sun is ever seen by those cursed with the unending burden of war.' - Wayne Gretzky

FADE TO: PHOTO OF AN AUSTRALIAN CITY POST INDUSTRY, BUT IT'S UP IN FLAMES

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The war raged on for the better half of a year. Starting off with a gruesome battle in 1932. Following the orders of General George Pierce, who sent out the first infantry of men on what would unknowingly become the dumbest war anyone could ever imagine. And surprisingly, it wasn't because of America.

FADE TO: OLD QUALITY PHOTO OF A BATTLE FEILD OF EMUS WHICH LAY DEAD

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The following battles and ambushes of the war read like a Shakespearian play. So many twists and turns, met with the rising stakes of some of history's best propaganda.

PHOTO OF MAN POSING WITH DEAD EMU

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What started as an honest attempt to control a birds population turned into a legitimate military war which mobilized an entire country.

FADE TO: PHOTO OF GENERAL GEORGE PEIRCE

Violin continues. The photo was taken in 1930, and the quality reflects that.

GEORGE PIERCE is in his 40s, with a real douchebag 'I'm better than you' look to him. He dresses in normal general garb, and looks pretty standard everywhere except for his frosted tips.

GEORGE PIERCE (V.O.)

Was it the first war the world had ever seen that was against only birds? Yes, I believe still to this day. Did it get a little out of hand? of course, what war doesn't? But at the beginning, it was just about one thing: killing emus.

BLACK: BASED ON REAL EVENTS.

SUPER: THE GREAT EMU WAR

FADE IN: DRY FARMLAND- MID AFTERNOON

The footprint of what appears to be a giant three taloned monster is the first image seen, it looks larger than life and dangerous. Its printed into hardened sand, a weird mix between yellow desert sand and brown soil. No vegetation is seen around the foot print.

After a few moments, it steps down again to fill in the print, but instead of a monster it reveals itself as just a little four foot tall blue bird... an emu.

The harmless emu stands on an otherwise empty farm, on the surrounding horizon are nothing but plateaus and desert dunes. Next to the farmland lies, sensibly, the farmhouse, which is small and conservative. Easily 20 or so years old.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLATEAU TOP- CONTINUOUS

PERCY FAWCETT, 19 years old, wears your typical post WW1 military uniform, accompanied with binoculars and a long rifle, carefully aims it at the head of the emu.

TITLE: Queensland, 1932

After a few moments of expertly aiming his shot and focusing, he fires only to miss the emu by a laughable distance. The emu barely turns its head.

R.C. ANDREWS (O.C.)
 Good work, dipshit.

It is revealed that there are two more people on top of the plateau, each on one side of Percy. The voice is coming from R.C. ANDREWS, who wears an in period explorers hat with medic garb to match. His accent is distinctly American. The other stands holding a camera set, JAY HUNT, who shoots Percy with his film camera while Percy shoots at the bird.

R.C. ANDREWS (CONT'D)
 If we were at war with the dirt
 we'd be winning.

JAY HUNT
 I thought you did great, but we
 are supposed to be killing the
 bird.

These insults each hit Percy hard. The other boys laugh. Jay puts down his camera. His accent matches RC's.

JAY HUNT (CONT'D)
 I'm not gonna get anything, am I?

R.C. ANDREWS
 Hey fine by me, this war is cruel
 and abusive, and it sucks and its
 dumb.

PERCY ignores them and keeps aiming, shooting, and missing the emu while they ignore him.

JAY HUNT
 Yeah if we were at real war I
 might actually be able to shoot
 cool stuff.

R.C. ANDREWS
 Or be able to save people and show
 them war is cruel and abusive.

JAY HUNT
 Shut up, medic.

PERCY FAWCETT
 (still focused)
 Yeah shut up medic.

R.C. ANDREWS
 Maybe it's in my nature.

He takes a swig from a flask, then passes it to Jay.

R.C. ANDREWS
But at least I get to hang out
with you guys.

JAY HUNT
Here here.

R.C. ANDREWS
You think we'll be friends when we
get back?

Percy is still focused on shooting.

PERCY FAWCETT
Eh, I'll be too busy getting paid
for being the worlds greatest war
hero.

R.C. ANDREWS
Percy, you've killed as many birds
as I have, I wouldn't be talking.

PERCY FAWCETT
(trash talk)
Oh yeah? Watch this.

Jay holds up his camera and gets excited. Percy fires and
misses. Jay puts everything back down.

JAY HUNT
Yeah that's about right.

Percy drops his head in silence for a few seconds.

R.C. ANDREWS
Keep shooting bozo, as long as
you're here, the birds are safe.

Percy quietly starts to sniff. Jay squints in confusion.

JAY HUNT
Percy are you (a beat) crying?

Percy snaps, turns and stands up over the boys in anger,
mascara slightly smearing.

This also conveniently blocks the sun and shades Jay.

JAY HUNT
(to himself)
Oh nice.

R.C. ANDREWS
Is that mascara?

PERCY FAWCETT

No, yeah, maybe, a little bit.
That doesn't matter. We're here to
do a job. You guys need to stay
focused. There's a reason America
deployed us here, and we owe it to
our country to win this war in not
only the name of Australia, but
America.

R.C. ANDREWS

Listen if an emu is able to injure
you I will gladly tend to your
wounds.

JAY HUNT

and some platoon, there were only
three of us deployed.

PERCY FAWCETT

Well on the list of American
priorities this is pretty low,
with the depression and
everything. But Australia has
always helped us so we gave them
what we could. That's the American
way.

Inspiring music starts playing.

PERCY FAWCETT

So yeah, maybe I am tearing up a
little bit. Maybe I just love my
country too much. But that's never
been a bad thing. But if we can
win this war, for our allies and
our homeland, well (waits to build
momentum, none is built) we'll go
back heroes.

Jay and RC groan.

R.C. ANDREWS

This again.

JAY HUNT

The stupid war hero thing, how
about you kill one emu first and
give me something to show General
Pierce.

PERCY FAWCETT

Gladly.

He sits back down to his gun, putting the sun back on Jay.

JAY HUNT

Wait no no no no wait I want to
hear more stand back up.

R.C. ANDREWS

You people are monsters.

Percy starts to aim.

PERCY FAWCETT

If you saw the devastation they
have been doing to the farmlands
here you'd get it.

JAY HUNT

Percy we just got here.

PERCY FAWCETT

(trapped)
Yeah... well... I heard about it
so...

He sits in silence for a few beats, then starts to quietly
chant to himself.

PERCY FAWCETT

(whispering)
Birds suck, birds suck, birds suck
birds suck, birds suck.

He fires, the emu lets out a gobble as it finally explodes.

He jumps up in over-excitement.

PERCY FAWCETT

Wahoo! That's what I am talking
about baybeee.

He looks to Jay. Jay nods.

PERCY FAWCETT

Sweet.

JAY HUNT

So do we head back to base?

PERCY FAWCETT

Base? We have to go say you're
welcome for saving this guys farm.

R.C. ANDREWS

Are you serious?

PERCY FAWCETT
Yeah, I have to get credit
somehow.

R.C. ANDREWS
You are such a prick.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE DOOR- MOMENTS LATER

An old Australian farmer opens the door, tough as nails,
and. Looks perplexed at an enthusiastic Percy.

In the background, RC stands over the carcass and moves Jay
over to shoot him saying something unknown.

AUSTRALIAN FARMER
What the fuck do ya want dickhead?

Percy is unmoved and maintains his excitement. He is about
to speak when a high pitched voice is heard from inside the
house, he patiently stops and waits.

An 8 year old Australian kid who's dressed very similarly
to the elderly man opens the door.

AUSTRALIAN BOY
Who the hell are you, dickhead?

PERCY FAWCETT
Well, sir, I am glad and excited
to tell you I have vanquished the
beast in your yard.

He motions to the carcass in the field.

AUSTRALIAN FARMER
Why is there a bloody carcass on
my farm?

AUSTRALIAN BOY
Ya see we were just inside eatin
popsicles I was having a good
time. He was having a good time.

He motions up to his granddad. Percy starts to grow
worried.

AUSTRALIAN BOY
Spending quality time together,
which is important.
(MORE)

AUSTRALIAN BOY (CONT'D)
 He was teaching me values, and we
 come out here and find someone who
 thinks he's the queen of fookin
 England.

AUSTRALIAN FARMER
 You destroyed our field, you
 buffoon. I outta

PERCY FAWCETT
 -Well actually Australia-

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM- CONTINUOUS

JAY'S CAMERA PERSPECTIVE

RC stands on camera over the carcass.

R.C. ANDREWS
 As you can see here, the emu has
 been shot, brought to death.
 Executed. for destroying a little
 bit of crops.

BEHIND them, Percy slowly starts to back up as his argument
 escalates.

JAY HUNT (O.C.)
 Why am I doing this?

R.C. ANDREWS
 These are trying times for the
 people of Australia, but was the
 life of this emu really worth what
 we gained? A little bit of
 farmland. Think about that people.

A crate gets thrown and absolutely bodies Percy in the
 background and he falls to the dirt. The little boy exits
 the house with a bottle and brings it down over his head
 and shatters it on Percy's back.

The boy then runs out of the background and towards RC, he
 carries another bottle. As soon as he jumps up to RC's
 level and makes contact-

CUT ON A FILM REEL.

