STATIC

Treatment, 03-May-2022 William R. Murray

LOGLINE

The Rules of Engagement are changing, and when Viper Company is attacked by someone or something hungry for flesh, all our lone Radio Operator can do is listen.

CHARACTERS

Leo - As Viper Company's Radio Operator, he is the point of contact between Vigil (HQ) and the other platoons in Viper. Locked up in a cramped teacher's office, he monitors his friends in the other platoons as they travel across a desolated city to reconstitute their company.

TJ - Leo's friend and a rifleman in Viper, TJ's hours spent on watch have driven him to his wit's end.

Radio - A SINCGAR, a military Radio that allows Leo to communicate with HQ (Vigil), The other companies in their Battalion (Apollo, Badger, & Hound), and the other platoons in Viper (Viper-Two & Viper-Three). Like real-life, callsigns are used to confirm who's talking, as identifying voices over a single channel radio is difficult.

SYNOPSIS

Chicago is in the grips of a mysterious pandemic. Military units have been brought in to secure various hospitals and temporary clinics. Viper Company has recalled its platoons, and as they step off to make the dangerous journey, things worsen. TJ tells Leo that his Sargent got bit yesterday and suddenly fell ill this morning. When the other companies prepare for their mandatory check-ins, Vigil releases new orders changing the ROE (Rules of Engagement). Apollo mutinies rather than accept the new ROEs, and Vigil confines Viper to their company net in response to this.

Viper-Three reports contact, and through their position reports, Leo realizes that the platoon is on the run. Viper-Two tries to avoid the various "riots" that seem to fill the streets, to no avail. Viper-Three reports FPF (Final Protective Fire), a desperate attempt to avoid being overrun. Leo contacts Vigil to get them aid with no success. TJ's squad opens fire at something out front, and TJ rushes off to help them. Viper-Three stops responding, and Viper-Two soon follows. In his final communication, Rick, Viper-Two's radio operator, tells Leo that his platoon has been wiped out.

Leo sits there in shock, only accompanied by the static of the dead channel. Suddenly, there's a knock at the door. A twisted human figure stands outside and doesn't answer when Leo calls his name; the only sound is STATIC.