

A. The Execution of Kurt Steiner

text: Neil Chapman

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scene 08 Four sticks and a tarpaulin. When we say ‘sticks’ we mean poles, like tent-poles, but of the old kind disassembled for storage and transport. By ‘tarpaulin’ we mean green, not canvas but a plastic weave, waterproof all the same. Such fabrics are noisy. The wind looses their cacophony; rain is amplified making it all the more surprising to see it used here – unless of course the weather has been anticipated to be part of the composition. Our performer works intensely. Meanwhile a steady trickle of water finds its way over the edge of the tarpaulin from a reservoir collecting there, which will have to be attended to soon. When a convenient moment presents itself the maybe tarpaulin will be prodded from below. Even if the water is expected to go the other way a warning will be issued to those nearby since bodies of water liberated from canopies are known to be unpredictable.

CHINESE WHISPERS

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