

Commander Shears, an American prisoner-of-war being forced to work on the Burma Railway for the Japanese. He's cynical and looks out for his own interest.

Colonel Nicholson, a British officer who was ordered to surrender his battalion to the Japanese. He's idealistic and principled. (Do you recognize the actor from the original *Star Wars* movie?)

Major Clipton, the doctor in Colonel Nicholson's battalion.

Colonel Saito, the Japanese commander of the prisoner-of-war camp. He is responsible for completing a critical bridge on the railroad.

Major Warden, the British leader of a commando team. Before the war he was a professor at Cambridge.

Lieutenant Joyce, a young Canadian on the commando team.

Chapman, another member of the commando team.