

Ex Oblivione

A Delta Green operation by Dennis Detwiler, © 2019

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Introduction

The town is small. It huddles in low arroyos and pits among the yucca of the Arizona desert. It's not near anything, anymore, but once it stood next to Naval Medicine Annex Yuma. The people who worked in the annex lived in the town. The janitors and clerks and doctors called the town their home, and for two decades the town blossomed.

That flower has faded. The annex is closed. The highway bypassed the town. Still, manages to hang on. Six hundred and thirty-six people call the town their home, working for its lone enterprise: Marine Corps Publications.

Black flattop, dirt roads, sun devils, and emptiness wait for them, each and every day.

Few ever leave.

Something evil has stirred and holds them in check. It once lived in a tank at the Naval Medicine Annex. Now it haunts the area like the thin clouds which cover the sky each morning, turning the sun

blood red. Sometimes, it is thick and choking. Other times, it's a skein so barely there that you might forget it exists at all.

The evil came early and settled in as the years went on. Fly Field became Yuma Army Airfield, then Yuma County Airport, then Vincent Air Force Base, then Yuma Air Force Station, and then Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. Only a few kilometers away, the Naval Medicine Annex closed but the town built for it remained. Evil seeped into the bones of every resident of the town and the fabric of every child born there.

It's still there, and to the locals (although they don't know it), it's *familiar*. The evil has a place in the minds of the town. It squats and watches and sometimes makes them do things. Horrible things.

It punishes them. It punishes them for the ways it was punished in those tanks at the annex.

After all, no one is innocent. They have many crimes to atone for, out there in the dust.



Overview

Mustang is a small town founded in 1930 in southwestern Arizona. It is 1.1 kilometers east of Yuma and 1.2 kilometers southwest of Naval Medicine Annex Yuma, long abandoned and reclaimed by the desert. Mustang once housed the workers employed at the annex and their families. Many who live in the town are the children or grandchildren of people who worked at the annex before it closed in 1947. From 1929 to 1947, this annex held a highly classified assembly of prisoners, most captured in an odd raid in the town of Innsmouth, Massachusetts, in 1928.

When the annex closed, many believed that might be the end of Mustang. But the answer to that problem had arrived quietly during the war, along with so many other things.

Since 1945, the principal industry of the town has been Marine Corps Publications, Inc. This company prints periodicals, advertising and mailer inserts for the United States Marine Corps. Nearly everyone in town is, now, one way or another, connected to the company. Some work low-pay jobs at the outskirts of Yuma, others at Arizona Western College; but few escape the pull of Mustang. It keeps locals close in a subtle way that no one really even notices.

As the locals say, it's the prettiest little piece of nowhere in the state.

The Murders and the Message

On June 2nd, Private Homer Ryan, a 21-year old Marine stationed as a clerk at the Marine Corps Air Station, returned to the home of his fiancée and his future in-laws in the Desert Sunrise Estates on the outskirts of Yuma, Arizona. He had picked up take-out for Cierra Abril, his teenage wife-to-be, after his shift in the air controller's office. His car was seen on three traffic cameras as it headed for 771 Palma Avenue. He had lived in the Abril house for more than a year and helped take care of his and Cierra's five-month-old daughter.

Yuma police believe Ryan entered the house at approximately 8:41 P.M., was ambushed by multiple

parties unknown, and was killed later after a prolonged struggle.

On June 4th, two employees from DEPCOR Carpet Cleaning—who had been booked the previous week to clean the home—discovered the door to the house ajar. After knocking, the cleaners were momentarily startled when two coyotes fled the scene, running across the road into the open desert.

Inside the home, the workers discovered six bodies—three women, two men, and an infant—who had been ritualistically murdered. The bodies had been gnawed on by the coyotes. The police were immediately alerted and for four days, the Yuma Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit descended on the house, cataloging every detail. In the end, although the police wouldn't say so, few real leads were found.

The victims, who all lived in the home, were identified as:

- » **DANIEL W. ABRIL:** Father, owner of the home, age 45
- » **SANDRA S. ABRIL:** Mother, married to Daniel Abril, age 46
- » **GRACE W. WRIGHT:** Mother of Sandra Abril, age 66
- » **CIERRA ABRIL:** Daughter of Daniel and Sandra Abril, age 17
- » **PVT. HOMER L. RYAN:** Fiancé of Cierra Abril, age 21
- » **BETH RYAN:** Daughter of Homer Ryan and Cierra Abril, age 5 months

All the victims were stabbed at least 60 times each, leaving the rooms of the house blanketed in blood. The lips, eyelids and ears of the victims had been removed. Strange, striated marks were carved into their limbs post-mortem. More than one detective noted the "occult" nature of the markings, signs and names.

Carved into the drywall of the living room were the words:

**HOME DAGON HOME HOME YHANTHLEI
SEA TO THE SEA**

Some religious members of the Yuma police pointed out that Dagon was a fish-tailed god of fertility or agriculture noted in the Bible as worshipped by

the Philistines. No one could make anything else out of the message.

There were no credible witnesses, no clues and no leads to speak of. The crime hit the wire to police departments in the state. Yuma police are looking for a hypothetical drifter or gang who saw an opportunity and took it. Nothing else makes sense.

That is where Delta Green became involved.

The Truth

A huge task force of Treasury agents, Marines, and Navy and Coast Guard vessels raided the crumbling town of Innsmouth, Massachusetts on 23 FEB 1928. Two hundred and nine humans who had interbred with things from the ocean were permanently seized by the federal government, and made to disappear into various Navy facilities.

Soon, the Navy realized their mistake in spreading the infection of Innsmouth around. Problems were immediate in the facilities into which these prisoners were moved. Murders, insanity, and escape attempts invariably broke out within days of their arrival.

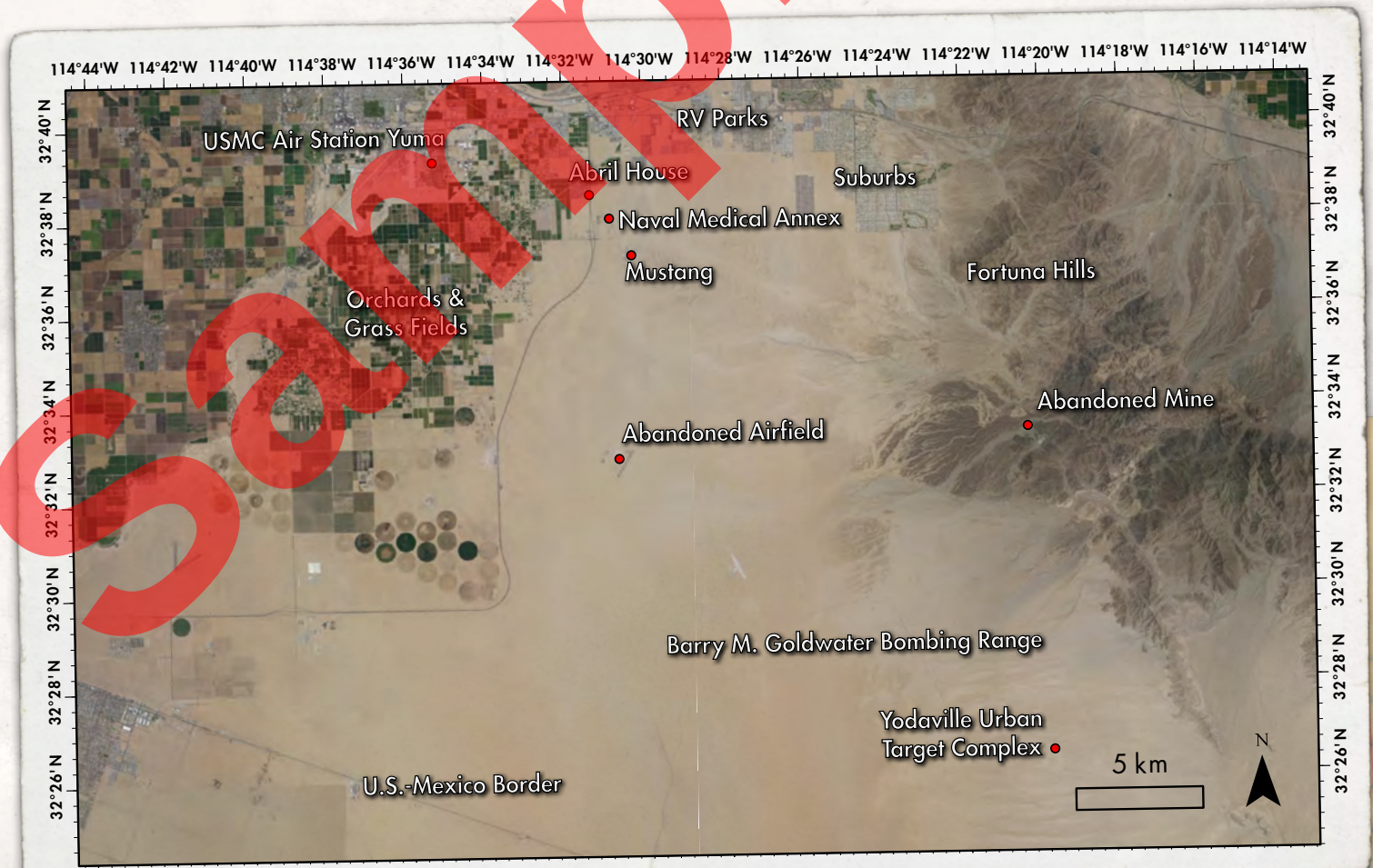
On 29 DEC 1929, the Navy consolidated all these prisoners at a newly purchased patch of land in Arizona: Fly Field. Called YUMA YUCCA LOT II in survey reports, it was sometimes called by its nickname: YY-II.

The Prisoners

Fly Field was a proposed refueling point for inland flights of the Navy's Akron-class rigid airships, but doubts about that style of aircraft left it little more than a ramshackle assemblage of tin shacks in the middle of nowhere.

This environment, the lack of significant nearby population centers (at the time), and its isolation from the ocean made it a perfect place to keep the strange prisoners secured at Innsmouth. The prisoners loathed high temperatures and could stand the sun for only minutes a day. Escape was all but impossible.

At first, the prisoners were housed in a tin aircraft hangar surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire. It grew into a concentration camp. In 1930, Office of Naval Intelligence's little-known P4 Desk—from



Parapsychology, Paranormal, and Psychic Phenomena—was tasked with dealing with the threat of the Innsmouth hybrids, the so-called “Deep Ones.” P4, a precursor to Delta Green, built Naval Medicine Annex Yuma outside town to hold the prisoners.

In the Annex

In the Naval Medicine Annex, the creatures were subjected to the best tests 1930s science had to offer. Navy scientists performed full-blown biological examination and, later, experimentation on the Deep Ones. They tested the limits of Deep One anatomy, going so far as to expose them to diseases, chemical agents, and weapons testing. Finally, in 1936, nine live vivisections were performed to study just what made a “Deep One” tick. What they found was disturbing. Some of their test-subjects were human. Some were something else. Most were somewhere in between.

One prisoner, Albert L. Marsh, considered a leader, was subjected to psychological testing. He was deprived of food and water, kept awake for prolonged periods, and endlessly questioned, over and over again, while subjected to electrical shocks. Researchers determined that Marsh and his family (most of whom were killed in the raid) had been the backbone

of the Innsmouth community, running something approaching a religion that they called the Esoteric Order of Dagon.

As the years went on, the prisoners degraded. First they descended into madness, begging for “the ocean and home.” Later, they entered a torpor. When they were placed in salt water tanks, their degeneration seemed to slow or even halt.

By 1937, all the remaining subjects had fallen into a torpor and were stored, somehow alive but in a stasis, in salt water tanks. Then, on 25 APR 1938, came the only escape the facility ever suffered. During the normal morning count, one prisoner was found missing from its sealed tank.

Albert L. Marsh was gone, missing from a tank bolted from the outside with unbroken five-inch glass windows. This prisoner was never found.

Marsh's Revenge

What was unknown was that Marsh, who was 144 years old when he was captured, was an accomplished sorcerer. Marsh had enacted a plan to escape using hypergeometric principles, destroying his body in the process. He still lives, after a manner. He manifests as a presence that, from time to time, can enact its



Alternate Dates

The key date in this scenario is June 21st, the day of the summer solstice. In the years 2016, 2020, and 2024, the summer solstice occurs instead on June 20th.

will on the minds of humans and animals in the area. Sometimes, due to forces beyond this world, Marsh's mind is coherent and powerful, just as other times it is dim and vague.

Over the years, Marsh has tried to enact his revenge on those who worked at the Naval Medicine Annex, rising up and seizing control of people. Often, it oveds and feeds its rage without ever knowing why. It causes random, bizarre crimes that almost defy description, such as the murders at the Abril home. That might be called Marsh's equivalent of a pleasant dream.

In the recent years, though it does not know why, the power and coherence of Marsh's presence has grown, year upon year. Now, it has seized much of the town of Mustang. It has begun to act out its fantasies of revenge. The tables have turned, and it is Marsh's turn to push humans to their limits for its endless, immortal entertainment.

But recently, the fuzziness has crept in once more, and the spirit of Marsh fears that oblivion awaits; and who knows for how long? Perhaps forever. It must act more swiftly. It must end the blight of Mustang, Arizona, in a great conflagration of sufficient potency to stir the spirit of its inhuman master, the ancient entity called Dagon.

On June 21st—the summer solstice—Mustang will burn in one final day of terror.

Operational Structure

Ex Oblivione is an operation designed to put the Agents in a worst-case situation: being attacked by an entire town of normal people. But it begins as a normal Delta Green mystery, luring and drawing the Agents in, seemingly pointing towards some standard unnatural threat. Only when the trail leads to

Mustang do things take a deadly turn. This operation is composed of the following steps:

1. **ARRIVAL:** The Agents arrive in Yuma, Arizona, and investigate the deaths at the Abril house.
2. **THE MURDERS:** The Agents search the home, read reports, dig into the past of the area, and talk to living witnesses. This likely reveals the children's footprints, the bike tracks or the sighting of the kids on bikes. That leads to the Naval Medicine Annex in the desert.
3. **THE DESERT RUINS:** The Naval Medicine Annex once held the Deep One prisoners from Innsmouth. Now it is smashed windows and fractured, sand-eaten concrete. But children from Mustang, Arizona, under the influence of the Marsh spirit, often visit it. The Agents might ping their contacts for more information on the facility, and could find out about Deep Ones and Innsmouth.
4. **DETECTION BY MARSH:** One of the Agents is psychically invaded by the Marsh spirit, which uncovers every single piece of information in that Agents' mind: every secret, loved one, and piece of history about Delta Green and the Agent's relationship to it. Marsh becomes obsessed with the Agents as a focus for revenge.
5. **WELCOME TO MUSTANG:** The Marsh spirit draws the Agents to Mustang through various means. Once they are there...
6. **THE RITUAL:** Approximately half the townfolk who are under Marsh's control become violent, and begin enacting a ritual to Dagon. This involves fire, explosions, torture, and lots of murder. The town turns on itself in an orgy of violence, depravity, and death, with the Agents as the guests of honor.

Delta Green Arrives

It doesn't take long for the words DAGON and YHANTHLEI to trigger interest from Delta Green. Whether the Program or the Outlaws respond remains up to the Handler.