

**The Postman** Beat Analysis for LT. Pryer Act 1 Scene 1  
Stage manager Manny Aponte

2.

**ACT I**

**SCENE 1**

*A dreary hollow is dug in the side of a trench. Inside is minimal harboring a chair and a small wooden table. LT. PRYER sits at the table looking at a letter. He has sent for SGT. MILLS.*

SGT. MILLS (O.S)  
Sergeant Mills reporting sir.

LT. PRYER  
/Yes. Come in sergeant. (welcoming, signaling SGT. MILLS to enter)  
MILLS enters. He stands at attention.  
PRYER turns.

LT. PRYER  
/How are the men shaping up? (Curious, Concerned about the men)

SGT. MILLS  
Nicely sir.

LT. PRYER  
/Good. Good. Listen, oh you can stand at ease. (relaxed,  
MILLS does just that.

LT. PRYER  
/I will not be doing an inspection this morning. (Reluctant, combative with MILLS)  
MILLS is thrown back.

LT. PRYER  
/I thought an extra hours kip will do the men good. (Empathetic)  
Battalion have sent word to get the chaps ready.

SGT. MILLS  
Ready sir?

LT. PRYER  
/For an attack Sergeant (Doubtful). I thought an inspection would be unnecessary / (disapproves, argumentative with MILLS). I don't want to add more pressure before we go over the top. / (Concerned, voices concern for the men)

SGT. MILLS  
Yes sir.

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*PRYER stands. Posture up right.*

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LT. PRYER

After seven days of waiting an artillery barrage is to begin, this will occur within the hour. They will cease firing at midnight and then continue once more at 0 seven hundred. This should give us complete advantage for when we charge/(Confident, convinces mills with a confident tone).

SGT. MILLS

Permission to speak sir?

LT. PRYER

Granted.

SGT. MILLS

What time are we to attack?

LT. PRYER

After breakfast, at 0 eight hundred hours.

SGT. MILLS

But sir, that's the middle of the bloody day. We will be sending these boys out to slaughter. Most of the men don't even have all their equipment.

LT. PRYER

It will be alright sergeant, don't be so negative/(Convincing).  
There will not be a single fritz left alive after the bombardment./(Bold, demonstrates extreme belief)

*MILLS holds his tongue. Frustrated.*

LT. PRYER

Now, I will be suggesting to battalion that before the attack a hot meal away from the front wouldn't go a miss/(Suggestive, demonstrate comradery with Mills). I have no doubt that they will accept such a request. I think they would see it as a morale booster.  
*MILLS nods along.*

LT. PRYER

I will arrange for support to come in and temporarily

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take our positions, what would you say sergeant?

SGT. MILLS

A hot meal would do the lads good sir.

LT. PRYER

I was thinking something along the lines of shepherds pie?

SGT. MILLS

Shepherds pie would be fine sir.

4.

LT. PRYER

Very well, let the men know to arrive at the mess facility by seventeen hundred hours.

SGT. MILLS

Of course Sir.

LT. PRYER

Oh and please resist the urge on telling the men we are going over. I would like to address the men myself, lead by example and so forth. /Controlling, aims to be the leader of men)

SGT. MILLS

That you will sir.

LT. PRYER

Thank you sergeant, that will be all. / (Thankful, intention to leave)

*MILLS salutes, then leaves.*

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