

Mudford Smugglers' Run Audio Trail Transcript

10. THE GREAT RUN SUCCESS TURNS TO DISASTER

[Sound of sea etc.]

HANNAH I was sweeping out the Haven House Inn when it happened. Mother Seller sees everything. First the two Revenue Cutters, then the sloop of-war like some strange sea urchin with all its guns. John and his crew were just back from the latest run. I knew trouble was brewing.

FISHERMAN I was reeling in a bass when it happened. I heard the gunshot and couldn't think of nothing else but how the silver scales of the fish caught the sun. I heard a man cry out but couldn't look away from the fish, gulping for air on the end of the line, spinning and thrashing, like it knew it was going to die.

ROSE 2 (AS CHILD) Me and me sister Mary, were off crabbing when it happened. Father weren't at home.

MARY STREETER (AS CHILD) I wanted to fight! Rose burst into tears!

ROSE 2 (AS CHILD) Did not!

SMUGGLER I was dozing in the sunshine when it happened. William Parrot and Streeter's men pushed me out the way and hid behind the marram grass.

HANNAH I stayed close to the Haven. The Revenue cutters launched six longboats. Streeters men spread, weapons in hand. I could hear Parrott swearing. He looked like a little lad with that great musket in his hand. Threw himself in the dunes along with the others. If Streeter had been up there with 'em, it never would have happened.

[Sound of gunshot]

ROSE 2 (AS CHILD) Where's Father?!

MARY STREETER (AS CHILD) Did they shoot him?

SMUGGLER No, no, no, no! William Parrot shot an officer! The fool has ruined it for us all! We'll have to flee.

FISHERMAN My hand shakes as I pull the hook from the fish's mouth. A droplet of blood falls into the lead-grey sea. I throw the fish back in. Its still, silver body sinks. I turn towards home, knowing Mudford will never be the same.