

SEVEN SAMURAI

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Credits fade in and out, white on black, with music associated with the bandits over: drums, gongs, and bassoons. After the credits, a title.

Title: The Sengoku Period was a time of civil wars; it was a lawless era and in the country, the farmers were at the mercy of bands of brigands.

Title: Around the time of the St. Bartholomew Day Massacre in France, Japan was in the throes of Civil War.

Title: And the farmers everywhere were being crushed under the iron heels of cruel brigands.

Dissolve into long shot, looking across a grassy, rolling plain to the horizon with the dawn sky above. Bandits appear on horseback on the horizon, and ride across towards camera, which pans as they pass

Medium shot of one of the bandits galloping past, camera panning left with him; hold as the others gallop past after him.

Long shot of the bandits galloping across frame, silhouetted against the sky. Pan left, then hold as they pass.

Very long shot of the bandits galloping up a slope against the sky.

Quick dissolve to a medium shot looking along a path; the bandits ride up in the foreground, and turn, going away up the path.

Medium shot of another part of the countryside with grass and trees in the foreground. The bandits gallop past in the background. Pan left with them as they gallop up an incline.

Dissolve to a high-angle medium shot of the bandits, seen from behind, where the roofs of houses can be seen. They move forward slightly, to get a better look.

Medium close-up of the BANDIT CHIEF and his CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN

We'll take this place next.

High-angle long shot looking down on to the village. It is peaceful and quiet. Smoke drifts up from one or two chimneys. The bandits agree noisily, off.

Low-angle medium close-up of the CHIEF on his horse, with the horse's head nearest camera.

CHIEF

We took it last autumn. They
haven't got anything worth taking
yet. Let's wait.

As he speaks he has difficulty in controlling his horse,
which swings round and round,

Low-angle medium close-up of the CAPTAIN on his horse,

CAPTAIN

All right. We'll come back after
the barley harvest.

He turns his horse.

Medium shot of three bandits wheeling their horses round and
galloping past camera.

Medium shot, looking up the slope. The bandits gallop from
the foreground up to the top of the hill. The CHIEF follows.
Loud sound of galloping hoofs.

High-angle long shot from the ridge of the village below,
with a rough hedge of brushwood in the foreground. The
hoofbeats gradually fade away in the distance. Silence.
Suddenly part of the hedge begins to rise. It is the load of
faggots carried by a FARMER as he waited, hidden behind the
hedge, and listened to the bandits. His face appears from
behind the hedge below the load of faggots, pale and scared.
A bird sings, off. The farmer turns and runs down the hill.

Wipe to a very long high-angle shot of the village. The
villagers are gathered in a circle in the open space in the
center of the village.

High-angle long shot of the villagers crouched in a circle.
The bird continues its song, off.

High-angle medium shot of the villagers, crouched in a
circle, motionless.

Medium shot of some of the farmers right in the center of the
circle, with women and children crouched down behind them,
Someone is moaning and wailing, off.

Medium shot of another group of villagers.

Medium shot of another group, all crouched forward in
despair.

WOMAN

There are no gods here anymore...

High-angle medium shot of other villagers, all crouched down, back to camera.

High-angle medium shot of four villagers, back to camera, with the sun shining down on them. Medium close-up of a WOMAN, back to camera, crouched down so that only her backside and the soles of her feet can be seen, with a young GIRL, also back to camera, leaning over her to comfort her.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
(Sobbing)
...Taxes, forced labour, war,
drought - and now the bandits!

Camera tilts up slightly to medium close-up of two of the farmers, who look at the WOMAN with anxiety.

Medium shot of the farmers in the center of the circle. The WOMAN can just be seen near them, weeping in despair. The bird sings again, off. Tilt up as one of the farmers on the left finally stands up. It is RIKICHI.

Big close-up of RIKICHI.

RIKICHI
Let's kill them - kill them all.
(Passionately)
...so they'll never, never come
here again!

Close-up of YOHEI, another, older farmer, partly obscured by RIKICHI's hand, which is visible in the foreground. Three other farmers can be seen in the background.

YOHEI
(Frightened)
You can't do that!

Big close-up of RIKICHI.

Medium close-up of YOHEI, with others behind. RIKICHI's hand is in the foreground, his fist tightly clenched.

Medium close-up of another farmer, MANZO, with other villagers behind him.

MANZO
It's impossible.

Big close-up of RIKICHI, looking down at the villagers, out of shot.

Medium shot of RIKICHI standing, surrounded by the seated villagers, only their heads in shot.

Pan slightly right as he makes a threatening movement towards MANZO, who sits back to camera. Another man, MOSUKE, restrains him. Pan left as MANZO gets up and walks up to RIKICHI, who is being held back by MOSUKE.

RIKICHI

You manage to kill all the samurai you catch, all right, but you can't kill the bandits?!

MOSUKE

Stop it! This is no time for quarreling.

Close-up of MANZO as he sits down. RIKICHI, held by MOSUKE, is visible in the back ground.

MANZO

But we haven't a chance. What if we lost? They'd kill us all! They'd kill the pregnant women, even. And the babies!

RIKICHI

(Trying to free himself)
I've had enough. I'd rather take that chance than go on like this. Let's either kill them or be killed by them.

MOSUKE

Rikichi!

RIKICHI breaks away from him.

MANZO

We were born to suffer. It's our lot in life.

Close-up of RIKICHI as he sits down beside MANZO and buries his head in his arms. RIKICHI does not look at MANZO.

MANZO (CONT'D)

If they come, let's not fight. Let's give them the harvest...

A WOMAN next to him sinks down at these words and some villagers begin to weep quietly, off.

MANZO (CONT'D)

...but ask for just enough so we don't starve. We'll beg, we'll go down on our knees.

He begins to sob as well. RIKICHI turns towards him.

High-angle medium long shot of the circle of villagers, all bowed down, some of their backs heaving with sobs. Continuing his movement, RIKICHI stands up in the center. MOSUKE rushes up and holds him back as he begins to harangue MANZO.

RIKICHI

And you think they'll listen? Have
you forgotten what we had to go
through to keep the little rice
that we have now?

Many of the villagers look up at these words. Tilt up slightly as RIKICHI strides out of the circle and stands alone, his shoulder bowed, back to camera.

Medium shot of RIKICHI facing camera in the foreground, with the villagers sitting crouched behind him, MOSUKE standing in their midst. RIKICHI drops down on to his haunches and buries his head in his arms. MOSUKE comes to the edge of the circle, looks worriedly towards RIKICHI and then turns back to the motionless villagers.

MOSUKE

Let's go and see Gisaku and let him
decide.

MOSUKE comes up to RIKICHI and sympathetically lays a hand on his shoulder as some of the villagers stand up slowly and turn to follow him. Gradually all the villagers stand up as the shot dissolves.

Dissolve to medium long shot of a water-mill, the wheel turning.

Medium shot of the great mill-wheel turning, with the sound of rushing water. The stream runs past it into the foreground.

A close medium shot of the mill wheel turning in the boulder-strewn stream.

Close-up of the face of GISAKU, a very old man, who is the village patriarch. His eyes are shut, his mouth tightly closed: the regular sound of the turning mill wheel can be heard off. Behind GISAKU, in soft focus, are a young GIRL and a MAN.

RIKICHI

(Off)

Bargain with them? You give the
wolf your leg and he'll take your
arms too.

(MORE)

RIKICHI (CONT'D)

You can't bargain with them. You reason with them now, give them something, and they'll be here in the autumn just the same.

MANZO

(Off)

If they do come, and we lose, what then?

RIKICHI

(Furiously off)

So we lose. Without the barley we'll die anyway.

GISAKU suddenly opens his eyes and looks straight into the camera. A pause.

GISAKU

(Deliberately)

We'll fight.

Close-up of RIKICHI, his eyes shining with surprise and joy.

Close-up of GISAKU, nearest camera in profile, with MANZO in the background, looking terrified.

MANZO

We can't. We're farmers, not soldiers.

GISAKU

Then we'll hire samurai.

Medium shot of GISAKU surrounded by the group of farmers.

MANZO

What? Hire samurai? Who ever heard of such a thing?

GISAKU

I did.

Big close-up of GISAKU, facing camera.

GISAKU (CONT'D)

Years ago, when all of you were still babies, our village was burned out by bandits. When I was running away I saw something. There was one village left unburned. It has hired samurai.

Medium close-up of MANZO and GISAKU.

MANZO

There are all kinds of villages,
all kinds of farmers. We're too
poor. We can only afford to eat
barley.

Medium close-up of RIKICHI standing up, over MANZO, who is
back to camera in the foreground, only his head in shot.

RIKICHI

We could eat millet.

Reverse-angle medium close-up of MANZO standing up, facing
RIKICHI, whose head is visible in the foreground. GISAKU's
head is between them.

MANZO

But would they fight for us - only
for food?

Tilt down as MANZO sots down, holding on medium close-up with
GISAKU and RIKICHI in the foreground.

MANZO (CONT'D)

Samurai are very proud.

Close-up of GISAKU.

GISAKU

You must find hungry samurai...even
bears come out of the forest when
they are hungry.

Wipe to medium close-up of a samurai in profile, walking
along a street in a town. Music in. Camera pans slightly left
as he walks; hold as he walks off, revealing another samurai
in medium shot, walking in the opposite direction. Pan right
with him as he comes into the foreground and hold as he
passes in front of RIKICHI, MOSUKE, YOHEI and MANZO. They
watch him go.

Close-up of RIKICHI nearest camera and MOSUKE just behind
him, watching the samurai. Their eyes move from right to
left.

Medium close-up of another samurai walking towards camera.
Pan right as he comes nearer.

Close-up of YOHEI and MANZO looking left. People in the
street pass in front of and behind them as they turn their
heads to the left.

Medium close-up of the two samurai walking along the street. Someone comes past them, obscuring them from view for a moment. Pan left as they stride along the street.

Close-up of RIKICHI and MOSUKE watching them. A girl comes past them in the foreground obscuring them from view for a moment.

Medium close-up of a samurai walking through the streets, partly obscured by other people walking by, in both directions. Pan right with him as he looks around, slightly suspicious.

Close-up of RIKICHI and MOSUKE, watching closely.

Close-up of YOHEI and MANZO, also watching. GIRLS and WOMEN walk past them in the foreground.

Close-up of RIKICHI and MOSUKE.

Close-up of MANZO and YOHEI watching, their eyes moving first to the left and then to the right. Pan slightly right as YOHEI goes behind MANZO and they look towards the right.

Close-up of RIKICHI and MOSUKE also looking towards the right. People go past continually, obscuring them from view. RIKICHI looks back at MOSUKE then darts out of shot. The others follow, camera panning slightly left to right, holding as they stop. Music out.

Wipe to an open square in the town, with houses in the background. A crowd of people gathered in the square begin to scatter in all directions, screaming and shouting, away from a scuffle taking place in the middle.

Medium shot of RIKICHI rolling in the dust with women and children screaming and cowering up against the houses behind him. Pan left to right as he slowly gets up on to his knees, watched by the three other farmers.

Low-angle medium shot: RIKICHI is in the foreground on his knees, bowing down in front of a samurai who stands over him holding his spear. The crowd of townsfolk surround them, standing well back.

SAMURAI

Look, farmer, poor as I am, I'm a samurai, not a beggar!

Camera tracks in slightly as the samurai starts to walk forward towards camera, passing RIKICHI, who is bowing down almost prostrate.

SAMURAI (CONT'D)

Fool!

Pan left to right and tilt up as the samurai passes, coming into low-angle medium shot. Pan further left to right with the samurai as he goes out of shot in very low-angle medium close-up.

Slight high-angle medium close-up of RIKICHI bowing down on the ground, only his back visible. His shoulders are shaking with silent sobs. A choir begins a monotonous and very mournful humming, over.

Big close-up of MANZO.

MANZO

(Muttering)

I told you so.

Big close-up of MOSUKE. He looks in the direction of MANZO who is out of shot. He frowns and then looks down.

Low-angle medium shot of RIKICHI still bowed down on the ground, with MOSUKE, MANZO and YOHEI standing behind him and women and children watching in the background. MOSUKE goes up to RIKICHI and bends over him, brushing the dust off his clothes and RIKICHI slowly lifts his head. People begin to walk past in front of them again, with only the lower part of their bodies in frame as RIKICHI slowly gets to his feet. Fade out.

Fade in to a medium shot looking along a road, with the veranda of a house on the left in the foreground. Rain is falling steadily. Two people are walking up the road away from camera, splashing through puddles.

Medium long shot of the four farmers in a small open space between some houses. RIKICHI is drawing water from a well. It is pouring with rain and the farmers are wearing straw hats and matting on their backs to keep themselves dry. In the foreground can be seen a few ears of ripening barley. Suddenly MOSUKE rushes forward, followed by MANZO and YOHEI, coming into medium shot. They look down at the barley, fingering the ears.

MOSUKE

Look, it's almost ripe.

MANZO

Naturally. We've been away ten days now.

YOHEI

What will we do?

Big close-up of RIKICHI.

RIKICHI
This barley is early. Mountain
barley like ours is later.

He turns and walks away, camera panning right with him as he walks towards on of the houses into medium shot.

Medium shot of RIKICHI, back to camera, going into the house, which is a rough sort of inn. Camera pans slightly right to follow him. Two labourers, stripped to the waist, come into shot from the right.

1ST LABOURER
I'm soaked to the bones.

The 1ST LABOURER runs past camera, going off; a third comes in. He and the second man turn towards RIKICHI as he passes.

3RD LABOURER
Hey...

Camera holds with one man in the foreground, the other beyond him, both looking towards RIKICHI, who stands looking back at them.

3RD LABOURER (CONT'D)
...you found any samurai yet -
strong, willing and cheap?

The two men laugh and run out of shot. RIKICHI stands for a moment, back to camera, taking his hat off. The humming begins again, over.

Wipe to a long shot of the farmers standing on patch of grass with a low bridge and a fast-running stream in the foreground. It is a sunny day. RIKICHI and MANZO are quarrelling and fighting. MOSUKE is trying to stop them.

MOSUKE
Rikichi! Stop it, Manzo!

Medium shot of the farmers, with RIKICHI struggling on the ground nearest camera, trying to free himself from YOHEI, and MOSUKE holding MANZO back in the background.

MANZO
(Shouting to RIKICHI)
You said you wanted to go home
but...

Reverse, medium shot with MOSUKE holding MANZO back in the foreground, and YOHEI sitting down holding RIKICHI down in front of him.

RIKICHI

I said I wanted to go home. I didn't say I wanted to bargain with bandits.

Low-angle medium close-up of MANZO and MOSUKE.

MANZO

But what else can we do? We can't find any samurai. We'll bargain all right, whether we like it or not.

Reverse high-angle medium close-up of RIKICHI, held down by YOHEI. The stream runs by in the background.

RIKICHI

All right.

He suddenly stops struggling. The low humming continues over.

High-angle big close-up of RIKICHI. He looks up calmly.

RIKICHI (CONT'D)

(Sneering)

But what will we offer them? How about your daughter? Shino's pretty enough. It may work.

Low-angle big close-up of MANZO, horrified.

Medium shot of the four farmers. RIKICHI gets up, walks towards camera, and stands thoughtfully in the foreground.

Wipe to a medium shot of the four of them. RIKICHI and MANZO are washing their faces in the stream in the foreground, the other two standing on the path, watching them. MOSUKE, who is standing on the end of the bridge, looks up suddenly and camera tracks back through the gateway of a house, revealing two men coming out, back to camera. The farmers stand in the background, watching the men come towards them.

Medium shot of MOSUKE and YOHEI standing on the bridge, in back view. Through the large gatehouse of a prosperous country house comes a crowd of people. Pan right and track in past YOHEI and MOSUKE as a samurai, followed by a priest and another man, the owner of the house, walk down to the edge of the stream. RIKICHI and MANZO stand by the stream in back view in the foreground. The SAMURAI, KAMBEI, puts down his sword, then turns and takes a knife out of his belt.

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI with the owner and the group of onlookers behind him, He lifts the knife to his head and cuts loose his samurai topknot. There is a gasp from the crowd because the topknot is one of the samurai's distinguishing features. KAMBEI tucks the knife back in his belt. One of the men pushes through the crowd behind him and passes a razor to the owner, who hands it to KAMBEI. KAMBEI passes it to the PRIEST, who is standing on his other side, camera panning slightly right as he does so to include the priest. Then KAMBEI sits down cross-legged, camera tilting down with him. He begins to wash his head in the stream.

Medium close-up of the priest holding the razor. He looks at it nervously, then up at the people.

Medium long shot across the stream, of the crowd of people (including the farmers) standing on the bank and the bridge. They all crane forward as the priest begins to shave KAMBEI's head.

Close-up of KAMBEI, his face impassive, as the priest's hands shave his head.

Medium close-up of the owner and the other man watching, with others in the background, craning forward. The two men in the foreground look at each other in amazement and the second man turns away.

Medium close-up of the man, back to camera, as he pushes his way back through the crowd. They all turn to watch him as he goes to look back through the archway. Many of the crowd are carrying clubs and pitchforks. The man turns and comes back again.

Medium close-up of the owner. The man comes and joins him again.

Medium close-up of another group of onlookers jostling one another to get a better view.

Medium close-up of others in the crowd, carrying pitchforks and scythes.

Medium shot of a group of people, including the four farmers and another man and a WOMAN. They are all watching intently. MOSUKE leans forward, then turns to the WOMAN next to him.

MOSUKE

What's happening?

WOMAN

There's a thief in that barn.

At that moment a young samurai, KATSUSHIRO, appears behind them, watching and listening silently.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

They found him and he ran in there.

MOSUKE rushes out of shot, followed by the other three farmers. KATSUSHIRO stands watching with a slight frown, then follows them.

Medium long shot of the barn with its thatched roof. The wind blows the dust up in the yard.

Long shot of the barn through the gateway, with two villagers standing looking towards it in medium long shot. The four farmers, followed by KATSUSHIRO, pass through the gateway from the foreground, back to camera.

Medium shot from the side of the two villagers standing at the gateway. KATSUSHIRO comes up and stands by them, furthest from camera, and the farmers gather behind. They all stare forward.

KATSUSHIRO

How man are there?

VILLAGER

Just one.

Medium close-up of the VILLAGER and KATSUSHIRO, with MANZO and RIKICHI visible behind them.

KATSUSHIRO

(Incredulously)

One? But there are so many of you.

VILLAGER

We can't do anything. He took a child in with him. If we try to get him he says he'll kill it.

Just then a child is heard crying.

VILLAGER (CONT'D)

There, hear that?

Medium long shot of the barn. The child can be heard screaming above the noise of the wind.

Medium shot of the four farmers with the villagers and KATSUSHIRO at the gateway, listening.

2ND VILLAGER

Oh, the poor thing. And he's only seven.

Medium shot of the group at the gateway form behind. The 2ND VILLAGER turns towards camera. Pan slightly right as he walks towards camera and the farmers surround him sympathetically.

2ND VILLAGER (CONT'D)

His parents must be frantic.

MOSUKE

But who is that samurai?

2ND VILLAGER

Nobody knows. We asked him to save the child and he agreed, Then he asked for two rice balls.

He goes off.

1ST VILLAGER

(Coming forward)

Then he had his head shaved like that and asked the priest to lend him his robes. I don't know what he intends to do.

As the 1ST VILLAGER finishes speaking, they all walk past camera going off in the foreground, leaving KATSUSHIRO looking back at the barn. Then he follows them off, leaving the deserted yard in view. A pause; then a woman runs out of the house by the barn in long shot, carrying a dish. She pauses for a moment as the child screams again, and then turns and runs towards camera, which tracks back through the archway. Pan right with her as she comes under the gateway, holding as she pushes her way through the crowd and disappears from view. KATSUSHIRO and the farmers move past camera.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and the four farmers coming round behind the crowd to get a better view of KAMBEI on the river bank. Pan right with them and hold as they stand, back to camera, in the foreground. Kneeling on the ground in front of them is another samurai, KIKUCHIYO. He looks up at KATSUSHIRO, who is just behind him, and stands up, giving them all a dirty look. The farmers back off slightly, and KIKUCHIYO settles down again to watch KAMBEI.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, back to camera, his head completely shaved, with the priest beside him. He has dressed himself in tattered priest's robes.

On the other side of the stream, KIKUCHIYO can be seen crouching down watching, KATSUSHIRO and the farmers directly behind him and the group of villagers looking on. KAMBEI turns as the priest hands him a belt, then turns back again to put it on.

Low-angle close-up of KAMBEI looking across the stream.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO staring back.

Low-angle close-up of KAMBEI. He turns away, and then looks up again.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO. He scratches his neck

Low-angle close-up of KAMBEI, staring towards KIKUCHIYO. He lowers his eyes and turns his back as camera pans slightly right to include the priest. Pan slightly back to KAMBEI, losing the priest. KAMBEI stares across the stream again,

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO looking up, a puzzled frown on his face.

Low-angle close-up of KAMBEI, looking across impassively; he turns away. Pan left with him as he takes a few paces forward to where the woman is holding out her dish with two rice balls on it. He takes it and walks past her, camera panning further left and tilting up slightly as he starts to go through to the gateway.

Long shot, looking along the stream to the bridge. The crowd hurry through the gateway, disappearing from view as they follow KAMBEI.

Long shot of the gateway from the other side, with KAMBEI coming through and the crowd following.

Medium shot of the priest with KATSUSHIRO standing beside him. They stop with the crowd pressing up behind. Then KIKUCHIYO pushes his way between them.

Medium shot of the owner with his wife and the other MAN standing watching. KIKUCHIYO pushes his way past them and comes into the foreground, standing in low-angle medium close-up.

Medium shot of KAMBEI from behind, approaching the barn in his priest's robes. KIKUCHIYO comes into shot in the foreground, only the lower half of his body in shot. He stops in low-angle medium close-up, kicks over a barrel and sits down on it. The child can be heard screaming from inside the barn, and the THIEF begins yelling hysterically, off, as KAMBEI comes up to the barn door.

Medium shot of KAMBEI outside the barn door. He places the dish of rice balls on a stone outside the barn.

THIEF

(Off)

So you've come. Well don't come any nearer or I'll kill the boy. You hear me.

KAMBEI

I'm a priest.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO sitting on the barrel, watching, with the villagers lined up by the gatehouse in the background.

Medium shot of KAMBEI looking through the bamboo struts of the barn wall, back to camera.

THIEF

(Off)

Don't come in, I'm warning you!

KAMBEI

I'm not. I just thought the child might be hungry.

As he speaks KAMBEI slides the barn door open.

THIEF

(Hysterically, off)

Don't come in!

KAMBEI kneels down at the door holding out the rice balls, one in each hand.

KAMBEI

I've brought some rice. One is for you.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO watching closely with the crowd looking on, motionless, in the background.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

(Off)

Here, take it. It's all right.

Medium shot of the owner and his wife and the other MAN with the villagers in the background, including KATSUSHIRO and the farmers.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO standing by the priest with the villagers crowding round behind them.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO watching.

Medium shot of KAMBEI holding out the rice balls through the open door of the barn.

THIEF
(Off)
Throw them in!

KAMBEI throws the rice balls through the doorway. The child screams, off.

KAMBEI
All right. There you are.

KAMBEI stands up again, rubs his hands together. A slight pause. Then he rushes through the barn door.

General shot of the crowd in the yard shifting and murmuring with KIKUCHIYO in medium shot in the foreground, the child's parents behind him and the villagers all crowded together in the background.

Medium shot of the outside of the barn; the child's screaming can be heard from the inside. The wind blows up the dust. Then suddenly the THIEF staggers through the door.

General shot of the watching crowd. They all stare and some of the villagers cower back fearfully.

Medium shot of the THIEF running past the stockade in slow motion.

Resume on the crowd. The villagers are huddling together. In the foreground KIKUCHIYO rises slowly to his feet.

Medium shot of the THIEF staggering in agony.

Same shot of the watching crowd. KIKUCHIYO is now standing up, staring in amazement.

Medium close-up of the THIEF from the side, his eyes staring and his mouth open. He sways lightly.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO in the foreground with the villagers in the background. KIKUCHIYO is leaning forward staring. Suddenly the child's mother behind him screams and runs towards camera, going out of shot.

Medium shot of the MOTHER running across to where KAMBEI is standing in the background holding the CHILD, who is still crying. Pan right to include the THIEF in the foreground, swaying backwards and forwards with a fixed expression. The MOTHER grabs the child as KAMBEI throws down his sword.

High-angle close-up of KAMBEI's sword lying on the ground, its point bloodstained.

Medium close-up of the THIEF from behind; he is bend almost double. He sinks to the ground in slow motion.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO in the foreground with the villagers and the child's FATHER and the other MAN edging forward slightly to see what has happened. KIKUCHIYO takes a couple of steps towards the camera.

High-angle medium shot of the dead THIEF, the wind ruffling his clothes.

Long shot of the courtyard, with the THIEF lying on his left and KAMBEI standing on the right, with the MOTHER clutching her child on her knees in front of them. In the background, KIKUCHIYO and the villagers stand watching. KIKUCHIYO strides forward and leans over the THIEF's body as the child's FATHER comes up to comfort his wife and son. KAMBEI starts to walk away, watching KIKUCHIYO. KIKUCHIYO prods the body and then looks back at KAMBEI. As KAMBEI walks away, KIKUCHIYO picks up the sword, leaps over the body of the THIEF and dances about, brandishing the sword and shouting for joy. At the same time all the villagers rush forward, crowding round KIKUCHIYO, who stands triumphantly with one foot on the corpse's back.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI in profile, standing with the PRIEST; KATSUSHIRO is in the background, watching with the farmers. KAMBEI starts to remove the priest's robes. The PRIEST holds out his sword sheath.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO looking on with admiration, with the four farmers in the background.

Medium close-up of the four farmers watching the proceedings. RIKICHI looks excited. He looks back at the others, smiling slightly.

Wipe to medium shot of KAMBEI from behind, walking along a road, silhouetted against a cloudy sky. Music in: the 'Seven Samurai' theme. Camera tracks along behind him up a slight incline.

Medium shot, from behind, of the four farmers; KAMBEI is beyond them in the background. Camera track behind them as they follow him along the road.

RIKICHI

(Looking back to MOSUKE)

I think we ought to try him, don't you?

MOSUKE

Yes, let's talk to him before he reaches town and we lose him.

RIKICHI

Right.

He begins to run towards KAMBEI, but at that moment, KIKUCHIYO appears in the foreground and runs past the three farmers after RIKICHI, also going towards KAMBEI. Camera continues to track along behind them.

Medium close-up tracking along beside RIKICHI. KIKUCHIYO comes up, running past RIKICHI and elbowing him out of the way. They both stop, then KIKUCHIYO rushes out of shot, leaving RIKICHI staring after him.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI, back to camera on the brow of the hill, silhouetted against the sky. He looks back and KIKUCHIYO runs into shot from the foreground, back to camera. KIKUCHIYO runs up to where KAMBEI has stopped on the road and leaps into the air with a manic chuckle, then stands facing him, looking him up and down, with his samurai sword balanced on his shoulder. They stand looking at each other, both silhouetted against the sky.

KATSUSHIRO

What is it?

KIKUCHIYO says nothing but scratches his head, and then circles round in front of KAMBEI, camera panning slightly right with him. KAMBEI also circles round till they are facing one another again. At that moment, KATSUSHIRO runs up from the foreground.

Low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI and KIKUCHIYO standing silhouetted against the sky; KATSUSHIRO kneels and bows down in front of KAMBEI.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)

Please listen to me. My name is Katsushiro Okamoto. Please take me as one of your disciples.

Low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI with KIKUCHIYO in the foreground, three-quarters back to camera, looking at him. KAMBEI looks down and rubs his bald head, then smiles.

KAMBEI

Disciple? My name is Kambei Shimada...

Pan slightly left as KIKUCHIYO, still in back view, circles round in front of KAMBEI and looks at him from the other side.

KATSUSHIRO

...I am only a *ronin*, not a samurai, and I have no disciples...

Pan right as KIKUCHIYO circles round again to the other side and he and KAMBEI both look down at KATSUSHIRO who is still out of shot.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO still on his knees, staring up at KAMBEI, whose head is out of frame. KIKUCHIYO stands beside KAMBEI, behind KATSUSHIRO, also with his head out of frame.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)

Please take me as your disciple.

Close-up of KAMBEI smiling, leaning down towards KATSUSHIRO, who is out of shot.

KAMBEI

Stand up so that we can talk properly.

Low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI turning away and beginning to walk along the road again. KIKUCHIYO watches him, while KATSUSHIRO gets to his feet, then runs to join KAMBEI as he walks away in back view over the brow of the hill. KIKUCHIYO continues to circle round as if not knowing what to do.

Medium long shot of the four farmers, back to camera, standing on the road where they have been watching, The music comes up louder, as KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO are seen walking away over the hill in the background. KIKUCHIYO stands watching them, circling round with his samurai sword on his shoulder. He and the farmers begin to follow KAMBEI.

Wipe to a low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI in profile with KATSUSHIRO nearest camera beside him. Track sideways with them as they walk along the road.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

But you're embarrassing me. I'm not all that good,

KATSUSHIRO

But you are.

KAMBEI

Listen. I have nothing particular to teach you.

(MORE)

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

I've just had a lot of experience fighting. That's all. So just forget about becoming a disciple, and stop following me. It's for your own good.

KATSUSHIRO runs round and faces KAMBEI.

KATSUSHIRO

No, I have made up my mind.

They stop. Hold on a low-angle medium shot of the two.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)

I'll follow you even if you never accept me.

KAMBEI

(Sternly)

I forbid you to.

KATSUSHIRO looks crestfallen.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

I cannot afford to have a disciple.

He starts to walk away.

High -angle long shot looking down the road towards a town. In the foreground the four farmers stand looking at one another. In the background KATSUSHIRO stands facing camera as KAMBEI walks away towards the town. RIKICHI then hurries after KAMBEI, but at this moment KIKUCHIYO runs into shot in the foreground, pushing past the three other farmers and going into long shot as he passes KATSUSHIRO. The music changes to KIKUCHIYO's theme.

Medium shot with KAMBEI in the foreground, KATSUSHIRO behind him and the three farmers in the background. RIKICHI is running towards KAMBEI but KIKUCHIYO runs up behind him and pushes him out of the way. RIKICHI goes off, while KIKUCHIYO comes up and stands in front of KAMBEI, who looks at him impassively.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

What is it?

KIKUCHIYO scratches his head in embarrassment and walks round towards camera, coming into the foreground. Pan slightly with him until he stands back to camera facing KAMBEI, with his samurai sword on his shoulder. All the others stop and watch them in the background.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

What do you want?

KIKUCHIYO lopes round again and stands facing KAMBEI in his former position. He does not reply. KATSUSHIRO takes a few steps forward, and then runs up and stands next to KAMBEI. He stares at KIKUCHIYO, who is still leering at KAMBEI.

KATSUSHIRO

Insolent fellow!

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, in back view, with KIKUCHIYO facing camera between them. He bends his head slightly and stares, frowning, at KATSUSHIRO.

KIKUCHIYO

Mind your own business.

Low-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO facing each other in profile, with KAMBEI between them facing camera. KAMBEI takes a step forward towards KIKUCHIYO. There is a tense pause.

KAMBEI

(Smiling slightly)

Are you a samurai?

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO facing camera, seen over the shoulder of KAMBEI, who is in back view of the foreground. KIKUCHIYO grins stupidly and then looks down, frowning again.

Low-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, three-quarters back to camera, with KAMBEI beside him in profile, both facing KIKUCHIYO. Behind them can be seen the town square. KIKUCHIYO grins, lifts his sword from his shoulder and digs the point in the ground, holding it proudly at the hilt.

KIKUCHIYO

Of course I'm a samurai!

Close-up of KAMBEI looking at KIKUCHIYO, out of shot, through narrowed eyes.

KAMBEI

I wonder.

He looks round towards KATSUSHIRO. The music returns to the samurai theme.

Low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI putting a hand on KATSUSHIRO's shoulder to lead him on. KIKUCHIYO watches in fury, still holding his sword. KATSUSHIRO looks back at him angrily, then he and KAMBEI begin to walk away. KIKUCHIYO turns away to watch them go.

He takes a few steps towards them and aims a furious kick in their direction. Then he strides back towards camera, still looking back at them over his shoulder and scratching his neck. He circles round, grimacing. Camera tracks after KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI in low-angle medium close-up as they walk through the town square. KATSUSHIRO looks back, but KAMBEI, with a hand on his shoulder, urges him on. Track slightly right as they walk towards the corner of the square, then hold as KATSUSHIRO looks back again, and stops.

KATSUSHIRO

What was that?

KAMBEI also stops and looks round.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO standing by the side of the road. A small stream runs along beside it. In the background the four farmers stand in a group staring at KIKUCHIYO.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI still looking back towards KIKUCHIYO. KAMBEI looks at KATSUSHIRO.

KAMBEI

Don't pay any attention to him.

They turn away again and walk on, camera tilting down slightly as they go.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO. Furiously, he picks up a stone and hurls it into the stream, watched in amazement by the farmers. RIKICHI looks at him nervously, and then runs along the road towards camera.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO in back view walking along the road. RIKICHI runs into shot in the foreground, back to camera, and runs along behind them. Pan to the right as RIKICHI catches up with KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, runs round in front of them and goes down on his knees in the road in front of KAMBEI. They are seen framed by the roof and wooden supports of a roadside veranda. Music out.

RIKICHI

Please...

Wipe to medium shot inside a cheap roadside inn. Three of the farmers are kneeling on a low bench with heads bowed. KATSUSHIRO sits next to them, by some barred windows that look out onto the street. On the left, and beyond the farmers, KAMBEI can be seen staring through a window into the street. They are all in back view.

Low-angle medium close-up of the bamboo window bars. People can be seen walking by in the street outside.

Then in the foreground, KAMBEI comes into shot, back to camera, as he stands up.

KAMBEI
No, it's impossible.

KATSUSHIRO
(Off)
Sir...

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI, back to camera, as KATSUSHIRO comes into shot beside him, in three-quarters front view, looking at him earnestly.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
They could fight them with bamboo spears.

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI, three-quarters back to camera. He turns his head to face KATSUSHIRO, who stands in three-quarter back view in the foreground.

KAMBEI
This isn't a game, you know.

Pan slightly right as KAMBEI passes in front of KATSUSHIRO and turns around. He stands looking down, with his back to the window, then goes off.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
(Off)
Though they are only bandits, there are forty of them.

Low-angle medium long shot of KAMBEI standing near the entrance to the inn, facing camera. Beside him, two of the farmers can be seen sitting in back view, their heads bowed dejectedly, and behind them, still standing by the window, is KATSUSHIRO.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Two or three samurai would be no match for them.

High-angle medium shot of the three farmers from the side with RIKICHI in the foreground, MANZO in the center and MOSUKE furthest from camera.

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI looking down at the farmers, who are out of shot. He turns away; pan right with him as he goes over and leans on one of the wooden partitions, back to camera. Hold as he speaks.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Defence is much more difficult than
aggression.

He turns suddenly to face the farmers.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Did you say there were hills at the
back of you village?

High-angle medium shot of the three farmers. They all look up
towards KAMBEI, who is out of shot.

RIKICHI
Yes, sir.

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI looking down at them.

KAMBEI
Can horses get over them?

High-angle medium close-up of the farmers.

RIKICHI
Yes, sir.

He smiles hopefully.

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI. He looks down
thoughtfully, then turns away; pan right with him as he paces
along beside the wooden partition, thinking aloud.

KAMBEI
I see. There are fields in the
front, then, and so the village is
wide open until they are flooded
for planting.

Hold as he stops, standing in profile and leaning one arm on
the partition.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
We'll need guards. One for each
direction, than means four.

He turns to face camera, looking down at the farmers, who are
out of shot. Pan back to the left as he paces back along the
partition, still talking to himself.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Two more for reserve. So you'd
need...seven including myself.

High-angle medium shot of the three farmers, MOSUKE in the foreground, beside one of the upright wooden pillars, and MANZO and RIKICHI kneeling on the other side. RIKICHI is smiling happily. KAMBEI can be seen pacing up and down in the background.

RIKICHI

But can we afford seven?

MANZO

He told us to get four of them.

RIKICHI

Maybe we could do it with three.

KAMBEI

Wait. I haven't said I will.

He begins to pace forward again, camera panning left with him.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

It isn't easy to find that many reliable samurai.

Hold on a high-angle medium shot of KAMBEI, with KATSUSHIRO in the foreground.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

And the reward will only be three meals a day and the fun of it, if you want to put it that way.

Track in slightly as KAMBEI walks forward and stands in front of KATSUSHIRO in profile, looking at the farmers who are out of shot.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Besides, I'm tired of fighting. I'm probably getting old.

KAMBEI leans down, and picks up his sword and scarf; KATSUSHIRO also fathers up his belongings. There is a muffled sound of weeping, off.

High-angle medium close-up of RIKICHI bending down and weeping, his head turned away from camera. Low humming begins, over.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO in front of the barred window, looking towards the farmers, who are out of shot. Suddenly there is a burst of raucous laughter, off.

Medium shot of three labourers leaning over the wooden partition; the one in the middle is laughing and swinging a wine bottle. They come round the partition into the foreground.

LABOURER

I'm glad I wasn't born a farmer.

Medium shot of the three labourers settling themselves down on one of the benches with the farmers visible behind them, and KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO standing in front of the window.

LABOURER (CONT'D)

Even a dog has a better life than that.

One of the labourers suddenly jumps up and runs back to where the farmers are sitting. He bends over them.

LABOURER (CONT'D)

(Derisively)

You can take it from me, just you go and hang ourselves. You'll be a lot happier.

He comes back grinning and joins the other two labourers. As the LABOURER sits down he reveals KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO standing watching in the background.

KATSUSHIRO

You watch what you're saying.

LABOURER

What's wrong? I'm just telling the truth.

KATSUSHIRO

The truth?! Then you ought to be sorry for them.

LABOURER

Don't make me laugh.

The three labourers laugh and nudge one another, then the one who was speaking turns back to KATSUSHIRO.

LABOURER (CONT'D)

How about you? Are you sorry for them?

KATSUSHIRO

What?

LABOURER

Yes...if you were sorry for them -
really sorry - then you'd help
them, wouldn't you?

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He looks down, then up. Suddenly he moves.

High-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO's sword lying on the bench. His hand comes into shot and grabs it. Tilt up to low-angle medium close-up of MANZO and MOSUKE with the labourers visible behind them. One of the labourers stands up in alarm. The farmers rush out of the way as the other labourers stand up.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI with the farmers trying to get out of the way behind him. KAMBEI moves towards KATSUSHIRO, camera panning slightly right with him.

LABOURER (CONT'D)

(Off)

Oh, you're going to fight are you?

KAMBEI

Stop!

KATSUSHIRO lunges forward in front of KAMBEI. Quick backward track and pan left as KATSUSHIRO darts across the benches, losing KAMBEI. KAMBEI comes into shot again in the foreground, back to camera. Pan left as KAMBEI circles round after KATSUSHIRO and the three labourers scurry across frame in the foreground, escaping from KATSUSHIRO. Hold on a low-angle medium shot of the group, KAMBEI restraining them all.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Fools!

Close-up of KAMBEI. He looks from left to right.

Close-up of one of the labourers cowering behind one of his mates, whose shoulder and arm only are in shot. The LABOURER runs round behind his friend, camera panning left with him, until he almost bumps into YOHEI coming in with a bowl of rice. Hold on a slight high-angle medium shot of them. The LABOURER grabs the bowl of rice, pan further left as he approaches KAMBEI and holds out the bowl to him. Hold on low-angle medium shot of them both, with KAMBEI nearest camera.

LABOURER

Yes, look at it. It's for you. Go on. But do you know what they eat, those farmers? They eat millet. They're giving you their rice and eating millet themselves.

KAMBEI looks silently over to where the farmers are standing, out of shot.

Medium shot of the farmers cowering against the door.

Low-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI in the foreground, with the LABOURER holding out the bowl of rice to him.

LABOURER (CONT'D)
They're giving you everything they
have.

KAMBEI looks down at the LABOURER and take the bowl of rice.

KAMBEI
All right. I understand.

LABOURER
(Puzzled)
What?

Medium shot of the farmers cowering in the corner, RIKICHI in back view. In the foreground, KAMBEI's hand holds the bowl of steaming rice. The humming reaches a climax.

KAMBEI
(Off)
I understand. I accept your
sacrifice.

The hand is withdrawn from the shot, and RIKICHI turns and sinks down on his knees with a look of gratitude and relief. He bows down. Fade out, and end of music.

Fade in to medium shot of the open space in the center of the farmers' village. People are running from the foreground away from camera, gathering excitedly in a group.

High-angle medium shot of the crowd of villagers surrounding MANZO and MOSUKE. Track in to a high-angle medium close-up of MOSUKE and MANZO in the center of the group with villagers, including several of the leading men, pressing round them.

GOSAKU
Look, Manzo's back!

ANOTHER VILLAGER
Where are Rikichi and Yohei?

MANZO
Still in town, looking for more
samurai.

SAMPEI
More samurai?

MOSUKE
We have to find seven of them.

There is a gasp from the crowd.

Medium shot of a group of villagers, repeating the number to each other, astounded.

Low-angle medium shot from behind of a SAMURAI, walking past camera in the town. Horn music in. Tracking along beside him as RIKICHI runs into shot, shouting.

RIKICHI
Hey! Hey!

Medium shot from behind of YOHEI and KATSUSHIRO inside the inn, watching RIKICHI and the SAMURAI who can be seen in the background through the doorway. As RIKICHI bows down to the SAMURAI in the distance, KATSUSHIRO moves across to the door.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO watching at the doorway, with YOHEI also watching, in the foreground.

Medium shot of the SAMURAI facing RIKICHI, who is bowing down to him, back to camera.

RIKICHI (CONT'D)
Please, sir...

SAMURAI
What is it? A fight?

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and YOHEI watching at the door of the inn.

KAMBEI
(Off)
Katsushiro!

KATSUSHIRO turns his back and looks into the dark interior. Pan right with him as he goes in and stands back to camera. The music changes to the samurai theme. In the background, sitting cross-legged on one of the benches, is KAMBEI. He holds out a stout stick.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO looking surprised. YOHEI stands at the doorway behind him, looking out.

Medium shot of KAMBEI holding up the stick. He swings it and hits the floor.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

You hide behind the door - and hold
the stick up high.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO looking rather uncertain.

Medium shot of KAMBEI. He holds out the stick.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

When the samurai comes in, hit him
as hard as you can.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO with YOHEI visible behind him
at the doorway.

YOHEI

He's coming now!

KATSUSHIRO looks around hurriedly.

Medium shot of KAMBEI holding up the stick impatiently.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO looking rather nervous. He
bends down.

Low-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, with KAMBEI's head in
the foreground, back to camera. KATSUSHIRO takes the stick.

KAMBEI

Now, hit as hard as you can.

Close-up of YOHEI at the door. Pan right with him as he runs
and hides behind one of the wooden partitions. Camera picks
up KATSUSHIRO and pans back to the left as he goes over and
hides behind the doorpost.

Medium shot of YOHEI watching him from behind the partition.

Medium shot of KAMBEI sitting cross-legged, waiting quietly.
He picks up a small twig and fiddles with it.

Medium shot of YOHEI.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO behind the doorpost. He raises the
stick in both hands, above his head.

Medium shot of the SAMURAI approaching along the street,
followed by RIKICHI. Pan slightly right as he walks.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO holding up the club and peering round
the doorpost.

Medium shot as the SAMURAI comes through the entrance. Camera tracks back in front of him, revealing KATSUSHIRO behind the door with his stick raised. RIKICHI follows at a safe distance. Hold on a medium shot as KATSUSHIRO brings down the stick with a great shout - but the SAMURAI is too quick for him and wards off the blow. Music out.

Medium close-up of the SAMURAI, who has grabbed hold of KATSUSHIRO from behind. He pushes him violently away.

Medium shot of the interior of the inn. Continuing his movement, KATSUSHIRO staggers into shot in the foreground and slithers across the benches, landing in a heap in the corner. Pan slightly left to include KAMBEI, who stands up, looking pleased. Pan right with him as he walks across to where the SAMURAI is standing, very much on his guard.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

That was splendid. Please forgive us.

Pan slightly right as the SAMURAI steps back.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

My name is Kambei Shimada. I am looking for good fighters like yourself, I'm sorry this happened but it had to be done.

He bows.

SAMURAI

Why did you do this?

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO getting to his feet rather shaken. Tilt up with him as he stands up.

SAMURAI (CONT'D)

I'm very angry.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI standing facing the SAMURAI, holding out a placating hand.

KAMBEI

Please forgive us. I needed someone like you. You see, we're about to start a campaign against a band of brigands.

SAMURAI

(Interested)

I see. What clan do you belong to?

KAMBEI

Well, as a matter of fact, this is rather unusual. Our employer is a group of farmers - a whole village.

SAMURAI

Farmers?

KAMBEI

That's right. We don't get any land or anything as a reward but we do get three meals a day while we fight.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI, back to camera, with the SAMURAI in medium shot, facing him, and seen over his shoulder.

SAMURAI

(Disdainfully)

Stupid - I can do better than that.

Wipe to medium close-up from the side of a samurai walking along the street. Horn music in. Track to the right, following him as he walks. As he goes out of shot, camera tracks left with another samurai walking in the opposite direction, carrying a spear. Track left to right again as a third samurai comes into shot in the foreground and strides past the second samurai, As he goes out of shot, camera picks up a *ronin* walking in the other direction, and pans back with him, left to right.

KAMBEI

(Off)

Try him.

Medium long shot of the *ronin* walking along the middle of the street. He walks into medium shot as RIKICHI comes out of the inn in the background. Pan right with the *ronin*. He walks along the street and round the corner, to where a group of children are playing. Hold as he walks towards them, in back view, to watch their game. RIKICHI runs into shot again.

RIKICHI

Please, sir!

Medium shot of KAMBEI inside the inn. Behind him, KATSUSHIRO and YOHEI stand at the doorway, looking out into the street. KAMBEI walks towards camera and KATSUSHIRO comes and stands behind him, looking over his shoulder. Samurai theme in.

KATSUSHIRO

Like the last time?

KAMBEI smiles slightly, and turns towards KATSUSHIRO.

KAMBEI

Yes - and try hard. It's good training for you.

Close-up of YOHEI, looking worried. Pan right with him as he goes and hides behind the partition again, camera holding on him for a moment.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO at the door with KAMBEI resuming his position cross-legged on the bench. KATSUSHIRO peers round the doorpost.

Medium long shot of the *ronin*, whose name is GOROBEI, and RIKICHI, walking towards camera along the street.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO with KAMBEI sitting in the background. KATSUSHIRO ducks out of sight behind the door.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO hiding behind the door. He raises the stick at the ready. RIKICHI appears in the street outside, and bows and stands aside to let GOROBEI approach first. GOROBEI hesitates, then stops just outside the door, looking through into the inn. He smiles.

Close-up of GOROBEI smiling, then laughing.

GOROBEI

I see...it's a joke!

Medium shot of KAMBEI in the inn. He smiles and slaps his knee, then starts to get up. Tilt up with him as he stands up and comes forward into low-angle medium close-up.

KAMBEI

Please forgive us!

Wipe to medium shot of KAMBEI standing in the inn with GOROBEI back to camera in the background. The latter paces up and down beside the window thoughtfully, and then comes back to face KAMBEI. He smiles.

GOROBEI

Well, it sounds interesting.

KAMBEI bows slightly.

GOROBEI (CONT'D)

I know what the farmers have to put up with, but it's not because of them that I accept. It's because of you.

KAMBEI grins and rubs his head. Music out.

Wipe to medium shot of the entrance to the inn from the inside. Smiling happy, KAMBEI approaches in the street outside.

Medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO standing by the windows as KAMBEI comes in through the door. He is followed by his old friend SHICHIROJI, who is carrying a yoke on his shoulders. He puts it on the floor as KAMBEI speaks.

KAMBEI

But this is wonderful. It is so good to find you alive. I'd given you up for lost. How did you get away?

KAMBEI goes out of shot and SHICHIROJI prepares to sit down, taking off his hat.

Medium shot of KAMBEI sitting down and SHICHIROJI in the foreground, also seated.

SHICHIROJI

Well, I lay right down in the ditch there, in the water. But when the castle finally burned down and then almost fell on me, I thought I was gone.

He wipes his chest with a cloth.

KAMBEI

How did you feel?

SHICHIROJI

Oh, not too bad.

KAMBEI

Are you ready for another fight?

Close-up of SHICHIROJI with KATSUSHIRO standing in the background. SHICHIROJI smiles. Music in.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI. They smile at each other understandingly.

Wipe to low-angle medium close-up of GOROBEI in the street, rubbing his chin. Tilt down slightly as he turns and walks towards a roadside food stall with seats, and the STALL-KEEPER preparing food.

Medium shot from behind of GOROBEI sitting down in the stall, watching the crowds of people going past in the street. The STALL-KEEPER comes in shot and presents him with a tray.

He takes a bowl from it and the STALL-KEEPER leaves the tray on the seat beside him. Track back slightly as they speak. Music out.

GOROBEI

I never knew they were so few.

STALL-KEEPER

What is it you're after, sir?

GOROBEI

Samurai.

STALL-KEEPER

Samurai?

GOROBEI

Yes.

STALL-KEEPER

Well, there's one at the back of my house, though I don't think he's a very good one. He kept asking me to give him something to eat. Then he said he'd cut my firewood for me because he had no money.

They both laugh. There is a yell, then the sound of wood being chopped, off. The STALL-KEEPER goes out into the road.

Low-angle medium close-up of the STALL-KEEPER looking towards the sound of chopping.

STALL-KEEPER (CONT'D)

Still, he seems honest enough.

Pan slightly right as GOROBEI appears and stands in front of the STALL-KEEPER, looking in the same direction. The STALL-KEEPER goes off.

Medium shot of a huge pile of logs. Every now and again there is a shout and the noise of an axe on wood. GOROBEI's head appears over the pile of logs and camera tracks back as he walks round and over the heap, and stands looking down. Track continues to include a samurai chopping wood. At every downward stroke he gives bloodcurdling yell. His sword lies on the grass beside him. Hold on medium shot of him with GOROBEI in the background. The samurai, HEIHACHI, looks back to where GOROBEI is standing watching him, and then continues. Grinning, GOROBEI sits on the logs to watch. Without a word, HEIHACHI picks up his sword and moves it away to his other side, a safe distance from GOROBEI. Music in. HEIHACHI is about to split another log when he turns away to face GOROBEI.

HEIHACHI
Haven't you ever seen anyone cut
firewood before?

GOROBEI
You seem to enjoy it.

HEIHACHI
That's just the way I am. Yah!

He chops another log.

GOROBEI
(Laughing)
You're good.

High-angle medium shot of HEIHACHI, with GOROBEI's head and
shoulders in back view in the foreground.

HEIHACHI
Not really. It's a lot harder than
killing enemies. Yah!

He splits another log.

Low-angle medium close-up of GOROBEI leaning forward and
grinning.

GOROBEI
Have you killed many?

High-angle medium shot of HEIHACHI in back view, preparing to
chop another log, with GOROBEI, back to camera, in the
foreground. HEIHACHI turns towards him slightly.

HEIHACHI
Since it's impossible to kill them
all - yah!

He splits another log and then turns back to GOROBEI again.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
- I usually run away.

Low-angle medium close-up of GOROBEI.

GOROBEI
(Grinning)
A splendid principle.

High-angle medium shot of them both.

HEIHACHI
Thank you. Yah!

He chops a log and sets up the next, raising his axe and preparing to strike.

GOROBEI

Incidentally - are you interested
in killing twenty or thirty
bandits?

HEIHACHI misses the log completely and turns round in surprise.

Wipe to medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO walking towards camera in the town square. Music out. They come into the foreground and go off.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO in the street looking at a group of people who have gathered to watch something.

High-angle long shot, over the heads of the group of people, of two samurai in the grounds of a temple, preparing to start a practice bout with long bamboo staffs. KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO appear in the foreground, backs to camera, and also stand and watch.

Medium shot of the two samurai, cutting bamboo shoots off their staffs. The taller of the two lays down his sword.

TALL SAMURAI

Let's begin.

The second samurai, KYUZO, also lays down his sword as the TALL SAMURAI comes forward into low-angle medium close-up. He circles round.

Long shot of the two samurai with the crowd watching; other people are running along the road on the other side of the temple wall to join them. Pan right to left as the TALL SAMURAI backs off and KYUZO comes forward. The crowd press round an opening in the temple wall with KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO in their midst, all watching. Hold as the TALL SAMURAI raises his staff, then slowly KYUZO also raises his staff and they both pause, at the ready.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO with other men behind looking over their shoulders. KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO take a few paces forward. Other people can be seen pushing forward in the background to get a better view.

Medium shot of the TALL SAMURAI holding his staff, one knee bent.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO looking left. They turn their heads slightly and look right.

Medium shot of KYUZO, with one knee bent.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO. Their eyes move from right to left.

Medium shot of the TALL SAMURAI flexing his muscles. He raises his staff over his head and yells.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO.

Medium close-up of KYUZO. He steps back and holds his staff back at the ready.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO.

Medium shot of the TALL SAMURAI edging forward, with his staff above his head.

Quick medium shot of KYUZO ready to take the blow.

Medium shot of the TALL SAMURAI.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO. There is a sustained yell, off.

Medium long shot of the two samurai. The TALL SAMURAI rushes towards KYUZO, yelling, watched by the crowd in the background. Pan right with him and hold as he strikes KYUZO; KYUZO parries the blow and they remain motionless for a moment, staffs locked.

Medium shot of the two samurai locked together, KYUZO in back view. They step back slightly and the TALL SAMURAI strikes KYUZO's staff in a gesture of triumph. KYUZO steps back, and walks out of shot.

TALL SAMURAI (CONT'D)
Too bad - a tie.

Medium shot of KYUZO standing impassively.

KYUZO
No.

Close-up of the TALL SAMURAI: he grins and then stares in amazement.

Close-up of KYUZO.

KYUZO (CONT'D)
I won.

Close-up of the TALL SAMURAI, incredulous.

Close-up of KYUZO moving away; pan right with him.

Close-up of the TALL SAMURAI looking at him angrily.

TALL SAMURAI
That's preposterous!

Low-angle medium shot of the two samurai, backs to camera. KYUZO walks away, watched by the other man. He stops and turns back.

KYUZO
If it had been a real sword, you
would have been dead.

Then he walks on. The TALL SAMURAI, furious, throws down his staff and strides after him.

Medium long shot of the two samurai approaching the temple steps where they left their swords. The TALL SAMURAI grabs his sword. The crowd begins to move forward in the background.

TALL SAMURAI
Well, all right, then. Let's use
swords.

KYUZO
There is no need.

TALL SAMURAI
What?

KYUZO
If I use a sword, I'll kill you.
It's stupid.

Enraged, the TALL SAMURAI runs across into the open space, camera tracking with him. Hold on two men facing each other. The crowd presses forward in the background. The TALL SAMURAI draws his sword defiantly.

TALL SAMURAI
Hey! Don't you run away. Draw!

The crowd stops in its tracks. KYUZO stands motionless for a moment, then slowly drops his hat to the grass and draws his sword, coming forward slightly.

High-angle medium shot of the crowd backing hurriedly out through the opening into the road again.

Medium shot of the TALL SAMURAI, back to camera in the foreground, with KYUZO facing him, and KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO visible in the background. All the rest of the crowd have now retreated. KYUZO and the TALL SAMURAI start to circle round each other.

High-angle medium long shot of the crowd behind the wall, pressing forward again. A bird sings again, off.

Medium long shot of the two samurai holding out their swords, KYUZO facing, and the TALL SAMURAI still back to camera, with the crowd in the background. The TALL SAMURAI runs backwards holding his sword above his head, ready to charge; pan right with him and then hold. He yells.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO watching intently with the crowd a little way behind them.

KAMBEI

How senseless. It's obvious what will happen.

Medium long shot of the two men, KYUZO on the left still holding his sword out in front of him, the TALL SAMURAI on the right holding his sword above his head, and the crowd in the background. KYUZO takes one step forward, the other takes one step back. Then KYUZO steps back and holds his sword back at the ready, as he did with the staff in the previous fight.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO standing tensely, with the crowd motionless behind them. The TALL SAMURAI begins to yell.

Medium shot panning left to right with the TALL SAMURAI as he bounds forward yelling. Hold as he reaches KYUZO, who swiftly brings his sword up and round onto the other's neck. The TALL SAMURAI stops dead in his tracks.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO taking a step forward. The crowd shifts behind them.

Medium shot of the two swordsmen; they stand absolutely still for a moment - then the TALL SAMURAI sinks to the ground in slow motion.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO. KAMBEI does not look surprised at the outcome but KATSUSHIRO is obviously overwhelmed.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO dumbfounded.

Wipe to a general shot of the street. The samurai theme comes in, low. KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO are walking along.

Camera pans slightly right as they walk, picking up GOROBEI who comes up and joins them.

GOROBEI
Have any luck?

KAMBEI
(Looking at KATSUSHIRO)
Missed one - a fine swordsman.

GOROBEI
(Laughing)
The fish that gets away always
looks big.

KAMBEI
(Seriously)
No. I watched him kill a man.

An excited crowd rushes along the street in the opposite direction having obviously heard about the fight.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Yet he's not interest in killing,
only in perfecting his skill. Sure
enough, he refused.

GOROBEI
That's too bad.

They move towards the inn, camera panning with them.

KAMBEI
I told him where to find me though.

Music out.

Wipe to close-up of KYUZO at the door on the inn. It is night.

GOROBEI
(Off)
So snow we'll need two more.

HEIHACHI
Just one more I think.

KAMBEI
(Off)
What? Oh!

Medium close-up of KAMBEI standing up, smiling delightedly. Pan right with him as he goes across to the door of the inn where KYUZO is standing. Samurai theme in.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

You've consented to come. Thank you very much.

KYUZO

When do we leave?

KAMBEI

Tomorrow.

High-angle medium shot of HEIHACHI, GOROBEI and SHICHIROJI sitting together. They look at each other with surprise. Tilt up with HEIHACHI as he stands up.

HEIHACHI

Tomorrow?

Medium shot of KAMBEI and KYUZO. KAMBEI turns with a smile.

KAMBEI

That's right. Let's forget about the seventh. We have no time to lose.

KAMBEI goes off, and KYUZO moves forward.

Medium long shot of the samurai sitting and standing in relaxed positions in the inn. A figure can be seen running past the window outside.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO grinning happily.

Medium shot of KYUZO sitting on a bench behind one of the wooden partitions, undoing his shoe straps. Behind is the dark doorway looking onto the street. Music out. One of the labourers runs in, shouting for attention, camera tracking with him, till he faces the samurai, seen between SHICHIROJI, in back view in the foreground, and KAMBEI. They look at the labourer.

Close-up of the labourer.

LABOURER

(Excited)

I've found a really tough samurai. We had this big fight with him and he really beat us up. I've never seen anyone as tough as he is. Like a wild dog. We drank together afterwards and became friends though. I asked him. He's coming.

Medium shot of the group of samurai with the LABOURER in back view in the foreground. They look at each other.

Close-up of KAMBEI in the foreground with KATSUSHIRO in medium close-up behind him.

KATSUSHIRO
(Grinning)
Shall I do it again?

KAMBEI turns his head to look at KATSUSHIRO. He looks away again and rubs his head, smiling.

High-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO's hand grabbing his stick.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO from the side. Pan right with him as he moves forward.

Medium shot of the LABOURER, dumbfounded; pan as he runs over to KATSUSHIRO. Hold with the LABOURER by the open door and KATSUSHIRO in his usual position, hiding behind the doorpost.

LABOURER
What are you doing?

KATSUSHIRO raises the stick over his head.

Low-angle medium shot, through the bars of the partition, of KAMBEI and the other samurai sitting down in a group. The LABOURER rushes forward and points at KAMBEI.

LABOURER (CONT'D)
That's not fair. Look...

KAMBEI
Just watch. If he's really such a strong samurai, he'll dodge easily enough.

LABOURER
But he's drunk!

KAMBEI
A strong samurai would never get so drunk.

Pan left to right as the LABOURER runs back and crouches down by the window. Sound of confused shouting outside. Hold on the dark doorway, including KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, with his stick raised. The other two labourers appear outside the door with KIKUCHIYO.

LABOURER
Here it is. No, no. Here. Look where you're going. Come on, this way.

KIKUCHIYO
(Staggering and shouting)
What, what? Where?

KATSUSHIRO lunges forward with a yell.

Close-up of the 1ST LABOURER, horrified. A sickening thump, off. He swallows nervously.

Medium shot, with the partition in the foreground, of KATSUSHIRO looking down in horror as KIKUCHIYO slumps to the floor at his feet. The two other labourers watch amazed in the doorway. KIKUCHIYO bends double on his knees, clutching his head.

Close-up of the 2ND LABOURER, staring in amazement.

Close-up of the 1ST LABOURER. His mouth has dropped open and his eye are popping as he stares at KIKUCHIYO.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO in the foreground, holding his head and whimpering. The 1ST LABOURER rushes forward and kneels beside him, putting an arm around his shoulders.

1ST LABOURER
That wasn't fair at all.

KIKUCHIYO pushes the LABOURER away roughly and he falls to the ground out of sight.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO sitting up, with KATSUSHIRO just visible in the background. Pan slightly to reveal KATSUSHIRO in full, staring down at KIKUCHIYO, who is swaying drunkenly. KIKUCHIYO leans forward, coming into close-up.

KIKUCHIYO
Which one of you hit me like that?

A pause.

Close-up of KAMBEI laughing, with HEIHACHI and SHICHIROJI behind him, also laughing. KAMBEI suddenly stops laughing and looks closely at KIKUCHIYO, who is out of shot. He has recognized him.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO with an evil expression on his face. He leans back. Pan slightly as KATSUSHIRO comes up and bends over him worriedly. He has also recognized KIKUCHIYO. Grunting furiously, KIKUCHIYO pulls himself to his feet.

Low-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO, three-quarters back to camera, seen between the wooden bars of the partition. In the background, KIKUCHIYO has got to his feet.

Fast pan to the left as he lunges towards KATSUSHIRO, who dodges out of the way. Hold on KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO, seen over the partition. In the background, one of the labourers stands watching. KIKUCHIYO sways and grins nastily as KATSUSHIRO dodges away again. Infuriated, KIKUCHIYO staggers round after him, supporting himself on the partition, camera panning with him. He drops down in a stupor, camera tilting down with him, one arm dangling over the lower bar of the partition. The other samurai can be seen through the partition in the background. KIKUCHIYO, in back view, heaves slightly, looks up and then points towards KAMBEI. Pan slightly further in include all the other samurai. KIKUCHIYO begins to crawl towards them.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI, back to camera, with KIKUCHIYO facing him on all fours. He pulls himself closer and stares at KAMBEI from under beetling brows.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Oh, it's you, is it?

He runs his hand over KAMBEI's shaved head.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
I remember your head. You had the
nerve to ask me if I was a samurai.
Didn't you? I never forget a face.
Look, I' a real samurai, all right.

Medium shot of GOROBEI, HEIHACHI and SHICHIROJI laughing uncontrollably.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO leaning back against the partition.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Here. I'm going to show you
something. Just look at this.

He stands up and backs away, camera tilting up slightly. He turns round and drunkenly fumbles inside his clothing to find something that is concealed there. He turns back, holding out a scroll.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
There, just you look at this. It's
been handed down in my family for
generations and generations. And
you asked me if I were a samurai!
Look at this, just look at this!

He lurches towards camera, but trips on his sword and falls back against the partition.

Medium shot of the group of samurai. KIKUCHIYO staggers across in the foreground and slumps down next to KAMBEI, throwing down his sword as he does so. He unrolls the long scroll. KAMBEI picks it up and looks at the part that KIKUCHIYO has indicated. The others lean forward.

KAMBEI

I see. And so this Kikuchiyo is you?

KIKUCHIYO

That's right.

KAMBEI

You were born, let's see...on 17 February, the Second Year of Tensho.

He begins to roar with laughter.

KIKUCHIYO

What's so funny?

KAMBEI

You don't look thirteen.

KIKUCHIYO

(Suspiciously)

What's that?

KAMBEI

Where did you steal this scroll?

KIKUCHIYO

What? Steal it? Now, look here, just who do you think you are?

HEIHACHI

Just thirteen, eh?

KIKUCHIYO

You just shut your mouth, you there.

KIKUCHIYO grunts and sways even though he is sitting down. KYUZO, who is sitting opposite him, watches him carefully. He picks up his own sword and puts it out of sight. KIKUCHIYO lunges towards his sword; rapid pan as KYUZO swiftly grabs it and passes it back to KATSUSHIRO, who is standing by the partition behind him. KATSUSHIRO takes the sword and dashes off, camera panning quickly with him. Hold as he darts round between the partitions and out of sight.

High-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO running between the wooden uprights of the stable in the inn. KIKUCHIYO dashes up in the background, shouting, but KATSUSHIRO dodges out of the way, camera tracking left with him. KIKUCHIYO charges forward and leans against the partition as KATSUSHIRO appears in the foreground, holding up the sword. KIKUCHIYO grabs a stick that is leaning against one of the posts and runs round to KATSUSHIRO's side of the partition, camera panning with him, but KATSUSHIRO dodges away.

Low-angle medium close-up of the two labourers still at the doorway, seen from outside. They get out of the way as KIKUCHIYO runs past inside and camera pans right along the outside of the windows, following him. Hold on KIKUCHIYO, back to the camera, on the other side of the bamboo slats. At that moment, he steps back, as HEIHACHI is seen taking the sword from KATSUSHIRO, and falls against the bamboo slats which collapse under his weight. He falls backwards into the street. He staggers to his feet again as HEIHACHI approaches holding the sword.

HEIHACHI

Steady, thirteen-year-old!

KIKUCHIYO grabs hold of the bamboo bars

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO through the bars. He holds onto them and shakes them violently.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO holding onto the bars. HEIHACHI stands inside watching him with the other samurai in the background. As KIKUCHIYO lunges forward and through the opening he has made in the wall, HEIHACHI dashes out of shot, followed by the infuriated KIKUCHIYO. Music in: Kikuchiyo's theme.

Medium close-up, panning left to right with HEIHACHI as he dashes past, still carrying KIKUCHIYO's sword.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO dashing past on the other side of the partition, camera moving with him.

High-angle medium shot of HEIHACHI jumping down through an opening into the kitchen of the inn. He stands looking through the partition.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, who has fallen over, grabbing a wooden tub which he hurls in the direction of HEIHACHI. He gets to his feet and plunges forward again, camera panning with him. Hold on the entrance to the kitchen; HEIHACHI dodges out of sight and KIKUCHIYO staggers down into the kitchen area. HEIHACHI comes forward again and taps him on the shoulder, but KIKUCHIYO is so drunk he cannot catch him, and hangs on to a post to keep his balance, shouting.

Medium close-up, panning right with HEIHACHI, who is still rushing round and round the same part of the inn.

Medium close-up, panning right with KIKUCHIYO, who is stumbling along, hauling himself from post to post. He gets onto the wrong side of the partition, coming into the foreground, and dives towards HEIHACHI who is on the other side, but he is stopped by the wooden rails. Camera hold on him. He hurls himself back the other way, camera panning left with him.

Low-angle medium shot of HEIHACHI looking over the partition. KIKUCHIYO appears in the foreground. He has almost had it. Pan slightly as HEIHACHI leans forward, and pats KIKUCHIYO on the shoulder, over the partition.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
Brace up, Sir Kikuchiyo!

With a great roar, KIKUCHIYO pulls himself up again, camera panning as HEIHACHI steps back prudently.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO stepping back from the partition. He leans back against a post, camera holding after a slight pan to the right. HEIHACHI's arm appears over the partition and taps him on the shoulder.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
Courage, thirteen!

KIKUCHIYO makes another desperate lunge over the partition, camera panning slightly with him, but again HEIHACHI dodges out of the way. He tries to climb over, and camera pans further and tilts up to reveal HEIHACHI, laughing, on the other side of the partition with KIKUCHIYO, back to camera, in the foreground. He can hold on no longer and loses his grip, dropping down out of sight at the bottom of frame. Tilt down following his limp arm against the partition. Hold as he falls onto a bed of straw, muttering to himself.

KIKUCHIYO
Blasted samurai!

Medium shot of HEIHACHI looking over the partition and laughing. He steps forward and looks over.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO, who has fallen asleep in a drunken stupor on the straw. Music out as he begins to snore.

Medium close-up of HEIHACHI leaning over the wooden barrier, looking at KIKUCHIYO, who is out of shot. Pan left with him as he moves away, laughing loudly..

Pan further and hold as he joins the others who have come up on the other side of the partition. They all laugh with HEIHACHI.

KATSUSHIRO

Do you think he's a real samurai?

KAMBEI

Well, he thinks he is.

As they all turn away, laughing, and go back to the main room of the inn, the 1ST LABOURER comes up from the shadows in the foreground and stares over the partition towards KIKUCHIYO, puzzled and dismayed. KIKUCHIYO snores, off.

Wipe to a low-angle shot of the dawn sky, looking up over the roof of the inn. A cock crows. Music in.

Medium shot of the samurai inside the inn, getting ready to leave. KAMBEI is in the foreground, fastening his cloak, and the others are busy behind him fixing their clothes or weapons. They all get up and file out to the left until only HEIHACHI remains. Pan with him as he bends down and picks up KIKUCHIYO's scroll. Swift circular pan and tilt up as HEIHACHI goes round the wooden partition carrying the scroll.

HEIHACHI

Hey, Kikuchiyo!

Camera tilts down as he tosses the scroll over the bar and it unrolls on both sides.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

Take good care of this.

Quick track in towards the lower bars of the partition to reveal KIKUCHIYO behind them, sitting up, He grabs the scroll, tearing it in half. Track in closer as he kneels up, and stares between the bars in the direction of HEIHACHI.

KIKUCHIYO

(Desperately)

Wait! Take me with you!

He shakes the wooden bars angrily, and grits his teeth as he glares after HEIHACHI.

Long shot of the samurai coming towards camera in the deserted town square. In the foreground, RIKICHI and YOHEI are waiting for them, seen from behind. As the six samurai walk towards them, the two farmers turn towards camera and walk forward, both smiling happily. They go off in the foreground and camera holds on the samurai following them.

Very-high-angle long shot of the farmers' village from the top of the hill. Nothing moves.

Medium shot of the entrance of a house, looking through the doorway. Inside, a young girl is kneeling down, back to camera, her head bent forward.

Medium shot of the girl, back to camera. She is washing her long hair in a small stream which runs through the back of the house. Suddenly she turns her head and looks round towards camera. It is SHINO. Music out.

Low-angle medium close-up of SHINO looking away from camera, still kneeling on the floor. MANZO, her father, stands at the threshold, silhouetted against the light.

High-angle medium close-up of SHINO looking up over her shoulder.

SHINO

What's the matter?

She turns away to continue washing her hair. A pause. She looks round again.

Low-angle medium shot of MANZO looking down at her fearfully. He takes a few paces forward.

High-angle medium close-up of SHINO. Tilt up with her as she stands up and turns to face camera. Her wet hair hangs down over her shoulder.

SHINO (CONT'D)

Why are you looking at me like that?

Medium long shot of SHINO, back to camera, with MANZO facing her, still standing in the doorway. He takes a step towards her.

Low-angle medium close-up of MANZO, staring at SHINO, out of shot. He takes a cut-throat razor out from inside his robe.

MANZO

Shino. You must cut your hair.

Low-angle medium close-up of SHINO. She looks at MANZO nervously and instinctively puts a hand up to her hair.

Return to MANZO.

MANZO (CONT'D)

So you can look like a boy.

Medium close-up of SHINO. She looks down at her long, wet hair and holds it protectively against her head.

SHINO
(Frightened)
But why?

Return to MANZO.

MANZO
It's for your own good.

Medium long shot, through the thin wall of the house, of MANZO striding towards SHINO. SHINO backs away.

MANZO (CONT'D)
(Shouting)
Samurai are coming here! They are dangerous!

Fast track along the outside wall as SHINO runs backwards, still holding onto her hair, pursued by MANZO, brandishing the razor.

SHINO
(Screaming)
No, please!

MANZO
(Screaming)
I'll cut it myself.

She runs away through the house and camera tracks back along the outside wall again as MANZO chases after her. They are just visible through the wall. Hold beside the entrance as SHINO rushes out, closely followed by MANZO. Tilt down and pan as she runs across to a nearby house. MANZO almost catches her but she manages to get away and camera pans right with them as she runs back into the middle of the village square, followed by MANZO. She ducks under a wooden rail and then trips.

High-angle medium close-up of SHINO as she falls face down on the ground, raising a cloud of dust. Pan slightly as MANZO comes up and grabs her. She tries to get away, screaming, her wet hair flying about her shoulders. Tilt up as he tries to drag her off, screaming and crying, as MOSUKE and another farmer are revealed coming towards camera behind them. Other villagers have gathered to watch in the background. MANZO manages to drag SHINO away, going off in the foreground. Hold on the watching villagers.

Wipe to a medium shot of the entrance to MANZO's house from inside. MOSUKE ducks under the low doorway and comes in.

Pan with him as he runs over and stops in three-quarter back view, looking at MANZO, who is revealed sitting cross-legged on the floor in the middle of the room. In the background, SHINO is lying face down, sobbing.

Medium shot of SHINO lying on a low bed, crying bitterly. Branches of blossom can be seen through the open window behind her.

High-angle close-up of SHINO sobbing. Her hair has been cut short.

Medium shot of MOSUKE still standing, in three-quarter back view, with MANZO seated in front of him.

MOSUKE

You really are a fool.

Pan slightly right as MOSUKE sits down in front of MANZO.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

Now you've got the whole village in an uproar. All the girls are terrified. What are we to do? Those samurai are coming any day now.

He sits up and faces MANZO, who does not move.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

We'll go and see Gisaku.

Pan left with MOSUKE, now back to camera, as he rushes back to the doorway, where a crowd of onlookers has gathered. Track in and hold on MOSUKE, in back view, with the crowd in the background.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

(Waving his arms)

It's nothing, go on home.

The crowd does not move.

Pan left with MOSUKE as he runs towards camera to a barred window high in the wall, where another group are looking in from outside. He looks through at them, still in back view.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

Go away!

He turns back towards MANZO, who is out of shot, and moves away. Hold on the crowd, still looking anxiously through the window.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

(Off)

Well, if we're going to do something we should do it before the samurai get here.

High-angle medium shot of the samurai, led by RIKICHI and YOHEI, striding towards camera along a country road, with hills in the background. Samurai theme in - horns. On the crest of the hill behind them, KIKUCHIYO can be seen following. They all stop and look round towards him. He also stops.

HEIHACHI

Still following us!

In the background, KIKUCHIYO begins to pace across the track. Music changes to KIKUCHIYO's theme on the cut.

Low-angle medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO standing on the brow of the hill, silhouetted against the sky, with his sword balanced on one shoulder. He is looking towards the others. He turns round, and then crouches down on the verge, still looking towards them.

High-angle medium shot of the samurai and the two farmers, all in back view, looking back up the road towards KIKUCHIYO. HEIHACHI picks up a stone and pretends to throw it. KIKUCHIYO stands up again in the background. As he does so, they all laugh and then turn back towards camera, walking out of shot at the bottom of frame. Hold on KIKUCHIYO, who starts to follow them - cautiously at first, then striding quickly forwards.

Wipe to low-angle shot of the samurai, silhouetted against the sky. They are seated on some rocks at the top of a roaring waterfall, eating their midday meal. Music louder. HEIHACHI, who is sitting on the rock nearest the water, stands up and points towards the bottom of the fall, which is out of shot. KATSUSHIRO stands up as well and the others look at HEIHACHI.

Low-angle long shot looking towards the waterfall. In the background, the samurai can be seen sitting on the rocks at the top. In the foreground, KIKUCHIYO appears from the bottom of frame as he stands up. Occasionally glancing up at the watching samurai, he takes off his robe and stands wearing only a loin cloth. Tilt down and pan left to right as he throws down his robe and turns away, picking his way through boulders to the stream. Smoke from a small fire blows across. The waterfall roars down in the background. Hold on him standing legs apart, bending down with his hands on his knees in the middle of the stream. He studies the water closely, then walks forward, the water swirling round his knees.

Low-angle medium long shot of the samurai sitting or standing on the rocks by the waterfall, looking down.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, in three-quarter back view, thigh-deep in the racing stream. He bends down, peering at the murky water. He turns away, and very carefully bends down towards an outcrop of rock on the other side of the stream. Very slowly, he lowers himself into the water until he is almost submerged. A pause. Then suddenly he leaps up, with a gleeful shout, holding a fish. Pan right with him as he leaps through the stream, then turns towards camera, coming up onto the nearer bank again, smiling broadly. Hold on him as he turns and looks up at the samurai, waving the fish. Laughing, he crouches down on his haunches, camera tilting down with him. He fixes the fish on the end of a twig; pan slightly right to reveal the small fire. Satisfied, he begins to grill the fish, blowing up the flames as he does so.

Wipe to a medium shot of the samurai, backs to the camera, walking through a forest. Music softer. Sunlight streams through the branches of tall trees on either side of the track. Camera tracks behind them as they walk along. Then HEIHACHI, at the back of the group and nearest camera, turns round and walks backwards a couple of steps before stopping.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

He doesn't seem to be coming.

All the others stop and turn round, looking back the way they have just come. GOROBEI comes forward and stands by HEIHACHI, smiling.

GOROBEI

Finally gave up, did he?

HEIHACHI

Funny though, He followed us all the time, now I sort of...miss him!

They all laugh, then turn back to continue up the sloping path. Suddenly, with a yell, KIKUCHIYO jumps down from a high bank on the left, landing on the path ahead of them. Music louder. With a high-pitched giggle he points up the path through the trees and shouts down at them.

KIKUCHIYO

This way, this way!

Laughing, he turns and stride on up the path, going out of sight. The samurai in the foreground look at one another, laughing in amazement, then turn to follow him. Music changes to a quiet tune on a wipe to the next shot.

Wipe to a high-angle very long shot looking down onto the village, with the brow of the hill in the foreground. RIKICHI runs in from the bottom of frame and stops on the edge of the steep slope, back to camera, as YOHEI follows with the samurai. RIKICHI points excitedly down at the village.

Low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI, furthest from camera, with profile. Track with them as they stride down the slope, picking up RIKICHI and YOHEI in the background. They all stop and look down into the valley. Track on slightly as KIKUCHIYO passes them all in the foreground and stands insolently in front of HEIHACHI, also looking down.

HEIHACHI

So that's our castle, is it?

KIKUCHIYO

I'd hate to die in a dung heap like that.

HEIHACHI

(looking down at him)

Nobody asked you to help.

KIKUCHIYO looks up at HEIHACHI as RIKICHI runs further down the slope in the background, camera panning left with him, losing the others. RIKICHI stops on the edge of the steep drop. He shout and waves his hat, and the pan continues across the hillside until the village is revealed below. Music out. As RIKICHI's voice echoes round the valley, the few people who are visible in the village square disappear rapidly into the houses.

Wipe to medium long shot of the samurai with RIKICHI and YOHEI standing in the village square, looking around. It is late afternoon. The square is completely deserted. RIKICHI runs forward, dropping his hat, shouting again. YOHEI follows him.

RIKICHI

I'm back! I brought the gentlemen with me!

Pan left with RIKICHI as he runs across to the houses on the far side of the square, followed by YOHEI. The samurai watch him in the background.

RIKICHI (CONT'D)

The samurai are here!

Pan right as he runs back past the samurai, stopping to shout desperately.

RIKICHI (CONT'D)
What's the matter? Come out!

Pan left as he runs back to the samurai.

Medium shot of RIKICHI from the side, shouting through cupped hands, watched by KATSUSHIRO:, GOROBEI, HEIHACHI and KYUZO on one side, and KIKUCHIYO, who is still sitting up on a wooden railing on the other side. He laughs as there is not response to RIKICHI's shouts. RIKICHI runs forward again, camera panning with him as he goes and stands on some raised ground in front of KIKUCHIYO. YOHEI comes running up to him anxiously. Then SHICHIROJI and KAMBEI appear in back view in the foreground. A noise off makes them all turn towards camera.

Medium shot of the door of a house, partly obscured behind a straw fence. The door opens slightly and two faces peer out through the crack. Then the door closes again quickly.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI still looking over their shoulders towards camera, with RIKICHI and YOHEI facing camera standing up on the mound. In the background stand HEIHACHI and KYUZO, with KIKUCHIYO still sitting on the fence. Then KATSUSHIRO and GOROBEI move forward. They all look up towards RIKICHI. HEIHACHI goes up onto the mound and stands beside him, looking round the deserted village.

RIKICHI (CONT'D)
(Embarrassed)
I don't know what's happened.

HEIHACHI
A real welcome, I'd say.

KIKUCHIYO laughs again. KAMBEI, still standing in the foreground, address RIKICHI.

KAMBEI
What does this mean?

RIKICHI spins around desperately.

High-angle medium shot of RIKICHI shouting through cupped hands, and YOHEI next to him looking frightened. In the foreground, KIKUCHIYO sits perched on the fence in three-quarter back view.

RIKICHI
Come out! What's the matter with you? Welcome your guests!

KIKUCHIYO laughs heartily, pointing at RIKICHI. In the background, MOSUKE is running towards camera. RIKICHI sees him and runs towards him.

Medium long shot of RIKICHI with MOSUKE at the edge of the deserted square. They confer and then run back.

Medium shot of RIKICHI panning left with him as he races up to where the samurai are still standing. Hold on the whole group except KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, then pan slightly further to include the latter. MOSUKE joins them.

RIKICHI (CONT'D)

Well...let's go see old Gisaku.

KAMBEI

Gisaku?

MOSUKE

He makes all out decisions for us.

HEIHACHI

The village patriarch?

RIKICHI AND MOSUKE

Yes, sir, yes.

HEIHACHI

(Ironically)

So we're to have an audience. What an honour.

KIKUCHIYO guffaws again.

RIKICHI

Shall we go?

Pan slightly right as they all follow RIKICHI and MOSUKE. Laughing, KIKUCHIYO remains sitting on the fence then gets down and strides after them. He stop on the edge of the bank and yells after them, then mockingly scrapes his foot several times on the ground.

Wipe to close-up of GISAKU in the mill, his head bent and his eyes closed. The sound of the water-wheel can be heard throughout this sequence. He raises his head slightly and looks left. The low, humming chorus begins over as camera starts a circular track round him until KAMBEI is included, in front view with GISAKU in three-quarter back view in the foreground. GOROBEI and HEIHACHI stand in the background behind KAMBEI. They look bored.

Low-angle medium close-up of GOROBEI with KYUZO and KATSUSHIRO visible behind him, and in the background, YOHEI and RIKICHI, with heads bent. Track back until GISAKU is revealed, three-quarters back to camera. They sit motionless, looking down or with arms folded. Then GISAKU turns his head towards camera and looks round.

Medium shot of MOSUKE and MANZO sitting in a corner with their hands on their knees. Track back to reveal KAMBEI sitting cross-legged on one side, and GISAKU sitting opposite him. The two farmers can be seen between them, watching carefully in the background. GISAKU groans.

GISAKU

They are just foolish you see.

He looks up towards KAMBEI.

GISAKU (CONT'D)

They are farmers; they're afraid.
Afraid of everything: rains,
droughts, winds. They wake up
afraid, they go to bed afraid.
Today is no different.

Close-up of KAMBEI with SHICHIROJI and HEIHACHI behind him, seen over his shoulders.

KAMBEI

But why are they afraid of us? What
do they think we'll do to them?

Big close-up of GISAKU. He closes his eyes tightly. Suddenly the wooden alarm clapper sounds loudly, off. GISAKU looks up, his eyes wide open with alarm.

Close-up of YOHEI, his mouth open, very frightened. HE turns and rushes out of shot.

Medium shot of YOHEI. Pan with him as he rushes through the mill.

High-angle medium close-up of MOSUKE and MANZO looking round nervously as the alarm clapper continues, off.

Long shot focused on part of the village square. As the alarm clapper sounds off, the villagers, screaming and yelling, rush out of their houses and congregate in the middle of the square. Pan left across the square as they gather together in panic.

Low-angle medium long shot of the mill. Pan right as the samurai and the farmers run out of the mill doorway, led by KYUZO. The samurai theme comes in, loud. Pan with them as they rush along the river bank.

Medium close-up tracking with KYUZO as he runs.

Medium close-up tracking with HEIHACHI.

Medium close-up tracking with SHICHIROJI.

Quick medium close-up tracking with GOROBEI.

Quick medium close-up tracking with KAMBET.

Quick Medium close-up tracking with KATSUSHIRO.

High-angle long shot of the panicking villagers in the square.

Long shot of the samurai rushing across a small bridge with the paddy fields stretching out behind them and the hills rising up in the background.

YOHEI

(Shouting, off)

Help! The bandits! The bandits are coming.

The samurai, led by KYUZO, race towards camera and go off in the foreground followed by the farmers. Last to cross the bridge is YOHEI who pauses for a moment in medium long shot as the uproar continues, off. Then he runs off in the foreground.

Medium long shot tracking with KYUZO and HEIHACHI as they dash towards the village square. Hold As they reach the crowd, who immediately surround them, shouting hysterically. HEIHACHI pushes his way through, shouting and waving his arms, trying to quiet them down. Pan further left as all the samurai push through and get up onto the raised ground, looking down on the villagers who jostle for position below them.

HEIHACHI

(Shouting)

Shut up!

Medium close-up of KAMBET with SHICHIROJI just behind him.

KAMBET

(Fiercely)

Calm down now. Just calm down.
Listen!

He begins to move towards the crowd.

High-angle medium shot, with KATSUSHIRO in back view in the foreground and HEIHACHI beside him. Pan with KAMBEI as he goes to the edge of the raised bank to address the crowd, who are gathered round facing camera in the background. Hold on KAMBEI as he stop in back view, with HEIHACHI and GOROBEI behind him, facing camera.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

First, which direction are the
coming from?

Pan with KAMBEI as he crosses from right to left, looking round as the crowd shifts and many conflicting voices answer him.

VOICES

From the mountains...The main
road...No, no, the mountains...

KAMBEI turns back to another part of the crowd.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI continuing his movement until he faces camera with GOROBEI behind him. Pan right with him as he strides past KATSUSHIRO, shouting.

KAMBEI

Now, who saw them? Come on, step
forward. Who saw them? No one?

Pan left as he races back, still facing camera.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Then who rang the alarm?

KIKUCHIYO

(Off)

I did.

KAMBEI, startled, looks towards the voice. Behind him, KATSUSHIRO turns as well.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO standing on a raised pathway in front of a house, seen over the heads of the crowd. The other samurai stand in back view on the left. They all look towards KIKUCHIYO, who beats the wooden alarm clapper. Then he leaps down from the terrace and runs towards them, stopping in front of the crowd. He laughs at the crowd as they back off fearfully.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO surrounded by the crowd, with RIKICHI next to him.

He laughs again and pulls faces at the crowd, which edges back further. Music changes to Kikuchiyo's theme.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Don't be scared!

He laughs again and strides backwards and forwards, camera panning with him so that he remains in the center of the shot.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
No bandits are coming!

He laughs, swings round, and then beats the top of the clapper again.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Look, you idiots. We come all this way and then look at the welcome you give us! Yet when I knock on your alarm a few times...

He turns towards camera, squinting and mimicking the hysterical villagers in a high-pitched tone.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO prancing up and down, surrounded by villagers. On the left, the six samurai look down at him from the bank. KIKUCHIYO rushes at the crowd and makes a final gesture of disgust.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
...You all rush out screaming for us to help you! Stupid!

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO with some villagers behind him. He laughs derisively and bangs the clapper again, then turns and looks up towards the samurai. The villagers look at one another uncomfortably.

Low-angle medium shot of the samurai looking down at KIKUCHIYO with HEIHACHI, GOROBEI and KAMBEI in the foreground. They are all laughing.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, in back view, prancing about proudly with villagers facing camera behind him. Some of them look towards the right.

High-angle medium shot of GISAKU making his way through the crowd and looking up towards the samurai, who are out of shot. Pan with him as he shuffles along, leaning on a stick, until he reaches KIKUCHIYO. KIKUCHIYO bends over him, watched in amazement by RIKICHI, who is behind them.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Have you any objections, old man?

GISAKU
No. Everything's all right.

KIKUCHIYO nods emphatically and turns grinning towards the other samurai.

Low-angle medium close-up of GOROBEI and HEIHACHI, who burst out laughing. Pan slightly right as HEIHACHI moves forward to stand beside KAMBEI, with KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI behind them.

HEIHACHI
Well, I guess we're really seven now.

They all laugh. Fade out.

Fade in on a high-angle long shot looking down over the village with hills in the background. Music in. KAMBEI appears in the foreground holding a map, and stands back to camera as KATSUSHIRO and GOROBEI join him.

High-angle close-up of the map of the village.

KAMBEI
(Off)
Well, if you were them, where would you attack?

GOROBEI's hand comes into shot and indicates the hills marked on the map. He withdraws his hand.

GOROBEI
(Off)
I'd come down from the hills.

KAMBEI's hand comes into shot and points at a road at the top of the plan.

Close-up of KAMBEI's finger indicating the road.

KAMBEI
(Off)
I see. And you'd probably take this road.

His finger traces the road to the west.

Long shot of a group of villagers carrying a huge tree trunk down a path towards camera. Another group of men follow with an equally huge log. SHICHIROJI is directing the operation.

Pan slightly left as the first group dump their log on the grass by the path and collapse exhausted on the ground. The second group come along behind and let go of their log.

High-angle medium long shot of the men as the log hits the ground. SHICHIROJI stands back to camera in the foreground, with the first group of men lying on the ground in front of him.

The second group sink to the ground as well. SHICHIROJI strides about among them, instructing them.

SHICHIROJI

All right now, remember. A war is mostly *run*. We run whether we are defending or attacking. If you can't run in a war then it's already over.

Close-up of the southern section of the map.

Long shot of KAMBEI, GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO coming towards camera through a field of ripening corn. A barn stands in the foreground to one side, and there are trees in the background silhouetted against the sky.

High-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI and GOROBEI in back view with KATSUSHIRO just beyond them, in three-quarter front view, with the corn behind them. KAMBEI waves his hand over the corn.

KAMBEI

Right after the harvest, we'll flood this section.

GOROBEI

I can see why, but will we have enough time, I wonder?

KAMBEI

I wonder.

KAMBEI turns to walk away.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, continuing his movement as he walks away, followed by GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO. Pan slightly right as they go.

Long shot of KYUZO training a group of farmers who are all armed with bamboo spears. MOSUKE stands in front of the others facing KYUZO with his spear lowered, ready to attack.

KYUZO

Well, spear me. Look, I'm a bandit.

As he speaks, KAMBEI, GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO walk past. KAMBEI and GOROBEI go off; KATSUSHIRO, without stopping, turns to watch.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI, followed by KATSUSHIRO, going round behind a fence. KAMBEI and GOROBEI go off, as KATSUSHIRO turns back again to look at KYUZO.

Low-angle medium long shot of KYUZO, back to camera, with MOSUKE in front of him, spear lowered. The other men are lined up behind him, watching. MOSUKE makes an awkward lunge at KYUZO, but the samurai sends him flying.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO watching admiringly.

Medium long shot of KYUZO with MOSUKE still lying on the grass at his feet. He tosses the spear away and turns back to the line of men.

KYUZO (CONT'D)

All right. Next.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He stands looking for a moment and then runs off.

High-angle bit close-up of the eastern section of the map. KAMBEI's hand come into shot and he points at a bridge.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI looking at the map with KATSUSHIRO behind them, looking over KAMBEI's shoulder. They are standing on the bridge.

KAMBEI

If we destroy the bridge...

(Pointing)

...we can defend this area a lot easier.

KAMBEI hands the plan to KATSUSHIRO and they walk towards camera, going off in the foreground.

Long shot of a small group of houses on the other side of a field, with the hills rising up behind them. The three samurai appear in the foreground and stand in back view, looking towards the houses.

GOROBEI

But what about those houses over there?

Pan left as they walk across and stand looking across the fields to the mill.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and GOROBEI looking at each other.

KAMBEI

They'll have to be evacuated.

They turn away and begin to walk back towards the bridge.

GOROBEI

The mill too?

They both stop and look back in the direction of the mill.

KAMBEI

Yes.

They turn again and walk on.

GOROBEI

That old man is stubborn, you know.

KAMBEI rubs his head ruefully. GOROBEI walks off across the bridge followed by KAMBEI. KATSUSHIRO follows them, back to camera.

Medium long shot of HEIHACHI sitting on the wooden railing of a veranda, under a thatched roof. In the foreground, a group of villagers sit round looking up at him.

HEIHACHI

So you're afraid of the enemy.
Well, that's only natural...But
remember, they're afraid of you
too!

As he speaks, KAMBEI, GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO pass along the street behind him. HEIHACHI and his audience all laugh happily together.

High-angle long shot of KAMBEI, GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO coming round from behind a house towards camera, up a side street in the village.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO, back to camera, striding along in front of a parade of farmers who are standing to attention holding bamboo spears. He looks at each one in turn, then turns back towards camera, folds his arms and shambles forward. He squats on his haunches and scratches his leg. Music out.

KIKUCHIYO

Oh, you're all splendid. Standing
there like a line of scarecrows.

He stands up and yells at them.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Only, remember, these bandits
aren't crows - and they're not
sparrow either.

As he speaks, KAMBEI and the other two walk past behind the line of cowering recruits.

As KIKUCHIYO continues to speak, track round and back slightly until a large group of children is revealed watching avidly in the foreground. KIKUCHIYO and his line of recruits are now seen from the side, over the heads of the children.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Hey you, stop chewing the cud.

Medium close-up of one of the farmers holding his spear. His jaw moves regularly. He swallow, stops chewing, and blinks nervously.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
This isn't a cow barn.

He takes a couple of step backwards and puts his hands on his hips. He looks at his recruits then suddenly draws his sword.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO continuing his movement as he draws his sword. He is seen over the heads of the children who are watching, backs to camera in the foreground. The line of recruits backs away nervously as KIKUCHIYO waves his sword.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
You there. That's right. You. Step
forward.

Medium shot of YOHEI standing holding his spear at the end of the line, next to three other farmers. He looks towards KIKUCHIYO, who is out of shot. The others look at YOHEI.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO pointing with his sword.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
I mean you!

Medium shot of YOHEI. He steps out sideways from the line, very uncertainly; pan right with him.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO with his sword on his shoulder, and the scabbard in his other hand. He brings down his sword and lets it hang in his hand, mimicking YOHEI, shuffling towards camera, and drooping at the knees with the other hand dangling. The children laugh, off.

Medium shot of the crowd of children laughing.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO shambling towards camera, seen over the heads of children. The line of farmers stand in the background with YOHEI in back view in front of them. The children continue to laugh. KIKUCHIYO goes towards them, gesturing.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Hey you! I'm going to start
charging admission!

He puts his sword back in its scabbard. YOHEI looks nervously towards the children as KIKUCHIYO's back is turned, but he turns away again quickly when KIKUCHIYO walks up to him.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO coming up and facing YOHEI. The other men are seen behind them. KIKUCHIYO takes YOHEI's spear and looks at the spearhead. It is not bamboo, but a proper samurai spear. KIKUCHIYO gives it back to YOHEI.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
What's this?

YOHEI
Why, it's a spear.

KIKUCHIYO
I know that, idiot. I'm asking you
where you got it.
(Pause)
Well, speak up. Found it growing on
a bush?

He walks away, then turns back to YOHEI, who looks very unhappy.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
I know. You don't get spears like
that unless you take them - from
dead samurai. If you have this one
then you must have others.
(Shouting at all of them)
Where - are - they?

He stamps on the ground and shakes his fist.

High-angle medium long shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI, with KATSUSHIRO beside them, standing on a grassy bank by a stream. They are surrounded by trees and the ground rises slightly behind them. They are in the forest, on the lower slopes of the hills round the village.

High-angle big close-up of the northern section of the map, marked as forest. KAMBEI's hands indicate something on it.

High-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI and GOROBEI, in three-quarter back view, with KATSUSHIRO standing nearer camera with his back to them. The stream trickles by in the background. Sunshine streams through the branches and flowers grow in profusion at their feet.

KAMBEI

It looks so peaceful here, but it's our weakest spot.

KAMBEI goes off, followed by GOROBEI. KATSUSHIRO turns and looks up the stream, back to camera. He begins to walk away.

Medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO on the other side of the stream, back to camera, running up to a small tree in blossom. He picks a sprig of blossom and looks at it tenderly. Then he runs back towards camera, jumping over the stream. Pan with him as he runs through the trees and goes out of sight.

High-angle long shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI walking slowly along through the trees, accompanied by KATSUSHIRO. The grassy forest floor is covered with flowers. GOROBEI hold the map as he and KAMBEI study the surrounding terrain. KATSUSHIRO does not seem to be taking much notice of them. He runs up the slope towards camera, still holding the sprig of blossom. The two older men stand below him in a pool of sunlight.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

(Calling)

We're leaving.

KATSUSHIRO turns and looks back. The two samurai begin to walk back the way they came, but KATSUSHIRO looks up and then goes down on one knee to smell the flowers at his feet. The older men stop and watch him.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI looking up. They both smile.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

(Laughing)

He's still a child.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO walking through the trees with flowers growing all round him, so that he is only visible above the waist. Pan left with him as he climbs the slope.

Medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO among the trees and flowers. He gazes round and then goes on up the hill.

Long shot of KATSUSHIRO walking along the top of a steep slope surrounded by trees, with the stream in the foreground at the foot of the bank. KATSUSHIRO runs down the bank to the edge of the stream. Camera tilts down with him to reveal the stream more clearly; he sits down beside it in a patch of sunlight, Music begins over - a quiet theme associated with KATSUSHIRO and the forest - as he starts to lie back.

High-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO lying back on a carpet of small white flowers. He looks up and smiles contentedly.

Low-angle medium long shot of the branches overhead, from KATSUSHIRO's viewpoint. The afternoon sun shines through them and a breeze flutters the leaves. Pan across the branches.

High-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He closes his eyes, with the sunlight on his face. A pause. Suddenly, he sits up.

Medium shot continuing the movement as KATSUSHIRO sits up and quickly turns round, getting to his feet at the same time and beginning to scramble up the bank, looking back over his shoulder.

Long shot of the clearing with the stream in the foreground. KATSUSHIRO can be seen on one side of the stream as a figure appears running towards the stream on the other.

Medium shot of SHINO, back to camera, holding a large bunch of wild flowers. She is dressed as a boy, with her hair tied back in a short pigtail. She stands amid a carpet of flowers, staring at KATSUSHIRO, who stands motionless half-way up the bank on the other side of the stream staring back at her. A pause.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO on the bank. He puts his sword, which he has drawn, back into his belt.

KATSUSHIRO

Who are you? Are you one of the
villagers?

Medium close-up of SHINO. She shifts from one foot to the other, then nods nervously.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He goes down the bank a little way; tilt down with him.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)

Are you a girl?

Medium close-up of SHINO. Now very afraid, she shakes her head vigorously.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He looks puzzled.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
If you're a boy, why aren't you out
drilling with the others? Picking
flowers...

Medium shot of SHINO looking nervously at her flowers.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
(Off)
...at a time like this!

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO waving his sprig of blossom at her to emphasize his words. He suddenly realizes what he is doing and, embarrassed, tosses away the blossom.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
Just you come here!

He turns and goes out of shot.

Medium shot of SHINO, in back view, holding her flowers behind her back; KATSUSHIRO, on the opposite bank, starts to climb up, then stop to shout back at her.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
I'll make you march!

She does not move, and he starts back down the bank towards her. She turns quickly and runs off in the foreground.

Long shot of the clearing with the stream in the foreground. SHINO disappears through the trees, pursued by KATSUSHIRO.

High-angle medium shot tracking with SHINO as she plunges through the undergrowth down a slope. Hold as she ducks round between two trees, running away as KATSUSHIRO come up behind her.

High-angle medium long shot tracking with SHINO through the trees and undergrowth. KATSUSHIRO appears, running after her. Track with them, then hold as SHINO trips and falls and KATSUSHIRO makes a grab at her.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and SHINO struggling in the undergrowth.

High-angle medium shot of SHINO on the ground pushing at KATSUSHIRO, who is holding her down. He grabs at her chest and she pushes him off, holding her robe closely across her chest. Pan right with him as he jumps away in horror, looking down at her. He realizes she is a girl.

Medium close-up, panning left with SHINO as she crawls away through the flowers, adjusting her robe.

High-angle medium shot of SHINO, in three-quarter front view, holding her robe close across her breasts. KATSUSHIRO kneels among the flowers in the background, watching her anxiously.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO among the flowers and undergrowth, looking towards SHINO.

High-angle medium close-up of SHINO holding her robe, surrounded by flowers and seen through twisted undergrowth.

High-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO staring towards her. He looks away in embarrassment.

Long shot of KATSUSHIRO and SHINO sitting some yards apart, partly obscured by flowers and undergrowth.

High-angle medium shot of KAMBEI facing camera, with the other samurai (except KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO) grouped round him. They are in RIKICHI's house, with the map spread out in front of them.

KAMBEI

Now this place here would be all right. But so would this one. The question is, which?...

A strange noise, off. They all look towards the doorway.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO, in complete samurai armor, leading a large group of farmers all armed with spears. They are running towards RIKICHI's house, led by YOHEI and MANZO, who are carrying between them a long pole slung with a heavy load. YOHEI and MANZO come past camera in the foreground, reveling that the load consists of armor, helmets, bows and arrows and spears. KIKUCHIYO motions the other men to stop as YOHEI and MANZO trot off, camera panning slightly with them.

Medium shot of YOHEI coming towards camera, carrying the end of the pole on his shoulder, with MANZO behind. KIKUCHIYO comes up behind them. They go into the outer room of RIKICHI's house. KIKUCHIYO hangs up his sword.

KIKUCHIYO

(Triumphantly)

Look what I've found. Just look what I've got!

KIKUCHIYO comes over to YOHEI and picks up a complete suit of armor which is hanging over the end of the pole. Pan with him as he goes through the doorway into the main room. He squats down on his haunches and puts the armor down on the floor. Hold to include KAMBEI, three-quarters back to camera, with GOROBEL behind him. They look surprised.

KAMBEI
What's this?

KIKUCHIYO
It's samurai stuff.

High-angle medium shot of KAMBEI with GOROBEI, KYUZO, SHICHIROJI and HEIHACHI sitting round behind him. KIKUCHIYO's helmeted head is visible in the foreground. They all stare at him in amazement.

KAMBEI
Where did you find it?

Medium close-up of KAMBEI, in back view, with KIKUCHIYO, smirking, seen over his shoulder. In the background, YOHEI looks on anxiously.

High-angle medium shot of the samurai.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Here in the village?

Medium close-up of KAMBEI and KIKUCHIYO.

KIKUCHIYO
At Manzo's house.

Medium shot of the samurai. They are all staring at KIKUCHIYO as they realize that the farmers must have killed samurai to obtain the weapons and armor.

Low-angle medium close-up of MANZO, the pole on his shoulder, almost obscured by the load of weapons. He looks frightened and shifts uneasily.

Medium shot of the samurai. KAMBEI folds his arms but says nothing.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO. He looks uncomfortable and throws the suit of armor forward in front of KAMBEI.

Medium shot of the samurai facing camera, with KIKUCHIYO in profile in the background.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Here, isn't this nice? Look at that there. That's a really fine helmet.

He taps the helmet. The samurai sit silently, not looking at the armor.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Well, what's the matter? We need it, don't we? Armor, spears, bows and arrows. That's why I brought them.

SHICHIROJI suddenly stands up; tilt up with him as he shouts down at KIKUCHIYO.

SHICHIROJI

Shame! And you call yourself a samurai!

Quick pan to the right and then to the left as SHICHIROJI runs round the others and comes into the foreground. Kneeling behind, KIKUCHIYO, KAMBEI, KYUZO and HEIHACHI can be seen in the background, watching. SHICHIROJI grabs KIKUCHIYO's shoulders and points at the armor.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)

Don't you know how they got these? They were taken from samurai!

KIKUCHIYO

I know that.

SHICHIROJI shakes him violently.

SHICHIROJI

Then how dare you...

KAMBEI

(Intervening)

That's enough now.

SHICHIROJI

But...

KIKUCHIYO and SHICHIROJI both turn towards him.

KAMBEI

(to SHICHIROJI)

I understand. But someone who has never been hunted down after the battle by bamboo spears wouldn't understand.

A pause, then SHICHIROJI pushes KIKUCHIYO away roughly. Tilt up as he stands up, in three-quarter back view. Hold as he moves away. In the foreground is the shaft of a samurai spear. SHICHIROJI suddenly turns back and grabs the spear, lowering it threateningly.

Medium close-up of MANZO still holding the pole. He looks terrified. Fast pan as he shuffles backwards out of the way of the door.

Medium close-up of SHICHIROJI hurling the spear towards camera.

Medium long shot of the group of farmers still standing outside RIKICHI's house, on the other side of the small stream. RIKICHI is coming towards the door as the spear flies through and lands at his feet. He looks through the door in some trepidation, then rushes back to the men, shooing them away. They scatter quickly.

Medium shot of MANZO and YOHEI crouching on the floor with the load of weapons in front of them. They look frightened and ashamed. A bundle of arrows rests against a wooden pillar between them.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO bending forward and looking up, his eyebrows bristling, with his back to the other samurai who are visible behind him. SHICHIROJI also has his back to the others. HEIHACHI stabs at the floor with a knife.

KYUZO

I'd like to kill every farmer in
this village.

KIKUCHIYO and KAMBEI turn towards KYUZO, who is sitting right at the back. They turn back without speaking, A pause. Suddenly KIKUCHIYO yells in fury and starts to get up.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO continuing his movement as he stands up and stares down at the others. He takes a step forward.

KIKUCHIYO

(Laughing bitterly)
Well, what do you think farmers
are? Saints?

He steps back again.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

They are the most cunning and
untrustworthy animals on Earth.

Fast pan to the right, tilting down as KIKUCHIYO bends down and seizes the suit of armor. Fast pan back again as he hurls it away from him,

High-angle medium close-up of the armor landing in the stream which runs along under one wall of the house, which is raised on stilts above it.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO staring down at the other samurai.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 If you ask them for rice, they'll
 say they have none. But they have.

Pan slightly right at KIKUCHIYO strides forward again. Hold on big close-up of him as he speaks.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 They have everything. Look in the
 rafters, dig in the ground. You'll
 find it. Rice in jars. Salt. Beans.
 Saké.

He laughs mirthlessly, then walks away, pointing through the window.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 Look in the mountains, hidden farms
 everywhere. And yet they pretend to
 be oppressed.

Pan with KIKUCHIYO as he strides backwards and forwards still haranguing the samurai.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 They are full of lies.

High-angle medium shot of the five samurai with KAMBEI in the foreground, all staring up at KIKUCHIYO.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 (Off)
 When they smell a battle, they make
 themselves bamboo spears. And then
 they hunt. But they hunt the
 wounded and the defeated.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO. As he begins to speak again, camera pans slightly right with him, then holds as he comes forward into close-up again.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 Farmers are miserly, craven...

Medium close-up of MANZO and YOHEI listening, petrified.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 ...mean, stupid...

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO shouting.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
...murderous! You make me laugh so
hard I'm crying!

He turns his back to camera and walks away; then he turns
back to them again, his eyes brimming with tears.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
But then, who made animals out of
them? You!

He comes forward into big close-up, yelling at the others.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
You did - you samurai! All of you
damned samurai!

He turns away; pan with him as he grabs something and hurls
it away from him.

Quick medium shot of several arrows sticking into wooden
beams.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO, panning with him as he bends
down to pick up more arrows.

Closer medium shot of more arrows flying past and sticking in
the beams or falling to the floor.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO staring down at the samurai
again. Pan left then right as he strides about, shouting at
them again.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
And each time you fight you burn
villages, you destroy the fields,
you take away the food, you rape
the women and enslave the men. And
you kill them when they resist.

He comes into close-up.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
You hear me - you damned samurai?!

Tilt down as KIKUCHIYO suddenly sinks to his knees, bending
his head. He begins to sob uncontrollably.

Medium shot of the five samurai sitting facing camera, with
KIKUCHIYO in the foreground, his head bowed and his shoulders
shaking with sobs. A pause, then KAMBEI unfolds his arms and
looks down at the palms of his hands.

Close-up of KAMBEI, head bowed, with HEIHACHI and SHICHIROJI visible behind him. They are all very moved. KAMBEI looks up, tears in his eyes. KIKUCHIYO can be heard sobbing quietly, off.

KAMBEI
(Quietly)
You're a farmer's son, aren't you?

High-angle close-up of KIKUCHIYO, his head bowed and his face obscured by his helmet. He looks up and then turns and gets to his feet. Hold on a medium close-up of his legs and feet at the doorway, dust blowing about on the path outside.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO running out from the house. Pan slightly right with him, and hold as he stops and looks up at RIKICHI and old GISAKU who are coming towards him, in the background. KIKUCHIYO picks up the spear which is still lying where it landed earlier, and dashes off, watched with some surprise by RIKICHI and GISAKU. Pan with them as they shuffle towards the door of the house.

Medium shot of MANZO and YOHEI, heads bowed, backs to camera, sitting against a wooden rail which is in the foreground. The outer room of the house is visible beyond them. RIKICHI and GISAKU come in, pausing to look down at the two farmers, who raise their heads. Then GISAKU goes through to the main room, leaning on his stick, followed by RIKICHI.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI, back to camera, with GISAKU bending over and facing him. RIKICHI can be seen behind him, looking back over his shoulder.

GISAKU
Is anything the matter?

KAMBEI
(Rubbing his head)
No, nothing.

High-angle medium shot of the five samurai, with KAMBEI in the foreground. Some of them smile slightly.

Long shot, looking up the village street. Music in. Pan slightly left as KATSUSHIRO comes bounding down the road towards camera then stops dead, looking at something out of shot. Music out as he stops. Pan right with him as he tiptoes round until KIKUCHIYO is revealed in the foreground, sitting on the ground looking disgruntled. The wind is blowing up the dust. KIKUCHIYO has his back to KATSUSHIRO and does not notice him as first. KATSUSHIRO grins to see KIKUCHIYO in his full samurai armor and comes a few steps closer, studying him interestedly. Then KIKUCHIYO looks up, sees him and angrily pushes him away with the spear.

KATSUSHIRO back away, puzzled. KIKUCHIYO gets up; circular pan right as he stumps away from KATSUSHIRO, who remains in the foreground watching him. Sound of children's voices, off. Hold as a group of children run towards KIKUCHIYO but stop in confusion as he turns and menaces them with his spear. KIKUCHIYO walks off, watched by the children. KATSUSHIRO also looks back over his shoulder, as he begins to walk towards camera. Fade out.

Fade in to medium shot of GOROBEI at the door of RIKICHI's house, seen from the outside. He is kneeling and looking up. It is pouring with rain. Behind him in the house, KAMBEI sits cross-legged on the floor, and HEIHACHI is sewing in the background.

Medium close-up of GOROBEI with KAMBEI and HEIHACHI visible behind him. KIKUCHIYO can be seen lying on his back beside HEIHACHI.

GOROBEI

It's so quiet.

KAMBEI

(Looking up)

Isn't it?

GOROBEI

On a day like this it doesn't seem possible that those mountains are full of bandits.

KIKUCHIYO suddenly begins to move in the background.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO continuing his movement as he rolls over in a somersault. Tilt up with him as he sits up on his haunches, revealing HEIHACHI behind him, sewing away.

KIKUCHIYO

Hey, there are women in the village you know.

HEIHACHI looks at him.

Medium close-up of KYUZO sitting with his back against a wooden pillar. He looks round rather disdainfully in the direction of KIKUCHIYO, then looks away. Suddenly, he starts to rise.

Medium shot of the room, with RIKICHI sitting on the floor in the background. In the foreground, continuing his movement, KYUZO gets to his feet, holding his sword.

Pan right with him as he walks through the room to the door, losing the others and revealing SHICHIROJI, mending a longbow, and KATSUSHIRO, leaning up against the doorpost, looking out.

SHICHIROJI
Where are you going?

KYUZO
Up towards the hills.

SHICHIROJI
(Standing up in surprise)
The hills?

KYUZO
To practise.

He goes out, watched by KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, kneeling and scratching his knee, with HEIHACHI beside him.

KIKUCHIYO
You won't find many women in the hills.

Jump cut to close-up of KATSUSHIRO at the doorway. He looks round guiltily, then down in embarrassment.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO and HEIHACHI. HEIHACHI laughs.

HEIHACHI
Sometimes you almost sound intelligent.

KIKUCHIO
What are you making?

HEIHACHI
A banner.

KIKUCHIYO
A banner?

He picks up the free end of the banner and looks at it.

HEIHACHI
Something to hold up, hoist high - you know. Something to stir our fighting spirit.

He stands up; tilt up with him and track back slightly to reveal the long narrow banner with circles and symbols on it.

Track back further to include RIKICHI in the foreground, then KAMBEI, GOROBEI and SHICHIROJI who gather round to examine the banner. HEIHACHI has drawn six circles, one triable, and at the bottom, the Japanese character 'ta.'

KIKUCHIYO
(Pointing at it)
What's that?

HEIHACHI
That? You read it as 'farmer,' but actually it means this village.

KIKUCHIYO
Oh? And the circles?

HEIHACHI
That's us.

KIKUCHIYO
But there's only six. What about me?

HEIHACHI
You're so special that I made you a triangle.

They all laugh at this, particularly SHICHIROJI. KIKUCHIYO looks bashful, and scratches his cheek.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO at the doorway, smiling at the others. He steps forward, still looking towards them, then discreetly backs out and runs out of the door into the pouring rain.

Medium long shot of KYUZO in the forest with the rain pouring down. A small stream runs down towards camera. KYUZO stands at the edge of the stream shuffling his feet in the wet ground. Then he suddenly lunges with his sword across the stream. He does it again. Then, with sword erect, he abruptly crosses the stream and strides off through the dripping forest.

Medium shot of KYUZO with his sword in one hand coming along a path towards camera. The trunk of a tree stands on one side in the foreground. He stops by the tree and stares towards camera.

Medium shot of KYUZO, back to camera, leaning against the tree trunk. In the background, SHINO appears from out of a rough wooden hut; she stands in the rain for a moment looking up the track towards the village.

Medium shot of SHINO, in back view, standing outside the hut. Music in. She involuntarily puts a hand up to her hair, then bends down, camera tilting down with her, and begins to comb her hair, looking at her reflection in a puddle.

Medium shot of KYUZO by the tree trunk, watching closely.

Medium shot of SHINO crouching down, tidying her hair. She looks round and then starts to straighten up.

Medium shot of KYUZO by the tree trunk, watching with interest. He puts his sword back in its scabbard, moves further behind the trunk and looks round, but keeps almost out of sight. Pan slightly right with him.

Medium long shot of SHINO at the entrance to the hut. In the distance, KATSUSHIRO is splashing along the muddy track from the village. He pauses as he reaches SHINO, then ducks down to go into the hut.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, continuing his movement as he ducks under the low entrance to the hut, with SHINO beside him. She goes in and they face one another just inside. He holds out a carefully wrapped parcel and she smiles happily.

KATSUSHIRO
(In a low tone)
It's rice. Go ahead, eat.

SHINO
But -

KATSUSHIRO
Look, I tasted that millet you all
eat. It's terrible. Go on, take it.

He gives it to her. Tilt down with them as SHINO kneels down and KATSUSHIRO squats beside her. She holds the rice as if it were something very precious.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
If you don't want to eat in front
of me, I'll go and come back later.

He gets up and goes outside the hut; tilt up and pan left with him. She gets up too and stands on the threshold. KATSUSHIRO turns towards her.

SHINO
I won't eat it.

KATSUSHIRO
Why not?

He turns right round, back to camera.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
I brought it specially for you.

SHINO
It was very nice of you. It's not that. I'll take it over to Kyumon's grandmother.

KATSUSHIRO
Kyumon's grandmother?

SHINO
Yes.

Medium shot of KYUZO by the tree, watching.

Medium shot of KYUZO, back to camera, looking up the track to the hut. KATSUSHIRO comes out, followed by SHINO. They walk away back towards the village, and he takes her arm as she slips in one of the puddles. KYUZO leaves his hiding-place and starts to follow them.

Wipe to medium shot of all the samurai and RIKICHI seated round a low table having dinner. It is evening. A cauldron of rice hangs from a hook in the roof and RIKICHI sits by it serving the samurai. GOROBETI passes his bowl to RIKICHI for some rice. RIKICHI is about to serve KATSUSHIRO as well when KATSUSHIRO interrupts.

KATSUSHIRO
Rikichi, I'm not hungry now. I'll eat later.

KYUZO
Go ahead, eat. I'll keep something back from my portion this time.

KATSUSHIRO looks embarrassed.

KAMBEI
What's this? It sounds interesting.

KIKUCHIO
(Eating)
What does?

Wipe to medium close-up of an OLD WOMAN, Kyumon's grandmother, bending forward with her palms pressed together, a bowl of rice in front of her. Rain can be seen pouring down past an opening at the back of the hut.

Medium shot of the OLD WOMAN in the foreground, back to camera, with the samurai grouped together in front of her, KATSUSHIRO stands in front with RIKICHI and KAMBEI beside him, the others in the background. They are all looking down compassionately. By contrast, KIKUCHIYO stands with his back to the others.

KAMBEI

But this is terrible.
(Turning to RIKICHI)
Hasn't she any relatives?

RIKICHI

No, the bandits killed them all.

KAMBEI

I see.

Close-up of the OLD WOMAN, her head bowed. She looks up and speaks in a quavering voice.

OLD WOMAN

I want to die.

High-angle medium close-up of KAMBEI and GOROBEI looking down, with KIKUCHIYO pacing about bad-temperedly behind them.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

(Off)

I don't want to live anymore.

Low-angle medium close-up of HEIHACHI beside a beam, with SHICHIROJI and KYUZO behind him. They look down, listening sympathetically.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

(Off)

But I'm afraid...

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI, in three-quarter front view, looking down.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

(Off)

...the next world will be...

Close-up of HEIHACHI looking very upset.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

(Off)

...terrible too...

HEIHACHI leans forward.

Medium shot with the OLD WOMAN looking back to camera in the foreground, and HEIHACHI on his knees leaning towards her, the other samurai behind him.

HEIHACHI

(Trying to comfort her)

No, no. It's paradise, no bandits or anything. It's very nice.

KIKUCHIYO

(Pushing through from the back)

How do you know? Ever been dead?

Medium shot of HEIHACHI, only head and shoulders in frame, looking up at KIKUCHIYO who bends over him glaring, standing next to KAMBEI.

HEIHACHI

You needn't shout at me.

KIKUCHIYO

I hate misery. And I hate miserable people.

As he speaks, SHICHIROJI gets up behind them, and KYUZO also comes forward. KIKUCHIYO stumps out of shot. The others watch him go.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO pacing about petulantly, arms folded, in the rough hovel. The roof leaks and rain drips through. The other samurai stand together on the left looking at him, backs to camera.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Looking at a worm like her I get sick. Wretched, helpless. I never want to be like that.

He tosses a bunch of straw onto the ground.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

I want to be reckless, daring...

KAMBEI

(Stepping forward)

Then you just keep feeling like that until the bandits come.

KIKUCHIYO folds his arms petulantly as KYUZO rushes out in the background.

Low-angle medium shot of KYUZO coming out through the low doorway of the hovel.

Pan and track slightly to the right as he comes forward and stands in the foreground in the rain, arms folded. KATSUSHIRO appears at the entrance behind him, Pan slightly right as he hesitates, then comes forward beside KYUZO.

KATSUSHIRO
(Stuttering)
Wait...you...you saw me today
didn't you? I mean, with...

KYUZO
With the girl?

KATSUSHIRO
Yes...well - why didn't you say
something?

KYUZO
What do you want me to say?

KYUZO strides off, leaving KATSUSHIRO with his head bent with relief. Then he looks round after KYUZO. Fade out.

Fade in on high-angle medium shot of ripening corn filling the whole frame, rippling in the breeze. Music in.

Medium shot of the outer room of RIKICHI's house. A crowd of children are pressed up against the bamboo walls outside and round the door, staring in.

CHILDREN
(Shouting and clamoring)
We want rice, give us some rice!

Suddenly, they all run away. KIKUCHIYO runs across the room and out through the door.

High-angle medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO coming through the door, with the children scattering in front of him. He stands glaring at them, hands on hips. They all stop and turn to look back at him.

KIKUCHIYO
(Shouting)
Shut up, you brats. We haven't got
any.

A pause, then HEIHACHI appears at the door carrying bowls of rice, followed by KATSUSHIRO, KYUZO and SHICHIROJI, all carrying bowls. All the children rush towards them, laughing and shouting.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
(Grinning broadly)
Don't shout so much! It you feel
that good, then why all this 'give
us rice" business?

He imitates them.

Medium shot of holding a bowl of rice out of reach of several children who are crowding round him. In the background, the other samurai listen, smiling. KIKUCHIYO holds up the bowl of rice and lectures the children in mock-seriousness.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Now, you look here, this is all we
can give you. If we give you any
more, we'll look like this.

He sucks in his cheeks and squints. The children laugh.

High-angle medium shot of the children looking up at KIKUCHIYO, who stands over them in the foreground, back to camera, only his head and shoulders in shot. They are all laughing at him.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO making faces, with the children, in back view, surrounding him and laughing. The four other samurai stand behind KIKUCHIYO laughing with them.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
So, you understand now, don't you?

He bends down.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
(Wickedly)
Hey, haven't any of you kids got a
pretty sister? Huh?

The children giggle and the other samurai look at him with mock disapproval. HEIHACHI makes a face and raises a hand to give KIKUCHIYO a friendly shove.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO and HEIHACHI in profile, continuing the movement. The children laugh as KIKUCHIYO nudges HEIHACHI back, and then bends down to a small boy near him.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Come on, haven't you?

The child giggles.

Close-up of GISAKU in the mill with a woman behind him looking worried. They both look towards something off-screen. The woman puts a hand on the old man's shoulder with a cry of distress.

Medium close-up of MOSUKE with GOROBEI just in shot beside him. He looks at GOROBEI fearfully. Other farmers are gathered behind him, open-mouthed with amazement.

MOSUKE

You mean I have to leave my place?

Close-up of GISAKU, with his son and his son's wife just behind him, frowning worriedly. The son stands up but his wife pulls him down, looking away nervously.

Medium shot of GISAKU sitting in the middle of the room with KAMBEI, his son and his wife behind him and GOROBEI and MANZO beside him. KAMBEI is holding a small child in his arms. Tilt up with him as he stands up, still holding the child. He paces backwards and forwards in the foreground, back to camera. The waterwheel makes its regular noise throughout the scene, emphasizing the pauses.

KAMBEI

I know how you feel, but you have to. We can't defend these outlying farms.

KAMBEI continues to pace about. Suddenly the wife bursts into tears.

High-angle medium shot of some village men all armed with bamboo spears, sitting on the ground in a circle, with GOROBEI, KIKUCHIYO, HEIHACHI, KYUZO and SHICHIROJI standing in the middle, looking at them. Circular track over the heads of the villagers, revealing KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO standing behind GOROBEI as he lectures the villagers.

GOROBEI

Now, remember. Soon the barley will be ready for harvesting. The bandits will come right after that. So, let's be prepared for it. From the very beginning we're going to work in formation. We're going to harvest together and no one is going to go off and work by himself. From tomorrow on, we're going to camp together, unit by unit. So, remember, from tomorrow on, no one is going to do anything by himself.

The circular track continues as GOROBEI steps aside and KIKUCHIYO addresses the men.

KIKUCHIYO

So you just be sure you get all the individual action you need from you wives tonight, eh?

All the villagers laugh.

Medium close-up of YOHEI looking up and laughing. Two girls and three old women stand behind him roaring with laughter,

Close-up of the toothless old women, rocking with laughter.

High-angle medium shot of a group of villagers laughing with HEIHACHI in three-quarter back view in the foreground. He slap one of the men good-naturedly on the shoulder.

High-angle medium shot of SHICHIROJI, with another group of villagers sitting behind him, They are all laughing.

High-angle medium shot of three old women, laughing coarsely, one of them clapping her hands with delight.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, with GOROBEI near them in the foreground, all laughing. GOROBEI turns to look at KAMBEI.

High-angle medium long shot of the circle of villagers with the samurai standing in the middle. In the foreground, backs to camera, several children look down on the scene, perched on or leaning against a fence.

High-angle medium shot of MOSUKE suddenly standing up amid the villagers, with KAMBEI, GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO in the foreground, backs to camera. MOSUKE throws down his spear angrily and the laughter suddenly tails off. Pan left with MOSUKE as he walks through to the edge of the circle.

MOSUKE

Everyone who lives beyond the bridge, come here.

He runs away into the middle of the village square; pan with him, losing the crowd of villager. Four or five other men, some carrying spears, come into shot following him. He stops, and turns to them.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

Now throw down your spears. It's useless to carry a spear to protect someone else's home when you can't protect your own.

The men drop their spears.

MOSUKE (CONT'D)

Come on.

He runs off, followed by the five others.

Shot of MOSUKE, back to camera, running away with his five followers. Camera track after them a little way.

KAMBEI

(Off)

Wait!

They all stop in their track and turn towards camera.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, back to camera, with MOSUKE and the other men facing him in the background. KAMBEI points to the ground behind him.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

You, pick up your spears and return
to you units.

He puts his hand to the hilt of his sword.

Medium shot of KAMBEI continuing his movement as he draws his sword, watching it threateningly. The samurai theme comes in, loud. The other farmers and samurai rush round and start forming a line in the background.

High-angle medium shot of MOSUKE and his five neighbors backing away nervously. Track forward with them and then round as they dodge past KAMBEI and run across the open space. Circular pan with them as they mount a bank, running towards the other villagers, who are watching behind the other samurai in the background. KAMBEI appears in the back view in the foreground, chasing them. Pan further to the left as he goes and stands over them; they shamefacedly pick up their spears and move off to join the others, prodded and pushed by KIKUCHIYO. KAMBEI walks round and then across the square, looking sternly at the parade of farmers. Then he gestures with his sword. At this, the other samurai draw their swords and shout orders, and the village men rush across the square to form up in battle units. Pan right along the top of the bank in the foreground as they rush round nearer camera to form up in front of KAMBEI, who is now standing in the background. There is general confusion.

KIKUCHIYO

(Off)

Where's that fool Yohei?

Hold on the end of the line nearest camera where SHICHIROJI's unit is forming up. YOHEI shambles up behind them, confused and lost. KIKUCHIYO runs along in front of the men, grabs YOHEI and drags him off to his own unit, camera panning left to show KIKUCHIYO manhandling YOHEI into his proper place, and revealing the whole parade from behind.

Medium shot of KAMBEI still holding his drawn sword with KATSUSHIRO standing beside him. KAMBEI steps forward, camera panning right with him, losing KATSUSHIRO and revealing GOROBEI. Pan back with KAMBEI, losing GOROBEI and picking up KATSUSHIRO again. KAMBEI eyes the farmers, who are out of shot.

KAMBEI
(Sternly)

There are only three houses beyond the bridge and there are twenty in the village. We cannot endanger twenty because of three.

Pan left with KAMBEI as he speaks, losing KATSUSHIRO and including GOROBEI.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
And if the village is destroyed, those three will not be safe anyway.

Pan back as he goes back to stand by KATSUSHIRO. Hold as he shouts.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
War is like that. If the defence is for everyone, each individual will be protected. The man who thinks only of himself, destroys himself. From now on, such desertion will be punished.

He raises his sword and, running it between his fingers, replaces it in his sheath. He starts to walk forward.

High-angle long shot, looking along the parade of farmers holding their spears erect, with the samurai captains each standing in front of their units. KAMBEI stands facing them, then walks towards them, passes through the men and goes on out of shot. No one else moves. The Wind rises and blows the dust about in the open space. In the foreground, KIKUCHIYO goes up to one of his men and fussily straightens his spear. Then he turns away and leans on his sword with his back to his unit. Music out. Fade out.

Fade in on low-angle medium close-up of corn being harvested by a man, his body half out of shot. Festival music in.

Medium close-up of a woman harvesting corn.

Medium close-up of the man's hands gathering corn.

Medium close-up of the man, clad only in a loin cloth, harvesting corn.

Medium close-up of the woman cutting corn.

Medium close-up of the man harvesting.

Medium long shot of four women in single file, three of them carrying sheaves of corn on their backs, and one of them carrying a yoke with bundles of corn hanging from each end. They trot in single file round the edge of the field that has already been harvested, coming towards camera along a grassy bank. Pan slightly left to reveal KIKUCHIYO, in low angle, on the edge of the next field. Yelling joyfully, he runs after the women as they go off in the foreground.

Low-angle medium close-up of one of the women from the side, carrying a sheaf of corn on her back. She passes camera, going out of shot, followed by the other three women. Pan slightly left as they pass.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO watching them, licking his lips. HE comes towards camera with a surprised expression.

Medium long shot of women and girls working in the field, partly obscured by corn in the foreground.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO. He turns away from camera, revealing the sword which he is carrying as usual over his shoulder.

Medium shot of three women gathering up the harvested corn. In the background, others can be seen cutting more corn,

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO, back to camera, scratching his neck. He turns round.

Medium long shot tracking left with girls running along, carrying yokes with sheaves of corn at each end, partly obscured by the uncut corn in the foreground.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO, greatly excited by the number of women working in the fields.

KIKUCHIYO

Now who would have thought that
this village held so many pretty
girls!

He gives a delighted whoop and leaps away.

Long shot looking over the fields with hills in the background, and waving corn in the foreground. KIKUCHIYO runs towards camera just as YOHEI stands up from behind the corn in the foreground. He looks round at KIKUCHIYO, who comes and taps him on the shoulder.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
(Gesturing round)
Yohei, where have you been keeping
these girls so long?

YOHEI looks round and chuckles. KIKUCHIYO pushes him good-naturedly. He looks up, laughs wildly and, elbowing YOHEI out of the way, runs out of shot.

Low-angle medium shot of a girl, with her backside prominently facing camera, as she bends down cutting corn. KIKUCHIYO runs towards her from the background. Tilt up slightly as he comes up and stands beside the girl, looking down at her, with the hills and sky behind them. He giggles maniacally.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
(To the girl)
Give me your sickle for a minute.

He hands her his sword to hold.

KIKUCHIO
I'll cut three times as much as you
can. You see, I'm friendly.

Pan slightly left as the girl backs away from him in alarm; he steps closer and bends down, staring into her face. Then he playfully slaps her thigh and leaps off, giggling.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO bounding up with a sickle and setting to work on the corn, three-quarters back to camera, giggling and chattering all the time.

Medium shot of the girl holding his sword and looking at it very nervously. In the background, two men stop work to watch.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO cutting the corn. He looks back at the girl, leaps up in the air, and then carries on.

Medium shot, panning with KAMBEI and GOROBEI as they walk along by one of the fields. Women, carrying sheaves of corn, pass in the foreground.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO standing watching the work, three-quarters back to camera with his hands on his hips. HEIHACHI is standing on a rock, just beyond him. RIKICHI is working in the corn at his feet.

HEIHACHI

Rikichi.

RIKICHI stops and stands up. HEIHACHI crouches on his haunches on the rock.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

I see that married couples work a lot better than anyone else.

(Grinning)

You ought to get married.

RIKICHI turns away, suddenly angry. Music out. He walks towards camera and stands in the foreground with the other two behind him.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

Look, that was a joke. What is there to get angry about?

RIKICHI turns and runs off. Surprised, HEIHACHI turns to KATSUSHIRO.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

You go after him.

KATSUSHIRO runs off after RIKICHI.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

Why did he run away like that? He's supposed to be working.

Medium long shot of the field with a small barn in the foreground. RIKICHI runs past, going off in the foreground. KATSUSHIRO follows him. SHINO, who has been working at the edge of the field near the barn, stands up.

SHINO

(Calling)

Rikichi!

Medium close-up of SHINO. MANZO stands up in the corn behind her.

MANZO

Shino, stop dreaming!

Medium shot of MANZO. SHICHIROJI appears in the foreground as he stands up, back to camera. MANZO gets back to work. SHICHIROJI turns back towards camera, looking stern.

Medium close-up of SHINO, looking back towards SHICHIROJI who stands in the background looking at her. She steps back and quickly gets on with her work. SHICHIROJI looks round thoughtfully.

Wipe to medium shot of some of the samurai making their way through dense undergrowth of cut bamboo cane, which partly obscures them from view.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO, KYUZO behind them and HEIHACHI and SHICHIROJI following, making their way into an area of bamboo cane that been cut and trampled.

KIKUCHIO
(To KATSUSHIRO)
What did this? A bear?

KYUZO, HEIHACHI and SHICHIROJI come up and join them.

KYUZO
It's been sickled.

HEIHACHI
Rikichi?

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO facing camera with the others facing him in back view.

KATSUSHIRO
I didn't see him do it. I was looking for him, then he came out from there. He was all sweaty.

HEIHACHI
I see.

They all look in amazement at the chaos of bamboo. KIKUCHIYO turns towards camera in the foreground. HEIHACHI comes up to him.

KIKUCHIYO
What did you say in the first place?

HEIHACHI
Nothing, only that he ought to get married.

KIKUCHIYO

Something's the matter with him.
You can tell that just to look at
him.

HEIHACHI

His lips were set tight. Just like
this. Like a locked door.

KIKUCHIYO

(With a gesture)

Why don't you try to open it?

Wipe to a high-angle medium long shot of RIKICHI crouching
down, back to camera, beside a blazing fire. It is night. He
is holding a spear. Suddenly he jumps to his feet.

RIKICHI

Who goes there?

HEIHACHI

(Off)

It's me.

RIKICHI turns towards camera.

Low-angle medium shot of RIKICHI, back to camera, and
HEIHACHI approaching on the other side of the fire. Houses
can be seen dimly in the background. HEIHACHI comes and
stands near RIKICHI who turns slightly, and they face one
another across the fire.

RIKICHI

Yes, sir?

HEIHACHI comes towards camera and sits down.

HEIHACHI

(Beckoning to RIKICHI)

Sit down. Let's talk for awhile.

Samurai theme in, very quietly.

Medium close-up of RIKICHI and HEIHACHI sitting down.
HEIHACHI looks at RIKICHI sympathetically.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)

Talking is a good thing, you know.
If you talk about something that's
worrying you, it often goes away.
Incidentally, you're a man of few
words. If you've got anything
bottled up, well, now is a good
time to say it.

RIKICHI
 (Not looking at HEIHACHI)
 I don't have anything bottled up.

HEIHACHI sighs and fiddles with a bit of string.

Low-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO nearest camera, KAMBEI in the center and GOROBEI beside him, lying asleep with their heads on head-rests. KAMBEI opens his eyes and then sits up, pushing back his blanket. He puts on his jerkin and turns to GOROBEI.

KAMBEI
 Well, shall we go out?

GOROBEI sits up and picks up his sword.

GOROBEI
 (Looking towards KATSUSHIRO)
 Shall we wake him?

KAMBEI
 No, let the child sleep.

They get up and go out. Hold on KATSUSHIRO, still asleep. He stirs.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI walking through the anteroom.

KATSUSHIRO
 (Off, mumbling)
 Shino!

They turn and stop at the sound.

GOROBEI
 He just said 'Shino.'

KAMBEI
 Shino. That's a girl's name.

Pan slightly right as they walk on towards the door.

GOROBEI
 (Looking back and grinning)
 Indeed. That's not a very childish
 remark for a sleeping child to
 make, is it?

They make their way out through the sacking that covers the doorway.

Medium shot, panning with KAMBEI and GOROBEI as they come out of the house. Pan continues right till they stop by the small bridge across the stream. KAMBEI turns to GOROBEI.

GOROBEI (CONT'D)

Where shall we start?

KAMBEI

At our weakest point?

They both laugh and start towards the east border. Pan further as they walk away, backs to camera, and then along the village street.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO lying on the ground, his head propped up against a log and his feet resting on another log. He is supposed to be on guard, but is sound asleep. A fire blazes behind him. His sword is stuck upright in a pile of logs beside the fire. Track back and tilt up to reveal KAMBEI and GOROBEI coming along the dark street towards him.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI stopping. KIKUCHIYO's sword sticks up in the foreground. They come forward as soft snoring can be heard, off. KAMBEI picks up the sword and walks away, followed by GOROBEI.

Low-angle medium close-up of a small straw hut. KAMBEI appears looking over his shoulder. Pan slightly left as he hides behind the straw hut, followed by GOROBEI. They stand looking back towards KIKUCHIYO, then GOROBEI looks at KAMBEI, and picks up a stone and throws it.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO lying with the fire in the background. He wakes with a start at the sound of the stone falling into a stream. Tilt up with him as he half crawls, half runs backwards past the fire to the log pile where his sword has been.

KIKUCHIYO

Who's there?

He feels for his sword behind him. Realizing it has gone he circles round, and then grabs a log from the pile.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Who is it? Come out.

The two others appear behind him.

KAMBEI

Kikuchiyo.

KIKUCHIYO leaps round and faces them.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
 You're very lucky it was only us.
 If it had been the bandits...

He throws the sword back to KIKUCHIYO.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
 ...you probably wouldn't be wearing
 your head anymore.

They walk away into the darkness. KIKUCHIYO is so ashamed, he cannot answer, and sinks down onto his knees by the fire. Fade out.

Music in; fade in to a medium shot tracking with a horse which is pulling a plough guided by YOHEI. In the foreground, men, women and children are watching. The horse is being led by a woman, and KIKUCHIYO is walking along beside them, urging them on with shouts. Hold as they reach the end of the furrow and the woman begins to lead the horse round.

Low-angle medium shot of the horse passing in the foreground, as the woman leads it round to the next furrow revealing KIKUCHIYO and YOHEI behind it, with the crowd of villagers and some of the samurai watching in the background.

KIKUCHIO
 Yohei.

In the background, HEIHACHI stands up.

YOHEI
 Yes, sir.

KIKUCHIO
 What is that?

He points at the emaciated horse.

Low-angle close-up of YOHEI.

YOHEI
 It's my horse.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO.

KIKUCHIYO
 (Sarcastically)
 Horse? I thought it was a big
 mouse.

He turns away.

Medium shot of YOHEI holding the plough, three-quarters back to camera in the foreground, and KIKUCHIYO standing by the horse; he smacks its rump. SHICHIROJI, KYUZO, HEIHACHI and some of the villagers stand watching in the background, laughing.

Wipe to medium shot of SHICHIROJI, HEIHACHI, KYUZO and KATSUSHIRO, backs to camera, walking towards a field where villagers are working.

Low-angle medium shot of GOROBEI and KAMBEI, silhouetted against the sky. They look round as two villagers carrying a basket slung from a pole pass behind them. Pan left as they walk along through a field. They walk behind a man wearing only loin cloth, who is digging a trench. Other men are revealed working on the same job. KAMBEI and GOROBEI inspect the work. Hold as KAMBEI crouches down beside one of the trenches and puts his stick into it to measure the depth. Men behind them are digging other trenches while women carry away the earth in baskets.

Dissolve to high-angle medium shot of water running through a narrow channel into a large pool. Tilt up to reveal it as a flooded field surrounded by barricade of bamboo stakes.

Dissolve to medium shot of children running along past a house. Pan right with them as they run, singing, and climb over a low wall towards some men building a high barricade.

Medium shot of the children reaching the barricade and climbing up it. Pan slightly right and tilt up with them.

Dissolve to medium shot of YOHEI, MANZO, MOSUKE and RIKICHI threshing corn with hand-threshers. They circle round, threshing rhythmically as they talk.

YOHEI

No bandits seem to be coming.

MOSUKE

That's right.

YOHEI

And we went to all the trouble of hiring those greedy samurai. And now we have to feed them. What a waste!

Music out.

Dissolve to long shot of a crowd of villagers roaring with laughter, as they stand on the bridge. The river runs down into the foreground. Pan left across the bridge to where YOHEI's horse is standing on the opposite bank.

YOHEI stands by its tail, and KIKUCHIYO at its head. The wooded hills rise up behind. Hold as KIKUCHIYO argues with HEIHACHI, who is standing nearby with KYUZO. KIKUCHIYO prepares to leap onto the horse's bare back.

Medium shot with YOHEI, back to camera, in the foreground, and the horse in front of him. KIKUCHIYO jumps onto the horse, watched by HEIHACHI and KYUZO. He gathers in the reins and the horse circles round.

HEIHACHI

Now what do you want to do that for? You'll tire it out. Get off. You'll cripple it and that will make Yohei cry.

KIKUCHIYO

You just don't know how good I am. If the rider is good enough, even the worst horse will run well, and fly right in the sky.

KIKUCHIYO rides off through the stubble fields. Music in: Kikuchiyo's theme. He is watched by YOHEI, HEIHACHI and KYUZO all in back view.

Long shot panning right with KIKUCHIYO on the horse as it gallops through the fields.

Medium shot of YOHEI, HEIHACHI and KYUZO, watching KIKUCHIYO who is off-screen. In the background, the crowd of villagers are watching.

HEIHACHI

He seems to be doing all right.

Long shot tracking right with KIKUCHIYO as he gallops along the riverbank with the fields in the foreground. He goes out of sight behind a tall fence and a house. The track continues past the house and along a second fence, picking up the horse as it trots out from behind the fence, riderless and tossing its head.

Medium shot of YOHEI, HEIHACHI and KYUZO looking towards the horse in amazement with the villagers behind them. HEIHACHI and KYUZO burst out laughing.

Long shot focused on the high fence on the riverbank. KIKUCHIYO appears from behind it and limps along the path. Track right with him.

Medium shot. Everyone is roaring with laughter and pointing.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO on the riverbank, tracking with him as he limps and stumbles along. He picks up a stone and hurls it off-screen after the horse, then staggers on. Track With him until he catches up with the horse, which stands on the riverbank tossing its head and waving its tail. Track further as he tries to catch it; it trots on, just out of reach. He throws another stone at its rump but it trots away unconcerned, waving its tail.

Medium shot of a crowd of villagers on the riverbank, laughing and pointing, and clapping their hands with delight. One of them slips into the water, still laughing.

High-angle medium shot of another group of villagers crowded together, roaring with laughter. Music out, as camera tilts up slightly over their heads to reveal KAMBEI and GOROBEI approaching in the background.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI in the road, smiling as they look towards the scene. They stop. The laughter and shouting continues, off, during their conversation.

GOROBEI

They're happy.

KAMBEI

Yes.

GOROBEI

The threshing is all done. The bandits haven't come. They're beginning to think they've gone away.

KAMBEI

Yes. But when everything seems so peaceful, that's the most dangerous time of all.

GOROBEI

Right.

KAMBEI

Tell them to return to their posts.

GOROBEI goes off.

Medium long shot, through twisting branches, panning left with KATSUSHIRO and SHINO as they run up a slope in the forest, laughing happily. A bird sing, off. SHINO stops, and KATSUSHIRO stops also and looks back at her. She sits down among the flowers and he comes back and sits down next to her. Music in.

Medium close-up of SHINO sitting up, and KATSUSHIRO nearest camera, lying back among the flowers. SHINO looks down at him, then looks away, absently fingering a flower.

SHINO

I wish I'd been born into a samurai family.

KATSUSHIRO

I know. A farmer's life is very hard. I've been lucky.

SHINO

I mean...you're a real samurai and I'm just a farmer's daughter, so...

KATSUSHIRO starts to sit up.

Close-up of SHINO, in back view, and KATSUSHIRO also in back view, continuing his movement as he sits up beside her. They look at each other, their faces very close.

KATSUSHIRO

No...

SHINO

Don't think about it.

Very big close-up of SHINO facing camera, with the back of KATSUSHIRO's head half in frame, in soft focus in the foreground.

SHINO (CONT'D)

I don't care about what happens.

She moves her face towards him as if for a kiss, and KATSUSHIRO's head moves left across frame completely masking her for a moment; then she is revealed again on the right, her eyes staring at him searchingly. She Moves her head away.

Jump cut to high-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and SHINO, continuing her movement as she lies back suggestively among the flowers. He looks down at her. She breathes very deeply and her legs are splayed apart. Her breathing comes out in gasping sobs and then turns into near-hysterical laughter.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO looking down at her, startled. She continues to laugh, off.

High-angle close up of SHINO, her head surrounded by flowers. Her laughter turns into sobs and she suddenly covers her face with both hands.

SHINO (CONT'D)

You...you're not a real samurai.
Not a real samurai.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO staring down at her in amazement. Suddenly a horse neighs in the distance, off. He raises his eye fearfully. SHINO's sobbing continues, off. The horse neighs again.

High-angle close-up of SHINO, her face covered with her hands. Music out. She lowers her hands over her mouth and her eyes stare up in terror. She begins to sit up.

High-angle long shot through the trees and undergrowth continuing SHINO's movement as she sits up. Then she and KATSUSHIRO both stand up. She holds onto his arm. KATSUSHIRO begins to climb the slope followed by SHINO, and they go off on the left.

General shot of a clearing in the forest with the ground dappled with sunlight filtering through the leaves. In the background, SHINO and KATSUSHIRO appear through the undergrowth, then stop. Sinister drumbeats in. Tilt down to reveal three horses all saddled, standing below a tree in a small hollow.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO with SHINO looking over his shoulder. He moves forward slightly, parting the undergrowth in front of him, and stares down. They look at each other, then he pushes SHINO and they run back the way they came. Drumbeats out.

Medium shot of the outer room of RIKICHI's house. SHICHIROJI comes in through the low entrance. Pan left with him as he walks towards the main room and bows at the entrance, then hold as KAMBEI and GOROB EI are revealed sitting on the floor. KAMBEI stands up and walks over to SHICHIROJI, camera panning slightly right with him.

SHICHIROJI

I saw three men near the west road.

GOROB EI comes up, listening.

KAMBEI

I see. Has anyone else seen them?

He looks at GOROB EI.

SHICHIROJI

No.

They hear a noise and look towards the entrance.

Medium shot of the outer room. KATSUSHIRO runs through to the three other men, camera panning left with him.

KATSUSHIRO
(Breathlessly)
I saw three horses on the back
hill. I think they belong to the
bandits.

KAMBEI
(Putting his sword into his
scabbard)
I know.

KATSUSHIRO looks up at them incredulously, then they all turn again towards the entrance.

Medium shot of the outer room. KYUZO comes in; pan left with him as he comes up to join the group.

KYUZO
So, they finally came, did they?

KAMBEI
How did you know?

KYUZO
(Standing back to camera, back to
the other four)
Anyone would. All this running
around.

They all look towards the entrance again.

Medium shot. HEIHACHI and RIKICHI run through the door; pan left with them as they go through to the others.

HEIHACHI
(To KAMBEI)
Where did they come from? The hill,
or from the west?

KAMBEI
The west.

HEIHACHI
I see.

The six samurai and RIKICHI stand together for a moment, weighing up the situation. KATSUSHIRO looks very alarmed. KAMBEI, back to camera, gives him a friendly pat on the shoulder and then makes for the door, followed by SHICHIROJI.

High-angle medium shot outside the house as KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI run out, quickly followed by the others.

Medium shot of two children playing on the ground near a house. In the background, the samurai run down into the village square. A woman comes into shot in the foreground and hustles the children away.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, in the foreground, with the others behind him. They all stop to look at something off-screen.

Quick shot of several women gathering together outside a house.

WOMAN

(In a hushed voice)

The bandits are coming!

Medium shot. The samurai look round, frowning worriedly.

Medium shot of several villagers running around outside their house, excited and frightened, as the news is passed around.

Medium shot. Everyone looks around. KAMBEI turns to RIKICHI.

KAMBEI

Tell them to keep quiet. There are only three bandits. Make them go to their houses. Keep them quiet.

RIKICHI

Yes, sir.

RIKICHI runs off.

KAMBEI

(Turning to the others)

Those three would be scouts. They mustn't know that there are samurai here.

SHICHIROJI nods and rushes off, followed by KAMBEI and the others. Semicircular pan right as they run away from camera.

Medium shot of a group of women and children screaming at each other hysterically, in complete confusion. RIKICHI comes up, trying to calm them down. He manages to get them to disperse; then turns round, camera panning right with him as he runs across to another group of villagers including several men. He explains the situation to them and pushes them off to their houses, then runs off again, camera panning right with him as he goes over to another group, who gather round him for reassurance. Pan further as the villagers scatter, gathering their children and going to their homes.

RIKICHI turns round the square and camera pans with him, picking up KIKUCHIYO who is leading along the horse with YOHEI and a group of children. Hold as he calls out to RIKICHI.

KIKUCHIO
What's happened? Bandits?

He claps his hands in delight as RIKICHI nods.

KIKUCHIYO
Oh, they've finally come, have they?

YOHEI hands him his sword, and he hands the horse's reins to RIKICHI, looking pleased.

Medium shot of the wall of a house near the western barricade, with a straw fence in the foreground. Behind the fence, some of the samurai can be seen creeping past very quietly, camera tracking left with them. Hold at the end of the fence as SHICHIROJI appears, dropping down onto all fours. The other samurai quickly go into the house, camera panning right with them as they disappear inside.

Medium shot of the family inside the house. Hearing the door open they all look up. Tilt up as they all leap to their feet and KAMBEI appears in the foreground, back to camera. The family rushes back and cowers together against the far wall.

KAMBEI
Keep quiet.

Medium shot of a window with KAMBEI going towards it in back view followed by GOROBEI and the other samurai. They crowd together, looking through the window. SHICHIROJI leans over KAMBEI's shoulder.

GOROBEI
Where?

SHICHIROJI
By that big tree.

Suddenly, they all duck down below the level of the window ledge.

Medium close-up of the window bars in the foreground with pots and bowls on the window ledge. Outside can be seen the big western barricade with a hill rising up beyond it and three figures making their way downwards.

Medium shot of part of the barricade with the three bandits just visible on the other side, looking through.

Medium shot of the six samurai, bending down and looking through the window. KAMBEI kneels down and turns back to the others. Outside, the three bandits can be seen running along beyond the barricade.

KAMBEI
They're scouts, all right.

GOROBEI
Looks like they're surprised to see our fence.

KAMBEI
At any rate, they still don't know about us.

GOROBEI
They think they've only got farmers to contend with, then.

Just then, the voice of KIKUCHIYO is heard shouting loudly.

KIKUCHIYO
(off)
Hey, where did you all get to?

HEIHACHI
Oh, the idiot!

HEIHACHI gets up quickly; pan left, losing the others except KATSUSHIRO, as HEIHACHI goes over to a side window and looks through it.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
(In a low voice)
Kikuchiyo!

KIKUCHIYO can be seen standing outside the window. HEIHACHI beckons to him then hurries off, as KIKUCHIYO, grinning, comes up to the window, watched by KATSUSHIRO. KIKUCHIYO looks through the window, giggling.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO outside the house, by the doorway.

KIKUCHIYO
Oh, there you are! Hey, what's this about the bandits finally coming here? Have they arrived at last?

HEIHACHI's hand appears through the doorway. One clamps over KIKUCHIYO's mouth and the other drags him out of sight by the shoulder.

Medium close-up continuing HEIHACHI's movement as he drags KIKUCHIYO into the house. In the background, the other samurai look at him reproachfully. HEIHACHI and KIKUCHIYO stand facing one another angrily in the foreground. Behind them KAMBEI suddenly stands up in front of the window.

KAMBEI

Now they know about us.

The other samurai crowd back round the window leaving KIKUCHIYO watching them petulantly.

Medium shot of the barricade with the three bandits visible beyond it, running away up a hill.

Medium shot from behind of the six samurai peering through the window, which is off-screen. They move away, camera panning slightly right, and look at each other worriedly.

GOROBEI

They can't be allowed to rejoin the others.

KAMBEI

Right.

KYUZO

I'll get them. The hills are my responsibility.

As KYUZO moves, he reveals KIKUCHIYO standing shamefacedly by the door.

KIKUCHIYO

I'm sorry...I didn't know.

KAMBEI

Don't apologize. Just go out there and get them. And take the short cut.

KIKUCHIYO grins with delight, hands his sword to SHICHIROJI and runs off rubbing his hands with glee.

KYUZO

Right, we'll reach the horses first.

He turns and runs after KIKUCHIYO, camera panning left with him, revealing KIKUCHIYO standing in the porch, beckoning excitedly. KATSUSHIRO starts to follow KYUZO and camera holds on the doorway as he is about to go through, but KAMBEI steps up to him.

KAMBEI
Katsushiro!

KIKUCHIYO runs off as KATSUSHIRO runs to KAMBEI.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
You can go, but just watch, don't
fight. Understand?

KIKUCHIYO leaps back to the porch and pulls at KATSUSHIRO,
then goes off again.

KATSUSHIRO
(To KAMBEI)
Yes, sir.

He quickly follows KIKUCHIYO.

Wipe to medium shot of the three horses standing among the
trees in the forest. Drumbeats in, very softly. Tilt up
through the trees, losing the horses, to reveal KIKUCHIYO,
KYUZO and KATSUSHIRO at the top of the rise, hurrying towards
camera. One of the horses neighs, off.

Medium shot of the three samurai peering through the foliage
which partly obscures them in the foreground.

KIKUCHIYO
(Impressed)
They're very good horses.

KYUZO looks around and then goes off. Pan right with
KIKUCHIYO as he turns to follow. KATSUSHIRO follows him and
the pan continues as they climb a short rise, till they
rejoin KYUZO, who turns to KATSUSHIRO.

KYUZO
You stay here.

KIKUCHIYO and KYUZO make off up the hill and KATSUSHIRO
starts to run down it towards camera. Fast pan right with him
and hold as he stops to look back up the hill. Pan continues
down and right past the base of a large tree trunk.
KATSUSHIRO dodges behind it and then appears on the other
side, looking round.

Low-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO, back to camera,
looking up round the tree trunk. At the top of the slope,
KIKUCHIYO and KYUZO can be seen running through the trees;
they go out of sight behind the tree trunk. Pan right with
KATSUSHIRO as he edges round to the other side of the tree to
look, but KIKUCHIYO and KYUZO have disappeared. A horse
whinnies, off, and he ducks back behind the tree trunk,
camera panning slightly right as he does so.

Drumbeats, louder. He looks in the direction of the horses, then looks all round, very nervously. He plucks up courage and looks back up the hill in an attempt to catch sight of KIKUCHIYO and KYUZO.

Low-angle long shot looking up slope to the trees at the top. Flowers grow in profusion. For a moment nothing moves.; a bird sings.

High-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO peering round the tree trunk. He starts to move away, still looking up. Pan right with him and tilt down slightly as he runs down a short slope to where the horses are revealed standing under the trees. Pan right with him as he pushes his way through the undergrowth, and begins to crawl up the slope.

High-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, crawling up the slope through the flowers and grass. Hold as he stops, pressed against the ground, and parts the flowers to get a better view up the slope. Drumbeats get gradually louder. Tilt up losing KATSUSHIRO, revealing the trees and grass on the crown of the hill. KYUZO can be seen near the base of a tree.

Medium long shot of KYUZO, partly obscured by the grass and flowers in the foreground, sitting nonchalantly at the base of the tree.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO peering up through the flowers. He looks round then flattens some more flowers to get a better view, moving his head very slightly.

Medium long shot. Suddenly, KIKUCHIYO appears about ten feet up in a nearby tree, pressing himself flat against one of the main branches. He picks a twig and throws it down towards KYUZO, who does not react.

High-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO.

Medium shot of KYUZO leaning against the tree trunk, relaxed and surrounded by flowers, his sword resting lightly across his knees. He plays with a flower; it is the only thing moving in the shot.

High-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO amid the flowers, staring up in amazement. His eyes move as he looks in the direction of KIKUCHIYO.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO up in the tree, his body pressed flat along the branch. He looks round the branch and then crouches right down in the fork. Drumbeats even louder.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO.

Medium shot of KYUZO fiddling with the flower at the base of his tree.

High-angle big close-up of KATSUSHIRO looking up tensely. His eye moves from one to the other.

Long-angle medium long shot of the two trees with KYUZO sitting at the base of one, and KIKUCHIYO high up on the branch of the other. Suddenly, the three bandits appear, running up the slope towards the trees.

High-angle big close-up of KATSUSHIRO, his eyes wide with apprehension. Drumbeats very loud.

Medium long shot of the bandits running towards camera under KIKUCHIYO's tree, with KYUZO visible sitting by the other tree. As they run, KIKUCHIYO braces himself to jump and KYUZO very slowly starts to get up. He stands in front of the bandits impassively and they stop, off their guard, staring at him in amazement. Then, as KIKUCHIYO jumps down from the branch with a yell, pan slightly right as KYUZO steps forward to one of the bandits who has just drawn his sword. He fells the man with one blow and KIKUCHIYO falls on the second man. The third bandit tried to run away, coming towards camera. Fast pan right as KYUZO pursues him and, with a single sword thrust, runs him through at the base of a tree. Drumbeats out, abruptly. As he falls, pan back with KIKUCHIYO, who returns to where KIKUCHIYO and the other bandit are still struggling. KYUZO turns to where KATSUSHIRO is hiding, off-screen.

KYUZO (CONT'D)

Katsushiro! It's all over. You can come out now.

As he call, KIKUCHIYO is pounding the bandit into the ground with obvious satisfaction.

Wipe to medium close-up of the head and shoulders of the surviving bandit, lying on the ground, his arms bound tightly. People's feet can be seen in the background and the crowd shouts, off. The man rolls about, screaming for mercy. Track back to include KIKUCHIYO, who is hanging onto the end of the rope that is tied round the bandit. Behind him the other samurai are holding back the villagers who are trying to get at the man, armed - men and women alike - with picks, hoes, spears or clubs. KIKUCHIYO is in very good spirits and every now and again give the bandit a vicious kick. Suddenly, some villagers break through the cordon in the foreground.

Medium shot panning swiftly right as GOROBEI rushes through with a spear to hold back some of the villagers.

Medium close-up of SHICHIROJI with a spear using all of his strength to hold back another group of villagers, who are screaming and shouting hysterically.

Medium close-up of HEIHACHI holding back some men and women who are pushing and struggling to get through. Pan left as he manages to push them back with both arms outstretched.

High-angle medium close-up of KYUZO, in back view, surrounded by villagers but holding them off with his sword, which he is holding horizontally with both hands.

Quick medium shot of KATSUSHIRO struggling with other villagers.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, back to camera, pushing back more villagers. Fast pan left with KAMBEI as he turns away from them and runs towards camera.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI panning left with him as he runs into the middle of the circle of screaming villagers.

High-angle medium long shot of KAMBEI standing surrounded by the angry villagers, who are still trying to get through to the bandit, waving and threatening with their weapons. The commotion has raised clouds of dust.

KAMBEI

(Shouting and waving his arms)
Listen! This man is a prisoner of
war.

The villagers take no notice.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

He gave himself up. He's confessed.
He is begging for mercy. We must
not kill him!

The villagers take little notice and still try to break in while the samurai continue to fight to keep them back.

Medium shot of a group of villagers with HEIHACHI trying to hold them back. In the foreground, a man naked to the waist manages to break through. A woman next to him waves a pickaxe.

Medium shot of another group with RIKICHI in front holding a spear. He looks down towards the bandit, off-screen, his eyes wild.

RIKICHI

Let me do it, let me.

The man next to him tries to pull his spear away, but RIKICHI hangs onto it and pushes the man back. He comes forward, staring down, and raises his spear to strike. Pan right as KAMBEI rushes up and grabs RIKICHI round the waist, pulling him back. Suddenly, everyone stops and looks towards something off-screen; the noise dies down.

Medium shot of the OLD WOMAN (Kyumon's grandmother) coming up the edge of the crowd carrying a vicious-looking three-pronged hoe. Music and humming chorus in. Pan left with her as she shuffles past the crowd who stand staring at her, motionless and silent. Camera picks up KAMBEI watching her pass and holds on him as the OLD WOMAN goes off. RIKICHI and SHICHIROJI stand behind KAMBEI. GOROBEI comes up from one side, and HEIHACHI, KYUZO and KATSUSHIRO join them from the other. They all watch the OLD WOMAN, out of shot. Then old GISAKU appears in the foreground, leaning on his stick. The samurai look towards him as he begins to speak.

GISAKU

Very good. Let her avenge her son's death in her own way. Make way there. Somebody help her!

RIKICHI pushes past KAMBEI and goes off, following the OLD WOMAN. GISAKU looks up at KAMBEI, while more villagers run past him in the foreground, following RIKICHI. The samurai turn away dejectedly, then go off, pushing their way through the crowd. Hold on GISAKU as the villagers continue to crowd forward. Music out.

Wipe to high-angle shot of the samurai sitting in a circle in RIKICHI's house with RIKICHI in the background. KIKUCHIYO is lying with his feet propped up against a pillar.

GOROBEI

According to what the bandit said, their fortress must be...

KYUZO

Must be very easy to take.

KIKUCHIYO

(Rolling over and grinning)
Must be as full of holes as Yohei's trousers.

GOROBEI

If it is that easy...

KIKUCHIYO

I'd attack by night, I would.

HEIHACHI

There are forty of them. But we could march right in and fight.

KAMBEI

Wait. If we lose one man we've lost...even if we kill five for that one.

In the background, RIKICHI gets up and gets on with some work.

GOROBEI

That is true of any battle.

KYUZO

If three of us go we can kill ten of them easily.

KAMBEI

(Calling)

Rikichi.

RIKICHI puts down what he is doing and comes to the edge of the group.

RIKICHI

Yes, sir?

KAMBEI

How far is it there?

RIKICHI

A good day's walk.

KIKUCHIYO

But we have horses, the ones we took from the bandits.

RIKICHI

On horseback it would take about half a day.

KAMBEI

I see.

A pause as they all stare at KAMBEI thoughtfully.

Close-up of KAMBEI, his head bent forward. He looks up.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

It's decided, then. If we leave now and ride all night long, we'll get there at dawn. Now, who will go?

Medium close-up of KYUZO and HEIHACHI, who have already got to their feet and are moving towards the door. Tilt down to reveal KATSUSHIRO is also standing up.

Close-up of KAMBEI looking up.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
No, not you, Katsushiro.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO looking back, disappointed. RIKICHI is in the foreground, three-quarters back to camera, looking up at KATSUSHIRO. KIKUCHIYO gets to his feet beside KATSUSHIRO.

KIKUCHIYO
(Pointing down to KAMBEI, out of shot)
Well, I'm going. It's all decided.

As KIKUCHIYO starts to go, RIKICHI jumps to his feet in the foreground.

Medium close-up panning with RIKICHI as he jumps forward and kneels beside KAMBEI. Hold on them both, KAMBEI in three-quarter back view, RIKICHI facing camera.

RIKICHI
(Urgently)
Me too...you'll need a guide.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO adjusting his sword. He looks down towards KAMBEI.

KIKUCHIYO
But you can't. There aren't enough horses.

Medium close-up of HEIHACHI. He moves towards camera, KYUZO behind him.

HEIHACHI
There' Yohei's horse. You'll take it.

Quick close-up of KIKUCHIYO, looking sick.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
(Off)
No one but...

Medium close-up of HEIHACHI.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
 Sir Kikuchiyo can manage that
 animal.

He points and he and KYUZO both laugh.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO, grimacing. He rubs his nose
 with his finger.

Wipe to a long shot of KYUZO, HEIHACHI and RIKICHI galloping
 through the dark forest. Drumbeats in. Pan briefly right with
 them. Hold as they go off. A second's pause; then KIKUCHIYO
 appears, riding YOHEI's horse; it is moving rather
 reluctantly and in spite of KIKUCHIYO's shouts, it stops and
 wheels round, heading for home.

KIKUCHIO
 No, you idiot, not that way, this
 way!

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO on the horse, trying to pull it up.
 Pan slightly left with them and hold as KIKUCHIYO manages to
 stop the horse.

KIKUCHIYO
 Stupid! No, no!

Pan further as he jumps off and faces the horse, pulling the
 reins hard. The horse pulls back the other way. KIKUCHIYO
 continues to haul at the reins, pointing up the path in the
 direction he wants to go.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO pulling the reins. The horse tosses
 its head.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 Call yourself a horse? Shame on
 you!

KIKUCHIYO picks up a stone and is about to remount when the
 horse jerks away and gallops off up the path past him. He
 gets up quickly and runs after it, shouting:

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 Wait, wait!

Medium shot tracking with the horse as it gallops through the
 forest. Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, tracking with him as he
 runs after it, shouting:

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
 Don't run off like that! I
 apologize! I'm sorry!

High-angle medium shot tracking through the forest with the horse.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO running after it, waving his arms desperately.

Wipe to a very high-angle long shot of the side of a mountain. Tilt down into the valley where the first three horses gallop by, followed by the fourth - KIKUCHIYO having now remounted. Tilt down further, into a deep ravine, losing the horses.

Wipe to medium shot of a waterfall in a gorge with a river running along in the foreground. Drumbeats in, very softly. In the background, one of the horses, led by RIKICHI, appears round an outcrop of rock, followed by the others.

Medium shot from behind of the four men leading their horses along a ledge of rock behind the waterfall.

Medium shot from the side of the men leading the horses behind the waterfall. KIKUCHIYO is having difficulty in making YOHEI's horse follow him, They leave their horses and start to move towards the river.

Medium shot of RIKICHI with HEIHACHI behind him. KYUZO and KIKUCHIYO come up and join them, and they peer forward through the darkness. RIKICHI points, then they all run forward, going off in the foreground.

High-angle long shot looking up the river towards the waterfall. In the background, the four men can be seen jumping down into the river and splashing towards camera in single file. Camera tilts down slightly as they climb the rocky bank in the foreground, led by KIKUCHIYO. Track back slightly and pan right as KIKUCHIYO and RIKICHI run along the bank. Track past some tethered horses as KIKUCHIYO and RIKICHI run towards a group of building visible in the background. They go out of sight behind the horses and KYUZO and HEIHACHI can be seen following them. Track on further, then back slightly as they run up to the largest of the buildings.

Medium close-up of RIKICHI with KYUZO next to him peering through cracks in the timber wall of the building. HEIHACHI comes between them and also peers through.

General shot of the interior of the bandits' hideout, seen through the crack in the wall. Men and women can be seen lying asleep in the gloom, in varying degrees of nakedness.

Medium shot of the bandits asleep on the floor or on raised beds, partly covered by blankets or clothing that has been strewn about. A woman's leg can be seen hanging down over the edge of one of the high beds. Drumbeats louder.

Medium shot of the three samurai and RIKICHI, in back view, peering through the crack. Pan left with KIKUCHIYO, losing the others, as he goes to the corner of the house and looks round it to the out-buildings. Pan back as he rejoins HEIHACHI and RIKICHI. He taps RIKICHI on the shoulder.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Set fire to the huts.

Pan slightly to include KYUZO.

HEIHACHI
Then we'll kill them as they come
out.

RIKICHI looks round excitedly and then dashes away. The others go back to look through the crack.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO in profile peering through another crack, looking amazed.

Medium shot of some bandits asleep; the woman's leg is again visible hanging over the edge of the bed.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO. He moves back a bit. Still looking through a crack, he undoes his belt and winds it round his forehead, tying it at the back of his head.

Medium shot of a bandit and a woman lying naked on the floor, their bare legs entwined, partly covered by a blanket.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO grinning; he looks through the crack, as he finishes fixing the belt round his forehead.

Medium shot of a man and a woman sleeping on a raised bed. One of the woman's arms is dangling over the edge.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO looking through. Suddenly, he ducks down; tilt down with him as he looks through another crack in the wall.

Medium shot of more bodies lying about - bare knees, bare arms, men, women; it is impossible to distinguish individual bodies. Drumbeats still, over.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO grinning. HEIHACHI and KYUZO are visible beside him, also peering through.

Medium shot of a corner of the building. A figure can be seen lying down behind gauze curtains. A single candle burns, its flame flickering in a slight draught. The figure sits up slowly. It is a beautiful young woman. A Noh flute begins to play, over. The curtains stir in a slight breeze.

Close-up of KYUZO, nearest camera, HEIHACHI is in the center and KIKUCHIYO, beside him, all looking through cracks in the wall.

Close-up of the young woman, staring sadly into space. Her head sways mournfully from side to side as the flute continues, over. Then fast pan right as she suddenly pulls herself back, staring fearfully at something off-screen.

Close-up of the three samurai. Suddenly, they all turn their heads towards something they can see inside.

Medium shot inside the building with things strewn all over the floor and various cooking utensils and weapons hanging from the roof. Smoke is billowing up in the background. Suddenly, a flame flares up and catches hold on the wooden wall.

Close-up of the three samurai outside. HEIHACHI grins delightedly.

Close-up of the young woman through the gauze curtains. Pan right with her as she backs away in horror. Suddenly, she turns her head, camera reframing slightly as she looks away. Then she turns back and looks through the curtain, camera reframing again to keep her in close-up. She lowers her head, then raises her eyes again with a bitter little smile. Then very slowly she turns away.

Close-up of the three samurai. Their swords at the ready, they look at each other then back out through the crack in the wall. The flute stops, but the drumbeats continue, over.

Long shot of RIKICHI dashing out of one of the out-buildings. Pan right as he runs along beside the main building and rejoins the samurai. The roof is now burning fiercely. The four men pair off and stand on either side of the door. Suddenly, screams can be heard inside and several women appear at the door. Drumbeats out. The samurai push them out of the way, waiting for the men to appear, and as the first bandits rush out, they cut them down.

Medium shot of RIKICHI and HEIHACHI fighting three or four bandits.

Medium long shot of the samurai outside the doorway beating off the men and pushing the women out of the way as they come out.

Long shot focused towards the building, which is now silhouetted by the flames on the roof. The three samurai and RIKICHI battle with the bandits, and women rush about hysterically. Many of the bandits and their women run towards camera, falling down the riverbank in the foreground. Horses neigh shrilly, off.

Low-angle medium long shot looking towards the entrance. KYUZO and HEIHACHI shove two women away who run towards camera. In the foreground, two horses can be seen, bucking and plunging with fear, trying to break free.

Long shot from the other side of the river with the main building blazing on the left. Smoke billows across the clearing, obscuring most of the battle. Two women crouch in the foreground, near a tall, dead tree trunk.

Low-angle medium long shot of the battle outside the house. More people rush out. Half-naked bandits fall screaming into the river in the foreground. RIKICHI kicks one of them roughly and then turns back to the battle as more men rush out.

Medium shot of KYUZO and HEIHACHI in back view, chasing two of the men who are running out of the house. RIKICHI joins them and he and KYUZO turn towards camera.

High-angle medium long shot looking down over the bank into the river. Several bandits are wading along the riverbed closely pursued by HEIHACHI and KIKUCHIYO. KIKUCHIYO wades through the water, camera panning right as he comes up onto the bank in the foreground at the base of the dead tree trunk. He crouches down beside a rock and KYUZO, HEIHACHI and RIKICHI join him.. He laughs as they watch the confusion in the river.

Medium close-up of HEIHACHI, and KIKUCHIYO in back view in the foreground. In the background, the fort blazes furiously. A few half-dressed bandits are running about on the opposite river bank, now armed with swords, and one or two with guns. They point across in the direction of the samurai.

Medium close-up of KYUZO and RIKICHI in the foreground, crouching behind the rock. The bandits can be seen outside the blazing building in the background. Suddenly, RIKICHI looks round and stands up.

Medium shot of the young woman appearing at the entrance of the blazing house wearing a flowered kimono. Her arms are folded and she looks round calmly. Noh flute in again.

Medium shot of RIKICHI and KYUZO with the flaming buildings in the background.

RIKICHI suddenly runs off, revealing HEIHACHI and KIKUCHIYO beside KYUZO. They all watch him go in amazement.

Medium long shot of RIKICHI, back to camera, running towards the young woman, who is standing at the doorway of the house.

High-angle medium shot of the three samurai looking towards RIKICHI, out of shot, with the river behind them.

HEIHACHI (CONT'D)
(Shouting)
Rikichi! Look out! Rikichi!

Medium long shot of RIKICHI, back to camera, facing the young woman, who stands at the doorway, silhouetted against the flames.

Medium close-up of the young woman. She notices RIKICHI and starts to run away terrified.

Medium shot of the entrance from the side. The young woman runs inside, dropping her shawl. Flute tune out.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO in three-quarter back view, looking up in horror towards the house.

Medium shot of RIKICHI from the side, running towards the doorway of the building. He reaches the threshold but staggers back from the leaping, roaring flames.

Medium close-up of RIKICHI in back view, silhouetted against the flames, holding his sword. Pan left as he backs away.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, HEIHACHI and KYUZO ducking behind the rock.

Medium long shot of RIKICHI, three-quarters back to camera, beside the burning doorway. He thrusts and lunges with his sword, but there is no one else there. He backs away and loses his balance.

Long shot of the blazing building. In the foreground, the samurai, backs to camera, watch as RIKICHI slips down the river bank opposite. KYUZO half-stands, shouting.

KYUZO
Come back, Rikichi! Rikichi, come
back!

RIKICHI staggers to his feet and scrambles back up towards the house again. The air is filled with the noise of the fire and the bandits' shouts. RIKICHI staggers about waving his sword insanely.

High-angle medium shot of the three samurai by the river looking towards the buildings, off-screen. Suddenly, HEIHACHI gets up and rushes away. The other two watch him go in alarm.

High-angle medium close-up of KYUZO in profile.

KYUZO (CONT'D)
(Shouting)
Heihachi!

Low-angle medium shot of RIKICHI, three-quarters back to camera, half-crawling, half-running towards the house. HEIHACHI appears and grabs his free arm. Pan right as RIKICHI rushes towards the doorway and plunges across the threshold. Pan left as HEIHACHI grabs him round the waist and pulls him out backwards. Track back slightly and tilt down as they both fall down the river bank into the water, still struggling. Pan further left as HEIHACHI manages to drag RIKICHI back, in spite of the latter's efforts to get back to the building. Suddenly, a shot rings out. Rapid tilt down as HEIHACHI falls, landing heavily on the rocks at the edge of the water.

Medium close-up of RIKICHI; his mouth falls open in horror as he looks back down at HEIHACHI, off-screen. Pan left and tilt down as he bends down to grab hold of HEIHACHI.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO getting to his feet.

High-angle medium shot panning with KIKUCHIYO and KYUZO as they run along the river bank towards RIKICHI and HEIHACHI. Hold as RIKICHI and KIKUCHIYO hold HEIHACHI up. Pan back as they drag him to safety behind the rock.

Long shot of the building completely enveloped in flames.

Very high-angle long shot of the group of buildings blazing, smoke billowing upwards, with mountains just visible in the background.

High-angle long shot of the blazing building with the horses tethered in the foreground.

High-angle medium shot, panning right with RIKICHI and KIKUCHIYO as they drag HEIHACHI through the river. Tilt up as they climb onto the opposite bank, followed by KYUZO, going away from camera towards the waterfall.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO and RIKICHI laying HEIHACHI on the bank in front of the waterfall. KYUZO joins them.

KIKUCHIO
(Slapping RIKICHI)
You idiot! It's your fault. Who was
that woman?

RIKICHI
(Sobbing)

My wife!

He throws himself forward.

Medium long shot of the four men on the riverbank near the waterfall, the river flowing past into the foreground. Continuing his movement, RIKICHI throws himself onto the ground. Suddenly, HEIHACHI lurches forward onto his face, hanging over the riverbank. The samurai theme comes in softly.

KYUZO
(Quickly bending over him)
Heihachi!

KIKUCHIYO and RIKICHI immediately jump up to help.

KIKUCHIYO
Heihachi! Brace up!

RIKICHI sobs. HEIHACHI remains motionless.

Wipe to low-angle long shot looking up a slope to a small burial mound silhouetted against the sky. The samurai stand beside it. Villagers are grouped together in the foreground, backs to camera. The wind blows up the dust among the small gravestones of the village burial place.

Low-angle medium long shot of the small mound with the six samurai standing on one side, and RIKICHI and GISAKU, with two other farmers, on the other side. They stand with heads bowed. KIKUCHIYO holds HEIHACHI's sword out in front of him.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, in three-quarter back view, resting on HEIHACHI's sword with the burial mound on the right. KAMBEI stands beside with KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI just behind. Suddenly, KIKUCHIYO draws HEIHACHI's sword from its scabbard; pan slightly right as he takes a couple of steps up to the mound and sticks it in the top. Pan back as he steps back again and throws down the scabbard. Tilt down as he sits down dejectedly, with his back to the others. Old GISAKU, who is now visible on the right, begins to kneel down.

Low-angle long shot looking up the hill with the samurai on one side. Continuing his movement, GISAKU kneels down and bows his head by the mound. The villagers, who are grouped in a semicircle in the foreground, begin to kneel as well. Finally, everybody except the samurai is kneeling.

Low-angle medium shot of GOROBEI and KAMBEI silhouetted against the sky, with the sword stuck in the mound in the foreground. KAMBEI looks at GOROBEI and then down at the mound.

KAMBEI

We were counting on him to cheer us
when the situation became gloomy.
And now he's gone!

Medium shot of RIKICHI crouched down, his head resting on his clasped hands. YOHEI is behind him - both are seen from the side. MANZO stands behind them. Suddenly, RIKICHI's shoulders begin to tremble violently and camera pans left as he throws himself prostrate on the mound, sobbing bitterly.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, still seated, with SHICHIROJI, KAMBEI and GOROBEI behind him. On the other side of the mound, GISAKU is bent double on his knees, and beyond him is the weeping figure of RIKICHI. KIKUCHIYO looks at him angrily.

KIKUCHIYO
(Furiously)

Shut up!

He stands up, camera tilting up with him.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Stop crying, fool!

Low-angle long shot with the crows of villagers kneeling, and now weeping as well. KIKUCHIYO runs down the slope towards them, shouting.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Stop crying! Fools, idiots!

He goes off in the foreground.

Medium shot tracking with KIKUCHIYO as he runs through the village.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO as he runs round behind a fence, coming towards camera. Pan left as he ducks under the door of RIKICHI's house, in back view, and runs through, grabbing the banner made by HEIHACHI. Pan back without pausing as he runs out of the house.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO carrying the banner as he climbs the sloping thatched roof of the house, back to camera. Tilt up with him as he scrambles to the top.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI in back view, standing beside the grave, with KYUZO, KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI in profile beside them. In the background, KIKUCHIYO can be seen on the roof holding the banner. He sticks it firmly into the thatch where it flutters in the breeze, and then he sits down on the roof beside it. Suddenly, KAMBEI notices it and they all turn to look.

Low-angle medium shot of the banner against the sky, fluttering in the breeze. A trumpet fanfare takes over the samurai theme, faster and louder.

Low-angle long shot up the hill towards the mound, with the villagers and the samurai all looking up at the banner, off-screen. Gradually the villagers begin to stand up, crowding forward to look at the banner.

Medium shot of a group of villagers looking up, holding spears.

Low-angle medium shot of the banner.

Medium shot of some women, brushing away their tears and smiling as they point towards the banner. Music out.

Medium close-up of the banner fluttering in the breeze. Tilt down from the top over the six circles, the triangle, then the Japanese characters which mean 'Farmers.'

Low-angle medium close-up of GISAKU, tears in his eyes, looking towards the banner. Behind him, RIKICHI, YOHEI, MANZO and MOSUKE stare towards it also.

General low-angle shot of the burial hill with village women in the foreground, men with spears above them, and at the top, the samurai, silhouetted against the sky. They are all looking up towards the banner.

Medium close-up of the banner, tilting down over the symbols. Hold for a moment on the symbol of the farmers.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, arms folded, sitting on the roof and clenching his teeth. He looks up. Suddenly, he sees something off-screen, and he unfolds his arms, staring forward.

Low-angle very long shot looking up the side of a far hill towards the horizon. Something moves at the top; then horses and riders appear - tiny figures silhouetted against the sky.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO. Tilt up with him as he stands up with a yell, pointing and waving his arms.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

They've come! The bastards have
finally come!

Pan left with him as he makes his way along the roof past the banner, pointing, yelling and grinning happily.

Low-angle shot up the burial hill. At the sound of KIKUCHIYO's voice, the women begin to shriek and move off.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO leaping up and down beside the banner.

Low-angle very long shot of the horsemen galloping over the top of the hill. The leaders are already starting to come down the slope.

Medium shot tilting down with KIKUCHIYO as he scrambles down the roof.

Medium shot as he jumps down onto the ground. Camera pans right as he starts to run, pointing towards the bandits, off-screen.

Low-angle shot of the crowd on the hillside. Shouting and screaming, they begin to run down the hill and away in the foreground, followed by the samurai, leaving GISAKU standing alone by HEIHACHI's grave at the top of the slope.

Low-angle very long shot of about thirty bandits galloping down the hillside. Tilt down, over the houses, losing the horsemen, to a very high-angle long shot of the crowd of villagers rushing into the village square.

Medium shot tracking right with KYUZO who leads his unit through the village. He runs round towards camera, followed by the others; then pan and track back slightly as they run off to take up their positions.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI leading his unit. Fast pan right as they run past.

Medium shot panning quickly left with KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, running with their men through the village. In the background, village women are running into hiding.

High-angle medium shot of SHICHIROJI leading his men through the village. Pan left and crane up as they round the corner and make for the western barricade. As they reach the low inner barrier, camera tilts up over the barricade to reveal the bandits in long shot galloping towards it. Hold on them as they gallop up to the barricade. Shouting; loud hoofbeats.

As they reach it, tilt down slightly to reveal KATSUSHIRO running towards the barricade, bending low.

Low-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, running and crouching down behind the inner barrier next to SHICHIROJI, whose men can be seen crouching in the foreground. Behind the barricade, the bandits mill about in confusion, with a lot of shouting and neighing of horses.

High-angle medium shot of the bandits on horseback, milling about and jostling one another, with the top of the barricade in the foreground. Camera pans right, along the barricade, then back again to the left.

Medium shot of the BANDIT CHIEF on his horse shouting orders and waving his sword.

Medium close-up of SHICHIROJI, in profile, nearest camera, with KATSUSHIRO beside him, peering over the low inner barrier.

SHICHIROJI

Three guns. Don't forget, they have three guns.

KATSUSHIRO

Right!

High-angle medium shot of the bandits with the BANDIT CHIEF in the foreground, circling round on the other side of the barricade. Pan left as some wheel their horses round and start to gallop away.

High-angle medium long shot, over the barricade, of a group of bandits galloping off to the left.

High-angle long shot, with the barricade in the foreground. The bandits have divided into two groups: several are galloping off to the left, the others ride away up the hill to the right.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI in back view, crouching down behind the inner wall with the barricade beyond them. Other men of SHICHIROJI's unit, including MANZO, are visible in the foreground. As the bandits ride off, KATSUSHIRO gets up and runs off in the foreground.

Medium close-up of some women in back view, only their heads visible, looking through a window at the village square beyond. In the background, KATSUSHIRO runs across, camera panning left with him over the heads of the women, till he reaches KAMBEI and GOROBEI sitting with a group of men at the end of the square.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI seated on the ground with the map spread out in front of them, and four or five farmers, including RIKICHI, behind them. KATSUSHIRO drops down on his knees in front of KAMBEI.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
(Breathlessly)
There are twenty to the north and
thirteen to the south.

KAMBEI
How many guns?

KATSUSHIRO
Three in all.

KAMBEI
Good.
(To GOROBEI)
You go on to the south, but be
careful of the guns.

GOROBEI nods and gets up, picking up his bow. Pan left as he goes off down the street followed by RIKICHI, KATSUSHIRO and the other men. Hold as they run off up the track.

High-angle medium long shot, from inside, of GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO leading their men into one of the outlying huts. Pan left past one of the wooden uprights as they run inside towards camera.

Medium shot of GOROBEI, KATSUSHIRO and some of the other men, backs to camera, going towards the window which looks out over the fields. Track in after them as they press up against the bars, bending low and looking out. One of the bandits can be seen galloping along the edge of the fields in very long shot. He stops, pointing, and others come to join him, reining in their horses. They circle round, trotting about in confusion.

Medium long shot, with the flooded fields in the foreground. The bandits on their horses look down uncertainly at the water.

Medium shot of GOROBEI, KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI looking out of the hut, backs to camera. In the background outside, the bandits are circling round and trotting up and down, not knowing what to do.

Medium long shot of the bandits with a flooded field in the foreground. A few of them ride up to the edge of the water and one dismounts. He jumps down into the water, using a stick to test the depth. In two places it is not very deep. He goes round a little further, watched by the others.

Then he tests the depth again and the stick unexpectedly goes right down, water covering his hand, and he slips, sitting down ignominiously in the water.

Medium shot from outside the hut of GOROBEI, RIKICHI and KATSUSHIRO looking out, just visible behind the bars and the rolls of matting which are hung on the wall. GOROBEI and KATSUSHIRO look at one another, grinning with delight at the bandits' obvious surprise. GOROBEI moves his head back slightly.

Medium shot with KATSUSHIRO in the foreground, back to camera, GOROBEI next to him, in three-quarter back view. Without turning round, GOROBEI pulls an arrow out of the quiver on his back.

Medium shot of the bandit up to his knees in the water, staggering as he tries to climb up the muddy bank.

Medium close-up from the side of KATSUSHIRO bending down, peering through the bamboo bars, with GOROBEI behind him drawing back his bow, and taking aim. He lets the arrow fly.

High-angle medium shot of the bandit at the edge of the pool - the arrow strikes him right in the middle of the chest. He falls back into the water clutching the shaft of the arrow.

Low-angle medium shot of the BANDIT CHIEF, and one of his men looking down and pulling their horses back in surprise.

BANDIT CHIEF

(Shouting and waving his sword)

To the rear! To the rear!

Medium shot of KAMBEI in three-quarter back view, squatting in the middle of the deserted village square, looking at the map which is spread out in front of him. KATSUSHIRO appears and goes down on one knee in front of him. KAMBEI looks up. He is holding a writing brush in one hand.

KATSUSHIRO

Twelve of them are moving to the east now.

KAMBEI

You mean thirteen.

KATSUSHIRO

One of them was shot, sir.

KAMBEI

(Laughing appreciatively)
Good old Gorobei, eh?

He bends down to write something on the map.

High-angle close-up of the edge of the map with KAMBEI's hand and arm in shot. KAMBEI has drawn two lines of circles down the edge of the paper. He draws a cross over the first circle.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO kneeling on either side of the map. KAMBEI points behind him.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Now, go to the east border and make sure the bridge is cut off, and...

KATSUSHIRO

And try to get the guns.

He runs off, and KAMBEI grins.

Low-angle medium shot of a group of villagers bending over the edge of the bridge with KIKUCHIYO standing over them in the background. They are lifting off one of the horizontal tree trunks which form the main base of the bridge. KIKUCHIYO helps them lift it and they stagger off, in the foreground, leaving. KIKUCHIYO looking up towards the hills behind him. KATSUSHIRO comes up to him, running along one of the remaining horizontal supports.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)

There are twelve coming! Quick - the bridge!

KIKUCHIYO

(Turning towards him)

Are you blind?

He looks down at what is left of the bridge and then up at KATSUSHIRO, balancing on the log.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

What do you think we've been doing?

He makes an angry gesture and KATSUSHIRO looks down, embarrassed. KIKUCHIYO turns away again.

KATSUSHIRO

(Nervously)

And look out for the guns.

KIKUCHIYO

(Turning back crossly)

I know!

KATSUSHIRO turns back towards camera and sighs heavily. A baby can be heard crying, off. He looks up, and KIKUCHIYO looks round also, as a MAN comes into shot, balancing along the pole nearest camera, followed by his WIFE carrying a baby. KIKUCHIYO grabs the MAN.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Where are you going? Are you blind?

MAN

I have to go and fetch my father.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO holding onto the MAN's shirt, with the latter facing him in back view. His WIFE stands watching, three-quarters back to camera in the foreground. In the distance is the mill house with the hills rising up behind it.

WIFE

(Nodding towards the mill)
He's over there. He always said he wanted to die there. Hearing the sound of the mill wheel.

KIKUCHIYO turns to look at the mill.

Medium shot of the mill wheel turning.

Medium long shot of old GISAKU sitting inside the mill, back to camera, holding a spear. The shadow of the turning wheel can be seen beyond him and its regular knocking can be heard.

Medium shot of old GISAKU sitting back to camera, silhouetted in the sunlight.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO with the MAN and his WIFE facing him in three-quarter back view.

KIKUCHIYO

Stubborn old bastard! All right. Go and bring him back.

(Shouting)

But hurry!

Medium shot of GOROBEI leading his men through the village. Pan slightly left with GOROBEI, losing the others as he comes up and stands in front of KAMBEI, who gets up.

KAMBEI

(Pointing left and turning towards camera)

Go to the northern border, that is where the main battle will be fought.

GOROBEI comes forward and stands beside him.

GOROBEI

If you knew that, why didn't you
build a barricade there too?

KAMBEI steps closer to camera. Pan slightly as GOROBEI follows, revealing some of his men watching.

KAMBEI

Well, a good fort needs a gap, a
break. The enemy must be lured into
it. We couldn't keep this place
only by defending it.

GOROBEI nods, smiling, and runs followed by his men. Camera remains on KAMBEI.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO holding up the end of one of the bridge supports with two men behind him. They all strain under the weight. Pan right with them as they haul it across the stream towards the opposite bank. The bridge is now completely dismantled and forms a barricade on the bank.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI in front of the barricade, with his men lined up in front of him. Encouraged by him, they shout a fierce battle cry, raising their spears.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO with his men lowering the long pole onto the riverbank. SHICHIROJI's men can be heard shouting, off.

KIKUCHIYO

(Turning to his men)

So that's how it is, is it? Let's
outshout them!

He raises his hand and they all shout, raising their hands - except for YOHEI, who stands opposite KIKUCHIYO in the foreground, giggling. KIKUCHIYO bellows at him to join in and then they all shout again, YOHEI a second behind all the others. Suddenly, KIKUCHIYO looks up at something across the river and, beckoning to his men, he dashes back across the riverbed, camera panning left with him. Hold as he climbs up the opposite bank where the bridge used to be and peers over the top. Hoofbeats, off. He looks back at his men, laughing wildly.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Here they come! Here they come!

Then he looks back over the bank.

Long shot tracking with the bandits as they gallop across the fields past the outlying houses. Hold as the leading BANDIT turns his horse towards camera and stops at the edge of the flooded fields. He motions to his men. Horses neigh.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO peering up over the top of the bank, grinning demoniacally. In the background, his men are looking through the barricade on the other side of the river. KIKUCHIYO makes a face, and then begins to climb up onto the bank.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, back to camera in the foreground, climbing onto the bank in full view of the bandits, who can be seen on their horses on the other side of the flooded fields. KIKUCHIYO stands up and strides forward, waving his arms. Suddenly, a shot rings out, falling into the water of one of the flooded fields very near KIKUCHIYO. He turns tail and dashes back towards camera, which pans left and tilts down as he jumps down the bank and crosses the river. Crane up and track back in front of KIKUCHIYO as he climbs up onto the top of the barricade, standing up and shouting nonsensically. Hold on medium shot of him standing on the barricade, waving his arms and wagging his backside at the bandits. He pats his bottom invitingly and another shot rings out. As it does so, he leaps down to safety. Pan left and tilt down as he crouches beside YOHEI who is in the foreground peering between the logs. Suddenly, YOHEI straightens up, pointing.

Long shot across the flooded fields of the outlying houses, their roofs on fire.

Medium shot of YOHEI and KIKUCHIYO standing beside the barricade, looking across. Pan slightly with KIKUCHIYO as he comes round behind YOHEI and stands slightly nearer camera to get a better view.

Medium shot of the BANDIT CAPTAIN on his horse, with a blazing house behind him. The horse is standing fetlock-deep in water at the edge of the flooded field.

Medium shot of YOHEI, with KIKUCHIYO standing on top of the barricade, both in back views with some of the bandits visible beyond them. YOHEI turns away, very upset but KIKUCHIYO pushes him back into position.

Medium shot of the BANDIT CAPTAIN on his horse, who turns to look at the flaming house behind him. Pan slightly left as he urges his horse forward, trotting along the edge of the flooded field.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO behind the barricade on the river bank, with YOHEI and some other men.

His men are frightened and some try to run away, but he pushes them back into position, crouching behind the barricade.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Hey, you. Get back to your posts.
Where do you think you're going?
The bastards, they've set the
houses on fire!

Pan first left then right as KIKUCHIYO runs about excitedly, watching the bandits in the distance. Another of the outlying houses bursts into flames and more bandits gallop past in long shot.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO shouting and waving his arms.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, tracking left with them as they run along the village street.

High-angle medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO and his men at the barricade by the river. In very long shot, the three houses blaze away. KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO appear in the foreground, backs to camera, and go up to KIKUCHIYO. KIKUCHIYO points at the burning houses.

Medium long shot of two houses burning, the flames reflected in the flooded fields. One of the houses collapses completely into the water.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO and YOHEI with KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO behind them. Furiously, KIKUCHIYO picks up a rock and hurls it down into the river, off-screen, shouting and swearing. Suddenly, YOHEI points.

YOHEI

That's the grandad's house!

Medium long shot with YOHEI, KIKUCHIYO and the other men leaning over the barricade. In the distance, on the other side of the flooded fields, the mill house has been set alight.

Long shot of the blazing mill.

Medium shot of the men at the barricade, backs to camera, staring in dismay at the mill blazing in the distance.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO grabbing YOHEI and shaking him.

KIKUCHIYO

Hey, where's old Gisaku, where's
his son? Where's the baby?

He shakes YOHEI free and turns towards camera.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
Oh, they're all stupid!

He moves round towards camera.

Medium shot of the group by the barricade with the mill blazing in the distance. KIKUCHIYO is climbing over the barricade watched in dismay by YOHEI, and also KAMBEI, who has come up. KATSUSHIRO and the other men are staring, horror-struck, at the mill. KAMBEI rushes to the edge of the barricade, standing back to camera and shouting down to KIKUCHIYO, who has almost disappeared.

KAMBEI
Wait. Don't leave your post.

Circular track left with KAMBEI as he runs round behind the other men, still back to camera, and track in on him as he leans over the high bank, looking down through the bushes to the river.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Come back here! Kikuchiyo!

Track in further past KAMBEI to reveal KIKUCHIYO running along the river bed and going out of sight. KAMBEI rushes along the bank after him; pan slightly left as he goes and hold as he runs through the bushes, shouting:

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Kikuchiyo! Kikuchiyo!

Medium long shot, looking along the river to KIKUCHIYO, back to camera, splashing along in the middle of the stream. KAMBEI can be heard shouting, off.

Long shot, looking along the river, of KIKUCHIYO coming towards camera. In the foreground, the mill wheel can be seen still turning, flames licking round it. Suddenly, KIKUCHIYO stops in his tracks, ducking down, as the sound of a child crying can be heard, off. The WOMAN seen earlier appears at the edge of the river from behind the turning wheel. She struggles out into midstream carrying the baby as KIKUCHIYO starts to hurry forward and KAMBEI appears, jumping down from the bank behind him.

Medium shot of the WOMAN holding her child in the middle of the stream with KIKUCHIYO coming up to her in three-quarter back view. The mill house blazes behind them.

KIKUCHIYO
Where are your menfolk?

KAMBEI runs up in the foreground and stands on the other side of the WOMAN, also in three-quarter back view. KIKUCHIYO holds out his hand to her. She sways backwards and forwards with an agonized expression.

Low-angle medium shot of the WOMAN holding the baby with KIKUCHIYO in three-quarter back view in the foreground. The mill wheel still turns in the background, now almost enveloped in flames. Without saying a word, the WOMAN hands the baby to him; then, throwing back her head, she staggers forward. KAMBEI rushes up to catch her. As she falls into his arms he feels blood on his hand and looks at it. KIKUCHIYO, holding the child, looks at the WOMAN's back.

KAMBEI

She was speared. Right in the back.
Yet she got as far as here. What
will-power!

KAMBEI hoists the WOMAN's dead body onto his shoulder and KIKUCHIYO puts out a hand to steady him, still holding the baby in his other arm.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Kikuchiyo, let's go back.

He starts to wade back down the stream towards camera.

Medium shot of KAMBEI coming towards camera carrying the dead WOMAN over his shoulder. Behind him, KIKUCHIYO is staring at the child in his arms, the mill blazing in the background. KAMBEI notices that KIKUCHIYO is not following him and turns back, urging him on.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Come on, what's the matter?

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO holding the child, silhouetted against the flames. Tilt down with him as he sinks down onto his knees, waist-deep in the stream.

KIKUCHIYO

This baby. It's me! The same thing
happened to me!

He sobs, hugging the child tightly.

Low-angle medium shot of the blazing mill, with the wheel still turning, black against the flames; the baby cries, off.

Wipe to medium shot of the mill wheel lying at an angle against the river bank, with flames licking round some of the struts. The mill house is completely gutted. It is now night.

Medium shot of YOHEI holding his spear and staring into the darkness through the barricade by the stream. He is lit from behind by the flickering light of a fire, off-screen. Very slowly he pulls himself up and looks over the top of the barricade to get a better view. He look round fearfully towards camera.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, in the foreground, sitting by the fire surrounded by his men, who are sitting round the fire holding their spears. He looks round suddenly and they all jump, then he turns back and they all relax visibly. A short pause. Then he jumps to his feet, back to camera. The villagers all lean forward, gripping their spears. KIKUCHIYO looks round suspiciously, then down at the fire; then he sits down again. The men stare at him in bewilderment. A pause. Drumbeats in, very softly. He jumps up again, goes down on one knee in front of the fire, back to camera, grabs a flaming log and rushes away towards the barricade, camera tilting up slightly with him; all the other men stand up to watch him.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO leaning over the barricade. He throws the flaming log out into the darkness.

High-angle medium shot of several bandits crouching in the river. The flaming log flies past, landing on the opposite bank, and lighting them up. They stare at it in dismay.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO leaning over the barricade and peering into the darkness. He hisses through his teeth then suddenly yells, banging on the barricade. Drumbeats louder.

Medium shot of the bandits. The brand is burning out, and KIKUCHIYO's voice can still be heard, off. The bandits straighten up and splash through the water, away from camera. Drumbeats louder. Pan left to the barricade on the bank as the bandits begin to climb up it. Tilt up over them revealing KIKUCHIYO, who cuts the first bandit down as he appears at the top of the barricade. Tilt down as the bandit falls in the water, just missing two others below.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO balancing on top of the barricade, looking down into the river. The men behind him get ready for action as he shouts and bangs the hilt of his sword on the top of the barricade. Behind him, a man comes into shot holding a spear. He drags at KIKUCHIYO's sleeve to attract his attention. KIKUCHIYO turns round and the man points silently behind him towards the fire. KIKUCHIYO jumps down from the barricade and goes towards it.

Medium close-up of YOHEI looking terrified. He is holding onto the shaft of a spear with both hands, the end of it out of shot, with his mouth wide open. KIKUCHIYO comes up and stands beside him looking towards the end of the spear.

Then he looks at YOHEI and snarls contemptuously. Pan right and track back as he walks forward beside the shaft of the spear. Hold as the track reveals one of the bandits pinioned on the end of it; YOHEI stands in the foreground, three-quarter back to camera, still holding the spear. KIKUCHIYO stares down at the bandit, then grasps the spear, and puts one foot against the bandit's chest to pull it out. The man falls back dead.

Medium shot of a bandit, backing off, chased by two farmers with their spears lowered. Pan slightly as KIKUCHIYO and some more farmers advance on the bandits, going towards the barricade. Drumbeats louder.

The western barricade. Medium shot panning with one of the bandits as he crawls along by the barricade. Farmers appear from the foreground and attack him with their spears.

Medium shot of one of the bandits disappearing over the top of the high barricade pursued by SHICHIROJI.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandit crawling along by the barricade. He gets to his feet. The end of a spear, carried by a man just off-screen on the right, thrusts into the middle of his back and he throws back his head with a gurgle; the spear is withdrawn, and the bandit falls dead, camera tilting down slightly with him.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI in profile, peering through the barricade, his men running up behind him. He turns to them.

SHICHIROJI
Everybody all right?

They all nod breathlessly.

The flooded fields. Medium shot of another group of farmers battling with bandits, with some of the bamboo stakes in the foreground, Some of the farmers attack from the far bank with spears, while the others, including RIKICHI, engage in hand-to-hand combat in the water. Pan slightly to include the whole battle; confused noise of shouting, the clatter of spears and splashing.

High-angle medium long shot of the battle in the flooded field, with a fire blazing on the bank in the background.

High-angle medium shot of RIKICHI fighting with two bandits in the water.

Low-angle medium shot panning left with KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO. Samurai theme in, low, over the drumbeats. Pan continues as they run past a fire blazing in the foreground.

Hold as they stop to watch the battle in the flooded fields.
Music louder.

High-angle medium shot of RIKICHI standing in the water, running a bandit through with his sword. The bandit is lying in the water with his head on the bank. Pan left with RIKICHI as he leaves the dead man and crawls up the bank towards camera, breathing heavily, his eyes wild.

Low-angle medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, watching in admiration.

KAMBEI

Hey, halt! That will do!

High-angle medium close-up panning left with RIKICHI as he crawls panting along the bank, dripping wet. He stops and stands up, camera tilting up with him and turns towards KAMBEI, off-screen.

Low-angle Medium shot of KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Good job - who are you?

RIKICHI

I'm Rikichi.

Wipe to a high-angle medium close-up of the circles drawn on the edge of the map. KAMBEI's hand comes into shot and crosses off six more. Music out.

Medium shot of KAMBEI crouching down over the map. GOROBEI is beside him in back view, and KYUZO is opposite, seen in profile, silhouetted against a fire. Some farmers sit watching them in the background.

KAMBEI

They attacked from three different places, yet we drove them all back.

He stands up and camera tracks after him as he walks past the fire away from the villagers, followed by KYUZO and GOROBEI. He speaks as he walks.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Next time, it will probably be here. Maybe not tonight, but they'll come.

KYUZO

It seems quiet enough.

They stop by a hut and peer into the darkness.

Medium shot from the side of GOROBEI, KAMBEI and KYUZO peering into the gloom. In the foreground, some of the farmers are sitting, back to camera, with a fire blazing between them and the samurai.

Medium long shot looking up the avenue of trees that leads to the forest. A fire burns in the foreground and another blazes a few yards up the avenue. The trees stretch away into the darkness.

Medium shot. KAMBEI squats down by the fire.

KAMBEI

I know, but that's where they are,
all right. I'll show you.

Medium long shot of the deserted village square. A fire burns in the background. KATSUSHIRO comes towards camera carrying a stuffed suit of armor. Music in. He stops in medium shot, and stares up at something off-screen.

Medium shot of SHINO, back to camera, with KATSUSHIRO just below her, down a short slope, staring up at her. The deserted village square stretches away beyond him, with three fires burning at regular intervals along its length. SHINO runs towards him and then stops, He takes a few steps towards her, and then, with a worried frown, runs on past her, going off in the foreground. She turns to follow him, and camera tilts up as she tuns back up the slope, staring mournfully after him.

High-angle medium shot, with a fire blazing in the foreground, of KATSUSHIRO running across frame carrying the stuffed armor. Pan left with him as he goes over to where KAMBEI, GOROBEI and KYUZO are standing at the base of a large tree at the beginning of the avenue. Track in as KATSUSHIRO props up the suit of armor which is supported on a pole. KAMBEI inspects it.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Good work! Put it up there.

He points up the avenue and KATSUSHIRO runs off with the decoy. GOROBEI, KYUZO and KAMBEI turn away from camera to watch him go.

Medium long shot of one of the bonfires in the avenue. Track right past it as KATSUSHIRO, almost invisible, runs past in the background.

High-angle medium long shot tracking right with KATSUSHIRO as he runs down through the trees carrying the armor. Hold as he crouches down beside a tree trunk on the far side of the track, holding out the decoy away from the track.

Medium close-up of the stuffed suit of armor leaning out from behind the tree trunk. It looks quite lifelike in the gloom. Suddenly, a shot rings out, hitting the armor.

High-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO crouched down holding the pole of the decoy and closing his eyes, wincing at the sound of the shot.

Medium close-up. Another shot hits the decoy in the chest.

High-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO crouching down, hanging onto the decoy which is still swaying from the force of the shot. He lowers it quickly and camera pans left as he turns and runs swiftly off, dragging the decoy into the trees.

Medium shot of GOROBEI, KAMBEI and KYUZO standing by the fire with the heads of some farmers in the foreground. KATSUSHIRO runs up dragging the decoy. KAMBEI turns and looks at the bullet holes, then turns back and folds his arms.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
They'll probably attack here in the
morning. We'll let them in.

He laughs and takes a few steps forward, addressing the village men in the foreground reassuringly:

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
But not all at once!

Camera pans slightly right as he walks by the fire.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, in back view, looking down at the farmers who are seated in front of him by the covered trenches.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Just one or two

He turns and walks away.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, panning left as he walks past the fire again; he stops on the other side of it in front of the three other samurai and spreads his hands wide.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Then we'll close our spearline.

He starts to walk away towards the other men sitting under the trees.

Medium shot of KAMBEI from behind, looking down at another group of men sitting under the trees.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

The one or two that get in will be
helpless.

He turns and begins to walk towards camera, going off in the foreground as he speaks.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

That way, we'll get them one by
one.

Medium shot of KAMBEI squatting on his haunches in front of GOROBEI, KATSUSHIRO and KYUZO, with farmers' heads in the foreground.

GOROBEI

(Sitting down beside KAMBEI)
I'm worried about the guns. We've
got to find a way to get rid of
them too.

In the foreground, RIKICHI drops his spear and starts to run towards KAMBEI.

Medium close-up of RIKICHI, tracking in front of him as he runs towards KAMBEI. Hold as KAMBEI's head comes into shot in back view in the foreground, and RIKICHI stares at him in close-up.

RIKICHI

I'll go and get you one. I will.

KYUZO

(Off)

No, you won't.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI facing camera with RIKICHI in front of him, back to camera in the foreground. KYUZO steps forward, facing RIKICHI.

KYUZO (CONT'D)

I will.

He runs off.

Pan right, losing the others as he runs off towards the first fire at the beginning of the avenue. As he runs past the second fire, KATSUSHIRO appears in the foreground running after him, followed by KAMBEI, who grabs him as he reaches the first fire. KAMBEI pushes him back towards camera, out of sight of the avenue. Pan left as they come forward and KAMBEI pushes KATSUSHIRO behind the tree where RIKICHI and GOROBEI are already hiding.

Close-up of GOROBEI peering round the tree trunk with KAMBEI beside him and RIKICHI visible behind. KATSUSHIRO comes up and looks over KAMBEI's shoulder.

Long shot looking up the deserted avenue with the two fires burning. KYUZO has disappeared into the darkness.

Wipe to low-angle medium shot of the first fire burnt to ashes and smoking slightly. It is dawn. The avenue is shrouded in mist and a single bird sings.

Medium shot of a group of farmers dozing or leaning on their spears in the covered trenches. Suddenly, one of the men in the foreground in the covered trenches starts and looks up. Others do the same, as KATSUSHIRO comes past in back view walking away from camera up the path outside the hut. He stops and looks up towards the avenue. Then he turns and comes back dejectedly towards camera, and the men in the foreground sink back to their former positions. Soft music in. Pan left and track back as KATSUSHIRO walks round the hut, coming out into the clearing where KAMBEI and GOROBEI are sitting on the ground. In the foreground, two farmers are sleeping, propped up on their spears. KATSUSHIRO sits down with the other two samurai. Then almost immediately he gets up again and looks back towards the avenue. He paces about and then stares back towards the avenue again.

High-angle medium shot of GOROBEI and KAMBEI sitting cross-legged with heads bowed. RIKICHI is sitting next to GOROBEI. He looks up as KATSUSHIRO comes up to them in the foreground.

KATSUSHIRO
(Excitedly)

I hear something.

KAMBEI
(Looking up at KATSUSHIRO)
That's enough. Now, you rest a little.

KATSUSHIRO
(Looking down and taking a step towards camera)
But it's true. Listen.

KAMBEI gets to his feet and comes over and puts a hand on his shoulder. Pan slightly to frame them both in medium close-up.

KAMBEI
You must rest. You're too tired.
Come and sit down.

A faint noise off, which they all hear.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Yes!

They both turn towards the sound, and GOROBEI and RIKICHI also stand up, looking in the same direction. They they all rush out of shot.

High-angle medium long shot looking up the mist-shrouded avenue. The three samurai and RIKICHI hurry forward, and stand beside the first trees of the avenue, backs to camera. The village men crowd round behind them.

Medium shot looking up the avenue through the mist.

Low-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO in profile in the foreground, with KAMBEI next to him and GOROBEI just behind, staring intently.

Medium long shot looking up the avenue. A Vague shape moves in the mist.

Low-angle medium close-up. KATSUSHIRO takes a step forward; pan right with him, losing GOROBEI.

High-angle medium long shot of KYUZO walking towards camera through the mist, trees rising up on either side of him.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI in profile; RIKICHI comes and joins them.

Medium long shot, from inside a trench, of KYUZO, seen from the side, coming up to the waiting group at the end of the avenue. He hands a gun to KATSUSHIRO and then wipes his forehead with the back of his hand.

KYUZO

(Jumping up onto the edge of the trench)
Killed two.

He jumps down into the trench, coming towards camera. The others watch him in the background. Tilt down as he sits down quietly and rests his back against the side of a hut, folds his arms round his sword and settles down to sleep. Samurai theme in, quietly.

Medium shot of RIKICHI, KATSUSHIRO and MOSUKE watching, full of admiration, with GOROBEI, KAMBEI and some other farmers also watching, behind them. KAMBEI reaches forward and takes the gun from KATSUSHIRO's hands and examines it. All the others crowd round to look at it except KATSUSHIRO, who takes a couple of steps forward, still staring fixedly towards KYUZO, off-screen. Suddenly, he steps up onto the wall of the trench, and goes off in the foreground.

Low-angle medium shot with KYUZO in the foreground trying to sleep. KATSUSHIRO comes up behind and stands over KYUZO, looking down at him. KYUZO looks up.

Low-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO staring down in admiration.

High-angle close-up of KYUZO looking up.

KYUZO (CONT'D)
What is it?

Low-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He stares down silently.

High-angle close-up of KYUZO.

KYUZO (CONT'D)
What do you want?

He closes his eyes.

KYUZO (CONT'D)
I need sleep.

Low-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He swallows nervously and licks his lips.

KATSUSHIRO
You are...really great.

High-angle close-up of KYUZO, his eyes closed. He opens them and looks up again. Then he lowers his eyes again, looking rather embarrassed.

Low-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO, his eyes shining.

KATSUSHIRO (CONT'D)
I've always wanted to tell you how
great I think you are.

He starts to move away, still looking down, camera panning slightly left. Then he turns and dashes off.

High-angle close-up of KYUZO looking down. He looks round after KATSUSHIRO, smiles briefly, and then, readjusting the position of his sword, prepares again for sleep. Music out.

Dissolve to low-angle medium shot tracking left with horses' hooves as they gallop along a track, passing trees in the foreground. Loud hoofbeats.

Medium shot of KYUZO sitting in the trench, asleep, with sunlight on his face. Hoofbeats, hardly audible.

He wakes up suddenly and looks up then grabs his sword and dashes away from camera, leaping up onto the trench wall. He looks up the avenue for a moment, then jumps down and runs away.

Medium close-up of the heads of several men, in back view; they are crouching against a stone wall with their spears help upright. Over the wall, KYUZO can be seen running round towards camera. Track back beyond the men as he comes round and ducks down by the wall on the near side of the track; on the other side, crouching down at the base of the tree, is GOROBEI with RIKICHI and other men behind him. They all stare intently up the avenue.

Medium long shot of horses galloping through the trees. Pan left with them. Loud hoofbeats.

High-angle medium long shot of GOROBEI and KYUZO seen over the heads of the armed villagers, all back to camera. Faint hoofbeats.

GOROBEI

We'll let one through, just one.

KYUZO nods his assent without taking his eyes off the track. GOROBEI jumps up and rushes off down towards the village.

Medium close-up, panning right as GOROBEI comes to the end of the village street and raises his sword. Hold as he shouts.

GOROBEI (CONT'D)

Kambei! We'll let one of them in!

Long shot looking down the road between the houses to where KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO are standing with their men lined up behind them. They both draw their swords and KAMBEI waves his to show he has understood.

Medium close-up of GOROBEI in profile. He turns away and runs back towards his men, camera panning left with him.

Medium long shot over the heads of the armed men on KYUZO's side of the track with KYUZO standing at the front, looking up the track. On the other side, RIKICHI looks back. GOROBEI runs up and takes his place in front of RIKICHI at the base of the tree.

Close-up of GOROBEI turning his head. Reframe slightly to include RIKICHI, as GOROBEI calls back to his men in a low voice.

GOROBEI (CONT'D)

Remember, the lines must be closed quickly.

Tilt down with GOROB EI as he bends down and looks carefully round the tree trunk up the avenue.

Medium shot of the two units of farmers led by GOROB EI and KYUZO as they stand up and shift back, taking up their positions out of sight on either side of the track. The sound of galloping hooves gradually gets louder.

Medium close-up of KYUZO staring over the top of the wall with a villager holding a spear beside him. A pause. Then he slowly draws his sword. Pan left along the top of the wall, losing KYUZO, past the farmers staring over it, their faces showing a mixture of fear and tense anticipation. Sound of hoofbeats louder.

Low-angle long shot, with one of the trench walls in the foreground, looking up the avenue as the first bandit appears, shouting a war cry as he gallops along. Others follow. Fast pan left following the bandit's horse as it passes camera in medium shot.

Medium shot of GOROB EI standing up by the tree and leading his men forward with the same samurai war-cry.

Low-angle medium close-up of some farmers in back view, with a covered trench in front of them; the bandits can be seen between the roof supports, galloping towards camera. The farmers run across to the track as the first horseman approaches.

Low-angle medium shot, from inside the trench, of KYUZO leading his men onto the track. Pan slightly right as GOROB EI and RIKICHI follow him.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandit on his horse with the farmers' spears in the foreground. Fast pan left as he reins in his horse and it sidesteps, its eyes rolling.

Medium close-up of the horse's hooves sidestepping and kicking up dust. KYUZO's legs come into shot as the horse sidesteps out of shot.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandit, his head out of shot, KYUZO in the foreground parrying with his sword. A farmer's spear prods the horse between its front legs and it lunges sideways towards camera. KYUZO dodges out of the way as it does so, neighing, then falling. Tilt down with it as the bandit falls off. KYUZO's sword can be seen slashing in the foreground.

High-angle medium shot with KYUZO in the foreground, his head and shoulders out of frame, and the bandit lying on the ground. He gets up, camera tilting up with him, losing KYUZO.

Medium shot of KYUZO with the farmers behind him waving their spears. The bandit is in the foreground, his back against the trench wall. KYUZO raises his sword above his head. Fast pan right as he cuts the bandit through and he falls headlong over the wall towards camera.

Medium long shot looking up the track from the village square, with buildings in the background. KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO can be seen hiding on either side. A single bandit gallops down the track towards camera as two farmers carrying the end of a long pole run across the end of it, followed by two others carrying the other end. They hold the pole right across the track in front of the horse, blocking its way, and at the same time, KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO lead their men out from cover on either side.

Low-angle medium close-up of the horse's legs in the foreground as the bandit falls to the ground on the other side. The horse moves away.

High-angle medium shot of a water-filled ditch. The bandit crawls along it towards camera with farmers' spears poking him from behind.

Medium shot of a horse galloping through the trees away from the village, followed by another. Pan slightly right as several more gallop past. As they go off, GOROBEI runs after them waving his sword, followed by KYUZO, RIKICHI and some other farmers. Suddenly, a shot rings out and they all throw themselves to the ground. KYUZO waves his sword to get them to take cover, and they all retreat out of sight in the undergrowth.

Low-angle medium shot of horsemen galloping up the path through the trees. They go off-screen and the BANDIT CAPTAIN rides into shot, waving his sword and shouting, then reining his horse in as others gallop past. Hold as he shouts at them to prepare for attack again and they go on past him. Then the BANDIT CHIEF rides up and they wheel their horses round towards the village again.

Medium shot tracking with one of the bandits as he gallops down the track with sword erect.

Medium close-up tracking with a second bandit as he gallops through the forest.

Medium shot of the bandits following, galloping past trees in the foreground.

Low-angle long shot looking up the avenue as the bandits gallop towards camera framed between the roof and walls of a trench. In the foreground, in their previous positions, are GOROBEI and RIKICHI, seen over the trench wall.

The first horseman gallops through. The villagers with KYUZO and GOROBEI rush through to block the way of a second horseman but he also gets through. Then they all rush forward across the track.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, back to camera, with two of his men, hiding behind the corner of a house. One of the horsemen gallops forward in the background, swiftly followed by the second. KAMBEI looks across the track.

Low-angle medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO drawing his sword in his hiding place on the other side of the village square. He runs forward as the horses appear, galloping past camera. The first horse knocks KATSUSHIRO flying and the two horsemen gallop away.

Medium shot looking up the track. The two horsemen ride towards camera, going off in the foreground. In the background, KAMBEI runs forward followed by his men; KATSUSHIRO picks himself up and runs to join KAMBEI with his own men. They come towards camera, yelling.

Medium long shot, from the side, of the two horsemen galloping through the village square, swords raised. Camera pans left with them.

Medium close-up of the bars of a window in one of the houses, from outside, with several women pressed up against it, screaming, as they look through. Sound of galloping hoofs, off.

Medium long shot of the horsemen in the middle of the village square, seen through the barred window, with the women's heads visible in back view in the foreground. Pan slightly left as they gallop round, revealing a group of farmers bearing down on them. They wheel their horses round and gallop back again, camera panning back with them, over the women's heads.

Medium long shot of the horsemen galloping through the village. Pan left as they gallop past, pursued by a band of armed villagers. Another group approaches in the background, cutting off the horsemen and surrounding them.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO leading his unit through the village, shouting and waving his arms and leaping up and down like an ape. Camera pans left with them.

High-angle long shot of KIKUCHIYO and his men, backs to camera, running through the village square, seen through the bars of the window over the head of one of the women. Pan right with one of the horsemen who is galloping round the other side of the village square.

Medium shot panning with one of the horsemen. He gallops through the square, past the villagers, followed by the other horseman.

High-angle medium long shot of the two horsemen wheeling round away from camera in the middle of the village square. In the background, KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO can be seen with their men, lined up across the track that leads out of the village to the avenue. They start to run forward as the two horsemen gallop towards them.

Medium shot of KAMBEI with three of his men in the foreground, backs to camera. The horsemen gallop towards them and KAMBEI raises his sword. Pan with the horsemen as they come level with KAMBEI, who strikes the one nearest to him, then on again, losing KAMBEI, as the man on the horse nearest camera starts to fall.

Medium shot tracking with the horsemen, with some of the farmers in the foreground beside a small straw fence. The bandit nearest camera falls off his horse. One of the villagers near him runs up with his spear. The other horseman and the riderless horse gallop away.

Low-angle medium shot of the second horseman galloping past camera, which pans right to follow him, Hold as he gallops away up the village street followed by the other horse.

High-angle medium shot of some bandits on horseback, backs to camera, in the foreground, with GOROBEI, KYUZO and their men behind them. GOROBEI and his band attack one of the bandits in the middle; he backs away, out of shot, just as the bandit who escaped from the village square gallops up the track towards camera.

Low-angle medium close-up of one of the farmers, back to camera, leaping over the wall into one of the trenches as the horseman from the village gallops past, also back to camera.

Low-angle medium close-up of a horse's legs with villagers' legs scuffling in the dust behind it. Confused shouting, neighs, and hoofbeats, continually heard. The horse circles round, raising clouds of dust.

Low-angle medium shot of a horse backing into shot with the villagers fighting with spears behind it. The horse circles right round.

Low-angle medium shot of the horse in the foreground, only its legs and belly in frame, with GOROBEI and some villagers attacking from behind. It circles round again, knocking down several men, including GOROBEI, and goes off as the villagers pick themselves up. Pan right with GOROBEI as he too gets up, waving his sword.

Medium shot of the horseman galloping away from camera chased by GOROBEI and his men.

High-angle medium shot of the horses galloping towards camera, pursued by the villagers, with KYUZO in front of them, just behind the last horse. The horses gallop off in the foreground.

Medium shot of the bandits retreating, riding up the path between the trees and going off in the foreground. As the last horseman goes out of shot, he reveals GOROBEI and KYUZO leading their band towards camera, shouting with triumph. They run into medium shot, then suddenly turn round and retreat. One of the bandits gallops into shot again in the foreground as KYUZO, GOROBEI and their men scatter into the trees. The horse rears up in the foreground, neighing, out of control.

High-angle medium close-up of KYUZO and GOROBEI with RIKICHI just behind and the other men crowding round in the background.

Low-angle medium shot of the horse bucking and kicking.

High-angle medium close-up of KYUZO and GOROBEI with the men behind them, looking up towards the horse, off-screen, and backing away.

Medium shot of the horse rearing, seen over the heads of some farmers.

Medium shot of GOROBEI running up the track towards camera, as the horse gallops off towards the village, still bucking and kicking, watched in amazement by the farmers. KYUZO comes forward to join GOROBEI.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO standing in back view on a slight rise at the edge of the village square, leaning on his samurai sword, legs apart. The other villagers are scattered about the square in front of him, and in the background, KAMBEI stands facing him, at the end of the path leading to the avenue. Suddenly, he notices something and raises his sword. KIKUCHIYO raises his sword in reply and shouts. KAMBEI backs away behind a house as the horse appears, still bucking, and gallops towards camera. KIKUCHIYO jumps down from his vantage point, waving his sword and shouting.

Medium shot, panning right with KIKUCHIYO as he bounds across, grinning.

Medium long shot of the horse galloping down the track towards KIKUCHIYO and some farmers in the village square, with KAMBEI behind it. The horse bucks and kicks, snorting with terror. KIKUCHIYO comes to a halt.

Medium shot of the bucking horse at the end of the track, with the bandit lolling about on its back. KAMBEI is watching in the background.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO, frowning. He circles round, camera panning left with him, watching the horseman closely all the time.

Medium shot of the horse bucking, with its rider doubled up against its neck. KAMBEI stands behind it, and some of the villagers press forward, in the foreground. Pan right with the horse as it backs and sidesteps. More villagers come up in the background and they all surround it.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO with YOHEI and another man in the background. Pan right with KIKUCHIYO as he leaps to the side, and hold as he jumps up and down.

Low-angle medium shot of the horse's rump, panning with it as it rears and backs dangerously.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO backing away and putting an arm out to protect the men behind him. Pan with him as he waves his sword.

Medium shot of the horse from the side with KIKUCHIYO's hand holding out the sword and waving it. Pan right with the horse and tilt down as it finally loses its balance and falls over, pulling its rider down with it.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO roaring with laughter, and staring at the horse appreciatively. He jumps up and down.

High-angle medium long shot of the horse galloping away, leaving its rider half-stunned on the ground. As the bandit slowly sits up, KIKUCHIYO, KATSUSHIRO, KAMBEI and many of the villagers move towards him and surround him, their swords and spears all pointing towards him. KIKUCHIYO stands looking down at him, hands on his hips, and roars at him.

KIKUCHIYO

Now, just what do you think you're doing?

The bandit, terrified, looks round, leaps to his feet and runs away up the track pursued by all the farmers. They knock him down and spear him.

Low-angle medium shot of SHICHIROJI in back view in the foreground, with KATSUSHIRO, KAMBEI and KIKUCHIYO in the background, watching the farmers, off-screen. They turn towards each other, grinning, and KIKUCHIYO raises one finger to KAMBEI. Then they turn away and walk back into the square, camera panning left with them. Music in.

Wipe to medium shot of GOROBEI, KAMBEI, KATSUSHIRO, and KYUZO walking towards the end of the avenue, which stretches away in the background. KATSUSHIRO, who is behind the others, looks towards the wall of one of the trenches.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO staring over the wall of the trench. On the near side of the wall lies the dead body of the bandit KYUZO killed first. KYUZO, KAMBEI and GOROBEI are looking up towards the avenue in the background.

Medium long shot of KYUZO and KAMBEI in back view, looking at GOROBEI who is facing them. KATSUSHIRO is still looking over the wall into the trench. KAMBEI begins to speak as he turns to walk back towards camera.

KAMBEI

They're getting smarter. They won't try this again.

A bird sing, off. Nothing moves. They all turn towards camera and then KAMBEI turns back and looks up the avenue again.

Medium long shot looking up the deserted, sunlit avenue.

Wipe to a high-angle medium shot of a unit of farmers sitting in the trenches. Beyond them are seated KIKUCHIYO and RIKICHI and beyond them, in the sunlight, sit GOROBEI, KAMBEI, KYUZO, and KATSUSHIRO with other villagers behind them. KAMBEI has the map spread out in front of him and they are holding a council or war. One of the villagers in the foreground speaks.

VILLAGER

They've been mollycoddled. They're not so tough!

They all laugh.

High-angle medium shot of KAMBEI seated on the ground with KATSUSHIRO, GOROBEI and KYUZO. They are all looking towards the villagers, out of shot. KAMBEI smiles and looks round at the others.

KAMBEI

(Counting on his fingers)
Four killed today, Kyuzo killed two last night.

High-angle close-up of the edge of KAMBEI's map showing the circles and KAMBEI's hand. He crosses out four circles in one column then camera pans with his hand as it goes to the top of the next column and crosses out two more. Music out.

Wipe to medium shot of KATSUSHIRO kneeling beside KIKUCHIYO, who is lying on his back comfortably among the trees and shrubs on the riverbank.

KATSUSHIRO

He has the real samurai spirit. He is totally fearless. Yet, at the same time, he is gentle, and modest - look how he acted after we went and got that gun. And how he went too - just as though he were going up into the hills to look for mushrooms.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO sitting up, with KIKUCHIYO lying back in the foreground, his eyes closed.

KIKUCHIYO

(Bored)

You certainly are interesting. It certainly is interesting to hear you talk.

He yawns and scratches his cheek. Disappointed by KIKUCHIYO's negative response, KATSUSHIRO gets up and goes to lean against the barricade where the bridge used to be in the background. He stands looking out over the fields, silhouetted against the sky. KIKUCHIYO raises his head slightly and looks towards him then settles back again. KATSUSHIRO goes off and KIKUCHIYO looks up again, then gets up.

High-angle medium shot of a group of villagers. YOHEI stands between two men with his arms outstretched, being fitted into armor which is much too big for him. KIKUCHIYO appears and goes up to him.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Yohei, look, you keep watch.

KIKUCHIYO starts to go away but YOHEI puts out a hand to grab him.

Medium shot of YOHEI pulling KIKUCHIYO back by his belt. He points fearfully. KIKUCHIYO shakes himself free.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

Oh, don't look like that. It's safe enough. You'll scare them off.

He takes hold of YOHEI's breastplate.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)

You'll be our scarecrow.

KIKUCHIYO goes off laughing, leaving the other men watching him fearfully, especially YOHEI.

Wipe to medium long shot of part of the forest - tangled branches and flowers. KIKUCHIYO runs up through the undergrowth, camera panning with him as he comes nearer. Hold as he stops and looks round, then track past trees in the foreground as he runs forward again. Hold for a moment as he peers through the hanging branches. A horse neighs, off. Track back as he moves forward again past camera then tilt up as he moves away up a short slope.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO seen through leaves and branches in the foreground. Pan, then hold as he runs on up the hill framed by two branches. He halts beside a couple of horses which are tethered among the trees, and looks round carefully. Pan left past a tree trunk in the foreground, as he goes across to where more horses are tethered. Tilt down as he comes down the hill to the bottom of the tree trunk, now seen from above. Tilt up with him as he climbs the tree, using a creeper to haul himself up, then pan right as he crawls round the trunk and looks down at the horses, tethered below in the background. Suddenly, something moves among the trees in the distance.

High-angle general shot of the forest with a horse in the foreground. Two bandits are running towards camera. Tilt down as they dash up and untie two horses. A shot rings out and one of the bandits falls dead beside his horse; the other looks round in horror.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO peering round the branch of the tree in surprise.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandit with the body of his companion in the foreground, lying in front of the horse. The bandit jumps to his feet, and camera pans left as he starts to run off.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO peering round the tree, grinning.

High-angle medium shot of the bandit jumping onto one of the horses; two other horses in the background among the trees.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO peering round the tree. He ducks out of sight; pan right across the tree trunk as he appears on the other side, with trees in the background.

Medium shot of the bandit on horseback, panning left as he gallops away through the trees. Suddenly, another shot rings out and he falls back. Camera pans further as the horse slows down to a trot and the bandit rolls off.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO peering round behind the tree, his mouth open with delight. He looks round, grinning, and then ducks behind the tree again, camera panning left across the tree trunk to pick him up again peering round the other side, still grinning.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, back to camera in the foreground, leaning over the branches of the tree. Two horses are still standing tethered in the background. Something moves in the distance and KIKUCHIYO ducks down. A crowd of bandits appear in long shot, running towards camera.

Low-angle medium shot of the crowd of bandits with the two leaders in front. One of the bandits carries a gun, They move towards camera and stop, a horse's head visible in the foreground. On the grass at their feet lies the body of one of the dead bandits. They look down at it and then at each other. The horse circles round and trots away. The BANDIT CAPTAIN comes forward and kicks the dead body. The BANDIT CHIEF turns and looks round at his men.

BANDIT CHIEF

Remember! Every coward here will
get the same treatment.

He looks down at the dead body at his feet and raises his foot to kick it.

Medium close-up of the BANDIT CHIEF as he snarls and smashes his fist down towards the dead body. Other bandits behind him look frightened. He smashes the dead body two or three times.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandits. The BANDIT CHIEF slashes out with his sword at the man behind him and the bandits back off on both sides in fear. Then the BANDIT CHIEF turns away and strides off, followed by the CAPTAIN. The other bandits stare down at the dead body for a moment, before finally turning and shuffling off after their chief. The man who the BANDIT CHIEF slashed at is the last to go, and turns back to look at the body again.

Low-angle medium shot, looking into the branches of the tree. KIKUCHIYO appears, peering round and down. He disappears behind the branch; pan right and tilt down as he drops to the ground. Music in. He looks from right to left and then runs towards camera, which pans right as he goes up the slope, then tilts down as he runs up to the dead body and bends down over it.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO from the side, bending over the dead body. The bandit's head, its eyes open, is leaning back among the flowers at a grotesque angle. KIKUCHIYO puts out a finger and taps the dead man's nose, then tickles his forehead.

Then he unties his own headband, drops it on the ground, and unfastens the bandit's head gear. Tilt up slightly as he stands up, grinning, turns towards camera and fixes it on his head.

Wipe To general shot of part of the forest with a steep bank on the left. Pan right past the trees in the foreground as KIKUCHIYO runs down the bank from the top. He turns towards camera, which pans quickly right again as he bounds down through the trees. Then he turns and runs across frame, camera panning left with him. He stops in medium close-up, panting and snuffing the air. He is now wearing the bandit's head gear and leather breastplate. He looks carefully round from side to side, then camera pans right again as he bounds off through the trees. Music out. Tilt down as he bounds down the slope, breathing loudly through his teeth, then goes out of sight.

High-angle medium shot of a bandit standing back to camera, waist-high in long grass, looking through the trees. He is holding a gun. The roofs of some houses are visible down the hill. He thinks he sees something and raises his gun, then changes his mind and comes back without turning round and sits down in the foreground. He is holding a slow match which he blows from time to time to keep it alight. A voice calling, off, makes him turn round and look up. KIKUCHIYO, dressed as a bandit, runs up in the foreground, back to camera, and sits down beside him. They both look down on the village.

KIKUCHIYO

How is everything?

BANDIT

They're a tough bunch.

KIKUCHIYO

It'll all be over soon.

He reaches over and takes the gun and examines it.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO and the BANDIT.

BANDIT

The whole thing is back to front.
Now we're burnt out and hungrier
than they are.

KIKUCHIYO

(Handing the gun back)
Don't complain. Your misery will be
over soon enough.

BANDIT
(Non-committally)
Do your worst.

KIKUCHIYO draws his sword and looks thoughtfully at the blade. The BANDIT glances at the sword then looks at KIKUCHIYO. He suddenly realizes that he has never seen KIKUCHIYO before and screams, then runs away. KIKUCHIYO jumps up to follow.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO from behind, continuing his movement as he raises his sword and dashes down the slope after the BANDIT. Crane up as they run down into a clearing and KIKUCHIYO, half-obscured by the branches of a tree, thrusts his sword into the BANDIT's back with a shout. Giggling, he grabs the gun and turns back towards camera. Crane down as he bounds back through the clearing; hold as he stops, examining the gun. A shout, off, makes him turn his head, and he dashes away. Several bandits appear and dash off in pursuit.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, GOROBEI, RIKICHI, KAMBEI and KYUZO sitting in a half circle at the base of the tree, near the beginning of the avenue. Hearing a sound, KAMBEI jumps to his feet. Pan left across the path, to include some of the farmers leaning over the barricade on the right, with the avenue stretching away beyond them. Shouting can be heard in the distance. Suddenly, KIKUCHIYO appears in long shot running along the avenue towards camera.

Long shot of KIKUCHIYO in the avenue, the bandits appearing behind him in pursuit. He pauses and looks back at them, then, going down on one knee, shoots at them. He falls backwards from the recoil and all the bandits fall to the ground in a heap. He rolls over on his back and then gets up, starting to run forward again, as the bandits retreat in the background.

Close-up of KAMBEI from the side, with KYUZO beside him, half-obscured, and RIKICHI in the background. KAMBEI moves forward, going out of shot, and revealing KYUZO. They are all looking in the direction of KIKUCHIYO. Reframe slightly to pick up KAMBEI again.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO in the avenue, running towards camera. Pan slightly left as he comes nearer, leaping up in the air.

Close-up of KAMBEI, three-quarters back to camera. He turns his head as KIKUCHIYO, in big-close-up, comes into shot in the foreground, laughing, partly obscuring him from view. Pan backwards and forwards keeping KIKUCHIYO in close-up as he moves about triumphantly. KAMBEI can be seen looking very stern each time he is included in the shot.

KAMBEI

You fool.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO, puzzled, facing KAMBEI, with KYUZO, GOROBEI, KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI watching them in the background.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Why did you leave your post?

KIKUCHIYO

(Grinning and raising the gun)
I don't deserve to be talked to
like that - look, I got the gun and
the post is safe enough.

Close-up of KAMBEI, in three-quarter front view, looking at KIKUCHIYO.

KAMBEI

Your going off like that merits no
praise at all.

Big close-up of KAMBEI and KIKUCHIYO with the others in the background.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Listen carefully - in war, you
never fight individually.

KIKUCHIYO frowns and looks at the gun. Then he throws it down on the ground, in a fit of pique. Suddenly, the sound of shouting, off, makes them all look to the left. KAMBEI runs off, passing in front of KIKUCHIYO, and the others follow in the background. KIKUCHIYO pauses for a moment.

Close-up of KIKUCHIYO, looking to the left, a puzzled frown on his face. Then he follows the others.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and GOROBEI from the side, staring forward in horror.

High-angle long shot, looking down the path to the village, where villagers are fighting, gradually being driven up the path by a troop of bandits.

Medium shot from the side of KYUZO, GOROBEI and KAMBEI with KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI behind, just in shot. KIKUCHIYO appears in the foreground. KAMBEI turns to GOROBEI and KYUZO who leans forward towards him, three-quarters back to camera.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)

Gorobei! Kyuzo! You guard this
entrance!

KAMBEI rushes off to the right and the others turn and go off to the left. KATSUSHIRO runs past KIKUCHIYO to follow KAMBEI. KIKUCHIYO stands alone looking down towards the battle which is raging off-screen. Then he suddenly bounds away.

High-angle medium shot of KYUZO and GOROBEI running into shot in the foreground at the end of the avenue. They take up their positions on either side of the track, followed by the farmers, all back to camera.

GOROBEI
(Turning to the farmers)
Let no one through.

Hoofbeats, off. He turns away from camera, looking up the path. Horsemen appear through the trees, galloping towards camera.

Medium shot of the bandits on their horses, reining in under the trees. The horses whinny and snort; noise of hoofbeats; dust rises around them. The BANDIT CAPTAIN turns his horse and waves his sword at the other bandits. One of them beside him lists a rifle and takes aim.

High-angle long shot, looking up the avenue to the bandits on their horses. The bandit fires the gun. In the foreground, the farmers led by KYUZO duck down behind the trench walls.

Medium shot of the farmers ducking down behind the protective walls.

Long shot of a bandit galloping along the avenue towards camera, waving his sword.

Medium shot of the farmers crouching down behind the wall. KYUZO stands up and as the horseman gallops past, he slashes at him with his sword but does not succeed in halting him. He watches briefly as the horseman disappears, then turns and runs off towards the avenue, followed by GOROBEI and all the farmers.

Medium shot continuing the movement of the farmers; they appear in the foreground, backs to camera, dashing after KYUZO as he runs towards the rest of the bandits, who are now galloping forward, shouting.

Medium long shot of the village square. A battle is raging between villagers and some bandits on foot who have got in from another way. The bandits run towards camera, going off in the foreground pursued by the villagers with KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO. As they do so, a horse appears, galloping through the square with its rider, wounded by KYUZO, bent double over its neck. Pan right with the horse as it gallops towards camera.

Long shot of the horse galloping through the village square, seen through the bars of a window in one of the houses. Pan right with it along the bars of the window, over the heads of several women in the foreground, all armed with clubs and pitchforks.

Medium long shot of the horse galloping through the square as its rider rolls off. Pan slightly right as he lands heavily on the ground.

Medium long shot of the crowd of women running out of the houses and down a short slope towards camera, carrying picks, hoes, sickles and other weapons. Pan left as they run screaming towards the fallen bandit.

Low-angle medium close-up of the bandit lying on the ground. In the background, the women run screaming towards him, through clouds of dust. He starts to crawl forward; pan right with him, losing the women. He stands up, terrified, wielding his sword.

Medium close-up of the bandit from behind, continuing his movement as he slashes out with his sword. Pan with him and tilt down as he falls to the ground again, revealing the women's legs running away. Pan continues, following him from above, as he crawls very quickly up to the veranda of a house. Tilt up slightly, to the bars of the veranda.

Medium shot of the side of the house, continuing the pan to the left as the women rush up, screaming. The bandit looks round the entrance to the house and at them, sobbing with fear. Pan slightly further as they close in on him.

Medium close-up with the bars of the veranda in the foreground, Tilt down with the bandit who is on the other side, trying to crawl away from the women who appear in the foreground, attacking him through the bars.

High-angle medium close-up of the bandit gibbering behind the bars, with a woman's arms jabbing at him with a pitchfork. He dodges about, trying to escape the blows.

Medium shot, tracking right with KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI as they run yelling through the village street, with KATSUSHIRO in the foreground, and KAMBEI slashing at a bandit as he passes. SHICHIROJI passes camera as well, following them. The track continues as they battle their way through the village.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO in the foreground, battling with a bandit whose head and shoulders are in shot. Behind him, KATSUSHIRO and some of the farmers are fighting. Track right with the battle.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO, his face distorted as he fights. Others can be seen fighting in the background. A bandit appears in the foreground, attacking him.

Medium long shot of bandits galloping through the woods towards camera. The leader carries a bow and takes aim as they ride.

Medium long shot of the farmers among the trees at the end of the avenue, They scatter as the leading bandit gallops towards them.

Medium shot of the bandit with another behind him, galloping towards camera. The first man lets fly an arrow.

Medium close-up of KYUZO and one of the farmers leaning over one of the barriers with the wall of a house behind him. They duck down quickly and an arrow sticks in the wall behind KYUZO, quivering.

High-angle medium long shot of the farmers battling in the village street, among the houses. Pan slightly right as they fall on a bandit who is obscured by the shadows. Two horsemen gallop past and camera pans left as the farmers run after them, disappearing and reappearing again. The pan continues across one of the houses, losing the farmers again and picking up the bandits in high-angle long shot as they gallop into the village square.

Low-angle medium shot of the two horsemen. Pan left as they gallop past camera, and the leading horseman draws his bow again.

Medium long shot of part of the village square. The bowman gallops up, and women can be seen scattering in the foreground, and jumping over fences in the background. The bowman shoots an arrow as he gallops through.

Medium shot of two women from behind. An arrow hits one of them in the back, pinning her, screaming, up against the wall of a house.

Low-angle medium shot of one of the bandits, his head out of shot, running away through a ditch towards the bridge barricade, followed by several others. KIKUCHIYO appears in the foreground chasing them, followed by some of his men.

Medium shot of the bandits leaping over the barricade into the river, pursued by the villagers and KIKUCHIYO.

Medium shot continuing the movement of the bandits as they leap down into the stream. Tilt up slightly as they struggle across the stream and up onto the opposite bank.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI peering between two poles of the barricade with KIKUCHIYO in the middle waving his sword and shouting, and KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI standing beside him.

Medium shot of the bandits wading through the flooded fields, away from camera.

Medium shot of the four samurai leaning over the barricade, watching. KIKUCHIYO is shouting triumphantly. KAMBEI turns away.

Low-angle close-up of KAMBEI in profile. The burial mound can be seen behind him.

KAMBEI

Good god! Two more got through!

As he speaks, he starts to move away, camera panning left with him.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO on the barrier, with the other three samurai running away behind him. He looks round and jumps down.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO and his men by the barrier with the dead body of a farmer lying in the ditch in the foreground, and another below the barricade. They are looking out towards the flooded fields where the bandits can just be seen running away in the distance. KIKUCHIYO looks down at the body at his feet and picks it up to look at the face.

Medium long shot of the village square with the two horsemen galloping around, scattering the villagers who are trying desperately to ward them off. The bowman rides towards camera.

Medium shot of the bowman, panning left as he gallops across, He raises his bow high over his horse's head, aims and lets fly an arrow.

Medium shot of three men throwing themselves to the ground.

Medium shot of the other horseman using his spear to ward off KAMBEI, who is slashing at him with his sword. KATSUSHIRO joins the battle.

Low-angle medium long shot of the bowman galloping round towards camera in the village square, pursued by some farmers. The other horseman is also galloping round the square, pursued by some other farmers, with KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO with his men behind him, running away from the barricade towards the second dead boy, which lies in the pool of water in the foreground. He looks down at it, pulls it up to look at the face and then throws it down again and goes back to face his men.

KIKUCHIYO
(Shouting)

Yohei! Where is Yohei?!

Medium shot of KAMBEI leading his men through the village square; pan slightly left. He Stops as KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI come up behind him. Sound of hoofbeats, off.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and the others facing camera, seen through the legs of a horse in the foreground, The horse gallops away, followed by the second. The dust they raise obscures KAMBEI and the others from view.

Medium shot panning right with the bowman as he gallops across, letting an arrow fly.

Medium shot of a farmer running away. The arrow sticks in his back, and camera tilts down as he falls on his face.

Low-angle medium shot of one of the horses galloping past. In the background, KAMBEI and the others can be seen scattering. The horse gallops away; tilt up slightly as the other horseman follows.

Medium long shot of the two horsemen galloping towards the farmers in the foreground. The first horseman pursues one of the farmers and cuts him down, then gallops off. The man falls on the ground with a terrible cry. The other horseman gallops away, revealing KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI running towards camera.

Medium shot of KAMBEI from the side, panning left as he runs, with two farmers in the foreground running to join him. They go off as KATSUSHIRO appears in the background. KAMBEI stops, and camera holds on him as KATSUSHIRO runs off. More farmers appear in the background. Pan slightly as KAMBEI backs, and the sound of hoofbeats gets louder. The farmers in the background scatter. KAMBEI raises his sword as the first horseman gallops past him.

Medium shot of the second bandit with his spear lowered, charging towards camera. Pan slightly left as he approaches, revealing KAMBEI's head in back view in the foreground. The bandit charges at KAMBEI with his spear. KAMBEI parries the blow with his sword.

Medium shot, from the side, of the horsemen galloping past KAMBEI, who stands three-quarters back to camera in the foreground.

Medium close-up of the bandit on his horse, looking back towards KAMBEI. Pan with him as he gallops past, following the other horseman.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO running through the village square; very fast pan left until he catches up with the horseman with the spear. The horseman gallops away but the pan continues with KIKUCHIYO, who runs on, joined by KAMBEI and some of the others.

Medium close-up of the bowman aiming an arrow; very fast pan as he gallops away.

Medium shot of YOHEI running towards camera, pursued by the bowman who lets an arrow fly. Pan left with YOHEI as he runs past, going away from camera, with an arrow sticking out of his back. The bowman gallops on past. Hold on YOHEI as he sinks to his knees with a strangled cry.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO as he runs forward with other villagers behind him. Pan left with him, losing the others, as he runs towards camera, then tilt down as he goes past a post and down onto his knees beside YOHEI, who is lying on his face with the arrow sticking out of his back. KIKUCHIYO puts a hand on his shoulder.

KIKUCHIYO (CONT'D)
(Anguished)

Yohei!

He pulls the arrow out of YOHEI's back and tosses it away. Then he tries to lift the old farmer up, bending down and looking at him.

YOHEI
(Hardly able to speak)
I did my best as lookout, but
you'll have to fight twice as hard
now.

He falls forward, dead. Another arrow falls just behind them, sticking into the ground. KIKUCHIYO looks up furiously; pan left with him as he ducks down under the fence and tilt up slightly, then hold as he runs back into the middle of the village square, turning to face the horseman who is riding up in the foreground. The horseman gallops up to him, hitting out with his spear, but KIKUCHIYO slashes and thrusts with his sword. Pan slightly further as the horse whinnies, bucking and turning, and then gallops away as its rider begins to fall.

Low-angle medium close-up of the horse's legs visible in the foreground, galloping past, as the bandit falls heavily to the ground, just behind it.

Medium long shot of the bandit lying on the ground with KIKUCHIYO and two of the villagers falling on him. KIKUCHIYO goes down on one knee beside him, back to camera, and plunges his sword viciously into his back. The other two men prod the body with their spears.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO and the farmers by the dead body. The other horse gallops into shot in the foreground and KIKUCHIYO leaps to his feet, dashing off in pursuit as it goes off-screen, followed by KAMBEI, SHICHIROJI and KATSUSHIRO, who appear in the foreground with a crowd of the farmers.

High-angle medium close-up of the horse's back, panning very quickly as it moves across frame. Tilt up and hold as it gallops away up the path leading out of the village, revealing KIKUCHIYO, KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO, chasing after it in the foreground.

Low-angle medium long shot of the horse, only its legs visible, galloping towards camera, seen between two bars of a fence. In the background, KIKUCHIYO and KAMBEI can just be seen dashing forward with others running along behind them. Pan slightly right as the horse sidesteps in front of the bars revealing KATSUSHIRO in the background, seen between its legs. The horse, whinnying and sidestepping, turns and gallops away from camera, revealing KIKUCHIYO running forward, preparing to strike with his sword.

High-angle medium long shot of the bandit on his horse. KIKUCHIYO runs along beside him as he gallops towards the villagers and samurai assembled facing him in the foreground. Pan slightly left as the horse comes forward; all the villagers hold up their spears to bar its way, with KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI holding up their swords directly in front of it and KIKUCHIYO and KATSUSHIRO rushing up from behind. Pan further as the horse gallops on through; then hold as SHICHIROJI manages to catch hold of part of the bandit's clothing and pull him off. The farmers and samurai immediately surround the bandit with KAMBEI in the center, slashing at the body with his sword.

Sound of a rifle shot on the cut to high-angle medium close-up of the villagers, in back view, surrounding the body. KAMBEI can be seen just beyond them, facing camera, with KATSUSHIRO behind him. They all jump back, looking anxiously in the direction of the sound. Pan right with KAMBEI as he turns and leaves the group. Hold as another shot rings out and distant shouting can be heard. He begins to run, calling back as he does so.

KAMBEI
Shichiroji, take over!

Track right with him as he runs through the village square.

High-angle medium long shot of KAMBEI, KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO running towards camera. Crane down and pan left as they run past.

Medium shot, looking towards the end of the avenue of trees. KAMBEI, KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO appear, running round one of the covered trenches, towards the avenue. There is no one else there. Silence.

Medium shot from the side, as KAMBEI stops with KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO behind him and part of the covered trench in the foreground. They all look up the avenue.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Oh! Gorobei!

Samurai theme in, played slowly by a solo horn. He runs out of shot, followed by KATSUSHIRO. KIKUCHIYO pauses for a moment, sword in hand, looking with horror towards the avenue.

High-angle medium shot of a crowd of villagers carrying GOROBEI's body on a litter, led by KYUZO. They walk very slowly towards camera, looking down at GOROBEI, and stop as KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO join them. KAMBEI comes over beside KYUZO and puts his hand on GOROBEI's body.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
(Sorrowfully)
Gorobei!

With anguish in his voice, he repeats the name.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Gorobei! Gorobei!

Tilt down slightly as the villagers slowly lower the body to the ground, then go down on their knees in a half-circle, bowing their heads, with GOROBEI lying on his back in the center.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO standing beside the hut, staring forward. His shoulders heave and he drops down onto his knees, bowing his head.

Wipe to a high-angle medium shot of the top of a bamboo spear, lit from below, against a black night sky.

Tilt down and pan slightly left to show the spear stuck upright in the top of a mound and beyond it, two other burial mounds surmounted by samurai swords. KIKUCHIYO is sitting with head bent beside them.

Medium long shot of a group of villagers sitting around a fire at the foot of the burial hill. Behind them, KIKUCHIYO can be seen sitting at the top of the hill, with the two samurai mounds at the top and three mounds with spears stuck in them below.

High-angle close-up of KAMBEI's hand; pan with it as it crosses off five more circles on the side of the map.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI kneeling down, seen from the side, with KYUZO and KATSUSHIRO sitting facing camera, just beyond him. They are looking down at the map. KAMBEI crosses out two more circles. Music out.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
(Wearily)
There are thirteen left. But those
last seven cost us a lot.

He turns to the other two, looking closely at KATSUSHIRO, whose head suddenly nods forward, as he falls asleep. KYUZO looks at him also, and then he and KAMBEI look at one another.

High-angle medium shot of a crowd of villagers, back to camera, with their spears propped up on their shoulders, most of them asleep. In the background, KYUZO and KAMBEI sit beside a blazing fire, looking towards them. Between them, KATSUSHIRO is sitting with his head bowed, fast asleep.

Medium shot, from the side, of SHICHIROJI, sitting cross-legged, leaning on his spear. Villagers can be seen behind him, propped up against the inner barricades, most of them asleep. A fire burning in the background lights up the large barricade.

Medium shot of KYUZO, KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO. KAMBEI turns to KATSUSHIRO, whose head is bowed.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Katsushiro!

He does not wake.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Katsushiro!

KATSUSHIRO suddenly wakes up and lifts his head, looking towards KAMBEI.

Wipe to medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO, panning right as he runs down and away from camera, towards the barricade.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO, with SHICHIROJI in the foreground, back to camera, only his head and shoulders in frame.

KATSUSHIRO

Kambei says you are to try and get some sleep now. Two sentries will keep watch. Also, the men can visit their families, one by one.

High-angle medium close-up of SHICHIROJI facing camera with KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, in the foreground.

SHICHIROJI

So tomorrow is the big fight then?

Reverse-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO with SHICHIROJI in the foreground.

KATSUSHIRO

I think so. Please spread the word.

He dashes away.

High-angle medium long shot looking towards the barricade as KATSUSHIRO runs back towards camera. SHICHIROJI begins to stand up.

Medium close-up from the side, continuing SHICHIROJI's movement, as he pulls himself up on his spear. Tilt up with him and pan slightly left as he turns to face his men. He walks towards a group of them sitting around by the inner barricades, and stands looking down at them.

SHICHIROJI

Well, you heard the order.

He turns back towards camera.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)

I'll keep the watch.

Pan right with him as he turns and walks over to MANZO.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)

You, Manzo, you run home now and see your daughter.

He grins.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)

I mean your son.

He chuckles. MANZO does not move at this remark about SHINO, but stands and looks embarrassed.

Medium long shot in the village, looking towards a large bonfire in the distance, surrounded by people. Another bonfire burns in the foreground. KATSUSHIRO walks wearily towards camera. Suddenly, SHINO runs across his path and disappears behind the flames of the bonfire for a moment. Quiet music in. KATSUSHIRO stops and looks after her.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, looking towards SHINO, who stands looking back at him on the other side of the bonfire. She is no longer dressed as a boy but wears a flower-patterned kimono. They stand staring at one another for a moment and then KATSUSHIRO begins to walk slowly towards her.

Low-angle medium shot of SHINO standing facing camera with the flames of the bonfire flaring up in the foreground. She turns and runs towards a hut behind her, then looks back.

Reverse-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, with the fire blazing in the background. He takes a few steps forward.

Medium shot of SHINO standing beside the door of the hut. Still staring towards KATSUSHIRO, she backs towards it.

Low-angle medium shot of KATSUSHIRO. He walks towards camera.

Medium close-up of SHINO. She backs a couple of steps again, still staring towards KATSUSHIRO, out of shot.

Low-angle medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO. He moves forward.

Medium close-up of SHINO. She turns and goes to stand on the threshold of the hut, and looks back again. Then she backs through the entrance, disappearing into the darkness.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO from behind, with the fire blazing in the foreground. He walks slowly away from camera towards the entrance of the hut, pauses, and then ducks down and goes in. SHINO can just be seen darting forward to pull the door to.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and SHINO inside the hut. Through the entrance, the fire can be seen blazing outside in the background. Continuing her movement, SHINO grabs KATSUSHIRO's hand and pulls the door closed with her free hand. Music out. They stare at each other.

SHINO

(Desperately sobbing)
We're going to die, aren't we? All
of us, going to die tomorrow,
aren't we?

KATSUSHIRO

Maybe not.

SHINO

(Pulling him towards her)
But we probably will, won't we,
won't we?

She flings her arms round his shoulders; pan right as they fall against the wall of the hut, clinging to each other. Then, still clasped together, they begin to fall towards camera.

High-angle medium close-up continuing their movement as they fall onto the straw matting on the ground. They lie together, breathing heavily, SHINO still sobbing slightly, locked in a passionate embrace. The firelight through the bamboo walls covers them with a flickering, striped pattern.

Medium shot of village women all lying asleep on the floor of a hut. MANZO comes in through the door in the background and looks round.

MANZO

(Whispering)

Shino!

He steps over one of the sleeping bodies, looking round, and calls louder.

MANZO (CONT'D)

Where are you, Shino?

He lifts the head of one of the women lying just beside him, but it is not SHINO. He continues to pick his way among the sleeping bodies, calling SHINO's name. Fade out.

Fade in on a low-angle medium long shot of the samurai banner, fluttering on the top of the roof, against the sky. It is pouring with rain.

Medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO, KYUZO and KAMBEI standing looking up towards the avenue. In the foreground, the villagers are crouching down beside the trench walls, with their spears at the ready. Suddenly, the three samurai draw their swords at exactly the same time. Then KAMBEI turns towards the villagers.

KAMBEI

There are only thirteen left, so we're going to let them all in at once.

(Gesturing with his sword)

As soon as they pass us, we'll follow and trap them inside.

(Pointing)

This is the final battle. It will decide the outcome.

He turns back and looks up the avenue again.

Medium shot through the entrance of a hut with villagers in back view in the foreground, looking out. Outside, SHICHIROJI walks up and stands looking up the street. He turns and takes a few steps towards his men, who crouch down in the foreground.

SHICHIROJI

Hey!

Suddenly, he runs off. Pan left past the wall of the hut and track back slightly to reveal SHICHIROJI just visible on the other side of the bamboo fence, shouting at some other men on the other side of the village street. The men look rather dejected. Track back with SHICHIROJI, then hold, as he walks into medium shot and turns back towards them, still haranguing them. He stands three-quarters back to camera, leaning on his spear.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)

Look up, now! What you need to win this battle is real fighting spirit!

Medium long shot of SHICHIROJI standing, back to camera, in the middle of the village street. His men are huddled on either side of the street getting what shelter they can from the pouring rain. Suddenly, some weapons are thrown across frame in the foreground and land on the ground, just out of sight. SHICHIROJI turns towards camera at the noise. Then two swords appear and a hand sticks them in the ground as SHICHIROJI turns and begins to run up a short slope. Pan slightly right to reveal KIKUCHIYO sticking swords into a slightly raised bank in front of him as SHICHIROJI comes up.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)

Kikuchiyo! What are you doing?

KIKUCHIYO

When you kill - you kill.

KIKUCHIYO draws his own sword and they both turn away from camera, and begin to walk back along the street. Pan back slightly left, as they go and take up their positions, backs to camera, looking up the track between the houses.

Medium long shot of KATSUSHIRO, KYUZO and KAMBEI seen from the side near the end of the avenue, looking up it. In the foreground, their band of men are crouching down behind the stone walls. Faint sound of hoofbeats through the rain. Suddenly, KAMBEI moves across and takes up his position behind a tall tree trunk, with KATSUSHIRO behind him. KYUZO ducks down and the men in the foreground shuffle backwards leaving a wide path for the bandits to come through.

High-angle long shot looking down through the trees to the track in the forest. A horseman gallops down it followed by others. Pan slightly left with them.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI, sword at the ready, with KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI behind him. Sound of hoofbeats and the rain falling.

Medium long shot of one of the bandits galloping through the forest. Pan slightly left as he rides off, followed by all the others, splashing across a small stream.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO. Hearing the sound of the distant hoofbeats, he crouches down at the ready. His five extra swords are stuck in the earth in the foreground. In the background, the other men crouch down beside the houses. KIKUCHIYO begins to run forward.

Medium long shot looking down towards the track, as KIKUCHIYO runs away from camera, with SHICHIROJI behind him. They stop for a moment and then KIKUCHIYO raises his sword and yells. Their men begin to run out from their hiding-place.

Medium long shot looking up the avenue, as the bandits ride into view through the relentless rain. In the foreground, KYUZO is bending low, peering over one of the stone walls. The first bandits gallop past unimpeded. Pan slightly left as more follow. Pan continues past one of the uprights of a hut; the horses' legs can be seen galloping past. On the other side of the path, KAMBEI, his head obscured, can be seen crouching down at the ready beside the tree trunk.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI with KIKUCHIYO, RIKICHI and another man behind them. KAMBEI looks towards the retreating horsemen; very fast pan left as he runs off after them. Hold as he goes off, swiftly followed by KATSUSHIRO and all the other villagers.

High-angle medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO and SHICHIROJI with their band of villagers retreating from the end of the avenue as the hoofbeats sound louder.

Medium shot of the first two bandits galloping round past the houses, camera panning with them.

Medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO from the side, panning very quickly to the right as he charges forward yelling. One of the bandits flashes past him and KIKUCHIYO slashes out at him so fast that his movement is just a blur in the rain.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO waving his sword by the side of a path. Tilt down as he loses his balance and falls backwards down a bank as more bandits gallop by in the background. He gets swiftly to his feet again.

Low-angle medium shot from behind of two of the villagers, splashing through the mud. A horse's legs come into shot in the foreground, obscuring them from view.

Low-angle medium shot of SHICHIROJI charging towards a fence in the background with his spear held out in front of him. A horse passes between him and the fence, obscuring him from view. It gallops away very fast, revealing SHICHIROJI again, momentarily. Another horse comes into shot, jumping over the fence from the foreground; tilt down with its rider as he falls to the ground.

High-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO crouching down on the ground, wielding his sword. Very fast pan as he slashes out at two horses which gallop past in quick succession, their legs moving across frame in the foreground. The horses go off revealing KIKUCHIYO down on his knees in a rain-filled ditch.

Medium close-up of a horse's legs galloping past camera. Its rider falls off and lands heavily in a shower of mud as the horse disappears.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO getting to his feet, now covered with mud, and brandishing his sword. Another horse gallops across in the foreground and KIKUCHIYO lashes out at the rider from behind.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandit landing in the mud as a horse's legs gallop by, in soft focus. Another horse passes, and yet another bandit lands on the ground. Villagers can be seen rushing up to the first bandit behind him as he tries to get to his knees.

High-angle medium shot, panning swiftly with another horseman as he gallops round behind KIKUCHIYO, who slashes out at him.

High-angle medium shot of the horse in the foreground with its rider falling off. Some villagers rush forward in the background. The rider lands with a splash in the mud as another bandit gallops by. Tilt up slightly as he rolls over and over.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO down on his knees in the mud. A bandit gallops by and breaks the blade of KIKUCHIYO's sword in half, leaving only a short length of metal near the hilt. Another horseman gallops by as KIKUCHIYO furiously tosses the useless sword away.

High-angle medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO continuing his movement as he throws the sword away and runs splashing through the mud. The battle continues in the background with farmers fighting with fallen bandits and horsemen galloping around. KIKUCHIYO runs towards his supply of swords stuck in the mound of earth.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO grabbing another sword from the mound. Pan slightly left as he leaps round beside SHICHIROJI who is standing just behind him. At that moment, KAMBEI and KATSUSHIRO come running down the path towards camera, leading their men. They exchange hasty words and then part company, SHICHIROJI running off after KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI turning to run towards camera, with KIKUCHIYO in the foreground. KAMBEI comes up onto the mound and, sticking his sword in the ground, leans down and picks up a bow and arrow from the supply of arms that KIKUCHIYO has gathered there.

Low-angle medium shot of the bandits galloping into shot at the foot of the burial mound. Pan slightly right as they wheel their horses round and gallop back to attack again.

Medium shot of the bandits, tracking sideways with them as they gallop through the village square, past some posts and a fence in the foreground.

Medium shot from the side of KIKUCHIYO with some of his men, moving back as they watch the approaching bandits off-screen. Very fast pan left, losing KIKUCHIYO and his men, to medium close-up of KAMBEI. He holds his bow high above his head, drawing the arrow back.

Medium close-up of one of the bandit chiefs galloping along, camera panning with him; hold as he reins in his horse, waving his swords, and then gallops back the way he came.

Medium close-up from the side of KAMBEI calmly aiming the arrow. He lets it fly.

Low-angle medium close-up of the horses' hoofs galloping through the mud. As they pass, one of the bandits lands face down in the mud with an arrow in his back.

High-angle medium shot of four of the bandits galloping across the screen, camera panning left with them; hold as they wheel their horses round and pan right as they gallop back in the other direction.

Low-angle medium shot of a horse's legs throwing up mud as it gallops past, followed by another.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, back to camera, preparing to loose another arrow. KYUZO and some of the villagers duck down towards him, ready for the attack. KAMBEI lets his arrow fly.

Low-angle medium shot of horses' legs galloping by through the mud. As a second horse passes, another bandit lands on his back on the ground with an arrow through his chest.

Medium shot, panning with one of the bandit leaders and some other bandits as they gallop across to the low mound in the middle of the square, where KAMBEI is standing with the other villagers. KAMBEI slashes out at the two leading horsemen with his sword. Pan back as they wheel their horses round and the villagers close in round them with their spears.

Low-angle medium shot of a horse's legs galloping towards camera and going off in the foreground. Other horses pass by and some villagers can be seen in the background.

Low-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, legs apart, preparing for the attack. A horse gallops past behind him and another in the foreground. He strikes out and falls over in the mud as the horses gallop away. Hold on KIKUCHIYO as he gets to his feet. He chases after them as KYUZO appears with some of his men.

High-angle medium shot of one of the bandit leaders on his horse with two other bandits behind him; pan left with him then hold as he stops at the edge of one of the flooded fields and wheels round towards camera. The other bandits do the same. Pan with them as they gallop off, then hold for a moment as the last bandit comes past on his horse and slips off onto the muddy ground, looking behind him as he does so. Very fast pan left as he runs through the mud, back towards the flooded field.

Low-angle medium close-up of the bandit's feet running through the mud. Tilt up as he reaches the barricade and starts to climb up. At that moment, KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI appear in back view in the foreground. Tilt up further as the bandit climbs the barricade, but KATSUSHIRO reaches him in time and thrusts his sword into his back. Track back slightly and tilt down as KATSUSHIRO backs off and the bandit falls back into the mud.

KATSUSHIRO, his head out of frame, watches in the foreground as the bandit writhes in agony for a moment and then finally lies still. KATSUSHIRO drops down onto his knees, exhausted.

Medium close-up from the side of SHICHIROJI inside one of the houses with his spear held out in front of him, prodding at something on the right. MANZO appears in the foreground for a second, helping SHICHIROJI prod with his spear.

Medium shot, panning slightly with a bandit who is cowering in the corner of the house, partly obscured by a pillar in the foreground. He is being prodded constantly by SHICHIROJI and MANZO. Tilt down slightly as he staggers forward against the flimsy wall of the hut, breaking it as he falls.

Medium close-up of SHICHIROJI and MANZO in the foreground, lunging forward with their spears. Pan right with SHICHIROJI as he step forward for the coup de grâce.

Medium shot, outside the hut. Tilt down and pan to the right as the bandit falls through the wall of the hut, bringing a piece of it down with him, with SHICHIROJI's spear sticking out of his back. He writhes and gurgles and then rolls over, dead.

Medium shot of the entrance to the hut as some of the farmers come out, carrying their spears, followed by SHICHIROJI and MANZO. SHICHIROJI pauses for a moment at the door of the hut and calls.

SHICHIROJI
Katsushiro! Rikichi!

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI crouched in front of the corpse with the barricade in the background.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)
(Off, shouting)
Katsushiro!

Katsushiro looks up towards camera.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI outside the hut with MANZO and the other men running off behind him.

SHICHIROJI (CONT'D)
(Shouting towards KATSUSHIRO)
Katsushiro, go to the eastern
section!

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and RIKICHI by the barricade. KATSUSHIRO gets to his feet and goes off in the foreground, followed by RIKICHI and another man who was previously out of shot.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI with his men following him and the barricade in the background; they run off in the foreground. Then KATSUSHIRO appears, jumping over one of the inner walls. He runs off after SHICHIROJI with RIKICHI and the other man behind him. They are all splashing through the mud which is now ankle-deep.

Medium close-up of several women, backs to camera, staring into the village square through the barred windows of a hut. Pan left over their heads as SHICHIROJI and his unit run past in the rain outside. The women crane their necks to watch, then suddenly one of them turns towards camera and screams. They all turn, backing against the window, shrieking hysterically; pan slightly right as they jostle each other.

Medium close-up of the BANDIT CHIEF, carrying a gun, as he runs towards camera followed by another bandit. He ducks down through the entrance of the hut, camera panning with him in close-up, three-quarter back view. Tilt up slightly as, followed by his henchman, he walks threateningly towards the women, who cower against the back wall of the hut.

BANDIT CHIEF

You'll be quiet or you'll die.

Pan with the BANDIT CHIEF as he turns away from the women, leaving his henchman on guard, and walks over to one of the barred windows. Track in slightly to show him in back view as he stares through the bars into the village square. Horsemen gallop past in the background.

Medium long shot of three horsemen galloping towards camera and wheeling their horses round. In the background, four other riderless horses can be seen cantering towards them, followed by a crowd of villagers.

Medium shot of three of the riderless horses, galloping towards camera, pursued by KIKUCHIYO. Track back slightly as the horses go off with KIKUCHIYO bounding through the mud after them.

Medium long shot of the three horsemen, backs to camera, in the middle of the village square, with the three riderless horses galloping towards them and the crowd of villagers led by KIKUCHIYO chasing after.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO with the horses' heads in the foreground. Very fast pan as he runs across the square driving them forward. They go off in the foreground and a mounted bandit appears, obscuring KIKUCHIYO from view. The horse goes half out of shot, revealing KIKUCHIYO slashing at its rider with his sword.

Big close-up of one of the horse's hoofs splashing in the mud, with the village square visible in the background. The horse disappears as, with a terrible cry, its rider falls on his back in a shower of mud. Short, very fast pan with the body as it is dragged through the mud, still attached to the saddle by one foot.

High-angle medium shot of the horse's legs, tracking very fast as it gallops along dragging the bandit through the mud. Hold as it moves away from camera following another horse, and some villagers in the foreground run forward to attack.

High-angle medium shot of villagers running away from camera, pursuing a horseman and the loose animal dragging its rider through the mud. Pan slightly and tilt up as the horses gallop away round the corner, followed by the villagers.

Medium shot of the BANDIT CAPTAIN on his horse, circling round and round, with KIKUCHIYO beside him, attacking with his sword. When the horse circles, it reveals KYUZO and KAMBEI attacking on the other side. Villagers' spears can be seen on either side of the frame as they surround the horse.

Medium long shot of the BANDIT CAPTAIN on his horse with the villagers and the samurai half surrounding it. There is a large pool of water in the foreground. The horse circles round and round as the BANDIT CAPTAIN tries to ward off the blows.

High-angle medium close-up of the horse's legs, panning very fast with it as it circles round and round in the mud. The villagers' legs can be made out dodging about in the background.

Low-angle medium close-up of KIKUCHIYO with the horse's rump in the foreground and SHICHIROJI just behind him. Pan left with KIKUCHIYO as he circles round, roaring and attacking with his sword. The whole scene is partly obscured by the rain and mud.

Low-angle medium shot of two of the villagers attacking with their spears with the horse's rump in the foreground. The horse backs across the frame, obscuring them from view.

Medium shot of the BANDIT CAPTAIN on his horse with KAMBEI visible in the background and some villagers just in frame on the right. Pan slightly with the horse as it backs,

Medium shot of the BANDIT CAPTAIN on his horse as the animal rears up, with KYUZO in front of him and the villagers and other samurai surrounding him. They slash at him with their swords and spears but he manages to break through.

Low-angle medium close-up of KYUZO and KIKUCHIYO with the horse behind them, only its legs in shot. Very fast pan with the horse, losing the two samurai, as it circles round, coming nearer to camera.

High-angle medium close-up of the BANDIT CAPTAIN, back to camera on his horse, with the villagers in the background and KYUZO beside him on the ground attacking with his sword. KYUZO finally makes contact and the BANDIT CAPTAIN starts to fall backwards.

High-angle medium shot of the large pool of water. The horse stumbles into shot on the right, going down onto its knees in the pool, and the BANDIT CAPTAIN tumbles headlong into the water in the foreground. The horse struggles to get to its feet.

Medium shot with KYUZO in the foreground and KAMBEI next to him. RIKICHI stands beside KAMBEI, with SHICHIROJI behind him, his spear erect, and KIKUCHIYO just visible beyond. Camera pans slightly left as they come up and stand by the edge of the pool and KAMBEI looks down towards the BANDIT CAPTAIN, who is out of shot.

KAMBEI

Kyuzo, well done!

Everyone shouts with delight. Then a different shout makes them turn and run back across the mud-filled square, camera panning right as they move away from it. KYUZO is the last to go. As they cross the square, a shot rings out and camera holds as KYUZO falls to the ground. The others all freeze and turn to look back at him in horror.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO and KATSUSHIRO with some of the villagers, staring towards KYUZO, off-screen.

Medium shot of KYUZO on his knees in the mud with KAMBEI behind him and the villagers all watching. He clutches his stomach and tries to get to his feet. Camera pans left as he staggers through a muddy puddle almost on his knees. He grasps his sword, stands and then flings it away from him as he topples on his face. KATSUSHIRO screams.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO and KIKUCHIYO rushing towards KYUZO who lies in the foreground. Camera tilts down as KATSUSHIRO falls on his knees with a strangled cry and tries to lift KYUZO's body. He sobs bitterly as KAMBEI and several of the villagers rush and pick up the mud-stained body. KAMBEI pulls the weeping KATSUSHIRO away as three of the villagers carry the body off, camera panning right with them, picking up SHICHIROJI as he urges them out of the line of fire.

Medium long shot of KIKUCHIYO in the middle of the square with KATSUSHIRO and KAMBEI. KATSUSHIRO lurches forwards in a fury to where the shot came from, camera panning with him, losing KAMBEI. KIKUCHIYO runs with him and forces him out of the way, pushing him down into the mud. Camera pans further with KIKUCHIYO as he rushes up to the terrace in front of the house where the shot came from.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI splashing through the village square which the rain has turned into a quagmire, KATSUSHIRO still lying face down in the middle.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
(Shouts desperately)
Kikuchiyo, Kikuchiyo!

Medium shot from the side of KIKUCHIYO coming to the door of the hut. He is about to wrench it open when another shot rings out and he falls backwards, camera tilting down with him.

Medium shot of KAMBEI, horror-struck. He starts forward.

High-angle medium shot of KIKUCHIYO outside the hut. He tries to sit up, clutching his stomach. With a tremendous effort, he gets to his feet and lurches towards the door of the hut. Camera pans right along the outside wall to one of the windows. Through it, the women can be seen cowering against the further wall as KIKUCHIYO staggers in. The BANDIT CHIEF can also just be made out standing inside.

Medium shot looking towards the entrance of the hut. The BANDIT CHIEF's henchman backs out, still looking in at the scene.

Medium long shot looking in through the barred window. Camera pans with KIKUCHIYO as, clutching his stomach, he gradually walks towards the BANDIT CHIEF with a terrible look on his face. The latter backs away, while the women watch fearfully, crouched in the background, Camera pans further along the outer wall as KIKUCHIYO drives the BANDIT CHIEF through to the outer part of the building at the back. The BANDIT CHIEF goes out of shot for a moment, then the pan continues as KIKUCHIYO, still clutching his stomach, gradually closes in on him. The BANDIT CHIEF is still carrying the gun and staring at KIKUCHIYO, amazed that he is still alive. They come out of the house at the back. With a final effort, KIKUCHIYO lunges forward and runs the BANDIT CHIEF through. Camera tilts down and holds as they both fall to the ground at the edge of a small bridge.

Medium close-up of the BANDIT CHIEF and KIKUCHIYO lying on the bridge. The BANDIT CHIEF rolls over, and camera tilts down as his body falls lifeless into the stream.

Medium shot of KIKUCHIYO, lying spreadeagled on the bridge.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI, KATSUSHIRO and SHICHIROJI running between the fences towards camera followed by a crowd of villagers. Camera cranes down as they do so to reveal KIKUCHIYO lying on the bridge in the foreground. The three samurai splash through the stream. Camera tilts down further as they stand in the stream beside the bridge looking up at KIKUCHIYO's body. KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI both call his name. KIKUCHIYO does not move. Suddenly, a horse neighs and all three turn away again. Camera cranes up again losing KIKUCHIYO, as they run back to join the villagers in the square. Three riderless horses gallop past; hold as they are followed by several more. Suddenly, KATSUSHIRO runs forward.

Medium shot from behind of KATSUSHIRO running backwards and forwards in front of KAMBEI, SHICHIROJI and the villagers, shouting hysterically. Camera pans to and fro with him.

KATSUSHIRO
(Screaming hysterically)
The bandits, the bandits!

Hold as KAMBEI grabs his arm and looks at him sternly.

KAMBEI
All dead!

With a terrible cry, KATSUSHIRO sinks to his knees in front of KAMBEI, camera tilting down with him. He begins to sob bitterly.

High-angle medium long shot of SHICHIROJI and KAMBEI standing backs to camera in the middle of the village square with KATSUSHIRO on his knees beside them. Crowds of villagers, also in back view, are standing on either side. They all begin to drop down on their knees. A horse whinnies somewhere, off, and KATSUSHIRO continues to sob.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO on his knees, sobbing, KAMBEI in the center and SHICHIROJI standing beside him. The villagers can be seen kneeling in the background. KAMBEI leans on his sword and SHICHIROJI on his spear. They look at each other, breathless and exhausted.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
(To SHICHIROJI, in a low voice)
Again - we've survived.

Low-angle medium long shot of the flag flying of top of the thatched roof. A horse neighs, off, as the wind blows flurries of rain across the thatch. Fade out.

Fade in on high-angle medium long shot of a group of village men standing knee-deep in one of the flooded fields playing drums and flutes. They are swaying about in time with the music. Among them is RIKICHI playing a drum which he has hanging round his neck.

High-angle long shot across the paddy fields, a line of women in the foreground planting rice. Behind them, the band play, backs to camera, and in the background, more women and men of the village are also planting rice. Some children run along one of the raised banks between two fields while the planters bend and straighten in time with music.

High-angle medium shot of two women in the paddy field. Camera tracks back to show four of them in line, planting rice shoots and stepping back exactly in time with the music.

High-angle medium shot of RIKICHI and another man playing their drums, with the paddy field stretching out behind them. They are swaying and chanting a song.

Long shot of two women and a man in the paddy fields.

High-angle medium shot of MANZO playing the flute with another man banging a hand drum, the flooded field behind them.

Medium long shot of women planting, men raking the fields and two children hurrying across one of the raised banks carrying bags of rice shoots.

Medium shot of MANZO, back to camera, and another of the musicians, swaying backwards and forwards as they play. Two women face camera, planting in the foreground, and there is an area of planted rice between them and the two men. Camera tracks sideways over the paddy fields showing the work progressing happily.

Medium shot from behind of KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI standing on the bridge over the stream, with KATSUSHIRO nearest camera, watching the villagers planting rice in the distance. The hills rise up behind them and the music and chanting can be faintly heard.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI with SHICHIROJI and KATSUSHIRO behind him, all looking towards the fields with the houses of the village in the background.

High-angle medium close-up of RIKICHI chanting and playing the drum with MANZO just beyond him playing the flute. RIKICHI looks happy and he slaps his thigh and smiles as he shouts out the rhythmic chant.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI with SHICHIROJI and KATSUSHIRO behind him. KAMBEI looks down rather sadly and turns away.

Medium shot of KAMBEI turning towards camera with SHICHIROJI in three-quarter back view beside him, and KATSUSHIRO in the foreground, back to camera. KAMBEI walks away and the others turn to watch him go.

Medium shot of SHICHIROJI looking over his shoulder in the direction of the paddy fields with KATSUSHIRO standing beside him. KAMBEI is walking away along the path. Camera pans slightly as the other two turn to follow him.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI from the side walking along and looking up towards the burial hill where, silhouetted against the sky, are the graves of the four dead samurai with their swords standing upright in them. KAMBEI stops as SHICHIROJI and KATSUSHIRO join him and they all stand backs to camera looking up towards the graves. Then they look towards the paddy fields. SHICHIROJI and KAMBEI turn back to the graves again, but something catches KATSUSHIRO's eye and he steps onto the path, looking at something off-screen. A line of women trot past behind him carrying yokes with panniers full of rice shoots hanging from them. KATSUSHIRO turns to watch them, as do KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI. The last girl in the line stops in front of KATSUSHIRO. It is SHINO.

Close-up of SHINO wearing a hat and scarf, with the yoke on her shoulder. She stares up towards KATSUSHIRO, off-screen.

Low-angle close-up of KATSUSHIRO with one of the samurai graves behind him, silhouetted against the sky. He stares searchingly towards SHINO and takes a few steps forward.

Close-up of SHINO looking towards him rather fearfully. She lowers her head and goes off.

Close-up of KATSUSHIRO frowning. The top of SHINO's hat can be seen passing behind him; he turns to watch her go, then moves out of shot.

Medium long shot of KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI standing at the foot of the burial hill with KATSUSHIRO walking away, back to camera. The two older samurai watch him go. SHICHIROJI turns to look at KAMBEI then back in the direction of KATSUSHIRO.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO with KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI standing on the path in the background. KATSUSHIRO frowns, staring at something out of shot.

Low-angle medium shot, of SHINO from behind, camera tilting down slightly as she bends to pick up a bundle of rice shoots. Beyond her, a line of other women can be seen planting.

SHINO turns and looks over her shoulder and then makes her way through the waterlogged paddy fields to take her place among the women.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO watching her, with KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI behind him.

Medium close-up of KAMBEI with SHICHIROJI beside him nearest camera. They look towards the paddy field and then turn their heads slightly to look in the direction of KATSUSHIRO.

Medium shot of KATSUSHIRO, back to camera, standing on the bridge. The paddy fields stretch away beyond him and the line of women planting rice can just be seen. The chants and music continue as the women sway, bending and planting in time with the music.

High-angle medium close-up of RIKICHI joyfully shouting his chant.

Low-angle close-up of SHINO bending down, her face half obscured by the brim of her hat. She raises a muddy hand to wipe her brow and straightens up, camera tilting up with her. Camera tilts down again as she begins planting again and joins in the song, but looking rather sad.

Medium close-up of KATSUSHIRO with KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI in the background.

Medium shot of KAMBEI and SHICHIROJI looking towards KATSUSHIRO, off-screen. SHICHIROJI looks round at KAMBEI, then stares back towards the fields. KAMBEI lowers his head and looks at the ground. He takes a few steps towards camera and then stops, looking back towards the paddy fields. Then he turns and walks back to stand beside SHICHIROJI again.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
We've lost again.

SHICHIROJI is surprised. He looks questioningly at KAMBEI.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
No, the farmers are the winners.

He looks down.

KAMBEI (CONT'D)
Not us.

KAMBEI turns away from camera and looks up; SHICHIROJI does likewise; the camera tilts up the side of the burial hill, losing the two samurai and holding on the four samurai burial mounds silhouetted against the sky.

The samurai theme comes in over the planting music as the wind blows up the dust among the mounds. As the theme continues, the picture fades out and the words 'THE END' come up on the black screen; as they fade out again, the music comes to a climax and ends.

THE END