## HUNTERS IN THE SKY

Program Eight: "Struggle For Supremacy"

# FINAL SCRIPT

TEASER:	
A. SADAMU KOMACHI-SOT-VO-TAPE # 183J; 31 07:22:00-07:22:15 (V/O) "The Americans may have laughed at our technology. They could control their planes	183J-15: (7:22:00) "The Americans might have laughed at our undeveloped technology. (7:22:03) [Although the Americans were not using missiles,] () they could control all the planes from a ship and could instruct
from ships. (O/C) We relied on human eyesight, luck and miracles."	the planes. (7:22:15) For us,  () [to escape from the curtain of bullets,]  () we relied only on luck and miracles."  ()  Soundbite ends in mid-word.
B. NARRATOR: From 1940 through 1945, the relentless quest for excellence in aircraft performance and equipment is carried out by both sides at an astonishing pace.	

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C. HARRY BROADHURST-SOT-VO-TAPE # 138B; 12,13 13:24:36-13:24:52 (O/C) "When they put the Rolls-Royce engines into the (V/O) P-51, it made it into an unbeatable long-range fighter."	
D. ADOLF GALLAND-SOT-VO-TAPE # 238G; 13,14 02:30:37-02:31:54 (O/C) "If we had (V/O) 200 or 250 jet fighters, we could have stopped the American Daylight raids."	238G-13: () "  if we had 200 to 250 jet fighters, we could have stopped the daily raids by the Americans." (2:31:54)
SERIES TITLE: HUNTERS IN THE SKY (:15)	
EPISODE TITLE: "Struggle for	

still.

### ACT I "THE INVISIBLE WAR" 1. NARRATOR: World War II...spectacular duels are fought in hostile skies. The Battle is for control of the air. Another war, an invisible war, is fought behind locked doors of top-secret Designers and rooms. technicians are in a frantic race to develop new equipment, to win the edge. Only 30-odd years since man first experienced flight, the fighter plane has become one of the deadliest weapons in the history of combat. It will soon be deadlier

- 2. NARRATOR: In the Pacific, reeling from the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, America quickly realizes that its fighters are no match for Japan's light, fast Zeros. The US faces a new kind of war...fought from moving aircraft carriers...it will require new technologies.
- 3. NARRATOR: The only fighter available to the American pilots in the Pacific in any quantity is the "stubby" Grumman F-4-F Wildcat. Navy pilot Butch Voris flies a Wildcat from the U.S.S. Enterprise.

- 4. BUTCH VORIS-SOT-TAPE# 36A; 11,12 09:11:39-09:12:12 (O/C)"It was a little midwing, looked like an elongated barrel, (V/O) and it had .50 caliber machine guns. It was built...almost like an "iron machine". I think that's why Grumman got the name "The Grumman Iron Works". They BUILT their machines. They Were rugged, tough, they could take the stress of carrier work, and they could take a REAL pounding or battle damage in the air and could still survive."
- 5. NARRATOR: The Wildcat can kill, but it is no aerobatic match for the lighter, tight-turning Japanese Zero.

6. IYOZO FUJITA-SOT- TAPE# 179J; 2 03:02:00-03:02:28 (O/C) "The Zero was very easy to control(V/O) it didn't accelerate well because of its small engine. But it WAS very maneuverable, AND it had 20mm cannonsthis was an advantage. The Zero had weak points though. They had NO defensive armor, and when they were hit,	179J-2. (3:01:54) ["Well,]  (
they easily caught fire"	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7. NARRATOR: For all its limitations, the Wildcat is a heavily armored, tough bird to down.	
8. JOE FOSS-SOT-TAPE# 44A; 7,8 02:05:59- 02:06:35 (O/C) "Anyone that flies airplanes knows that the lighter one can manuever faster than the heavier one. (V/O) Now, we had them beaten on firepower and armor and they had us beaten on speed and maneuverability	
	<u>                                     </u>

9. KEN WALSH-SOT-TAPE# 31A; 10 04:10:03- 04:10:12 (O/C) "If you got tangled up with a Zeroat slow speedsespecially a slow climbthey were like a hummingbird. They'd whip around, and get on your tail, and you'd buy their lunch.	
10. NARRATOR: Lt. Col.  Ken Walsh, is so taken with the Zero's grace that he nearly forgets that it's the enemy.	

11.KEN WALSH-SOT-TAPE# 31A; 2,3 04:03:00:00 (O/C) "A Zero came right down in front of me, (V/O) and for a split second I couldn't but marvel at the beautiful configuration. It was the first time I ever saw a Zero that close up. ..and (O/C) the color was sort of a tan-gold color, it was clean and waxed...but this was a kill...and, I lined up my gunsight on him within range and he went down in flames."

12. NARRATOR: During an attack in 1942 on Dutch Harbor, Alaska, a Zero is forced down intact.

13.IYOZO FUJITA-SOT-178J; 11 02:18:52:00 (O/C) "The Americans caught one Zero fighter in Dutch Harbor. They brought it back and studied it. (V/O) I think then, the Americans realized that the armor was very weak. They often shot from the front. When we went behind them, they dove and kept some distance, then attacked from the front. We re-modeled the Zero, but we had no real defense against the American fighters and that was fatal."	Americans realized that the Japanese defense was very weak. (2:19:12) They often shot from the front.  (
	mid-word.
14. NARRATOR: Hit and run is the American strategydon't dogfight with the nimble Zero. Summer, 1942. A new American fighter is operational. The twinengined supercharged Lockheed P-38 is the first US fighter to exceed 400 MPH in level flight.	

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15. IYOZO FUJITA-SOT- 178J; 13 02:23:53- 02:24:43 (O/C) "The American fighter that surprised me the most was the P-38. (V/O) It was too fast for us. When it attacked from above, I flew away. It kept turning, then it attacked again. I did not expect the P-38 to be able to move so fast."	178J-13: (2:23:53) ["I, personally,]  () the one that surprised me the most was when I went to the Philippines, I saw the P-38. I did not fight an air battle, because the plane was too fast. When it tried to shoot above me, I flew away.  (2:24:21) []  () Then it attacked again. (2:24:43) I did not expect the P-38 would be able to move so fast."
oc able to move so fast.	()
16. NARRATOR: The P-38 is joined by the Vought F4U Corsair, nicknamed "Hose Nose" by the Americans, "Whistling Death" by the Japanese.	
17. KEN WALSH-SOT- TAPE# 30A; 10,11 03:11:59-03:13:10 (O/C) "With this fighter, with that engine, (V/O) we could break 400MPH in straight and level flight. Beginning February 1943, we were deployed with the Corsair to take the offensivethis is where the tide turned."	

18.NARRATOR: Another deadly fighter, the F-6-F Hellcat joins the U.S. arsenal. Powerful, fast, long-ranged; a match for the agile Zero in a gofor-broke shootout.

19. KAZUO TSUNODA-SOT-TAPE# 188J; 6 12:11:29-12:11:50 (O/C) "The F-6-F Hellcats appeared in 1943. (V/O) I felt they were better than our Zeros. When we used to attack the older F4's, they flew away...they AVOIDED the Zeros, but the Hellcats were SO GOOD that even if they were at a disadvantage, they STILL attacked us."

188J-6. () "
at the end of the 17th year or
the beginning of the 18th
year, F6Fs started to appear in
air battles. (12:11:49) I felt
that F6Fs were better than
Zeros. (12:11:55) As for F4Fs,
() []
() If we
attacked with Zeros and tried
a one against one attack, F4Fs
flew away. (12:12:09) []
() They
avoided Zeros.
() []
(12:12:19) F6Fs, even when
they were not in good
attacking positions, F6Fs
attacked us." (12:12:26)

#### 20. BUTCH VORIS-SOT-

TAPE# 36A; 12
-09:12:24-09:12:47 (O/C)
"The F-6-F Hellcat was a tremendous fighting machine. (V/O) It had 6
.50 calibers. It was responsible, I believe the number was 75 or 76 per cent of all aircraft shot down in the Pacific during World War II. So it was the mainstay of our fighter machine."

### 21.NARRATOR: U.S.

factories turn out swarms of new planes. New pilots wait to fly them in combat. In contrast, continual bombing depletes Japan's capability in the air. Shortages of raw materials and fuel plague efforts to reinforce beleaguered island garrisons.

22. KUNIOSHI TANAKASOT-TAPE# 195J; 3
00:38:12-00:38:34 (O/C)
"During the battles in
the south Pacific many
skillful pilots died. (V/O)
I think around that time
Japan started becoming
inferior to the enemy
and the shortage of
aircraft on the Japanese
side accelerated the
change in the tide."

"During the South Pacific war, many skillful pilots died. (00:38:34) I think around that time, actually, Japan started becoming inferior. (00:39:51) [...] ([earlier tc] \_\_\_\_\_\_) And the shortage of aircraft on the Japanese side accelerated the change in the tide." (00:37:40)

23. NARRATOR: Japanese aces lead attack after attack and they are the first to die. Novice pilots, rushed into battle are no match for American veterans. Desperate, young pilots channel frustrated courage into suicidal missions. An ancient Japanese tradition is reborn...The Kamikaze, or, "Divine Wind" is the phrase for the fighter who trades death for a flare of glory. The war in the Pacific will go on, but for Japan it is a struggle without hope. The US wins the war of technology, as her production overwhelms Japanese resistance.

END OF ACT I

ACT II	
"HORSEPOWERMERLINS AND	
BARONS TAKE TO THE AIR"	
1. NARRATOR: In Europe, the struggle for air supremacy begins in 1940 over Great Britain. German technology has perfected the sleek, powerful ME 109, a design proven in the skies over Spain, Poland and France.	
Fredrich Obleser,	
Luftwaffe, will score	
127 kills in his ME 109.	
	0410 4 (5.05 51) #F
2. FREDRICH OBLESER-SOT-TAPE # 241G; 4 05:05:51-05:05:06 (O/C) "For me as a fighter pilot, (V/O) the ME 109 was THE plane. I flew many versions of it, we used this plane a great deal, and those that did fly it considered it to be the best plane of its kind."	241G-4 (5:05:51) "For me as a fighter pilot, the fighter plane Me-109 was the plane that I experienced warfare in. I flew many versions of this.  () []  () We used this plane a great deal of the time. And those that flew it considered it to be the best plane of its kind." (5:06:38:20)

- 3. NARRATOR: Britain's Royal Air Force, vastly outnumbered, pins its slim hope on a fighter evolved from a racing seaplane and developed despite an obstinate bureaucracy ... The Vickers Supermarine Spitfire.
- 4. ROLAND BEAMONT-SOT-TAPE# 131B; 11
  06:16:49-06:17:09
  (V/O) "The Spitfire has a classically beautiful shape, (O/C) and everybody wanted to fly Spitfires in 1940. They looked marvelous. (V/O) The Spitfire was now ... a few miles an hour

faster than a 109."

5. NARRATOR: The RAF's other mainstay is the ·Hurricane. Tough, dependable and deadly. But it is the Spitfire that gives the Luftwaffe its worst headache, matching the performance of the 109. Though slightly faster, the Spitfire's Rolls-Royce Merlin engine is not fuel injected, like the Daimler-Benz-engined Me 109. This technical edge gives the Germans an early advantage in combat, where gravity forces, commonly known as "G" Forces, cut off the flow of fuel to a normally carbureted engine. For RAF pilots, that tiny edge is the difference between life and death.

- 6. HARRY BROADHURST-SOT-TAPE# 139B; 2,3
  14:02:25-14:04:05
  (V/O) "When we started the war, (O/C) if you got behind a 109, his best maneuver to get away from you was just to shove the stick forward and do that, whereas we had to roll over...we couldn't take negative "G" in our Rolls engines."
- 7. NARRATOR: The solution: a plate over the Merlin's carburetor to keep the fuel flow constant. America provides the RAF with 100 octane aviation fuel. By comparison, the Germans must supplement their meager supplies with synthetic fuels that limit engine performance. In spite of this, German research again tips the The Fockebalance. Wulf 190 with a 1700 horsepower engine built by BMW can outperform the Spitfire.

8. HARRY BROADHURST-	
VO-SOT-TAPE# 139B 2,3	
13:25:27-13:26:30	
(V/O) "I remember	
when I first ran into a	
Focke-Wulf(O/C) I was	
jolly lucky to get	
home"	
9. NARRATOR: Harry	
Broadhurst reports his	
encounter with the new	
Luftwaffe fighter.	
Eyebrows are	
raisedcommand	
doesn't believe his story	
about a German fighter	
that can out-perform	
the Spitfire.	
10.HARRY BROADHURST-	
SOT-TAPE# 139B 2,3	
(V/O) "Fortunately, one	
of the chaps flying a	
Focke-Wulf landed in	
England. (O/C) We'd got	
a complete Focke-Wulf	
and we were able to test	
it."	

11.NARRATOR: The
Focke-Wulf challenge is
met when Rolls-Royce
introduces
superchargers that
make Merlin engines the
equal of German
technology. The

Spitfire's combat ceiling is doubled from 15 to 29

#### 12.NARRATOR: As

thousand feet.

America enters the airwar over Europe, US pilots are provided with the P-38, already proven in the Pacific and North Africa... It has the firepower and performance to take on the Luftwaffe, but it's range is limited. Early 1943 sees the arrival of the P-47 Thunderbolt, called the "Jug" by her Massive, pilots. powerful and well armed, this fighter can reach the frontiers of the Reich.

13. NARRATOR: The Thunderbolts prove their worth. However, they still cannot provide bomber escort deep inside Germany. A longrange fighter must be found quickly. American designers produce the P-51 Mustang, powered by the British Merlin engine. It is an incredible fighting Equipped with machine. drop tanks, the P-51 has a remarkable duration in the air of 8 hours. In March, 1944, the first Mustangs appear over Berlin. Allied bombers now have the protection they need.

14.WOLFGANG SPATE-SOT-TAPE # 232G; 3,4 .09:07:31-09:08:17 (O/C)"I had a lot of respect for the Mustang. (V/O) Its performance, armament and equipment was superior to ours. They had better sighting equipment; their sights could automatically compensate for our movements. "In highspeed dives, they'd fly through our formation, and still be able to pullout at low altitude, thanks to their high performance engines; we really had to look out for those Mustangs. They had the best scores against us... if I remember correctly, one of the best American pilots scored 20 kills with the Mustang he flew."

232G-3 (9:07:31:00) "When I remember all of my many air battles and adventures, I'd have to say I had the most respect for the Mustang. (9:07:44:00). The Mustang's performance, armament, and equipment was superior to ours (9:07:52:23). They had better sighting equipment; their sights could automatically compensate for our movements.

\_\_\_\_) [...] \_\_\_\_\_) In high speed dives, they'd fly through our formation and still be able to pull out at low altitude, thanks to their highperformance engines, and still be able to to attack our formation again from underneath. (9:08:24:13) we really had to look out for those Mustangs, and the Mustangs also had the best scores against us, if I remember corectly. (9:08:37:02) One of the best American escorts, Yeager, scored twenty kills with the Mustang: (9:08:47)

15.NARRATOR: It is the Mustang with its combination of firepower, speed and range that assures Allied domination of the skies over Europe. Mustangs alone will account for almost 5,000 combat kills. Technology and production breakthroughs unite...the Allies grow more powerful. The Luftwaffe learns that courage and skill are not enough to stem the massive Allied buildup. Germany will make one last attempt to win the battle of the blueprint. A revolutionary new fighter is on the drawing board. The ME-262...the first combat jet.

END OF ACT II

ACT III THE SECRET WEAPON TO	
LATEGERMANY JINX'S HER JE	I'S
1. NARRATOR: Long- range Mustang fighters and Allied bombers by the thousands rain destruction on Germany. The Luftwaffe is ordered to consolidate its remaining fighters to defend the Fatherland, but the raids cannot be stopped.	
2. MACKI STEINHOFF- SOT-TAPE # 239G; 13,14 03:28:18-03:29:10 (V/O) "We as pilots were experiencing great gloom (O/C) we had only one thoughtwhen will we get a better fighter so we can stop the bombers?"	239G-13 (3:28:14:20) "We were experiencing great gloom.  () []  (3:29:04) We,  () [however,]  () had only one thought: When will we get a better fighter so we can stop the bombers?"  ()

- 3. ADOLF GALLAND-SOT-TAPE # 238G; 12 02:27:40-:02:27:53 (O/C) "The fact of the matter was that the only way to counteract the absolute superiority in sheer numbers that the Allies possessed was a superiority." technical
- 238G-12: (2:27:40) "The fact of the matter was that the only way to counteract the absolute superiority in sheer numbers that the Allies possessed was a technical superiority."

NARRATOR: The Germans turn to a new technology...the jet fighter. Professor Willi Messerschmitt's top secret project, the ME 262, a twin-engine turbojet fighter who's anything in the sky. Incredibly, the brilliant design has been on the drawing board for four

performance will eclipse years before it is seen as urgent.

- 5. ADOLF GALLAND-SOT-TAPE # 238G; 10 02:33:16-02:34:39 (O/C)"By May, 1943 I was able to fly the first jet fighter. This was a prototype. (V/O) This was something completely new for me, and it was a really grandiose experience, This was the beginning of a completely new age, a new generation of aircraft, and a new technology."
- 238G-10: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

  "[Just the same,] by May '43, I was able to fly the first jet fighter. This was still a prototype. This was something completely new for me. (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) [...]

  (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) It was a really grandiose experience.

  (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) [...]

  (2:24:39) This was the beginning of a completely new age, a new generation of aircraft, of fighters. And new technology." (2:24:59:00)

6. NARRATOR: The Me262, the fastest plane
yet flown by man, is
presented to Adolph
Hitler. Germany will
have an unbeatable
fighter, but Hitler issues
an astonishing order.

ADOLF GALLAND-SOT-7. TAPE # 238G; 11,12 02:25:24-02:26:16 (O/C) "I was present in 1944, before the invasion, when Hitler was shown the Messerschmitt 262 at Innsbruck in East Prussia. It was very impressive, (V/O) achieving about 510 MPH in level flight. Then, Hitler asked Messerchmitt, "Can this plane carry bombs??". He answered, "Yes mein Fuhrer, a 500lb bomb!!". "Good!!", Hitler said. "Then this is the Blitz bomber with which I will beat back the invasion!!". (O/C) Then a struggle began to try to use this aircraft as a fighter where it had enormous potential, instead of a bomber, for which it wasn't at all suited."

238G-11: (2:25:11:18)  "The
introduction of the
Messerschmitt-262 was
negatively influenced by
Hitler himself.]
( ) I was
() I was present in 1944, before the
invasion, when Hitler was
shown the Messerschmitt 262
in Innsbruck, East Prussia.
() []
() It was
very impressive, doing speeds
of about 850 kilometers per
hour. Hitler was surprised,
and asked Messerschmitt, 'Is
this plane capable of carrying
bombs?' Messerschmitt
answered, 'Yes, mein Fuehrer,
yes, a 250 to 252 kilogram
bomb.' 'Good,' said Hitler.
'Then this is the blitz bomber
with which I will beat back
the invasion.' (2:26:26) Then
a struggle began to negate the
use of this aircraft as a
bomber, for which it wasn't at
all suited."
()

8. NARRATOR: Hitler's decision to limit the use of the new jet is one of the costliest in the history of war. The ME 262 fails as a bomber. In the last desperate months of The Third Reich, Hitler agrees to use the plane as a fighter. Galland is ordered to create an elite interceptor squadron. He turns to Johannes Steinhoff.

9. MACKI STEINHOFF-SOT-TAPE # 239G; 13,14 13:29:11-13:29:35 (O/C) "Galland turned to me and asked: "Would you like to form a jet fighter squadron??? tomorrow morning then!!! (V/O) I went to Brandenburg and formed the squadron. We got the planes from Bavaria and assembled them and we began to fly them. This was flying in a new dimension...it was fabulous.!!!"

10. NARRATOR: Walter Krupinski is one of the aces chosen by Steinhoff to fly the jets in combat  11. WALTER KRUPINSKI- SOT-TAPE # 226G; 1 03:02:30-03:03:25 (V/O) "Colonel Steinhoff stood on the wing and said to me "She flies just like any other bird except it takes forever until you're up to speed and you need just as long to lose speed when you want to land". That was all the instruction I had. I taxied over to the runway and took off. You had the feeling that the gods were shoving you skywards" !!!	226G-1: (3:02:30:18) ["My trainerwe didn't have a two-seater version, was General Steinhoff, at that time] () Colonel Steinhoff, stood on the wing, (3:02:41:15) and said to me, () [] (3:02:49:02) [Otherwise] () 'She flies just like any other bird, except it takes forever until you're up to speed, and you need just as long to lose speed when you want to land.' (3:03:05:24) So that was all the instruction I received, and then I taxied over to the runway and took off. (3:03:14:02) [] () You had the feeling the gods were shoving you skywards." ()
12. NARRATOR:	
Germany's first jet	
fighter squadron is	
airborne. Allied pilots	
are in for a shock.	

13. ANDREW MACKENZIE- SOT-TAPE # 220M; 7 02:13:31-02:14:34 (O/C) "This jet came down through our formation and that's the first jet I've ever seen in my life!"	226G-2: (3:03:46) []
SOT-VO-TAPE # 226G; 2 03:03:46-03:04:19 (O/C) "I flew right at them, and wanted to shoot, but our closure rate was too high. I flew right through the formation without firing!"	() "I decided to engage them () [and saw them immediately]

15.ANDREW MACKENZIE-SOT-VO-TAPE # 220M; 7 02:13:31-02:14:34 (O/C)
"I saw this thing go by, (V/O) it just went dashing through the formation...it didn't even fire its guns!!! (O/C) We couldn't do any combat with them because they were here and gone!!!"

16. WOLFGANG SPATE-SOT-VO-TAPE # 232G; 6 09:14:09-09:19:31 (O/C) "The high rate of closing speed was an advantage, but it was also a disadvantage (V/O) because you closed on the formation so quickly that you only had a couple of seconds in which you were able to fire."

232G-6 (9:14:09:02) ["So]

(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) the high rate of closing speed was an advantage, but it was also disadvantageous because you closed on the formation so quickly that you had only a couple of seconds in which you were able to fire."

(9:14:31:25)

- 17. MACKI STEINHOFF-SOT-VO-TAPE # 239G: 03:33:28-03:34:30 16 (O/C) "The plane was superbly armed. By the end of the war, we had twelve rockets on each wing. You had (V/O) to fly close to the bomber so that at 1000 meters you were sure that the twenty-four rockets would cover the entire length of the bomber. When the rockets were fired the bomber was destroyed!"
- 239G-16: (3:33:28) The plane was superbly armed. By the end of the war we had 12 rockets on each surface. So we had 24 rockets that could be released simultaneously at a bomber. So you had to fly closely to the bomber so that -- a distance of a thousand meters--and make sure the 24 rockets covered the entire breadth of the bomber. \_\_\_\_) [You had to sight the plane in your sight] (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ) And then when the rockets were released, the bomber would be destroyed."
- 18. NARRATOR: Although jets begin to take their toll of Allied bombers, only about 20 or 30 of the 1400 jets produced are operational at any one time. Severe fuel shortages keep many of them grounded. Allied fighter pilots must hunt the nests of the new menace.

- 19. JAMES GOODSON-SOT-TAPE # 214A; 6 01:10:17:22 (O/C) "When the jets and rocket planes turned up, (V/O) they went 500 or more miles an hour. We realized the only way we could catch them was on the ground."
- 20. MACKI STEINHOFFSOT-TAPE # 239G; 15
  03:31:41-03:32:34 (O/C)
  "From takeoff, it took
  the 262 almost five
  minutes to reach battle
  speed. (V/O) American
  fighters would keep a
  lookout over the
  airfields and take
  advantage of this
  vulnerable moment
  when they knew they
  could get us."

- 21. JAMES GOODSON-SOTTAPE # 214A; 6
  01:10:17:22 (V/O) "We found an airfield with two jets on it and I went down to take them out.
  We were very worried because we thought they could produce these planes very fast, and (O/C) there was no way we escorting fighters could catch them."
- 22. NARRATOR: The astonishing new technology, though a serious threat to the allies is a classic case of too little...too late. Even as German resistance collapses, General Galland's squadron fights to the end...

23. ADOLF GALLAND-VO-SOT-TAPE # 239G; 4,5 03:08:58-03:10:04 "These were selected pilots and they fought to the last day, until we destroyed our own planes, the Messerschmitt-262s...(V/O) we blew them up in front of the American tanks. We didn't do this to win the war or to gain better conditions for peace or negotiating positions, No, we fought because we DID have a superior weapon. Yes we were faced with greater numbers, (O/C) but we could still hold our own. We could not surrender before the German people while we still had these superior planes. This is the reason why this unit perished in flames."

239G-4: (3:08:52) [...] ) "These were selected pilots and they fought to the last day, until we threw our planes, the Messerschmitt-262s, we blew them up in front of the American tanks. We didn't do this to win the war or to gain better conditions for peace or negotiating positions. No, we fought because we did have a superior weapon. We were faced with greater numbers, but we could still hold our own. (3:09:59) And we could not capitulate before the German people, being in possession of those possibilities that we still had. This is the reason why this unit perished in flames." (\_\_\_\_)