

HUNTERS IN THE SKY

Program #11: "Fall Of The Third Reich"

FINAL SCRIPT

TEASE:	
A. VOROZHEIKEN SOT: (O/C) "As I looked down (V/O) at the center of Berlin, it looked as though a volcano were erupting."	
B. NARRATOR: Hitler's once mighty Reich is strangled from the East, crushed from the West, obliterated from the sky.	
C. HOFFMAN SOT: (O/C) "One felt a hideous sense (V/O) of inferiority and desperation."	236G-4 (13:12:19) ["But I was unable to engage them because it would suddenly be dark again and we were being jammed by the English.] () Then one felt a hideous sense of inferiority and desperation." (13:12:37)
<u>SERIES TITLE: HUNTERS IN THE SKY (:15)</u>	
<u>EPISODE TITLE: "Fall of the Third Reich"</u>	

<u>ACT 1: RED FURY</u>	
<u>A. GERMANY WEAKENS</u>	
1. NARR.- January, 1945. As allied armies close in on Germany from the West, Russia readies an overwhelming attack from the East.	
More than 2 million men, 7000 tanks and 5000 planes mass for the knockout blow against the battered armies of the Third Reich. While the Red Air Force gains strength, the Luftwaffe is desperate for pilots, planes, fuel...	
Adolph Galand senses impending disaster.	

<p>2. GALLAND SOT: (O/C)</p> <p>"The Russians were able to build a mighty airforce. They were able to maintain a strong airforce. They were able to rearm in an area outside the reach of the German Luftwaffe. And they had no shortage of fuel."</p>	<p>238G-8: (2:17:26) [...]</p> <p>() "The Russians were able to build a mighty air force. They were able to maintain a strong air force. They were able to rearm in an area outside of the reach of the German Luftwaffe. And they had no shortage of fuel." (2:18:20)</p> <p>On-camera soundbite cuts out at around 2:18:13.</p>
<p>3. NARR.- Luftwaffe aces, once supremely confident, see their ranks decimated. Frederick Obleser, Luftwaffe.</p>	

<p>4. OBLESER SOT: (O/C) "We were so low on fuel that we positioned our planes for takeoff by having them pulled by oxen in order to save fuel. (V/O) This meant that each mission had to be successful. Only the most experienced pilots were used for difficult missions. (O/C) But then the experienced pilots also suffered greater casualties."</p>	<p>241G-12: (5:23:11:18) [...] () "We were so low on fuel that we positioned our planes for takeoff by having them pulled by oxen in order to save on fuel. () [...] (approx. 5:21:30) This meant that each mission had to be successful. Only the most experienced pilots were used for difficult missions. But then the experienced pilots also suffered greater casualties." ()</p> <p>End of bite is clipped.</p>
<p>B. RUSSIAN STRENGTH</p>	
<p>1. NARR.- From Leningrad to the Crimea, Soviet forces advance. The Red Airforce, reinforced with Aircobras from America and powerful new Yak fighters, fills the sky with fire.</p>	
<p>2. ARCHIPENKO SOT: (O/C) "We were able now to lend air support to our troops on the battlefield."</p>	

3. NARR. - Fedor Archipenko. Red Air Force.	
4. ARCHIPENKO SOT: (O/C) Domination in air power at that time then fully shifted towards the side of the Soviet Union. Air superiority was now completely ours."	
C. GERMAN ATTITUDE	
1. NARR- The Luftwaffe is forced to ration its remaining strength. Heinz Marquard, Luftwaffe.	
2. MARQUARDT SOT: (O/C) "At the end of the war, (V/O) the sorties became tougher from week to week due to the superiority of the enemy at that time. The pressure on us increased because our numbers decreased steadily, (O/C) and we received neither replacement aircraft nor replacement pilots."	234G-5: (11:13:59:08) "At the end of the war, the sorties became tougher, from week to week, (11:14:06:11) due to the superiority of the enemy at that time. The pressure on us increased because our numbers decreased steadily, and we received neither replacement aircraft nor replacement pilots." (_____)

3. NARR- The Luftwaffe pilots desperately try to stem the Russian advance toward the Polish border.	
4. RALL SOT: (V/O) "Considering the distances we had to cover, we were like a fire brigade, (O/C) putting out fires. This meant being transfered every 3 to 4 days. (V/O) We had tremendous logistical problems. So on a daily basis, (O/C) we had to perform our missions and already think about the next airfield we were going to use."	243G-7: (7:13:38) "Considering the vast distances we had to cover, we were like a fire brigade, putting out fires. This meant being transferred every three to four days. We had tremendous logistical problems. (_____) [...] (_____) So on a daily basis we had to perform our missions and already think about the next airfield we were going to use." (7:14:39:04)
5. NARR- Faced with defeat, Luftwaffe pilots must call on reserves of inner strength to continue the fight.	

<p>6. NARR.- Soviet ground forces cross into Poland. The Red Air Force flies ground support missions to punish the broken Wermacht. Walter Krupinski, Luftwaffe.</p>	
<p>7. KRUPINSKI SOT: (V/O) "The Russian pilots (O/C) were extremely good bomber pilots, (V/O) that is, low level attack pilots. In low level flight formation they would fly wing on wing, very closely packed, providing us with a large target which we could strafe from side to side. But they could nonetheless maintain formation, carrying their rockets and bombs to the target. They were very brave, but they naturally suffered great losses."</p>	<p>225G-7: (2:15:28:16) ["Excuse me,] (_____) the Russian pilots were extremely good bomber pilots--first class E-2 pilots, that is, low-level attack pilots. In low-level flight formation they would fly wing on wing, very closely packed, providing us with a large target we could strafe from side to side. But they would nonetheless maintain formation carrying their rockets and bombs to the target. They were very brave, but they naturally suffered great losses." (2:16:05:08)</p>

<p>9. KUBAREV SOT: (O/C) "There were a lot of pilots who died. The shift to new equipment, to new planes, all this made us carry on a very difficult battle with the enemy."</p>	
<p>10. RALL SOT: (O/C) "I have a total of 275 recognized victories of which the majority were in the East. Am I proud of any special victory? I don't know this expression--proud. Naturally every victory increased the sense of self worth of every fighter pilot... (V/O) it contributed to his experience. But one can't really talk of pride because when you see what's left of your opponent on the ground, I think (O/C) any emotion that is there would probably exclude the feeling of pride."</p>	<p>243G-6: (7:11:02:00) "I have a total of 275 recognized victories, of which the majority were in the east. Am I proud of any special victory? I don't know this expression, proud. Naturally, every victory increased the sense of self-worth of every fighter pilot. It contributed to his experience. But one can't really talk of pride because when you see what's left of your opponent on the ground, I think any emotion that is there would probably exclude the feeling of pride." (7:11:49)</p>

<p>11. NARR- By mid-January, 1945, German defenses crumble outside Warsaw. Deitrich Hrabak, Luftwaffe.</p>	
<p>12. HRABAK SOT: (O/C) "I saw German troops being surrounded, I saw German troops retreating before the Russians, which was something I had never seen before. And I saw the encirclement worsen (V/O) and eventually I saw how the German troops were finally bombarded with rockets and artillery fire."</p>	<p>227G-7: (4:15:28:20) [...] (_____) "I saw the German troops being surrounded. I saw German troops retreating before the Russians, which was something I had never seen before, and I saw the encirclement worsen, and eventually I saw how the German troops were finally bombarded with rocket and artillery fire." (4:16:24:22).</p> <p>Transition is in mid-word.</p>
<p>13. NARR.- Spring, 1945. It is clear that the Russians cannot be stopped. As the Red army advances from the East, Allied forces on the Western front roll through German cities--blasted to rubble by incessant aerial bombardment. The Luftwaffe is Hitler's last hope for survival.</p>	

---END ACT I---	
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<u>ACT II: CLOSING THE VISE</u>	
<u>A. COMBAT WITH ALLIES</u>	
1. NARR- Hitler commands his ground troops to fight to the death, but he orders the cream of the Luftwaffe pulled back to defend the Fatherland from heavy allied bombing raids.	
2. KRUPINSKI SOT: (O/C) "We were taken out of our unit in Russia, I was brought to Germany. My mission was to combat the enemy escort fighters not the bombers."	225G-10: (2:21:55:24) [...] () "We were taken out of our unit in Russia. (2:22:12:18) I was brought to Germany. My mission was to combat the enemy excort fighters, not the bombers." (2:22:19:24) Out point is inaccurate on tape.
3. BROWN SOT: (V/O) "When we got air superiority, (O/C) man,-- when they turned us loose to pursue after escorting the bombers, that's when the Luftwaffe bought the farm."	

<p>4. KRUPINSKI: (O/C) "My first impression as I flew my first sortie over Germany was 'oh my god, look at all those targets, this is going to be a lot better than Russia.' In Russia, you sometimes really had to search for an opponent."</p>	<p>225G-10: (2:22:19:24) "My first impression as I flew my first sortie over Germany was, 'Oh my God! Look at all those targets! This is going to be a lot better than in Russia. (2:22:34:20) In Russia you sometimes really had to search for an opponent." (2:22:39:10)</p>
<p>5. BROWN: (O/C) "We had 15 fighter groups in the 8th airforce, 15 fighter groups in the 9th airforce. We could put up 50 airplanes in each group everyday, so you figure it out--that's 1500 fighters. There wasn't anyplace that those guys could run and hide that we couldn't find them."</p>	
<p>6. KRUPINSKI: (O/C) "In my first sortie, I shot down two mustangs, in my second, a Thunderbolt. But then it was over, (V/O) in my third sortie I was the one who had to bail out."</p>	<p>225G-10: (2:22:39:10) "In my first sortie, I shot down two Mustangs. In my second, a Thunderbolt. But then it was all over. In my third sortie, I was the one who had to bail out." (2:22:50:21)</p>
<p>B. CONFUSION AND MISTAKES</p>	

<p>1. NARR.- The noose tightens. The Red Army grinds toward Berlin. Allied forces pour across the Rhine. For the Third Reich, it is the countdown to doomsday. Hitler issues insane commands to phantom armies from his bunker in Berlin. And still the Luftwaffe fights.</p>	
<p>2. MARQUARDT SOT: (O/C) "At the end of the war, the high command gave orders which must have been issued by non-fliers. They expected one to accomplish the impossible which we couldn't follow. (V/O) For instance, a mission without the possibility of return. You wouldn't have had enough fuel to return to the German side of the front. Those orders were luckily refused by the squadron command."</p>	<p>234G-6: (11:17:21:28) ["Unfortunately,] (_____) at the end of the war the high command gave orders that were apparently issued by non-fliers. (11:17:34:02) They expected one to accomplish the impossible, which we also couldn't follow. For instance, a mission without the possibility of return. You wouldn't have had enough fuel to return to the German side of the front. (11:17:53:13) Those orders were luckily refused by the squadron command." (11:18:00:21)</p> <p>Transition is in mid-word.</p>

3. NARR- The Luftwaffe sends up hastily trained young pilots. They face seasoned veterans of the Battle of Britain. Brian Kingcomb, RAF.	
4. KINGCOMB SOT: (V/O) "The German fighter pilots (O/C) were getting shot down like flies. And most of them had done about 10 hours of flying. So for the last few months of the war, the opposition really melted away. With the exception of one or two old hands they were a bunch of semi-trained young men being killed."	
5. NARR- Luftwaffe aces refuse to quit even in the face of chaos.	

<p>6. MARQUARDT: (V/O) "We were a group (O/C) of 6 fighters escorting the Dora-9. On our return leg, as those fighter bombers were about to land they were attacked by enemy planes. I sent out 4 of my escorts to defend the airfield."</p>	<p>234G-6: (11:16:18:28) [...] () "We were a group of six fighter escorts flying the Dora-9. On our return leg, as the fighter bombers were about to land, they were attacked () [by Spitfires.] I sent out four of my escorts to defend the airfield." ()</p> <p>Must edit out references to Spitfires.</p>

<p>7. VOROZHEIKEN SOT: (O/C)</p> <p>"The enemy didn't see us coming. They continued to fly in a very calm and relaxed manner. (V/O) We also had the sun behind us. I gave the order to attack the enemy fighters simultaneously and we attacked. Two of them went up in flames right away and 3 of them summersaulted around in the air after they were hit. (O/C) The other fighters, who didn't even expect this, all of them dove down. Immediately they went into a dive and left the bombers without protection, without any cover."</p>	<p>This bite was used in Show 1.</p>
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<p>8. MARQUARDT SOT: (V/O)</p> <p>"My wing man and I attacked the enemy planes from underneath and came under fire. I was shot down (O/C) but I was able to save myself by bailing out. I celebrate that day as my birthday."</p>	<p>234G-6: () "My wingman, () [Herr Radlauer,] () and I attacked () [the Spitfires] () from underneath, and came under fire. I was shot down and I was able to rescue myself by bailing out. (11:17:00:05) I celebrate that day as my birthday." (11:17:02:16)</p> <p>References to Spitfires must be edited out.</p>
<p>9. LOSIGKEIT SOT: (V/O)</p> <p>"Seeing your hometown reduced to rubble was motivation enough for us to fight. (O/C) So we had only one mission, protect the homeland and the troops in retreat. They had unbelievable losses."</p>	<p>229G-9: (6:20:40:24) ["And, uh,] () when the pilot knows, my home town has been reduced to rubble, then there is sufficient motivation. () [...]</p> <p>(6:21:07:15) So you had only one mission: protect the homeland, protect the German troops in retreat. Oh, they had unbelievable losses." (6:21:16:15)</p>

<p>10. NARR- Hitler concentrates what power he has left against the Russian juggernaut advancing on Berlin. To buy time, he demands that every German sacrifice his life for the Reich. It is carnage.</p>	
<p>11. GALLAND SOT: (V/O) "Everyone knew (O/C) perfectly well the war was lost, there was no more compromise solution. Our situation would not improve. And we were faced with unconditional surrender, that is the worst condition. And then came total destruction."</p>	<p>329G- 5 (approx. 3:10:45) (_____) "Everyone knew perfectly well the war was lost. There was no more compromise solution. Our situation would not improve. We were faced with unconditional surrender. It's a terrible condition, a terrible condition. The worst condition. (_____) [...] (_____) And then came total destruction." (_____)</p>
<p>---END ACT II---</p>	

<u>ACT III: VICTORY IN EUROPE</u>	
A. RUSSIAN MISSIONS	
1. NARR- April, 1945. More than half a million Red Army troops, thousands of tanks, twenty one thousand rocket launchers and twelve thousand guns rip into Berlin's last defenses. The Red Airforce hunts down Luftwaffe bombers.	

2. VOROZHEIKEN SOT: (O/C)

"I must say, we really liked those planes, those bombers. (V/O) You could approach them easily because they had practically no ability to fire from the back. And now they had only one machine gunner left up there and we were coming up around him. We let off a round of machine gun fire and they started burning. One went up in flames, the second one went up in flames, the third and the fourth. (O/C) We shot down more than half of the German planes and lost only seven of our Soviet fighters."

3. NARR- April 25th, 1945.
Near the town of Torgau on the Elbe River, Soviet ground forces link up with American GI's. The mood is festive.

4. NARR. April 26. The Germans control an area of Berlin only ten miles long and three miles deep.	
5. KUBAREV SOT: (V/O) "There we had very few flights (O/C) because there was such a strong strike from the land forces and it was so fast. (V/O) As a result we flew only three or four missions. Light missions to escort our bombers which were bombing Berlin. They were trying to destroy the main hot beds of resistance in the city where there was still fighting."	
B. GERMAN SURRENDER	

<p>1. HOFFMAN SOT: (O/C) "The end of the war was foreseeable, that it must end in our defeat and capitulation. It made me sad to see us losing the war but it was inevitable."</p>	<p>236G-6: (13:18:04:27) "The end of the war was foreseeable, considering the preceding months, that it must end in our defeat and capitulation. (13:18:19:03) It made me sad to see us losing the war, but it was unavoidable." (13:18:34:23) Soundbite in show cuts out at around 13:18:18.</p>
<p>2. NARR.- As the hour of surrender approaches, Luftwaffe aces destroy their planes on the ground.</p>	
<p>3. RALL SOT: (V/O) "The most frustrating experience for me (O/C) was when we blew up our machines in 1945. We had to bid farewell to a lifestyle, and to our comrades. And of course, we didn't know what the results would be historically and otherwise."</p>	<p>243G-11: (7:21:38:03) ["The most frustrating experience for me was in 1945 ...] (_____) The most frustrating experience for me was when we blew up our machines in 1945. We had to bid farewell to a lifestyle and to our comrades. And of course we didn't know what the results would be, historically and otherwise." (7:22:00:25)</p>

4. NARR- German soldiers and airmen surrender to American and British forces to avoid capture by the Russians. Group captain Johnny Johnson is playing soccer when a German bomber crew lands at his airfield to give themselves up.

5. JOHNSON SOT: (V/O) "I think they were quite astounded when they saw the group captain dressed up in a pair of football shorts and looking rather scruffy. (O/C) And anyway, the chap eventually saluted me and said that he was bombed up and would like a Spitfire escort, and then we could all go off together and attack the Russians to the east of Berlin. So we helped him on his way to the prisoner of war camp."

<p>6. NARR.- Eric Hartman, with 352 kills and known as the "Black Devil" of the Eastern front, has special reason to fear the advancing Russians. He surrenders to an American officer.</p>	
<p>7. HARTMAN SOT: (O/C) "The American gave his word of honor that no German would be handed over to the Russians. But in a few days, we were told that we were going to drive to Munich. We went south and then suddenly we turned east and drove into a forest and arrived at a Russian outpost. So the whole column was stopped and handed over to the Russians. And this is how I wound up in Russian captivity."</p>	<p>244G-14: (approx. 8:26:30) (_____) "He gave his word of honor that no German would be handed over to the Russians. But in a few days we were told that we were going to drive to Munich. And we went south, 10-15 kilometers, and all of a sudden we turned east. And we drove into a forest and we arrived at a Russian post. So the whole column was stopped and handed over to the Russians. This is how I wound up in Russian captivity." (8:27:12)</p> <p>Next narration covers Hartmann, beginning at around 8:27:00.</p>
<p>8. NARR.- Hartmann is fated to spend ten years in a Soviet prison. He is one of the lucky ones-- he will return home alive.</p>	

April 30, 1945. Russian troops battle to the doorstep of the Reichstag. May 2, 1945. Berlin surrenders. Arseni Vorozheikin enters the city on foot.	

9. VOROZHEIKIN SOT:

(V/O) "We had to pick
(O/C) and make our way
through the corpses of
those German soldiers. I
wouldn't even call them
soldiers. (V/O) They
were mostly kids,
children dressed in SS
uniforms and old men.
And so, as we were
coming up to the
Imperial Chancellory,
we saw the eagle lying
there. It was a two
meter long bronze eagle.
For more than twelve
years it had soared over
the Imperial Chancellory
and the whole world
shuddered as a result of
that eagle. Our soldiers
came and threw it down,
there it was now under
our feet - that eagle - a
smashed lump on the
ground."

10. NARR- May 7, 1945.

Germany signs an
unconditional surrender.
Sergi Dolgushin, Red
Airforce.

11. DOLGUSHIN SOT: (V/O)

"My chief of staff came
up (O/C) and said
'commander, we've had

12. NARR.- World War II is the costliest conflict in human history. In Germany, 4 and a half million <i>dead</i> . Half a million Britons, <i>dead</i> . Three hundred thousand Americans, <i>dead</i> . 20 million Russians, <i>dead</i> . More than 13 million civilians, <i>dead</i> . So many unknown dead. So many heroes, known and unknown.	
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