

HUNTERS IN THE SKY

Program 12: "Victory in the Pacific"

FINAL SCRIPT

TEASER:	
A. TANIMIZU SOT (198J-8): "We were told if Japan was occupied, the Japanese people would be exterminated from the face of the earth."	198J-8: (approx. 00:10:00) () ["In the Philippines, the Japanese did not want to repeat the mistakes we made in Guadalcanal. If the Philippines fell, Japan could fall any day.] () If Japan would become occupied, the Yamato tribe would be exterminated from the surface of the earth. () [The commander told the members of a kamikaze unit, 'Your death at kamikaze attacks will save the Yamato tribe. The fate of the Yamato tribe depends on you.'] () Extra material here in case bite is extended.
B. NARRATOR: As Allied forces close in on their homeland, Japanese pilots will turn to a last desperate weapon: the suicide attack.	

C. WADE SOT (35A-7): "... and a Kamikaze came through and hit the center LST ... and sunk it. That was our first experience with the Kamikaze, and it was rather frightening."	
SERIES TITLE: HUNTERS IN THE SKY (:15)	
EPISODE TITLE: "Victory in the Pacific"	

<u>ACT I: RETURN TO THE</u> PHILIPPINES	
A. BATTLE FOR LEYTE	
1. NARRATOR: October 1944. An awesome fleet of 200 American ships, including 17 aircraft carriers loaded with more than 1,000 planes, spans the horizon off Leyte Island in the Philippines. The Japanese move to meet them, aware that the battle will determine the fate of Japan: Beating back the U.S. forces will buy an honorable peace.	

<p>2. TSUNODA SOT (188J-10): (12:22:03) [O.C.] "I think the Japanese wanted Leyte to be the last battle, followed by a peace treaty. But before negotiating a treaty, the Japanese wanted to chase the Americans away from Leyte, so our bargaining position would improve. ... To achieve such a big victory, a small number of pilots was not enough. So Japan sent three squadrons."</p>	<p>188J-10: (12:22:03) ["As I wrote in my book, Japan seemed to think that--] (_____) the Japanese wanted Leyte to be the last battle, and wanted to have a peace treaty. But before Japan finished the war--in the last battle--the Japanese wanted to chase the Americans away from Leyte, then they would bind a peace treaty. (12:22:41) [I was told that the same conditions of the Japanese-Russo War.] (_____) Japan could not agree to have a peace agreement if the situation would not improve. (_____) [...] (12:23:04) To achieve such a big victory, a small number of pilots was not enough. Japan sent out three squadrons." (_____)</p>
<p>3. NARRATOR: An invasion force hits the island. Ships and planes from U.S. Navy Task Force 38 support the landings. Japanese warships must be kept away from the beachheads. Japanese planes must be stopped from blasting the American troops.</p>	

4. NARRATOR: The stage is set for an epic battle. American scouts prowl the Pacific, searching for the Japanese task force.	
5. VORIS SOT (37A-11): (10:12:12) "And all of a sudden, emergency flight quarters was sounded on the communications system. And I knew what had happened: We'd located the Japanese forces. So we manned the ready room, and manned our airplanes, and we knew this was going to be a long one."	
6. NARRATOR: The U.S. Navy's top ace, David McCampbell, plunges into the go-for-broke Battle of Leyte Gulf.	

<p>7. McCAMPBELL SOT (154A-33, 34): (2:22:07) "I looked around and--and I saw it's just my wingman and I up there. So then I called the ship and told them we had about forty fighters up here, could they send some-- please send some help. Word came back from the Fighter Director, he says, we don't have anybody else to send you.... (2:23:00) So Roy and I ... went to work on 'em."</p>	
<p>8. NARRATOR: The combat is furious, dreamlike. During the frenzy, McC Campbell scores nine kills! When he returns to his carrier, his gas tanks are sucking air, only six rounds are left in his guns. McC Campbell earns the Medal of Honor.</p>	
<p>B. MISSION BEYOND DARKNESS</p>	

1. NARRATOR: The Japanese manage to maneuver a deadly fleet within range of Leyte. In the late afternoon, Butch Voris gets the order to attack. But the numbers don't add up--the enemy carriers are too far away to allow a margin of safe return.	
2. VORIS SOT (37A-12): (10:13:18) "Right there you knew that probably half the planes could not return to the carrier, but we went ahead. ... And the sun had gone down, and we came up on them and we made our attacks. ... (10:14:38) It was pretty heavy, and we lost a lot of 'em."	
3. NARRATOR: The attack is successful ... but as the sun disappears, U.S. pilots fly into a nightmare	

<p>4. VORIS SOT (37A-14): (10:15:13) "We know we haven't got enough fuel to get home. The torpedo planes are calling out, 'I'm out of fuel. I'm going in the water!' And it was just a continuous thing like that all the way back."</p>	
<p>5. NARRATOR: What's left of the air group limps home in darkness. U.S. carriers risk stalking Japanese submarines, and try to help the fighters home by showing their lights. Voris follows the shreds of light, and finds the deck.</p>	

6. VORIS SOT (37A-15): (10:16:19) "I got down. My wingman crashed into the barriers right behind me. From then on out we were pushing airplanes over the side. They were landing in the water, parachuting out ... (10:16:51) and this went on until there were no more airplanes, they were all gone, or the few of us got down. We lost over half of our aircraft that night."	
C. COMBAT	
1. NARRATOR: The beachhead on Leyte is secured. But the battle for the air is wicked.	

<p>2. HINOKI SOT (192J-16, 17): (~16:26:14) "The Americans were full of energy. I was told that a hundred warplanes were flying toward the south. At first, I thought this must be a mistake. Crows or something. But it was no mistake, and I began worrying because I had only ten men. ... The B-24s bombed our airbase. I couldn't break into their formation. ... I chased the bombers for about three hundred kilometers and attacked seven of them. Two were shot down."</p>	<p>192J-16: (16:26:14) "The American Air Force was full of energy. When I planned to sleep for a while in the morning, I heard that 100 fighters were flying toward the south, passing Acaab. First I thought it might be a mistake. Crows or something, mistaken for planes. But they were flying over land. It could not be a mistake. (16:26:35) So I began worrying because I had only ten men. () [...] () I prepared myself and went up in the air. () [Well, they were altogether 88] () They came from the north and bombed our air base, while circling. () [Then the B-24s made a T formation and began to return.] () I tried to break inside the formation, but I could not manage it. () [...] () I flew for about 300 kilometers. () [...] () I attacked seven and two of them were shot down." ()</p>

<p>3. NARRATOR: Walker "Bud" Mahurin is transferred to the Pacific after being shot down in Europe. He will survive yet another brush with death.</p>	

4. MAHURIN SOT (33A-36): "Coming from a mission, my airplane started to lose coolant. And when it started to clank, which is kind of an indication that it's going to catch on fire, I bailed out. [V/O - raft still] And I spent about six hours in the ocean in a one-man raft. Scared to death, of course. [V/O - Rescue] ... The air/sea rescue folks ended up by sending an air/sea rescue boat out to pick me up. ... [O.C.] I came up on the deck of that rescue boat and the crew handed me a cup of chocolate -- hot chocolate -- and I drank that hot chocolate down, went back to the stern and threw up everything I'd eaten for forty days. Quite exciting."

D. TAG

1. NARRATOR: U.S. forces fulfill General MacArthur's pledge to return to the Philippines. American power will strike next at a place few fighting men had ever heard of before, and none will ever forget: Iwo Jima.	
END ACT I	

<u>ACT II: IN THE CAULDRON OF FIRE</u>	
A. IWO JIMA	
1. NARRATOR: February 1945. Air and sea bombardment hammer Iwo Jima, only 750 miles from the heart of Tokyo. Iwo's strategic importance is its airstrip, used by the Japanese fighters to intercept American bombers on their way to Japan.	
2. NARRATOR: Satoshi Anabuki takes on American bombers unloading fire and destruction on the once- untouchable Japanese mainland. It is a difficult challenge.	

<p>3. ANABUKI SOT (181J-4, 5): (~5:07:22) "The bombers could reach very high altitudes, and we had a hard time climbing up to intercept them. If we could wait at their anticipated altitude, then it was all right. ... (5:05:55) I downed one bomber. I saw it catching fire, emitting black smoke and flying away. I couldn't see it crash."</p>	<p>181J-4: (5:07:22) "B-29s could fly up at a very high altitude. If we waited at the anticipated altitude beforehand, it was all right. But it was hard for us to fly up to their altitude, because their flying performance was superior to ours. (_____) [...] (5:05:55) In the sky over the mainland, I encountered B-29s once -- in Osaka. (5:06:12) Probably, if I remember correctly, I downed one B-29 then. (5:06:19) I didn't confirm whether the plane had actually crashed to the ground. However, it did catch fire. I saw it catching fire and flying away, emitting black smoke." (5:06:33)</p>

<p>4. HINOKI SOT (193J-6): (~16:37:10) "American bombers were headed back south after bombing the Hanshin area. I took off with the rest of my unit. They were at about twelve thousand feet, and made the mistake of not flying in tight formation. We shot down about thirteen planes. I achieved glories because the enemy was careless."</p>	<p>193J-6: (approx. 16:37:10) () "I heard that B-29s, which bombed the Hanshin area, were flying down south. () [I had never fought against a B-29 with a type-five fighter.] (16:37:19) I commanded my battalion members and flew up. Then, however, again, the American Army made a mistake. () [Maybe, I can call it that way.] () Well, they were coming back without formation, at an altitude of about 3,000 or 4,000 meters. (16:37:29) [We attacked them, and we captured 23 prisoners of war.] () We shot down--shot down about 13 planes. Because they were careless, they were attacked. (16:37:43) I, as I said, achieved glories because the enemy was careless." (16:37:50)</p>

<p>5. NARRATOR: To protect the heavy bombers, the Americans need Iwo's airstrip as a base for P-51 escort fighters. American Marines launch an amphibious assault against Iwo Jima. Japanese resistance is fierce. Outnumbered in the air, only a handful of Japanese pilots defend the island. Iyozo Fujita, Japanese Air Force.</p>	

<p>6. FUJITA SOT (178J-7): (~2:10:15?) "We had radar on Iwo in the beginning. We were warned, 'The enemy is coming!' We took off, but they were not coming at all. They tricked us. We were confused. So we landed. Then a lookout saw them coming, and we took off again. We flew low, line astern, but were cut off. In just two days, we were completely destroyed."</p>	<p>178J-7: (2:10:13) ["I felt that a passive battle was difficult.] () In the beginning, Japan had a radar in Iwo Jima. We received a warning, 'The enemy is coming.' So we took off. But the enemy was not coming at all. (2:10:39) [In fact, well, the enemy pretended a big formation would be coming.] () They tried to confuse us. () [I think so.] (2:10:55) Anyway, the enemy was not coming at all, so we landed. Then a lookout saw the enemy's planes coming at a low altitude. He warned us. (2:11:09) We went up in the air after his warning. () [We were told to meet in the air above Northern Iwo Jima.] () We were flying in one line at a low altitude. Our straight line of formation was cut off by bombing. Our loss was very severe. In just two days, we were completely destroyed." (2:11:35)</p>

<p>7. NARRATOR: The battle for Iwo Jima is the bloodiest in the history of the U.S. Marines. Six thousand will die on that desolate island, 17,000 are wounded. The Japanese lose more than 20,000 men. Only 1,000 are taken prisoner. ... Marine flame-throwers root out die-hard Japanese burrowed deep inside caves. Marines seize Iwo's airfield. Now, crippled bombers returning from Tokyo can land on Iwo. But more important, long-range P-51 Mustangs can escort American bombers all the way to Japan.</p>	
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<p>8. HINOKI SOT (193J-7): (~16:38:40) "In the beginning, when the bombers came, our fighters could shoot some of them down. But later, when P-51s began escorting the bombers, we could do nothing. It became very difficult to defend the mainland. ... (193J-14) I knew that the rest of the war would be a great challenge."</p>	<p>193J-7: (approx. 16:38:40) (_____) "In the beginning, when the B-29s came, Type-2 fighters could shoot some down, but later they were more prepared and P-51s accompanied them. (16:38:57) [As I said,] (_____) we could not take any actions. (_____) [In addition to that, a mobile troop came.] (16:39:08) Well, I strongly felt it was difficult to defend the mainland. (16:39:13) [...] (approx. 16:54:00) (_____) From now on it would be a real challenge. That's how I felt." (16:54:15)</p>
B. OKINAWA INVASION	

1. NARRATOR: There is one more stepping stone to Japan: the fortress island of Okinawa. ... Allied warships mass off shore. The U.S. Navy had three carriers when the Pacific war began; now there are forty. ... Easter Sunday, 1945. Marines and Army infantry land on Okinawa, seize the airstrip. The Japanese counter-attack. In the air, they throw all their available fighters against the invasion fleet.	
C. KAMIKAZE TEASE	
1. NARRATOR: Japanese pilots face swarms of U.S. fighters and bombers as thick as rain. They are desperate for a new strategy.	

<p>2. NARRATOR: Over Leyte Gulf, the Japanese tested a terrible weapon ... suicide pilots ordered to crash their planes into American targets. Off Okinawa, these human bombs, the Kamikazes, drop from the sky like fireballs.</p>	
<p>3. SAKAI SOT (187J-5): (11:07:22) "Kamikaze is a surprise attack, according to our ancient war tactics. A surprise attack means to do something unexpected. Surprise attacks will be successful the first time, maybe for two or three times. However, eventually the Americans would find a way to protect themselves from our attacks."</p>	<p>187J-5: (11:07:22) "Kamikaze is a surprise attack, according to our ancient war tactics. A surprise attack means to do something unexpected, you know. Surprise attacks will be successful the first time, maybe for two or three times. (11:07:44) However, the Americans would find a way to protect themselves from our body attacks." (_____)</p>

<p>4. KOMACHI SOT (183J-6): (7:08:32) "When I saw a suicide attack for the first time, I was very shocked. A fighter who was caught in the antiaircraft fire made a body attack on the enemy's carrier. ... I felt, how brave he is! Congratulations! But at the same time I felt, was there any way to help him? So many different feelings came to mind."</p>	<p>183J-6: (7:08:32) "When I saw a suicidal attack for the first time, I was so close. A fighter who was still caught in the fire made a body attack on the enemy's carrier one more time. It was nothing more than a suicidal attack. (7:08:43) When I saw that attack for the first time, I was shocked very much. I felt, 'How brave he is! Congratulations!' But at the same time I felt, 'Was there any way to help him?' (7:08:52) So many different feelings came to mind." (_____)</p>
<p>5. NARRATOR: The Kamikazes take a heavy toll of the U.S. fleet. Some get through the curtain of fire ... 38 U.S. Naval vessels will be lost. American pilots must find a way to defend against an adversary for whom death in battle is the supreme honor.</p>	
<p>END ACT II</p>	

<u>ACT III</u> : DEATH ON THE DOORSTEP TO JAPAN	
A. KAMIKAZE INTRO	
1. NARRATOR: <i>Kamikaze</i> , Divine Wind. Pilots plunge to destruction inside Zeros weighted with 500-pound bombs. They create carnage in the fleet off Okinawa's shores, dodging Hellcats and Corsairs on the way down.	

<p>2. KOMACHI SOT (184J-4): (~00:05:45) "The Americans attacked Okinawa. Against such an enemy, against the unexpected moves of the enemy, no strategy would have been effective. No strategy was planned. The planes that flew near Okinawa received orders to attack, attack, attack. Well, there was no other way than to make Kamikaze attacks. We did not have time to plan a strategy."</p>	<p>184J-4: (approx. 00:05:45) (_____) "The Americans attacked Okinawa. Against such an enemy, against the unexpected moves of the enemy, no strategy would have been effective. (00:05:56) No strategy was planned. (00:05:58) [The planes that flew over the mainland--not around Saipan -- especially] (_____) the planes that flew near Okinawa received orders to attack, attack, attack. (00:06:08) Well, there was no other way than body attack. We did not have time to plan a strategy." (00:06:13)</p>
<p>B. ANTIAIRCRAFT</p>	
<p>1. NARRATOR: American gunners throw up a wall of fire against the suicide attacks. It is so intense, even their own pilots are shot down.</p>	

2. LONG SOT (6A-25a): (6:05:35) "I bailed out off the island of Okinawa during that campaign. The United States Navy, U.S.S. Beale, shot me down while they were trying to fire at another--at a Japanese airplane. They hit the wrong airplane. [LAUGHS]"	
3. McCUSKEY SOT (250A- 13): "Once the gunners take over, they shoot at everything. There's the old saying, shoot them all down and sort them out on the ground. And it's awful hard to get them to stop once they start firing."	
C. KAMIKAZE CONTROVERSY	
1. NARRATOR: The orders to fly and die come from above. Some Japanese pilots question the fanatical doctrine of death.	

<p>2. SAKAI SOT (187J-9, 6 to 7): (11:13:50) "I went on the very first Kamikaze mission. Kamikaze attacks were very, very foolish attacks. All the men who were in the headquarters lied! ... Every pilot volunteered for a Kamikaze unit? 'I go! I go! I go!--did everyone say that? That's a lie. We were ordered, 'So and so numbers from that squadron, so and so numbers from this squadron.' Only a fool would want to go for a sacrifice attack."</p>	<p>187J-9: (11:13:50) "I went on the very first Kamikaze mission. Kamikaze attacks were really, really foolish attacks. All the men who were in the headquarters lied! (11:14:07) [...] (187J-6) (approx. 11:09:45) (_____) Every pilot volunteered for a Kamikaze unit? 'I go! I go! I go!--did everyone say that? That's a lie. 'So and so numbers from that squadron, so and so numbers from this squadron,' we were ordered. Only a fool would want to go for a sacrifice attack." (11:10:16)</p>

<p>3. TANAKA SOT (195J-11): (01:00:14) "The commanding officers told us, 'If you want to volunteer for the Kamikaze unit, hand in a slip of paper with your name on it. If you don't want to volunteer--hand in a slip of paper with your name on it.' In the climate of the Japanese military forces during the war, it was very difficult to say that you didn't want to die."</p>	<p>195J-11: (00:00:14) "The commanding officers told us, 'If you want to volunteer for the Kamikaze unit, hand in a slip of paper with your name on it. If not, also give a slip of paper with your name on it.' In the climate of the Japanese military forces during the war, it was very difficult to say you didn't want to die." (00:00:44)</p>

<p>4. SAKAI SOT (187J-8 to 9): (11:14:07)</p> <p>"Americans who heard Kamikaze stories think that the Japanese must be strange. They think we are crazy. We are not crazy. Both American pilots and Japanese pilots are the same human beings. ... Where are there people who will volunteer to die? No one wants to die. ... But if a pilot was ordered, we were all military men. We would go."</p>	<p>187J-9: 11:14:07: "Americans who heard Kamikaze stories think that the Japanese must be strange. They think we are crazy. (11:14:15) We are not crazy. (11:14:17) Both American pilots and Japanese pilots are the same human beings. They think about the same things. (11:14:25) [...] (approx. 11:13:10) (_____) Where are there people who will volunteer to die? No one wants to die. (_____) [Who will volunteer to die?] (_____) But if a pilot was ordered, we were all military men. We would go." (_____)</p>

<p>5. KOMACHI SOT (184J-3): (~00:04:40?) "I think the Americans might have thought the Kamikaze attack was a very poor strategy. And if the Commanding Office had had a better strategy, they would have used it. But in fact, there was no alternative. It was a dying struggle. ... Compared to the number of planes that made Kamikaze attacks, the results were not very satisfactory. The losses were greater than the glories."</p>	<p>184J-3: (00:04:38) ["I cannot criticize, but] () I think the Americans might have thought the Kamikaze 2</p>

<p>6. TANIMIZU SOT (198J-9): (00:11:40) "I tried to lift up the young pilots' morale. I made songs, awarded them kill markers. But it was difficult to lift up the morale. If new planes had been built and the pilots trained to fly them, then they would have achieved victories and their confidence would have grown. But by the end of the war, I, too, felt so depressed."</p>	<p>198J-9: (00:11:40) "I tried to lift up the young pilots' morale. I made songs, awarded them 'shooting down' marks. (_____) [Planes were getting....] (_____) With those planes, it was difficult to lift up the morale. If new planes were manufactured and pilots had been trained to control them, then they would achieve victories, their confidence would have grown. At the end of the war, I was - - even myself -- felt so depressed." (00:12:20)</p>
<p>D. FINAL BATTLE/ATOM BOMB</p>	
<p>1. NARRATOR: The battle for Okinawa ends on June 22, 1945. Casualties on both sides exceed 100,000. The island is a wasteland. Swarming Kamikazes destroy 38 American warships, killing 5,000 sailors and airmen. Allied planners ask themselves, 'If it is like this on Okinawa, what will it be like when we invade Japan?'"</p>	

<p>2. KOMACHI SOT (184J-6, 5): (00:07:47) "After Okinawa's fall, only the Japanese mainland was left. ... No enemy ships were to be allowed to reach the mainland. That was an order. All the pilots were ordered to make sacrifice attacks. That was the strategy for winning battles on the mainland. ... Fight to the death. Die on the coast. ... (00:08:05) If a decisive battle actually happened, Japan would be a disaster."</p>	<p>184J-6: (00:07:47) ["Then,] () after Okinawa's fall, only the mainland was left. () [...] (approx. 00:06:45) () "No enemy ships were allowed to reach the mainland. That was an order. All the pilots were ordered to make sacrifice attacks. That was the tactic for winning battles in the mainland. () [...] (00:07:56) [At a decisive battle in the mainland,] the order for the Navy members was to fight until the last minute and die. Die on the coast. () [That was an order. Our tension was immense.] (00:08:05) If a decisive battle actually happened, Japan would be a disaster." (00:08:09)</p>
<p>3. SAKAI SOT (187J-5 to 6): (~11:08:30) "Tokyo was all burned down from B-29 raids. If the Emperor saw what happened to Tokyo, why didn't he demand to stop the war?"</p>	<p>187J-5: (11:08:30) ["On March 10,] () Tokyo was all burned down from B-29 raids. If the Emperor saw what happened to Tokyo, why didn't he demand to stop the war?" (11:08:43)</p>

4. TANIMIZU SOT (198J-13): (00:18:19) "When I faced the Americans' continuous raid on the mainland, I felt that Japan would not be able to win the war because we were pushed to the edge. Of course, I did not express my opinion. Even though I felt that there was no way to stop the enemy, we non-commissioned officers could not do anything. The only thing we could do was to continue fighting."	198J-13: (00:18:19) "When I faced the Americans' continuous raid on the mainland, I felt that Japan would not be able to win because we were pushed to the edge. (00:18:34) Of course, I did not express my opinion. Even though I felt that there was no way to stop the enemy, we non-commissioned officers could not do anything. The only thing we could do was to fight every day." (00:18:57)
5. NARRATOR: It is clear Japan will not surrender. Invasion will mean an ocean of blood.	

<p>6. HINOKI SOT (193J-8): (16:40:07) "Some might have felt that we would lose the war. But I didn't think we would lose until the last minute. I figured that when we were suffering, the enemy must be suffering too. That's the way I saw it. ... So when I heard the Emperor's announcement ending the war, I was very frustrated."</p>	<p>193J-8: (16:40:07) ["So, all of us, well,] (_____) some might have felt that we might lose the war. However, for me, I did not think about losing the war until the last minute. When we were suffering, the enemy was also suffering, I thought. I felt that way. (_____) [...] (16:49:27) [Also, we surely had enough armed forces.] (_____) So I did not think we would lose. When I heard the Emperor's announcement ending the war, I was very frustrated. I was really frustrated." (16:49:40)</p>
<p>7. ATOM BOMB MONTAGE</p>	
<p>a. Footage: Japanese civilians; atom bomb mushroom cloud.</p>	
<p>8. NARRATOR: World War II ends as it began--in flames. The vanquished mourn, the victors celebrate. ... A weight is lifted from the planet. For a moment, there is no peril in the sky. ... That moment will be all too brief. Still, it is a moment to cherish.</p>	

END ACT III	