

HUNTERS IN THE SKY

Program 2: "Defending the Realm"

FINAL SCRIPT

<u>TEASER</u>	
A. PAGE (126B-4): (V/O) "Suddenly we saw them, (O/C) this mass of ants (V/O) with wings coming towards us...."	
B. NARRATOR: The invincible Luftwaffe gets the order to attack England. A handful of Royal Air Force pilots face the onslaught. The destiny of Europe hangs on this epic battle for the sky...	
C. IHLEFELD (113G-6): (O/C) "We as pilots ... (V/O) were entirely convinced at the time that we could defeat the Royal Air Force."	113G-6 (1:26:30:05) "We as pilots were entirely convinced at that time that we could defeat the English Air Force." (1:26:43:04)
<u>SHOW TITLE: Hunters in the Sky</u>	
<u>EPISODE TITLE: "Defending the Realm"</u>	

<u>ACT 1: THE BATTLE BEGINS</u>	
A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT	
1. NARRATOR: April 1940 ... The conquest of Europe has begun. Hitler's armies storm through Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and France.	
a. Blitzkrieg footage featuring Luftwaffe as spearhead of German victories.	
2. NARRATOR: Remnants of British and French battalions trapped on the beach at Dunkirk, are pounded by the Luftwaffe and blasted by German artillery.	
a. Combat footage; Dunkirk evacuation.	

3. NARRATOR: France surrenders. Hitler dances a victory jig. Only one obstacle stands in the way of his conquest of England.	
a. Hitler and German troops in Paris.	
4. CHURCHILL V/O: "The Battle of Britain is about to begin. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty. And so, bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its commonwealth lasts for a thousand years, men will still say, this was their finest hour."	
a. Churchill footage	
5. NARRATOR: General Adolf Galland, Luftwaffe. Veteran of combat in Spain and over Europe. Advisor to, and sometimes nemesis of, Luftwaffe chief Hermann Goering. He will eventually tally 104 kills.	

a. Galland baby pictures and footage	
b. GALLAND SOT (237G-5): (O/C) "Hitler himself didn't want the conflict with Britain. Quite definitely not. I heard him say so personally. He said that, 'I hate to have to wage this war against England. The English people are so much like us. It's unfortunate that I'm forced to do this.'"	237G-5 (1:11:10) ["This is absolutely the case.] (_____) Hitler himself didn't want the conflict with Britain, quite definitely not. I heard him say so, personally. (1:11:34) He said that, 'I hate to have to wage this war against England. The English people are so much like us, it's unfortunate that I'm forced to do this, (_____) [et cetera, et cetera.]" (1:11:49)
	Check in point.
6. ROLAND BEAMONT	
a. Beamont baby pictures.	

b. BEAMONT SOT (131B-17): (V/O) "We were in a situation where everybody could see, (O/C) uh, certainly the fighting men could see, but everybody else could now see that this country was in the gravest danger that it had been in since the Normandy invasion in 1066."	
B. LUFTWAFFE VS. RAF	
1. NARRATOR: The Luftwaffe seems invincible. Goering arrogantly assures Hitler that Britain will beg for peace in a matter of weeks or be destroyed from the air.	
a. Footage of Goering and Hitler; massive fleets of Luftwaffe aircraft.	
2. HERBERT IHLEFELD	

a. Ihlefeld baby picture or footage.	
b. IHLEFELD SOT (113G-6): (V/O) "We as pilots were entirely convinced (O/C) at the time that we could defeat the Royal Air Force."	113G-6 (1:26:30:05) "We as pilots were entirely convinced at that time that we could defeat the English Air Force." (1:26:43:04)
4. NARRATOR: Hitler plans Operation Sea Lion, the invasion of England. German troops and armor gather on the French coast, ready to cross the Channel once the Luftwaffe drives the outnumbered RAF from the sky. Only 700 RAF planes stand against the Luftwaffe's 3,000. British pilots are largely untested. Young men barely out of their teens.	
a. Footage of German troops and equipment massing, German planes and pilots, British planes and pilots.	

<p>5. NARRATOR: Johannes "Macki" Steinhoff, Luftwaffe. A brilliant leader, he'll survive five crashes and nearly die in the flames of one of the first jet fighters. Steinhoff will score 176 kills.</p>	
<p>a. Steinhoff baby picture.</p>	
<p>b. STEINHOFF SOT (239G-8 to 9): (O/C) "The Battle of Britain differed from other battles, from other campaigns of World War II, in that it was basically a struggle between two air forces. No ground troops were involved. The navy was not involved."</p>	<p>239G-8 (3:18:03) "A great deal has been written about the battle for Britain. It differed from other battles, from other campaigns of World War II, in that it was basically a struggle between two air forces. No ground troops were involved. The navy was not involved." (_____)</p>
<p>C. STRATEGY: DOWDING VS. GOERING</p>	

1. NARRATOR: The German strategy: Lure Fighter Command into combat and destroy it. British code-breakers have cracked the German secret code. The encoded messages, known as "ULTRA," warn Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding of the German strategy to deliver a death blow to the RAF. In response, he shrewdly commits his Spitfires and Hurricanes with care.	
a. German planes bomb ships in Channel; dogfight over Channel	
b. Losigkeit baby picture.	

<p>c. LOSIGKEIT (229G-5): (V/O) "We realized very quickly, (O/C) due to the quick reactions of the Royal Air Force, that they knew when to engage and when to turn back. We always tried to lure them away from England, and they simply never came, or when they did engage, then they showed that they were really exceptional pilots in those groups, really very exceptional."</p>	<p>229G-5: (6:10:10:21) "We realized very quickly, due to the quick reactions of the English pilots, that they knew when to engage and when to turn back. (6:10:17:02) [That became particularly evident in the period before the Battle of Britain, because] (_____) we always tried to lure them away from England, and they simply never came, or when they did engage, then they had really exceptional pilots in those groups. (6:10:34) Really very exceptional. (_____) [They would fight in any battle.]" (6:10:37:15)</p>
<p>2. NARRATOR: Dowding stubbornly fights the politicians to build a modern fighter force. Among his demands are concrete runways and bullet-proof windscreens for his pilots. He calls his pilots "my chicks," and his chicks are ready to die for him.</p>	

a. Footage and stills of Dowding and RAF pilots.	
3. COCKY DUNDAS	
a. Dundas baby picture.	
b. DUNDAS SOT (148B-9): (V/O) "He never swerved from his determination to do it, he wouldn't be put off, he wouldn't be distracted. (O/C) He was a very stubborn old boy. Not for nothing was he called 'Stuffy.'" But he, he conceived that he had a system and he didn't deviate from it for a moment and it worked."	
D. THE MEN	
1. PETER BROTHERS	
a. Brothers baby picture.	

b. BROTHERS SOT (134B-10): (V/O) "Oh, the spirit in the fighter squadron of those days (O/C) uhm, was remarkably high. Of course, we were obviously the best squadron in the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Air Force itself was beyond peer, obviously."	
2. NARRATOR: Wing Commander James E. "Johnny" Johnson, Royal Air Force. He will become the leading British ace with 38 kills.	
3. Footage: Johnny Johnson landing after mission.	
a. COMMANDER SOT: "Any kills, Johnny?"	
b. JOHNSON SOT: "A 109 destroyed, Freddie. Yes."	
c. COMMANDER SOT: "Good show!"	

<p>4. JOHNSON SOT (146B-3): (O/C) "Men gave a little more than they normally did because of this factor of high morale and the leadership. And I think that it was one of the greatest and most significant factors in the Battle of Britain."</p>	
<p>5. BROTHERS SOT (134B-10): (O/C) "And so we had no worries and--not overconfident, but supremely confident, I think, in our abilities. Slightly startled by the numbers when they appeared. On the other hand, one could then say, 'Well, we outnumber them one to fifteen' or something. And--which produced a laugh now and again."</p>	

6. NARRATOR: Dowding's chicks peck at the Luftwaffe, taking their toll. 20 British fighters take on a 100 of the enemy. Goering is frustrated, furious. He orders increased attacks on Fighter Command bases and radar stations. Before the invasion can be launched, the Luftwaffe must control the skies. Time is critical. Autumn storms will soon rage over the Channel, making an invasion impossible. The pilots of Fighter Command will not quit.	
a. Fighters launched, dogfights, attacks on British installations, etc.	
7. "Bless Them All" Module.	
a. Footage of RAF fighter pilots relaxing, playing soccer, etc.	

- END OF ACT 1 -

<u>ACT 2: ADLERTAG (EAGLE DAY).</u> AUGUST 13, 1940.	
A. BATTLE LAUNCHED	
1. NARRATOR: Feeling the pressure of Hitler's mounting rage, Goering plans a knockout blow.	
a. Goering planning strategy.	
2. NARRATOR: August 13, 1940. Adlertag. Eagle Day. The Luftwaffe attacks in full fury. British radar pinpoints the assault, and the Royal Observer Corps alerts Fighter Command. Dowding's early warning system works. Spitfires and Hurricane fighters are dispatched with speed and accuracy.	
a. Luftwaffe attack. Shots of RAF Fighter Command, RAF pilots running to planes, planes taking off, etc.	

3. NARRATOR: Wing Commander Desmond Sheen. He will tally 7- plus kills. He is among the first to intercept the German onslaughts of Adlertag, Eagle Day.	
a. Sheen baby picture.	
b. SHEEN SOT (221M- 16): (O/C) "We were sent off, a squadron of--there were 11 of us, to intercept a formation of 100- plus (V/O) coming from Norway. I attacked one, which blew up, and it had a--I thought it was a bomb underneath, but in fact it was a fuel tank, and it just disintegrated.... And I attacked another one, which I think went down in flames. That was one of their worst defeats."	

<p>4. PAGE SOT (126B-4): (O/C) "Suddenly we saw them, this mass of ants with wings, (V/O) coming towards us. Our leader took us just above the Messerschmitt 110, who strangely enough formed themselves into a defensive ring. I dived into it, and I remember distinctly closing my eyes, firing my guns, and diving through the middle of it and coming out the other side. And it was all just a mass of German iron crosses and not knowing what you were doing. (O/C) But that was my first combat. ... I remember it well."</p>	
B. GOERING ERRORS	
<p>1. NARRATOR: Goering orders his fighter pilots to stay glued to the Luftwaffe bombers. It is a critical tactical error.</p>	

a. German bombers and escorts	
2. HRABAK SOT (227G-4): (V/O) "These escort missions ... (O/C) were very unpopular because we had to fly at the same altitude and speed as the bomber formations, which meant that we could not utilize the tactical superiority of our fighter aircraft--the speed, the climbing capability, and the maneuverability--and as a result we suffered great losses at the hands of the English."	227G-4 (4:09:51:09) "These escort missions were very unpopular because we had to fly at the same altitude and speed as the bomber formations, which meant that we could not utilize the tactical superiority of our fighter aircraft: the speed, the climbing capability, and the maneuverability. (4:10:15:22) And as a result, we suffered great losses at the hands of the English." (4:10:22:11)
	In point is accurate, but the out point is not clean.
3. BROTHERS SOT (134B-13): (O/C) "We took a lot of advantage of the way the German escorts were tied to the bomber formation, which did pin them down quite a bit.	
C. AFTERMATH OF ADLERTAG	
1. RESULTS OF ADLERTAG	

a. NARRATOR: On Eagle Day, Fighter Command's losses are half that of the Luftwaffe. But damage to airdromes and radar stations leave England on the edge of defeat. A miracle is needed; it arrives in the form of a mixed blessing.	
b. V/O on archival of downed Luftwaffe bomber (Do-17).	
2. GERMANS BOMB LONDON	

<p>a. NARRATOR: On the night of August 24th a German navigator miscalculates, and bombs rain down on a residential section of London.... In reprisal, Churchill orders the RAF to bomb Berlin. Humiliated, Hitler orders a shift in strategy. The Luftwaffe will concentrate its attacks on London. It is a fateful decision. London is devastated, and thousands of civilians die. Fortunately, the RAF gains time to rebuild. The Battle of Britian will reach a fiery crescendo.</p>	
<p>b. V/O on archival footage of cockpit of German bomber and various shots of night bombings of London. Closes with Spitfires and Hurricanes on ground and in air, etc.</p>	

- END OF ACT 2 -	

<u>ACT 3</u> : CLIMAX: BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY, SEPT. 15, 1940.	
A. GERMAN ATTACK, RAF RESPONSE	
1. NARRATOR: ULTRA code-breakers reveal to Fighter Command that the Luftwaffe plans another decisive battle on September 15th, 1940. Dowding realizes that now is the time to commit his entire fighter force of 600 planes. Spitfires and Hurricanes rise like hornets to meet the invaders.	
a. Archival of Spitfires and Hurricanes on take- off.	

<p>2. HRABAK SOT (227G-3): (O/C) "I sighted a long string of Spitfires, (V/O) the so-called 'snake.' I attacked what I thought was the last plane in the string and had good position behind him. But he wasn't the last one, he was the second to last."</p>	<p>227G-3 (4:06:48:10) ["My second engagement with Spitfires took place during an offensive in France. We had move forward, close to the Loire, and] (_____) I sighted a long string of Spitfires, the so-called 'snake.' I attacked what I thought was the last plane in the string, and had good position behind him, but he wasn't the last one, he was the second to last." (_____)</p> <p>In point should be checked. Also, transition to narrator would be awkward.</p>
3. DAVID COX	
a. Cox baby picture	

<p>b. COX SOT (129B-7): (V/O) "And a lot of 109s came 'round, and I remember sitting there, (O/C) thinking how pretty these are, these little airplanes with blue -- blue underneath and black crosses. (V/O) And then all of a sudden my aircraft shuddered and there were holes in both wings, and unknown to me there were holes in the fuselage as well."</p>	
<p>1) Gun camera footage showing strikes in wing(s) and fuselage.</p>	

<p>c. COX SOT (129B-7): (O/C) "But the chap that was shooting at me overshot. (V/O) The next moment there was a 109 sitting in front of me. And you know, if you like, in a very frightened and angry thing, I just pressed the firing button and wasted an awful lot of ammunition of 30- odd seconds, and the next moment there was a woof and down he went near Maidstone."</p>	
<p>1) Gun camera footage.</p>	
<p>4. HRABAK (227G-3) (V/O) "Without question, (O/C) our most--or at least for myself-- my most serious threat was from the English pilots. Especially those pilots who flew the Spitfire and the Hurricane."</p>	<p>227G-3 (4:07:33:04) "Without question, our most--or at least for myself--my most serious contenders were the English. (4:07:38:10) Especially those pilots who flew the English aircraft the Spitfire and the Hurricane." (4:07:44:01)</p>

5. NARRATOR: As the battle progresses, it is clear that Goering's hopes of achieving air supremacy are shattered.	
6. RESULTS OF FIRST WAVE	

<p>a. STEINHOFF SOT (239G-10): (O/C) "The mastery of the sky was lost by the Germans at that point. (V/O) There was no strategic concept, there was only a tactical concept. There were no fighters with a great range. They were planned to defend the Reich, to defend the cities. There were no refueling tanks. And in addition to that we had this amateurish leadership. Well, they should have known from the very beginning that this was something that they could not win."</p>	<p>239G-10 (3:20:59:22) ["The Battle for Britain is seen by many, correctly, as a turning point in the war. I concur with this view because] (_____) the mastery of the sky was lost by the Germans at that point. (_____) [...] (_____) There was no strategic concept, there was only a tactical concept. There were no fighters with great range. They were planned to defend the Reich, to defend the cities. There were no refueling tanks. (_____) [...] (_____) And in addition to that, we had this amateurish leadership. (_____) [...] (_____) Well, they should have known from the very beginning that this was something they couldn't win." (_____) In point should be checked.</p>

1) Archival footage...German Fighter Command Station plus archival of Herman Goering at Forward Airbase with Galland inspecting men, machines, etc.	
7. SECOND WAVE LAUNCHED	
a. NARRATOR: Refusing to accept the initial setbacks, Goering orders a second attack.... Dowding's miserly policy of conserving planes and pilots, coupled with the tactical advantages of fighting over their own territory, give his young chicks the decisive edge.	
B. BRITISH ADVANTAGES DURING BATTLE OF BRITAIN	
1. BRIAN KINGCOMBE	

a. Kingcombe baby picture.	
b. KINGCOMBE SOT (150B-10): (V/O) "Well, I think the Battle of Britain was the safest battle for a fighter pilot possible. (O/C) We had good radar control, good aircraft. We flew from nice, warm bases. The average trip lasted, say, 50 minutes."	
1) Archival footage of downed RAF pilot being rescued from the Channel (SOT Dialogue: "A Sergeant pilot being picked up out of the drink. In the nick of time. It happens every week. Shot down. Nearly drowned. But if you think he's finished, you're as crazy as Hitler."	
2. COLIN GRAY	

a. Gray baby picture	
b. GRAY SOT (209M-5): (V/O) "In the Battle of Britain, of course, we were fighting over our own territory. (O/C) We were flying sometimes four or five sorties a day, and, you know, we were pretty tired."	

<p>3. GALLAND SOT (238G-2): (O/C) "Our fighter pilots flew a thousand sorties each. (V/O) When you look at the English, they flew 80 or 100 sorties, and then they were pulled out and used in their home base. We could not afford to do this. The German fighter pilot would have to continue his mission for as long as he was physically capable, until he was wounded. "</p>	<p>238G-2 (2:03:35) ["Taking this into consideration, then, that] (_____) our fighter pilots flew a thousand sorties each. When you look at the Americans and the English, they flew 80 or 100 sorties. And then they were pulled out and used in their home base. (_____) [...] (_____) We could not afford to do this. (2:04:22) ([earlier to ~2:03:00] _____) [And if you take this into account, that] the German fighter pilot would have to continue his mission for as long as he was physically capable of continuing, until he was wounded." (_____)]</p> <p>In point should be checked. Also, out point doesn't break on a phrase.</p>
<p>4. NARRATOR: After the battle, Goering rails at his combat-weary fighter pilots, accusing them of cowardice.</p>	
<p>a. Archival footage showing Goering at airbase addressing pilots.</p>	

5. JOHNSON SOT (146B-3 to 4): (V/O) "The German fighter pilots (O/C) came to the Channel coast triumphant, victorious after their rapid successes in Europe. And by Goering's orders and counter-orders and coming down to the Channel coast and threatening to have them shot, and so on, telling them to do, he destroyed their morale."	
C. GERMAN DEFEAT	
1. NARRATOR: On the next day, the second Luftwaffe assault is beaten back. This will be the last major daytime raid over England. Two days later, Hitler abandons Operation Sea Lion.	
D. REFLECTIONS ON BATTLE	

<p>1. BEAMONT SOT (131B-15): (O/C) "This is one thing that I think it extraordinary that the Germans didn't pick on. They put all their effort into escorting bombers over to attack London and the military bases and the naval bases. (V/O) Whereas if they'd taken a good proportion of their fighter arm to attack our forward airfields and destroy our fighters on the ground, the outcome of the battle might have been a lot different...."</p>	
<p>a. Archival footage of planes, pilots, preparations, maintenance at RAF base.</p>	

<p>2. PAGE SOT (126B-10): (O/C) "The, I think, vital factor in the battle apart from fighter pilot against fighter pilot, was radar, without doubt. (V/O) Because as we took off we would get our instructions from the ground control. He would give us a direction or vector to fly and the approximate altitude, which was usually fairly accurate, and also a fairly accurate figure of how many aircraft were approaching."</p>	
<p>a. Archival footage of fighter command plotting boards and Spitfires and Hurricanes taking off and in formation.</p>	
<p>3. NARRATOR: The toll of the Battle of Britain is enormous in aircraft and lives. The Germans lose 1700 planes; the RAF, 900. Each side sacrifices more than 1,000 pilots.</p>	

E. AFTERMATH OF BATTLE	
<p>1. GALLAND SOT (237G-5): (O/C) "If you ask what were the mistakes that caused the loss of the Battle of Britain, you have to cast a wider net and ask yourself, was the Luftwaffe suited or built for and armed for such a purpose? Were the airplanes suited? Were the tactics suited? And then you come up against all sorts of hurdles, and you realize that the Luftwaffe was never meant to fight Britain."</p>	<p>237G-5 (1:10:25:10) "If you ask where the mistakes were that caused the loss of the Battle of Britain, you have to cast a wider net and ask yourself, was the Luftwaffe suited or built for and armed for such a purpose? (1:10:44) Were the airplanes suited, were the tactics suited? And then you come up against ... against all sorts of hurdles and you realize that the Luftwaffe was never meant to fight Britain." (1:11:10)</p> <p>Galland is on camera for this entire bite, and although the in point is accurate, we cut out of Galland a good 15 seconds before he finishes the sentence as given in the English voiceover. In other words, he never reaches the main point of the sentence, i.e., "...the Luftwaffe was never meant to fight Britain."</p>
F. FINAL IRONY	

1. NARRATOR: The Battle of Britain is fought against seemingly insurmountable odds. Many factors, tactical and technical, shape the outcome. But, in the final analysis, the victory belongs to the brave young pilots of the Royal Air Force. Wounded, bleeding, but still proud, Britain celebrates her survival. The sun has not yet set on the British Empire.	
G. "WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER" MONTAGE	
1. Music, footage and stills	
2. CHURCHILL V/O: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."	
- END -	