

"TANKS ON THE SOMME"

By

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT.: SHELL TRAP FARM -DAY

When we last left off, Captain Adams explained to his Infantry Division about the sinking of the British ocean liner, *Lusitania*, and deaths of Captain Anderson and Lieutenant Atkinson at Gallipoli.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

(Shocked)

No, it can't be! Not Anderson and Atkinson! We saw them in our boot camp last year!

PRIVATE WOOLSEY

And *Lusitania*! They're innocent civilians onboard!

CAPTAIN ADAMS

I know it's hard for you to explain, but we're enlisted as soldiers to fight for our country on the Western Front.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE (O.S.)

Hey guys!

Lieutenant Smythe entered Shell Trap Farm where the rest of Adams' Regiment are.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE (CONT'D)

How are you doing?

Captain Adams was shocked!

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Lieutenant Smythe, where have you been?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Our tanks have arrived at the Western Front.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Why didn't you tell us earlier?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Because our soldiers are losing on the Western Front and that's why we have tanks to push forward on the battlefield.

(Showing the Allied soldiers to see the tank, nicknamed, *Little Willie*.)

ALLIED SOLDIERS

(All exclaiming)

CUT TO:

EXT.: SHELL TRAP FARM - DAY

The soldiers were excited to see Lieutenant Smythe and a prototype tank.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Wow! I've never seen this war machine before!

PRIVATE WOOLSEY

Of course, it is. This tank is a beast.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Soldiers, let hit the road.

CUT TO:

TITLE: THE GREAT WAR: THE ANIMATED SERIES

CUT TO:

EPISODE TITLE: TANKS ON THE SOMME

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT.: GERMAN HQ - DAY

May 8, 1916.

Hamburg, Germany.

At the German HQ, MAX VON GALLWITZ spoke severely to U-BOAT SAILOR, WALTHER SCHWIEGER.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(Angrily in German)

Kapitanleutnant Schwieger, what happened in the Atlantic?

WALTHER SCHWIEGER

(Speaking in German)

We couldn't identify the ship, General von Gallwitz. We think it was a cargo ship which was loaded with these war machines.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(Angrily in German)

Cargo ship? You sank the passenger ship! Your job is to cut off the Allied Supply Ships before the Allies use their weapons against us, not hunting down civilian ships! And in case you didn't notice, there are men, women, and children onboard the Lusitania!

WALTHER SCHWIEGER

Tut mir leid, Sir.

(In German)

I didn't notice there was the passenger ship dead ahead. We tried to--.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(Angrily in German)

You're officially reprimanded for sinking the Lusitania!

WALTHER SCHWIEGER

Nein! Bitte nicht!

(Stammering in German)

Let me command the U-Boat for another chance! I won't let the Allies have their war machines!

MAX VON GALLWITZ

Es is tzu spat, Walther!

(Angrily in German)

You've lost your chance to stop the Allied Cargo Ships from entering the Western Front! I'll send another U-Boat Captain instead of you! He knows where the Allied Cargo Ships are somewhere in the Atlantic!

WALTHER SCHWIEGER

Aber ich bin Vorgesetzter--!

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(Angrily in German)

Hau ab, jetzt!

Walther Schwieger leaves the German HQ in disgrace.

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

I hope he learned his lesson, General von Gallwitz.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

If Schwieger spared the passenger ship, like the Lusitania, then none of this would've happened!

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

General von Gallwitz, I know where the war machines are. They're headed for the Somme.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

Very well, GENERAL VON BELOW, you'll be in charge at the Somme. Find out where the Allied war machines are and destroy them before they reach our line.

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

Don't worry. These war machines won't stand a chance against our artillery barrage.

CUT TO:

EXT.: TWO MARK I TANKS - DAY

The diagrams were shown on the outside of two different types of Mark I Tanks.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In the early 20th Century, tanks were the first armored vehicles in battle on the Western Front. The British Mark I Tank entered service in August 1916. This tank has two variants: the "Male" and the "Female".

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

With a crew of eight, it can carry either two 57 mm main guns and 7.7mm Lewis Machine Gun or five 7.7mm Vickers machine guns on both sides. The "Male" Variant was designed to disable the enemy artilleries and anti-aircraft guns, but the "Female" Variant was the anti-infantry support to hunt down enemy soldiers in trench warfare. The British tanks start in a second phase on the Battle of the Somme.

CUT TO:

EXT.: DELVILLE WOOD, FRANCE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

September 3, 1916.

At night, Captain Adams and the D Company are on the offensive accompanied by three Mark I Tanks. The British Infantry Division stayed behind the tanks to reach the German Lines.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Where did you get these tanks?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

I brought them in "No-Man's Land", so we don't have to worry about the barbed wires.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

We need to get behind those tanks so we can take Delville Wood.

INTERCUT - THREE MARK I TANKS

Stock footage from *Greatest Tank Battles* was used as one tank breaks down and other tank got stuck on uneven ground.

BACK TO THE SCENE

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

What's going on with those tanks?

CAPTAIN ADAMS

We've lost two tanks, but there's only one tank left, the *Daredevil*.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

But we can still take Delville Wood.

Suddenly, there was flash of machine guns and artillery barrage on D Company. Some of the British Soldiers are killed by the German artillery barrage, while others kept going until they reach the enemy lines.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Captain, we're under heavy fire!

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Keep moving, Smythe!

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

What about *Daredevil*?

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Daredevil is covering our position, so let's move.

INTERCUT - DAREDEVIL ATTACKING THE GERMANS

Another *Greatest Tank Battles* was used as the *Daredevil* fights the Germans while under heavy fire from the machine gun bullets and artillery barrage until an artillery shell disable one of *Daredevil's* tracks.

BACK TO THE SCENE

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Captain, our tanks are disabled!

CAPTAIN ADAMS

We're not out of woods yet. Let's finish this, men!

The D Company charge towards the German lines at Delville Wood as the German continue firing with Spandau machine guns and artilleries.

As Lieutenant Smythe takes out the German gunners with his sniper rifle, the D Company broke through the German lines. The Germans are killed inside the trench while the British took Delville Wood. The remaining Germans flee in panic.

CAPTAIN ADAMS (CONT'D)

Great work, men. We completed our second phase and now it's time to prepare for our final phase at the Somme: Flers and Courcellette.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT.: DELVILLE WOOD, FRANCE - DAY

September 4, 1916.

The next morning, Captain Adams had a plan for the Allies by using a map of Somme for a CLOSE-UP VIEW.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

We took Delville Wood last night, but none of our tanks are active. We'll split up into three groups. Commander Cleaver, you lead the 6th Army of B Company on Courcelette. Lieutenant Young, you're with me and Smythe at Flers, along with the 4th Army of C and D Company, and the rest of you...

Eleven Mark I Tanks arrived at Delville Wood just in time. Five of them are part of D Company. ONE OF THE MARK I TANK CREW FROM D COMPANY WAS LIEUTENANT ARTHUR ARNOLD who opened the hatch to see Captain Adams and the British Army.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

Who is in charge here?

CAPTAIN ADAMS

I am.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

And you must be Lieutenant Arthur Arnold.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

That's right. We brought more tanks for our very first battle on the Western Front.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Are you coming with us?

ARTHUR ARNOLD

I'll be glad to help you, Smythe.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Commander Cleaver, you lead the 6th Army to Courcellette.

COMMANDER CLEAVER

Yes, Sir!

CAPTAIN ADAMS

The rest of you, get behind the tanks. We'll take the village at Flers. Let's move!

CUT TO:

INT.: GERMAN TRENCH - DAY

September 15, 1916.

On the other side of the trench, GENERAL FRITZ VON BELOW lead his First German Army to defend Flers.

The dialogue in *italics* is spoken in German.

GERMAN COMMANDER

(In German)

General von Below, our observation balloon is ready.

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

Very good, Commander. Order the First Army to raise the observation balloon.

The German Commander agrees.

GERMAN COMMANDER

(In German)

Raise the observation balloon.

The Germans raised the observation balloon so the GERMAN OBSERVER can see the aerial view in 360° battlefield at Somme. General von Below picks up the phone.

FRITZ VON BELOW (V.O.)

(In German)

Hello? Can you hear me?

GERMAN OBSERVER

Jawohl.

FRITZ VON BELOW (V.O.)

(On phone in German)

Can you see anything?

GERMAN OBSERVER

(In German)

I can't see anything, Sir.

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

Then, keep looking.

General Fritz von Below hangs up the phone.

GERMAN COMMANDER

(In German)

General, the British are headed toward the village of Flers!

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

Our anti-aircraft guns will take down the enemy squadron.

GERMAN COMMANDER

Nein.

(In German)

They're coming from the ground!

GENERAL VON BELOW'S POV - BRITISH TANKS AND GROUND FORCES
ADVANCING TOWARDS THE GERMAN LINES.

BACK TO SCENE

General von Below looks through the binoculars.

FRITZ VON BELOW

(In German)

Those metal monsters are not ours!

(Lowering his binoculars)

Order them to defend our position!

GERMAN COMMANDER

(Shouting in German)

Defend positions!

The Germans defend their position with Spandau machine guns and anti-aircraft guns to focus on the British 4th Army and 49 Mark I Tanks.

INTERCUT - SOPWITH 1½ STRUTTER AT FLERS

The Germans were unaware the British two-seater Sopwith 1½ Strutter reconnaissance aircraft photographed on the village of Flers.

SHOT ON THE BRITISH OBSERVER TAKING PICTURE WITH A CAMERA, ALONGSIDE WITH THE BRITISH PILOT.

The British observer uses his hand signal to the British Pilot to head back to their base.

INTERCUT - TANKS AT FLERS

Meanwhile, the British tanks and soldiers approached at Flers. Stock footage was used in *Greatest Tank Battles* as the Germans shells exploded on "No-Man's Land". One of the British Tanks was having an engine trouble and the other tank got stuck on the big shell hole on the trench.

CUT TO:

INT.: DRACULA - DAY

Onboard *Dracula*, the British Tank Crews were safe from the German anti-aircraft shells because the anti-aircraft guns weren't accurate to take out the British ground forces.

BRITISH TANK CREW #1

Lieutenant Arthur, why are the bloody
Germans using the anti-aircraft guns at
us?

ARTHUR ARNOLD

They think we're flying with a squadron.

BRITISH TANK CREW #1

No, Guys! Look over there!

The stock footage was taken from *Greatest Tank Battles* as
ONE OF THE BRITISH TANK CREW opens the hatch and spots the
German observation balloon.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

Bloody Hell! It's a German Observation
Balloon! Call the air support or we'll
blown to pieces.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT./EXT.: DRACULA - DAY

The British Air Support hasn't arrived at Somme, so Lieutenant Arthur Arnold and his tank crew decided to take out the German observation balloon for themselves.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

Where's our air support? We can't reach that bloody thing.

A.H.R. REIFFER

Leave the observation balloon to me, Arnold. I can take it down without calling air support.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

Are you out of your bloody mind?! Our air support will be here soon!

A.H.R. REIFFER

Just watch me, Lieutenant. I'm going to pop the German Observation Balloon out of the sky!

The stock footage from *Greatest Tank Battles* as the British Tank open fire at the German observation balloon with QF 6 Hotchkiss gun. The British Mark I Tank fires several rounds until the German observation balloon is destroyed before the British call the air support.

CUT TO:

EXT.: FLERS - CONTINUOUS

Captain Adams leads the D Company, along with Lieutenant Young and three Mark I tanks.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Huh, I guess we don't need air support after all.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Charge!

The British soldiers from D Company charged toward the enemy lines as the German anti-aircraft shells rained down on the British Forces but it wasn't enough to take out the British tanks and soldiers. The Germans are sitting ducks.

INTERCUT - BRITISH TANK ATTACK ON THE GERMAN TRENCH

Stock footage from *Greatest Tank Battles* was used as the British tank fires at the Germans with machine guns and the Germans fire with Spandau machine gun.

GERMAN SOLDIER #1:

Out! (x2) The monsters are coming!

The Germans left the machine gun behind, and the tank crushed the machine gun, but the Germans can't escape from British Tank with machine guns blazing. The Germans were dead inside the trench. The British tanks took out the German anti-aircraft guns with gun turrets.

FRITZ VON BELOW

(Shouting in German)

Retreat! (x2)

General Fritz von Below and his First Army are in full retreat.

BACK TO THE SCENE

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Where are the Germans gone off to?

CAPTAIN ADAMS

They're headed for the bunker.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

INT.: GERMAN TRENCH - DAY

The British search inside the trench and saw the anti-aircraft guns were disabled. The British learned that the German Anti-Aircraft Guns weren't designed to disable the tanks and other ground forces. They were designed to knock the enemy planes out of the sky. The Germans made a critical mistake.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Wait a minute! They're not artillery pieces. They're anti-aircraft guns to take out air support.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

And why are the Germans using anti-aircraft guns to attack our bloody tanks?

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Because they're mistakenly identified for our squadron to defend the observation balloon.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Guys! Look!

Lieutenant Young looked closely at the dead observer.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

He's dead. He doesn't have a parachute.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

That's what I keep telling him about our bloody air support.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Damn it! We should've called air support earlier.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Captain, it could be a trap, but we have no choice but to follow Arnold to the village.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Where?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

At Martinpuich.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

You heard him. Follow Arnold to Martinpuich.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Let's go, Young. It's time for our final phase on the Somme.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

I hope there won't be any surprise attack from the Germans, or our tanks will be lost.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

We're not going to retreat this time. This time, we'll push forward and show the Germans how it's done.

CUT TO:

EXT.: MARTINPUICH, FRANCE - CONTINUOUS

September 22, 1916.

The British soldiers of D Company are behind the British Mark I tank to capture the bunker at Martinpuich. The Germans FIRE with their tracer rounds at the British Attackers with machine guns!

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Look out!

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Where did that come from?

CAPTAIN ADAMS

They're coming from the German bunker! **Get
down!**

The British Soldiers stopped marching and so are the tanks. They notice that the Germans are fortifying their positions inside the bunker with MACHINE GUNS BLAZING. The British retreated years earlier and they mustn't retreat, or they might lose the war against the Germans.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Why are we stopping here?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

Because these Jerries fortified their positions with Spandau machine guns.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

You didn't notice that we got attacked by the Germans during the Great Retreat?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

I was thinking the same thing.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

But we still have one tank left. If we lose the tank, then we can't go further.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

We don't want to do that. So, it's best to protect the last tank before the Germans can destroy our tank.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Or perhaps the Germans can use our tank to turn against us.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

I can aim the Germans inside the bunker,
because using a scope will help me to get
a clear shot at the Germans.

Suddenly the Germans FIRED with Spandau machines guns at Mark I Tank. The British tank OPEN FIRE with 6 pounder guns knocking out the German machine guns inside the bunker. With the German Machine Guns disabled, the Germans are completely defenseless. The British have their chance to secure Martinpuich by entering inside the bunker, but the Germans went outside in the front of the bunker. Instead of retreating, the British Infantry Division attack the Germans before they have a chance for retaliation.

CUT TO:

INT.: MARTINPUICH, FRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The Germans were under attack by the British Soldiers with their rifles. The British went floor to floor, preventing the Germans for a surprise attack on the British Troops.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Captain!

Lieutenant Young gives a grenade to Captain Adams. Captain Adams throws the grenade inside the bunker, killing the Germans offscreen.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Come on, Guys! Let's clear the room!

The German and British Soldiers were killed on both sides inside the bunker in shootout. The British cutoff the Germans escape from the bunker. At last, Martinpuich is secured, and the Germans are surrounded by the British Troops. The British captured 700 Germans with a loss of 1,854 soldiers of their own.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

FADE IN:

EXT.: VILLAGE AT FLERS - DAY

The British went out of the building. Captain Adams identify the British tank was friendly. Lieutenant Arnold opens the hatch.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

Captain Adams!

CAPTAIN ADAMS

Lieutenant Arnold!

Lieutenant Arnold got out of the tank, along with his crew.

CAPTAIN ADAMS (CONT'D)

Thank you for saving our lives, today.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG

Thank you, Arnold. I couldn't have done it without you.

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

It's my idea. I told them everything about tanks.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

What did you tell them?

LIEUTENANT SMYTHE

While we were at war on the Western Front, I called reinforcements and that's why I brought tanks in battle.

CAPTAIN ADAMS

You did the right thing, Smythe. For your heroic actions at Somme, you're promoted to the rank of Captain.

Captain Smythe saluted to Captain Adams.

The surviving British soldiers of the 4th Army followed the British tank to Morval, hopefully the British will bring their victory on the Western Front to the end.

CUT TO:

INT.: GERMAN HQ

Inside the German HQ, THE GERMAN ACE, OSWALD BOELCKE, came to see General von Gallwitz.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

Oswald Boelcke, it's good to see you.

OSWALD BOELCKE

(In German)

I was flying the Fokker Eindecker, General von Gallwitz. We took care of the Royal Flying Corps on the Somme Sector. I taught my squadron to learn my rules.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

Welche Regeln?

OSWALD BOELCKE

(In German)

Dicta Boelcke. I used it during the Battle of the Somme, and I'll do the same thing in Verdun.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

What it'll be, then?

OSWALD BOELCKE

(In German)

Lafayette Escadrille.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

At least we're not at war with the Americans yet.

OSWALD BOELCKE

(In German)

I meant the American Volunteer Group on the Western Front. The French hired the American Recruits to turn the tide of the war.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

So, the pilots aren't French?

OSWALD BOELCKE

Ja.

(In German)

They trained the Americans for a dogfight on the Western Front, but the problem is the American Pilots are poorly trained compared to my squadron.

MAX VON GALLWITZ

(In German)

If the Americans remain neutral, then it's your chance to defeat them in Verdun Sector and we'll crush the French Army once and for all. Take down these recruits, Boelcke, and I'll deal with the French Army at Verdun.

OSWALD BOELCKE

(In German)

Don't worry about me, General. My squadron and I will deal with these rookies, the same way that I did against the Royal Flying Corps.

Oswald Boelcke left the German HQ.

FADE OUT.

THE END