

"THE ZEPPELIN RAID"

By

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT.: PARIS, FRANCE - CONTINUOUS

September 22, 1916.

At night in Paris, people are chattering in French and walking on street by street, building by building, vehicles are crossing on the highway with French café music playing on the background until the lights turned off. The background music stops playing as the searchlights spotted something in the night sky: the German L.32 Zeppelin. The Zeppelin bombed Paris. Some of the buildings were damaged or destroyed as the French civilians screamed as they run for their lives. Some of the French civilians were killed and others are wounded for men, women, and children.

CUT TO:

TITLE: THE GREAT WAR: THE ANIMATED SERIES

CUT TO:

EPISODE TITLE: THE ZEPPELIN RAID

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT./EXT.: L.32 ZEPPELIN - DIAGRAM

The diagram shows the interior and exterior of L.32 Zeppelin.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

One of the deadliest weapons in the air is the German L.32 Zeppelin or LZ-74 Zeppelin which is first flown on August 4th, 1916. She was commissioned three days later and can carry up to 9,250 pounds of bombs. This zeppelin was designed to target civilians by night. The L.32 Zeppelin was filled with hydrogen and its armament consisted of ten 7.92mm Spandau machine guns. This is the story of Germany's first air raid on Great Britain.

CUT TO:

EXT.: HOUNSLOW HEATH AERODROME - DAY

September 23, 1916.

The British B.E.2c two-seater aircraft of 39th Squadron landed on Hounslow Heath Aerodrome after completing their attack run on the Somme. Some of the British planes were damaged by anti-aircraft guns during the Somme Offensive. TWO BRITISH RFC PILOTS, 2ND LIEUTENANT FREDERICK SOWREY AND CAPTAIN ELLIOT came to see the BRITISH OFFICER, MAJOR WRIGHT.

FREDERICK SOWREY

We looked everywhere, Sir, and there's no sign of observation balloons on Flers.

MAJOR WRIGHT

So, you're saying the British tank opened fire at the German observation balloon instead of you.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Yes, Sir.

MAJOR WRIGHT

Come with me, you two. We'll discuss you further in my office.

Frederick and Elliot follow Major Wright's lead.

CUT TO:

INT.: MAJOR WRIGHT'S OFFICE

Major Wright looks at the status report of the British last attack on Flers in his office.

MAJOR WRIGHT (CONT'D)

Lieutenant Sowrey, I told Captain Adams about the air support at Flers.

FREDERICK SOWRY

What does it say?

Major Wright looks at the report from the last battle.

MAJOR WRIGHT

It says here, Lieutenant Arthur Arnold fired the German observation balloon before you and Captain Elliot lead a squadron for an air strike on Flers.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

But that's our bloody job to destroy the German observation balloons...

MAJOR WRIGHT

You're a pilot, Captain Elliot. That's your job to control the sky on the Western Front.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

What's our next mission, Major Wright?

MAJOR WRIGHT

You'll lead the 39th Squadron to protect
our convoys from German U-Boats.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Yes, Sir.

Two British pilots left the office.

CUT TO:

EXT.: HOUNSLOW HEATH AERODROME - DAY

September 24, 1916.

The next day, Captain Elliot and Lieutenant Sowrey climbed
onboard B.E.2c.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Is your plane ready, Captain?

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Hold on! We must check the plane first
before we can take off.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Check your rudder.

Captain Elliot checks the rudder on the airplane.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Rudder's good.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Now, check both ailerons on right and
left.

Captain Elliot checks the ailerons on both sides.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Ailerons are good.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Check the elevators, Captain.

Captain Elliot checks both elevators on the rear.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

We're ready to go, Lieutenant.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Have you checked the fuel, Captain Elliot?

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Tank is full, Lieutenant.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Excellent! We're good to go.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Switch off.

The British mechanic turns the propeller blade.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Contact.

The British mechanic turns the propeller blade to start the engine. The British Squadron are ready for takeoff as Captain Elliot and Lieutenant Sowry put on the goggles.

CUT TO:

EXT.: THE ENGLISH CHANNEL - CONTINUOUS

The 39th Squadron patrol the sky on the English Channel.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Captain Elliot, look down there!

Captain Elliot looks down below. The camera spotted a group of U-Boats threatening on the British convoys.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

These are bloody U-Boats! They're headed straight for the convoy!

FREDERICK SOWREY

We must sink the U-Boats before they react.

The 39th Squadron are preparing for a bombing mission on the U-Boats. The German sailors are alarmed!

GERMAN SAILOR #1

(Shouting in German)

The Germans Sailors manned their battle stations! The Germans quickly open fire at the British planes. Flak bursts all around them as Captain Elliot and his squadron ATTACK the U-Boats by releasing their bombs and make a direct hit on the U-Boats. The U-Boats were sunk before reaching the British convoys, but other U-Boats were damaged during the bombing mission and were forced to retreat away from the British convoys.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT.: HOUNSLOW HEATH AERODROME - DAY

The British Squadron landed on the British Aerodrome after completing their bombing run on the German U-Boats. Captain Elliot and Lieutenant Sowrey took off their headgears and climb down from the plane to meet the REST OF THE BRITISH PILOTS OF 39TH SQUADRON.

BRITISH PILOT #1

Hey, guys!

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

How are you guys doing?

BRITISH PILOT #1

There's no sign of the enemy squadron over the Western Front.

BRITISH PILOT #2

But we did see the Germans on land and sea.

FREDERICK SOWREY

What about flying objects in the night sky?

BRITISH PILOT #1

That flying object was a zeppelin.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

A zeppelin? I never heard about the zeppelin before.

BRITISH PILOT #2

The German Zeppelin attack on Paris last night. Some of the civilians were killed and others are wounded.

Before the British Pilots went inside the barracks, Lieutenant Sowrey asks question to them.

FREDERICK SOWRY

Who are you, guys?

LIEUTENANT ROGERS

My name is Lieutenant Rogers, and this is my friend, Lieutenant Knight.

FREDERICK SOWREY

(Shaking each other's hand) It's nice to see you, Lieutenant Rogers.

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

How are you doing today, Frederick?

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

We saved the convoys away from the German U-Boats.

LIEUTENANT ROGERS

That's great! Let's go hangout with them.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Where?

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

Follow me, you two. We'll show you where our pilots are.

Two British Pilots follow Lieutenant Knight to meet the pilots of the Royal Flying Corps inside the barracks.

CUT TO:

INT.: BARRACKS - DAY

The British Pilots went inside the barracks where the other British Pilots are hanging out.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

It's amazing!

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

I know, Elliot. The British Troops called the air support to take down the German Troops on the Western Front, and now it's more than a ground mission.

FREDERICK SOWREY

What about dogfight between us and the Germans?

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

The German Squadron can only fight us in the air at dawn, but this mission is different. The Zeppelins are only active at night.

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

The German Zeppelins were used to terrorize the cities in Paris and London.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Are we allowed to use bombs at the Zeppelins?

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

No, bombing run on the Zeppelin won't work.

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

So, we must think before we can deal with the German Zeppelin before they reach its target. Any ideas?

FREDERICK SOWREY

I got it! We need to load our incendiary bullets to take down the Zeppelin.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Wait a minute! Where's Major Wright?

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

He didn't give us the briefing this time.

LIEUTENANT ROGERS

Guys! We have bad news!

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

What is it, Rogers?

LIEUTENANT ROGERS

The German Zeppelin is on its way to bomb
England.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT.: L-32 ZEPPELIN - CONTINUOUS

The German L-32 Zeppelin cruised over the English Channel in the night sky.

CUT TO:

INT.: L-32 ZEPPELIN - NIGHT

Onboard the L-32 Zeppelin, THE ZEPPELIN COMMANDER, KAPITAN-LEUTENT WERNER PETERSON oversees THE ZEPPELIN CREW. His mission is to bomb Essex, which is part of East Britain. THE ZEPPELIN OFFICER #1 came to see him.

All dialogue in *italics* is spoken in German.

ZEPPELIN OFFICER #1

(Speaking in German)

Kapitan Peterson, we are approaching Essex.

WERNER PETERSON

(Speaking in German)

Good. Order our men to open the bomb bay doors.

The Zeppelin Officer ordered his sailors to open the bomb bay door.

CLOSE-UP: ZEPPELIN BOMB BAY DOORS ARE OPENED.

Captain Peterson is talking to THE ZEPPELIN OFFICER, LEUTENT NEUMANN, who enlisted as the Zeppelin Observer.

WERNER PETERSON

(Speaking in German)

Neumann.

LEUTENT NEUMANN

Ja?

WERNER PETERSON

(Speaking in German)

THE COMMANDER wants to talk to you.

The Zeppelin Officer #2 gives the briefing to Leutenant Neumann.

ZEPPELIN OFFICER #2

(Speaking in German)

Neumann, your objective is to bomb Essex to avoid detection and head back to base after crossing the English Channel. Got it?

LEUTNANT NEUMANN

(Speaking in German)

Yes, Sir.

CUT TO:

EXT.: BRITISH LISTENING POST - NIGHT

THE BRITISH COMMUNICATOR AND THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE are at the listening post to hear the Zeppelin's engines.

BRITISH COMMUNICATOR

Zeppelin at Essex!

The British Informant sends a message to the British Aerodrome by using the morse code.

BRITISH COMMUNICATOR (CONT'D)

At the starboard!

BRITISH INFORMANT

Right-O.

CUT TO:

EXT.: ESSEX, ENGLAND - NIGHT

BRITISH COMMANDER

Lights out!

The air raid Siren WAILED as the city lights were off and the searchlights illuminated the moonless sky as the German Zeppelin appears in a distance.

CUT TO:

INT.: L-32 ZEPPELIN - CONTINUOUS

The Zeppelin went for a cloud cover to avoid the enemy searchlight.

THE ZEPPELIN PILOT

Captain, we're approaching Essex in 5 miles.

WERNER PETERSON

Halt.

The Zeppelin Crew turned the engines off.

CUT TO:

EXT.: L-32 ZEPPELIN - NIGHT

The Zeppelin's propeller blades stopped turning.

BACK TO:

INT.: L-32 ZEPPELIN - NIGHT

ZEPPELIN OFFICER #3 is waiting for Neumann as he climbs into the observation car.

ZEPPELIN OFFICER #3

Neumann, the German Empire is counting on you. Focus on the ground target below to spot anything. Got it?

LEUTENT NEUMANN

Yes, Sir.

The Zeppelin Officer #3 gives the signal to one of the Zeppelin's crew. The observation car begins to descend below.

CUT TO:

EXT.: HOUNSLOW HEATH AERODROME - CONTINUOUS

The British Pilots scrambled into action. Captain Elliot and Lieutenant Sowrey quickly climbed inside the cockpit to prepare for the night mission. Captain Elliot gives a signal with his right hand. Four British B.E.2cs are ready for takeoff.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT.: L.32 ZEPPELIN - CONTINUOUS

Inside the observation car, Neumann spots the target with his binoculars.

LEUTENT NEUMANN

(Using the phone in German)

Captain, I've located Essex.

ZEPPELIN COMMANDER

Verstanden.

(To one of his crews)

Lose die Bombe!

ZEPPELIN SAILOR #1

(Using a phone)

Lose die Bombe!

The Zeppelin's bomb is released and makes a direct hit on the city.

LEUTENT NEUMANN

(Using a phone in German)

Direct hit in Essex.

WERNER PETERSON

Gut.

(To one of his crew)

Mehr Bomben abfeuern.

ZEPPELIN SAILOR #1

(Using a phone)

Mehr Bomben abfeuern.

The Zeppelin drops more bombs on the city of Essex. Some of the buildings were either damaged or destroyed during the Zeppelin Raid.

LEUTENT NEUMANN

(Using a phone in German)

More buildings destroyed, Captain.

WERNER PETERSON

Alles klar!

(To one of his crew)

Lose alle Bomben!

ZEPPELIN SAILOR #1

Ja, Kapitan.

(Using a phone)

Lose alle Bomben!

All the bombs were DROPPED on the city. The buildings were on fire and some of the buildings were destroyed. The Zeppelin completed the bombing run in Essex.

CUT TO:

EXT.: ESSEX - CONTINUOUS

Four British B.E.2cs patrol the night sky in Essex. The Lewis Machine Guns were loaded with incendiary bullets to hunt down the Zeppelin.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Elliot, look over there!

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

It's the German Zeppelin! Frederick, use your incendiary rounds at the Zeppelin before it gets away.

FREDERICK SOWREY

Right-O, Elliot. Let's hope the German
Zeppelin goes down in flames.

CUT TO:

INT.: L.32 ZEPPELIN - NIGHT

One of the Zeppelin Officers had an emergency with the
Zeppelin Commander.

ZEPPELIN OFFICER #3

(Shouting in German)

Enemy fighters are headed right for us!

The German Zeppelin is now a stationary target for the
British Night Fighters.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

INT./EXT.: L.32 ZEPPELIN - CONTINUOUS

Peterson spots four British Night Fighters in head-on pass.

WERNER PETERSON

(Shouting in German)

Get us out of here!

The Zeppelin Crew speed up the engines to make a daring getaway. The British Night Fighters are chasing down the fleeing behemoth. The Zeppelin Crew released the water ballast to gain altitude. The Germans tried to raise the observation car, but the Zeppelin wasn't fast enough to reach the English Channel.

WERNER PETERSON (CONT'D)

(Speaking in German)

Where's Leutnant Neumann?

ZEPPELIN SAILOR #2

(Speaking in German)

He's still in the observation car.

WERNER PETERSON

Schneide ihn los.

ZEPPELIN SAILOR #2

(Speaking in German)

But Sir...

WERNER PETERSON

Ich sagte, mach ihm los!

The machine stopped, but Leutnant Neumann was still inside the observation car.

LEUTENT NEUMANN

(Using a phone)

Kapitan? Kapitan Peterson, can you hear me?

The ZEPPELIN SAILOR #2 brought the wire cutter. He tried to cut the cable, but he couldn't. So, he decided to give the wire cutter to Kapitan Peterson.

WERNER PETERSON

Es tut mir leid, Neumann.

Kapitan Peterson cuts the wire loose, but Neumann disappears into darkness. The Germans throw objects overboard to make the Zeppelin go faster. Some of the Germans jumped out of the Zeppelin to their deaths, but the rest of the crew stayed with the Zeppelin Commander. As the British Night Fighters are getting closer, the Germans manned their machine guns in their positions. The British opened fire with Lewis Machine Guns at the Zeppelin on their first pass, but the Germans returned fire with Spandau Machine Guns on every direction. Frederick Sowrey opens fire at the Zeppelin with his Lewis Machine Gun. The bullets pierced the Zeppelin, but the Zeppelin kept flying. As the British makes their second pass, two British Interceptors were shot down. Lieutenant Rogers takes out the Zeppelin gunner with his Lewis Machine Gun, until his plane was damaged on the engine, causing the British Fighter to sputter.

LIEUTENANT ROGERS

Knight, the engine has been knocked out!

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

I can't restart the engine. We have no choice but to land.

LIEUTENANT ROGERS

Are you kidding? You're getting us both killed if we land this bloody plane!

LIEUTENANT KNIGHT

I'm sorry, Rogers. We have no choice. Hang on!

Lieutenant Knight makes a rough landing on the ground. Meanwhile, Frederick Sowrey makes his final pass on the Zeppelin. He empties his Lewis Machine Gun on the underside of the Zeppelin, causing the Zeppelin to explode. Captain Elliot flies away from the carnage.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

Woo-hoo! You did it, Frederick! You got your first kill!

FREDERICK SOWREY

Where are the others?

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

It's just us now, Sowry. Let's head back to base before sunrise.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

FADE IN:

EXT.: HOUNSLOW HEATH AERODROME

Major Wright saw the British Fighter landed on the aerodrome. The British Pilots got out of the cockpit after completing their night mission.

MAJOR WRIGHT

Well, done, you two. You've saved their lives in Britain.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT

What about the other Zeppelin?

MAJOR WRIGHT

British Pilot, Alfred Brandon, destroyed L.33 Zeppelin on a same mission on Essex.

FREDERICK SOWREY

What about Lieutenants Knight and Rogers?

MAJOR WRIGHT

They survived the crash last night. I sent the troops to rescue them and you, Frederick, will be transfer to France with Captain Elliot. Pack your stuff together and I'll see you in France.

Frederick Sowrey and Captain Elliot saluted to Major Wright for a successful mission.

CUT TO:

INT.: BERLIN, GERMANY

Meanwhile, The German Commander had some bad news.

THE GERMAN COMMANDER

(Speaking in German)

GENERAL, there are no survivors onboard the Zeppelin.

(MORE)

THE GERMAN COMMANDER (CONT'D)

(Speaking in German)

The crew either committed suicide or were killed onboard by the hands of the British Squadron.

THE GERMAN GENERAL

(Speaking in German)

Don't worry, Commander. I have another solution to hunt down the British Squadron on the Western Front.

As we HEAR the sinister music, THE GERMAN ACE, MANFRED VON RICHTHOFEN, THE RED BARON, arrives in Berlin. He'll lead his squadron in air-to-air combat against the Royal Flying Corps on the Western Front.

FADE OUT:

THE END