

AMERICA AT WAR, PART I

By

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. BELLEAU WOODS — DAY — CONTINUOUS

SFX: ARTILLERY SHELLS EXPLOSION SOUND

June 26, 1918.

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS launch their coordinated attack on the Enemy Line.

SERGEANT DUKE

**Come on, men! Let's take them
down!**

The Americans charged with their bayonets against the German Defenders. The German Gunner OPEN FIRE with MG 08 Machine Gun. Some of the Americans were either killed or wounded, but one of the Marines throw the grenade, knocking out the German Gunner out of commission. The Americans attack the German Lines with bayonets and GUNFIRE. The German Soldiers didn't stand a chance against the American Forces.

CUT TO:

TITLE: THE GREAT WAR: THE ANIMATED SERIES

CUT TO:

EPISODE TITLE: AMERICA AT WAR, PART I

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. BELLEAU WOODS - DAY

The Americans captured 1,600 German Soldiers at Belleau Woods. The Germans suffered more casualties in Belleau Woods than the American Soldiers in the Western Front. Lieutenant Rowland came to report casualties to Sergeant Duke.

LIEUTENANT ROWLAND

Sergeant Duke, we secured Belleau Woods.

SERGEANT DUKE

How many casualties, Lieutenant Rowland?

LIEUTENANT ROWLAND

We've lost 1,811 men and 7,966 more are wounded.

SERGEANT DUKE

We need reinforcement to continue our advance on the Western Front to end the war.

LIEUTENANT ROWLAND

Except for NEGROS. They're just the rookies.

SERGEANT DUKE

I don't call that a "rookie."
They're called the Harlem Hellfighters.

LIEUTENANT ROWLAND

Harlem Hellfighters?

SERGEANT DUKE

Yes, Lieutenant, they're 2,000 African American Soldiers of 369th Infantry Regiment on the Western Front.

SFX: MILITARY TRUCK RUMBLING SOUND

GO TO:

EXT. BELLEAU WOODS - DAY

The American Military Truck arrived outside Belleau Woods. The Americans were surprised to see five Harlem Hellfighters entering Belleau Woods.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

Harlem Hellfighters are on the
job!

Five Harlem Hellfighters introduce to the White Soldiers.

SERGEANT DUKE

Who are you, guys?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

I'm Lieutenant James Reese Europe
and these are my soldiers,
Privates Henry Johnson, Needham
Roberts, Hall, and Harris.

LIEUTENANT ROWLAND

Good to see you, guys.

SERGEANT DUKE

I have received from HQ. The
Germans are at the outpost where
the anti-aircraft batteries are
fortified. I want you Negroes to
sneak inside the enemy outpost
undetected at nighttime.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Yes, Sergeant Duke.

SERGEANT DUKE

The rest of you, follow me to the
frontline.

The Harlem Hellfighters watch as the American Soldiers head back
to their own frontline.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

Why do we have to do this?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

The Americans don't trust us, so that's why we're on a stealth mission without being detected by a group of Jerries.

HORACE PIPPIN

And what if we get caught?

HENRY JOHNSON

The Jerries don't capture the Negros. They want us to either die or face execution by the hands of the Germans.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Enough talking. Let's give the Jerries a hard way. We've got the German Outpost to deal with.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GERMAN OUTPOST - NIGHT

September 13, 1918.

At night, the Germans are guarding the outpost to protect the anti-aircraft guns and ammo crates. The Harlem Hellfighters spot the German Outpost from distance.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

Can you see anything?

PRIVATE HARRIS' POV:

The Germans patrol their outpost. The Germans use their searchlights in case any intruders show up.

BACK TO SCENE

PRIVATE HARRIS

They're using the anti-aircraft guns to shoot down the planes out of the sky.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Everyone, stay close to me and
don't get caught.

The Harlem Hellfighters snuck inside the German Outpost.

GO TO:

INT. GERMAN OUTPOST - NIGHT

The Harlem Hellfighters took out German Soldiers undetected by
using their melee weapons. Needham Roberts disabled the alarm.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

The alarm is disabled, Lieutenant
Europe.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Grab all the crates. We can't
leave them for Jerries.

HORACE PIPPIN

Lieutenant Europe! We've got
company!

The German Reinforcements arrived at the outpost. They've blown
their cover.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. GERMAN OUTPOST - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The German Reinforcements OPEN FIRE at the Harlem Hellfighters as they take the crates from the outpost.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Let's get out of here!

The Harlem Hellfighters fall back and FIRE at the Germans with their weapons. The German Reinforcements are either killed or wounded. Henry Johnson throws the grenade at the Germans. Some of the Germans were killed by GRENADE EXPLOSION and the German Anti-Aircraft Guns were out of commission.

GO TO:

INT. BELLEAU WOODS - NIGHT

The Harlem Hellfighters are inside the woods, so they don't get caught by the Germans.

HENRY JOHNSON

Whew! That was close!

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

It's good thing the Germans didn't spot us.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

These Jerries don't want to capture Negroes.

HORACE PIPPIN

If we get caught, then the Germans will kill us all without taking prisoners.

PRIVATE HARRIS

What are we going to do, man?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

We need to get back to our line.

HORACE PIPPIN

And what if the Whites don't want
to join us?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Then, we must do this the hard
way. The Sergeant wants to meet us
before sunrise. Let's go back to
the front line, before we get
court-martialed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AMERICAN TRENCH - NIGHT

The Harlem Hellfighters arrived at the American Trench Dugout.
Sergeant Duke was waiting for the Negroes to show up.

SERGEANT DUKE

Lieutenant Europe, I have received
message from 22nd Aero Squadron.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

What does it say?

SERGEANT DUKE

(Looking at the message)

It said: "*All Negroes are
restricted to fly with the
squadron.*"

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Sarge, you got to be kidding me!

SERGEANT DUKE

No, I'm not Lieutenant. CAPTAIN
ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS AND HIS
SQUADRON...

(MORE)

SERGEANT DUKE (CONT'D)

...are on a mission to escort the
American Observation Plane at
Mars-la-Tour Sector.

HENRY JOHNSON

But who oversees the German
Squadron?

SERGEANT DUKE

Hermann Goering, a new CO of JD 1.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GOERING'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Meanwhile, Hermann Goering is talking on the phone.

HERMANN GOERING

Ja! I need a squadron of Fokkers
to defend our frontline.

GERMAN GENERAL (V.O.)

We've lost the command post to the
African Soldiers.

HERMANN GOERING

(angrily)

African Soldiers?!

GERMAN GENERAL (V.O.)

Ja, and Austro-Hungary was losing
the battle at the Italian Front.

HERMANN GOERING

What do you mean "Austro-Hungary
was losing?"

GERMAN GENERAL (V.O.)

The Italians are liberating the
country.

Hermann Goering wasn't pleased to hear the news about the
Austro-Hungarian's defeat at the Italian Front.

HERMANN GOERING

(angrily)

Then send our soldiers to aid the
Austro-Hungarians right now!

Goering ANGRILY SLAMS his phone.

ERNST VON HOEPPNER

Oberleutnant, we can't send our
fighters now. We must wait until-

HERMANN GOERING

Until what? We've lost our
Squadron Commander to the Royal
Air Force and now the American
Squadron are already prepared for
aerial battle at the Western Front
at dawn tomorrow!

ERNST VON HOEPPNER

We'll deal with the Americans,
Goering, but right now we've got
bigger problems.

HERMANN GOERING

Where are the bombers?

ERNST VON HOEPPNER

There are no bombers left for us
to deal with the Allies on the
Western Front.

Suddenly, they HEARD THE PLANE flying above the aerodrome.
Goering decided to go outside, hoping the Red Baron would return
to base.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUSIGNY AERODROME - NIGHT

Outside the German Aerodrome, Goering couldn't see anything at
night. The German Engineers LIGHT THE FIRE on the ground to
identify the plane in the night sky. The Germans looked up and
saw the Fokker Triplane flying overhead, but they didn't know
the triplane was captured by the Americans to fool the enemy.

GERMAN ENGINEER

Ankommend!

The American Pilot threw something on the ground. One of the German Engineers pick it up and hands over to Ernst von Hoepfner. He opens the package and reveals the black leather helmet and the broken goggles that belonged to the Red Baron.

CLOSE ON: THE RED BARON'S HELMET AND GOGGLES.

ERNST VON HOEPPNER (V.O.)

It's Manfred's helmet and goggles.

HERMANN GOERING

What does that mean?

ERNST VON HOEPPNER

It means he died five months earlier before the war's end.

Hermann Goering watches as the German Engineers are getting back to work on the aerodrome.

HERMANN GOERING

Auf Wiedersehen, Rittmeister.

ERNST VON HOEPPNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Goering?

HERMANN GOERING

Kommend.

GO TO:

INT. GERMAN COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

The German Pilots are waiting for Goering's briefing as Ernst von Hoepfner introduces FOUR NEW RECRUITS of JD 1.

ERNST VON HOEPPNER

Oberleutnant Goering, your new recruits have arrived.

A German Ace salutes to Hermann Goering.

GEORG VON HANTELMANN

Leutnant Georg von Hantelmann, at
your service.

HERMANN GOERING

(Shaking his hand)

Welcome to JD 1. I'm Oberleutnant
Hermann Goering, your new CO. We
have a new threat on the Western
Front. The American Observation
Plane is on a reconnaissance
mission at Mars-le-Tour Sector.
Georg, I want you and your
squadron to intercept the
reconnaissance aircraft before our
ground forces have been spotted on
the Western Front. The rest of the
pilots will patrol the Western
Front against the American
Fighters of 22nd Aero Squadron at
dawn tomorrow. That is all.

The German Pilots are dismissed. Hermann Goering was worried
about the Germans' failure mission against the American Fighter
Squadron and deal with the reconnaissance aircraft at Mars-la-
Tour sector at the same time.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. CAPTAIN RAYMOND C. BRIDGEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

September 14, 1918.

The next morning, THE AMERICAN PILOT, ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS, came to see CAPTAIN BRIDGEMAN in his office.

ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS

Captain Bridgeman, what is my assignment today?

RAYMOND C. BRIDGEMAN

Brooks, I received a message from Sergeant Duke last night. You and your squadron will escort the reconnaissance aircraft at Mars-la-Tour Sector before the German Squadron plans for counterattack.

ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS

But, Sir, they already dealt with the Red Baron before we got here.

RAYMOND C. BRIDGEMAN

Then it's your chance to end this conflict on the Western Front against the German Squadron. Get out there and bring down as many Germans Fighters as you can.

ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS

Yes, Sir.

Arthur Raymond Brooks exits the office to prepare for aerial combat at Mars-la-Tour Sector.

GO TO:

EXT. CROIX DE METZ AERODROME - DAY

Arthur Raymond Brooks climbed his SPAD XIII as other American Fighters START THE ENGINES RUNNING.

AMERICAN ENGINEER (V.O.)

Switch off?

ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS

Switch off.

AMERICAN ENGINEER (V.O.)

Contact?

ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS

Contact.

THE AMERICAN ENGINEER turns propeller to START THE ENGINE. The Americans takeoff from the aerodrome to meet the enemy for the first time in aerial combat on the Western Front before the war's end.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MARS-LA-TOUR, FRANCE - CONTINUOUS

On the sky of Mars-la-Tour, France, The American Breguet 14 Reconnaissance Aircraft patrol the sky on the Western Front. THE AMERICAN OBSERVER is taking pictures on the enemy positions on the Western Front. Suddenly, the American Observer spots 13 Fokker D.VII Fighters at 6 o'clock high. He manned his twin Lewis Machine Gun on the rear.

AMERICAN OBSERVER

Enemy Fighters!

The German Fighters attack the American Observation Plane. The American Observer FIRES with his twin Lewis Machine Gun to shake them off. One of the Fokkers was blown out of the sky. 12 enemy fighters buzz like angry hornets and surround the American Observation Plane. Stock footages were used from *Dogfights* was used as American Pilot, Arthur Raymond Brooks and his five American SPAD XIII Fighters of 22nd Aero Squadron arrived at Mars-la-Tour sector to aid the American Two-Seater Aircraft. German Ace, Georg von Hatelmann signaled his squadron to regroup leaving the American Observation Plane to bug out as Brooks spots three enemy formations at the distance, but Georg and his 11 fighters are above the American Squadron. The Germans are closing in to shoot down the American Fighters. Brooks doesn't have time to warn the leader of his flight. He breaks off the attack on eight German Fighters. The other four are headed straight for the American Squadron. Brooks takes the evasive action to prevent the Germans shooting at him.

(MORE)

One of the German Fighters is diving in head-on pass, but Brooks managed to avoid the collision with his twin Vickers Machine Guns and the German Pilot dived away. Brooks skids his plane to get out of stream of bullets. As the German Fighter dives on Brooks, he rolls over the top and SHOOTs DOWN the German Fighter in flames. The stricken Fokker D.VII spins out of control and crashes into the ground. Another Fokker D.VII is starting a pass on Brooks at 2 o'clock. He PEPPERS with his twin Vickers machine guns at the German Fighter. Six German Fighters buzzing around Brooks until he pulls up in a climbing speed to evade the German attackers. The bullets SHATTER on the windshield and CLATTER on Brooks' right Vickers machine gun until the engine sputters and the propellor stopped turning. Arthur Raymond Brooks stalls out and his main fuel tank has gone dry.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

EXT. MARS-LA-TOUR, FRANCE - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE UP: ARTHUR RAYMOND BROOKS SWITCHED THE AUXILIARY TANK ON THE UPPER WING TO PREVENT HIM FROM STALLING OUT.

As Brooks RESTARTS his plane, he FIRES his single Vickers machine gun and takes out two German Fighters at once.

EXT. GERMAN LINES - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, Brooks' wingman, PHILIP EDWARD HASSINGER, was attacked by a pair of Fokker D.VII Fighters at treetop level behind the enemy lines. Philip's plane was on fire, so he took off his goggles to make an emergency landing at Meuse River. His plane was upside down after Philip SPLASHED into the river. Philip climbs out from the wreckage before he gets caught by the German Soldiers. Philip puts his hands up in the air, until five Harlem Hellfighters attack the German Soldiers with their rifles and stab the German Soldiers with bayonets. Philip had never seen the Harlem Hellfighters before.

PHILIP EDWARD HASSINGER

Who are you?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

I'm Lieutenant James Europe, but you can call me Jim.

PHILIP EDWARD HASSINGER

Wait a minute! I'm not supposed to meet with the Negros.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Listen to me. We're Americans. We're on the same side-

PHILIP EDWARD HASSINGER

No, you didn't! You niggers are trying to kill me!

HENRY JOHNSON

We're not here to kill you. We're here to take you back to the trench. Sergeant Duke will be-

PHILIP EDWARD HASSINGER

Stay away from me!

Philip runs away from the Harlem Hellfighters.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

I don't get it! Why don't they
trust us?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

These idiots don't know us because
we're Black Soldiers.

HORACE PIPPIN

My Father was a soldier during the
Civil War.

PRIVATE HARRIS

Is your father a Union Soldier?

HORACE PIPPIN

Yes, he fought for his freedom
against the South a century ago.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

There's no time for conversation.
The Americans are fighting on
Saint-Mihiel. GENERAL PERSHING was
waiting for us in the trench.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMERICAN TRENCH - CONTINUOUS

September 15, 1918.

The American Artillery Guns OPEN FIRE at German Trench to weaken
the enemy ground forces. The Harlem Hellfighters arrived at
Saint-Mihiel sector to meet General John J. Pershing AND THREE
OTHER AMERICAN GENERALS.

JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING

Lieutenant Jim, we were talking
about you and your soldiers
attempt to rescue one of the

American Pilots behind the enemy line.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

It's Philip Hassinger. We tried to rescue him, but they think we're slaves.

JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING

Slaves? Who told you that?

HENRY JOHNSON

It's um, uh, the Whites.

JOSEPH THEODORE DICKMAN

General Pershing, we can't trust the Negroes.

HUNTER LIGGETT

They're inexperienced soldiers.

GEORGE HAMILTON CAMERON

Shall we leave them behind?

JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING

It's not a Civil War, Major Cameron. These Harlem Hellfighters can help us to turn the tide of the war.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Excuse me, we're waiting for your orders.

JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING

Orders? Ah, yes. Our tanks are advancing towards the German Lines and the 27th Aero Squadron are preparing for balloon busting mission. Escort our tanks at Saint-Mihiel to push the German Army back.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Yes, Sir!

Four American Generals went back to their positions.

HENRY JOHNSON

How do we get past the German trench?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

It's easy. We need to get behind those tanks without getting hit by enemy machine gun fire.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

But which one, Jim?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

The lead tank.

HENRY JOHNSON

What about other tanks?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

They'll take care of the other two tanks.

GO TO:

EXT. SAINT-MIHIEL - CONTINUOUS

The Harlem Hellfighters got behind the lead American tank, while other Doughboys were split into two groups to get behind a pair of American tanks. The German machine guns FIRE at the American tanks, but the bullets RICOCHET off the American tanks. The German rifles have no effect on the American tanks. The American tanks OPEN FIRE at the German trench. Some of the German machine gun nests were out of commission, while others remain untouched, until the Germans spot the American Fighters of 27th Aero Squadron to prepare for a balloon busting mission.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

What the hell are they thinking?

HENRY JOHNSON

These Jerries have observation
balloons to spot our trenches!

JAMES REESE EUROPE

No, they're trying to destroy our
air support with anti-aircraft
guns out of the sky. We must do
something before the Germans send
their squadron for air supremacy
and hold us off.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

FADE IN:

EXT. SAINT-MIHIEL - CONTINUOUS

The Germans OPEN FIRE with anti-aircraft guns, while FRANK LUKE AND HIS WINGMAN, JOSEPH FRANK WEHNER, ATTACK the German observation balloons with their Vickers machine guns. The 27th Aero Squadron DESTROYED the enemy observation balloons.

GEORG FUCHS

(Speaking in German)

General von Below! Our observation balloons are out of action and the enemy are advancing!

EDUARD VON BELOW

(Shouting in German)

Send our reinforcements, GENERAL FUCHS!

GEORG FUCHS

(Shouting in German)

But, Sir, we're outnumbered!

EDUARD VON BELOW

(Shouting in German)

I gave you a direct order!

Before General Fuchs calls the reinforcements, the Americans surround the Germans to cut off their escape.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

*Surrender now, you jerry bastards!
There's nowhere left to run!*

The German 5th Army surrendered to the Americans. The Germans laid down their arms with their hands up.

HENRY JOHNSON

We're still looking for General von Gallwitz.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

Where's General von Gallwitz?

GEORG FUCHS

They're in Argonne Forest near the
Meuse River.

EDUARD VON BELOW

Our 5th Army found and killed First
Lieutenant Philip Hassinger.

HORACE PIPPIN

What?!

PRIVATE HARRIS

Lieutenant Hassinger is dead?!

GEORG FUCHS

(chuckling)

You'll never find your friends in
high places.

JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING

We'll take care of the prisoners,
Jim. You go find the crash site.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Yes, Sir!

GO TO:

INT. GERMAN LINES - DAY

September 18, 1918.

The Harlem Hellfighters are searching for the wreckage behind
the enemy lines.

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

I can't see the damn forest!

HENRY JOHNSON

But I can see the footprints.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Guys, I found the wreckage!

NEEDHAM ROBERTS

Where?

HENRY JOHNSON

I don't see the wreckage.

The Harlem Hellfighters looked closer inside the cockpit from the wreckage and saw the corpse of Fritz Wehner.

JAMES REESE EUROPE

(gasps)

It can't be! It's Fritz!

HORACE PIPPIN

He's the American Pilot from the
27th Aero Squadron.

PRIVATE HARRIS

Who did this to him?

JAMES REESE EUROPE

Georg von Hantelmann!

FADE OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...