

RADIO SILENCE

FADE IN

1 EXT:SOUTH PACIFIC:-- DAY 1

On the horizon, a U.S. WWII Victory ship.

SUPER: S.S. VICTORY, 18:00 HRS. PCT. SEPTEMBER 26TH 1943
POSITION: SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

STANDING ORDERS:MAINTAIN RADIO SILENCE!

A Boatswains pipe is whistling out.

INTERCOMME (O.S.)

Now hear this...Now hear this...All
hands, secure from Battle Stations,
secure from general quarters. Damage
control parties report....

2 INT:MIDSHIP PASSAGEWAY: -- DAY 2

Seaman JOE LEONETTI enters through an open port side hatch.
As he makes his way down the passageway he is passed by a
variety of sailors and deck maintenance men. Some of the
sailors are wounded, dressed with bandages. They all wear a
common face, blacken soot. They had just been in battle.

INTERCOMME (O.S.)

Damage control parties report in to
Commander Buckler, topside on the
floor deck. This is a condition 3,
fire control parties remain on stand
by, and will the Pharmacist Mate
please report to the forward cargo
hold on the double...That is all.

LEONETTI, turns off and heads down a ladder as Third Mate
ALEXANDER KELLEY, enters. By his side, reading from a
clipboard is Ensign JOHN F. DOYLE.

DOYLE

They did manage to seal off the
compartment, Mr. Kelley.

KELLEY

How many?

DOYLE

Engine Room reports, 4 dead,6
wounded, 2 missing, including the
Chief.

They stop to let an assisted wounded sailor pass.

KELLEY

The Chief? What about his first?

Doyle nods a definite no.

KELLEY (CONT'D)

Well, who's left down there?

DOYLE

Hayward, an Oiler. He's making his way topside now sir.

KELLEY

Good, have him report to me. What else?

They continue on.

DOYLE

Forward damage control reports the entire starboard side 20 mm gun crew, including deck maintenance, 6 dead, 9 wounded, 3 critical. Speaking freely Sir, we're a sitting duck and with the Captain hurt, did you want to make contact with the fleet?

KELLEY

(Signing the report)

No... Log the report for now. Maintain radio silence.

DOYLE

Aye Aye, Sir.

Doyle takes the report and walks on as Kelley enters a cabin.

3 INT:SICK BAY CABIN: -- DAY

3

Kelley enters.

Laying in bed is Captain William H. DECKER. His soot covered face is a bloody mess. Wrapped in cloth bandages, his hands show signs of burnt flesh. By his side is E.J. HOLLAND, the ships "Doctor"-Pharmacist Mate. Across the cabin are two covered bodies.

KELLEY

How they coming Doc?

HOLLAND

(Glancing toward the bodies)

That Jap dropped that tomato right on their lap. They never had a chance.

KELLEY

Both the exec's? What about Captain Decker?

HOLLAND

He's holding on, but the Captain's gut is pretty busted up inside.

KELLEY

He is going to come around?

HOLLAND

I'm not sure Mr. Kelley.

KELLEY

But if you had to guess Holland?

HOLLAND

If I had to guess Sir?.. The old man's bleedin' inside. It's deep in his lungs, and I can't stop it. Even, if I had the right tools, and had more training, I'm just the pharmacist mate Mr. Kelley, and a medic. He needs a real Doctor.

KELLEY

Well, the nearest Doctor's at Pearl. You'll just have to do.

HOLLAND

Then he's gonna die.

(Hold a Beat))

Wait a second. My buddy's a deck ape over on that flat top. Those flight guys, they've got a Doctor. They have surgeon.

KELLEY

The Fleet's continued on, we're on our own.

HOLLAND

We're left behind Sir? Holly! With the Captain down, and the Exec's... Who's in command?

KELLEY

(Sitting Beside the Capt.)

As Third Mate, I guess that leaves me.

HOLLAND

You Sir? Your a just a junior officer?

KELLEY
 (to himself)
 There is no one else.

Still in an unconscious state, Captain DECKER reaches out and grabs Kelley's arm.

KELLEY (CONT'D)
 Captain!

HOLLAND checks Captain DECKER. Getting no further response, HOLLAND gestures to KELLEY with a negative nod.

George HAYWARD, Fourth Assistant Engineer/Oiler enters and stands in the hatch way. His sea soaked, grease covered torn white A-frame shirt shows signs of a previous struggle. Catching his breath and adjusting his hat, he re-conforms his posture and salutes.

HAYWARD
 Mr. Kelley Sir, Oiler/ Assistant
 Engineer George Hayward, reporting
 as ordered.
 (noticing the
 Captain)
 That's not the Captain?

Rising, KELLEY, composes himself and crosses toward the hatch.

KELLEY
 (To Holland)
 Carry on Holland.

Holland
 Good Luck Sir.

KELLEY
 Luck? We're going to need a lot of
 luck.

As KELLEY exits, HAYWARD follows.

KELLEY (CONT'D)
 What's in your report Mr. Hayward?

4 INT:MIDSHIP PASSAGEWAY: -- DAY

4

KELLEY and HAYWARD make their way aft down the passageway.

HAYWARD
 I'm doing all that I can, with
 there being just two of us left.
 We've managed to pump her clean, and
 the seals are holding Sir.

KELLEY

Good job Hayward. When can we have some steam?

HAYWARD

I don't know sir. I couldn't tell ya. I usually follow orders. I'm an Oiler.

KELLEY

Not anymore, I'm promoting you to Chief.

HAYWARD

Chief? That's nuts. What do you think I know?

KELLEY

What do I know about commanding a ship? In my 'civi' life, I was a news paper copy writer.

HAYWARD

Oh Yeah? No kiddin', I used to fix frigidaire's and ice boxes.

KELLEY

No kidding. I bet you didn't always know how to fix them though, did you?

HAYWARD

I don't follow you.

KELLEY

Well, one day you knew nothing, and then one day you learned how to fix them? Am I right?

HAYWARD

Yes Sir?

KELLEY

Just like you learned your job here, and how you learned to be an oiler, and how to seal that ruptured hull?

HAYWARD

(confidently)

Yes Sir!

KELLEY

You'll learn how to be a chief and fix this ship.

HAYWARD

The ships a little different sir.

KELLEY

It's just a big Ice Box Hayward.

HAYWARD

An awful big Ice box Sir. Maybe, I can Jury rig it.

They Stop.

HAYWARD (CONT'D)

I'll do my best, Mr Kelley.

KELLEY

We both have new jobs to do Hayward. I'm counting on you. Now lets get some steam.

HAYWARD

Right away Sir.

As KELLEY turns forward down another passageway, he adds:

KELLEY

Oh, and Chief, Lets keep our smoke white and clean, we don't want to attract any more unfriendly's.

KELLEY continues forward.

HAYWARD

Aye Aye, Sir.

Taking a deep strengthening breath, HAYWARD'S confidence dims as the thought of his future tasks comes to light.

SFX: The Midday watch bell rings out.

Seaman MAURICE LAMOUR, enters. Hayward walks on and just as they pass, staying with LAMOUR, we follow him down the passage way, and as he enters a cabin:

5 INT: SEAMEN'S QUARTERS: -- DAY

5

It's a tight fitting cabin, wall to wall layered sacks (bunks).Laying in a top bunk lies Seaman WALTER SMOLINSKI, an unshaved opinionated,small structured Brooklyn-ite To his left and below lies Seaman/deckhand LENNY DEMASIANO, a lean, muscular, Bronx lady killer. Standing by a locker, cleaning himself up is JOE LEONETTI, Texan, gambler, and big talker.

Entering the cabin is Seamen LAMOUR, a soot covered, average sized Minnesota farm boy. He heads toward his locker.

LEONETTI

I'll bet you ten bucks.

DEMASIANO

Okay, your on, ten bucks.

SMOLINSKI

Where you gonna come up with 10
bucks?

DEMASIANO

(checking under his
pillow)

I've got ten bucks. Lamour, loan me
ten bucks.

LAMOUR

Ten bucks, you already owe me forty.

DEMASIANO

So, what's another ten?

SMOLINSKI

Besides, It ain't like your gonna
be around to collect it.

(Looking at a worn
picture of a pin up
girl,)

Oh my sweet, Betty, Betty, Betty
Baby.

LAMOUR

What's he talking about?

LEONETTI

We're a floating fish, Lamour.
You think its gonna be long before
those bonsai nips fly their way back
on over here and pick us off?

LAMOUR

You really think so Joe?

LEONETTI

Ahhh...

SMOLINSKI

Sure they are. Demasiano, you're
the highest rank in here, tell him
how it is.

DEMASIANO

Listen here kid. Those Tokyo
fellas,
They got this grudge see, kind of
like those Nazi chumps, and I heard
they drink this jungle rice juice.
You ever hear of Okinowa?

Lamour seems kind of lost.

SMOLINSKI

The facts are this farm boy.
There's only one captain on this
Ugly Bucket, and the Captain ain't
all there at that. And, if you ask
me, I've got a better chance seeing
my sweet Betty, if I float back to
Brooklyn myself.

LAMOUR

What about Commander Kelley?

LEONETTI

Kelley? He's a Third Mate. The
Chief Cook got longer sea legs than
him.
My money is on that lifer Lt.
Buckler.

DEMASIANO

Buckler? That popeye's a Navy
shooter. No way! What's he know
about being a Captain? I'm swimming
with you Smolinski.

SMOLINSKI

I don't swim, I float!

LAMOUR

Gee, I hope you guys are wrong,
I just got on this ship, Besides
I'd really like my forty bucks back.

SFX:SHIPS HORN

6 EXT:DECK:SMOKESTACK: -- DAY 6

ANGLE ON SHIPS SMOKE STACK AS BLACK SMOKE POURS FROM IT'S
OPENING.

7 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 7

KELLEY observes the black smoke. Worried by the
possibilities of another attack he glances outward surveying
the surrounding seas.

He returns his attention back toward the black smoke before
continuing onward to the Wheel house.

8 INT:WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 8

Deck maintenance men are finishing up repairs to the Wheel
house port side bulkhead. It's obvious, by the damage, that
this is where an explosion had taken place.

Commander KELLEY enters. Ensign DOYLE is on a voice box phone. At the wheel stands the Helmsman. Sailors are standing at other posts.

DOYLE
 (Speaking into voice
 port)
 I'll update him right away.
 (Turning to Kelley)
 Commander, Engine room reports that
 the engines are heating up.

KELLEY
 Yes, I'm afraid you can see the
 heat all the way to Tokyo.

KELLEY approaches the voice box.

KELLEY (CONT'D)
 Let me speak to him. Mr. Hayward,
 how's it coming?

9 INT:ENGINE ROOM: -- DAY

9

It's a very noisy, steamy engine room. HAYWARD is talking on the phone.

HAYWARD
 I'm just getting on it Sir. That
 sea salt really did a number on the
 pumps. We're building pressure and
 we're getting ready to rotate the
 screw. I'm thinking we'll be able to
 push out 3 to 4 knots when she's
 fully heated.

KELLEY (O.S.)
 Ahh, that's terrific. But all that
 black smoke? Can you do something
 about it?

HAYWARD
 I'm figuring that out too Sir. I
 sure could figure it out faster if
 we had a few more hands down here.

10 INT:WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY

10

KELLEY
 You need you more hands?

HAYWARD (O.S.)
 Any one would do.

HELMSMAN
 Permission to speak Sir.

KELLEY
 (to Hayward)
 Stand by.

Kelley nods his okay..

KELLEY (CONT'D)
 Yes Seaman.

HELMSMAN
 I know my way around engines Sir.
 Before the War I used to work in my
 Pops machine shop sir. I sure would
 like to help.

KELLEY
 Very well, assist where you can.

ABLESEAMEN
 Aye Aye Sir.

The HELMSMAN is replaced by another Sailor who takes his
 place at the wheel.

KELLEY
 Mr. Hayward?

HAYWARD (O.S.)
 Still here sir.

KELLEY
 Extra hands are on the way, Keep us
 informed, bridge out.

As the HELMSMAN exits, Lt. BUCKLER enters, looks at KELLEY
 and without a word, or real recognition, crosses through the
 hatch to the Map room. KELLEY, glances at Ensign DOYLE.

They're not aware as to the meaning of his lack of
 response. KELLEY takes follow, and exits into the Map room.

11 INT: MAP ROOM: -- DAY

11

Kelley Enters. On the far side, leaning over the map table,
 stands Lt. Ralph BUCKLER, a carrier Navy Man stuck on a
 Merchant Marine Cargo carrying Victory Ship. He holds rank
 that equals KELLEY'S, but in different capacities.

KELLEY
 Mr. Buckler?

BUCKLER
 I'm very busy Kelley, make it quick.

KELLEY
 Do you have your topside report?

BUCKLER

I've got it.

KELLEY

And?

BUCKLER

And we're in real trouble. From my estimations the fleets bearing somewhere off the port quarter, 270 to 275 degrees. If we make radio contact and let them know our situation they just might...

KELLEY

Hold it right there mister. You want to contact them? Let them know our situation? You want to compromise our position. You'll bring the whole Jap fleet on top of us.

BUCKLER

I don't know how to break it to you commander, Look around. Look at what's left of this ship, count the dead, they know we're here.

KELLEY

I can't permit this. You're not in rank. You can't order a break in our radio silence.

BUCKLER

Well, someone has to. And someone has to save what's left of this crew.

KELLEY

Oh, and that someone is you?

BUCKLER

That's right. I've been to sea. I've served two years on a destroyer before the China sea. Before I got stuck here. And I've seen what those Jap's do to ships left behind. They never take prisoners. They finish them off. They blow the ship and the crew straight to hell. I'm not ready to deep six, and I'm certainly not ready to follow you.

KELLEY

Keep your seat mister. What about the Captain? He is still alive.

ABLESEAMAN (O.S.)
 Man Spotted, Man in water!
 Starboard side.

KELLEY and BUCKLER's attention is turned to the seaman's call. Quickly they exit.

12 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 12

A SAILOR is looking through binoculars. Approaching his side is Ensign DOYLE who lifts, and looks through his own binoculars.

SAILOR
 Contact... 30 degrees... Right off
 starboard side, Ensign Doyle.

13 EXT:OCEAN: -- DAY 13

P.O.V. through the binoculars. An object is seen floating in the waves.

14 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 14

DOYLE
 Is it the Chief?

SAILOR
 I think it's... It's a Jap Sir.

15 EXT:OCEAN: -- DAY 15

Now closer, and very clear it is revealed. The person bobbing in the waves, is a downed Japanese Pilot.

16 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 16

DOYLE
 It's a Jap Pilot!

KELLEY and BUCKLER enter.

DOYLE (CONT'D)
 (pointing)
 There sir.
 (handing his
 binoculars to Kelley)
 In the water, 30 degrees right off
 the starboard side.

KELLEY
 You called it on right on the
 money. One of the emperors red
 potatoes in the drink. He's probably
 not the one though.

BUCKLER
What's the difference. He's a Jap.
I say we leave him, send him to the
deep. Let the Nip drown.

Kelley delays in making a response.

DOYLE
Your orders Mr. Kelley?
Mr. Kelley?

KELLEY
Fish him out.

DOYLE
Sir?

KELLEY
I said Fish him out.

DOYE
Yes Sir. Aye Aye, Sir.

Doyle leaves.

Buckler stands in disbelief.

BUCKLER
(mocking)
Aye Aye, Sir.

17 EXT:OCEAN: -- DAY 17

The water logged Japanese pilot now awaits his rescue.
A Boatswains pipe calls out.

INTERCOME (O.S.)
Now hear this...Now hear this.
Man in the Water.. Rescue parties
to the Starboard side..

18 INT: SEAMEN'S QUARTERS: -- DAY 18

LEONETTI, SMOLINSKI, LAMOUR, DEMASIANO and a few other
seamen are listening.

INTERCOME (O.S.)
Man in the Water.. Rescue parties
and the master of Arms to the
Starboard side.. Repeat...

SMOLINSKI, LEONETTI, LAMOUR and DEMASIANO jump to their
feet and dress for top side duties.

SMOLINSKI and DEMASIANO grab side arms and Armed guard arm bands.

INTERCOMME (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Man in the Water..

19 INT:SICK BAY CABIN: -- DAY 19

E.J. Holland, the Pharmacist Mate, sits by the captain listening. The Captain, still unconscious, takes a deep hollowing breath. HOLLAND returns to his medical attention as he takes the Captains wrist. Captain DECKER's life is slipping away.

INTERCOMME (O.S.)
Rescue parties and the master of
Arms report to the Starboard side on
the double.

20 EXT. TOP SIDE:MIDSHIP DECK: -- DAY 20

SMOLINSKI, LEONETTI, LAMOUR and DEMASIANO scramble across the deck, along with other sailors.

21 EXT. TOP SIDE: RAIL: -- DAY 21

SMOLINSKI, LEONETTI, LAMOUR, DEMASIANO, and two other sailors arrive at the side rail.

22 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 22

P.O.V. From the lower Top side rail.

KELLEY
Be very cautious Mr. Smolinski.

23 EXT. TOP SIDE: RAIL: -- DAY 23

P.O.V. From the upper deck.

SMOLINSKI
(To Kelley)
Yes Sir.
(To the guys)
Stay alert. Look alive.

Top side view.

LEONETTI
Hey, its a Jap!

LAMOUR
For real's?

DEMASIANO
What are we doing saving a Jap?

LEONETTI

Beats me.

SMOLINSKI

Clam it up, stand by to cast out a line.

LAMOUR

I've never seen a real Jap before.

Leonetti grabs a life ring and line.

P.O.V. from the floating Japanese PILOTS view of the ships starboard rail as LEONETTI tosses the life ring and line overboard.

24 EXT:OCEAN: -- DAY 24

The life ring lands on target. The Japanese pilot grabs hold and is pulled in.

25 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 25

DOYLE returns

DOYLE

They're bringing him on board now Sir.

KELLEY

Very well. Now, what do we do with him?

BUCKLER

We make him talk. We find out what that yellow bastard knows. Then we make him pay.

KELLEY

(To Doyle)

When he's on board take him to the forward cargo hold.

DOYLE

As soon as they have him on board Sir.

Kelley turns and exits, leaving Buckler and Doyle behind.

DOYLE (CONT'D)

Can you believe it Lt. A real Jap pilot.

BUCKLER

Ensign, I'll escort the prisoner myself.

DOYLE

Sir?

BUCKLER

I'll take him to the forward Cargo hold.

DOYLE

But, Commander Kelley...

BUCKLER

That is all.

DOYLE

Yes Sir.

26 INT:MAP ROOM: -- DAY

26

Kelley is leaning over the map table, charting their positions.

KELLEY

(to himself)

Where are they? Where are we?
 Okay, okay okay. What would
you do Captain? How would
you handle this? I would
 really, I could really use your help.

He Picks up the phone.

27 INT: ENGINE ROOM: -- DAY

27

ANGLE ON BELL RINGING

The Engine room phone is answered by the Bridge HELMSMAN.
 His face, and uniform has become very greased up.

It's very noisy, lots of active moving parts and machinery.

HELMSMAN

Engine Room. One moment Sir.

HELMSMAN places the phone down and heads over to Mr.
 HAYWARD who's two levels above him, entangled in the
 workings of the ships engine.

HELMSMAN (CONT'D)

Chief Hayward....Mr. Hayward..

Grabbing HAYWARD'S attention with a "phone in hand" hand
 signal.

HELMSMAN (CONT'D)

It's the Bridge Sir.

Hayward cant hear at first.

HELMSMAN (CONT'D)

The Bridge.

Giving him a silent lipped okay, HAYWARD heads for the phone.

ANGLE ON PHONE AS HAYWARD ANSWERS.

HAYWARD
Engine Room, Hayward here.

28 INT:WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 28

KELLEY
Mr. Hayward, we're running out of time. I need an answer..

29 INT: ENGINE ROOM: -- DAY 29

HAYWARD
Yes sir, We're ready now Sir. I should be able to give 8 knots, in 15 sir.

30 INT:WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 30

KELLEY
(Ordering)
How about 4 knots right now Mr. Hayward? 8 in 15.

HAYWARD
4 knots Sir, Right away.

KELLEY He hangs up, and crosses to the Wheel house hatch.

31 INT: WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 31

KELLEY enters.

KELLEY
Stand bye to make way.

SAILOR
Standing by to make way, Sir.

KELLEY
Steady up on a course of 190. 4 knots.

SAILOR
(bewildered by the very slow speed)
4 knots?

KELLEY
4 knots. All engines, ahead standard. Steady as she goes.

SAILOR

Aye, Aye Sir. Setting course of
190 degrees, ahead standard, 4 knots.

ANGLE ON ENGINE SPEED INDICATOR.

The indicator bell rings

32 INT: ENGINE ROOM: -- DAY

32

ANGLE ON ENGINE SPEED INDICATOR CHANGING.

The indicator bell rings

HAYWARD

(to helmsman)

We've got zero minutes to make this
ship move 4 knts.

HELMSMAN

Zero, we better start praying.

HAYWARD

We'll pray later, right now, we've
got our jobs to do. Lets open the
valves ahead and turn the screw.

HELMSMAN

Aye Aye Sir. 4 knots it is.
Ahead 4 knots.

HAYWARD

Lets take it nice and easy. Nice
and easy.

33 EXT. TOP SIDE: RAIL: -- DAY

33

The Japanese Pilot is just being pulled over the starboard
rail.

Lt. Buckler approaches and pads him down. In a pocket he
finds his papers and personal items.

BUCKLER

You speak English? English? Let's
take him to the forward Cargo hold.

SMOLINSKI

Forward cargo.

(to the Pilot)

Come on Tokyo, the wars over for
you.

Smolinski, and Demasiano escort the Pilot forward.

Leonetti, Lamour and the other sailors clean up the line.

Buckler check's out the personal affects and then follows from behind.

LAMOUR
So that's what a real Jap looks like?

LEONETTI
What they don't Japanese in Minnesota?

LAMOUR
I just thought he'd be a lot more like an orange yellow, that's all.

LEONETTI
Orange yellow? Ahh.... Wrap this up.

He turns away and gazes out to sea.

LEONETTI (CONT'D)
(To himself)
Where do they find these kids?
Orange Yellow. That's what a real Jap looks like...Brother!

34 EXT:MIDSHIP UPPER DECK -- DAY

34

Sailors and Deck maintenance are doing deck repairs.

SMOLINSKI, and DEMASIANO continue to escort the PILOT forward.

The Sailors take notice of the prisoner. One Sailor wears a sling.

Noticing the Sailors, the Japanese PILOT stops and looks back.

SMOLINSKI
Alright keep it moving,

The PILOT bows out of respect. He begins to speak.

PILOT
(In Japanese)
We, have met in great Battle. I honor you, brave warriors, men of the sea, in your courageous triumph over my defeat. I bow to you with respect, as I am your prisoner...

As BUCKLER comes up from behind, he raises his side arm.

BUCKLER
You heard him, keep moving.

ANGLE ON THE PILOT AS BUCKLER pistole whips him.

CRASH CUT TO BLACK

DEMASIANO (O.S.)

Is he breathin'?

SMOLINSKI (O.S.)

I think you killed him.

BUCKLER (O.S.)

Mooshie mooshie. Wake him up!

35 INT:FORWARD CARGO HOLD 35

DEMASIANO, with a bucket of water, dumps it over the PILOT's head.

The PILOT, with arms bound, sitting upright, slowly awakes.

DEMASIANO

Hey hey hey...I think he's coming around.

SMOLINSKI

I guess he ain't so dead after all.

BUCKLER

Good, lets see what we knows.

36 EXT:SOUTH PACIFIC: SHIP: -- DAY 36

From afar, the ship appears to be lonesome on the high seas.

37 EXT:BOW: -- DAY 37

The bow, now, clearly moves through the passing and breaking wakes.

38 EXT:TOPSIDE: SMOKE STACK: -- DAY 38

Smoke still pours from the opening. The degree of smoke is much less, in terms of it's absence of color.

39 EXT:UPPER DECK: -- DAY 39

Sailors stand, positioned as look outs, ready at their posts with binoculars in hand. They survey the surrounding seas.

40 INT:WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 40

KELLEY stands, looking outward through a forward porthole.

Sailors stand at their posts. As a voice box bell rings DOYLE responds.

DOYLE
Bridge, Ensign Doyle here.

SPARKS (O.S.)
Radio Room here, Mr. Doyle.
I've got a live one.

DOYLE
Stand bye Sparks.
(to Kelley)
Commander, Radio room reports
picking up live signals Sir.

Kelley takes the head set.

KELLEY
What do you got?

41 INT:RADIO ROOM -- DAY 41

SPARKS
Operator Metzler, here Sir.
I'm picking up Radio
signals-broadcasting-very low
frequency. weak signals but getting
stronger, baring 070 degrees,
definitely unfriendly's.

KELLEY (O.S.)
In coming Aircraft?

SPARKS
Could very well be Sir. I'm
definitely sure I don't want to find
out.

42 INT:WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 42

KELLEY
Keep those ears open Sparks.

SPARKS (O.S.)
Will do Sir. Radio Room out.

Kelley hands the set back over to Doyle.

KELLEY
Any word on the Captain? This
would be a very good time for him to
appear.

DOYLE
I definitely concur Sir, with no
disrespect.

KELLEY

No, I understand. He would know exactly what to do. I'm not so sure.

DOYLE

We could have it worse. We could be commanded by Lt. Blye.

KELLEY

Speaking of, were is our Lt. Buckler?

DOYLE

He escorted that Jap prisoner to the forward cargo bay.

KELLEY

(annoyed)

He did? Stay on the Bridge. I want an update on the Captains condition.

DOYLE

Where you going Sir?

KELLEY

Where do you think?

43 INT:FORWARD CARGO HOLD: -- DAY

43

Still bound in a chair sits the Japanese PILOT.

SMOLINSKI and DEMASIANO stand aside while BUCKLER, with his side arm in hand, interrogates his prisoner.

BUCKLER

We're your buddies? Did you come from a big ship?

(using his hands as a guide)

He had to come from somewhere.

SMOLINSKI

Maybe he ain't understanding you?

BUCKLER

He understands just fine. He understands how to kill Americans. Don't you, Huji, Muji...

PILOT

Shuji. Shuji Tsukamoto.

BUCKLER

See..See..See...What did I tell you men. Shuji, the Jap fish. Okay Shuji...Let us start again. You shot up this ship.

BUCKLER (MORE)

(Gesturing with his hands)

You like to killing.

PILOT

(in Japanese)

Yes... I tried to destroy your ship, your crew, Now I'm a prisoner, I'm at your mercy, do with me as you wish.

DEMASIANO

What's he saying?

BUCKLER

Button it up.

(he pulls out a black and white photo of a Japanese family)

Is this your family?

The weakened PILOT looks at the photo.

BUCKLER (CONT'D)

Is this you? You? Is this your girlie san? Well you can forget it Nip?

(placing his firearm at the pilots face)

If I have my way...

KELLEY enters,

KELLEY

If you have your way what Mr. Buckler?

BUCKLER

This is the one... He shot us up.

KELLEY crosses over to BUCKLER and takes the photo from his hand.

KELLEY

And what if he is? I don't like him anymore than you. I wish we never found him, but we did, he's here...The war's over for him.

KELLEY looks closely at the photo, and then at the prisoner.

He then proceeds to place the photo back in the PILOT'S flight suit.

BUCKLER

And that's it.

BUCKLER (MORE)

He takes a cruise, and those boys who don't get to go home, what about them? I lost 8 men up there. All dead....

KELLEY

And there's nothing I can do to bring them back. I wish I could knock him off too, but we can't.

INTERCOMME

This is the Bridge. Is Commander Kelley there?

KELLEY

(signaling Demasiano to answer the phone)

Listen, chances are we ain't going to make it. You know that. What's shooting him going to do?

DEMASIANO

Commander, Bridge reports... Captain Decker is dead.

There's a pause and a moment of silence. The Japanese PILOT, unaware of the meaning, speaks out.

PILOT

(In Japanese)

I will not resist, I am your prisoner, to my country I am already dead...

BUCKLER aims his sidearm and fires one shot directly into the chest of the pilot.

KELLEY

(with a reaching desperation)

No!

BUCKLER

What's shooting him going to do? It shut him up!

SFX: ALERT BELL SOUNDING GENERAL QUARTERS.

Without a blink, the men scramble, exiting the Cargo hold.

ANGLE ON HATCH AS IT CLOSES, SEALS AND LOCKS.

INTERCOMME

All hands, general quarters, Battle stations...Battle stations...

ANGLE ON JAPANESE PILOT AS HIS LIFE SLIPS AWAY.

INTERCOME (CONT'D)

In coming, bogies, port side... All
hands Battle stations.

SFX: DIVE BOMBING AIRPLANES, GUN FIRE, EXPLOSIONS. THE
ALARMS CONTINUE TO RING.

44 INT:PASSAGE WAY: -- DAY 44

Sailors scrambling.

45 EXT:OUTER PASSAGEWAY: -- DAY 45

Sailors scrambling.

46 EXT: TOPSIDE DECK: MID SHIP -- DAY 46

Sailors scramble to their Battle stations. Japanese planes
are attacking the ship in great numbers.

47 EXT: TOPSIDE DECK: PORT SIDE FORWARD 20 MM GUN -- DAY 47

Sailors take positions to defend the ship.

48 EXT: TOPSIDE DECK: STARBOARD FORWARD 20 MM GUN -- DAY 48

As Sailors take positions, they are strafed. Two fall to
their deaths. Another Sailor steps in and returns fire.

The Battle continues.

49 EXT: TOPSIDE DECK: STARBOARD REAR 20 MM GUN -- DAY 49

SMOLINSKI, LEONETTI, LAMOUR, DEMASIANO set up and work a 20
mm gun.

DEMASIANO is the acting gunner.

LAMOUR

You know I think I'm coming down
with scurvy.

SMOLINSKI

Maybe you should eat more oranges.

DEMASIANO

I wish I could be on the sick list.

LEONETTI

He's coming around.

DEMASIANO

I see him, I see him... 11:00...
11:00.

LEONETTI

Let him have it! Let him have!

A plane enters their sites. They open fire.

50 INT: WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY 50

As KELLEY and BUCKLER enter together, the ship is rocked by a near missing explosion. We hear the roar of the continuing Battle.

KELLEY

Ensign. Status.

DOYLE

Two groups... 5 total.

KELLEY

We're going to need some maneuvering speed. All engines ahead flank, or what ever she'll give.

SAILOR

All engines ahead Sir.

Another explosion. Another near miss. The ship is rocked.

51 INT: ENGINE ROOM: -- DAY 51

The rocking again settles.

HAYWARD

They need everything we got.

HELMSMAN

They're going to blow us apart. We gotta get out of here.

HAYWARD

Not until our job is through, now all of you, stand your posts.

HELMSMAN

Aye Aye Sir. You heard the chief, stand your posts.

Another explosion. Another near miss. The ship again is rocked.

52 EXT: TOPSIDE DECK: STARBOARD REAR 20 MM GUN -- DAY 52

SMOLINSKI, LEONETTI, LAMOUR, and DEMASIANO work a 20 mm gun. The battle is fierce.

A plane targets in on them and fires.

SMOLINSKI

Stay on him... Stay on him...
watch, watch out.

DEMASIANO and SMOLINSKI are riddled with bullets. LEONETTI runs to their side as LAMOUR takes over as gunner, continuing the fight. Seeing that their dead, LEONETTI assists LAMOUR with the gun.

Another rocking explosion.

53 INT: WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY

53

DOYLE

Sir? Did you want me to Radio a
final report?

KELLEY

Yes... No...We're not sunk yet.

BUCKLER

We should have radioed for help
while we still had a chance.

KELLEY

No...

DOYLE

What are your orders Mr. Kelley?
What are your orders?

Kelley freezes up.

Another explosion, greater than the others, knocks KELLEY off his feet.

As his head hits the floor everything and everyone freezes in time. There is an absolute silence.

KELLEY eyes, which we're frozen open, begin to blink. As he gains his composure, its obvious that his head made contact with the floor. Bewildered by his frozen crew mates, he proceeds cautiously. Unsure of his mental state he looks out the forward port hole. The airplanes, gunners, and sailors on deck are all frozen. Frightened and unsure, KELLEY backs away through and into the Map Room.

54 INT: MAP ROOM: -- DAY

54

As KELLEY, still backwards, enters through the Hatch:

ANGLE ON KELLEY'S SHOULDER AS A HAND GRABS HOLD.

It's the Captain, and he seems to be okay. In fact he seems to be in a very clean, healthy state of being.

KELLEY

Captain Decker? I need to know...

CAPTAIN

Listen closely my Third Mate. At ease. We don't have much time.

KELLEY

But how is this possible?

CAPTAIN

That's, not important. The fate of your crew, your ship, and your cargo are all balancing on your abilities to lead them through to a port and safe haven. Many Merchants on the high seas have faced death in similar ordeals. You are not the first. What we all have in common, is the life's experience and training that has been passed down through generations of Captains and sailors passed onward to their Mates. These are the strengths of the Merchant Marines. These are your strengths. If you use them in confidence, your crew will follow to the sea's end and back again. It's your time. Now, it's up to you. Now, what are you're orders? What are you're orders? What are you're orders?

55 INT: WHEEL HOUSE: -- DAY

55

ANGLE BACK ON KELLEY's frozen eyes. He's back on the floor in the hatch way.

An explosion shakes the ship, time resumes as the bridge sailors are tossed from their positions. KELLEY rises to his feet.

DOYLE

What are your orders Mr. Kelley?

KELLEY

Orders! Yes. Left full rudder. Hard left. Steady up on 240{two four zero}.

SEAMAN

Left full rudder Sir. Course heading, steady on 240 {two four zero} degrees.

KELLEY

Mr. Buckler, Don't you think your
Navy skills would best be utilized
on the rear 5 inch? Report Aft! On
the double.

There's a moment of pause.

BUCKLER

(With an obedience)

Rear 5 inch gun. Aye Aye sir.

As BUCKLER EXITS.

KELLEY

They want a fight? We'll give them
a fight! And will keep on fighting.
Steady as she goes.

DOYLE

Steady as she goes Sir.

As the roar of battle continues on:

FADE TO BLACK