



## JANUARY 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

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## SPECIALS

### BAKER BOYS: INSIDE THE SURGE TV-PG

**Four-Part Special Premieres Saturday, January 28 from 4-8 PM ET**

No war in the history of mankind has been more covered by the media than the Iraq War, though a steady tabulation of body counts, dollars spent, and political decisions. **BAKER BOYS: INSIDE THE SURGE** turns the camera away from the media glow in aiming to provide an accurate, honest and unfettered look at what the much-heralded "Surge" in Iraq really looked like on the ground. With story-telling from the point of view and in the words of the soldiers who fought in Iraq, the film delivers details and insight into the counter-insurgency effort that was the U.S. Army's blueprint for escalating efforts in Afghanistan.

### MISSIONS THAT CHANGED THE WAR: ENOLA GAY TV-PG

**Two-Part Special Premieres Sunday, January 29 at 9 and 10 PM ET**

Boeing's B-29 Superfortress was the most sophisticated propeller-driven bomber of World War II. Though intended for use by European crews, the aircraft also landed in the hangars of fleets around the world and would see heavy use on the Pacific. On August 6, 1945, it was a B-29 that dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Another Superfortress named the Enola Gay flew as the advance weather reconnaissance aircraft that day.

## PREMIERES

### AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE \*\* TV-PG

**Season 2 Premieres Saturday, January 7 at 8 PM ET**

Military Channel has signed Hollywood film and television star Lou Diamond Phillips to host the new franchise **AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE**. Debuting every Friday evening beginning Friday, April 1, **AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE** pairs Phillips with retired and active duty officers who lived through major battles or have an expertise in the conflicts depicted in notable Hollywood films. As each film makes its Military Channel premiere, **AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE** provides expert commentary that can only come from being "on the ground" during the action as these officers reflect on the themes of that night's film and also provide personal insight that puts each movie into a modern context.

- **Tora! Tora! Tora! Premieres Saturday, January 7 from 8-11 PM ET** "Tora! Tora! Tora!" is the Japanese indication to attack, and this epic film made in 1970 accurately recreates the events that led to its fateful signal over the waters of Pearl Harbor. With Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, and after internal differences in the government, the Japanese quickly

mobilize plans for an assault on the American military base. Key American personnel ignored warnings of the possibility of Japanese aggression. Governmental errors on both sides add to the confusion, but the Japanese ultimately carry out the deadly mission.

- **The Dirty Dozen Premieres Saturday, January 14 from 8-11 PM ET** The time period is 1944. D-Day is approaching. In addition to the overall invasion plan, the United States military has come up with an auxiliary mission designed to interrupt the German chain-of-command: raid a secluded mansion where high-ranking German officers often come with their mistresses, and kill everyone there. To accomplish this suicide operation, the army has decided to use twelve criminals who are either awaiting execution or who have been condemned to spend at least 20 years in prison. If the “Dirty Dozen” survive and distinguish themselves, their sentences will be commuted.
- **Guadalcanal Diary Premieres Saturday, January 21 from 8-10:30 PM ET** In 1942, a transport ship carrying a large group of Marines sails through the South Pacific. They are bound for Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, and land there a few days later. Japanese snipers make their presence felt as lone soldiers are killed, and tension rapidly mounts as the Marines grow restless to fight an enemy they cannot see. Later, as time passes, the troops become hardened by the battles, the constant fear of snipers and aerial bombardment, limited supplies and extreme conditions. On November 10, 1942, the 167th anniversary of the Marine Corps, three battalions make a major and successful push to eliminate the Japanese forces.

### **GREATEST TANK BATTLES** \*\* TV-PG

#### **Season 2 Premieres Wednesday, January 11 at 10 PM ET**

Military Channel’s action-packed series GREATEST TANK BATTLES revisits the front lines of battles waged by these weapons on wheels. Filmed on battlefields across the world and brought to life with stunning, ultra-realistic CGI animation, the show captures the maneuvers carried out by tanks in the most colossal combats of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Europe, Asia, and Africa. In each episode, viewers witness the gritty realism and experience the thunderous tanks from perspectives never before possible. The series is complemented by expert analysis of the tactical decisions behind each battle, including facts and figures on key technological advances and briefings on the circumstances that lead to each outbreak of combat.

- **France Premieres Wednesday, January 11 at 10 PM ET** At the outset of World War II, the Germans pioneered a new form of mobile armored warfare. It allowed the Nazis to unleash Blitzkrieg on Western Europe while thousands of Panzer tanks raced across rugged terrain, crushing Allied defenses and rolling over everything that stood in their path.
- **Bauer Premieres Wednesday, January 18 at 10 PM ET** After the success of the Blitzkrieg, young men across Germany flocked to the armored corps in search of glory and excitement, including one young German tanker who came face to face with the harsh realities of armored warfare.
- **WWI Premieres Wednesday, January 25 at 10 PM ET** In 1916, the British debuted a new mobile weapon in the hope of breaking a long, blood-stained stalemate on the Western Front with help from a new technology, the tank, that would change the face of the modern battlefield forever.

### **SECRET WAR** TV-PG

#### **Season 1 Premieres Tuesday, January 3 at 10 PM ET**

From May 1940 until June, 1944 Europe was overrun by the Nazis. While the Red Army engaged the Third Reich in the East, Britain and its allies stalled over opening up a Western front. Churchill tried to placate Stalin’s howls of rage by initiating a saturation bombing campaign of Germany. The allies also waged a deadly war on the ground. That war was secret. It involved countless acts of courage, ruthlessness, double dealing and betrayal. In a state of paranoid distrust, some people became double agents as they believed it the best strategy for staying alive. Some played both sides for the thrill of the danger. Featuring new material, original interviews, and reconstruction, SECRET WAR brings to life the underground operations and back-alley dealings that covertly changed the tides of World War II.

- **The Mafia Connection Premieres Tuesday, January 3 at 10 PM ET** After Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government conducted an urgent review of where it was weakest on information and informants. One pressing need was on the Atlantic Ocean, where Intelligence Services could not rely on information from U.S. fishing fleets because they were predominately run by distrusting Italians. Lucky Luciano, one of the most notorious mafia bosses of the 1930s, was languishing in jail in 1942 on charges of running prostitution rings, but he had the power to get Italians on the Atlantic waterfront to share intelligence on German U-boat movements. Seeing no other option, U.S. Intelligence made a deal with Luciano to free him in exchange for full cooperation of the Sicilian mafia to counter Hitler and sabotage Mussolini in ways that are still seeing effects in Sicily today.
- **Deadliest Design Premieres Tuesday, January 10 at 10 PM ET** Ratweek was an operation led by T section of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), which was based in Belgium. It was a nasty place to be a spy during the war as it was infested with double agents, like the notorious traitor Prosper de Zitter, who operated from Brussels throughout the war posing as a British Agent complete with a phony British network all of his own. However, he was in the pay of the Germans, tasked with luring airmen who had been shot down over the Low Countries into his safe houses and then handing them over to the Germans. He was successful at penetrating several British escape lines and was responsible for the deaths of at least one hundred airmen. To deal with people like de Zitter, SOE's Belgium operation – run by Hardy Amies, the man who later became the Queen's tailor – constructed Ratweek. It was a campaign of extra-judicial assassinations that allowed de Zitter to continue his bloody trade. Operation Ratweek's existence has always been denied, but SECRET WAR features evidence that it likely occurred.
- **The Avenging Force Premieres Tuesday, January 17 at 10 PM ET** The Special Interrogation Group (SIG) consisted of German-speaking Jewish volunteers from Palestine. They had a highly dangerous job of posing as Germans behind enemy lines to extract intelligence and commit acts of sabotage. Few had a long life expectancy as, if captured, they would automatically have been executed as traitors. To successfully adopt German aliases, they ordered two captured Afrika Corps soldiers, who claimed to be communist sympathizers before the war, to school them in the minutiae of Afrika Corps routines. In 1942, the SIG joined with the British Special Air Service on their first missions to attack Luftwaffe airbases west of Tobruk. The SIG posed as German Military Police to guard three truckloads of British POWs. They used the disguises to stop German convoys and gather intelligence on troop movements. The SIG then became part of the Pioneer Corps and constructed much of the infrastructure and airfields necessary after D-Day. At the end of the war, as they spoke fluent German, they became part of the administration of occupied Germany and took part in the identification and elimination of Nazi officials.
- **Double Agent Tricycle Premieres Tuesday, January 24 at 10 PM ET** Dusan Popov was almost certainly James Bond. With a love of risk and gambling, Popov somehow managed to persuade both the Germans and MI6 to keep him in the style of a millionaire businessman while performing a series of hair-raising missions against the Nazis. He also had Bond's appetite for women. Popov came from a wealthy Serbian family. Paradoxically, he was recruited by anti-Hitler agents of the Abwehr, the German Secret Service. MI6 then recruited him as a double agent serving the British. Recently many files were released about Popov, written by his MI6 handlers, that revealed he passed inaccurate assessments of British Military strength to the German, but gave accurate information on the effects of allied bombing to the British; warned U.S. Intelligence Services about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and set up a large and entirely fictitious spy ring for the Germans in Britain.
- **The Banker, the Norwegians and the Bomb Premieres Tuesday, January 31 at 10 PM ET** Sir Charles Hambro was a banker-turned-soldier from Denmark who won the Military Cross on the Western Front and, when World War II began, joined the Special Operations Executive. He was placed in charge of Scandinavia, where he was responsible for much of the spirited Danish resistance to the Nazis. In 1942, he formed a planning commission of the British and Norwegian governments to destroy the Nazis' heavy water plant in Norway. The plant was Germany's first

step on the path toward harnessing the materials for an atomic bomb, worrying the Allies that with such a source of energy in Nazi hands, the war could be prolonged. In February 1943, Hambro launched Operation Gunnerside, in which Norwegian commandos evaded the plant's tight security, blew up the essential machinery, and destroyed all the heavy water. None of the saboteurs were captured. Four stayed in Norway to help the resistance, and five managed to ski through mountains and escape to Sweden. It was one of the epic escapes of the Second World War. Hambro moved on to Washington to take charge of the exchange of technical information between Britain and the U.S., which led to the creation of the atomic bomb.

## **FINALES**

**TRIGGERS: WEAPONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD** \*\* TV-PG

**Season 1 Finale Airs Wednesday, January 4 at 10 PM ET**

Former Army Ranger and Air Force Pararescueman Wil Willis hosts TRIGGERS: WEAPONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD. Combining history, science, technology and cutting-edge expert testimony, this action-packed series examines the evolution of firearms and how the development of each firearm changed the face of combat forever. With access to the top firearms collections in the world, viewers follow along as Willis thoroughly examines, tests, critiques and fires each weapon, giving an all-inclusive look into each weapon's wrath. Slow-motion cameras and high-speed photography capture every moment of the bullet's trajectory, highlighting its explosive escape from the barrel to the powerful force the impact makes on its target. From the early days of gun duels to the high-tech weapons on the modern battlefield, this six-part series leaves no man-made killer unfired.

- **Rockets (Rocket Propelled Grenade - RPG) Premieres Wednesday, January 4 at 10 PM ET**  
Intended to give infantry units a means by which to destroy or disable armored vehicles and fortifications, the concept of a rocket as a military weapon dates back centuries. See how one weapon can turn a battle against insurmountable odds as TRIGGERS traces the history of hand-fired rockets from Chinese projectiles, WWII-era American Bazookas and their German counterpart, the Panzerfaust, to today's modern RPGs.

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