

Hell Below (Series 1)

6 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. The Wolfpack

July 1940. In the North Atlantic, a British escort pins down one of Germany's top U-boat captains. Otto Kretschmer and his crew face a barrage of underwater bombs that test their spirits and their submarine. U-99 survives the onslaught and its emboldened commander forges a reputation as a daring tactician who outperforms his fellow captains in Germany's first successful submarine Wolfpack attack. The Allies strike back with new anti-submarine technology bringing a high-stakes battle with Germany's U-boat aces to a dramatic climax.

2. Hilter's Revenge

December 1941—following the Japanese assault on Pearl Harbor, five Nazi U-boats set out on a secret mission to attack ships off the shores of the United States to thwart the American war effort.

3. America Fights Back

January 1943. America's submarine force struggles to gain an edge in the South Pacific. Dudley "Mush" Morton, Commander of USS Wahoo, sets out to turn the tide. The new skipper decides to take on an entire convoy. If he succeeds, he will be the first American submarine commander to claim such a prize.

4. Atlantic Showdown

March 1943. Two Allied convoys, HX.229 and SC.122 leave North America bound for Britain. They total nearly 100 ships carrying vital food and raw materials to supply the Allied war effort. John Gordon Luther commands the short-handed escort group charged with protecting convoy HX.229. Short at least two ships, he lacks adequate defenses for the mid-Atlantic U-boat attack that the Karl Donitz, Gross Admiral of the German Navy, has in store for them.

For three days the convoys are hammered by a merciless litany of torpedo attacks and an Atlantic winter storm. Many ships are hit and Luther is repeatedly torn between protecting the convoy or falling back to rescue survivors of torpedoed ships. It's the largest convoy battle of the Second World War and one that nearly costs the Allies the Battle of the Atlantic.

5. Destroyer Killer

June, 1944. Six allied commandoes spying on Japanese ship movement fall under threat when their covert operation is discovered by the enemy. Stuck in the jungles of occupied Borneo, the only hope for rescuing them is USS Harder, an American Gato Class submarine. To save the operatives, Commander Sam Dealey and his crew ply through waters guarded by a key Japanese Naval base, an act that pits the single submarine against dozens of warships. The daring rescue puts USS Harder's strength and stealth to the test.

6. Fatal Voyage

December, 1943. Fueled by the loss of mentor and friend Dudley "Mush" Morton, Richard Hetherington O'Kane and his submarine USS Tang set out to assault Japanese shipping. In four patrols O'Kane rises to the ranks of America's top submarine commander. But in the Formosa Strait his last Mark 18 torpedo turns against him. As O'Kane's submarine meets its end, an unforgettable fight to survive begins.