

HERO OF THE SKIES

An Interactive Experience

Written by
Dan Wolpow

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Before the experience begins, a RESISTANCE OPERATIVE hands the GUEST a medical package and a typewritten password on a piece of paper that reads:

"You've got the package. Head to the door and knock twice. When she opens it and says the Berlin phrase, respond with: 'Uncle Sam will show the way.'"

Before the Guest can ask questions, The Resistance Operator is gone. The guest is standing outside the side door of a rural airplane hangar. When the guest knocks, A RESISTANCE FIELD MEDIC peeks her head out of the door.

MEDIC

It's a long way to Berlin, but
we'll get there...

GUEST

"Uncle Sam will show the way."

If the guest fails to remember the password, or doesn't check the piece of paper, the medic can prompt with:

MEDIC

*I'm sorry, is there something else
you want to tell me?*

She opens the door. The Guest is escorted into the interior of the relatively dark hangar. Various decor elements and perhaps even a calendar suggest that the setting is sometime during an alternate World War I in a secret base of some kind. Newspaper articles adorn one side of the hangar walls. Music from a Victrola plays softly from somewhere in the large room. At center is the cockpit of a Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" biplane. Off to the side is a telegraph station where an OPERATOR sits, busily transmitting and receiving Morse code.

MEDIC

(Smiling)
Wait here.

She leaves. After a few moments, stirring music begins playing over the speaker system. An interior door opens, and HAROLD "HAL" RODGERS, a dashing young pilot with the Allied Resistance enters. He is appropriately dressed in aviator clothing, and holding his cap and goggles. He greets the Guest.

RODGERS

Sorry you had to get here so early,
but time isn't on our side.

(MORE)

RODGERS (CONT'D)

I'm First Lieutenant Harold Rodgers, but everybody at this point just calls me Hal. Look, we don't have much time for chitchat, but I wanted to take a good look at you. Not many people would have the courage to volunteer for a mission like this, so we're awfully grateful you're here. That medicine you're carrying could save a lot of lives...if we make it. I don't know how much they told you, but I've seen it there—in the Dark Zone—it's...it's worse than they're saying. The Kaiser's forces have the whole damn thing blockaded and they're just letting people waste away...and, you know, it's not even the Krauts we have to worry about from the air...anyway, come on, let's take a look at the map.

The music shifts to a feeling of anticipation, as they move to a large map labeled "The Dark Zone" (which appears to be centered around Lake Michigan) on the wall with two areas circled in red.

RODGERS

Those are two Resistance safehouses circled there. Point A is a shorter flight from our current location, but the approach makes it easier for anyone on the ground to see us coming. Point B means a stealthier approach, but it's also more time in the air. We've got our men at both locations waiting for a signal, so this one's your call.

The Guest picks a safehouse. If they fail to pick, Rodgers chooses Point B.

RODGERS

(To the Operator)

We're going with Point [name of point].

The Operator acknowledges and transmits a code. As a return message comes back, the Operator scribbles on a notepad.

OPERATOR

You're all clear at Point [name of point], Hal.

(MORE)

OPERATOR (CONT'D)

(To the Guest, grimly)
Good luck.

RODGERS

Hey, you've got me as your pilot,
and I'm pretty much the best there
is, so if anyone's going to get you
on the ground in one piece, it's
me. Come on, let me get you
acquainted with Jenny.

They move towards the plane.

RODGERS

This here is a modified Curtiss JN-
4D and we are lucky to have her.
No gun, a rusty engine, and she
ain't much of a looker, but this
little lady has saved my tail more
times than I care to recall. Hop
in.

The Guest enters the rear of the plane and takes a seat, as
Rodgers climbs into the front seat. Rodgers hands the Guest a
cap and goggles.

RODGERS

(As he flicks switches and
the plane's engine hums
to life and propellers
turn on)

Don't worry about all those
switches on your side, they're for
when I have a copilot and don't do
anything unless we need to run on
auxiliary power. Besides, I'm
guessing you've never flown one of
these before?

The Guest answers negatively.

RODGERS

Well, then you leave the flying to
me, and sit back, relax, and hang
on for dear life. Here we go!

The plane begins to accelerate and move forward, out of the
hangar, and onto a grass field serving as a runway.

RODGERS

Final systems check...all power
on...fuel tank at full
capacity...we are ready for
takeoff!

The plane reaches the end of the field and takes off into the sky.

RODGERS

Yahoo! I'll never get tired of that feeling. How are you doing back there?

The guest replies.

RODGERS

What? I can't hear you back there!

The guest repeats themselves.

RODGERS

Aw, forget it, we don't need to talk anyways. Just take it and enjoy the view while you can!

The plane is now flying in blue skies, over cornfields, suggesting somewhere in the American Midwest. The music reaches a lull.

RODGERS

We're actually flying right over my hometown. I used to go running in those fields when I was a kid. Back before the War, if you can believe it.

The music shifts to something more ominous. Five SKY PIRATE planes fly into view in the distance, zooming from left to right.

RODGERS

Oh, no, we've got company. It's Sky Pirates! Hang on, I know how to outrun these bastards.

Rodgers shifts a lever and the plane lurches, and the plane descends. The sky pirates match altitude and zoom from right to left. Machine gun fire, as the Sky Pirates let loose a hail of bullets. The wings of the plane take noticeable damage, as Rodgers dodges from side to side, and up and down to avoid the bullets.

RODGERS

(shouting)

Are you OK back there?

The guest answers affirmatively.

RODGERS

I can't hear you, but hold on tight, I'm going to lose them around these rocks.

Indeed, there is a series of cliff-side rocks in the middle of the water in the view ahead and Rodgers turns the plane wide, entering a narrow opening that requires precise flying. Two of the Sky Pirate planes move in front but they both can't fit in and crash into the rocks and explode on impact.

RODGERS

Holy cow, did you see that? That's two of them!

More machine gunfire from behind as Rodgers continues to evade. Looming in front at the end of the valley is a very tall hill dead ahead. Rodgers pulls hard on the flight stick to tilt the plane up.

RODGERS

Going up!

Rodgers and the Guest make it over the hill as two more of the Sky Pirates plans crash into the hill below them. The plane is over farmland now with even terrain.

RODGERS

I think we're clear, that should be all of them! The safehouse is just ahead!

A large barn on a farm comes into view. At that moment, the last Sky Pirate plane zooms way ahead in front, does a backflip, and flies directly towards Rodgers and the Guest, firing the machine gun and zooming off behind. The bullets take off half a wing, the engine stalls, propeller stops turning, and Rodgers winces in pain.

RODGERS

He's out of bullets! But..uh, crud, I've been hit! And...uh...we've lost main power. I need you to tell me right now that we don't have to panic!

The Guest tells Rodgers not to panic, or not.

RODGERS

OK, let's take this one step at a time. The wound isn't deep, but I need you to grab a bandage from the kit below your seat and wrap my right arm.

The guest pulls out a bandage and helps Rodgers dress his wound.

RODGERS

Don't worry, I'll be OK, but we need to get the auxiliary power turned on. Quickly, flip the three switches on your left side. Now!

The Guest does so. The power resumes and the propeller whirs to life again.

RODGERS

Good job! That solves that problem, but we've got another. I can't operate the controls, so you're going to have to land the plane. I'll talk you through it and can hit the brakes with my feet, but we need to switch seats.

Carefully, they switch places and now the Guest is sitting in the front of the cockpit.

RODGERS

All right, listen carefully. It's really simple. Just push the stick forward and the plane will move down. Keep it forward, and when I say, pull back as hard as you can, OK?

The guest confirms and pushes the stick forward. The plane rapidly begins to descend towards the field outside of the barn.

RODGERS

Keep going. Keep going...OK, pull up, pull up, PULL UP!!

The plane tilts up at the last moment, and skids along the ground. Rodgers hits the brakes hard and the plane comes to a halt.

RODGERS

YAHOO! You did it! You actually did it! You're a goddamned hero, you know that?

A RESISTANCE SOLDIER approaches the plane.

RESISTANCE SOLDIER
(Pulling Rodgers out)
Hal, you old bastard, you made it!
Are you all right?

RODGERS
I'll be fine, just a little worse
for wear. But don't worry about me,
he/she's the one that has what
you're looking for.

RESISTANCE SOLDIER
(To the Guest, while
taking the medicine
package)
Thank you so much for what you've
done, we're forever in your debt.

RODGERS
He/she's a hero!

RESISTANCE SOLDIER
A hero of the skies.

The music concludes and the experience comes to an end.