

Night Mission – 305 Bomber Squadron

Political mystery thriller based on the real fates of three Polish airmen fighting under Allied command during World War 2.

One spirals into a reckless act against the leadership he believes betrayed their cause, another rises in rank only to be executed in a Stalinist purge, and the third survives, only to face a life far removed from what they fought for.

Genre: Second World War historical drama / Political mystery thriller / Psychological drama

English working title: Night mission – 305 Bomber Squadron.

Format: Prestige limited Netflix style series (6 x 1 hour episodes) or large-scale feature film.

Language: Polish (dubbed or subtitled) and English, with French elements

Scope: Pre-war Poland – France – Britain – Communist post-WW2 Poland

CONCEPT

This is a prestige historical drama with international potential built on the intertwined fates of three real pilots from 305 Polish Bomber Squadron — men whose stories span the full arc of twentieth-century Polish tragedy, from the romance of early aviation in the 1930s to the Stalinist purges of the 1950s.

The film combines the operational intensity of a war drama, the moral ambiguity of a political thriller, and the intimacy of a character study. Combat sequences are grounded and experiential — the cold, the lack of oxygen, the flak outside the window, planes exploding — rather than aerobatics-driven. The emotional weight lies in what happens outside the fighting itself: in the gap between what these men fought for and the destinies that awaited them.

The structural device is the Polish Air Force Association club in Earls Court, London, 1956. Three men's stories unspool from there, mostly in flashback.

The series examines the collapse of an ideal through the lens of memory, survival, and what history leaves behind.

THE THREE AIRMEN

The story is principally structured around three real airmen whose parallel lives trace the spectrum of what the war did to the Poles who fought in it. Stories of other pilots and family members are also linked in.

Bohdan — *Squadron Leader, 305 Bomber Squadron – the disillusioned leader.*

A brave professional officer, wounded repeatedly, increasingly dependent on morphine.

Intelligent, proud and disillusioned, he becomes enmeshed in politics and one of the war's most tantalising mysteries. Appointed Polish Air Attaché to Washington, he accompanies General Sikorski, the deeply unpopular leader of the Polish government-in-exile, on a transatlantic flight and discovers a smoldering flare on the aircraft. Did he uncover an assassination plot or was he part of one? His death presents a mystery.

Stefan — *The True Believer*

A disciplined and principled officer, Stefan represents unwavering faith in duty and country.

Shot down and held in German POW camps for most of the war, he endures and returns home decorated. He is given a choice: stay in a free England, or return to his family. Choosing to serve in postwar Communist Poland, he rises rapidly, commanding the Air Force Academy at Dęblin. He is arrested during the Stalinist purges in Poland, tortured and executed in 1952 after a sham trial. His arc is the most tragic: a man who believed in his country to the end—and was destroyed by it.

Mietek – *The Survivor* – *Anchor character*

An early LOT commercial pilot * and reserve officer, Mietek stands outside the military elite – charming, impulsive, and driven by a love of flying rather than ideology. He adapts quickly to new countries, roles, and relationships—but his openness leaves him vulnerable. While others are destroyed by politics, Mietek is worn down by life itself: careless with money, quick to trust, as the world moves on without him. He survives the war as a decorated airman and remains active among fellow veterans in exile. Yet the life he built before the war has vanished. He ends up working nights at a petrol station in London: not defeated, but left behind.

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The series moves through three distinct registers.

The **first** is a more light-hearted sunlit world of interwar aviation, where young pilots are drawn to flight by adventure and freedom, being inspired by pioneer aviators.

The **second** portrays the psychological pressure of bomber warfare. This is set against growing political tension within the Polish command structure, despite the deep camaraderie within the squadron itself.

The **third** is the unsettled new order of postwar Europe, where victory brings neither resolution nor justice, and the meaning of sacrifice is quietly undone. The next generation will take over.

The tone contrasts the early romance of flight with the brutality of war and the muted disillusionment that follows. Combat is experienced rather than spectacular: excitement mixes with darkness, cold, confinement, and sudden destruction.

The emotional core lies outside the battles – where heroism meets indifference, and personal fates are reshaped by forces beyond individual control.

Apart from aerial shots, the story offers many cinematographic episodes at ground level. The visual presentation for each episode can emphasize its particular mood.

The central theme is betrayal — not by enemies, but by allies and by political pragmatism.

WHY NOW

The contribution of Polish bomber crews remains largely absent from popular war narratives, which have focused on fighter squadrons and individual heroics. Bomber warfare was a collective experience, built around crews who lived, fought and often died together. Their story offers a different understanding of courage: not always glamorous, more sustained, and inseparable from endurance and dependence.

There is continuous appetite for ambitious historical cinema through which nations reconsider their past and present their own history on an international scale. The large-scale two-part De Gaulle production presented at Cannes this year demonstrates that stories rooted in national memory and pride can be treated with cinematic ambition while reaching beyond their domestic audience. Poland possesses stories of comparable scale, complexity and emotional power.

PROVENANCE AND WHAT I BRING

One of the pilots, Mietek was my father. I bring to this project: the underlying story; primary research material; access to subject-matter experts and surviving contacts in Poland and the UK; the personal stake of a direct family connection; and a developed series overview with episode breakdowns available on request.

I am an originator, not a screenwriter. I am seeking creative rights and an international production partnership to bring this material to the screen at the scale it deserves.

MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Coincides with the upcoming centenary anniversaries of the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin (1927) and the 100th anniversary of the launch of Polish Airline * LOT's regular operations (1929).



A tribute to the bomber crews of the Second World War and their dramatic lives.