

1 UnBROKEN

- An Incredible Odyssey of Determination & Survival

2 The Epic Begins

- On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood.
- Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard.
- So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

3 The Epic Begins

- The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini.
- In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails.
- As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile.
- But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.

4 Louis Silvie Zamperini

- Louis Silvie Zamperini was born January 26, 1917 in Olean, New York to Italian immigrants Anthony and Louise Zamperini.
- When his family moved to Torrance, California, Louis spoke no English and became the object of bullies.
- Taught by his father on how to defend himself, Louis became a good street fighter and would impose his will on others.
- So much so, Louis became a bit of a problem for the police and through his big brother Pete, Louis was taught to channel his pent up energy into athletics.
- Then in High School, it was discovered that Louis was a born runner.

5 A Born Runner

- So gifted in running, Louis, while still in High School, in 1934, set a world interscholastic record for the mile, clocking in at 4:21.
- That record also helped Louis to win a scholarship to the University of Southern California and eventually a place on the 1936 U.S. Olympic team.
- At that time, Louis at 19 was the youngest U.S. qualifier in that event.

6 The Berlin Olympic Games

- On the ship to Europe, Louis tells the story of being a Depression-era kid, never even eating a sandwich in a restaurant.
- But on the ship to Europe for the Olympic Games and seeing all the food, Louis gained 14 pounds before getting off the boat.

- Louis roommates at the Olympics were Jesse Owens, and Mac Robinson—the older brother of Jackie Robinson who was the first black ball player to enter the Major Leagues.
- Zamperini finished eighth in the 5000 meter distance event, but his final lap of 56 seconds was so fast that it caught the attention of Adolf Hitler, who insisted on a personal meeting.

7 World War II

- When World War II broke out, Louis joined the Army Air Corps and was made a bombardier.
- He flew in a B-24 Liberator, which was a multi-engine heavy bomber.
- His squadron was assigned to the Pacific theater and was stationed in Hawaii.
- On one mission his plane was so shot up by Japanese fighters with over four hundred bullet holes, it had to be scraped.
- With no plane the crew was assigned to another shot-up plane that was barely able to fly. The name of that plane was “The Green Hornet.”

8 “SuperMAN”

9 Statistics

- During WW2 over 40,000 airmen were killed in combat and 12,000 men went missing and were later declared to be dead.
- More than 41,000 men were captured, half of the 5,400 held by the Japanese died in captivity, compared with one-tenth in German hands.
- During training 14,903 airmen were killed within the continental United States—40 per day.
- Total losses for all flights were 121,867 service men.
- Personnel peak during WW2 was 2,372,000.

10 WW2 Deaths

11 Search & Rescue

- One day, looking for a downed B-25, the Green Hornet lost an engine in flight, while switching gas tanks.
- The plane was only a thousand feet over the ocean some 850 miles west of Oahu.
- Instead of feathering the prop on the failed #1 engine, they actually feathered the #2 engine by mistake.
- Now having both engines on the left side without power, the resulting adverse yaw caused the plane to spin into the sea.
- Only three of the crew survived (Zamperini, pilot Russell “Phil” Phillips, and tail-gunner Francis “Mac” McNamara).

12 Lost at Sea

- With no food and little water, they floated in their two 6-foot rafts for a record 47 days.
- Initially on the first night McNamara panicked and ate all their provision.
- From then on they had to survive on captured rainwater, small fish, and the occasional sea bird.
- Every day sharks circled the raft and purposely brushed up against the raft to judge its content.
- At times the sharks tried to jump into the raft and the men had to use their oars to beat them off.

- Eventually the men get tired of this and started capturing the sharks by their tails and dragged them into their raft and ate their livers.
- At night, Louis would look up at the stars and prayed to God. He promised that if he would get him out of this trouble, he would serve him with his whole heart.

13 From Bad To Worst

- Then one day they saw an airplane flying over head.
- They shot off a flare and the plane turned toward them.
- Standing up in the raft they took off their shirts and waved them frantically—believing that at last they had been saved.
- But all of a sudden the plane started shooting at them.
- For 45 minutes the plane went back and forth trying to kill them, until it finally flew away.
- Several times Louis had to jump out of the raft to keep from being shot, then to only find himself defending himself against the sharks who were attacking him too.
- Miraculously, the men were safe, but now they were down to only one 6-foot raft and on the 33rd day, McNamara died.

14 Frying Pan to Fire

- On their 47th day adrift, Zamperini and Philips reached land in the Marshall Islands and were immediately captured by the Japanese Navy.
- They had drifted over 2,000 miles in their raft.
- They become POWs and were held in captivity and severely beaten and mistreated until the end of the war.
- Zamperini was held at the Japanese Prisoner-of-War Camp Ofuna and shared a barracks with Major Greg “Pappy” Boyington of Baa Baa Black Sheep fame.
- During Louis’ stay at Ofuna, the Japanese authorities wanted to use him for propaganda purposes since he was a famous Olympian.

15 “The BIRD”

- To soften him up, the Japanese put into Louis’ prison camp Corporal Mutsuhiro Watanabe—nicknamed “the BIRD.”
- The BIRD was one of the worst prison guards in the Japanese army.
- He was a sadistic psychopath who actually enjoyed and took pleasure in beating and berating the prisoners.
- He particularly had it out for Zamperini who was a famous athlete and use to strike him with his belt and belt buckle until Louis was unconscious.
- In one period of time, the BIRD beat Zamperini with his belt for 21 consecutive days.
- Unfortunately, Louis learned to hate “the BIRD” with all his heart and at night on his bed dreamed of one day killing him with his bear hands.

16 Liberation Day

- The prisoners in the POW camps knew little about how the war was going, except they noticed that the guards seemed to become more and more worried.
- The prisoners also noticed that with each seceding day more and more American bombers were filling the sky.
- Unbeknownst to them, the Japanese had issued orders to kill all POWs on August 15th, 1945.

- However, the war ended on August 9th, 1945 and the prisoners were set free with much rejoicing.
- Nevertheless, 35% of the POWs captured by the Japanese died in captivity or were put to death.

17 Louis Makes it Back

Home

- When Louis' family heard their son was still alive they became jubilant.
- In fact, the whole town of Torrance, California went crazy.
- They all welcomed their hero back with open arms.
- Initially, everything was great.
- Louis was asked to speak just about everywhere.
- However, something was bothering him and every night he had a reoccurring nightmare with his hands around the throat of Mutsuhiro Watanabe—the BIRD.

18 Cynthia

- Nevertheless, Louis met the girl of his dreams and they got married in 1946. Her name was Cynthia Applewhite.
- But to dull the pain of his anger and reoccurring nightmares, Louis turned to alcohol.
- Louis' addiction to alcohol became so great that he took the back seat out of the car so he could haul more booze.
- One night, Louis had a nightmare so full of hatred for the BIRD that he woke up to the sounds of screams.
- There he was on the floor with hands around his pregnant wife's throat.
- Cynthia left Louis and planed to divorce him.
- Louis was devastated.

19 Hope

- One day back in Los Angeles with Louis, Cynthia was invited by a neighbor in the apartment building to go see a revival tent meeting in the heart of LA.
- There was a struggling young man from Wheaton College who was trying to make it as an evangelist.
- So far, he was doing poorly and was about to give up too.
- He had only planned a short revival schedule and would be moving on in a few days.
- The name of this new evangelist was Billy Graham.

20 Tent

21 Newspaper Ad

22 Revival Service

- Cynthia couldn't get Louis to go with her, but she went anyway.
- She returned with a glowing testimony about how God touched her heart and bedded Louis to go with her.
- Finally he agreed and attended, but left shortly after the services and pledged never to return.
- However, he returned the next night and when the altar call was given this time Louis responded.
 - He was at the end of his rope.
 - Here was a man who could handle 47 days out in the open sea and survive.

- But he couldn't let go of the demon of hate and revenge that was torturing him every night.
- He wanted revenge on the BIRD more than anything in his life.
- Yet it was eating him up alive and alcohol was only making matters worst. In fact it was killing him too.

23 A True Conversion

- That night when Louis came home with Cynthia, he went to the kitchen and poured all his booze in the sink, all his cigarettes in the garbage, and the girly magazines in the trash.
- Louis was now a new man!
- That night when he went to bed, it was the first night in which there were no nightmares of the BIRD.
- In fact, since then, and Louis is now 93 years old, there have been no more nightmares at all.

24 Return to Japan

- Some years later, Louis went back to Japan and visited many of the guards from his POW days who were now in prison themselves for their WW2 atrocities.
- Louis wanted them to know that he forgave them.
- He gave them his testimony and preached to them through an interpreter the Gospel of Christ.
- He wanted to find the BIRD, but he was no where to be found.

25 Sugamo Prison

- Many of the war criminals who committed the worst atrocities were held in the Sugamo prison in Tokyo.
- The colonel in charge of the prison encouraged any of the prisoners who recognized Zamperini to come forward and meet him again.
- Zamperini threw his arms around each of them.
- The prisoners were somewhat surprised by Zamperini's genuine affection for those who had once ill-treated him.
- Most accepted copies of the New Testament and thanked him for coming.

26 Communion

- You can often know if someone is having nightmares by looking at the medication they're using to feel better.
- However, most medicines have side effects and can cause us to not only become dependent on them, but make us sick in other ways as well.
- As we take, Communion tonight let us remember who has the answers to all our problems, troubles, and nightmares.
- We can go to him for grace and he will never refuse us, if we are truly sincere in our faith and willing to leave all our sins at the foot of his cross.

27 The Life of Louis

Zamperini

- Louis' life is a remarkable story of fame, tragedy, and ultimately triumph.
- Many under his circumstances would not have made it.
- Louis almost didn't make it either until he confessed his need for God and made peace with him.
- Only then was his sanity restored and his troubling thoughts and nightmares left him.
- Neither did Louis need alcohol to medicate his soul as through God's forgiveness—a major healing had taken place.