

GUADALCANAL (TV EPISODE)

By

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FADE IN:

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SLEEPING QUARTERS - DAY

SUPER: "AUGUST 7, 1942."

Ben is alone sitting in the sleeping quarters. John came to see his brother.

JOHN THOMPSON

Are you looking forward to seeing brand-new torpedo planes against enemy carriers, Ben?

BEN THOMPSON

Yeah, the TBDs are useless against the Japanese Zeros and anti-aircraft flaks from the enemy fleet.

JOHN THOMPSON

Do you mean the four carriers we sank two months earlier at Midway?

BEN THOMPSON

Exactly, John. We need to find something for more speed advantage than the earlier one that Weston flown at Midway against the enemy carriers.

JOHN THOMPSON

Weston died at Midway. It was his last mission against the Japs.

BEN THOMPSON

I know, but what do we have inside the hangar deck?

JOHN THOMPSON

We have TBF Avenger torpedo bombers inside the hangar deck.

BEN THOMPSON

Really? I only see SBDs and
Wildcats inside the hangar deck.

JOHN THOMPSON

Follow me and I will show you.

The Thompson Brothers left the sleeping quarters to see new
planes at the hangar deck.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - HANGAR DECK - DAY

As the Thompson Brothers enter the hangar deck, Jack AND THE
ROOKIE are looking at new torpedo bomber.

JACK

John, Ben, this is James. He is a
torpedo bomber rear gunner.

JAMES

Hello.

JOHN THOMPSON

Hello, James.

BEN THOMPSON

Are you looking at the new plane?

JAMES

Yes, this is Grumman TBF Avenger.
It is faster, more powerful, and
more maneuverable than the
outdated TBDs. Also, it has better
firepower to shoot down enemy
planes at 500 feet.

BEN THOMPSON

Only 500 feet?

JOHN THOMPSON

Why 500 feet?

JACK

You can only do 500 feet without plunging into the ocean.

BEN THOMPSON

Like what?

JOHN THOMPSON

Like crashing into an enemy ship.

JAMES

That's the other thing too, John. Suicide mission is not an option for the US Navy.

Lieutenant Commander Lesile interrupts their conversation.

MAXWELL F. LESILE

There's no time for conversation, guys. The Guadalcanal Campaign is about to begin.

BEN THOMPSON

Guadalcanal?

JOHN THOMPSON

I thought we took care the enemy carriers at Midway!

MAXWELL F. LESILE

Not all of them, Son. There are two more carriers left that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

BEN THOMPSON

Two Japanese carriers from the Coral Sea?

JOHN THOMPSON

That's impossible! There's no way the Japs brought two carriers at Guadalcanal in a first place!

MAXWELL F. LESILE

And that's why we won't stop until
we sink the last two Jap carriers
and make them pay for what they
did to us at Pearl Harbor.

GO TO:

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

GO TO:

TITLE EPISODE: GUADALCANAL

CUT TO:

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - DAY

REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID gives the pilots for today's
briefing.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Our Marines are preparing for
their first amphibious assault at
Guadalcanal. Your mission is to
neutralize the Japanese defenses
on Tulagi Island so the Marines
can get through. Commander Lesile,
because of your bombload failure
at Midway, I'm going to give you
an opportunity to redeem yourself
at Guadalcanal. You'll lead the
SBDs to attack the Japanese ground
forces at Guadalcanal and make
sure you don't hit your own ground
forces.

MAXWELL F. LESILE

Yes, Sir.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

The rest of you, you are all
dismissed.

AMERICAN NAVAL PILOTS

Yes, Sir!

All American Naval Pilots exit the Ready Room to get ready for
their first mission at Guadalcanal.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GUADALCANAL - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, the United States Marines are preparing to land the beaches of Guadalcanal. The Marines also have LVTs to attack the Japanese soldiers at Guadalcanal. The American Warships bombard the Japanese defenses at Guadalcanal. The SBDs fly overhead as the Marines storm ashore at Guadalcanal.

INT. LESILE'S SBD - CONTINUOUS

Lieutenant Commander Lesile witnesses the Battle of Guadalcanal.

MAXWELL F. LESILE

(on radio)

Well, would you look at that! Our first land battle of the Pacific.

THEO

(on radio)

With all due respect, Sir, shouldn't we bomb the Japanese defenses?

MAXWELL F. LESILE

(on radio)

Oh, I almost forgot. All pilots, prepare for dive-bombing run on the Jap bunkers.

EXT. GUADALCANAL - CONTINUOUS

Commander Lesile leads the SBDs for a dive-bombing run on the Japanese defenses. The Japanese bunker is damaged by the American bombs letting the US Marines to secure the bunker and liberate Tulagi.

INT. CHOKAI - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - NIGHT

On the other side of the Pacific, VICE ADMIRAL GUNICHI MIKAWA is onboard the Japanese Heavy Cruiser, *Chokai*, as THE JAPANESE CAPTAIN heard the news about the American's first amphibious assault on Guadalcanal.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

Sir, we've lost control of Tulagi Island.

GUNICHI MIKAWA

(Speaking in Japanese)

So, it's true. It was the American's plan to liberate Guadalcanal, but however, we have the advantage on the sea against the American Fleet. Order our sailors for battle stations.

The Japanese Captain saluted to Vice Admiral Mikawa and exits the bridge.

EXT. CHOKAI - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - NIGHT

He gave the orders to the Japanese Sailors.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Calling out in Japanese)

All hands-on deck! Searchlights on! Signal the fleet! Prepare for battle stations!

The Japanese Sailors man their battle stations to meet the Americans at Savo Island. The Japanese Sailors turn on the searchlights for incoming enemy ships at Savo Island.

INT. CHOKAI - GUN TURRET - NIGHT

THE JAPANESE SAILOR loads some shells on the left gun turret.

JAPANESE SAILOR

(Shouting in Japanese)

Left gun shell!

More shells load the gun turret on the right.

JAPANESE SAILOR (CONT'D)

(Shouting in Japanese)

Right gun shell!

EXT. SAVO ISLAND - NIGHT

The Japanese Warships aimed at the American Heavy Cruisers with broadside attack.

INT. CHOKAI - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - NIGHT

The Japanese Captain enters the bridge.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

Admiral, our men are ready!

GUNICHI MIKAWA

(Speaking in Japanese)

Order OUR COMMANDING OFFICER to open fire.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

Open fire.

JAPANESE COMMANDING OFFICER

(Shouting through microphone in Japanese)

Fire!

EXT. SAVO ISLAND - NIGHT

Using the stock footage from Battle 360, all Japanese Ships open fire at the enemy cruisers. The American Heavy Cruisers fire back, damaging three Japanese Cruisers. One of *Chokai's* gun turrets is disabled by the Americans.

INT. CHOKAI - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - NIGHT

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

Admiral, our "A" turret is disabled!

GUNICHI MIKAWA

(Speaking in Japanese)

We still have plenty of guns! Aim for the weak points.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

Yes, Admiral.

EXT. SAVO ISLAND - NIGHT

Both sides continue firing each other until the Japanese sank three American Heavy Cruisers. The Japanese Sailors shouted "Banzai" for their victory over the US Navy at Savo Island.

INT. CHOKAI - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - NIGHT

JAPANESE CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

(Speaking in Japanese)

The Americans are retreating, Admiral. Shall we proceed to attack?

GUNICHI MIKAWA

(Speaking in Japanese)

No, Captain. Let them go. Report Admiral Yamamoto for our victory at Savo Island.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

Yes, Sir.

EXT. EASTERN SOLOMONS - DAY

SUPER: "AUGUST 24, 1942"

The American Fleet patrol on the Eastern Solomons at Guadalcanal.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The Thompson Brothers are having conversations while walking inside the ship corridor.

JOHN THOMPSON

Did you hear the news about our first Guadalcanal Campaign? We've lost the Battle of Savo Island to the Jap Navy. Not a signal warship sunk by our cruisers.

BEN THOMPSON

But at least we took control of Tulagi, Gavutu, and Tanambogo where the Japs construct naval and seaplane bases.

JOHN THOMPSON

Now we've taken control of these bases, there's only two carriers left we haven't sunk before: *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*.

BEN THOMPSON

But we didn't see the last two carriers at the Coral Sea.

JOHN THOMPSON

And that's why we're going to find them at the Eastern Solomons and sink them to the bottom of the sea.

LINCOLN

Ben, John, Admiral Kinkaid want to see both of you at the bridge.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE - DAY

Rear Admiral Kinkaid AND CAPTAIN ARTHUR CAYLEY DAVIS introduce A TORPEDO BOMBER PILOT of Task Force 16 to the Thompson Brothers.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Gentlemen, I'm sorry to hear about Weston.

BEN THOMPSON

That's alright, Admiral. He's the best TBD Gunner at Midway against the Jap Navy.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

May I introduce the TBF Pilot, Lieutenant Commander Charles M. Jett.

CHARLES M. JETT

Hello, boys.

JOHN THOMPSON

(Shakes his hand)

Hello, Commander Jett. My name is John. John Thompson and this is my brother, Ben.

BEN THOMPSON

Hello.

CHARLES M. JETT

So, you're the Thompson Brothers who missed out at the Coral Sea.

JOHN THOMPSON

I know. We didn't find two Jap Carriers at the Coral Sea, but we did find four carriers at Midway two months ago.

CHARLES M. JETT

Don't worry. We'll find the carriers and bring the Japs for justice.

BEN THOMPSON

For Pearl Harbor.

JOHN THOMPSON

For Weston and our friends.

CHARLES M. JETT

Then let's get on with the briefing.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - DAY

Rear Admiral Kinkaid gives another briefing to the naval pilots but this time, it's a naval battle against the Japanese Navy.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Gentlemen, you're going to attack the Japanese Forces once again, but this time, you'll be facing off against the enemy fleet at Eastern Solomons. Instead of attacking the enemy ground forces, you'll attack the enemy ships to prevent the Japanese airstrike at Guadalcanal. Your mission is to sink as many ships as possible before they can retake Guadalcanal. Lieutenant Commander Leslie will lead the Air Group once again. Ben and John, you'll be joining with your flight leader for a torpedo run at the Japanese Carrier *Ryujo*. The rest of the dive-bomber squadron will attack the Japanese ships, and our fighters will protect our fleet away from the Japanese Dive-Bombers. Get your planes ready and good luck to all of you.

They left the Ready Room to prepare for their mission against the Japanese Navy at Eastern Solomons.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

The Thompson Brothers climb onboard the TBF Avenger Torpedo Bomber for their first time against the Japanese Fleet. Ben Thompson is piloting the TBF Avenger while John Thompson is in the tail gunner position.

BEN THOMPSON

Wow! It's much better than the TBDs.

JOHN THOMPSON

I wish Weston would see this.

BEN THOMPSON

I was thinking of the same thing.

Ben closes the canopy and prepares for takeoff along with other TBF Avengers, SBD Dive-Bombers, and F4F Wildcat Fighters.

The *Enterprise* Air Group consists of 29 Wildcat Fighters, 35 SBD Dauntless Dive-Bombers, and 15 brand new TBF Torpedo Planes.

INT. CHARLES M. JETT'S TBF AVENGER - CONTINUOUS

At 5,000 feet, Charles leads the Torpedo Squadron and spots down below.

CHARLES M. JETT

(on radio)

Commander Lesile, we've located *Ryujo*.

MAXWELL F. LESILE (V.O.)

(on radio)

Roger, Commander Jett. Start your torpedo run at *Ryujo* so we can finish her off with dive bombing run at the carrier along with Jap Fleet.

CHARLES M. JETT

Roger. Prepare for torpedo run.

Charles uses the flaps to slow the plane down without hitting the water. The rest of the Torpedo Squadron 3 are at 500 feet below the water. Suddenly, *Ryujo's* flaks burst all around the TBFs as he opens the bomb bay doors to get in range at the Japanese Carrier.

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S TBF AVENGER - CONTINUOUS

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Are we there yet, Charles?

INT. CHARLES M. JETT'S TBF AVENGER - CONTINUOUS

CHARLES M. JETT

(on radio)

Not yet, Ben. We need to get close to the Jap Carrier.

Ryujo continues firing at the TBFs with anti-aircraft barrage until the Americans are close enough within range for releasing torpedoes.

CHARLES M. JETT (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Steady.

The Americans are getting closer and closer until...

CHARLES M. JETT (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Now!

The Americans release their torpedoes and made a direct hit on *Ryujo*.

INT. MAXWELL F. LESILE'S SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

CHARLES M. JETT (CONT'D) (V.O.)

(on radio)

*Direct hit on Ryujo! I repeat,
direct hit on Ryujo! Now is your
chance, Commander Lesile!*

MAXWELL F. LESILE

(on radio)

Roger, Commander Jett. We're ready
for a dive-bombing run on *Ryujo*.

Lesile and the SBDs dive-bomb at the Japanese Carrier *Ryujo* and sinks the enemy carrier to the bottom of the sea before the Japanese anti-aircraft gun was fired a single flak at the American Dive-Bombers.

INT. RAY DAVIS' SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

Meanwhile, LIEUTENANT RAY DAVIS leads the Bombing 6 while LIEUTENANT TURNER F. CALDWELL leads the Scout 5.

RAY DAVIS

(on radio)

Turner, do you see any ships?

INT. TURNER F. CALDWELL'S SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

TURNER F. CALDWELL

(on radio)

Roger. I see three Jap transports and a Jap destroyer. The Japs brought reinforcements to retake Guadalcanal.

INT. RAY DAVIS' SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

RAY DAVIS

(on radio)

Prepare for a dive-bombing run at the enemy ships. We can't let them reach Guadalcanal!

The SBDs split up the formation. Lieutenant Davis leads the Bombing 6 for a dive-bombing run at the Japanese destroyer while Lieutenant Caldwell leads the Scout 5 for a dive-bombing run at three Japanese transport ships. The Japanese destroyer *Mutsuki* unleashes the anti-aircraft barrage at Davis and his 16 SBDs. Caldwell and his 17 SBDs concentrate at the lead transport ship. The bombs hit the lead Japanese transport ship preventing the Japanese Soldiers retake Guadalcanal from the Americans. The rest of the SBDs sank the Japanese Destroyer leaving two remaining enemy transport ships untouched.

INT. TURNER F. CALDWELL'S SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

TURNER F. CALDWELL

(on radio)

Enemy lead transport ship sunk! I repeat, enemy lead transport ship sunk!

INT. RAY DAVIS' SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

RAY DAVIS

(on radio)

Good work, Caldwell! Two ships are enough for us. All pilots return to the *Enterprise* immediately.

BEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

(yelling over the radio)

*We're too late! Our carrier is
under attack!*

RAY DAVIS

(yelling on radio)

What?! The Japs are attacking
*Enterprise?! Why didn't you tell
us?*

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S TBF AVENGER - CONTINUOUS

BEN THOMPSON

(yelling on radio)

Our Wildcats are attacking a group
of Val Dive-Bombers, but the Japs
brought their fighter escort to
protect the dive-bombers to reach
our carrier first!

RAY DAVIS (V.O.)

(yelling on radio)

*Then don't just stand there! Do
something!*

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Calm down, Davis! We'll teach the
Japs a new lesson!

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

A new lesson? What new lesson?

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Bomber vs. bomber dogfight. Let's
show our TBF to dogfight against
another bomber.

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Don't be a fool, Ben! This plane
isn't designed to be a dogfighter!

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Watch and learn, John. If dogfight
means fighter vs. fighter, then
it's going to be a low-level
bomber dogfight against the Japs.

So, Ben decides to dogfight against a pair of Val Dive-Bombers
with maximum speed. Ben opens fire at the fleeing Val Dive-
Bombers with a single .50 caliber machine gun on the nose.
Splash one Val Dive-Bomber and only one Val to go. Ben stays
with the Japanese Val to get in range. He lines it up and fires.
The last Val plunges into the water.

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

You did it, Brother!

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

We did it.

SFX: AIRCRAFT ENGINE SPITTERS

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Uh, Ben? We're running low on
fuel.

C.O.: FUEL GAUGE INDICATOR

BEN THOMPSON

(shouting on radio)

What?! Why didn't you tell me,
John?

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

We have no choice but to ditch!

BEN THOMPSON

(shouting on radio)

Brace yourself!

The TBF ditches into the water.

EXT. BEN THOMPSON'S TBF AVENGER - DAY

The Thompson Brothers got off the doomed plane and set their life rafts for their safety until PBY came to rescue the Thompson Brothers.

PBY OFFICER

(shouting)

You guys need a lift?

THE THOMPSON BROTHERS

(shouting)

Yes!

PBY OFFICER

(shouting)

Then come with me if you guys want to live!

The Thompson Brothers did. The PBY flies off to Henderson Field for their safety.

INT. HENDERSON FIELD - TENT - DAY

Ben Thompson woke up inside the tent. He had never seen the airfield at Guadalcanal before!

BEN THOMPSON

What? Where am I?

JOHN THOMPSON (V.O.)

We're at Henderson Field.

BEN THOMPSON

(gasps)

John? How did we end up here?

JOHN THOMPSON

Our carrier was damaged while defend the CAP from the Jap squadron.

BEN THOMPSON

The Zeros?

JOHN THOMPSON

Exactly. The Japs escort Val Dive-Bombers to sink the *Enterprise* but they failed.

BEN THOMPSON

Failed?

JOHN THOMPSON

Yes, thanks to our Wildcat Fighters, our carrier sets off to Pearl Harbor.

BEN THOMPSON

What about the *Hornet*?

JOHN THOMPSON

We don't know where the *Hornet* is, but we do know what the Japs are up to.

BEN THOMPSON

Look on the bright side, John. At least we sank four Jap carriers at Midway.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yes, but we failed to reach the last two remaining that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

BEN THOMPSON

You mean the *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*
that sank the *USS Lexington* at the
Coral Sea?

JOHN THOMPSON

Yes, I wish the *USS Enterprise*
will return to the Pacific before
it gets worse.

TWO US MARINE COMMANDERS visit inside the tent.

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

Are you two guys who served the
Enterprise's Air Group?

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, General Vandegrift. Our
carrier took some bomb hits from
the Japanese while the Wildcats
intercept the Jap squadron
defending the CAP.

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

I know it's hard for you two, but
you must wait for a long time
until you guys are ready for
action.

JOHN THOMPSON

But how can we stay here for a
long time if the Japs keep coming
and coming?

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

Two months.

BEN THOMPSON

Two months?

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

That's right. Your carrier is at
Pearl Harbor for repairs.

JOHN THOMPSON

But we can't stay here all day
long!

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

I'm sorry, John. There's nothing
we can do about it.

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

We only serve the Marine Corps to
defend our airfield.

BEN THOMPSON

The Marine Corps?

JOHN THOMPSON

But, General, we served in the US
Navy.

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

Navy, huh? Major General Rupertus
and I served in the Marine Corps
at Henderson Field to keep the
Japs away from our airfield.

BEN THOMPSON

Just like we did at Pearl Harbor
last year.

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

Exactly, but this time, we have
planes on the airfield and anti-
aircraft guns in case the Japs
attack us.

JOHN THOMPSON

Where's Jack?

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

He's at Pearl Harbor with Rear
Admiral Kinkaid and Captain Arthur
Davis.

EXT. PEARL HARBOR - DAY

While the *USS Enterprise* is in repairs, Jack is having a conversation with Rear Admiral Kinkaid and Captain Arthur Davis about the Thompson Brothers.

JACK

The Thompson Brothers are at Henderson Field?

ARTHUR CAYLEY DAVIS

I'm afraid it is, Jack. You have two months to find NEW RECRUITS until our carrier is repaired.

SWEDE VEJTASA (V.O.)

No need, Jack. I already found new recruits.

JACK

Swede? How did you get here and where's your gunner?

SWEDE VEJTASA

Walter is not my gunner anymore. I transferred to your fighter squadron of *USS Enterprise*.

JACK

So, does that mean-?

SWEDE VEJTASA

USS Yorktown is sunk at Midway.

JACK

And who are those guys?

SWEDE VEJTASA

This is Caden and Noah. They're the SBD dive-bomber crew of *USS Enterprise* while the Thompson Brothers are away.

CADEN

Hello Jack.

JACK

Hello, Caden.

CADEN

You must be a Wildcat Pilot of *USS Enterprise*.

JACK

That's right. I've lost Weston at Midway and four friends at Pearl Harbor.

NOAH

I'm sorry to hear that, Jack. Perhaps Caden and I will prepare for a dive-bombing mission for them once our carrier is fully repaired.

JACK

Thank you, Noah. Call the Thompson Brothers at Henderson Field on the phone.

NOAH

Alright, Jack. I'll call them if the *Enterprise* is repaired.

CADEN

Can I go with Noah?

JACK

OK, Caden. You can do that. I'll keep an eye on her, but don't take too long.

CADEN

We'll do.

With *USS Enterprise* undergo repairs, Jack watches as the crew repair the bomb damage on the cripple carrier waiting for her back in action at Guadalcanal Campaign against the Japanese Empire.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END