

THE GRIM REAPERS

**By**

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FADE IN:

**INT. HENDERSON FIELD - TENT - DAY**

**SUPER: "OCTOBER 23, 1942."**

It's been two months since the *USS Enterprise* was damaged at Eastern Solomons where the Thompson Brothers are sitting next to each other.

BEN THOMPSON

Man, this sucks. I can't believe the Japs almost sank our carrier at Eastern Solomons.

JOHN THOMPSON

Same here, but instead, we've got what we deserved. We've sank the Jap carrier and entering a dogfight with two Val Dive-Bombers at 500 feet wasn't a good idea at all.

BEN THOMPSON

Look on the bright side, John. At least we're still alive and the PBV saves us from drowning.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yeah, we're stuck at Henderson Field, but luckily for us, our Marines took control of Guadalcanal.

**SFX: AIRPLANES APPROACHING**

They heard the American planes landed at Henderson Field.

**EXT. HENDERSON FIELD - DAY**

TWO MARINE CORPS PILOTS, JEFFERSON DEBLANC AND JAMES SWETT climb down from their Wildcat fighters after completing their intercept mission.

BEN THOMPSON

Are you two guys part of the US Navy?

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

No, we're part of the US Marine Corps.

JOHN THOMPSON

A Marine Corps? I never heard of the Americans serve the Marine Corps for a long time.

JAMES SWETT

And you two must be the pilots of the US Navy.

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, we're the Thompson Brothers. I'm Ben and this is my brother, John.

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

My name is DeBlanc. Jefferson DeBlanc, but you can call me Jeff.

JAMES ELMS SWETT

And I'm James Swett. We just heard that you two fought the Japs at Eastern Solomons.

JOHN THOMPSON

We've flown the TBF Avenger and sank the Jap carrier, but we've gotten into a dogfight between our TBF and a pair of Val Dive-Bombers.

JAMES SWETT

Wait a minute! I couldn't fight the Japs with TBF like that!

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

Yeah, I didn't know that you two are fighting against...

(MORE)

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC (CONT'D)

...the Japs with your torpedo-bomber, but James and I hold off the Japs at Guadalcanal to ensure none of them reach Henderson Field.

BEN THOMPSON

But how can we fight on land, air, and sea at the same time?

JAMES SWETT

The Japs brought bombers to neutralize our territory and Nagumo sent the carrier planes to avenge the Doolittle Raid at Tokyo.

JOHN THOMPSON

But what does that mean?

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

It means he has revenge on his own.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

CUT TO:

EPISODE TITLE: THE GRIM REAPERS

CUT TO:

**EXT. USS ENTERPRISE — FLIGHT DECK — DAY**

**SUPER: "OCTOBER 24, 1942."**

The *USS Enterprise* is back in action at Santa Cruz Islands where all the planes land on the flight deck. Jack climbs out of the Wildcat fighter where Swede is talking to Rear Admiral Kinkaid.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

So, you're saying that you want to be a fighter pilot?

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yes, I was flying as SBD Dauntless Dive-Bomber Pilot at the Coral Sea and starting a dogfight with the Zeros.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

And where's your rear gunner?

SWEDE VEJTASA

He's no use to me anyway.

JACK

He's right, Admiral. Swede's the one who survived the long odds at the Coral Sea.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

And who are these replacements?

JACK

That's Caden and Noah, a new replacement for the Thompson Brothers.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Well, in that case, Caden and Noah, you two will be assigned as Bombing 10. LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JAMES A. THOMAS will be your flight leader today at Santa Cruz while the Thompson Brothers are away.

CADEN

Don't worry, Admiral. Noah and I will take care the Jap carriers.

NOAH

I agree with Caden. Once we deal with the Jap carriers, Pearl Harbor will be avenged.

They went inside the sleeping quarters to meet Lieutenant Commander Thomas.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SLEEPING QUARTERS - DAY**

Lieutenant Commander was expected to see the Thompson Brothers, but he had never met two new recruits before.

JAMES A. THOMAS

I was hoping for the Thompson Brothers return to *USS Enterprise*. Why are you two here?

CADEN

Because we're the Thompson Brothers' replacements.

JAMES A. THOMAS

Oh, it's good to see you, guys. I'm Lieutenant James A. Thomas, leader of Bombing 10.

NOAH

And I'm Noah and this is my rear gunner, Caden.

CADEN

Hello Thomas.

JAMES A. THOMAS

It's nice to see you, Caden and Noah. Swede told me that they fail to sink two Jap carriers at the Coral Sea, so I will be your flight leader to attack the Jap Carrier Fleet at Santa Cruz.

**EXT. SANTA CRUZ - DAY**

Suddenly, the Japanese Pete Floatplane spots the American Carrier that bombed Tokyo months ago.

**INT. F1M PETE FLOATPLANE - DAY**

JAPANESE FLOATPLANE REAR GUNNER

(Speaking in Japanese)

*We found two enemy carriers! I  
repeat, two enemy carriers!*

JAPANESE FLOATPLANE PILOT

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Send Admiral Nagumo a message!*

JAPANESE FLOATPLANE REAR GUNNER

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Right away!*

**INT. IJN SHOKAKU - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - DAY**

THE JAPANESE CAPTAIN gives the message to Vice Admiral Nagumo.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Admiral, our floatplane spots two  
enemy carriers at Santa Cruz.*

Vice Admiral Nagumo looks at the message.

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*So, you're saying that one of the  
enemy carriers that bombed Tokyo  
months ago as payback?*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Speaking of payback, Admiral, it  
was the enemy carrier, Hornet,  
which participated on the American  
bombing raid at Tokyo.*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Then, gather all the pilots to the ready room. I'll be there to give a briefing to the pilots on their mission at Santa Cruz.*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*But who's going to oversee our Strike Force?*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*You're in charge now, Captain. I won't be long.*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Yes, Sir!*

Vice Admiral Nagumo left the Admiral's Bridge leaving the Japanese Captain in charge of the Japanese Strike Force.

**INT. IJN SHOKAKU - READY ROOM - DAY**

**SUPER: "OCTOBER 25, 1942."**

Vice Admiral Nagumo gives the briefing to the Japanese pilots and bomber crew by using the map of Santa Cruz.

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Pilots, we have learned one of the American carriers bombed Tokyo months ago and now the enemy fleet are defending Santa Cruz to prevent us from our invasion of Guadalcanal.*

(MORE)



CHUICHI NAGUMO (CONT'D)

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Your mission is to sink the enemy carriers and break through their defenses. This will allow our ground forces to retake Guadalcanal and drive the Americans off the island. LIEUTENANT HIDEKI SHINGO, you'll lead your fighter squadron to protect our carrier fleet. MAMORU SEKI, you and Lieutenant Commander Murata will attack the enemy carriers with torpedoes and bombs. I'll see you all tomorrow. Dismissed.*

The Japanese left the ready room.

**INT. HENDERSON FIELD - TENT - NIGHT**

At night, Ben Thompson is talking on the phone.

BEN THOMPSON

Noah? Are you flying for us tomorrow morning?

NOAH (V.O.)

Yeah, you and your brother weren't there, so Caden and I are going to take your place for dive-bombing mission at the Jap carriers at Santa Cruz.

BEN THOMPSON

Santa Cruz?! But that's *our* job, not yours!

NOAH (V.O.)

Well, that's too bad, Ben! You both are going to miss out Santa Cruz against the Jap Striking Force.

BEN THOMPSON

But you haven't been there since  
the Attack on Pearl Harbor!

NOAH (V.O.)

Ben, I know you want your revenge  
but going after the Jap carriers  
won't solve anything. You and your  
brother must find your solution to  
prevent the Jap invasion of  
Henderson Field.

BEN THOMPSON

What solution?

NOAH (V.O.)

Use your weapons to hold off the  
Jap Invaders at Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

Thank you, Noah. We'll promise to  
save our men at Henderson Field as  
long as possible before the Japs  
retake the airstrip. Goodbye.

NOAH (V.O.)

Goodbye.

Ben hung up the phone as his brother, John, had some bad news.

JOHN THOMPSON

Ben! We've got a problem!

BEN THOMPSON

What problem?

JOHN THOMPSON

The Japs are attacking our  
airfield!

BEN THOMPSON

Alright, then. Let's go!

The Thompson Brothers grab their weapons to delay the Japanese attack.

**INT. HENDERSON FIELD - TRENCH - NIGHT**

The United States Marines fortify their position Henderson Field with their artilleries and machine guns. The Americans also use the captured coastal guns to fool the Japanese attackers. The shells hit the Japanese Fleet as the enemy forces board the landing crafts to reach Guadalcanal undetected. The Japanese storm ashore at Guadalcanal to retake Henderson Field for their retaliation against the Americans.

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

Cease fire! Cease fire!

The Marines hold their fire.

JOHN THOMPSON

General Vandegrift, what's going on?

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

The Japs wanted our airfield to retake Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

Then that would mean the Japs will be able to land on the airstrip instead of using their carriers.

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

So, it's best if you two stay here with us until the Jap reinforcements are gone.

JOHN THOMPSON

Don't worry, we'll be there right with you.

Suddenly, the Japanese Fleet bombard Guadalcanal as the enemy forces prepare for a banzai charge at the Marines with bayonets and one of the soldiers is carrying a katana.

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

Here they come!

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

Open fire!

The Marines open fire at the Japanese soldiers with their rifles and machine guns before the attackers reach the American defenses. They also use their rifles and shotguns to repel the Japanese forces. The Japanese soldier shouts with his katana sword, but John shoots him with his pistol. Wave after wave, the tracer rounds kill more Japanese soldiers until the machine gun ran out of ammunition.

MARINE

General! We're out of ammo!

ALEXANDER VANDEGRIFT

Then use the rifles to hold them off!

MARINE

But there are too many of them!

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

Ben, John, can you two get more ammo for us please?

BEN THOMPSON

Don't worry! We'll get fresh ammo in no time.

JOHN THOMPSON

Come on, Ben. Let's get the ammo.

BEN THOMPSON

I'll cover you, Brother.

JOHN THOMPSON

Alright, let's get moving.

The Thompsons left the American defenses.

**INT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS**

**SFX: CRICKETS CHIRPING**

In the deep jungle of Guadalcanal, the Thompson Brothers found the ammo not far from Henderson Field.

BEN THOMPSON

Oh, well, that's the fresh ammo we have. So, let's get moving.

JOHN THOMPSON

Ben, look out!

The Japanese soldier charges and hits Ben with the back of his rifle. John manages to shoot the Japanese soldier with his pistol to save his brother's life.

BEN THOMPSON

Thank you for saving me, Brother.

JOHN THOMPSON

There's no time to talk! We must hurry if we want to survive!

BEN THOMPSON

I'm on it, bro! You can count on me!

**INT. HENDERSON FIELD - TRENCH - NIGHT**

**SFX: GUNFIRE CONTINUES**

The Marines hold them off with their firearms until the Thompson Brothers arrive at Henderson Field.

JOHN THOMPSON

Sir, we've got the ammo!

WILLIAM RUPERTUS

Good work, you two! Men, load your weapon!

The Marines load the .50 caliber bullets on the machine gun. The .50 caliber machine gun is loaded and fire at the incoming Japanese soldiers. The Battle of Henderson Field is over. Out of 20,000 Japanese soldiers, the 17<sup>th</sup> Army lost 2,200 to 3,000 soldiers during their assault on Guadalcanal.

**SUPER: "OCTOBER 26, 1942."**

The next morning, the Thompson Brothers look at the dead bodies of Japanese soldiers until Ben picks up the Japanese katana sword.

BEN THOMPSON

Hey John! Look what I found!

Ben gives a katana to his brother.

JOHN THOMPSON

It's the Jap Officer's samurai sword!

BEN THOMPSON

Why would the Japs use their sword to lead the attack our airfield instead of using their bayonets?

JOHN THOMPSON

Because the Jap Officers use their swords for their melee attack against us.

BEN THOMPSON

That's a long time ago, John. They only used their katana swords against their foes during the Middle Ages.

JOHN THOMPSON

But history repeats itself, Ben, especially in the Pacific War between us and the Japs.

BEN THOMPSON

Speaking of history, where's our carrier?

JOHN THOMPSON

Our carrier is at the Santa Cruz Islands and the Japs know where our carriers are!

BEN THOMPSON

No! It can't be! Not the carriers!  
We can't those Japs find our  
carriers!

JOHN THOMPSON

Then it's our chance to escape  
from Henderson Field. Let's go!

**EXT. IJN SHOKAKU - FLAG BRIDGE - DAY**

Vice Admiral Nagumo watches as 45 Japanese Bombers prepare for  
takeoff.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Our planes are armed and ready,  
Admiral.*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Prepare to launch our planes,  
Captain.*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Yes, Admiral.*

**EXT. IJN SHOKAKU - FLIGHT DECK - DAY**

Using the stock footage from *Battle 360*, the Japanese planes  
takeoff from the Japanese carriers.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - DAY**

The American Fleet are inside the cloud cover undetected.  
CAPTAIN OSBORNE B. HARDISON was worried about the fleet getting  
lost in cloud cover.

OSBORNE B. HARDISON

Admiral, our fleet is out of  
position.

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Where's the *Hornet*?

OSBORNE B. HARDISON

The Japs are targeting her at  
Santa Cruz!

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Send our fighters, now!

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SHIP'S CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS**

Jack, Swede, Noah, and Caden are in the ship's corridor until-

**SFX: GENERAL QUARTERS SOUND ALARM**

OSBORNE B. HARDISON (V.O.)

PILOTS, THIS IS CAPTAIN HARDISON  
SPEAKING! *HORNET* IS UNDER ATTACK!  
I REPEAT, *HORNET* IS UNDER ATTACK!  
THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

JACK

Oh, shit! We're too late!

NOAH

Jack, where are you guys going?

CADEN

I thought we're going after the  
Jap carriers!

SWEDE VEJTASA

There's no time to talk, boys! The  
Japs already spot our carriers  
first! Get your planes airborne  
before it's too late!

Jack and the new recruits ran as fast as they could before the  
Japanese strike the carrier.

**EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAY**

Jack came to see HIS FLIGHT LEADER and Swede.

JACK (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on here,  
James?



JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR.

The Japs are attacking the *Hornet*  
to avenge our bombing raid at  
Tokyo!

SWEDE VEJTASA

You mean the Doolittle Raid?

JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR.

Yes, Jack! They know the location  
of *USS Hornet*!

JACK

We can't let those Japs to get  
revenge on *Hornet* for what we did  
at Tokyo and the same thing goes  
for them for hitting us at Pearl!

JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR.

So, we're even?

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yes!

JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR.

Then let's go! We don't have time!

The Naval Pilots scrambled to their fighters for their intercept  
mission.

**INT. MAMORU SEKI'S D3A VAL - DAY**

At 20,000 feet, Lieutenant Commander Mamoru Seki leads the  
formation of 20 Aichi D3A Val Dive-Bombers to attack *USS Hornet*.

MAMORU SEKI

(Speaking in Japanese)

*There's the enemy fleet and one of  
the carriers that bombed Tokyo!  
Prepare for attack run on the  
carrier!*

SHIGEHARU MURATA (V.O.)

(Calling out on radio in Japanese)

*We're too late! Enemy fighters are  
splitting up for interception!*

Lieutenant Commander Seki spots 17 F4F Wildcats intercepting Val Dive-Bombers.

Seki and his squadron take evasive action against the American Interceptors. It was a fatal mistake for the Japanese Dive-Bomber Squadron!

**INT. SWEDE'S F4F WILDCAT - DAY**

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

Knock out the bombers before they  
hit the target.

Swede opens fire at the Japanese Val Dive-Bombers with .50 caliber machine guns. Stock footage was taken from *Dogfights: Season 2* as the Val is shot down in flames. Then Swede downs another Val with .50 caliber machine guns blazing causing the Japanese Val to explode in pieces. Note the Wildcat fighter isn't accurate during the fight against the Japanese bomber formation. After the Grim Reapers took care of fleeing Val Dive-Bombers, the remaining Japanese Dive-Bombers went after *USS Hornet* with dive-bombing attack!

JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR. (V.O.)

(shouting over radio)

Swede, where the hell are you?

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

Enemy Dive-Bombers are taking care  
of. What about you, Commander  
Flatley?

JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR. (V.O.)

(shouting over radio)

The Japs stung *Hornet* with bombs  
as payback!

Commander Flatley was right! Swede watches in horror as *USS Hornet* was hit on her deck flight preventing the Americans to land on the carrier.

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

No, this can't be! Not the *Hornet*!

JAMES HENRY FLATLEY JR. (V.O.)

(on radio)

But the Kate Torpedo-Bombers are heading for *Enterprise*. You and the Grim Reapers must stop the Jap Torpedo Planes before we lose our carriers for good.

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

I won't let the Japs to get near her, Commander Flatley.

Swede leads the Grim Reapers to hunt down the Kate Torpedo Planes, leaving Commander Seki to make a suicide run on *USS Hornet*.

**INT. MAMORU SEKI'S D3A VAL - CONTINUOUS**

Commander Seki targets the *Hornet's* Island with diving speed. Seki crashes into *Hornet*, leaving her with an ambiguous fate.

**INT. SWEDE'S F4F WILDCAT - CONTINUOUS**

With Commander Seki gone, Swede is looking for a target, but this time, he spots five Kate Torpedo Planes heading towards the *USS Enterprise*. Swede is running low on ammunition, but he must make a shot count until the Thompson Brothers called over the radio.

BEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

(on radio)

Swede, we're right here to protect you.

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

Ben Thompson? How did you and your brother get here so fast?

**INT. BEN THOMPSON'S F4F WILDCAT - CONTINUOUS**

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

John and I got here just in time.

**INT. JOHN THOMPSON'S F4F WILDCAT - CONTINUOUS**

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

We'll take care of the Val Dive-Bombers you finish off with Kate Torpedo Planes.

**INT. SWEDE'S F4F WILDCAT - CONTINUOUS**

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

Don't worry, I won't let the Japs get near the *Enterprise*.

JOHN THOMPSON (V.O.)

(on radio)

Please be careful, Swede.

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio)

Roger that. It's time to save our carrier from the Japs.

Swede proceeds to attack the Japanese Kate Torpedo Planes to protect the CAP at all costs. He bobs and weaves to avoid the friendly flak barrage from the *Enterprise*. He pulls up and fires the remaining .50 at the Japanese Kate and kills the Japanese Pilot which was taken from *Dogfights: Season 2*. The smoking Kate plunges down towards the clouds. After shooting down three Japanese Torpedo Planes, Swede is out of ammunition after damaging the lead Kate Torpedo Bomber with engine smoking.

Swede is about to cut the Kate's tail with his propeller, Commander Murata commits suicide and crashes into the American Destroyer *USS Smith* by using a stock footage from *Battle 360*. Flames erupt on *USS Smith's* forecastle causing it to steer out of control.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE - DAY**

OSBORNE B. HARDISON

Admiral, one of our ships is heading straight for us!

THOMAS CASSIN KINKAID

Take evasive action!

AMERICAN SAILOR

Yes, Admiral!

THE AMERICAN SAILOR steer the carrier to avoid collision. Stock footage from *Battle 360* shows the *Enterprise* is spared from the battered destroyer.

**EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAY**

The Grim Reapers return to the carrier. The Thompson Brothers also landed safely on the carrier. Jack was surprised to see the Thompson Brothers again.

JACK

John? Ben? Where have you guys been?

JOHN THOMPSON

We ditched the TBF Avenger at Eastern Solomons, and the PBY crew picked us up to take us to Henderson Field.

JACK

Henderson Field?

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, we hold the line before the Japs retake Guadalcanal, but we didn't see the *Enterprise's* return to the Pacific at Guadalcanal.

JACK

Well, you two should be lucky that Japs didn't kill you both at Guadalcanal and now we've lost *Hornet* because of you two! Not only Lieutenant Commander John A. Collett and Lieutenant James are dead, but we're down with one goddamn carrier and none of the Jap carriers are sunk at Santa Cruz and it's all your fault!

JOHN THOMPSON

Take it easy, Jack!

BEN THOMPSON

What's done is done.

JACK

I'm going to report Admiral Kinkaid and have you two get court-martial for disobeying orders!

Jack angrily walks away.

**EXT. JAPANESE SHIPYARD - DAY**

It takes a long time to repair the Japanese Carrier at the shipyard. The Japanese Crew manage to repair the bomb damage on the flight deck as the Japanese Captain came to see Admiral Nagumo with a report on the Battle of Santa Cruz.

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Well? What is it?*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*We sank the Hornet at Santa Cruz, but however, none of our ships were sunk by the Americans.*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Gasps, then speaks in Japanese)

*Hornet is sunk. Are you sure,  
Captain?*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Yes, but-*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Keep an eye on our carrier.*

The Japanese Captain wasn't finish talking with Vice Admiral Nagumo yet. So, he decided to follow Admiral Nagumo side-by-side before leaving the Japanese Shipyard.

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*But Admiral, with the Hornet sunk  
at Santa Cruz, the Doolittle Raid  
is avenged.*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Then it's time to celebrate our  
victory over the Americans at  
Santa Cruz.*

JAPANESE CAPTAIN

(Speaking in Japanese)

*So, what's your next plan,  
Admiral?*

CHUICHI NAGUMO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*We may have won at Santa Cruz, but  
we'll have a bigger plan to defeat  
the Americans at Guadalcanal.*

Vice Admiral Nagumo left the shipyard while the Japanese Captain watches as the carrier is ongoing repairs.

FADE OUT.

THE END