

THE TOKYO EXPRESS

**By**

JASON SACCHI

Chang Suk Sacchi

42854 Lindsey Heights Pl, Ashburn, VA 20148

(571) 992-5285

jss29223@gmail.com

FADE IN:

**EXT. GUADALCANAL - NIGHT**

**SUPER: "NOVEMBER 13, 1942."**

One month after the Japanese victory at Santa Cruz, the American Fleet patrol the sea of Guadalcanal at night lining up one-by-one. The American Fleet consists of two heavy cruisers, three light cruisers, and eight destroyers.

**INT. USS PORTLAND - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT**

CAPTAIN LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE is onboarding the American heavy cruiser, *USS Portland*.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Captain DuBose, the Jap carriers are out of action last month at Santa Cruz.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

What about the other American carriers at Santa Cruz?

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

*USS Hornet* is sunk, Captain. Not a single Jap fleet sunk by the American Fleet nor pilots.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

Then it's time to redeem ourselves at Guadalcanal. Prepare to engage the enemy fleet.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Yes, Sir!

**EXT. GUADALCANAL - NIGHT**

As the American Fleet engage enemy fleet at Guadalcanal, the Japanese Fleet are approaching towards the American Fleet in confusion. Two Japanese warships lunate their searchlights to detect the American fleet.

**INT. USS PORTLAND - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT**

The American Captain spots the American light cruiser, *USS Atlanta* was targeted by two enemy warships.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

Where's the light coming from?

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

One of our warships is attacking  
two enemy ships.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

Prepare for battle stations,  
Captain!

The American Sailors man their battle stations and load their armor piercing shells inside the gun turrets.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Sir, we're ready.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

Open fire!

**EXT. GUADALCANAL - CONTINUOUS**

Using the stock footage from *Battle 360*, the American and Japanese fleet open fire at each other with their salvos. The *USS Atlanta* is the only light cruiser ends up in a friendly fire by the American heavy cruiser *USS San Francisco*. Two light cruisers and four destroyers are sunk, and four American ships are damaged by the Japanese Fleet at Guadalcanal. The Americans claim the Japanese battleship *Hiei*, and two Japanese destroyers. Three of the Japanese destroyers are damaged by the Americans during the epic naval battle at Guadalcanal.

DISSOLVE TO:

**TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES**

GO TO:

**EPISODE TITLE: THE TOKYO EXPRESS**

GO TO:

**INT. USS PORTLAND - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY**

Captain DuBose witnesses the carnage on both sides of Guadalcanal. *USS Portland* is crippled along with the rest of the American Fleet. The American Captain gives the report to Captain DuBose about the friendly fire incident at the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Sir, we have a problem.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

What is it?

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

We have a report that our light cruiser *USS Atlanta* sunk by one of our own while fighting against the Jap Fleet in a night battle at Guadalcanal.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

You mean that idiot ship sank one of our own?

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

The shells are coming from *USS San Francisco*.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

What?!

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Our Naval Officers Dan Callaghan, Cassin Young, and Norman Scott are killed in action.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

Send Captain McMorris for a court-martial.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Yes, Sir!

**INT. *USS ENTERPRISE* - MESS HALL - DAY**

Noah, Caden, and the Thompson Brothers are having breakfast.

BEN THOMPSON

So, how was Santa Cruz while we were gone?

NOAH

Caden and I dive-bombed the Jap light carrier.

JOHN THOMPSON

And?

CADEN

It didn't sink because we encountered the Zeroes and most of our bombers were shot down, but Lieutenant Edward B. Parker Jr. and two TBFs were damaged by Jap anti-aircraft guns and was escorted by Lieutenant Commander Henry G. Sanchez and his 37 Wildcat Fighters, but he crash landed on our carrier's flight deck.

BEN THOMPSON

So, this whole time, did Henry and his squadron escort three damaged TBFs to our carrier?

NOAH

Yes, they couldn't make it back to the *Hornet* so that's why they're here with us.

JOHN THOMPSON

That's good, but the problem is we're down with one carrier.

CADEN

Only one carrier? Nonsense! *Lexington's* sister ship, *USS Saratoga*, is only carrier that still afloat.

BEN THOMPSON

But we didn't get to see in action at Coral Sea, but we did see in action at Guadalcanal Campaign.

JOHN THOMPSON

Except Jack is fighting alone at Santa Cruz after we ditched the water at Eastern Solomons.

NOAH

And we thought you two were dead at Eastern Solomons.

CADEN

At least you flew the TBF Avenger torpedo plane for the first time at Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

But still, we won't leave the Pacific until we find the last two Jap carriers that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

NOAH

We're not after the enemy carriers, Ben! We're going to attack the enemy transport ships before the Japs get their supplies and reinforcements to retake Guadalcanal.

JOHN THOMPSON

But Noah, we've lost two goddamn carriers at both Midway and Santa Cruz to the Japanese Navy!

BEN THOMPSON

Yeah, not a signal Jap ship sunk at Santa Cruz!

CADEN

Guys, calm down! We'll get another chance to defeat the Japs at Guadalcanal. If we can stop the Japs before they reach our shores at Guadalcanal, then we'll concentrate with the Jap carriers.

BEN THOMPSON

Sounds like a plan, Caden.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yeah, let's hope we can pull this one off.

Jack hurries to the mess hall to warn the naval pilots about the American Heavy Cruiser *USS Chicago* at Rennell Island.

JACK

Guys, we've got bad news!

NOAH

What's a rush anyway?

BEN THOMPSON

Is it a squadron of Val Dive-Bombers?

JOHN THOMPSON

And Kate Torpedo Squadron that the Japs did to *USS Hornet* at Santa Cruz?

JACK

No! It's a group of Betty Bombers!  
The Japs attack *USS Chicago* at Rennell Island!

Noah, Caden, and Thompson Brothers follow Jack to scramble to their fighters!

**SFX: GENERAL QUARTERS ALARM SOUND**

**EXT. RENNELL ISLAND - DAY**

**SUPER: "JANUARY 30, 1943."**

The American Heavy Cruiser *USS Chicago* is already crippled by the Japanese Betties last night and now they'll hit her again at Rennell Island until Jack and the Wildcat Fighters prepare for intercept mission against the Betties. The Japanese twin-engine bombers carrying torpedoes to finish her off for good.

The Americans must do something before the Japanese Betties reach their target or this will be a same fate for the *Enterprise's* sister ship, *USS Hornet*, at Santa Cruz. The Americans lost the battle to the Japanese once and they'll won't lose it again.

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

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Betties dead ahead!

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

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Those Japs are trying to finish  
*USS Chicago* for good!

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

JACK

(on radio)

Then prepare to engage to  
intercept.

Stock footage from *Battle 360* shows the F4F Wildcats engage the Betties with .50 caliber rounds blazing leaving four remaining Betties attack *USS Chicago* helplessly. All four torpedoes hit *USS Chicago* while *USS Navajo*, the American Tugboat, attempt to tow the American Heavy Cruiser out of the fight, but it's too late! *USS Chicago* is sinking to the bottom of the sea, but luckily for the Grim Reapers, only two more Betties are shot down, but the other two escape from the Wildcat Fighters.

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

NOAH

(on radio)

Ugh! Not this again!

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



CADEN

(on radio)

Jack, we've lost *USS Chicago*!  
Repeat, we've lost *USS Chicago*!

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

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

At least the Japs didn't hit our  
carrier this time.

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

JACK

Return to our carrier, boys.

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

JOHN THOMPSON

What about the last two Betties?

JACK (V.O.)

(on radio)

Let them go. They're not worth it.

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Dammit! We're on our way, Jack.

The Grim Reapers return to the *Enterprise*.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SHIP CORRIDOR - DAY**

BEN THOMPSON

I can't believe the Japs defeated  
us again!

JOHN THOMPSON

Same here. First, the Santa Cruz  
and now the Japs won the Battle of  
Rennell Island. Could this get any  
worse?

JACK

Ben? John? Your sister and your father are working at Framlingham Airfield. Also, your mother is on the phone.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - OFFICE - DAY**

The Thompson Brothers went inside the office and Ben picked up the phone.

HELEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

Hello?

BEN THOMPSON

Hi Mom! How are you doing?

HELEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

Your sister and your father are in England.

BEN THOMPSON

England?

HELEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

Yes, my son. I'll meet you at Pearl Harbor after the Guadalcanal Campaign.

BEN THOMPSON

When shall we meet you at Pearl Harbor?

HELEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

Meet me next month.

BEN THOMPSON

Alright, Mom. I'll see you later and tell my brother he should come too. Goodbye.

HELEN THOMPSON (V.O.)

Goodbye.

Ben hangs up the phone.

JACK

So, is Helen Thompson your mother?

JOHN THOMPSON

Yes, Helen is my mom who married American Pilot in the Great War on the Western Front against the Germans.

JACK

Your father is an American Pilot?

BEN THOMPSON

He joined the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron under Captain Eddie Rickenbacker until he retired after Germany surrenders to the Allies. My dad is in his office at Framlingham Airfield.

JACK

What about your sister, Lucy?

JOHN THOMPSON

Lucy is in the operations room.

JACK

Intelligence room? Against Japan?

BEN THOMPSON

Against Germany.

JACK

So, you and your family are at war against the Axis Powers?

JOHN THOMPSON

Exactly, Jack. Before the Day of Infamy, there were five of you and now you're the only one left who survived the Pearl Harbor attack.

JACK

It's hard to say, John. I lost four of my friends at Pearl Harbor, Weston was killed at Midway and now, you two were missing at Henderson Field.

BEN THOMPSON

At least Noah and Caden replaced us at Santa Cruz except the Japs beat us not once but twice.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yeah, defending our CAP is no fun against the Japs.

JACK

Then it's time to go on the offensive at Guadalcanal.

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

**SUPER: "JANUARY 31, 1943."**

Using the *Battle 360* stock footage, the SBD Dauntless Dive-Bombers take off from the carrier to disrupt the Japanese supply ships at Guadalcanal.

**EXT. GUADALCANAL - DAY**

Stock Footage from *Dogfights: Season 1* shows eight Wildcat Fighters from Cactus Air Force escorting 12 SBDs to their target.

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

WILDCAT PILOT #1 (V.O.)

(on radio)

Jeff, I'm about to stall out. I'm heading back.

WILDCAT PILOT #2 (V.O.)

(on radio)

My fuel pressure gauge is malfunctioning.

Jeff DeBlanc watches as two Wildcats are out of the fight.

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Hey, SECREST, are you turning back  
as well?

**INT. JIM SECREST'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JIM SECREST

(on radio)

Not yet, Lieutenant. My plane  
feels a little rickety.

**INT./EXT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Forget the fuel gauge, SECREST. We  
need all the guns we can get in  
case the Zeroes approach the SBDs  
or there will be a lot of  
causalities and speaking of  
causalities, my plane is leaking  
fuel. Looks like my *Impatient*  
*Virgin* is running out of patience.

Jeff DeBlanc was right. His Wildcat Fighter was leaking fuel,  
but he stays with five Wildcats for escort mission until STAFF  
SERGEANT JIM FELITON calls over the radio.

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JIM FELITON

(on radio)

Bandits! 2 o'clock low!

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Are they Zeroes?

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JIM FELITON

(on radio)

No, they're Pete Floatplanes!

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Alright, let's get them!

DeBlanc and Jim dive towards the pair of Japanese floatplanes. Both enemy floatplanes are shot down and explode by DeBlanc's .50 caliber machine guns.

**INT. SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY**

JIM FELITON (V.O.)

(on radio)

You're clear to go, Ben!

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio)

Alright, squadron. Prepare for a dive-bombing run on the Tokyo Express.

The SBDs dive-bomb on the Tokyo Express to cut-off the Japanese supplies at Guadalcanal. All Japanese transports are sunk by the Americans. With the Japanese supply ships gone, the SBDs pull out of the dive.

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

DeBlanc and Jim spot Ki-43 Oscars approaching the SBDs!

JIM FELITON

(on radio)

Jeff, enemy fighters at 9 o'clock high! They're approaching the SBDs!

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

We can't let those Japs go near  
the SBDs! Follow me and attack the  
Oscars!

Stock footage was taken from *Dogfights: Season 1* as DeBlanc  
opens fire at the Japanese flight leader causing the Japanese  
fighter squadron to separate.

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JIM FELITON

(on radio)

Lieutenant, the Japs are  
separating!

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

The leader is down, but we must  
protect the SBDs at all costs!

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JIM FELITON

(on radio)

But you're running low on fuel,  
DeBlanc. I'll take you over.

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Negative. Stay with me as long as  
possible. We've got the Jap  
fighters to deal with.

Stock footage from *Dogfights: Season 1* shows DeBlanc gets behind  
the Oscar and squeezes his trigger causing the Japanese fighter  
to explode in pieces.

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JIM FELITON

(on radio)

Jeff, we're outnumbered! What should we do?

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Use a Thatch Weave maneuver, Jim. It's the only option that we must deal with the Oscars.

Two Wildcats perform a Thatch Weave maneuver until Jim swings too wide and was shot down by the Japanese Oscar.

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC (CONT'D)

(shouting over the radio)

Bail out, Jim! Bail out!

**INT. JIM FELITON'S WILDCAT - DAY**

Jim bails out of his burning Wildcat.

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

Now the Japanese Oscar is on DeBlanc's tail, he can't shake off his tail!

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC (CONT'D)

(on radio)

I can't shake him off!

JAMES LAVELL SECREST (V.O.)

(on radio)

Hang on, Jeff! I'm coming to rescue you!

LIEUTENANT JAMES LAVELL SECREST dives down to rescue DeBlanc.

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC (CONT'D)

(on radio)

James? Is that you?

**INT. JAMES SECREST'S WILDCAT - DAY**



JAMES LAVELL SECREST

(on radio)

Yep, it's me. I'll take care of the Jap fighter you head back to Henderson Field.

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - DAY**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

Roger. I'll head home now.

**INT. JAMES SECREST'S WILDCAT - DAY**

James gives a short burst at the Oscar and pulls away.

JAMES LAVELL SECREST

(on radio)

You are all clear, Jeff! Get your plane fixed and go home.

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

The SBDs land on the *Enterprise's* flight deck. The Thompson Brothers exit the SBD where Noah and Caden landed safely.

BEN THOMPSON

Noah, Caden, were you guys successful?

NOAH

Absolutely, Ben. We cut the Jap supplies off at Guadalcanal.

CADEN

And the Tokyo Express at Guadalcanal is over.

JOHN THOMPSON

Over? You mean destroyed?

CADEN

Exactly. Without the supplies for the Japs, they have no choice to evacuate Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

Evacuated? You mean we won at Guadalcanal?

NOAH

Yes, they used up all their supplies and there are no Jap reinforcements left at Guadalcanal.

JACK

Guys! We've got some bad news! Jeff DeBlanc hasn't returned to Henderson Field.

CADEN

Jeff DeBlanc? I thought he was at Henderson Field.

JACK

Not quite, Caden. Jeff is still flying at sunset at Guadalcanal.

NOAH

But he can't fly alone!

CADEN

I'm going with you.

JACK

No! It's not going to work this time! Let's go to the radio room and see where Jeff DeBlanc is.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - RADIO ROOM - SUNSET**

They went inside the radio room to contact Jeff DeBlanc.

JACK (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Jeff DeBlanc, this is Jack. Do you copy?

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC (V.O.)

(on radio)

This is Jeff DeBlanc speaking. Go ahead.

JACK

(on radio)

Your squadron mates left, Jeff. Where are you?

**INT. JEFF DEBLANC'S WILDCAT - CONTINUOUS**

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

I got lost.

JACK (V.O.)

(on radio)

Lost? You don't know where you want to land?

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

But there are too many of them! What should I do?

JACK (V.O.)

(on radio)

Just deal with the Oscars and go straight home, understand?

JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

(on radio)

I don't know, Jack, but let's see I can survive this before dark.

JACK (V.O.)

(on radio)

OK, Jeff, but you've got two  
Oscars diving on you at 3 o'clock.

DeBlanc uses his full throttle to rev up his engine. Taken from *Dogfights: Season 1* stock footage, DeBlanc opens fire at the Oscar in head-on pass causing the Japanese Oscar to explode and the engine came loose and went past him. DeBlanc skids his plane to force the Japanese pilot to overshoot. DeBlanc gets in his range and fires. As DeBlanc claims his fifth kill by shooting down the Japanese Oscar, the third Oscar fires at DeBlanc knocking his wristwatch off his wrist. The bullets hit the Wildcat's engine. DeBlanc bails out from his burning Wildcat. He pulls the ripcord from his parachute. DeBlanc watches as the Japanese Oscar flies away before dark.

**INT. USS ENTERPRISE - RADIO ROOM - SUNSET**

JACK (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Jeff? Jeff!

NOAH

He bailed out, Jack.

CADEN

And the Japs are looking for him!  
What are we going to do now?

JACK

(sighs)

There's nothing we can do about  
DeBlanc. Either the Japs capture  
him or execute DeBlanc for good.

CADEN

Execution? No! We can't let the  
Japs execute DeBlanc!

NOAH

We've got to save DeBlanc before  
the Japs find him--!

JACK

That's enough, you two! My friends died at Pearl Harbor, Weston was killed in action at Midway, and now we've lost *USS Hornet* at Santa Cruz along with James. We can't lose our friends again.

NOAH

Like what?

JACK

Like upgrading our carrier and new fighters to turn the tide at the Pacific War.

CADEN

What about the Thompson Brothers?

JACK

He wanted to see their mom again.

NOAH

Yeah, I wonder what the Thompson Brothers are up to at their sleeping quarters.

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

The Thompson Brothers are looking forward to seeing their mom.

BEN THOMPSON

I guess our family is at war between the Nazis and the Japs.

JOHN THOMPSON

Our Dad is working with Lucy at Framlingham Airfield.

BEN THOMPSON

Do you think mom knows about the Pearl Harbor attack? We know there were six carriers and two of them survived at Coral Sea.

JOHN THOMPSON

But we've lost two *Enterprise's*  
sister ships last year and the  
Japs must not find us like we did  
at Eastern Solomons.

BEN THOMPSON

Are we getting new planes or what?

JOHN THOMPSON

We'll find out when we get a  
chance.

**EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - SUNSET**

The *USS Enterprise* sails back to Pearl Harbor at sunset.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END