

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 were put 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 luminate 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*, the only light cruiser is hit by friendly fire from 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 came from the *USS San Francisco*.

LAURANCE TOOMBS DUBOSE

What?!

AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Our Naval Officers Dan Callaghan, Cassin Young, and Norman Scott were 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 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 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 *USS 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, here's the letter
from your mother.

Ben Thompson opens the letter.

HELEN THOMPSON [V.O.]

Dear Ben and John,

Your father is working at his office at Framlingham Airfield and your sister is at the Command Center to join the 390th Bomb Group. I'm looking forward to seeing you both this summer. Good luck fighting you both at Guadalcanal Campaign and please stay safe.

Love, Helen Thompson.

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 94th 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 casualties and speaking of casualties, 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 Zeros?

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.]

(over the 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.]

(over the 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.]

(over the 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.]

(over the 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.

BEN THOMPSON

I hope we're getting new planes and upgrading our carrier sooner or later.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yes, and we'll teach the Japs a lesson in a hard way.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - SUNSET

The *USS Enterprise* sails back to Pearl Harbor at sunset. The Guadalcanal Campaign marks the end of Tokyo Express, but the *Enterprise* can't continue to fight against the Imperial Japanese Navy because the Americans need more carriers to fight back against the Japanese in the Pacific, but the fight between the United States and the Empire of Japan was just the beginning.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END