

THE DEATH OF YAMAMOTO

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. GUADALCANAL — DAY

SUPER: "APRIL 7, 1943."

Stock footage from *Dogfights: Season 1* shows a massive formation of Japanese Val Dive-Bombers approaching toward the American Fleet. James Swett and three Wildcat Fighters are on intercept mission to protect the American ships at all costs.

INT. JAMES SWETT'S WILDCAT - DAY

AMERICAN PILOT #1 [V.O.]

(on radio)

Enemy dive-bombers at eight miles,
Swett! They're trying to sink our
ships!

JAMES SWETT

(on radio)

Leave the dive-bombers to me,
LIEUTENANT, I'll take care of the
dive-bombers, you three handle the
rest.

AMERICAN PILOT #1 [V.O.]

(on radio)

But there are too many of them!

JAMES SWETT

(on radio)

Then mop up the dive-bombers and
I'll deal with those three.

James Swett went after three Val dive-bombers in diving speed. As Swett approaches three Japanese dive-bombers, the rear gunner opens fire at Swett. Swett answers with .50 caliber machine guns and shoots down all three enemy dive-bombers before he ends up in friendly fire. Swett's Wildcat is hit by anti-aircraft flak on his left wing. He pulls up to avoid getting hit by anti-aircraft barrage. Swett catches up with on the fleeing Japanese dive-bombers.

After downing four more Val dive-bombers, Swett is wounded by the Japanese rear gunner but managed to kill the Val's rear gunner. ONE OF THE AMERICAN PILOTS calls him over the radio.

AMERICAN PILOT #2 [V.O.]

(on radio)

Swett? Swett, are you OK? Talk to me!

JAMES SWETT

(on radio, grunting)

I'm hit, Lieutenant! My oil cooler is leaking.

But before the American Pilot say something to James Swett, his Wildcat's engine stops turning. He has no choice but to ditch on the water.

CUT TO:

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

GO TO:

EPISODE TITLE: THE DEATH OF YAMAMOTO

GO TO:

EXT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SFX: CRICKETS CHRIPING

The taxi arrives home. The Thompson Brothers went home to see their mother.

THE THOMPSON BROTHERS

Mom!

Helen hugs her sons.

HELEN THOMPSON

Ben! John! I'm so glad that you two have returned!

BEN THOMPSON

We missed you, Mom!

JOHN THOMPSON

I thought my family was with you,
but I guess we're not the only
ones who fight against the Axis
Powers.

BEN THOMPSON

My Dad is working in his office in
Framlingham.

HELEN THOMPSON

I know you Father wanted to see
you but, he's working with your
sister against the Germans.

JOHN THOMPSON

But what about you and my family
while we're gone?

HELEN THOMPSON

Come on in, you two, and I'll tell
you a story.

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Thompson Family sit down on their couch.

BEN THOMPSON

Tell us what happened the day
after Pearl Harbor attack?

HELEN THOMPSON

It all started two years earlier
when your sister and I heard the
PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S
"Day on Infamy" speech over the
radio when your father came home
from work.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. THOMPSON'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "DECEMBER 8, 1941."

Ralph Thompson came home from work while Helen was making dinner
for her family when they heard the news on the radio.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT [V.O.]

(on radio)

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. (pauses) The United States was at peace with that nation, and at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American Island in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack. (pauses) It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago.

HELEN THOMPSON [V.O.]

We all shocked to hear the news about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was the darkest day in the American History. They killed innocent civilians and soldiers at Pearl Harbor and many more are wounded. Four Cadets that you met at San Fransico Airfield were killed by the Japanese planes on Pearl Harbor by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

BEN THOMPSON

You mean Admiral Yamamoto was the mastermind for the Attack on Pearl Harbor?

HELEN THOMPSON

Yes, he did, Ben. He dispatched six carriers to invade Hawaii. I was worried about you and your brother.

JOHN THOMPSON

We were thinking of the same thing, Mom. We dealt with four carriers Midway, but we failed to sink the two remaining carriers that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

HELEN THOMPSON

Is this why the Japanese attack your friends at Pearl Harbor?

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, we've lost Quinton, Tripp, David, and Liam.

JOHN THOMPSON

And now three of us were left after Pearl Harbor attack.

HELEN THOMPSON

John, I know you've lost your friends, but going after the carriers won't solve your problem.

JOHN THOMPSON

Why not?

HELEN THOMPSON

Because it wasn't the carriers that bombed Pearl Harbor. Yamamoto did. He commanded all six carriers to bomb Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

BEN THOMPSON

Then, who's going to find Yamamoto now?

HELEN THOMPSON

President Roosevelt will know where Admiral Yamamoto is.

INT. WASHINGTON D.C. - WHITE HOUSE - DAY

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and HIS CABINET MEMBERS are having discussion about Admiral Yamamoto.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

So, you're saying that Admiral Yamamoto is the one who attacked Pearl Harbor two years ago?

HENRY LEWIS STIMSON

Yes, Mr. President. Our intelligence reports that Yamamoto is the mastermind of Pearl Harbor attack codenamed "Magic."

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR.

I agree with Stimson. Yamamoto is the only Japanese Admiral who sent six carriers to participate the attack on Oahu.

CORDELL HULL

And not only that, but the Japanese also killed innocent civilians and some of them were wounded.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

What's so "magic" about Yamamoto's actions over the Pacific?

HENRY LEWIS STIMSON

As you recall, Mr. President, Admiral Yamamoto's invasion of Hawaiian Islands failed.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

We've lost carriers at Coral Sea, Midway, and Santa Cruz, but at least the carriers aren't present in Pearl Harbor attack.

FRANCIS BEVERLEY BIDDLE

Also, our boys sank four Japanese carriers last year at Midway.

FRANK COMERFORD WALKER

But there are two more Japanese carriers we must deal with.

HAROLD LECLAIR ICKES

If the Japanese find our last carrier, then our war in the Pacific will be lost.

CLAUDE RAYMOND WICKWARD

But the good news is that we're sending more supplies in China to fight back against the Japanese invasion.

JESSE HOLMAN JONES

The bad news is the Axis Powers made an alliance with Japan against us two years ago, but at least our forces are preparing to attack Tunisia in North Africa.

FRANCES PERKINS

What shall we do now, Mr. President?

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

We need to figure out the coordinates for the location of Admiral Yamamoto.

HENRY AGARD WALLACE

Mr. President one of your cabinets
know where Yamamoto is located.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Do you have any ideas how to stop
Yamamoto before he can cause more
casualties on our forces?

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

Mr. President, we found a way to
stop Yamamoto before reaching
Bougainville.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

You do?

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

Yes, Admiral Yamamoto is about to
leave Rabaul and he'll arrive at
Balalae Field near Bougainville in
a two-hour flight.

HENRY LEWIS STIMSON

Our P-38s of 339th Fighter Squadron
are at based somewhere in the
South Pacific.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Frank, get Yamamoto.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

But, Mr. President, what is that
mean?

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

It means Admiral Yamamoto must be
stopped before he reaches his
destination. Call ADMIRAL NIMITZ
on the phone immediately.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

Yes, Mr. President. I'll do my best.

INT. ADMIRAL NIMITZ'S OFFICE - DAY

Admiral Chester William Nimitz is on the phone with Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox.

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

Hello?

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX (V.O.)

(through the phone)

Hello Chester. President Roosevelt told me that he knows about Yamamoto's plan.

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

Yamamoto? I thought the Jap carriers that hit us at Pearl Harbor two years ago.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX (V.O.)

(through the phone)

It wasn't the carrier that hit us at Pearl Harbor. Admiral Yamamoto who attacked Pearl Harbor.

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

So that's why Yamamoto is responsible for Pearl Harbor attack.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX (V.O.)

(through the phone)

Last year, you sent the boys to attack four carriers at Midway, but Yamamoto wasn't onboard one of the carriers.

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

What? If Admiral Yamamoto isn't onboard the carrier, then where he's at?

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX (V.O.)

(through the phone)

He's at Rabaul and he'll move to Bougainville. You must send JOHN MITCHELL AND HIS SQUADRON of P-38s before Yamamoto reaches his destination.

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

Alright, goodbye.

Admiral Nimitz hangs up the phone as Admiral Halsey overheard what he said on the phone and enters Nimitz's office.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

So, Chester, what did I miss?

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

It wasn't the Japanese carriers that hit Pearl Harbor, Halsey. Yamamoto dispatched the Combined Fleet to sneak attack at Pearl Harbor two years ago.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

You got to be kidding me, Nimitz! I didn't participate the carrier battle last year since the Coral Sea!

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

Same thing goes for Midway and Guadalcanal campaign.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

Are there any carriers left to fight back against the Japanese Navy, Nimitz?

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

Enterprise is the only one carrier left that we have in the Pacific.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

One? One carrier left to fight against the Japanese Navy? We'll never going to win the war in the Pacific.

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

There's only one way to stop Yamamoto before reaching Bougainville.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

Who's going to stop Yamamoto before reaching Bougainville?

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

John William Mitchell.

EXT. KUKUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: "APRIL 17, 1943."

CAPTAIN THOMAS GEORGE LANPHIER JR. AND HIS FLIGHT OF THREE P-38 LIGHTNINGS FROM 339TH FIGHTER SQUADRON landed on Kukum Field. REAR ADMIRAL MARC ANDREW MITSCHER is waiting for them.

THOMAS GEORGE LANPHIER JR.

Admiral Mitscher, we patrol the sky but no sign of Admiral Yamamoto.

MARC ANDREW MITSCHER

Have you looked over the map?

THOMAS GEORGE LANPHIER JR.

We're unable to reach Yamamoto.

REX T. BARBER

And he's not onboarded any ships, including the carriers.

MARC ANDREW MITSCHER

Looks like you and your squadron are having a hard time finding Admiral Yamamoto. This is Major John Mitchell. He knows Admiral Yamamoto's location.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

(Handshake to Rex)

Welcome to 339th Fighter Squadron.

REX T. BARBER

I just overheard the Thompson Brothers survived the attack on Pearl Harbor with Jack.

BESBY FRANK HOLMES

Too bad they lost so many friends at Pearl Harbor, Midway, and Santa Cruz.

JIM MCLANAHAN

Same thing goes for *Lexington*, *Yorktown*, and *Hornet*.

JOE MOORE

At least the Japs got what they deserved after a failed torpedo attack on the carriers at Midway.

WILLIAM SMITH

But the problem is two more Jap carriers are still out there in the Pacific.

GORDON WHITTAKER

And why the Thompson Brothers are at home with their mother?

ROGER AMES

Because they have a family.

LOUIS KITTEL

A family?

LAWRENCE GRAEBNER

Yes, a family. They're waiting for the *Enterprise* to be refitted and new planes to fight in the Pacific.

DOUG CANNING

You mean this plane here? That's a P-38G Lightning, a twin-engine fighter.

DELTON GOERKE

This plane packs a powerful punch especially with 23mm cannon on the nose.

JULIUS JACOBSON

And with this cannon and four .50 caliber machine guns on the nose, it's more than enough to take down Yamamoto.

ELDON STRATTON

But we can't land on the carrier with P-38s! It's not wide enough!

ALBERT LONG

Not as wide as the Navy planes.

EVERETT ANGLIN

We're not Marines! We're the Pilots of United States Air Force!

RAYMOND K. HINE

Alright, that's enough! I know we're not part of U.S. Navy doesn't mean we have to land on the carrier flight deck.

THOMAS GEORGE LANPHIER JR.

Guys, Major Mitchell is waiting
for us in the briefing room.

INT. KUKUM FIELD - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

Captain Mitchell gives the briefing to hunt down Yamamoto by using the map of New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and Solomon Islands including the photo of Admiral Yamamoto.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

Admiral Yamamoto is about to leave Rabaul in New Britain on a two-hour flight tomorrow to reach Balalae Field near Bougainville Island and it's our mission is to stop Yamamoto before reaching his destination. Captain Lanphier, you will lead the "killer" flight of four. The rest of us will cover our mission for tomorrow.
Dismissed.

The American pilots left the briefing room, but Marc came to see Mitchell. He had a message from the Thompson Family in his hand.

MARC ANDREW MITSCHER

Major, I have a message from the Thompson Family. Two brothers are staying at home and their father and sister are working at Framlingham Airfield.

Major Mitchell looks at the message from the Thompson Family.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

(shocked feeling)

Wait a minute! If the Thompson Brothers fighting against the Japs at the Pacific, then his father, Ralph Thompson is working in the office with his daughter, Lucy, at England. Oh my god!

EXT. KUKUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: "APRIL 18, 1943. 7:30 AM."

16 Lightnings of 339th Fighter Group took off to foil Yamamoto's plan. Their mission: kill Admiral Yamamoto, Codename: Operation Vengeance.

INT. G4M BETTY BOMBER - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: "BOUGAINVILLE. 9:35 AM."

Admiral Yamamoto is onboard one of the Betties. Six Japanese Zeros are flying escort.

ISOROKU YAMAMOTO

(speaking in Japanese)

How long is Balalae Field?

JAPANESE BOMBER PILOT

(speaking in Japanese)

We should be arriving at Balalae Field in ten minutes.

JAPANESE TAIL GUNNER

(shouting in Japanese)

Enemy fighters!

To Admiral Yamamoto's horror, the P-38s are hunting him down before reaching his destination.

JAPANESE OFFICER

(shouting in Japanese)

Shoot them down!

INT. THOMAS LANPHIER JR.'S P-38 - CONTINUOUS

Tracer rounds fire at the P-38s as six Zeros scatter leaving two Betties unprotected. Captain Lanphier Jr. is confused. He doesn't know which one of the Betties belongs to Yamamoto.

THOMAS GEORGE LANPHIER JR.

(on radio)

Mitchell, which one is Yamamoto's plane?

INT. JOHN MITCHELL'S P-38 - CONTINUOUS

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

(on radio)

You must figure it out yourself,
Thomas.

INT. THOMAS LANPHIER JR.'S P-38 CONTINUOUS

THOMAS GEORGE LANPHIER JR.

(on radio)

Oh, to hell with that! Let's shoot
down the Betties anyway.

INT. REX T. BARBER'S P-38 - CONTINUOUS

REX T. BARBER

(on radio)

Alright, Captain. Let's give the
Japs a quick detour.

Two P-38s went after the Betties. Two Betties take evasive
action in separate ways before reaching their destination.

INT. G4M BETTY BOMBER - CONTINUOUS

THE JAPANESE BOMBER PILOT couldn't shake off its tail, but THE
JAPANESE TAIL GUNNER keeps shooting at Lieutenant Barber, but
Barber dodged from the Japanese tracer fire.

JAPANESE TAIL GUNNER

(speaking in Japanese)

Where did he go?

Barber dives towards Yamamoto's Betty. Barber kills Admiral
Yamamoto with machine gun tracers and hits Betty's left engine.

JAPANESE OFFICER

(shouting in Japanese)

Admiral! Admiral!

But Admiral Yamamoto is already dead. The Japanese Officer
screams before the Betty Bomber plummets towards the jungle.
Barber pulls up away from the wreckage. Admiral Yamamoto was
never seen again.

INT. REX T. BARBER'S P-38 - CONTINUOUS

REX T. BARBER

(on radio)

Woohoo! Yeah! Take that, you son
of a bitch!

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL [V.O.]

(on radio)

There's no time for celebration,
Rex! The last Betty is getting
away!

REX T. BARBER

(on radio)

But I just took out Yamamoto,
Major!

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL [V.O.]

(shouting on radio)

Just do what I say!

REX T. BARBER

(on radio)

Roger. Heading for the last Betty.

Barber uses his full throttle to catch up with the last Betty,
but two Zeros fire at him with machine guns and cannons.
Luckily, Holmes and Hine distract two Zeros with their mixed
armament.

INT. BESBY HOLMES' P-38 - CONTINUOUS

BESBY FRANK HOLMES

(on radio)

You're clear, Barber.

REX T. BARBER [V.O.]

(on radio)

Thank you, Holmes. I couldn't have
done it without you and Hine, but
at least Yamamoto got what he
deserves.

BESBY FRANK HOLMES

(on radio)

Leave the last Betty to me. You protect Hine.

REX T. BARBER [V.O.]

(on radio)

Roger. I'll keep an eye out for Hine.

BESBY FRANK HOLMES

(on radio)

Then it's a perfect time to take out the last Betty.

Holmes went after the second Betty. Tracer rounds streak towards Holmes. He squeezes the trigger at the last Betty but incredibly, the damaged Betty was still flying low. Holmes flies underneath the wounded Betty. Barber finishes the last Betty off with machine guns and cannon fire. 15 P-38s return to base except Hine. He's the only pilot who was declared missing in action during Operation Vengeance.

EXT. KUKUM FIELD - DAY

Marc and two American pilots are waiting for their return. Barber climbs out of P-38's cockpit and hugs Jim and Joe for their celebration.

REX T. BARBER

Guys! I did it! I killed Yamamoto!

JIM MCLANAHAN

Yes, you did it! You shot down Yamamoto!

JOE MOORE

Say, where's Hine?

BESBY FRANK HOLMES

He's gone, but we did manage to ruin Yamamoto's trip to Balalae.

JIM MCLANAHAN

Really? Tell us.

REX T. BARBER

You see, we didn't shoot down any Zeros, instead we foiled Yamamoto's trip to Balalae. One Betty crashed into the jungle and the other Betty plummeted toward the ocean.

JOE MOORE

That's great to hear, Rex! Now Yamamoto will never command the fleet again.

BESBY FRANK HOLMES

Not just a fleet, but in the air as well.

MARC ANDREW MITSCHER

Captain Barber, Major Mitchell wants to see you.

Captain Barber came to see Major Mitchell outside the tent.

REX T. BARBER

So, John, you want to see me?

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

Yes, son, Jack wants to talk to you on the phone.

Captain Barber went inside the tent to call Jack on the phone. Joe and Jim talk to Major Mitchell.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL [CONT'D]

Well? What is it?

JIM MCLANAHAN

We have problems, Major. My P-38 had a flat tire.

JOE MOORE

And I had a faulty fuel feeding problem.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

What faulty fuel feeding problem, Moore?

JOE MOORE

It appears one of the engines won't start.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

And?

JOE MOORE

I don't have enough fuel to make it airborne.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

Is this why Lieutenants Holmes and Hine took your places before you had a chance to shoot down Admiral Yamamoto?

JIM MCLANAHAN

Yes, and Lieutenant Hine was missing in action.

JOE MOORE

I wish the Thompson Brothers would like to hear about this.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

About Pearl Harbor attack?

JOE MOORE

Yes, sir.

JIM MCLANAHAN

We thought the Jap carriers attack
on Pearl Harbor two years ago, but
we were wrong.

JOE MOORE

Yeah, it was Yamamoto all along.

JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL

Leave the Thompson Brothers to me.
I'll call them about our mission
today.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

SFX: FIRE BURNING SOUND

Somewhere in the Pacific, JAPANESE ADMIRAL MATOME UGAKI
submerged from the wreckage from the Betty Bomber. The Americans
are unaware the wounded Japanese Admiral survived the crash.

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END