

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 a friendly anti-aircraft flak on his left wing. He pulls up to avoid getting hit by friendly 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 came 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 the 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 and 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. (pauses) 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 the 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 the 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 on 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 the 339th Fighter Squadron are based somewhere in the South Pacific.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Frank, get Yamamoto.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN KNOX

What do you mean, Mr. President?

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 the 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 in 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 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 339<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER SQUADRON landed on Kukum Field.  
REAR ADMIRAL MARC ANDREW MITSCHER is waiting for the squadron to  
return.

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

It 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 the 339th Fighter  
Squadron.

REX T. BARBER

I just overheard that 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

The 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 are the Thompson Brothers  
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  
*USS 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 their father, Ralph Thompson, and his daughter, Lucy, are at England. Oh my god!

**EXT. KUKUM FIELD - DAY**

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

16 P-38 Lightnings of 339<sup>th</sup> 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

(radios 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

(radios 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.]

(over the radio)

There's no time to celebrate, 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 hope 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.

JOE MOORE

But we enlisted in the US Air Force.

JIM MCLANAHAN

I know, but killing Yamamoto is more important than going after the Jap carriers.

JOE MOORE

So that's why President Roosevelt wants to kill Admiral Yamamoto instead of sinking the enemy carriers.

JIM MCLANAHAN

Now Admiral Yamamoto got what he deserved, the Japs will end up stranding on the island.

**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