

MAKIN AND TARAWA

By

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FADE IN:

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICK BAY - DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 11, 1943."

Noah is on the sick bay due to his injury after a crash landing on the carrier flight deck. Caden keeps an eye on Noah. THE NURSES are taking care of him.

CADEN

How's Noah doing?

NURSE

He suffered some minor injuries while attempting to land on the flight deck.

CADEN

He doesn't look like he has some injuries! Noah never flown into air combat before!

Jack enters the sick bay where Caden is staying with Noah.

JACK

Caden, the Thompson Brothers returned.

CADEN

Really? Why?

JACK

Because they spent their time with their mother throughout the summer before they got here.

CADEN

I thought they took care of Admiral Yamamoto at Bougainville.

JACK

They didn't shoot down Yamamoto months ago. It was the P-38 fighter pilots at Bougainville.

CADEN

So, it wasn't the carriers that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

JACK

Yes, Caden. Now that our carrier is refitted and brought new planes, it's time to resume our mission.

CADEN

You mean the carriers?

JACK

Not necessarily, Caden. We're splitting up our forces at Gilbert Islands.

CADEN

Wait a minute! If the Southern Carrier Group is at Tarawa, then where are we heading?

JACK

We're going to Makin.

CADEN

Makin and Tarawa?

JACK

Exactly, but this time, this will be an easy victory for us over the Japs at Gilbert Islands.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE — WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

CUT TO:

TITLE EPISODE — MAKIN AND TARAWA

CUT TO:

INT. USS ENTERPRISE — MESS HALL — DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 18, 1943."

The Thompson Brothers are having lunch with Caden.

BEN THOMPSON

What's wrong, Caden?

CADEN

Noah was hurt while attempting to land on the carrier.

JOHN THOMPSON

Is Noah a flyer?

CADEN

No, he's no pilot. He's a rear gunner. We've trained the bomber crew before you two went missing at Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

What are you talking about? We've got here before you arrived at Santa Cruz last year.

CADEN

I did. We've dive-bombed at the Jap carrier, but it didn't sink, but we did cripple two Jap carriers and two Jap warships.

JOHN THOMPSON

You mean?

CADEN

That's right, John. It was a Jap carrier that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

BEN THOMPSON

Really? Is there another chance to sink two carriers? We've already sank four of them at Midway and Admiral Yamamoto is dead.

JOHN THOMPSON

But the last two Jap carriers
could be hiding somewhere in the
Pacific.

JACK

Sinking the Jap carriers must wait
until further notice.

BEN THOMPSON

And who is THIS GUY?

JACK

This is Lieutenant Commander
Edward Butch O'Hare. He shot down
one Zero and twin-engine bombers.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Hello.

CADEN

Hi.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

I was checking on Noah. He'll be
out of action until further
notice.

BEN THOMPSON

Then I'll be your wingman.

JOHN THOMPSON

I'll go with him too.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

(laughs) It looks like the
Thompson Brothers wanted to join
me. Is that right, Jack?

Jack nods his head to Butch O'Hare as an agreement, but Caden is
too worried about Noah's injury condition.

JACK

Caden, you'll be joining the Bombing 6 with me, and I'll be your rear gunner.

CADEN

You're a pilot, Jack! You shot down enemy planes.

JACK

I know how to shoot down the Japs, Caden, but you must trust me. You're a dive-bomber pilot and I'll keep an eye out for the Zeros on the rear.

CADEN

Alright, Jack. I'll give it a try.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - NIGHT

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER gives a briefing to the naval pilots for tomorrow's mission by showing the map of Gilbert Islands.

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Gentlemen, this is Tarawa Atoll, and the other is Makin Atoll where we are striking tomorrow morning. The Southern Carrier Group will arrive at Tarawa and it's our job to strike at Butaritari, the main island of Makin Atoll which is used for airbases, ammo dumps, and fuel depots for the Japanese, but it was heavily fortified with tank barriers on both sides, logs, barbed wires, concrete pillboxes, and anti-tank which is connected along with a series of rifle pits including the coastal guns, machine gun nests, and anti-aircraft guns. The Japanese defenses must be neutralized before the 27th Infantry Division arrives at Makin Atoll.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER [CONT'D]

Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare will be your flight leader for a ground attack at Makin Atoll. Any questions?

Ben Thompson raises his hand.

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, sir. What about Tarawa?

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Admiral Montgomery is already leading the Southern Carrier Group. Anyways, good luck and get ready at dawn tomorrow.

The American naval pilots left the ready room.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT

REAR ADMIRAL ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD is in the command bridge. Captain Ginder and Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare came to see him.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

How is Noah doing?

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Our medics are recovering from Noah's injuries. I assigned Jack as Caden's new rear gunner.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

I thought you assigned Jack as the fighter pilot.

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Not until Noah recuperates from the sick bay.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

Very well, Captain. Send Butch O'Hare to lead the Fighting 2.

Captain Ginder salutes Admiral Radford as an agreement and turns towards Butch O'Hare.

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Butch, you'll be assigned as
Fighting 2.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Yes, sir.

Butch O'Hare leaves the command bridge.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Jack came to see the Thompson Brothers at the sleeping quarters.

JACK

Ben, John, here's a letter from
YOUR COUSIN.

Jack gives the letter to Ben. He pulls out the letter.

INSERT - THE THOMPSON BROTHERS' COUSIN

BILL THOMPSON [V.O.]

Dear Ben and John,

*I joined the United States Marine
Corps at Tarawa. I won't be able
to meet your family at
Thanksgiving at your house, but my
parents, Uncle Ralph and your
sister were already at home with
Aunt Helen to prepare for your
family's Thanksgiving feast. We'll
meet each other next year. Good
luck fighting at Makin Atoll!*

Love, Bill Thompson.

BEN THOMPSON

Is Bill Thompson my cousin?!

JOHN THOMPSON

But we never met our cousin
before!

JACK

I know. Your cousin joined the 2nd Marine Division who fought in Guadalcanal and now he's fighting against the Japs at Tarawa.

BEN THOMPSON

I thought he was at Henderson Field.

JOHN THOMPSON

And we defend Henderson Field before the Japs retake Guadalcanal.

JACK

But we should be lucky we're not at Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

What if the Japs have planes on the ground?

JOHN THOMPSON

Aren't you going to fight the Japs in the air?

JACK

There are no Japanese presences in the air at Makin, but they do have ground forces and defenses.

BEN THOMPSON

Then we'll have a chance to sink two Jap carriers.

JACK

Yes, but there are Jap floatplanes at Butaritari. So, we mustn't let them see us or we'll be blown out of the sky.

JOHN THOMPSON

You've got it, Jack. We'll make sure the Japs doesn't see us.

JACK

Good, I'll see you guys tomorrow at dawn.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAWN

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 19, 1943."

The American pilots manned their planes while Jack and Caden climbed the SBD Dauntless. Jack is in the gunner's position while Caden enters the cockpit.

CADEN

I wished Noah could fight at Makin.

JACK

Don't worry, Caden. I'll hold the Japs off. You dive-bomb at Makin. Got it?

CADEN

Very well, Jack. I'll dive-bomb at Makin with or without Noah.

JACK

Good. Get your plane up and ready.

Caden uses his full throttle on the SBD to takeoff from the carrier flight deck. The stock footage from *Battle 360* shows the American planes takeoff from the *Enterprise's* flight deck.

INT. BUTCH O'HARE'S HELLCAT - CONTINUOUS

Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare leads the Hellcats callsign Fighting 2. Each Hellcats are carrying rockets under their wings.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

(on radio) There's Butaritari, boys. Attack as many targets as you can!

Using a stock footage from *Battle 360*, the Hellcats begin their strafing run on the pillboxes at lagoons killing the Japanese soldiers in the process. The Hellcats launch their rockets to neutralize the Japanese naval base for the seaplanes.

INT. SBD DAUNTLESS - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, Caden leads the formation of SBDs callsign Bombing 6.

CADEN

(on radio) Jack, are you sure you can handle Zeros?

JACK

(on radio) There are no Zeros patrolling at Butaritari, Caden. Just focus on the target before the Japs find out we're here.

CADEN

(on radio) Alright, Jack. Here goes nothing.

Caden leads the SBDs for dive-bombing run on the Japanese ammo and fuel dumps at Butaritari. Ammo dumps and fuel depots are blown to pieces. The Japanese E8N Dave floatplane takes off from the burning naval airbase.

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S HELLCAT - CONTINUOUS

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio) Brother, a Jap floatplane is taking off from lagoon.

INT. JOHN THOMPSON'S HELLCAT - CONTINUOUS

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio) Shoot it down, Ben. It's all yours.

Ben Thompson tears the Japanese floatplane in pieces with .50 calibers machine guns. Meanwhile, the TBFs drop their payloads on the Japanese gun emplacements, bunkers, and rifle pits. Some of the Japanese soldiers are killed inside the rifle pits before the American's deadline to storm the beaches at Makin and Tarawa.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

The Americans return to the carrier with no casualties.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Ben, John, do you like Hellcats better?

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, I took out the Jap floatplane before we were discovered.

JOHN THOMPSON

And no single American planes are shot down by the Japanese.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Good, because your cousin is going to attack Tarawa tomorrow.

BEN THOMPSON

Tomorrow? What about Makin?

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

We're going to attack Makin again to clear a path for the 27th Infantry Division.

JOHN THOMPSON

We want to go up again.

BEN THOMPSON

Me too. Makin won't take that long.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Then, tell Jack about Makin.

The Thompson Brothers talk to Jack about Makin for tomorrow.

BEN THOMPSON

Jack, we want to go up again at Makin.

JACK

What? You? But why?

JOHN THOMPSON

Because my cousin is in the 2nd
Marine Division to attack Tarawa
tomorrow.

BEN THOMPSON

And not only that, the 27th
Infantry Division are on their way
to attack Makin tomorrow.

JACK

That's good to hear, you two.
Because I'll fly with the Hellcat
at Makin tomorrow. Take Caden to a
sick bay.

BEN THOMPSON

With pleasure.

JOHN THOMPSON

Come on, Caden. It's time to meet
Noah at the sick bay.

CADEN

I hope Noah is alright.

The Thompson Brothers escort Caden to the sick bay.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICK BAY - DAY

As they enter the sick bay, Noah recovers from his injuries.

NOAH

Hello, Caden. How's your mission
at Makin?

CADEN

Noah! Thank goodness you're alive!

Caden and Noah hugged each other.

NOAH

Yeah, the doctors took care of me.

CADEN

I know. I was on a dive-bombing mission with Jack at Makin before the deadline.

NOAH

That's good to hear, Caden. I have never been to Makin before, but I'll be your gunner tomorrow morning at Makin.

CADEN

Are you sure you're going to be alright?

NOAH

I'll be fine, Caden, but I'll be glad to join you at Makin tomorrow.

CADEN

Good. I don't have to worry about Jack to be a rear gunner at Makin.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - NIGHT

Rear Admiral Radford gives another briefing to the naval pilots for tomorrow by using a map of Gilbert Islands.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

Now that you guys crippled the Japs at Makin Atoll earlier, it's time for a briefing for tomorrow. The 27th Infantry Division will arrive storming ashore at Makin Atoll against the enemy defenses. Our *Fletcher*-class destroyers will cover our fleet for their protection. Your mission is to clear a path for the 27th to wreak havoc at the enemy bases.

(MORE)

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD [CONT'D]

The same way you did at Makin Atoll earlier. Jack, you will join with Butch O'Hare and his squadron and Noah, you'll be Caden's rear gunner this time at Makin. The rest of you will resume the attack at Makin Atoll tomorrow. Good luck and keep on fighting.

They left the ready room once again.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Butch O'Hare and THE OTHER FIGHTER PILOT came to see the Thompson Brothers.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Ben, John, this is Ensign Warren Andrew "Andy" Skon. He'll be joining us at Makin Atoll tomorrow morning.

WARREN ANDREW SKON

Hello.

BEN THOMPSON

Uh, hello?

WARREN ANDREW SKON

I came to see Noah last week at the sick bay and I saw the doctors recovering from his wounds after his fiery crash.

JOHN THOMPSON

And how bad is it?

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

It was bad last week, and now he's recovered from his wounds, Noah will be able to join the Bombing 6 instead of Jack.

WARREN ANDREW SKON

And I'll be honored to join your
squadron for tomorrow.

BEN THOMPSON

Then we're with you.

JOHN THOMPSON

And together, we'll fight to the
end.

Then the TBF BOMBER CREW enter the sleeping quarters.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Butch, I hate to tell you this,
but they load the bombs instead of
using torpedoes to sink the Jap
warships.

HAZEN B. RAND

But instead, we have no choice but
to bomb the Jap targets at Makin
Atoll.

ALVIN KERNAN

You've got a point there, Rand. I
say we'll find the Jap warships
and sink them to the bottom of the
sea.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

We're not here to attack warships,
we're here to clear a path for the
27th Infantry Division.

WARREN ANDREW SKON

Orders are orders. There are too
many Jap ground forces at Makin.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

We've weakened the Japs at Makin
Atoll once and we can do it again.

JOHN C. PHILLIP

Fine! Tell them that we're the
Torpedo Squadron 6.

The TBF Bomber Crew exit the sleeping quarters.

BEN THOMPSON

(sighs) I hope the TBF Bomber Crew
learn their lesson.

JOHN THOMPSON

I agree, Ben. The TBF Bomber Crew
know how to sink the Jap Fleet,
but they never learn how to bomb
the Japs on the ground for a long
time.

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

Don't worry, John. I'm sure
Torpedo Squadron 6 will learn
their new lesson that they will
never forget.

WARREN ANDREW SKON

Yeah, there are no Jap warships on
Makin Atoll.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - HANGAR DECK - NIGHT

The TBF Bomber Crew went inside the hangar deck as THE MECHANICS
are loading the weapons on the planes.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Where are the torpedoes?

AMERICAN PERSONNEL #1

We replaced the torpedoes with
bombs because there is no sign of
Jap warships at Gilbert Islands
and our ground forces stormed the
beaches at Makin and Tarawa.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

You replaced with torpedoes with
bombs?! How dare you!

HAZEN B. RAND

(grabbing John Phillips' left arm)
Woah! Take it easy, Phillips!

ALVIN KERNAN

(grabbing John Phillips' right
arm) Yeah! We don't want to get
into trouble!

Captain Ginder finds out what's going on in the hangar deck.

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

(shouting) Hey! What's going on
here?

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

That idiot loaded the bombs
instead of torpedoes we've used to
sink the Jap warships!

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Commander Phillips, we have orders
from Admiral Radford. We're here
to hit the enemy targets with
bombs, not with torpedoes and if I
see that again, then I'll have you
court-martialed for three of you
and won't participate in your
upcoming battles. Do you
understand?

TBF BOMBER CREW

(in unison) Yes, sir!

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Get in your quarters!

The TBF Bomber Crew went back to the sleeping quarters before
they get into trouble with the mechanics. Captain Ginder orders
the mechanics to get back to work at the hangar deck.

EXT. TARAWA - DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 23, 1943."

At Tarawa, Bill Thompson and the Marines captured 17 Japanese soldiers and 129 Korean laborers.

BILL THOMPSON

MAJOR SMITH, Tarawa is secured.

JULIAN CONSTABLE SMITH

How many casualties, Lieutenant Thompson?

BILL THOMPSON

We've lost 1,009 Marines and 2,101 more were wounded.

JULIAN CONSTABLE SMITH

Great work, Bill. Take them to the prison camps and make sure the prisoners don't escape.

BILL THOMPSON

Yes, sir!

Bill Thompson orders the Marines to escort the prisoners to the camp.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 26, 1943."

Back on the *Enterprise*, Captain Ginder gives the report to Admiral Radford.

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Sir, our escort carrier, *USS Liscome Bay*, was sunk by a Jap submarine.

Admiral Radford looks at the report.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

Is anyone onboard the *USS Liscome Bay*?

CAPTAIN S.P. GINDER

Rear Admiral Henry Mullinnix and
Captain Wiltsie are dead two days
ago at Makin.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

Thank you for your information,
Captain Ginder.

AMERICAN SAILOR

Sir, we've got company!

Looking through the window, he saw the Japanese twin-engine
bombers approaching the Northern Carrier Group.

ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

It's the Betty Bombers! Captain,
order our pilots to scramble!

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT

Butch O'Hare and the pilots scramble their action. They watch as
the Betty Bomber is blown out of the night sky.

SFX: DISTANT ANTI-AIRCRAFT BARRAGE SOUND

WARREN ANDREW SKON

What's going on Butch?

EDWARD HENRY O'HARE

We're under attack, Andy! Let's
move!

Using the stock footage from *Battle 360*, two Hellcats and one
TBF takeoff to intercept the Japanese Betties nicknamed "The
Black Panthers".

INT. TBF AVENGER - NIGHT

Commander Phillips spots a formation of Japanese Betty Bombers.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

(on radio) Butch, the Japs are
headed for the Northern Carrier
Group.

INT. BUTCH'S HELLCAT - NIGHT

Butch O'Hare knows he couldn't see the enemy bombers in the dark.

EDWARD HERNY O'HARE

(on radio) Go ahead, Commander Phillips. I'll stay with my wingman.

INT. TBF AVENGER - NIGHT

Lieutenant Commander Phillips shot down two Betties out of the night sky, until one of the Betty Bomber maneuvers O'Hare's Hellcat.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

(on radio) Butch, the Jap is on your tail!

But it's too late! The Japanese nose gunner fires at the Hellcat with 7.7 mm bullets damaging O'Hare's Hellcat. Butch O'Hare rolls away into darkness and presumed dead.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jack came to see The Black Panthers.

JACK

What happened out there?

WARREN ANDREW SKON

Jack, the Japs got him.

JACK

Who?

WARREN ANDREW SKON

Butch O'Hare.

JACK

(shutters) No! It can't be! Not Butch O'Hare! He's our flight leader at Makin Atoll and the greatest ace of the Pacific and now he's dead! Who is going to lead the squadron?

WARREN ANDREW SKON

You lead the squadron, Jack.

JACK

Me? But I didn't get a chance to fly the Hellcat at Makin Atoll!

WARREN ANDREW SKON

Don't worry, Jack. You'll get a chance to fly the Hellcat.

Jack agrees with Andy. He is now a new flight leader of *Enterprise's* Fighter Squadron.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Ben Thompson writes his diary to his mother at the sleeping quarters.

BEN THOMPSON [V.O.]

Dear Mother,

We're sorry we missed out on your Thanksgiving dinner yesterday. We fought at Makin Atoll to clear a path for my cousin and the Marines. Our greatest fighter ace, Butch O'Hare is declared missing in action while fighting against the Japanese bombers at night. However, Jack is now our flight leader of our fighter squadron. We'll promise to be home by Christmas to get presents.

Love, Ben and John Thompson.

FADE OUT.

THE END