

SAIPAN

By

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FADE IN:

INT. USS ENTERPRISE — SLEEPING QUARTERS — DAY

SUPER: "JUNE 21, 1944."

Jack came to the sleeping quarters to give some good news and bad news to the Thompson Brothers.

JACK

Ben and John, I've got some good news and some bad news.

BEN THOMPSON

What news, Jack?

JACK

Good news is *USS Cavalla* sank one of the Jap carriers that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

JOHN THOMPSON

That's good to hear, Jack!

BEN THOMPSON

Yeah! This should teach the Japs a lesson not to mess with us at Pearl Harbor!

JACK

Bad news is both Caden and Noah were killed in action while attacking the Japanese defenses on the beaches of Saipan.

BEN THOMPSON

My brother and I were at Henderson Field, but we didn't know our carrier is back in action at Santa Cruz.

JOHN THOMPSON

And the Japs sank *USS Hornet* as payback!

JACK

But we've already renamed after the sinking carrier and called it CV-12.

BEN THOMPSON

CV-12?

JOHN THOMPSON

The Japs took out the sister ships at Midway and Guadalcanal, but at least one of the Jap carriers is taken care of.

BEN THOMPSON

Two.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yeah, right.

JACK

Let's not discuss our past, you two. Our new dive-bomber is inside the hangar deck.

BEN THOMPSON

A new dive-bomber better than the SBD?

JACK

That's right. Now that the enemy carrier-based planes are taken care of at the Philippine Sea, it's your chance to redeem yourselves to sink the final carrier that hit us at Pearl Harbor.

JOHN THOMPSON

Then this means the war is almost over and my family will be coming home next year. We can't wait to see my family again after the war ends.

BEN THOMPSON

But I wonder where our cousin is.

JACK

Your cousin, Bill Thompson, is in Saipan and he has revenge on his own.

JOHN THOMPSON

Revenge on whom?

JACK

Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo.

CUT TO:

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

GO TO:

EPISODE TITLE: SAIPAN

GO TO:

EXT. CENTRAL SAIPAN - DAY

After the Marines stormed ashore at Saipan, Bill Thompson and FOUR MARINES OF THE 2ND MARINE REGIMENT served under COMMANDING OFFICER, COLONEL WALTER J. STUART and EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL. Bill writes his letter to his cousins.

BILL THOMPSON [V.O.]

Dear Ben and John Thompson,

I'm sorry you guys didn't get a chance to sink the Jap carrier that bombed Pearl Harbor,

BILL THOMPSON [V.O.] [CONT'D]

...but I'm pleased to hear about your victory at the Philippine Sea. With the Jap planes gone, you'll have an opportunity to redeem yourself to sink the final carrier at Leyte Gulf after we find Vice Admiral Nagumo at Saipan. Not only did he participate in the Attack on Pearl Harbor, but also in both Midway and Guadalcanal Campaign. My soldiers and I left Guadalcanal last year to attack the Japanese at Tarawa. I wish we could have Thanksgiving dinner with you and my family but you two are still busy fighting against the Imperial Japanese Navy. I wanted to thank you for supporting me and my soldiers on the beaches of Saipan. It reminds me for D-Day Invasion of Normandy to liberate France from the Nazis. Once we find Admiral Nagumo at Saipan, then his justice will be served. Good luck finding the last Jap carrier at Leyte Gulf!

Love, Bill Thompson.

OLIVER

Hey, Bill! What are you doing?

BILL THOMPSON

I'm writing to my cousins. They're at Saipan but the submarines sank the Jap carriers first.

ADRIEL

I thought your cousins wanted their revenge on Pearl Harbor.

BILL THOMPSON

They're working on it and so do I.

(MORE)

BILL THOMPSON [CONT'D]

I was training for the Marine Corps, but the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor and killed more soldiers and Marines and worse, destroying the airfield on the ground and sank the entire warships at the harbor as stationary targets.

FRANK

And not only that, but the Japs also killed innocent civilians at Pearl Harbor.

GEORGE

How could let the Japs attack Pearl Harbor with their planes?

BILL THOMPSON

The Japs send the carrier-based planes to strafe on ground forces with their mixed armament and use their payloads on hangars and warships.

OLIVER

At least Admiral Yamamoto got what he deserved at Bougainville.

BILL THOMPSON

But Vice Admiral Nagumo is still out there at Saipan.

WALTER J. STUART

There's no time to talk. Our airfield is open for business.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Our P-47 Thunderbolts are on their way to suppress on the Jap defenses on the Death Valley.

ADRIEL

Really? No naval support or anything?

WALTER J. STUART

Yes, Adriel. The Japs fortified their positions with machine guns and artillery. We must breakthrough their line until Nagumo is found.

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER: "JUNE 22, 1944. DAY 8."

The Japanese artilleries shells rain down on the Marines to prevent them from advancing. The Marines use the mortars to weaken the Japanese line of defense. It takes a long time to cripple the Japanese stronghold until a squadron of P-47D Thunderbolts attack the enemy ground forces with bombs and rockets. With the help of the Allied air support, the Japanese defenses is shattered.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

The Japanese defenses are crippled, Colonel Stuart.

WALTER J. STUART

Then we're going to split up our forces. Griebel, take your men to the left flank. The rest of you, follow me to the right flank.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Yes, Sir.

The 2nd Marine Regiment splits up into two groups. Lieutenant Colonel Griebel takes Bill Thompson, four Marines, and the 1st Battalion to the left flank while the 2nd and 3rd Battalions

follow Colonel Stuart's lead on the right flank to surround the Japanese garrison.

SUPER: "JUNE 23, 1944. DAY 9."

As Lieutenant Colonel Griebel leads the 1st Battalion to attack the Japanese defenses at Death Valley, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WOOD BARBEE KYLE explains the situation.

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

Colonel Griebel, Major General Ralph Smith is relieved from his command of the 27th Infantry Division due to lack of progress at Saipan. Also, there are Jap troop movements on the Death Valley.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Radio for ariel reconnaissance to direct ground artillery. Adriel, you're a code talker. Use your secret communication to relay information about the enemy troop movement on the battlefield.

As Adriel uses his secret communication on the battlefield, Lieutenant Colonel Kyle radios for ariel reconnaissance.

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

This is Lieutenant Colonel Kyle speaking. The Jap garrison are on the move. Request for artillery support.

AMERICAN PILOT [V.O.]

Copy that. Artillery support is underway.

EXT. SAIPAN - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: "XXIV CORPS ARTILLERY."

BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR MCKINLEY HARPER orders his men of XXIV Corps to use artillery barrage against the Japanese garrison with field guns and howitzers along with rocket trucks.

ARTHUR MCKINLEY HARPER

Fire!

The Americans bombard at the Japanese garrison with 155 mm field guns and 155 mm howitzers. Then, the American trucks launched the rockets to neutralize the Japanese garrison before they reach the American frontline.

SUPER: "JUNE 24, 1944. DAY 10."

The American warships bombard the Saipan again, but this time, they use star shells to illuminate for incoming Japanese counterattack at night. Bill witnesses the naval bombardment on Saipan.

BILL THOMPSON

What's that?

Lieutenant Colonel Kyle looks through the binoculars.

EXT. SAIPAN - LIEUTENANT COLONEL KYLE'S POV

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

They're firing at the Japs with star shells.

OLIVER

Star shells?

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

To prevent the enemy counterattacks.

GEORGE

What if the Japs have guerrillas at Saipan?

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

Then that would be bad.

ADRIEL

Fighting against the Japanese guerrillas could be scary for us at night.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Then we must wait until daybreak.
Once the naval bombardment is
done, we'll advance and secure the
summit of Mount Tapotchau.

BILL THOMPSON

What about the 27th Infantry
Division?

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

They're trying to take control the
Death Valley.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

But Colonel Stuart and his
regiment already advance at the
Death Valley.

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

That's where the Jap artillery
observation posts are coming from.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

That's what we're going to do for
tomorrow. Once our naval support
finish bombarding the Japs, then
we'll take control of Central
Saipan and find Vice Admiral
Nagumo to make him pay for what
they did to us at Pearl Harbor.

BILL THOMPSON

Since my cousins will go after the
last carrier at Leyte Gulf for
their vengeance, we'll have
vengeance of our own at Saipan.

EXT. CENTRAL SAIPAN - DAY

SUPER: "JUNE 25, 1944. DAY 11."

The next day, the 2nd Marine Regiment are planning to occupy
Mount Tapotchau and attack the Japanese artillery observation
posts. It wasn't easy for the Marines to take control of Central
Saipan.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Soldiers, advance.

The Marines advance up at Mount Tapotchau and laid waste on the Japanese defenses with their machine guns and rifles.

INT. MOUNT TAPOTCHAU - DAY

Finally, the Marines secure Mount Tapotchau. Colonel Stuart was already there with LIEUTENANT COLONELS RICHARD C. NUTTING AND ARNOLD F. JOHNSTON.

WALTER J. STUART

Lieutenant Colonel Griebel, fancy running into you.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Colonel Stuart? How did you guys find me?

WALTER J. STUART

This is Lieutenant Colonels Nutting and Johnston.

RICHARD C. NUTTING

Hello.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Pleasure to see you, guys.

ARNOLD F. JOHNSTON

You guys were on the left flank while we're making progress to occupy the Death Valley along with 27th Infantry Division.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

What about the air support?

RICHARD C. NUTTING

The Japs are at Nafutan Point to sabotage our airfield at Aslito Field.

BILL THOMPSON

What? You've got to be kidding me!

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

No, I'm not. The Japs disrupt our air support to prevent them from getting attacked.

OLIVER

Without our air support, we have no choice but to retreat.

GEORGE

Retreat? (scoffs) We don't retreat! We're soldiers. We fight our enemies towards the end especially for the interrogation of Vice Admiral Nagumo.

ADRIEL

Yes, we don't have any choices to deal with Vice Admiral Nagumo.

BILL THOMPSON

But there is a choice. Either we interrogate Vice Admiral Nagumo about Pearl Harbor attack or take him to prison alive.

WALTER J. STUART

But there are too many Japs at Saipan!

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

We don't know if Nagumo is alive or dead. We must keep moving until we secure Saipan before the Japs before nightfall.

WALTER J. STUART

And this time, I'll take 1st and 2nd
Battalions to Garapan and
Johnston, follow Lieutenant
Colonel Griebel to Tanapag.

ARNOLD F. JOHNSTON

Yes, sir!

EXT. GARAPAN - DAY

SUPER: "JULY 3, 1944."

The 2nd Marine Regiment brought their tanks to take the city of
Garapan. They looked at the rumble and some of the buildings
were lying in ruins.

BILL THOMPSON

Where the hell is Vice Admiral
Nagumo? He's responsible for the
attack on Pearl Harbor in a first
place!

GEORGE

With planes?

BILL THOMPSON

Yes, George. He and Admiral
Yamamoto launched the carrier-
based planes to attack Pearl
Harbor and destroy the airfields
and sink the warships.

OLIVER

But with five Jap carriers sunk,
the last one escaped to Leyte Gulf
with no aircraft on the flight
deck.

Suddenly, the Japanese tank approaches toward the Marines.

WALTER J. STUART

Take cover!

The Japanese tank opens fire at the Marines with 7.7 mm Type 97
machine gun as they hide behind the rubble.

GEORGE

That Jap tank is too strong for
the firearms!

WALTER J. STUART

Call the tank brigade!

Adriel picks up the radio.

ADRIEL

(on radio) This is Adriel! They
brought a tank to attack us!

AMERICAN TANK COMMANDER [V.O.]

(on radio) Copy, Adriel. We're on
our way.

The Japanese tank is about to fire at the Marines with the main gun when suddenly, the American tanks came to rescue the Marines. The American tank opens fire with its main gun knocking the Japanese tank out of commission. The Marines were amazed to see the Sherman Tanks taking out the rest of the Japanese tanks and soldiers.

GEORGE

Run, you Jap bastard! Run!

OLIVER

And don't come back here again!

BILL THOMPSON

There's no time to celebrate! We must find Nagumo and interrogate him! He knows about the Pearl Harbor attack on Hawaii.

ADRIEL

But how can we get to Nagumo in Saipan?

WALTER J. STUART

That's a good question, son. If Nagumo is still alive, then we'll capture him and tell him what happened at Pearl Harbor.

BILL THOMPSON

Are we going to interrogate Nagumo about his attack at Pearl Harbor?

WALTER J. STUART

And that's exactly what we're going to do.

SUPER: "JULY 5, 1944."

The Americans continue bombarding the Japanese defenses at Saipan with artilleries and howitzers.

GEORGE

How do we get inside the cave?

OLIVER

We're going to take Flores Point and then we'll reach Tanapag where Chuichi Nagumo is if he's still alive.

BILL THOMPSON

I'm sure Nagumo is inside the cave, but it could be a trap.

ADRIEL

A trap?

GEORGE

There are more Japs inside the cave.

OLIVER

But it's too dark to go inside the cave.

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

But it's still quiet though.

RICHARD C. NUTTING

I'll be damned if Nagumo doesn't
tell us why the Japs attack us at
Pearl Harbor in a first place.

WALTER J. STUART

Then let's find Nagumo and capture
him. Lights out!

The Marines turned on their flashlights as they went inside the
cave.

INT. SAIPAN - REMOTE CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The Marines found the Japanese weapons and medical supplies
inside the cave. It contains machine guns and rifles they used
to defend their positions against the Americans. The Marines
know their weapons are running low on ammo.

GEORGE

Colonel, look!

Colonel Stuart opened the crates and saw some ammo inside the
crates. The rest of the Marines took the medical crates in case
any soldiers are wounded in battle against the Japanese and some
Marines carry the stolen weapons to give them more firepower on
the Japanese ground forces.

WALTER J. STUART

(gasps) The supply crates from the
Japs! Grab the weapons and load
your ammo and get the medical
supplies to treat our wounded men.

OLIVER

Yes, Sir!

Bill Thompson looks at the corpse. It was Chuichi Nagumo who committed suicide with his pistol. He picks up the pistol from Nagumo.

BILL THOMPSON

Nagumo is dead, Colonel Stuart.

WALTER J. STUART

I don't believe this! Why the hell is Nagumo wouldn't talk to us?

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

He committed suicide rather than being captured.

RICHARD C. NUTTING

He doesn't want to know why the Japs attack Pearl Harbor in a first place.

ADRIEL

What shall we do with the body?

WALTER J. STUART

Take the body to the gravesite. Vice Admiral Nagumo deserves it.

The Marines grab the corpse away from the remote cave.

EXT. SAIPAN - DAY

SUPER: "JULY 6, 1944."

The Marines bury Nagumo's dead body to his resting place at Saipan. Bill Thompson will never forget what Vice Admiral Nagumo has done at Pearl Harbor in three years.

BILL THOMPSON

Well, looks like the Jap Commander got what he deserves.

OLIVER

Yeah! This is what he gets for attacking Pearl Harbor!

GEORGE

We should be lucky that the Japs are down with one carrier at Leyte Gulf.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

What's so lucky about the Jap Commander?

ADRIEL

He committed suicide before he could say anything to us about the Pearl Harbor attack.

WALTER J. STUART

Never mind about Nagumo, son. There's no one else who command the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor three years ago.

OLIVER

So, what's our move, Colonel Stuart?

WALTER J. STUART

We will advance towards Tanapag so our planes can land on the airfield safely at Saipan.

GEORGE

Except the bombers are too big to land on the carriers.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Then we'll have to follow the 27th Infantry Division at Tanapag.

With the Japanese Admirals who participated for Pearl Harbor taken care of, the Marines have one final goal: capture the city of Tanapag.

EXT. TANAPAG PLAIN - DAY

SUPER: "JULY 8, 1944."

The 2nd Marine Regiment brought their tanks including the "Satan" tanks. The "Satan" tanks are equipped with flamethrowers to wipe out the Japanese forces at Saipan.

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

Colonel Stuart, the Japs attack the 27th Infantry Division last night.

WALTER J. STUART

How many casualties, Kyle?

WOOD BARBEE KYLE

We've lost 3,225 soldiers, 3,100 of them were Marines, 326 missing, and 13,061 or more are wounded.

RICHARD C. NUTTING

But there are civilians in Saipan.

ARNOLD F. JOHNSTON

They think we're bad guys.

BILL THOMPSON

I disagree, Johnston. The civilians need our help to liberate Saipan.

OLIVER

I'm not sure about that, Bill.

GEORGE

Either the civilians tried to commit suicide by jumping off the

cliff or they're with the Japs at Saipan.

ADRIEL

We'll give the food to the civilians after we make our final push at Saipan.

JOHN HOUGHTON GRIEBEL

Then, let's take out the final defense at Saipan.

WALTER J. STUART

Soldiers, advance!

The Marines storm through the Japanese defenses determine to occupy Saipan. Some of the Marines carry the Japanese weapons. The American tanks open fire at the Japanese bunkers and pillboxes with their main batteries. The "Satan" tanks attack the Japanese with their flamethrowers causing the Japanese soldiers to burn inside the bunker.

INT. BUNKER - DAY

The Marines infiltrate the Japanese bunker with flamethrowers and machine guns. The Americans killed 25,144 Japanese garrison and took 1,810 prisoners at Saipan.

BILL THOMPSON

Saipan is secure, Sir.

WALTER J. STUART

Good work, soldiers. Let's find the civilians and bring supplies to them.

EXT. SAIPAN - DAY

SUPER: "JULY 9, 1944."

The Marines give the food to the civilians to avoid starvation, but only 8,000 to 10,000 civilians commit suicide by jumping off the cliff rather than having food rations. Oliver kindly gives the food to the hungry civilians.

OLIVER

Here you go, buddy. A food ration
for you and your family.

GEORGE

Take my canteen. It'll quench your
thirst.

Bill Thompson looked down and saw dead civilians floating on the
ocean below.

OLIVER

Is something wrong, Bill?

BILL THOMPSON

They think I killed Nagumo, but I
didn't.

GEORGE

You're kidding?

BILL THOMPSON

No, I'm not. They think we're
villains.

OLIVER

We're not villains, Bill. We're
heroes. We fight for our country
to serve, protect, and defend our
freedom against our enemies.

GEORGE

But the civilians in Saipan
ignored our propaganda.

BILL THOMPSON

What propaganda?

GEORGE

Our propaganda to fight against
the Axis Powers on Europe,
Southeast Asia, and even in the
Pacific.

OLIVER

Pacific? Oh, yeah! We signed up for the Marine Corps before the Japs hit us at Pearl Harbor.

GEORGE

Your cousins were involved at Pearl Harbor attack and sank five Jap carriers, but the last one escapes to Leyte Gulf.

BILL THOMPSON

Leyte Gulf? I thought the Jap planes are wiped out!

OLIVER

Not all of them.

GEORGE

The Japs are using a terrifying weapon to devastate our Navy.

BILL THOMPSON

With planes?

OLIVER

Not just the planes, but at sea as well.

GEORGE

The Japs called the kamikaze or divine wind.

BILL THOMPSON

Kamikaze? Why would the Japs do that?

GEORGE

That's their mission to end the war between the Allies and the

Axis Powers, but thankfully the British will join us in the Pacific War.

OLIVER

But the British are still fighting the Germans in Europe.

BILL THOMPSON

I know it's complicated, Oliver, but the Japanese are the most concern.

(MORE)

BILL THOMPSON [CONT'D]

The Soviet Union was already advancing on the Eastern Front, and the Allies are fighting in the West.

GEORGE

And don't forget, the Italians betray the Nazis after the Battle of Sicily.

BILL THOMPSON

I wonder where my cousins are up to now.

OLIVER

I think they're still fighting at the Pacific to sink the last Jap carrier at Leyte Gulf.

GEORGE

And we know what that means. It means Pearl Harbor will be avenged.

Bill Thompson knows his cousins won't stop until all six Japanese carriers are sunk, and Pearl Harbor will be avenged.

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END