

LEYTE GULF

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SIBUYAN SEA - DAY

SUPER: "OCTOBER 24, 1944. SIBUYAN SEA."

A squadron of American carrier-based planes are on a mission at Sibuyan Sea to protect the landings at the Philippines before the Japanese Center Force have a chance to strike. The American Task Force 38 includes 120 F6F Hellcats, 65 Curtiss SB2C Helldivers, and 53 TBM Avenger Torpedo-Bombers.

INT. FELLNER'S SB2C HELLDIVER - DAY

One of the Helldiver pilots from the American carrier, *USS Franklin*, is LIEUTENANT NICK FELLNER. HIS FLIGHT LEADER, LIEUTENANT C. A. SKINNER calls out over the radio.

LIEUTENANT C. A. SKINNER [V.O.]

(over the radio) Commander
Fellner, do you copy? This is
Lieutenant Skinner.

NICK FELLNER

(on radio) This is Lieutenant
Fellner. Go ahead.

LIEUTENANT C. A. SKINNER [V.O.]

(over the radio) Our ground forces
are under attack by Japanese
Center Force along with two
battleships *Musashi* and *Yamato*.

NICK FELLNER

(over the radio) Roger, Lieutenant
Skinner. We'll repel the Japanese
attackers before they react. Let's
split up and sink many warships
fast as we can.

Lieutenant Fellner and the Helldivers follow Lieutenant Skinner's lead for diving attack on the Japanese warships by using a stock footage from *Dogfights: Season 1*. Japanese battleships *Yamato* and *Musashi*, and other Japanese warships unleash their anti-aircraft barrage at the American planes. Fellner presses the bomb release button at the Japanese flagship and dives away. *Yamato* was hit by an armored piercing bomb, but ironically, *Yamato* is still a float.

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

GO TO:

EPISODE TITLE: LEYTE GULF

GO TO:

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S SB2C HELLDIVER - CONTINUOUS

Ben Thompson pilots the SB2C Helldiver under COMMANDER R. E. RIERA. Ben's brother, John Thompson, is his rear gunner.

COMMANDER R. E. RIERA [V.O.]

(over the radio) Ben Thompson, do you copy? This is Commander Riera speaking. We've spotted the Center Force attacking our ground forces.

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio) Roger, Commander Riera. Let's neutralize the Jap fleet with bombs and torpedoes.

The Helldivers and TBM Avengers attack on the Japanese Battleship, *Musashi*, and other Japanese warships. The Japanese Center Force counterattack the American planes with multi-colored anti-aircraft barrage. In their excitement, The Thompson Brothers have never seen those flaks before.

JOHN THOMPSON

Ben, look at those flaks! They're multi-colored!

BEN THOMPSON

I'm aware of that, John! I can't lose my concentration on the Center Force while using diving speed!

JOHN THOMPSON

Alright, then. Just hit the goddamn target and go home!

Ben Thompson concentrates on *Musashi* and releases the bombs under its wings.

The bombs slam on *Musashi* and three Japanese battleships which the stock footage was used from *Battle 360*. *Yamato* and three Japanese battleships are damaged as the TBM Avengers finish *Musashi* off with torpedoes, but one of the torpedoes struck on the Japanese cruiser to cut off her speed advantage. *Musashi* is the only powerful warship sunk by American aerial assault at Sibuyan Sea.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SURIGAO STRAIT - NIGHT

SUPER: "SURIGAO STRAIT. BATTLE DIVISION 4."

At night, The American 7th Fleet patrol at Surigao Strait along with five surviving battleships from Pearl Harbor attack three years earlier and now the Battle Line are out for revenge.

INT. USS MISSISSIPPI - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT

REAR ADMIRAL GEORGE L. WEYLER leads the Battle Line onboard the American battleship, *USS Mississippi*, which did not participate at Pearl Harbor attack three years ago. CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD gives the status report to Rear Admiral Weyler.

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD

Sir, we have a report at Sibuyan Sea. Our bombers sank *Musashi*. Also, our Helldivers damaged *Yamato* and three battleships, but one of our planes hit the Jap cruiser.

GEORGE L. WEYLER

Any casualties, Captain Redfield?

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD

We've lost 18 bombers while attacking the Center Force.

GEORGE L. WEYLER

Then proceed to Surigao Strait. The Center Force must be stopped.

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD

Yes, Sir!

As the 7th Fleet reach Surigao Strait, they spot the enemy fleet attacking the American PT Boats.

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD [CONT'D]

Enemy fleet spotted!

Weyler went outside the command bridge to find out the situation at Surigao Strait. He looks through the binoculars.

WEYLER'S POV

The American PT Boats are attacking the Japanese Southern Force with torpedoes in a distance.

GEORGE L. WEYLER

Looks like the Japs are attacking
the PT Boats.

EXT. USS MISSISSIPPI - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD

Then what shall we do, sir?

GEORGE L. WEYLER

Order your men to use full
broadside against the Southern
Force.

INT. USS MISSISSIPPI - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT

Captain Redfield orders his men to man their battle stations.

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD

(announcing over P.A.) ALL HANDS,
MAN YOUR BATTLESTATIONS!

SFX: GENERAL QUARTERS SOUND

INT. USS MISSISSIPPI - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The American sailors are preparing for their battle stations.

EXT. SURIGAO STRAIT - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, three *Fletcher*-class Destroyers release their torpedoes at the Japanese Southern Force, but *USS Melvin* scored two direct hits at the Japanese battleship, *Fuso*. The Japanese cruiser banks right to avoid the collision.

The other two *Fletcher*-class Destroyers release their torpedoes sinking one of the Japanese destroyers and damaging two more Japanese destroyers. The Japanese battleship, *Yamashiro*, is also hit by American torpedo.

INT. USS MISSISSIPPI - COMMAND BRIDGE - NIGHT

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD [CONT'D]

We're ready, sir.

GEORGE L. WEYLER

Then use the broadside attack at the Southern Force.

CAPTAIN H.J. REDFIELD

Open fire!

Six American battleships open fire at the Japanese Southern Force with full broadside by crossing the T, but *Yamashiro* only fires with her forward guns at the Americans. The rest American warships concentrate all their firepower at the Japanese Fleet with full broadside, but some of the American warships went after the Southern Force. *Yamashiro* tries to escape from the American Fleet, but *Yamashiro* was hit by two torpedoes. As *Yamashiro* capsizes and slips beneath the waves at Surigao Strait, *USS Albert W. Grant* ends up in friendly fire until the American warships hold their fire. As the rest of the Japanese Southern Force tried to retreat, two Japanese cruisers end up in collision leading the American warships to pursue the battered Japanese heavy cruiser, *Mogami*, with their main batteries. As the crippled Japanese heavy cruiser leaves Surigao Strait, the American fleet choose not to follow while the American PT Boats release their torpedoes, but one of the torpedoes makes a direct hit at the Japanese destroyer, *Asagumo*. Two light cruisers and three destroyers sink *Asagumo* to the bottom of the sea while rescuing the Japanese survivors. With the Japanese destroyer sinks to the bottom of the sea, the surviving sailors and crew have no choice but to swim away from the wreckage to reach the island of Leyte.

EXT. EAST OF SAMAR - DAY

SUPER: "OCTOBER 25, 1944. TAFFY 3. EAST OF SAMAR."

At the east of Samar, six American escort carriers are accompanied by three destroyers and four destroyer escorts.

INT. USS FANSHAW BAY - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

REAR ADMIRAL CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK "ZIGGY" SPRAGUE leads Taffy 3 in Battle off Samar. CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON gives the news to "Ziggy" Sprague about the surviving battleships at Siargao Strait against the Japanese Southern Force.

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

Sir, our surviving battleships returned last night.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

How many battleships, Captain Johnson?

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

Five out of six, sir.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

Five out of six battleships?

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

Yes, and our battleship, *Mississippi*, is not one of them.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

Are you saying that *Mississippi* wasn't present at Pearl Harbor attack three years ago?

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

Exactly, Admiral. Also, all the Jap Battleship Division 2 were sunk along with three *Asashio*-class destroyers.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

Any losses?

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

None, sir, but one of our destroyers, *USS Albert W. Grant*, was hit by a friendly fire at Surigao Strait.

But before he could say anything to Captain Johnson, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER R.S. ROGERS enters the bridge.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

Lieutenant Commander Rogers, have you found locate the Jap Flagship?

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER R.S. ROGERS

No, Admiral Ziggy, we didn't find the location of *Yamato*, but we did sink the Jap heavy cruiser, *Mogami*.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

Good work, Rogers. Lead your squadron for reconnaissance mission to locate the Jap Fleet.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER R.S. ROGERS

Yes, sir.

EXT. USS FANSHAW BAY - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

USS Fanshaw Bay launches a squadron of TBMs for reconnaissance mission to locate the Imperial Japanese Armada.

INT. JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

On the other side at off Samar, JAPANESE VICE ADMIRAL TAKEO KURITA commands his flagship, *Yamato*. He already lost his flagship at the Sibuyan Sea two days earlier and *Yamato's* bomb damage has already repaired. He joins Vice Admiral Ugaki AND REAR ADMIRAL MORISHITA at the command bridge.

REAR ADMIRAL MORISHITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Sir, enemy torpedo-planes have spotted us! Shall we shoot them down?*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *No, we have a mission at off Samar.*

(MORE)

TAKEO KURITA [CONT'D]

(continue in Japanese) *We must target Taffy 3 to ensure the American escort carriers can't take off and land at the same time because the American ships are weak compared to our mighty warships.*

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *Then what should we do about the American Fleet?*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Order our sailors to load the multi-colored shells to avoid friendly fire.*

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *You've got it, Takeda. We'll make sure our fleet doesn't end up in friendly fire.*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Good. Then proceed to Taffy 3.*

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *Yes, sir!*

INT. USS JOHNSTON - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Back on Taffy 3, COMMANDER ERNEST EDWIN EVANS is the first Native American sailor to take charge on the bridge of the American destroyer, *USS Johnston*. These tiny American warships use their smokestacks to protect the escort carriers away from the Imperial Japanese Fleet.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Commander Evans, our scout planes found the location of the Jap Fleet.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

How many ships, CAPTAIN HAGEN?

ROBERT C. HAGEN

23 ships, sir.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Hold them off! Don't let the Japs
go near our escort carriers!

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Yes, sir!

USS Johnston turns around to pursue the mighty Imperial Japanese Fleet.

INT. JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Vice Admiral Ugaki spots *USS Johnston* heading towards *Yamato* and the rest of the Japanese warships.

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *An enemy
destroyer is heading right for us!*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Concentrate
all your firepower at Taffy 3!*

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *But sir,
we're about to use our broadside
attack!*

TAKEO KURITA

(shouting in Japanese)] *I gave you
a direct order, Ugaki! Do it!*

The Japanese Fleet are now in disarray. Instead of forming a battleline, Admiral Kurita decided to hunt Taffy 3 down. *Yamato* and other Japanese warships open fire with multi-colored shells. Each color of bombarding shells they fire are reds, blues, yellows, and whites. *USS Johnston* zigzags course to follow the splashes to avoid getting hit by multi-colored shells.

INT. USS JOHNSTON - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

USS Johnston targets the Japanese Cruiser, *Kumano*.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Sir, we're ready.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Open fire.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Fire!

USS Johnston opens fire with her main batteries at *Kumano*. Stock footage from *Dogfights: Season 1* shows the *Kumano's* bridge was hit by 54-pound shells. *USS Johnston* pursues *Kumano* within range with torpedoes.

ROBERT C. HAGEN [CONT'D]

Sir, we have the Jap heavy cruiser in range.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Launch torpedoes!

USS Johnston turns to port to launch its torpedoes at *Kumano*, but one of the torpedoes made a direct hit at *Kumano*, causing the bow blown off.

INT. JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The Japanese crew spots *Kumano's* sister ship, *Suzuya*, from the distance. *Suzuya* was taken hit by *USS Johnston*.

REAR ADMIRAL MORISHITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Sir, Suzuya is also hit.*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Suzuya is saving Kumano to avoid sinking. Keep focusing on the enemy fleet and make sure American flyers don't land on their escort carriers.*

INT. USS FANSHAW BAY - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Back on *USS Fanshaw Bay*, Ziggy saw three more warships leaving the escort carriers unprotected.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAUGE

Where the hell are our warships
gone off to?

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

They're trying to save us from the
enemy fleet, Ziggy. *Yamato* is one
of them.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAUGE

But we're outgunned, Johnson!
Yamato made a direct hit on *White
Plains* and now there's no one here
to protect us!

INT. USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Onboard the American destroyer escort, *USS Samuel B. Roberts*,
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND orders his crew to
follow other two destroyers by follow the enemy salvos until one
of the American destroyers, *USS Hoel*, was hit on the bridge.

BILL BURTON

Sir, *USS Hoel* is taken damage!

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

Stay on her. Make sure the Japs
don't find us!

BILL BURTON

Yes, sir!

Meanwhile, *USS Johnston* avoids getting hit by the Japanese
battleship, *Kongo*, unaware *Yamato* is on the striking distance at
USS Johnston.

INT. JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Vice Admiral Ugaki spots *USS Johnston* in retreat by using the
binoculars.

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *Sir, we have a clear shot at the enemy destroyer.*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Aim for the weak points.*

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *Open fire.*

REAR ADMIRAL MORISHITA

(shouting in Japanese) *Fire!*

Yamato fires at Johnston with 18-inch shells.

JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO'S POV

Yamato's shells rained down and scored three direct hits at Johnston.

INT. USS JOHNSTON - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Yamato's 18-inch shells impact causes the sailors and crews to rock the ship inside the command bridge.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Sir! We've been hit!

INT. JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

REAR ADMIRAL MORISTIHA

(shouting in Japanese) *Fire!*

Yamato fires again, but this time, the shells hit Johnston's bridge.

INT. USS JOHNSTON - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

SFX: FLASHBANG SOUND EFFECT

Commander Evans lost two fingers on his left hand and the sailors were wounded inside the bridge. He crawls and saw the carnage inside the bridge. Incredibly, Commander Evans stands up to pick up his hat and returns to his post.

EXT. USS JOHNSTON - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Commander Evans witnesses two Japanese heavy cruisers, *Suzuya*, and her sister ship, *Kumano*, are burning in a distance and *Suzuya* was sunk by American planes. He limps back inside the bridge and two medics went inside the bridge to aid Commander Evans to treat his wounds.

INT. USS JOHNSTON - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The medics quickly put some bandages on his left hand to recover his wounds.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

It's going to be alright,
Commander Evans.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Save it, Hagen. There's only one
left of me to deal with.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

What are you saying?

Hagen stuns an amazement as Commander Evans took off his shirt.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

I'm still commanding this ship.
Repair the damage.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

But, sir, you're wounded!

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

We don't have all day! I want this
ship repaired!

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Yes, sir!

INT. USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

ONE OF *USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS'* CREW, BILL BURTON, spots a crippled destroyer, *USS Johnston*, as three American warships passed by.

BILL BURTON

Sir, *Johnston* is taken hits!

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

(gasps, whispering) Oh my god! Is he alright?

BILL BURTON

Yes, sir. Commander Evans left the bridge to assess the situation, but we have no idea where the Jap shells are coming from.

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

Either Jap battleships, *Kongo*, or *Yamato* hit *Johnston* or *Yamato* is the only a Jap battleship that hit her twice.

BILL BURTON

I believe it's *Yamato*, sir. *Kongo* failed to score a direct hit at *Johnston*.

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

Then make sure the Japs don't target *Johnston*.

BILL BURTON

Yes, sir!

Meanwhile, *Kumano* opens fire at the destroyer, *USS Hoel*, with her broad side, while *USS Hoel* launches her torpedoes at *Kumano*, but *Kumano* struck *USS Hoel* first before the American destroyer get a chance to sink *Kumano*.

EXT. *USS JOHNSTON* - CONTINUOUS

Commander Evans is out of the bridge but he's still in command his ship to attack the Japanese Fleet with 5-inch guns.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Keep firing!

Johnston targets another Japanese heavy cruiser, *Tone*. Then, Commander Evans spots a group of American planes came to rescue Taffy 3. The FM2 Wildcats attack *Yamato* and the Japanese Fleet with .50 caliber machine guns while the TBMs launch their torpedoes to strike the enemy ships.

As the Japanese Fleet use their anti-aircraft barrage at the American planes, *Yamato* opens fire with her main batteries by using a stock footage from *Dogfights: Season 1*. *Yamato's* shells cripple the American destroyer, *USS Hoel*, as she launches her torpedoes at *Yamato*.

INT. JAPANESE BATTLESHIP YAMATO - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Vice Admiral Ugaki spots the torpedoes from *USS Hoel* to determine to sink the Japanese battleship, *Yamato*. Her sister ship, *Musashi*, was already sunk earlier, and *Yamato* must not suffer her same fate.

MATOME UGAKI

(speaking in Japanese) *Enemy destroyer is launching torpedoes!*

TAKEO KURITA

(speaking in Japanese) *Let the Taffy 3 suffer. We've done enough damage for one day. Leave the battle at once.*

The Japanese battleship, *Yamato*, escapes away from Taffy 3 as *USS Heermann* launches torpedoes by mistake. The torpedoes went past the Japanese heavy cruiser, but damages on the Japanese battleship, *Haruna*, with 5-inch guns. *Haruna* is out of the fight as *USS Heermann* launches her last three torpedoes at *Kongo's* sister ship unaware the Japanese warships open fire at the escort carriers. Escort carrier, *USS Kalinin Bay*, was taken damage on her flight deck to prevent the American planes from taking off and landing. As two Japanese heavy cruisers fire at the escort carriers, one of the Japanese heavy cruisers was taken hits by the American planes. The Japanese heavy cruisers continue to pursue the American escort carriers.

INT. USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

GUNNER OFFICER BILL BURTON spots the escort carriers under attack by Japanese heavy cruisers.

BILL BURTON

Our escort carriers are under attack! Shall we open fire at the Japs?

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

No! Get closer within firing range.

USS Samuel B. Roberts is getting closer and closer to the Imperial Japanese Fleet.

BILL BURTON

Now, sir?

ROBERT WITCHER COEPLAND

Not yet!

Suddenly, one of the Japanese shells knocks the radio mast and jams the torpedo tubes.

BILL BURTON

Sir, our torpedo tubes are jammed!

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

We still have torpedoes. Launch all torpedoes at the Japanese ships!

USS Samuel B. Roberts launches three torpedoes at the Japanese heavy cruiser, *Chokai*, and rendezvous with the rest of Taffy 3. Meanwhile, the Japanese destroyer and *USS Heermann* fight side-by-side without firing each other as the escort carrier, *USS Gambier Bay*, is under attack by Japanese heavy cruiser, *Chikuma*.

BILL BURTON

We're waiting for your orders, sir.

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

You may fire when ready.

USS Samuel B. Roberts opens fire at Chikuma. *Chikuma* is hit by 5-inch shells damaging the super structure, knocking out No. 3 gun turret, and loses one of her lifeboats by using *Dogfights: Season 1* stock footage.

EXT. USS JOHNSTON - CONTINUOUS

USS Johnston opens fire at the Japanese battleship, *Haruna*, knocking out few small guns.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Sir, the Japs are headed towards
our escort carriers!

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Leave the fleeing Jap warships.
We've got escort carriers to
protect.

But *USS Gambier Bay* already hit by Japanese warships. Taffy 2 came to rescue the battered *USS Gambier Bay* as the escort carrier uses the searchlights to signal Taffy 2. Taffy 2 responds and retreats leaving Taffy 3 to defend themselves. *USS Heermann* cuts across Taffy 3's formation and nearly colliding with one of its own ships clearing away from the battered escort carrier and damaging *Chikuma* with 5-inch guns. One of the salvos hits the sea plane hangar which sets off with an explosion. The Japanese warships surround *USS Hoel* and sinks her to the bottom of the sea. *USS Heermann* continues pounding *Chikuma* with 5-inch guns, until the pilot house was hit by Japanese shells and steers away from the Japanese heavy cruisers.

EXT. *USS JOHNSTON* - CONTINUOUS

Commander Evans spots the Japanese heavy cruiser, *Haguro*.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Sir, *Gambier Bay* is taken hits!

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Concentrate on all your fire at
the nearest heavy cruiser.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

Yes, sir!

USS Johnston opens fire at *Haguro* while pounding on *USS Gambier Bay*, but *Johnston* didn't see the Japanese light cruiser, *Yahagi*, and four Japanese destroyers coming from the north. After taking 12 hits from *Johnston*, *Yahagi* launches three torpedoes, but the Japanese torpedoes went past *Johnston*.

INT. *USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS* - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, *USS Samuel B. Roberts* spots the Japanese battleship, *Kongo*, firing at *Samuel B. Roberts* with 14-inch salvos.

BILL BURTON

Sir, we've been spotted by a Jap battleship!

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

Yamato?

BILL BURTON

It wasn't *Yamato*, sir, it's the Jap battleship, *Kongo*, and she's firing at us!

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

Cut the speed.

USS Samuel B. Roberts cuts her speed to avoid getting hit until *USS Samuel B. Roberts* was hit by Japanese heavy cruiser!

BILL BURTON

Sir, our boilers are damaged!

The Japanese warships continue to pounce on *USS Samuel B. Roberts*. The American escort carriers fire at *Chokai* with 5-inch dual-purpose gun. One of the TBMs bombed *Chokai* in the machinery room, leaving her dead in the water. Four TBMs from Taffy 2 attack *Chikuma*, but one of the torpedoes destroyed the ship's rudder. Then three more TBMs launch their torpedoes and sink *Chikuma* to the bottom of the sea. Japanese battleship, *Kongo*, scored several hits on *USS Samuel B. Roberts*. *USS Samuel B. Roberts* fired several rounds at the Japanese warships, one of the 5-inch gun turrets is out of action.

BILL BURTON

Our ship is sinking!

ROBERT WITCHER COPELAND

[calling out to sailors] Abandon ship!

EXT. USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS - CONTINUOUS

Copeland and his sailors board their life rafts to get away from the sinking ship. *USS Samuel B. Roberts* is not the only ship that was sunk at off Samar, *USS Gambier Bay* is sunk as well. After the surviving crew boarded their life rafts, they watched as *USS Gambier Bay* capsized and slips beneath the waves.

USS Gambier Bay is the only escort carrier sunk by the Japanese surface ships. The Japanese fleet turn north away from Taffy 3.

INT. USS FANSHAW BAY - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Captain Johnson receives the message to Ziggy.

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

Sir, one of our escort carriers
was sunk by a kamikaze attack.

Ziggy looks at the report about the kamikaze attack on Taffy 3.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

It's *USS St. Lo*.

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

St. Lo is the first ship sunk by
the kamikazes.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

What about planes from Taffy 3?

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

They're still attacking fleeing
warships.

CLIFTON ALBERT FREDERICK SPRAGUE

Then order our planes to return to
our escort carriers!

CAPTAIN D.P. JOHNSON

Yes, sir!

EXT. USS JOHNSTON - CONTINUOUS

Commander Evans makes his last stand to sink the Japanese fleet by running around the deck especially when he's shirtless.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

(shouting) Keep firing!

But the Japanese salvo hits on *Johnston's* engine and begin to sink to the bottom of the sea.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

We must go, Commander! We can't
take more hits than that!

But before Commander Evans responds to Gunnery Officer Hagen, the Japanese destroyer, *Yukikaze*, passes by at the starboard. Commander Evans salutes to the Japanese Captain on the bridge along with the Japanese sailors.

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

I would rather go down with my
ship and you, Hagen, must leave
the ship. It is an honor to serve
you and your crew.

ROBERT C. HAGEN

(sobbing) Commander Evans, please!
We won't leave you!

ERNEST EDWIN EVANS

Go! Now!

Gunnery Officer Hagen and the surviving crew board their lifeboats away from the sinking ship. Out of the crew of 327, only 141 sailors survived. Commander Evans was never seen again.

EXT. CAPE ENGANO - DAY

SUPER: "CAPE ENGANO. TASK FORCE 38."

At Cape Engano, the American Task Force 38 are hunting down the last Japanese carrier that hit Pearl Harbor: the *Zuikaku*.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER gives the report to REAR ADMIRAL RALPH EUGENE DAVISON about the casualties between the Japanese Center Force and Taffy 3.

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

Sir, Taffy 3 sank three Jap heavy
cruisers with the loss of five
ships of their own at Battle off
Samar.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

And *Yamato*?

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

Yamato escaped from Taffy 3
unharmmed.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

We should've aid Taffy 3 at off
Samar in the first place. Bring
the Thompson Brothers here so I
can talk to them.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The Thompson Brothers are talking to each other. They're looking forward to strike on the last Japanese carrier at Leyte Gulf and Pearl Harbor will be avenged.

BEN THOMPSON

We've lost so many friends at
Pearl Harbor.

JOHN THOMPSON

Weston was a gunner at Midway
until he was killed in action
while shooting down the Zeros.

BEN THOMPSON

And worst of all, we've lost the
Battle of Santa Cruz and James is
on the causalities list at
Guadalcanal.

JOHN THOMPSON

We should be lucky the Japs are
down with one carrier left, but
the problem is Bill Martin left
Caden and Noah behind while
bombing on Saipan.

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

Ben? John? Rear Admiral Davison
wants to see you.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

The Thompson Brothers told them about their actions at Sibuyan Sea.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

Captain Glover told me everything
that you two sank the Jap
battleship at Sibuyan Sea earlier.

BEN THOMPSON

But we took out the Jap flagship,
sir!

JOHN THOMPSON

It was the battleship, *Yamato!*
They're trying to shoot us down
with multi-colored flak barrage!

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

It wasn't the battleship, *Yamato,*
you've bombed, you two. It was her
sister ship, *Musashi.*

BEN THOMPSON

Musashi?

JOHN THOMPSON

We forgot about that.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

You'd misidentified the enemy
super battleship before the Battle
Off Samar started.

BEN THOMPSON

And why is Taffy 3 battling the
Center Force alone?

JOHN THOMPSON

We should've helped Taffy 3 at the
Battle Off Samar in the first
place.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

I'm afraid not. Commander Ernest
Evans sacrificed himself to save
Taffy 3 at Off Samar.

BEN THOMPSON

But it was Commander Evan's first time in the Pacific War.

JOHN THOMPSON

He's a brave man! Commander Evans fighting the Center Force without any help at all.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

There's nothing we can do to save Commander Evans and Taffy 3.

BEN THOMPSON

Such as David vs. Goliath?

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

That's right. David beats Goliath.

JOHN THOMPSON

Are there any Jap carriers left at Leyte Gulf?

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

Yes, there are three Japanese light carriers and *Zuikaku*.

BEN THOMPSON

Is that mean this will be our final mission to avenge Pearl Harbor?

JOHN THOMPSON

My cousin was looking for Nagumo at Saipan for interrogation, but Nagumo decided to commit suicide with his pistol.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

He did. He never told your cousin about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Then, A HELLDIVER PILOT arrives at the bridge.

COMMANDER M.E. RIERA

Sorry to bother you, sir, but I want the Thompson Brothers at the ready room.

RALPH EUGENE DAVISON

Go on, you two. You don't want to miss your final briefing.

THE THOMPSON BROTHERS

Yes, sir!

The Thompson Brothers left the command bridge to get ready for their final mission to avenge Pearl Harbor once and for all.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - DAY

All naval pilots are in the ready room where Commander Riera and Captain Glover give the briefing to sink the Japanese Northern Force.

COMMANDER M.E. RIERA

Now we know the last Jap carrier's location at Cape Engano, both the Southern and Center Force were out of the fight. Our mission is to sink all the carriers with diving bombing attack before the Japs send the planes for interception. Meanwhile, our TBM Avengers will finish the carriers off with torpedoes. Make sure you hit the targets before the Jap carriers launch their counterattack with their planes. Jack, you'll be assigned the Torpedo Squadron 20 as a rear gunner. LIEUTENANT PRICKETT will lead Torpedo 20 to attack the Japanese Northern Force. This will lead the destruction of the Imperial Japanese Navy at Leyte Gulf.

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

And as for you two, I've got a call from your parents, and they said they want to see you both.

BEN THOMPSON

For the holiday season?

JOHN THOMPSON

And Halloween?

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

This will be your last mission to avenge the Pearl Harbor attack and we're sorry to hear about your friends three years ago. I hope you two will return home as a war hero.

BEN THOMPSON

A war hero?

JOHN THOMPSON

So, this whole time, are we fighting against the entire Jap Navy until the last carrier sunk at Leyte Gulf?

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

That's right. We'll promise you both to teach those Japs a lesson not to mess up with your friends.

COMMANDER M.E. RIERA

The rest of you, good luck with your final attack at Leyte Gulf.

The Thompson Brothers watch as the American naval pilots left the ready room.

CAPTAIN C.D. GLOVER

You too, boys. Your Helldiver is ready. Good luck in your final mission.

THE THOMPSON BROTHERS

Yes, sir!

The Thompson Brothers left the ready room.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

The Thompson Brothers enter SB2C Helldiver to sink the Imperial Japanese Navy to the bottom of the sea.

JOHN THOMPSON

All set, brother?

BEN THOMPSON

Yes, John. We're all set and ready to go.

JOHN THOMPSON

Ok, Ben! Let's go!

BEN THOMPSON

Hold on tight, bro!

The Helldiver takes off from *Enterprise's* flight deck. The rest of the bombers took off to sink the last Japanese carrier to the bottom of the sea.

INT. JAPANESE CARRIER ZUIKAKU - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Vice Admiral Ozawa spoke severely to Rear Admiral Kaizuka about the incident at the Philippine Sea last summer.

JISABURO OZAWA

(angrily in Japanese) *Your job is to prevent the Americans sinking our carrier fleet!*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *But we dispatched our new planes, and we have no idea where the American submarines are coming from.*

JISABURO OZAWA

(speaking in Japanese) *Then you should've stopped the enemy submarines before the Americans have a chance to hit our carriers with torpedoes in the first place!*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *What about our new planes that we had four months ago?*

JISABURO OZAWA

(speaking in Japanese) *Our new planes must wait until further notice. Launch our fighters.*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *Yes, sir!*

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S SB2C HELLDIVER - CONTINUOUS

As the F6F Hellcats dogfight with the Japanese Zeros, Ben spots the Japanese Northern Force down below.

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio) *There's our target, Commander Riera.*

INT. COMMANDER RIERA'S SB2C HELLDIVER - CONTINUOUS

Commander Riera also looks down at the Japanese Fleet.

COMMANDER M.E. RIERA

(on radio) *It's the Japanese Northern Force along with *Zuikaku!* All bomber squadron, prepare to attack the Northern Force.*

The American carrier-based bombers attack the Japanese Northern Force with bombs and torpedoes. Stock footage from *Battle 360* shows the Japanese Northern Force under attack by American planes with bombs and torpedoes with multi-colored anti-aircraft barrage. One of the Helldivers sank the Japanese destroyer, *Akizuki*, with 1,000 pounds of bombs. Four TBMs from *USS Essex* target the Japanese hybrid warship, *Ise*, but all the torpedoes missed their target. 13 Helldivers target the Japanese light carrier, *Chitose*. Eight bombs slam on *Chitose*. After hitting *Chitose* with two torpedoes, four Helldivers from *USS Lexington* finish *Chitose* off sending the Japanese light carrier into her watery grave. Then, more torpedo planes from two American light carriers, *Jacinto* and *Belleau Wood*, attack the Japanese light cruiser, *Tama*, and struck a torpedo while protecting the sinking Japanese light carrier.

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S SB2C HELLDIVER - CONTINUOUS

Ben targets the Japanese light carrier, *Zuiho*, and dives towards the target and said:

BEN THOMPSON

For Pearl Harbor!

Ben drops his 500-pound bomb at *Zuiho*, jamming the rear elevator and the rudder. Ben pulls up just in time to see the explosion of *Zuiho*.

BEN THOMPSON [CONT'D]

(whooping) Yeah!

INT. JAPANESE CARRIER ZUIKAKU - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Rear Admiral Kaizuka spots the American bombers attacking the Northern Force.

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *Sir, enemy bombers are headed right for us!*

JISABURO OZAWA

(shouting in Japanese) *Where are our fighters?!*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *They all shot down, sir!*

JISABURO OZAWA

(shouting in Japanese) *What? You send all the fighters without protecting the carriers?*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *The Americans think we're responsible for our attack on Pearl Harbor!*

JISABURO OZAWA

(shouting in Japanese) *Order our sailors to take evasive action!*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *Use flank speed!*

Zuikaku speeds up to avoid getting hit by bombs and torpedoes until American Helldivers score four bomb hits on *Zuikaku's* flight deck damaging on *Zuikaku's* hangar bay. One of the TBMs struck *Zuikaku* with torpedo causing the rudder to jam.

INT. JAPANESE CARRIER ZUIKAKU - CORRIOR - CONTINUOUS

The Japanese damage control team asset its situation by correcting the list to restore power to the Japanese carrier. The second wave of Helldivers launch their coordinate attack on the Japanese light carrier, *Chiyoda*. Six Helldivers from *Lexington* and *Franklin* slams four bombs at *Chiyoda* causing the power to go offline.

INT. JAPANESE CARRIER ZUIKAKU - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

SFX: JAPANESE WARSHIP ALARM SOUND

Vice Admiral Ozawa was fed up with Rear Admiral Kaizuka and decides to transfer the Japanese light cruiser, *Oyodo*.

TAKEO KAIZUKA [CONT'D]

(speaking in Japanese) *Sir, where are you going?*

JISABURO OZAWA

(speaking in Japanese) *You've failed me, Takeo. I have no choice but to leave you behind.*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(speaking in Japanese) *Please, don't leave me! I'll promise to defeat the Americans once and for all!*

JISABURO OZAWA

(speaking in Japanese) *I already gave you chances to redeem yourself as the Rear Admiral at Cape Engano and you've already lost your chance to save the carriers.*

TAKEO KAIZUKA

(stammering in Japanese) *But, but...*

JISABURO OZAWA

(speaking in Japanese) *No buts,
Takeo! You're on your own!*

Vice Admiral Ozawa leaves the command bridge, leaving Rear Admiral Kaizuka behind as he watches Ozawa board the lifeboat and heads towards *Oyodo*. Takeo was furious! Now he has no choice but to command the sailors to attack the American planes for himself.

EXT. JAPANESE CARRIER ZUIKAKU - FLIGHT DECK - CONTINUOUS

Japanese light cruiser, *Isuzu*, tows the wounded Japanese light carrier out of the fight, but the third wave of American planes from carriers, *Lexington* and *Essex*, already target the last Japanese carrier that hit Pearl Harbor. The Helldivers hit *Zuikaku* with five bomb hits and TBMs use their anvil attack sinking the last Japanese carrier with six torpedoes.

INT. TBM AVENGER - CONTINUOUS

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT leads Torpedo Squadron 20 to sink *Zuiho* with torpedoes.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT

(on radio) There's the Jap light carrier dead ahead. Let's do some more damage.

Lieutenant Commander Prickett and three other TBMs release their torpedoes at *Zuiho*. One of the torpedoes hit under the bridge and Helldivers scored two direct hits at *Zuiho* and another torpedo hits *Zuiho* at the starboard side. Prickett's rear gunner, Thomas, spots the last Japanese carrier capsizes and sinks to the bottom of the sea Takeo is never seen again.

THOMAS

(on radio) Prickett, look! The last Jap carrier is sunk!

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT

(on radio) I'll radio the Thompson Brothers right away.

Prickett radios the Thompson Brothers.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT [CONT'D]

(on radio) Ben, do you copy? This is Lieutenant Commander Prickett speaking.

INT. BEN THOMPSON'S SB2C HELLDIVER - CONTINUOUS

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio) Hello Prickett. This is Ben Thompson. Go ahead.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT [V.O.]

(over the radio) All the Jap carriers are sunk. Pearl Harbor has avenged.

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio) Really? All the Jap carriers are gone?

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT [V.O.]

(on radio) Affirmative. There are no Jap carriers left to deal with.

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio excitedly) Yes! We did it, John! We did it! All the Jap carriers are gone!

JOHN THOMPSON

(on radio excitedly) Yeah! And this is what the Japs get for attacking us at Pearl Harbor!

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER S.L. PRICKETT [V.O.]

(over the radio) Alright, alright! Enough of celebrations! It's time for us to return to *USS Enterprise*.

BEN THOMPSON

(on radio) Roger, Prickett. Let's go home.

Ben returns to the American carrier, *Enterprise*, to celebrate their victory at Leyte Gulf leaving the fourth wave to sink *Zuiho* to the bottom of the sea. Later, the American heavy cruisers, *USS New Orleans* and *USS Wichita*, open fire at the crippled Japanese light carrier. American light cruisers, *USS Mobile* and *USS Santa Fe*, join the fight to sink *Chiyoda* before the American destroyers can finish her off for good. The final wave of the American planes targets two Japanese hybrid warships but none of the bombs were hit by the American Helldivers.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT

The Thompson Brothers watch at the distance as the American warships open fire at the Japanese destroyer, *Hatsuzuki*.

SFX: EXPLOSIONS IN DISTANCE

JOHN THOMPSON

Look at that, Ben! One of the Jap warships never gives up the fight.

BEN THOMPSON'S POV

Ben Thompson looks through the binoculars and saw the Japanese destroyer sinking.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT

BEN THOMPSON

Looks like the Jap destroyer is done for.

JOHN THOMPSON

Yep, the Imperial Japanese Navy is gone along with the Jap light cruiser, *Tama*.

BEN THOMPSON

Thanks to our submarine, *USS Jallao*, we can go home.

JOHN THOMPSON

Aren't we going after the super battleship, *Yamato*? We can continue to fight against the Japs at Okinawa before the war ends.

BEN THOMPSON

I appreciate your offer, John. But I prefer hunting down the Jap carriers. We fought against the Japs at Pearl Harbor, Midway, Guadalcanal, Makin, Truk Atoll, the Philippine Sea, and now the last Jap carrier met her end at Leyte Gulf.

JOHN THOMPSON

At least we sank *Musashi* at Sibuyan Sea.

BEN THOMPSON

I know, John, but we're not going after *Yamato* since the Imperial Japanese Navy ceased their operation at the Pacific.

JOHN THOMPSON

And we felt bad for our friends at Pearl Harbor before the *USS Enterprise* arrived.

BEN THOMPSON

We should be lucky that we got off the island of Guadalcanal.

JOHN THOMPSON

But not as lucky as Taffy 3 at the Battle Off Samar and so is our light carrier, *USS Princeton*.

BEN THOMPSON

Speaking of *Princeton*, let's go home and celebrate our victory.

The Thompson Brothers went inside *USS Enterprise* to pack their stuff to go home as their war hero.

EXT. TASK FORCE 38 - NIGHT

With the Imperial Japanese Navy gone, the American Task Force 38 continue their journey to the end of the war in the Pacific.

The Japanese lost all the carriers at Leyte Gulf along with *Musashi* and two battleships, six heavy cruisers, four light cruisers, and nine destroyers. Taffy 3 lost two escort carriers, two destroyers, and one destroyer escort, *USS Samuel B. Roberts*. The American Navy emerge victorious, but the war in the Pacific is far from over.

FADE OUT.

THE END