

BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

By

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FADE IN:

INT. IMPERIAL GENERAL HQ - SUPREME COUNCIL HALL - DAY

PRIME MINISTER HIDEKI TOJO and ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO are having a conversation about last year's attack on Pearl Harbor.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

I have just learned about your attack on Pearl Harbor last year.

ISOROKU YAMAMOTO

(Speaking In Japanese)

Yes, Prime Minister. The Americans are unprepared and not ready to fight against us.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

What about the oil storage tanks at Pearl Harbor?

ISOROKU YAMAMOTO

(Speaking in Japanese)

We didn't destroy them, but however, we prevent the American Fighters from taking off and destroy the hangars.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

Did you train the pilots to sink any warships, including the carriers?

ISOROKU YAMAMOTO

(Speaking in Japanese)

We sank half of the battleships in Battleship Row, but there was no sign of the carriers.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

Then I would suggest you order your pilots to search for the carriers until the carriers are found.

HAJIME SUGIYAMA

(Speaking in Japanese)

With all due respect, Prime Minister, we've captured eight bomber crew and three of them were executed. They are responsible for their retaliation to bomb Tokyo.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

So that's why the sleeping giant was awakened, FIELD MARSHAL SUGIYAMA. Do you have any plans at the Coral Sea?

SHIGETARO SHIMADA

(Speaking in Japanese)

Yes, Prime Minister. VICE ADMIRAL TAKAGI is the only one to locate two carriers at Coral Sea.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

Name them.

SHIGETARO SHIMADA

(Speaking in Japanese)

Yorktown and Lexington.

HIDEKI TOJO

(Speaking in Japanese)

*Nice work, ADMIRAL SHIMADA. Send
Vice Admiral Takagi to Coral Sea
to sink the carriers before the
American reinforcements arrive.*

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

GO TO:

EPISODE TITLE: BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

GO TO:

EXT. CORAL SEA - DAY

SUPER: "MAY 7, 1942"

A squadron of SBD Dauntless Dive Bombers enter the Coral Sea.
Their mission is to sink the Japanese Light Carrier *Shoho*.

INT. SWEDE'S SBD - DAY

SBD PILOT, LIEUTENANT SWEDE VEJTASA, is assigned as a wingman.
HIS GUNNER, WALTER "BUTCH" SCHINDLER, keeps his eye out for the
enemy fighters.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Butch, any sign of fighter
escorts?

WALTER SCHINDLER

Negative, Swede. I don't see any
fighter escorts.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Then watch for the enemy fighters.
Hopefully, they won't find us.

Suddenly, SOMEONE calls out over the radio.

SBD DAUNTLESS FLIGHT LEADER [V.O.]

(over the radio) Bombing 5, we
found the black smoke coming from
the Jap Carrier.

SWEDE VEJTASA

(on radio) It's *Shoho*! Hang on,
Butch! We're going for a dive
bombing run on the carrier.

Shoho's crew opened fire at the SBDs with anti-aircraft flak guns. The SBDs begin to dive bombing run on *Shoho*. Swede uses his dive brakes to slow his SBD down. The Americans dodge the Japanese flak to avoid getting hit by the burning carrier. Two bombs hit *Shoho*, but Swede keeps diving.

CLOSE ON: THE ALTIMETER DECREASING ITS SPEED.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Steady.

Swede waits for his right moment.

WALTER SCHINDLER (CONT'D)

Now!

Swede releases the bomb onto *Shoho's* flight deck and sank her into the bottom of the sea.

WALTER SCHINDLER (CONT'D)

Woohoo!

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yeah! We sank that son of a bitch!
Let's head back to the carrier.

INT. USS YORKTOWN - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

CAPTAIN ELLIOT BUCKMASTER enters the bridge to give the report to REAR ADMIRAL FRANK JACK FLEATHER about the Doolittle's Raid and the Japanese conquest of the Philippines.

ELLIOT BUCKMASTER

Admiral Flether, the Japs
conquered the Philippines, and
three Doolittle Raiders were
executed in Tokyo.

Admiral Flether looks at last month's report. He looks at last month's report on the Philippines first. Then, he looks at the report on the Doolittle Raid.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

I see none of the Torpedo Boat Squadron 3 were active in the Philippines and Doolittle hasn't return from China.

ELLIOT BUCKMASTER

Also, Swede and the SBDs just landed in our carrier.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

You're in charge, ADMIRAL FITCH.
I'll go to the flight deck to meet Swede and the SBDs pilots.

EXT. *USS YORKTOWN* - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

Swede and Butch climb out of SBD where Admiral Flechter is waiting for them.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Has Doolittle returned safely to America?

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

No, Doolittle hasn't returned yet, but I'm pleased to hear about your actions at Coral Sea.

SWEDE VEJTASA

We just saw a black smoke coming out of the Jap Carrier.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

The black smoke wasn't coming from *Shoho*. It was hit by a squadron of TBD Devastators before you and your squadron finished it off for good.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Thanks to our flight leader.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

That would be Wallace C. Short.

SWEDE AND BUTCH

Say what?

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

Wallace leads a squadron of SBDs to sink *Shoho*. He's the one who spots the burning carrier.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Is there a mission we can sink the Jap Carriers?

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

You'll have a mission tomorrow morning.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Tomorrow morning?

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

Yes, tomorrow morning. You'll have a chance to sink the enemy carriers when you get a chance. Go back to your quarters.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yes, Sir!

Swede and Butch head inside the carrier.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. *USS YORKTOWN* - SLEEPING QUARTERS - DAY

Swede and Butch found Wallace in the sleeping quarters.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Wallace, you're the leader of SBDs?

WALLACE C. SHORT

That's right. We had a mission briefing earlier and Admiral Flecther told us about sinking the Jap Light Carrier *Shoho*.

SWEDE VEJTASA

What about the Jap Carriers attack on Pearl Harbor last year?

WALLACE C. SHORT

We're still waiting for Admiral Flecther's orders when the time is right.

WALTER SCHINDLER

But how?

WALLACE C. SHORT

There were six Jap Carriers last year, but this year, the Japs split up the Carrier Task Force in different directions.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Where?

WALLACE C. SHORT

Four of the Jap Carriers are at Midway and the other two are at Coral Sea.

WALTER SCHINDLER

That means we have a chance to get back at them and avenge Pearl Harbor.

WALLACE C. SHORT

Not so fast, Butch. We can't sink all the Jap Carriers in one mission. We must sink the carriers one by one until all the Jap Carriers are wiped out.

SWEDE VEJTASA

This is going to be a long war in
the Pacific, Wallace.

WALLACE C. SHORT

I know. It's hard for us to find
the Jap Carriers, but I'm the one
who spot a thick, black smoke
coming from the damaged carrier.

WALTER SCHINDLER

I thought it was a Jap warship or
something.

WALLACE C. SHORT

It's not a warship! The Americans
launched their torpedoes to hit
Shoho. Once the *Shoho* is a sitting
duck, we managed to sink *Shoho* by
releasing our bombs and the Jap
Light Carrier slips beneath the
waves.

SWEDE VEJTASA

That was an easy victory.

WALLACE C. SHORT

But it won't be easy tomorrow
because the Japs will bring out
two carriers at once.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Two Jap Carriers?

WALLACE C. SHORT

Yes, *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Sho what?

WALLACE C. SHORT

Shokaku and *Zuikaku*. The Jap sister ships, along with four other carriers, participated to attack Pearl Harbor killing our brave men, but luckily for us, none of our carriers were sunk at Pearl Harbor.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Then it's our chance to sink the Jap fleet.

WALLACE C. SHORT

Hold on, Swede. We don't know our assignment until tomorrow.

SWEDE AND BUTCH

Tomorrow?

WALLACE C. SHORT

Yes, tomorrow your assignment will be different than it was today.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Wallace C. Short, I'm a dive bomber pilot, not a fighter pilot!

WALTER SCHINDLER

But how can we deal the Japs if there's an aerial assault on the Pacific?

WALLACE C. SHORT

Use your rear guns, Butch, in case any Zeros approaching you.

SWEDE VEJTASA

And what if the Zeros are making head-on pass?

WALLACE C. SHORT

Use .50 caliber machine guns on the nose, but don't waste your ammunition or the Zeros will get you.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Then, I'll keep an eye out for the Zeros on the rear just in case.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Alright, Butch. It's a deal. We may not be a dogfighter, but we're going to sink the Jap warships to the bottom of the sea.

WALTER SCHINDLER

At Coral Sea that is.

INT. USS YORKTOWN - READY ROOM - NIGHT

Admiral Flechter gives tomorrow's briefing to the Naval Airmen.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

Gentlemen, our patrol plane spotted two Jap carriers earlier and now it's time for the Japs to pay the price for what they did to us at Pearl Harbor. Tomorrow, you'll escort the bombers to sink two Jap carriers. Swede, you will lead seven SBDs to escort TBDs Torpedo Planes to sink the carrier *Zuikaku*. The rest of the SBDs will go after the sister ship, *Shokaku*, with the help of F4F Wildcat fighter escort. Dismissed.

They left the briefing room except for Swede and Butch. Admiral Flechter gives a special assignment for Swede and Butch. Dogfighting between the bombers and fighters is very difficult for Butch and Swede for tomorrow's mission.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER (CONT'D)

Swede and Butch, I know dogfighting between the bomber and fighter isn't going to be easy, but this will be different. You won't need a bombload to go after the Jap carrier. You two will be assigned as Scout 5 by going after the Zeros.

SWEDE VEJTASA

But, Admiral Flechter, we're not fit to be dogfighters.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Swede's right. We're not experienced enough to defeat the Japanese Squadron.

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

I know none of the bomber pilots experience for aerial combat before, Butch, but survival is the key. Make sure your .50 calibers are loaded by tomorrow.

WALTER SCHINDLER

What if my rear gun is jammed?

FRANK JACK FLECTHER

Then use your forward firing ammunition instead.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yes, sir. We'll be there tomorrow.

Swede and Butch left the briefing room.

EXT. USS YORKTOWN - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

SUPER: "MAY 8, 1942"

The next morning, Swede and Butch climb into the SBD, but there's no bombload under its belly. Butch checks his machine gun on the rear. The roar of the piston engines turning as the American planes begin to takeoff from the carrier.

In the skies of the Coral Sea, a squadron of F4F Wildcats escort the SBDs to their target to sink *Shokaku*, but eight of the SBDs are acted as the fighters to escort TBD Devastators to attack the Japanese sister ship, *Zuikaku*. Note the stock footage from *Dogfights Season 1* of the SBDs isn't accurate.

INT. SWEDE'S SBD - DAY

But it did show the accuracy of the SBDs in the background.

SWEDE VEJTASA (CONT'D)

Butch, any signs of TBDs?

WALTER SCHINDLER

Negative, Swede. I don't see any TBDs below.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Keep searching, Butch. We sunk the Jap carrier before, and the TBDs must do the same at *Zuikaku*.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Swede! We've got bandits and they're closing in fast!

Swede notices the glint of the sun on bright metal. It turns out a squadron of nine Japanese Zero Fighters are right behind the SBDs.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Those aren't TBDs, they're Zeros!
(on radio) Swede to Scout 5
they're not one of ours! Everyone
left break! Take out the Jap Zeros
before they reach the TBDs!

WALTER SCHINDLER

(on radio) Oh shit! We're too late!

SWEDE VEJTASA

No!

The Japanese Zeros slash through the American formation shooting down half of SBDs!

Swede has no choice but to turn left away from the carnage. One of Zeros dives on the remaining SBD with its machine guns fire on the nose, but the Japanese pilot overshoots the SBD.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Swede, why the hell is our dive bomber is so slow?

SWEDE VEJTASA

We must do this the hard way because we don't have enough speed to outrun Zeros by using head-on pass!

WALTER SCHINDLER

Are you kidding me, Swede?! Dogfighting between bombers and fighters will put us at risk!

SWEDE VEJTASA

I'm aware, Butch! We never had a dogfight before, but we must try!

Swede skids his dive bomber to the left, but there's one problem. The Japanese Zero didn't make another pass on the SBD. Instead, the Japanese pilot regroups with his squadron mate to work as a team to finish the SBD off once and for all and save *Zuikaku*.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Uh, Swede? What are the Japs up to now?

SWEDE VEJTASA

They're trying to surround us!

WALTER SCHINDLER

Swede, I see a third Zero hunting us down in a diving attack!

SWEDE VEJTASA

I see it!

Swede dodges from the Japanese Zero's tracer rounds.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Swede! I can't get a clean shot if you keep moving like that!

SWEDE VEJTASA

Just focus on the Zeros on the rear, Butch. It's the only way to beat the odds.

Swede dodges three Japanese Zeros repeatedly, until one of the Japanese pilots makes a mistake on one final turn.

WALTER SCHINDLER

Now it's your chance, Swede! Shoot it down!

Swede opens fire at the Zero with nose mounted machine guns. One Zero is down, but there are two left.

SWEDE VEJTASA

I see another Zero from above!

WALTER SCHINDLER

Swede, we can't climb that fast!

SWEDE VEJTASA

I know, Butch! Just watch me!

Swede climbs up and fires at the Zero with .50 caliber nose mounted machine guns. The Japanese Zero bursts into flames.

CLOSE ON: AIRSPEED INDICATOR GAUGE DECREASING THE SPEED

Swede didn't see the airspeed indicator until he stalled out but managed to recover from stalling. The falling Zero barely missed the SBD.

SWEDE VEJTASA [CONT'D]

Are you alright, Butch?

WALTER SCHINDLER

At least I'm strapped in.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Good, but there's only one Zero
left to fight.

The Japanese Zero fires a cannon on its wings to make a final head-on pass at the SBD. Swede skids his plane one last time before he collides with the Zero with its wingtip causing the Zero to smoke coming out of its left wing.

WALTER SCHINDLER

You did it! I know you can do it!

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yeah, I'm surprised you didn't use
your rear gun at the Zeros.

WALTER SCHINDLER

You're going to be a fighter pilot
someday.

SWEDE VEJTASA

Yes, I will, Butch. Let's head
back to *Yorktown*.

The lone SBD heads back to *USS Yorktown*.

INT. WALLACE C. SHORT'S SBD - DAY

Meanwhile, the Japanese Zeros are dogfighting with F4F Wildcat Fighters as Wallace C. Short leads his SBDs to make a dive-bombing run on the Japanese Carrier, *Shokaku*.

WALLACE C. SHORT

(on radio) There's *Shokaku*!
Prepare for dive bombing run!

Wallace C. Short and the SBDs dive bomb on the Japanese Carrier as the Japanese sailors open fire with anti-aircraft flak guns. Wallace C. Short and his SBDs avoid the anti-aircraft flak. Some of the bombs hit the *Shokaku*, but others missed their target.
WALLACE C. SHORT'S REAR GUNNER, FLYNN, looks at the *Shokaku*.

FLYNN

Direct hit on the carrier,
Wallace! *Shokaku* is sunk!

WALLACE C. SHORT

Negative, Flynn. *Shokaku* didn't sink. She's still a float.

FLYNN

Damnit! Why is the *Shokaku* still burning?

WALLACE C. SHORT

All the bombs missed the carrier, but we did a little damage to her. Let's head back to *Yorktown*. Swede and Butch are waiting for us.

EXT. *USS YORKTOWN* - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

The SBDs land on *Yorktown's* flight deck where Swede's SBD is also landed. Swede has some bad news.

SWEDE

Wallace C. Short, we've lost the carrier *Lexington*. She was sunk by Jap Torpedo Bombers.

WALLACE C. SHORT

(shocked feeling) Wait! Are you telling me the Japs sank the carrier with torpedoes?

SWEDE

There's worse to come. The Japs brought Val Dive Bombers to attack our carrier!

WALLACE C. SHORT

What?! You've got to be kidding me!

SWEDE

No, I'm not! The Japs split up into two groups. The same way we did on *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*.

INT. *USS YORKTOWN* - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Captain Buckmaster quickly enters the command bridge.

FRANK JACK FLETCHER

Aubrey, order our sailors to man
their battle stations.

AUBREY W. FITCH

(on mic) General Quarters! General
Quarters! All hands man your
battle stations!

SFX: GENERAL QUARTERS ALARM SOUND

INT. *USS YORKTOWN* - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The sailors went to their battle stations for incoming enemy
aircraft.

EXT. *USS YORKTOWN* - ANTI-AIRCRAFT - DAY

The sailors spot a group of Japanese Aichi D3A Val Dive Bombers
approaching the *Yorktown*. They're determine to sink the
Yorktown, but the sailors open fire with anti-aircraft guns to
prevent the Japanese to dive bomb on the carrier. Several
Japanese Dive Bombers are shot down by anti-aircraft flaks while
the rest drop their bombs on *Yorktown*. Some of the American
sailors are killed while others are wounded. The Japanese Dive
Bombers retreat from the carnage.

INT. *USS YORKTOWN* - COMMAND BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The bomb explosion rocked the ship.

FRANK JACK FLETCHER

Damage report!

AUBREY W. FITCH

They hit the fourth deck!

FRANK JACK FLETCHER

Elliot, send the damage control
team for repairs.

ELLIOT BUCKMASTER

Yes, sir!

Captain Buckmaster left the command bridge to asset with
situation.

INT. *IJN MYOKO* - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Onboard the Japanese Cruiser, *Myoko*, ONE OF THE JAPANESE SAILORS gives the report to Vice Admiral Takagi.

JAPANESE SAILOR #1

(Speaking in Japanese)

Sir, one of our carriers is damaged and there are no planes left on Zuikaku's flight deck.

TAKEO TAKAGI

(Speaking in Japanese)

What about the Americans?

JAPANESE SAILOR #1

(Speaking in Japanese)

Our pilots sank Lexington and damaged Yorktown.

TAKEO TAKAGI

(Speaking in Japanese)

Excellent! Send the message to Admiral Yamamoto immediately.

JAPANESE SAILOR #1

(Speaking in Japanese)

Yes, sir!

The Japanese Sailor bows to Vice Admiral Takagi as an agreement and exits the bridge.

INT. *USS ENTERPRISE* - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Yorktown's sister ship, *USS Enterprise*, arrives late at the Coral Sea. ADMIRAL BULL HALSEY JR. didn't know the naval battle of the Coral Sea had already ended and *USS Lexington* was sinking.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

We're too late. The Japanese sank *Lexington*, and we don't know where the *Yorktown* is.

AMERICAN SAILOR #1

With all due respect, sir, it appears the *Yorktown* survived the carnage at the Coral Sea against the Japanese Navy.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

Where is *USS Yorktown*?

AMERICAN SAILOR #1

At Pearl Harbor.

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

Return to Pearl Harbor.

AMERICAN SAILOR #1

Sir, is something wrong?

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

I have psoriasis. You must find ANOTHER CAPTAIN to take my place on the bridge instead of me.

AMERICAN SAILOR #1

But who's going to be in charge here against the Japanese Navy at Midway?

WILLIAM HALSEY JR.

Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance will be in charge at the bridge.

INT. *USS ENTERPRISE* - MESS HALL - DAY

The Thompson Brothers are having discussions about which aircraft they should pick for their upcoming battle.

BEN THOMPSON

So, Brother, which plane we should fly for our mission against the Jap Navy? A Fighter Squadron (like we've used at Pearl Harbor last year), Torpedo Squadron, or Dive Bomber Squadron?

JOHN THOMPSON

I think Dive-Bombing Squadron is easier than a Torpedo Squadron against the Jap Navy because there's a weak point to sink the Jap carriers.

BEN THOMPSON

And that would be a flight deck.

JOHN THOMPSON

(joining the conversation) A flight deck.

BEN THOMPSON

And that's what we're hoping for. I'll be your pilot. You'll be my gunner.

JOHN THOMPSON

And together, we will finally defeat the Jap Navy and avenge Pearl Harbor.

The Thompson Brothers raise their cups.

BEN THOMPSON

For Quintin, David, Liam, and Tripp.

JOHN THOMPSON

For Pearl Harbor.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END