

RETURN TO THE PACIFIC

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SIMPSON HARBOR — DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 2, 1943."

A group of B-25 Mitchell Bombers of 5th Air Force are preparing for a bombing run at Simpson Harbor. The P-38 Lightnings from 39th and 80th fighter squadrons are providing escorts.

INT. B-25 MITCHELL — DAY

B-25 MITCHELL BOMBARDIER

(on radio) BOMBARDIER to PILOT
we're approaching Simpson Harbor.

B-25 BOMBER PILOT

(on radio) Excellent work,
Bombardier. Release the bombs when
you're in range.

B-25 WAIST GUNNER #1

(on radio) Bandits! 10 o'clock!
Our fighters are dropping their
tanks!

112 Japanese Zeros are after the B-25s. They're coming from the Japanese Carriers. The P-38s drop their tanks and started to dogfight with the Japanese Zeros, but some of the Zeros went after the bombers for intercept mission. The gunners open fire at the Zeros.

B-25 WAIST GUNNER #2

(on radio) Argh! They're too fast!

17 American land-based aircraft are shot down by the Japanese Zeros. Eight of them are B-25s along with nine P-38 fighter escorts, but the Americans claimed 18 Zeros.

TITLE: WORLD WAR II: THE ANIMATED SERIES

GO TO:

EPISODE TITLE: RETURN TO THE PACIFIC

GO TO:

INT. USS ESSEX — COMMAND BRIDGE — DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 4, 1943."

Onboard the *USS Essex*, CAPTAIN RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE enters the bridge where REAR ADMIRAL ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY is commanding the Southern Carrier Group at Rabaul.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Sir, we have reported casualties for the 5th Air Force at Rabaul. Also, we sank two enemy warships at Empress Augusta Bay including our successful landing at Cape Torokina.

ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY

How many planes, Captain?

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Eight B-25s are lost along with Nine P-38 fighter escorts.

ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY

We need to deal with the Jap fighters before they reach our bombers at Rabaul.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Are you telling me there are Japanese presence at Rabaul with ships?

ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY

Exactly. It's a good thing we've brought new fighters to turn the tide in the Pacific against the Japs.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

New fighters? What new fighters? But our pilot never tested out these new fighters before!

ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY

Our F6F Hellcats have the
advantage over the Jap
interceptors especially for our
bomber escort mission at Rabaul.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

What advantages, Admiral?

ALFRED EUGENE MONTEGOMERY

Our fighters have better speed,
rate-of-climb, diving, and
durability-.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

-better than a Wildcat fighter?

ALFRED EUGENE MONTEGOMERY

Not just a Wildcat fighter,
Captain, but better than a
Japanese Zero. Go to the flight
deck and give new pilots their
report.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Yes sir!

Captain Ofstie leaves the command bridge to check on new pilots.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. USS ESSEX - FLAG BRIDGE - DAY

Captain Ofstie watches as the Hellcats land on the carrier
flight deck.

EXT. USS ESSEX - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

HELLCAT PILOTS, HAMILTON MCWHORTER III AND COMMANDER J. RABY,
climb out of the cockpit.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Wow! This Hellcat looks perfect.
With six .50 caliber machine guns
on the wings, we can test out this
plane for real.

COMMANDER J. RABY

I know! This new plane is faster than a Wildcat.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Could this get any better?

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Commanders Raby, Lieutenant McWhorter, I have a message from Rear Admiral Montgomery. He told me that the Zeros intercepted the 5th Air Force, along with P-38 pilot, Major Wilkins.

COMMANDER J. RABY

What about the Landings of Cape Torokina?

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Our Marines secured Cape Torokina, but I suspect the Japs are planning for counterattack at Bougainville.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Are there any losses at Empress Augusta Bay?

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

No casualties, Lieutenant McWhorter, but we sank the light cruiser, *Sendai*, and a destroyer, *Hatsukaze*.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Thank goodness the Japs got what they deserved.

COMMANDER J. RABY

And we'll show the Japs how superior the Hellcats are at Rabaul.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

The 5th Air Force are already prepared for their bombing mission at Rabaul, so you two must wait until you're ready for combat.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Yes sir! We'll wait for your orders. Come on, McWhorter, it's time to head back to our quarters.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

I'm with you, Raby.

Two Hellcat pilots head back to their quarters to wait for their further orders.

EXT. RABAU - DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 5, 1943."

27 Liberator bombers are on their way to bomb the Japanese airfield at Simpson Harbor. Escorting them are 58 Lightning fighters.

INT. B-24D LIBERATOR - DAY

B-24D LIBERATOR PILOT

(on radio) PILOT to BOMBARDIER, do you see any ships at Simpson Harbor?

B-24D LIBERATOR BOMBARDIER

(on radio) Yes, I see them. 21 enemy warships patrolling at Rabaul.

B-24D LIBERATOR PILOT

(on radio) Leave the ships for the naval planes. Target the Jap airfield with your bombs.

The Bombardier looks through the bombsight and saw Japanese airfield as the bomb bay doors are open.

B-24D LIBERATOR BOMBARDIER

(on radio) Steady.

The bombardier lines up at the airfield through his bombsight.

B-24D LIBERATOR BOMBARDIER [CONT'D]

(on radio) Bombs away!

EXT. RABAU - CONTINUOUS

The B-24Ds drop their bombs on the Japanese airfield destroying the hangars and planes on the ground. Then a squadron of SBD Dauntless Dive-Bombers and TBM Avenger Torpedo-Bombers from *USS Saratoga* and *USS Princeton* attack the Japanese cruisers with bombs and torpedoes. Five TBFs from *USS Princeton* and four SBDs and one TBF from *USS Saratoga* are shot down by the Japanese anti-aircraft barrage and six Japanese cruisers are damaged, but three of the cruisers suffered a minimal damage by American bombs and torpedoes. Not a single Japanese warship sunk by the American bombers.

INT. USS ESSEX - SLEEPING QUARTERS - DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 10, 1943."

McWhorter is talking to his flight leader about the Thompson Brothers' return to the Pacific.

COMMANDER J. RABY

You're saying the Thompson Brothers returned to the Pacific to fight against the Japanese at Gilbert Islands?

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Not just Gilbert Islands, Raby, but they're here to avenge Pearl Harbor by sinking the last two Jap carriers. Four of them were already sunk at Midway last year.

COMMANDER J. RABY

I see. So, they're planning for their upcoming battles by splitting up into two carrier groups.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

They're at Northern Carrier Group and we're at Southern Carrier Group, but the problem is none of the Jap ships were sunk at Rabaul.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Then we must hit the Jap ships harder order to sink the Jap ships to the bottom of the ocean.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

But the Japs think we're flying the Wildcats.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Not anymore, McWhorter. The Japs won't know if we fly the Hellcats to Rabaul.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

But we can't risk losing our bombers to the Zeros at Rabaul! Major Wilkins and eight Lightning fighters were shot down along with nine B-25s.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Same thing goes for the naval bombers from our carriers, *Saratoga* and *Princeton*, but we can't allow the Zeros to reach our bombers.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

How can we stop the Jap naval threat at Bougainville?

COMMANDER J. RABY

The Japs met their match with the Wildcats earlier, but they'll be no match against our brand-new Hellcats.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

If the Japs dealt with the Wildcats, then they'll have to deal with us instead and the Jap naval threat at Bougainville will be over.

SBD DAUNTLESS PILOT

Captain Ofstie is waiting for us in the ready room.

McWhorter and Raby follow the SBD PILOT to the ready room.

INT. USS ESSEX - READY ROOM - NIGHT

Captain Ofstie gives the briefing to the naval pilots.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

Gentlemen, we have orders from Admiral Sherman. We've just reported on casualties earlier at Rabaul. Ten carrier-based bombers are shot down without a single Jap warship sunk and you're going to do the same thing for what they did at Rabaul by tomorrow. This will be your last chance to disrupt the Jap naval threat at Bougainville. The Japs are planning to neutralize our Marines at Bougainville, and you must escort the SBDs and TBMs to their target before the Japs arrival at Bougainville. Good luck and don't let the Zeros get near the bombers.

The naval pilots left the ready room and went back to the sleeping quarters.

INT. USS ESSEX - SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

McWhorter is at the sleeping quarters. Commander Raby came to see McWhorter. He told him about Admiral Yamamoto's death at Bougainville Island in Operation Vengeance and the last two Japanese carriers to deal with to avenge Pearl Harbor attack from the Japanese naval ariel assault.

COMMANDER J. RABY

I got a call from the Thompson Brothers, and they said Admiral Yamamoto is responsible for attacking us at Pearl Harbor. Not only that, two Jap carriers are on the loose at the Pacific and must be found before they can attack us again with their naval bombers.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Then we should be lucky for us that we have the advantage over Zeros. Hopefully, the bombers won't find our carriers.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Except the Japs have their land-based bombers to attack our fleet.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

But there's a weakness for the twin-engine bombers. The Japs can only bomb targets on the ground, not the fleet especially when they're moving targets.

COMMANDER J. RABY

McWhorter, there won't be any Jap bombers threatening our fleet tomorrow.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Such as Val Dive-Bombers and Kate Torpedo Planes?

COMMANDER J. RABY

Exactly. With the Japanese carrier-based bombers gone, along with Admiral Yamamoto, we have a chance to strike on the enemy fleet at Rabaul, but they're plenty of Zeros out there in the Pacific.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

I was worried that the Japs will repeal the Marines away from the shores of Bougainville.

COMMANDER J. RABY

You shouldn't be worried about the Marines attacking Bougainville. Our bombers will deal with the enemy fleet. We fighter pilots can dogfight with the Zeros.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

But we don't know where the Zeros are coming from, Raby!

COMMANDER J. RABY

The Zeros could be from the Jap carriers or on the airfield.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

If we see the Jap carriers, then we'll teach them a lesson not to mess up our fleet.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Attacking the Jap carriers are the Thompson Brothers' job, not us.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

If the Thompson Brothers are after the Jap carriers, then we're headed for Tarawa if we can deal the Zeros and the Jap Fleet at Rabaul.

COMMANDER J. RABY

The Northern Carrier Group is already at Makin, but if we get past the Jap Fleet at Rabaul, then we'll go to Tarawa for upcoming battle against the Jap ground forces.

EXT. USS ESSEX - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 11, 1943."

It is the 25th Anniversary of the end of World War I as McWhorter and Raby entered the Hellcat Fighters. The USS Essex consists of 36 F6F Hellcats and SBD Dauntless Dive-Bombers, and 18 TBF Avenger Torpedo-Bombers.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Do you know how this thing works?

COMMANDER J. RABY

Yes, son. This fighter will absorb the punishment and keep on flying.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

What should I do with the Hellcat?

COMMANDER J. RABY

Use your advantages with speed, altitude, and rate of climb.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Okay, Commander Raby. I'll do my best to keep the plane in one piece.

McWhorter and Raby closed their canopy to get ready for takeoff. The Americans planes takeoff from the flight deck.

EXT. RABAU - DAY

Commander Raby leads the Air Group 9 to protect the SBDs and TBFs to attack the Japanese Fleet one last time including the Japanese Naval Base at Rabaul.

INT. COMMANDER RABY'S F6F HELLCAT - DAY

COMMANDER J. RABY

(on radio) There's our target, boys! The Jap ships at Rabaul. They must not allow them to leave the harbor.

(MORE)

COMMANDER J. RABY [CONT'D]

Bombing 9, Torpedo 9, sink the Jap warships as many as you can before they can attack our Marines on Bougainville. We'll cover you.

INT. SBD DAUNTLESS - DAY

SBD DAUNTLESS PILOT

(on radio) Roger, Commander Raby.
Stand by for diving attack.

The SBDs prepare for dive-bombing run on the Japanese warships unaware Lieutenant McWhorter is ahead of the SBDs by using a stock footage from *Dogfights: Season 1*.

INT. SBD DAUNTLESS - CONTINUOUS

THE REAR GUNNER witnesses the situation.

SBD DAUNTLESS REAR GUNNER

What the hell is McWhorter doing?

SBD DAUNTLESS PILOT

He's headed for the Jap cruiser!

INT. MCWHORTER'S HELLCAT - CONTINUOUS

Sure enough, Lieutenant McWhorter attacks the Japanese cruiser with .50 caliber machine guns as the Japanese anti-aircraft flaks burst all around him. McWhorter pulls up and heads for rendezvous points until he hears over the radio.

COMMANDER J. RABY [V.O.]

(over the radio) McWhorter, where are you? We're under attack by damn Zeros!

Hellcats and Zeros are fighting each other in a dogfight. There are many Zeros shot down by Hellcats and one of the Zeros is targeting Commander Raby.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

(on radio) Hang on, Raby! I'm coming!

Commander Raby is taking hits by the Zero's nose mounted machine guns. He saves Raby from the Zero with .50 caliber machine guns.

He looks at the flaming Zero from below. As he gets into his position behind the Zero, McWhorter heard a loud noise. It was the Zero shooting at McWhorter with diving attack and worse, there are two Zeros attacking McWhorter with machine gun fire. So, he decided to bug out with diving speed and shoot down the Zero on the water below. Again, he pulls out of his dive and heads for rendezvous point. He tried to shoot down the Zero in head-on pass, but the Japanese pilot flies off away from McWhorter because the Hellcats are too good to deal with the Japanese Zeros. The Americans attack the Japanese Fleet and the naval base at Rabaul is a success! The SBDs sank the Japanese destroyer *Suzunami* and heavily damage the Japanese cruiser *Agano* by American TBF Torpedo Bombers. With the debut of F6F Hellcats, the Americans destroyed 52 Zeros out of the sky. Not a single American plane from *USS Essex* shot down by the Zeros.

EXT. USS ESSEX - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

The American planes land on the flight deck including Commander Raby and Lieutenant McWhorter. Some of the Hellcats are battered by the Japanese Zeros. Lieutenant McWhorter climbs down from the battered Hellcat and Commander Raby comes to see him.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Lieutenant McWhorter, thank you
for saving me.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

We should be lucky that we're not
flying the Wildcats anymore.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Yep, thanks to our F6F Hellcats,
the Zeros are unmatched against us
at Rabaul.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

And the Japs have no idea what
we're up against in the Pacific.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Not only that, but we also foiled
the Jap naval threat at
Bougainville.

RALPH ANDREW OFSTIE

McWhorter, Admiral Montgomery
wants to see you on the bridge.

McWhorter went inside the command bridge.

INT. USS ESSEX - COMMAND BRIDGE - DAY

Admiral Montgomery is waiting for McWhorter on the bridge.

ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY

So, your mission is successful?

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

I believe it is, sir. I shot down
two Zeros, and our bombers sank
the Jap destroyer and crippled the
Jap cruiser at Rabaul with no
casualties in our side.

ALFRED EUGENE MONTGOMERY

McWhorter, congratulations! You're
the first Hellcat Ace in the
Pacific.

Admiral Montgomery gives the medal to McWhorter. He became the
first Hellcat Ace in the Pacific.

INT. USS ESSEX - SLEEPING QUARTERS - DAY

McWhorter shows the medal to Commander Raby.

COMMANDER J. RABY

(gasps) Is that...? How did you get
a medal?

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Admiral Montgomery gave it to me.

COMMANDER J. RABY

You're the Hellcat Ace?

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Yes, I'm promoted to Commander,
and I'll fight the Japs for
another day.

COMMANDER J. RABY

I agree with you, McWhorter. I'm pretty sure that we'll meet the Thompson Brothers for the first time since they're back in the Pacific.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

And I'm betting they wanted to sink two Jap carriers to avenge Pearl Harbor attack. I can't wait to meet up with the Thompson Brothers since the *USS Enterprise* is refitted and returned to the Pacific.

COMMANDER J. RABY

But we're not going to Makin Atoll, we're going to Tarawa.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Tarawa? Wait, why are we separated into two carrier groups?

COMMANDER J. RABY

Since we're going to attack Tarawa, the Northern Carrier Group are preparing for battle at Makin Atoll.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

You mean we're dealing with two islands at once in two weeks?

COMMANDER J. RABY

Yes, the Japs are setting up their defenses at Gilbert Islands. It's going to be two battles at once this time.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

But how can we meet with the Thompson Brothers at Gilbert Islands?

COMMANDER J. RABY

We can meet them if we have time.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Except we're gone in separate ways.

COMMANDER J. RABY

I know it's hard to say, McWhorter, but the Japs are still out there.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Like what?

COMMANDER J. RABY

To work together as a team especially when we're in separate groups.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

Exactly. Now the Jap naval threat on Bougainville is over, we can deal with Japs at Tarawa, while the Thompson Brothers can deal at Makin Atoll.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Unless you want to take them on the phone if you don't mind.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

I appreciate your offer, Raby, but I would rather see them in person.

COMMANDER J. RABY

Very well, McWhorter, but we're going to attack Tarawa next week.

HAMILTON MCWHORTER III

And I hope the Thompson Brothers will do the same at Makin Atoll.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

Meanwhile at the Northern Carrier Group, the F6F Hellcats landed safely on the flight deck except for Noah. He crashed on the carrier's flight deck causing the plane to catch fire. The emergency crew rescued Noah from the burning plane. The firefighters managed to put out the fire with their water hose. Caden witnesses the carnage.

CADEN

What happened?

EMERGENCY CREW MEMBER

Noah has suffered injuries. He'll be out of action for several weeks.

CADEN

Several weeks? Why?

JACK

Because he never tested out Hellcat before.

CADEN

Then who is going to be my rear gunner?

JACK

I'll be the rear gunner in case of the Japs shooting at me.

CADEN

But you're the fighter pilot, Jack!

JACK

I know, Caden, but don't worry. He'll be staying in sick bay.

CADEN

But I can't fly the SBD without the rear gunner!

JACK

Calm down, Caden. Noah will be fine and besides, the Thompson Brothers tested out the Hellcat after hanging out with their mother.

CADEN

But I thought they were missing in action at Guadalcanal last year!

JACK

I was wrong. They helped the Marines to defend Henderson Field, and they escape with two Wildcat fighters to reach Santa Cruz.

CADEN

And we've lost our carrier while fighting with the Jap Fleet, but the problem is they took revenge for what Doolittle and the bomber crew did at Tokyo.

JACK

Same thing goes for Admiral Yamamoto for what he did to us at Pearl Harbor two years ago, but the last two Jap carriers are still untouched.

CADEN

How can you let the Jap carriers get away after losing the *Hornet* at Santa Cruz?

JACK

I was waiting for the Thompson Brothers for a long time until they returned to the carrier. I thought they were dead while dogfighting with the Japs, but it turns out they're still alive.

CADEN

And the same goes for hanging out with their family.

JACK

Not just their family, but they're working at Framlingham Airfield.

CADEN

Why not just tell the Thompson Brothers about his family?

JACK

I'll tell them you stay with Noah.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SLEEPING QUARTERS - DAY

The Thompson Brothers are at the sleeping quarters.

JOHN THOMPSON

What do you think about our carrier's upgrade?

BEN THOMPSON

I like it, John! Our flight deck is made of steel, and we've brought new planes to bring more Jap planes out of the sky than the Wildcats we've flown.

JOHN THOMPSON

And speaking of upgrades, we spent more time with Mom than the Henderson Field at Guadalcanal.

BEN THOMPSON

Yeah, staying on Henderson Field is dangerous for us, but we should be lucky that we survived the Jap onslaught and get our carrier refitted and better firepower to deal with the Japs, but the two carriers are still out there.

JACK

John, Ben, I have the good news
and the bad news.

JOHN THOMPSON

What news?

JACK

The good news is, Noah has
recovered from his injuries.

BEN THOMPSON

Thank God Noah is okay!

JACK

The bad news is, there are two Jap
carriers are still active, but
however, Butch O'Hare will be your
flight leader for your upcoming
invasion at Makin Island.

JOHN THOMPSON

We've lost the carriers last year
and so are the Jap carriers.

BEN THOMPSON

Except, we didn't get a chance to
fight the Japs at the Coral Sea.

JACK

Right now, we're going to Makin
Island to neutralize the Jap
defenses. They have seaplanes,
airbases, tank barriers on east
and west, coastal guns, machine
gun nests, concrete pillboxes,
anti-tank guns, and flak guns.

JOHN THOMPSON

How can we deal with enemy
defenses? They have fighters to
defend Gilbert Islands, and the
bombers can only fly at night.

JACK

We were there before, but we did some minimal damage on the Jap garrisons.

BEN THOMPSON

But this time, we'll deal more damage to Makin than we did last year.

JOHN THOMPSON

Except the rear gunner saved us from the stricken Betty. Not a single bomb hit our carrier.

JACK

And we have the edge over the Zeros.

BEN THOMPSON

Alright, Jack. It's time to finish off where we started.

JOHN THOMPSON

Let's fight the Japs to the end.

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

This time, *USS Enterprise* wasn't alone. She joins two light carriers, six *Fletcher*-class destroyers, two *South Dakota*-class fast battleships, and *USS North Carolina* waiting for strike at Makin Atoll.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END