

# E20 - Operation 21st

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**SIGN** December 25th, 08:56

40km Off West-southwest Coast of Sadogashima

**[00:10] Operator**

No BETA activity detected.

**[00:12] Operator**

I repeat, no BETA activity detected.

**[00:19] Abe**

We've made it back.

**[00:22] Abe**

And I've never forgotten the  
frustration I felt when we left.

**[00:25] Abe**

But that ends now. It's time we  
show the BETA what mankind can do!

**SIGN** 999th Penal Battalion

**SIGN** Special Task Force A-01

**[00:38] Lady Operator**

*A-01 Squad, prepare for launch.*

**[00:40] Lady Operator**

*Forty minutes until launch.*

**[00:46] Sakura/Komaki**

I'm home.

**[00:47] Lady Operator**

*MRV releasing now.*

**[00:49] Bomber Fleet**

*Understood.*

**SIGN** Meanwhile • Command Post of the Mogami, Flagship of the 2nd Squadron

**[00:51] Pyatkh**

The UN Orbital Bomber fleet has  
confirmed the release of entry shells.

**[00:55] Lady Operator**

*Five, four, three, two, one—*

**[00:58] Man Operator**

*Laser fire confirmed from Target 21.*

**[01:03] Man Operator**

*Anti-laser rocket rounds  
are confirmed as having scattered.*

**[01:05] Lady Operator**

Enemy fire confirmed.

**[01:06] Man Operator**

Heavy metal cloud is now established  
in operational airspace, and expanding.

**[01:10] Ozawa**

Begin firing.

**[01:12] Abe**

Begin firing!

**[02:56] Takeru**

This is the beginning of  
mankind's counterattack.

**[03:02] Captain Ota Chihaya**

*Wadatsumi units released. Upon deployment,  
surface and commence missile fire!*

**SIGN** Operation 21st

**[03:10] Operator**

*Wadatsumi units have landed at the  
ruins of the new district of Yahata.*

**[03:12] Operator**

*Now advancing on Old Nagaki.*

**[03:14] Operator**

*Old Izumi, Kanemaru, and Futa  
have been recaptured.*

**[03:21] Operator**

*Missile launch confirmed from Takase.*

**[03:23] Operator**

*Switching to saturation fire.*

**[03:25] Pyatkh**

*Whiskey Unit, armored landing forces,  
prepare to disembark.*

**[03:28] Pyatkh**

*I repeat, Whiskey Unit and armored  
landing forces prepare to disembark.*

**[03:31] Stingray-1**

*This is Stingray-1 to HQ!*

**[03:33] Stingray-1**

*Requesting artillery support!  
They're targeting the TSF carriers!*

**SIGN** Operation 21st

**[03:46] Pyatkh**

Phase 2 of the operation is underway.

**[03:48] Pyatkh**

The IJN Combined Fleet 2nd Squadron  
is maintaining attack. Casualty rate is 40%.

**[03:53] Suyama**

Whiskey Unit has successfully landed.

**[03:55] Suyama**

They've secured Old Yahata and Old Kawaharada. Casualty rate is at 7%.

**[04:01] Haruka**

Valkyrie Mom to all units.

**[04:02] Haruka**

Echo landing force is currently heading south towards Ryotsu Bay at full speed.

**[04:07] Hasegawa**

Landing unit casualties are significant, but not enough to hinder the objective.

**[04:10] Hasegawa**

Confirmed 81 craft, including 49 TSF carriers, have sunk. Another 52 are heavily damaged...

**[04:15] Takeru**

*We started taking a hell of a lot of losses as soon as things kicked off.*

**[04:19] Takeru**

*I know it's part of the plan,*

**[04:20] Takeru**

*but having to sit here and watch our guys go down like this is rough.*

**[04:25] Isumi**

*Valkyrie-1 to squadron.*

**[04:27] Isumi**

*Echo is ready to touch down at Ryotsu Bay.*

**[04:30] Isumi**

*But our advance forces have been cut down to size by Laser-Class fire from the coast.*

**[04:34] Isumi**

*Be ready to move out at any moment.*

**[04:36] A-01**

*Roger that!*

**[04:38] Pyatkh**

HQ to Echo fleet.

**SIGN** December 25th, 10:09

Far East UN Fleet, 40km North-by-Northeast off the Coast of Sadogashima

**[04:39] Pyatkh**

*As of this moment, the operation has entered Phase 3. Commence attack.*

**[04:44] Tadokoro**

It's finally time.

**[04:46] Tadokoro**

All gunnery staff, commence fire at once!

**[04:56] Pyatkh**

*HQ to Echo landing forces.*

*Be ready for Alpha strike immediately.*

**[05:00] Pyatkh**

*I repeat, all shipboard*

*landing units, prepare for liftoff.*

**[05:03] Osumi Operator**

*This is Echo Alpha-1 to HQ.*

*All landing units ready for liftoff.*

**[05:08] Pyatkh**

*HQ, copy that.*

**[05:09] Pyatkh**

*Alpha strike is underway.*

*All units, mobilize!*

**[05:12] Isumi**

*Let's go, Valkyries! Everyone, on me!*

**[05:15] A-01**

*Roger!*

**[05:29] Squad Member**

*Whiskey has completed*

*BETA clearance of Old Terada.*

**[05:32] Daiwa Operator 1**

*Whiskey Golf-1 has entered*

*the Kuradani district of Old Mano*

**[05:32] Squad Member**

*Now en route to Old Shimoniibo.*

**[05:35] Daiwa Operator 1**

*where they've encountered*

*a squadron-sized BETA herd.*

**[05:39] IJA Pilot**

*This is Salamander-1 to HQ. The area*

*formally known as Ryotsu is under our control.*

**[05:43] IJA Pilot**

*Ryotsu Port is now secure.*

**[05:44] Daiwa Operator 1**

*Copy that. Second Armored Unit,*

*commence landing.*

**[05:47] Daiwa Operator 1**

*Sweep the area for remaining hostiles.*

**SIGN** 184 Minutes Since Operation Start, 40km Off West-southwest Coast of Sadogashima

**[05:50] Pyatkh**

*Whiskey is collectively at 33% casualties.*

**[05:52] Pyatkh**

*Echo is at 13%.*

**[05:55] Pyatkh**

*Both are still capable*

*of proceeding with the mission.*

**[05:57] Pyatkh**

Whiskey's main force is forming a defensive line across Old Sawane and Old Takase.

**[06:01] Pyatkh**

The detached force has abandoned Old Kubota, and is moving westward.

**[06:05] Suyama**

Echo's main force has secured Old Matsugasaki, and is continuing northward.

**[06:09] Ozawa**

I am hereby announcing the transition to Phase 4 of the operation.

**[06:14] Pyatkh**

HQ to all forces.

The operation is now in Phase 4.

**[06:18] Pyatkh**

I repeat, the operation is moving onto Phase 4.

**[06:21] Yuuko**

The Imperials are doing a good job of holding out.

**[06:24] Ozawa**

Executive Officer Kouzuki...

**[06:26] Ozawa**

Japan has long dreamed of eradicating the hive on Sadogashima.

**[06:29] Ozawa**

This may be a joint operation with the UN,

**[06:31] Ozawa**

but we consider it to be a personal battle, with the survival of our empire on the line.

**[06:35] Ozawa**

It's only natural that our soldiers would do their utmost.

**[06:38] Yuuko**

You've got a point. My apologies, Admiral.

**[06:42] Ozawa**

If anything, I'm impressed by the Far East UN's forces...

**[06:45] Ozawa**

It's admirable how they fight so fiercely after losing their homes.

**[06:49] Yuuko**

This battle is personal for them too, sir.

**[06:53] Yuuko**

A lot of them consider it a first step to retaking Asia.

**[06:57] Haruka**

Valkyrie squad has occupied Old Kaminiibo.

They're maintaining high alert.

**[07:01] Yuuko**

That's way ahead of schedule.

Impressive, Isumi.

**SIGN** Operation 21st

**[07:06] Pyatk**

The UN Orbital Fleet has confirmed that re-entry shells have separated.

**[07:09] Pyatk**

Their payload has entered the atmosphere.

**[07:10] Yuuko**

What's A-02's current location, Lieutenant Pyatk?

**[07:13] Pyatk**

Currently passing through the vicinity of Nagaoka in Niigata Prefecture.

**[07:17] Pyatk**

All systems functional.

The operation can proceed as planned.

**[07:19] Ozawa**

A-02... that's the new weapon, yes?

**[07:23] Ozawa**

For the sake of everyone fighting on Sadogashima,

**[07:26] Ozawa**

I hope it can live up to the rumors.

**[07:30] Yuuko**

Of course.

**[07:31] Takeru**

*Valkyrie-11 here. That's eight Grappler-Class down. No reinforcements in sight.*

**[07:35] Takeru**

*Doesn't seem like a coordinated attack.*

**[07:37] Hayase**

*Valkyrie-2, copy that.*

*All units, let's resupply, and quickly.*

**[07:40] Isumi**

Valkyrie-1 to all units.

A-02 is en route, as planned.

**[07:44] Isumi**

Don't let a single BETA get in its way.

**[07:47] Isumi**

And that goes double for keeping the staging position for Plan B clear.

**[07:50] Isumi**

The pride and glory of Alternative IV's special task force are on the line here.

**[07:54] Isumi**

Let's make sure the Imperials and  
UN soldiers see this was worth it!

**[07:57] Isumi**

You hear me?!

**[07:58] A-01**

Yes, ma'am!

**[07:59] Takeru**

Whiskey's down 30%.

**[08:02] Takeru**

The captain's gotta be worried  
about her sister.

**[08:05] Takeru**

Just like Meiya, with Tsukuyomi-san.

**[08:08] Takeru**

Harsh as this world is,  
it's not like people want to die.

**[08:12] Takeru**

They're all fighting to give humanity a future.

**[08:15] Takeru**

We've got a responsibility to make sure

**[08:17] Takeru**

those intentions, and sacrifices,  
don't go to waste.

**[08:19] Takeru**

And I'm not afraid of bearing  
that burden anymore.

**[08:22] Meiya**

Takeru...

**[08:23] Takeru**

What's up?! BETA?!

**[08:25] Meiya**

No, it's not them. You need to resupply.

**[08:28] Takeru**

Oh, right... You scared me for a sec.

**[08:32] Takeru**

We'll swap places, then. You keep an eye out.

**[08:34] Meiya**

A moment, Takeru.

**[08:36] Meiya**

Are you all right?

**[08:39] Meiya**

Perhaps it's needless worry...  
but I was curious.

**[08:43] Meiya**

Is everything fine?

**[08:44] Takeru**

Yeah. The captain had me go through a bit of hypnotherapy.

**[08:48] Takeru**

I've had no trouble holding it together, thanks to that.

**[08:51] Meiya**

That's wonderful to hear.

**[08:54] Isumi**

*Valkyrie-1 to all units.*

*The Orbital Divers are incoming.*

**[08:58] Isumi**

*I want all of you braced for re-entry shell impacts.*

**[09:00] Isumi**

*Don't look at the projected entry course and relax, either.*

**[09:03] Isumi**

*When the enemy opens fire, it could send debris our way.*

**[09:05] A-01**

*Roger!*

**[09:07] Operator**

*Landing points for Sauber, Ghost, Razor, and Juliet confirmed.*

**[09:28] Takeru**

This is what war with the BETA is like?

**[09:31] Operator**

*Sauber squad, proceed to the lower stratum.*

**[09:36] Pyatk**

Whiskey, Juliet, and Kilo groups have occupied the first ten levels of the hive.

**[09:40] Pyatk**

Lima group has made it to the 11th stratum, and are currently in Hall M15.

**[09:44] Suyama**

No organized BETA resistance so far.

**[09:46] Suyama**

The diversion operations on the surface are still in effect.

**[09:49] Suyama**

No additional casualties among diversionary forces.

**[09:51] Sauber-1**

*This is Sauber-1 to command post.*

**SIGN** 227 Minutes Since Operation Start, 440m Beneath the Hive on Sadogashima

**[09:53] Sauber-1**

*We're in the 12th stratum*

*and have just secured hall M19.*

**[09:56] Pyatkh**

*Command post, copy that.*

*Proceed to the hive's main shaft.*

**[10:00] Sauber-1**

*Sauber-1, copy that.*

**[10:01] Sauber-1**

*Ghost squad, I want a route scan.*

**[10:03] Sauber-1**

*Razor squad, I want you on alert*

*and watching the drift in front of us.*

**[10:06] Ghost-1/Razor-1**

*Roger.*

**[10:07] Razor-1**

*This is Razor-1, I've got hits on both  
sonic and seismic! They're below us!*

**[10:11] Sauber-3**

*Estimated count is...*

**[10:13] Sauber-3**

*O-Over 40,000!*

**[10:15] Sauber-1**

*All units, fall back to hall N17!*

**[10:18] Sauber-1**

*We'll rendezvous with the rear  
guard and face them down!*

**[10:20] Sauber-1**

*Let Lima group in the rear  
know what's going on!*

**[10:22] Sauber-2**

*Roger!*

**[10:24] Sauber-1**

*This is Sauber-1 to command post.*

**[10:25] Sauber-1**

*There are 40,000 BETA moving up from  
the 14th stratum, headed for the surface!*

**[10:30] Sauber-3**

*Commander, these sonic readings  
don't make any sense.*

**[10:33] Sauber-3**

*They're moving above us,  
where there shouldn't be any shafts!*

**[10:35] Sauber-1**

*That's impossible! They'd have be  
digging another shaft as we speak!*

**[10:39] Ghost-1**

*There's no other explanation!  
They're digging their way to the surface!*

**[10:40] Sauber-1**

*Shit! Send an emergency heads-up  
to the rest of the strike force!*

**[10:43] Sauber-2**

*No good! The wired connection is down!*

**[10:45] Sauber-1**

*What?!*

**[10:47] Sauber-3**

*There you bastards are!*

**[10:59] Takeru**

*What's causing these tremors?*

**[11:01] Haruka**

*Valkyrie Mom to all units. We've lost  
contact with the entire hive strike force.*

**[11:06] Takeru**

*A huge force like that? No way...*

**[11:06] Haruka**

*The operation is now moving to Test Plan B.*

**[11:08] Takeru**

*Were they seriously wiped out that quickly?*

**[11:08] Haruka**

*A-02's new objective is  
neutralization of the hive.*

**[11:12] Isumi**

*Valkyrie-1, copy that.*

**[11:14] Isumi**

*We will continue to secure  
A-02's staging point.*

**[11:17] Haruka**

*BETA are exiting the hive's assorted  
gates as we speak. Maintain alert.*

**[11:22] Takeru**

*The Imperials and UN  
went hard on the distraction...*

**[11:26] Takeru**

*But there are still a lot of BETA left?*

**[11:28] Isumi**

*Hayase, Munakata,*

**[11:30] Isumi**

*we're lucky that there's no Laser-Class,  
but there's plenty of everything else.*

**[11:33] Isumi**

*We'll take them on in our individual flights.*

**[11:34] Hayase/Munakata**

*Roger that!*

**[11:35] Munakata**

*We're taking the 18 on the left.*

**[11:37] Munakata**

C-Flight, follow me!

**[11:39] Touko/Kashiwagi/Akane**

Roger!

**[11:41] Isumi**

The 22 on the right are ours, A-Flight.

**[11:44] Isumi**

Move out!

**[11:45] Chizuru/Mikoto/Tama/Sakura**

Roger!

**[11:47] Hayase**

We've only got 19 in the middle.

**[11:49] Hayase**

Let's wrap them up, and swipe  
a few from the other flights!

**[11:52] Hayase**

Show them what Storm Vanguard's are made of!

**[11:54] Takeru/Meiya/Ayamine**

Roger!

**[12:13] Hayase**

*B-Flight has eliminated all BETA.*

**[12:16] Munakata**

*Likewise. C-Flight's done on our end.*

**[12:19] Isumi**

Can't believe Hayase's team got the drop  
on us again. She stole three of our kills.

**[12:24] Munakata**

That's in addition to the two  
she snatched from B-Flight.

**[12:27] Hayase**

What can I say?

My people are good at their jobs!

**[12:32] Isumi**

*I take it they've finally  
earned your approval, then?*

**[12:35] Hayase**

*Well, you can be a hotshot during training,  
but that doesn't actually prove anything.*

**[12:39] Hayase**

*It's real combat that you can brag about.*

**[12:41] Munakata**

*You hear that, Shirogane?*

**[12:45] Isumi**

*Everything all right?*

**[12:46] Sakura**

Yes. I'm doing okay.

**[12:50] Isumi**

Okay, all flights,  
head to the coordinates and—

**[12:53] Touko**

*Captain!*

**[12:54] Isumi**

What is it, Kazama?

**[12:56] Touko**

*All the BETA in the vicinity of the hive...  
are headed our way.*

**[13:01] Mikoto**

No way! Were the diversionary  
forces wiped out?!

**[13:04] Chizuru**

Their markers are still active.

**[13:06] Chizuru**

Over half of them  
are still intact, so why...?

**[13:08] Ayamine**

Only the BETA could answer that.

**[13:11] Kashiwagi**

Well said, Ayamine! We're not gonna  
get any answers worrying about it.

**[13:15] Akane**

We've just got to fight!

**[13:17] Akane**

We need to hold the  
staging position, no matter what!

**[13:19] Meiya**

Indeed. Fulfilling our mission  
is the only way

**[13:22] Meiya**

we can repay those who passed on before us.

**[13:25] Isumi**

*Gather all the resupply  
containers as you can!*

**[13:28] Isumi**

*We're gonna set up a defensive line  
at the Niibo dam,*

**[13:31] Isumi**

*200 meters from the staging point.*

**[13:33] A-01**

*Roger that!*

**[13:34] Isumi**

Valkyrie-1 to HQ, we've got  
a division-sized herd headed our way.

**[13:38] Isumi**

Requesting artillery support.

**[13:40] Pyatkh**

HQ to all operational fleets.

**[13:43] Pyatkh**

Please target the following coordinates with your fire support.

**[13:53] Touko**

*Here comes the artillery!*

**[14:01] Munakata**

What a relief. Here's hoping this actually clears them out.

**[14:08] Munakata**

Laser-Class?!

**[14:09] Isumi**

*All units, fall back to the defensive line!  
Use the cliffs for cover!*

**[14:14] Pyatkh**

70% of the fusillade was shot down.

**[14:16] Pyatkh**

The BETA forces are still headed toward A-02's staging position

**[14:19] Pyatkh**

at an average speed of 60 kilometers per hour.

**[14:22] Pyatkh**

From the amount of interceptor fire, we estimate at least 100 Laser-Class.

**[14:25] Yuuko**

This isn't good. We didn't anticipate a reserve force this big.

**[14:30] Ozawa**

XO, we should switch to anti-laser rounds immediately.

**[14:34] Ozawa**

That strain always prioritizes flying objects.

**[14:37] Ozawa**

Even if we can't actually thin their numbers out,

**[14:39] Ozawa**

we can keep them from targeting our allies.

**[14:42] Yuuko**

Makes sense. Let's do it.

**[14:45] Yuuko**

You catch all that, Lieutenant Pyatkh?

**[14:47] Pyatkh**

*Yes, ma'am.*

**[14:48] Yuuko**

Admiral Ozawa, I believe that the BETA are after A-02.

**[14:53] Yuuko**

The fact that the Laser-Class weren't used to attack until now points in that direction.

**[14:57] Ozawa**

Remarkable. How could they possibly know about it?

**[15:00] Yuuko**

I honestly couldn't tell you.

**[15:02] Yuuko**

But it does fly, and it has the most advanced

**[15:05] Ozawa**

computational abilities of anything in this area.

**[15:07] Yuuko**

Other than that,

**[15:08] Ozawa**

the only other thing I can think of is that it has some one-of-a-kind hardware.

**[15:12] Ozawa**

Regardless, if A-02 is humanity's secret weapon, we can't let them reach it.

**[15:18] Yuuko**

That's what the escort unit is for.

**[15:20] Yuuko**

He...

**[15:21] Yuuko**

No, they will be able to manage.

**[15:24] Haruka**

*The fleet is currently switching to anti-laser shells.*

**[15:27] Haruka**

*Their bombardment will resume in ten minutes.*

**[15:29] Chizuru**

And in ten minutes, the BETA will have covered another four kilometers.

**[15:33] Takeru**

Damn it! Are we just gonna have to hide until then?

**[15:37] Ayamine**

Not much else we can do if there are Laser-Class.

**[15:39] Tama**

And then then four minutes after that, the Laser-Class will be here...

**[15:43] Mikoto**

I guess the operation depends on how many Laser-Class

**[15:46] Mikoto**

the fire support can blast  
in those four minutes.

**[15:50] Takeru**

The Destroyer-Class are the fastest strain,  
and they'll be here even sooner.

**[15:53] Takeru**

I don't see how we can get  
behind them while maintaining cover.

**[15:55] Mikoto**

What can we manage in 14 minutes?

**[15:58] Ayamine**

That's enough time to eat 15 yakisoba buns.

**[16:01] Tama**

I'm impressed you can even  
think about food right now.

**[16:04] Chizuru**

I get queasy just hearing about it.

**[16:07] Meiya**

They do say that eating is  
part of a soldier's duties, but...

**[16:12] Tama**

I hope we all get to eat back  
at the cafeteria again.

**[16:18] Meiya**

The base is where our hearts will return.

**[16:22] Takeru**

Guys, quit being so—

**[16:23] Hayase**

Unbelievable!

**[16:25] Hayase**

The second I give you a little credit,  
there's all this melodrama!

**[16:30] Isumi**

*Listen up, people.*

*Here's what we're dealing with.*

**[16:33] Isumi**

*The advance enemy force will hit the defensive  
line in 10 minutes, and the main force in 14.*

**[16:37] Isumi**

*In other words, that's when they reach us.*

**[16:41] Takeru**

*Around the same time,  
the fire support will kick back in.*

**[16:43] Takeru**

*But even with artillery backing us up,  
are we seriously gonna expose ourselves*

**[16:47] Takeru**

*to Laser-Class fire while trying to take on  
a swarm of Destroyer-Class?*

**[16:49] Isumi**

*There are two reasons this spot  
was chosen to stage the firing sequence:*

**[16:53] Isumi**

*The geography still matches  
what we have on record,*

**[16:55] Isumi**

*and that geography opens up,  
facing directly towards the hive.*

**[16:58] Isumi**

*By moving through this valley,*

**[17:01] Isumi**

*it limits the angle of attack  
that the Laser-Class can target.*

**[17:03] Isumi**

*It also allows us to plan on firing  
the charged particle cannon*

**[17:06] Isumi**

*without having to adjust for position.*

**[17:08] Isumi**

*The thing is, this location works out  
for us, just as much as A-02.*

**[17:13] Isumi**

*Considering how we haven't been  
shot down after our fire support stopped,*

**[17:17] Isumi**

*we can assume that the enemy is after A-02.*

**[17:21] Takeru**

*The Susano-O?! They already know it's coming?*

**[17:24] Isumi**

*We're all going to hide  
behind cover and cut our engines.*

**[17:27] Isumi**

*A-Flight and C-Flight will face away  
from the enemy, with B-Flight facing them.*

**[17:31] Isumi**

*We'll be down to our Fortified Suits'  
passive systems for comms.*

**[17:34] Isumi**

*Valkyrie Mom will give us  
the signal to start back up.*

**[17:37] Isumi**

*Once the enemy vanguard passes us by,*

**[17:38] Isumi**

*A-Flight and C-Flight will jump on them  
from behind, wiping them out.*

**[17:42] Isumi**

*The tightness of the valley  
will be a real problem*

**[17:44] Isumi**

*for a large number of  
advancing Destroyer-Class,*

**[17:46] Isumi**

*and turning around  
will be an ordeal for them.*

**[17:48] Takeru**

*That'll mean we can get the drop  
on them while still behind cover!*

**[17:51] Isumi**

*Fill their asses full of depleted uranium.*

**[17:54] Isumi**

*Once our support fire has got  
a heavy metal cloud in place again,*

**[17:57] Isumi**

*B-Flight will assault the main force.*

**[17:59] Isumi**

*C-Flight turns around to back them up.*

**[18:02] Ayamine**

*We're charging their main force?*

**[18:04] Isumi**

*Rutherford field or not,  
we're can't risk a worst-case scenario.*

**[18:09] Isumi**

*I want every last Heavy Laser-Class  
on this battlefield dead!*

**[18:12] A-01**

*Roger!*

**[18:22] Takeru**

*So we're taking on thousands  
of BETA with 13 TSFs...*

**[18:27] Hayase**

*You heard the plan, people.*

**[18:29] Hayase**

*If you stick to your training,  
I'll kick your butts!*

**[18:31] Takeru**

*Uh, Lieutenant Hayase, isn't this usually*

**[18:34] Takeru**

*where they say "stick to your training  
and you'll be fine"?*

**[18:37] Hayase**

*You think we can afford that kind of softball shit in this situation?!*

**[18:40] Hayase**

*I expect better performance than during training! Got that?!*

**[18:43] Meiya/Ayamine**

*Roger.*

**[18:44] Hayase**

*Especially with you, Shirogane.*

**[18:45] Hayase**

*I need a real hotshot, ace-pilot performance, okay?*

**[18:50] Takeru**

*R-Roger that.*

**[18:52] Hayase**

*I'm counting on you.*

**[18:56] Haruka**

*Valkyrie Mom to Valkyries,*

**[18:58] Haruka**

*the enemy vanguard is continuing to advance at a pace of 90 kilometers per hour.*

**[19:01] Haruka**

*360 seconds until they reach the defensive line.*

**[19:04] Takeru**

*Damn it...*

**[19:05] Takeru**

*I've got some real bad memories when it comes to dark cockpits.*

**[19:13] Takeru**

*But I'm fine now!*

*The hypnotherapy saw to that.*

**[19:21] Takeru**

*Wait, what was that? Why were Meiya and I...*

**[19:25] Haruka**

*Valkyrie Mom to Valkyries,*

**[19:27] Haruka**

*the enemy vanguard is passing the defensive line!*

**[19:29] Haruka**

*90 seconds until the last of them are past you!*

**[19:31] Haruka**

*All units, reactivate! I repeat, everyone needs to switch back on!*

**[19:34] Takeru**

*Here we go!*

**[19:35] OS**

*XM3 online.*

**[19:39] Isumi**

A-Flight and C-Flight, fire at will!

**[19:42] Isumi**

We're at a buffet, and we're gonna  
clean the place out!

**[19:45] A-01**

*Roger!*

**SIGN** Meanwhile • IJN Combined Fleet 3rd Squadron & UN Far East Fleet

**[19:50] Yamato Operator**

*All ships, prepare for sustained  
anti-laser round fire!*

**[19:54] Yamato Operator**

*Target coordinates have not changed!*

**[19:55] Tadokoro**

*Fire!*

**[19:57] Isumi**

*Heavy metal cloud is in effect!  
I repeat, heavy metal cloud is in effect!*

**[20:01] Isumi**

*C-Flight, about face! B-Flight, charge!*

**[20:09] Isumi**

*Don't worry about the runts!*

**[20:11] Isumi**

*Take those Heavy Laser-Class down ASAP!*

**[20:13] Isumi**

Show them why we're called Valkyries!

**[20:16] Hayase**

Let's prove what  
Storm Vanguard's are capable of!

**[20:18] Takeru/Meiya/Ayamine**

Roger!

**[20:30] Takeru**

Not today!

**[20:33] Hayase**

Shirogane, ignore the Fort-Class!

**[20:36] Akane**

Lieutenant, we've got another three  
Fort-Class at 2 o'clock!

**[20:39] Touko**

*Not just that! They're forming up  
around the Heavy Laser-Class!*

**[20:42] Ayamine**

*So annoying!*

**[20:44] Akane**

*If we don't get past them soon,*

*we'll be overwhelmed!*

**[20:46] Takeru**

*We need to clear out the Laser-Class before  
the Susano-O enters their line of fire...*

**[20:50] Takeru**

*Damn it, no time for second guessing!*

**[20:54] Takeru**

*Lieutenant Hayase!*

**[20:55] Takeru**

*I'm volunteering to be a diversion.*

**[20:56] Takeru**

*I'll keep them busy while  
the rest of you go for the kill!*

**[20:59] Meiya**

Is this your idea of assuaging your guilt?!

**[21:02] Akane**

It won't work! In this kind of melee,  
you'd be cut off!

**[21:05] Hayase**

You sure about this? Even if they pin you down,  
I have to prioritize the Laser-Class.

**[21:10] Takeru**

I'll be okay. You wanted better performance  
than during training, right?

**[21:15] Hayase**

Sic 'em, Shirogane!

**[21:16] Takeru**

*Roger that!*

**SIGN** This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents  
either are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

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