

# the Star Blazers Fandom Report®

Reporting on the who, what, where, when, why & how of Star Blazers

ISSUE NUMBER #16

A PUBLICATION OF THE STAR BLAZERS FAN CLUB

# YAMATO III IN ENGLISH

Yamato III has been translated into the third season of Star Blazers. This will now give us 77 episodes of Star Blazers to view. The third season will give the show new blood and energy to compete with what amounts to as a "glut of animation." The new episodes will help the show when it comes against the likes of Robotech, Thundercats, and the many other shows that are coming from Japan.

As of June the stations that own the rights to show the 77 episodes are:

1. Chicago, IL. - - - - - Ch.44
2. Cincinnati, OH. - - - - - WIII
3. Cleveland, OH. - - - - - WCLQ
4. Denver, CO. - - - - - KDVR
5. El Paso, TX. - - - - - KCIX
6. Honolulu, HI. - - - - - KHNH
7. Philadelphia, PA. - - - - - WTAF
8. Portland, OR. - - - - - KPDx
9. Richmond, VA. - - - - - WRLH
10. Sacramento, CA. - - - - - KTXL
11. Tampa/St. Pete, FL. - - - - - WFTS
12. Greensboro, N.C. - - - - - WGGT

This list does not include several other stations which are only under contract for the first 52 episodes of the show.

Right now Westchester Films Inc. is trying to sell the show to Metromedia Inc. which owns a number of TV stations. Letters asking them to buy the show might help. The address to write is:

Metromedia Inc.

If there is a Metromedia station in your area, one letter could make a real difference.

The new season will feature new voice actors. However the voices will be very close to the first two seasons of the show. It is also reported that the voice of Wildstar is more mature. It also seems a lot of work has gone into Americanizing the show, instead of just translating it into English.

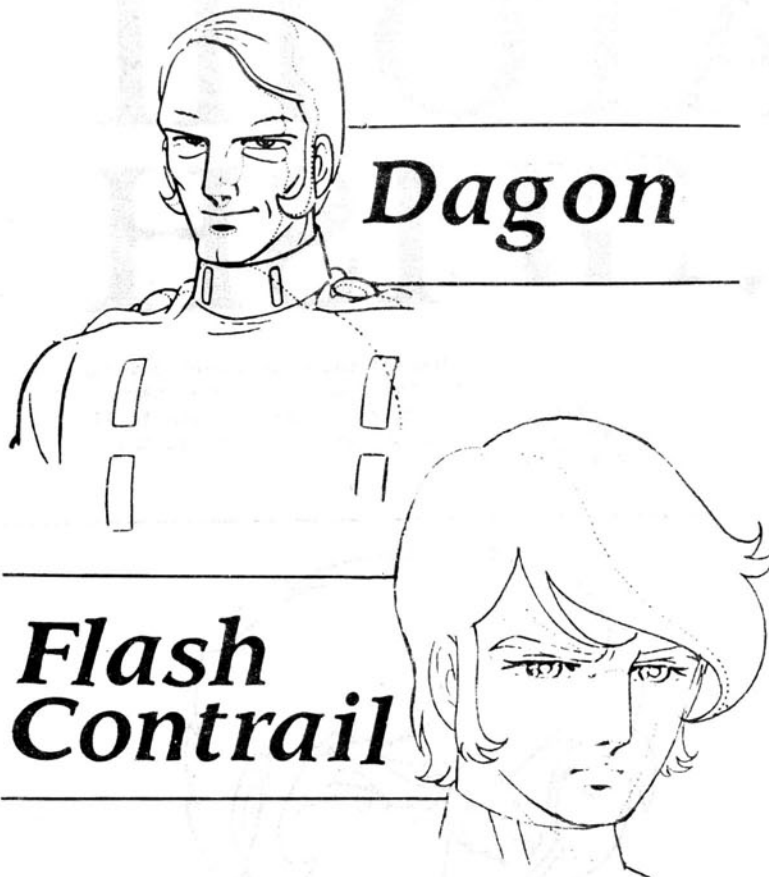
Like Star Blazers there have been several name changes from the Yamato III. New characters are Jason Jetter (known as Domon in Yamato III), Flash Contrail (Ageha) and Penny who is the Chokun's daughter.



Chokun's daughter. Characters who still keep their Japanese names are Dagon, Ram and Keeling, all generals of Desslok. Needless to say that the main characters are back - Wildstar, Nova, Dr. Sane, Venture, and Desslok.

The 25 new episodes will bring with them the strong and weak points of Yamato III. The quality of the 1980-81 TV series varies from episode to episode. The quality of the animation or movement itself goes up in down, however the

third season does feature some good art. The basic plot is that Garuman/Gamilon is at war with the Bolar Commonwealth. During one of the battles a missile escapes and hits Earth's sun. This ala the first and second seasons puts Earth in trouble. Yamato leaves Earth to save the day - and the plot runs along the same lines as the Star Blazers we know and love. The series takes place in the year 2205, about three years after the second series.



While all three seasons of Yamato have now come into the form of Star Blazers, it remains to be seen if the movies Yamato the New Voyage, Be Forever Yamato and Final Yamato will ever be translated into English one day. The copyrights to these are still owned by the Japanese firm of West Cape, which is owned by Yamato producer Yoshinobu Nishizaki. This is sad because perhaps some of the best Yamato animation (and for that matter some of the best animation from Japan) will never see a translation.

The long awaited volumes 4 and 5 of the Star Blazers animation comics will be out. These comics will be the continuation of the first three volumes in the series. The comics are made of scenes from the series - much like the American photo-novels. For more information write -

BOOKS NIPPAN

There is still more good news concerning Star Blazers, along with the third season a series of model kits from Japan have also made it over to the United States, with packaging aimed at

American audiences. About 12 kits have made it over to the United States. There are two models of the Yamato - - err - - Argo, a 1/1000th scale kit, and a huge 1/700 cut away version.

The other kits are Zordar's Dreadnought, a Comet Empire Missile ship, Earth Defence Force Battleship, Patrol Cruiser, Cruiser and Carrier. There is also Wildstar's 'Super Star' and Desslok's Command Cruiser from Yamato III - now season III of Star Blazers. The big surprise are two kits from Be Forever Yamato, which are an EDC battleship and a Dark Nebula Tripod Tank (which reminds one of H.G. Wells War of the Worlds). Even odder is the fact that the cover painting on the Argo box art is from the movie Final Yamato. The kits are imported from Japan by Twentieth Century Imports. If they aren't at your local hobby shop, ask for them.

Currently one of the hottest of the new Japanese animation shows is Robotech. Robotech is made of the Japanese series of Macross, Southern Cross, and Mospeda. There are currently 85 episodes of 30 minutes each, and a 70 minute feature film (which is made from several of the first Macross episodes). The translation of the show is perhaps the best that has been done since Star Blazers.

Robotech premiered in Los Angeles on March 1st this year. There it got good reviews in the local press, and did well in the ratings. About 50 stations across the U.S. now carry Robotech or own the rights to it. Harmony Gold the distributor spent a lot of money to give the show a lot of publicity.

Currently the Donning Company is at work on "Robotech Art I" which will be a sort of American translation of a Roman Album. The book will a combination of color art, explanations of the mechanics, character descriptions, interviews with the animators, line art, cel reproduction, box art - and once more this will be all in English.

However the merchandising doesn't stop there. Currently there are Robotech models around in the stores now. There are also plans for action toys, foil balloons, books, records, posters, boys caps, vinyl stickers and even t-shirts. In addition to this there is also plans for an official Robotech fan club.

This could be the series that will give Japanese animation the boost that it has needed on a massive scale. However all of this can backfire - - in spite of such shows as Robotech and Star Blazers, most TV stations still see animation as kidvid. In addition to this, a glut of Japanese animation can flood the market to the point of overkill - - recently an article in Advertising Age pointed out this danger. Also for the most part Robotech is being aimed for an after school slot, and they see their audience at an average age of 5 - 14 years old. It still remains to be seen how all of this will pile up.

In the fanzine dept. Highly Animated #2 is now out. This fanzine runs 112 pages, and contains fan fiction based on Japanese animation. Prices are \$6.75 in person, \$9.00 first class postage, \$8.10 at 3rd class, and \$7.00 at book rate. Please keep in mind that by mail anything except for first class tends to be SLOW. Please send check or money order (but don't send cash in the mail) to -

Highly Animated #2  
c/o JoLynn Horvath & Colleen Winters

Please make check or money order payable to JoLynn Horvath.

# Editorial

Why should a science fiction fan be in favor of a permanently manned space station? One might think this a very stupid question to ask -- after all wouldn't science fiction fans be the first ones to want mankind to get off this rock called Earth? However the fact of it is that we have had the technology for quite some time to do some fantastic things TODAY, but a lack of support has prevented some very good projects.

One of those projects is a permanently manned space station. A lack of vision in Washington threatens to destroy our hopes for the future in space. What is needed is an all-out campaign to secure full funding for a space station.

A permanently manned space station would be a very important first step. Such a station could be a stepping stone to many things -- as science fiction fans we know that there are many possibilities. It would also make sure that NASA survives in the years to come -- we need a civilian space agency.

The time to act is NOW. There are two members of congress who hold the key to funding the space station. Senator Jake Garn (R-Utah) and Representative Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.). Sen. Garn is Chairman of the Senate H.U.D./Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and Rep. Boland is Chairman of the corresponding subcommittee in the House. The space station program has been hit by two major setbacks in the House and Senate this year which may cut over \$375 million dollars from NASA's budget. Most of the cuts will be taken out of new projects -- the space station. By the way a quick fact, NASA is one of the few government agencies that **MAKES** money.

I beg anyone who reads this editorial to write to save our future. The addresses are:

Sen. Jake Garn	Rep. Edward Boland
Senate Office Building	House Office Building

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WANTED - VHS tapes of any season of Star Blazers and Queen Millennia Film with subtitles. Will buy or send blank tapes to copy. Contact - Sean Cook,

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Buying xerox copies of - Anime Books, Roman Albums, pictures, etc... of Yamato. Will pay 20¢ for each copy (one of each no reprints) - Please write Dominick Roman,

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WANTED: Address of ANY animation studio, distributor, or Japanese professional involved with animation -- in order to complete my quest called "Desslok's Revenge" - my own animated tribute to Star Blazers. Please contact - Brian Cirulnick,

- also anyone interested in doing animation should also contact.

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WANTED - Japanese live action programs on video tape. Specifically; Ultra-Man (original), Specterman, Space Giants - Bob Napton,

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## double phoenix publications

accepting submissions of original  
fan artwork and articles dealing  
with Japanimation. SASE for details.

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# NEW ADDRESS

# STAR BLAZERS FAN CLUB

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Ads & More

# STARLIGHT RISING

STARLIGHT STARSHIP, an animated feature film under production in Japan, is the latest brainchild of animation magnate Yoshinobu Nishizaki. Nishizaki, who produced television series BLUE NOAH and TRITON OF THE SEA, is best known as the producer of the highly successful SPACE CRUISER YAMATO epic. Next to Tezuka, Nishizaki is one of the forces behind the current boom in animation that Japan still enjoys to this day.

Only time will tell if Starlight Starship can replicate Yamato's success, but the Japanese anime-media is gearing up for Starlight with mountains of pre-release hype. Most of the hype centers on the Starlight itself, (a solar-sail type spaceship with an intentional resemblance to a 19th century clipper-ship), but some of the details about the characters and plotlines have been released.



Mamoru Nelson

Akira Tsukuba

The story of STARLIGHT STARSHIP begins in 2099 when the Starlight prototype begins testing the revolutionary new gravity-negation system. The Starlight is about to embark on it's first test flight when it recieves an S.O.S. The Alford Earth-to-Jupiter shuttle is under attack!

Admiral Suzuka orders the Starlight to go to the shuttle's rescue, but the space military over-rides him. The Starlight prototype is too valuable to risk on a mercy mission, so they surround it with fighter craft (as incentive to stay put). Admiral Suzuka calls their bluff knowing that Starlight can easily outrun any other Earthship and hoping

that the military would not fire on such a valuable prototype. The starship sets out for Jupiter, but not before one of the pilots (Akira) defects to Starlight. From there the Starlight goes to the site and picks up Srybager, the sole survivor of the attack.

After a brief battle with the shuttle's attacker, Starlight is "blown away" to Uranus, where they find a drifting derelict apaceship of unknown origin. The alien ship's nav-computers give a chart to the Odin solar system. When the Admiral orders the ship back to Earth, Akira and his fellow cadets look the officers up, and set a course for the Odin star system.

## the cast of STARLIGHT STARSHIP

SARA SRYBAGER - Sole survivor of the Alford space shuttle disaster, this very pretty Scandinavian girl is gifted with extraordinary perceptions and abilities. She holds the key contact between Earth and the Odin people.

AKIRA TSUKUBA - Akira would have graduated from the Space-Navigation Academy with honors had he not punched out one of his instructors during the final exams. There by he was forced to join the space-military instead of being assigned to Starlight. He has always dreamed of space exploration and is not good at taking orders from others.

MAMORU NELSON - Back at the academy, he was Akira's rival. Now he's the leader of Starlight's officer cadets. His British "stiff upper lip" and straightlaced attitude often conflict with Akira's rebellious nature, provoking fistfights at the most inapropriate times.

ADMIRAL TAKESHI SUZUKA - The Veteran Capatin shosen to command the Starlight project. A true leader who easily inspires his subordinates. His conscience is stronger than his willingness to follow unjust orders.

DR. FLOYD - Chief Medical Officer assigned to Starlight, an expert in Scandinavian Mythology and has a mania for detective novels. He is intreagued by Sarah's mysterious powers.



**by Navya Tohyama & Robert Fenelon**



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*by Navya Tohyama  
& Robert Fenelon*



# Fan Activity

## by Brian Cirulnick

I'd like to think that it's a safe assumption that most SBFC members also appreciate the art of comic books. The names of the X-Men, Captain America, Spiderman, and Doctor Doom are all familiar parts of our lives. I have and still do thrill to the exploits of Iron Man and the Fantastic Four. But with the last few years, I have found myself turning my attention to the likes of an annoying alien with a tiger striped bikini, a blond haired athletic type who has a big gun for one arm, and three girls who run a coffee shop by day, and steal their father's art treasures back by night.

I'm discussing the world of Japanese comics, the MANGA (pronounce the "A" as in MARS), which has jumped into massive popularity in Japanese Animation Fandom so quickly that stores have trouble keeping them on the shelves.

Don't cry if you can't read Japanese, personally I have trouble just making out the characters that spell Yamato. Most mangas are drawn in such a way that the stories are easy to figure out if you have the patience. If that much time is not on your side, perhaps knowing the story beforehand would help. Therefore, for starters, I recommend either COSMOSHIP YAMATO or SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO.

Cosmoship Yamato is published by Sunday Comics and is illustrated by Leiji Matsumoto. The first volume covers the story of the first season fairly accurately, though the art quality varies slightly. The next two volumes cover most of the second season, though as far as I know, the story was never finished. These volumes have slightly better art, as by this time Yamato was already a hit in Japan.



Sun Comics hired Hio Akira, a very competent illustrator, to do a series of comics that more precisely followed the films. These comics covered the very first Space Battleship Yamato movie all the way through the third season and Final Yamato. These comics are great for a beginner as we already understand the characters' and situations, and they pretty much follow the show shot for shot.

However, the great manga revolution doesn't stop there, because there exist three sets of TRANSLATED mangas for those who like to actually read the word balloons. These contain a bit of color compared to the Japanese mangas which are for the most part in black and white. They are also a help to those learning Japanese as they contain both languages printed beneath each other on the opposite page. They exist as:

SASUGANO SARUTOBI - concerns a high school boy who is in love with Mako Kiriga. Unfortunately so is everyone else, which leads to various adventures.

SEITO SHOKUN - about a group of troublemaking high school students who end up playing matchmaker for two of their teachers. Their attempts to get the two together lead to various adventures.

U.RUSEI YATSURA - Space princess Lamu wants Earth boy Ataru. See article of last issue for more information.

That is just a start to the wonderful world of Japanese comics. Most of our favorite Japanese animation shows and movies started off as a comic of this type. There exist an incredibly varied selection of mangas at most Japanese bookstores, and who knows? Maybe the one you pick up out of curiosity will become a popular show or movie in the near future. Till next time, happy collecting.

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Staff - Michael Pinto, Brian Cirulnick, Steve Logan, Navya Tohyama & Robert Fenelon.

The new official amateur press association ("APA") of the Star Blazers Fan Club is the Sasha APA. The official collator is Philip Lipari. For more information please write -

Sasha APA  
c/o Philip Lipari



# THE FINAL YAMATO

by Steve Logan

As Kodai and crew mull over this magnificent manifestation, a report from a squadron of cosmo tigers halts any further investigation. Not only is there a Dengilian base on Aquarius, but there are a whole fleet of ships zeroing in on the Yamato.

Sanada rushes back onto the bridge to report that his defense system against Hyper radiation missiles is ready, he thinks... But his speech is cut short by Yuki's claim of missiles headed for the Yamato. Ota (Eager) also locates the Uruku (shouldn't be hard to miss) and Captain Okita orders the Yamato to take off. Yamato jumps into the sky with missiles in hot pursuit. These small problems are soon lost to the fact that Lugar II is not going to let the Yamato slip through his fingers again. Two different squadrons of space fighters carry Hyper Radiation missiles converge on the Yamato. Sanada orders the activation of his defense system.

Everyone figures it'll work, but they have all got their helmets on just to make sure. From where the time radar used to be, a new god-like technicality emerges, and spits out a stream of super-static, causing the Hyper Radiation missiles to detonate prematurely. The Yamato crew is treated to a nice green light show.

Lugar's reaction may be described as extremely pissed off, but that's only telling you half. He orders his fleet to commence attack on the Yamato, and outnumbered twenty to one, Yamato takes heavy damage from the accurate Dengilians. Finally, Captain Okita orders what we have all been waiting to hear, "Fire the Wave Motion Gun!"

To say that they've improved the wave motion gun would be the understatement of the year. The proton powered punch carried by the Yamato knocks it's way through five small planetoids before it ever reaches the Dengilian fleet, melting all but one. Lugar is unlucky enough to escape from the blast, for now he must report to his father, and tell him of his humiliating defeat. Great Priest President Lugar accepts his son's apology much as Darth Vader would have. President Lugar tells an aide "He is no longer my son. He is no longer worthy of even being a Dengilian." He then orders the Uruku's defensive screens into action. The massive city-satellite is slowly covered by a pinkish haze.

Too late to do anything about it, Lugar II realises his ship is going to smash into it. He hits with a force matched by a subcompact car smashing into a 12 foot brick wall at 18,000 miles per hour. In other words, there isn't much left of him. At this point the Uruku fires this nasty pink/red beam at the Yamato - as the Yamato flees the beam follows them.

At this point the crew gets ready to die. Just as the beam is about to hit Sandox tries one of his tricks with the wave motion drive with the Yamato - things get real tense - and

the deadly beam surrounds the ship instead of destroying it! At which point the Yamato heads at the Uruku, and uses it's own beams to smash through the ships shields. After this the Yamato makes a crash landing of sorts - and in the process takes a few buildings on the Uruku with it. Of course Lugar isn't going to stand by doing nothing.



He and his equestrian troops launch a fierce attack on the damaged Yamato, in a scene that can only be described as a cowboy and Indian western with laser and spaceships. Yamato crewmembers sacrifice life and limb in a valiant attempt to protect the ship and stop invading troops, but Lugar is a much better fighter than his former son. His horse, which sports a "unicorn gun", sprays deadly fire wherever it turns it's head.

The little Dengilian boy can hardly believe his eyes. How could his people be capable of such cruelty and force this much death upon a bunch of nice humans? Watching from a safer portion of the Yamato, he is witness to Lugar's unstoppable rage.

Lugar and Kodai fire upon each other, but neither can get a clear shot at each other, and in the meantime, Aquarius is nearly fifty percent warped. Shima is shot by a flying Dengilian soldier, but it is only a flesh wound. Kodai, not noticing the wound tells Shima to get to the bridge and pick up the Yamato enough for the cosmo tigers to launch. Shima does not tell of his wound but just haeds for the bridge.

Kodai has boarded his cosmo Zero and makes a sweeping flyby of the Yamato, killing off the rest of the currently attacking Dengilian troops. Shima tries to lift the Yamato off the face of the Uruku by a few feet, enough to launch the cosmo tigers. He employs the rocket anchor and every engine but the main one, shifting



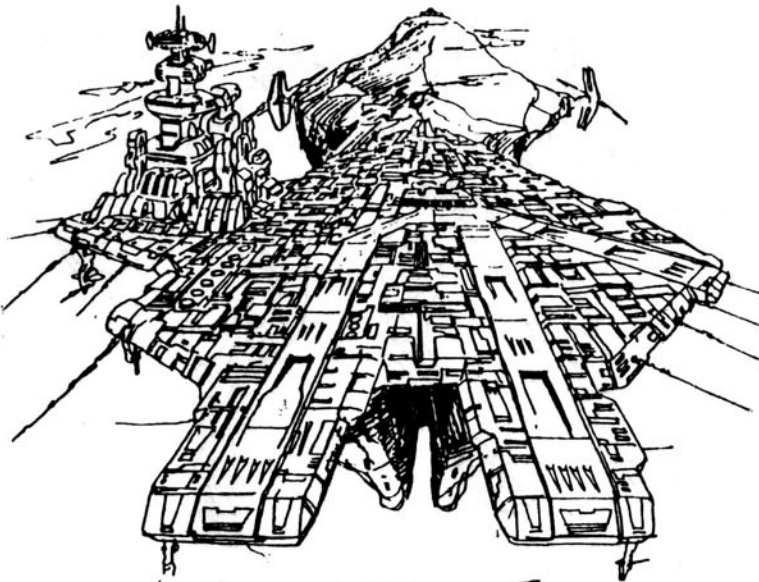
each control being a new lesson in pain and suffering from his wound.

Cosmo tigers launch and begin to wreak havoc with Dengilian forces, while the Dengilian boy has jumped ship to chase Lugar. By a combination of laser cannons and armour piercing missiles, the cosmo tigers put a stop to the warp in the nick of time.

No sooner has everybody breathed a sigh of relief, than the beams used to warp Aquarius emanate once again from the surface from the Uruku. Needless to say, this comes as quite a shock to everyone, as slowly but surely, the water planet begins to warp.

Sanada contacts Kodai and gives him the location of the other warp control tower, at the other side of the Uruku. Kodai and his group attempt an attack, but it is too heavily fortified. They opt to land and enter by way of foot.

Again, there is heavy resistance, but Kodai makes it to an elevator. Just as the doors slide shut; the little Dengilian boy slip through. The two make their way along a maze of corridors until they reach the warp control room. President Priest Lugar waits for them.



## the Uruku

He draws his pistol as he and Kodai have a stand-off much like the Wildstar-Desslok stand-off of second season. Kodai wildly questions how he is capable of such horrors. Looking through a window in the room, we can see Aquarius is very nearly warped. The little Dengilian boy runs toward Lugar yelling "father" (this is not father as parent, but father as in Priest), and Kodai crouches, to make use of the boys distraction. Lugar fires at Kodai, but kills the boy instead. Kodai screams at him "How could you do such a thing!!!" but Lugar makes a hasty escape, so he can activate the Uruku's self destruct mechanism. Aquarius has completed it's warp.

The Uruku begins the long procedure of destroying itself. Okita orders the Ymato to take off, and Shima's reply is a little woozy. Curious, Yuki wanders over and discovers Shima's large wound. Okita orders him to sick bay, but he refuses wishing to continue his duty to the post.

Kodai makes it to his Cosmo-Zero as the hidden Dengilian fleet rises from the waves of destruction ala Comet Empire. Okita again orders the Yamato to lift off, Shima responds, but is too blind with pain to find the right lever. Sanada gives him a hand, as the two silently tell each other of their friendship.

Rendezvousing with the Yamato, now in space, Kodai is met with a dying Shima. As his eyes became glassy, he tells Yuki that he loves her, he has always loved her but Kodai is the best one for her. To Wildstar he says that they were the best friends two could ever be. His dying wish is that the two get married. He falls limp, and the war takes a moment out to honor a faithful friend who has fallen to the ravages of evil.

Aquarius warps into Earth's solar system with precious little time left before it inundates Earth. Okita has a plan. Landing back onto the water planet, they head for the now abandoned Dengilian Base located there. Okita tells them that in order to stop the force, of the onrushing water, they need an equally explosive force. The Yamato is therefore to be filled with liquid and used as a bomb to divert the water away from Earth.

They lift away from the base, and just as they exit the atmosphere, the Dengilian fleet is waiting for them. Kodai orders the guns to fire, but Okita countermands, telling him that the first priority is to warp to Earth.

Lugar is preparing himself to order the destruction of the Yamato, every gun aimed precisely at the aging battleship. His hand drops and a ship explodes. Not the Yamato, one of his ships, then another and another. The disturbance is being caused by some blue guy with blond hair. Desslok aims his hyper Desler cannon into the heart of the Dengilian fleet and Lugar is no more. With the Dengilian fleet in ashes, the Yamato is free to warp to Earth.

In Earth orbit the crew begins its evacuation to another ship. It is a sad goodbye for all, as the proud starforce members give up their home, their symbol, their love, for the safety of Earth. The plan was for the computer to fly the ship and fire the wave motion gun at the correct moment. The gun would be modified to backfire, and the whole ship would explode, causing the desired force. Okita knows that no computer is accurate enough, except for the one inside the human skull. He will stay on board to fire the gun. He tells no one but Kodai and Yuki. The captain must go down with his ship.

Eventually it is realised that Okita is still on board and panic erupts until everyone spots Kodai and Yuki saluting Captain Okita. Tear filled eyes, sobs, and cries of grief follow and everyone joins in the final salute.

Aquarius approaches Earth, gravity already affecting the water, causing heavy rains and floods. Okita knows to wait for the large wave, but begins to charge the wave motion gun. The large wave comes. He aims. A silent moment of prayer. The trigger is pulled. A fantastic whirl of light. The Yamato splits in half from the force.

The water is diverted into orbit around our blue green globe and the Yamato sinks into the circular ocean, a lifeless hulk of metal. Earth is safe.

Well,....that is pretty much the end of the Final Yamato movie. Kodai and Yuki get married of course, but that seems to take place in a dream, judging from the surreal quality of the images in that sequence.

In a different cut of the film, the Queen of Aquarius is shown, promising that the Yamato will rise again, but this is only speculation. My suggestion is to "stay tuned" for up coming reports on the possibility of a Final Yamato series. This, however, is only a rumour.....