

- S E C R E T -

HEADQUARTERS
TROOP COMMANDERS OFFICE
S S THOMAS NELSON

29 October 1944

SUBJECT: Passenger List.

TO : Master, S S Thomas Nelson.

1. The following tabulation shows personnel who embarked at APO 920, 15 October 1944. The tabulation is supported by unit lists which are attached herewith:

UNIT	OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
345th Hqs Sqdn	17	110 108
498th Squadron	16	218 217
499th Squadron	25	216 186
500th Squadron	3	26
501st Squadron	<u>1</u>	<u>30</u>
Total 345th Bomb Group	61 62	567
Tech Air Intelligence Unit	1	2
324th Airdrome Squadron	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Air Force Personnel	<u>63</u>	<u>570</u>
1054th Engineer Port Const. and Repair Group	0	3
453rd QM Bakery Company	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL STRENGTH	63	574

2. The following three (3) men were subsequently put ashore as indicated:

498th Bomb Sqdn, T/Sgt LUCIUS M. RADKE, 39181596, 16 October 1944 at APO 920, (suspected appendicitis).

499th Bomb Sqdn, Pfc FLOYD L.D. KNAPPICK, 38459815, 19 October 1944 at APO 565, (orders of Flight Surgeon).

498th Bomb Sqdn, Pfc EMMETT L. HERBST, 37624471, 22 October 1944 at APO 565, (orders of Flight Surgeon).

JOHN C. HANNA,
Captain, Air Corps,
Troop Commander.

- S E C R E T -

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS 345TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF
OFFICE OF GROUP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
A.P.O. 245

24 August 1945

SUBJECT: Enemy Air Attack. SS THOMAS NELSON, 12 November 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 345th Bombardment Group (M) AAF, APO 245.

1. There follows an account of suicide attacks by enemy aircraft against shipping in DULAG HARBOR LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, 12 November 1944 in the course of which heavy casualties were suffered aboard the SS THOMAS NELSON.

a. Details of the attack:

At 1130 hours I time, without warning of any kind three enemy single engine fighter planes, probably Zekes, made a low run on three of our vessels lying at anchor off DULAG. The planes were first seen flying at about 150 feet at 12 o'clock; as the ships were lying this meant an approach from the North. First hit was the SS LEONIDAS MERRITT. In the next instant the "Nelson" was strafed by two planes and crash dived by one of them. The other plane evidently tried for the SS JOLIET VICTORY but crashed into the sea. The whole action took less than a minute. The "Nelson" was lying at anchor approximately two miles, approximately 80 degrees True from DULAG TOWN. The nearest shore was two miles distant. Survivors of the attack think that one plane bombed the "Nelson", the second crash diving into the ship. Most agree that there were two explosions. The resulting damage was almost entirely aft of the superstructure. Fire which broke out in No. 5 tween decks and around No. 5 hatch where the Jap plane landed was extinguished only after determined effort by the ships crew and soldiers and by the assistance of a navy fire boat which pulled alongside the starboard quarter at about 1210/I. The fact that fire hoses aft were badly riddled by shrapnel hampered initial work. The fire was out at about 1300/I. The ship remained afloat. Casualties suffered were extensive due to the fact that no alert had been sounded, and there was virtually no warning or time to take cover. It is doubtful if many of the men who died knew what hit them. Although some men were below most of the killed and wounded were on the after deck. Card games and other time-passing activities were in progress. It had been two weeks since the ship arrived at LEYTE; the troops were becoming restive and were anxious to be put ashore. A full list of the 345th Bomb Group (M) casualties was covered by the report of the undersigned, then Troop Commander, dated 13 November 1944. There were no other army casualties.

b. Natural conditions:

Weather was clear, visibility excellent, temperature of air and water each approximately 25 degrees C. There was no wind; the sea was calm.

S-E-C-R-E-T

Ltr, subj: Enemy Air Attack, SS THOMAS NELSON, 12 November 1944 (cont'd)

c. Life preserving equipment:

There were four (4) life boats, six (6) to eight (8) skid rafts, and numerous other rafts deck stowed. None of them were needed.

d. Rescue:

Wounded were given first aid, then sent ashore on "Ducks" and other small craft which came to the ship's assistance. As a result of the attack some personnel were thrown, or jumped, over the fan tail; small boats which went promptly to the stern of the vessel, picked up those in the water and took them ashore. So far as is known no one drowned.

Radio appeal, and obvious need for help, brought assistance from all over the harbor. An LCM bearing a medical team, plasma, and supplies tied up on the port side amidships. An escort type vessel, probable Frigate, came alongside also on the port side. Walking wounded made their way to this ship by ladder.

The stretcher wounded were lowered over the starboard side in wire baskets by the boom at No. 3 hatch. The first were put over at approximately 1220/1; the last at somewhere around 1600/1. An arrangement to lower baskets by hand to speed up discharge from the vessel brought word from the medics that they were just keeping up to the winch as it was. The wounded were mostly taken ashore at DULAG, to the hospital ship USS MERCY, or to a naval hospital vessel, namely LST 464. It was impracticable to keep a check on the disposition of the casualties. The rescue agencies were so numerous, the need for positive work so much more pressing.

e. Ships engaged in rescue operations:

The larger vessels have been mentioned above. Numerous small craft brought medical personnel and supplies. The rescue efforts were spontaneous and in force. It is extremely unlikely that any survivor in the water was overlooked.

There are no further particulars pertinent to the inquiry which prompted this report.

2. A plan of the anchorage is attached. The morning attacks described above are plotted, but those of the late afternoon by some ten enemy planes have been omitted as not having any bearing on this report. Whereas anti-aircraft defenses were active and potent in the afternoon attacks, there was no fire directed at the morning planes except that from the "Deady" and the "Waite" at the one plane which attempted to attack the "Joliet Victory".

S-E-C-R-E-T

Ltr. subj: Enemy Air Attack, SS THOMAS NELSON, 12 November 1944 (cont'd)

3. Troops were taken off the "Nelson" late in the afternoon following the removal of the wounded. During transfer from the "Nelson" to an LCT enemy attacks were in progress, but the debarkation was accomplished without incident. A small detail was kept aboard to handle the dead, and for other duties.

JOHN G. HANNA,
Major, Air Corps,
Troop Commander, SS Thomas Nelson,
15 October to 12 November 1944.
Voyage Biak to Leyte.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
TROOP COMMANDERS OFFICE
S.S. THOMAS NELSON

13 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Casualties Sustained from Enemy Air Attack on 12 November, 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 345th Bombardment Group (M) AAF, APO 920.

1. Attached herewith are lists, by units, showing personnel killed, wounded and unaccounted for. Of those unaccounted for it is believed several may be found upon a more thorough check of hospitals ashore, and of the various naval vessels which stood by to take off wounded. It is likely also that some men will be found with their respective units ashore.

2. The tabulation below shows the initial complement of passengers and summarizes casualties. All personnel not included in any of the three categories of the casualty lists have been definitely accounted for.

	<u>INITIAL COMPLEMENT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>	<u>UNACCOUNTED FOR</u>
<u>OFFICERS</u>				
Headquarters	17		1	
498th B. Sq.	16		2	
499th B. Sq.	24		2	
500th B. Sq.	3		2	
501st B. Sq.	2			
TOTAL	<u>62</u>		<u>5</u>	
<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>				
Headquarters	107	3	1	2
498th B. Sq.	217	25	27	20
499th B. Sq.	187	32	34	35
500th B. Sq.	26			2
501st B. Sq.	29	6	10	4
TOTAL	<u>566</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>63</u>

TOTAL
201

3. But few personnel of units other than the 345th Bombardment Group (M) were aboard as passengers, and they suffered no casualties.

628
JOHN C. HANNA
Captain, Air Corps.
Troop Commander.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
TROOP COMMANDERS OFFICE
S.S. THOMAS NELSON

13 November, 1944

HEADQUARTERS 345TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

Killed in Action, 12 November, 1944

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>
REISSIG, IRVING	Cpl.	32399410
ROSECKI, MATTHEW E.	Cpl.	36598923
McROBERTS, REED A.	Pfc.	33720274

Wounded and Hospitalized

			<u>HOSPITAL</u>
KAHN, DAVID S.	2nd Lt.	O-860859	LST 464
ROBERTS, BRYANT R.	S/sgt.	34312006	165th Station

Unaccounted For

STORY, THOMAS P.	M/sgt	17036699	(Ashore-12/Nov-EJS)
SHOUP, CHARLES E.	Pfc.	13039708	

HEADQUARTERS
TROOP COMMANDERS OFFICE
S.S. THOMAS NELSON

13 November 1944.

498TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

Killed in Action, 12 November, 1944

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>
CLEARY, LLOYD G.	M/sgt	38164139
BROWN, JAMES W.	T/sgt	33087204
ANDREWS, ROBERT G.	S/sgt	12130559
CARLTON, LEROY M.	S/sgt	39461853
GROSE, JAMES H.	S/sgt	37470848
DAVIS, WILLIAM D. Jr.	S/sgt	38306580
DIBERN, EDWARD J.	S/sgt	13050481
RAINEY, FRED R.	S/sgt	34613593
DUDAS, JOHN B.	Sgt.	6992716
GODORECCI, ALFRED M.	Sgt.	33595697
LENTINE, CHARLES J.	Sgt.	35266600
McCANN, JOHN M.	Sgt.	13153351
TATE, VERLEY	Sgt.	14036302
AUSTIN, KENNETH L.	Cpl.	36263811
DAPRATO, CHARLES P.	Cpl.	31107873
EISEMAN, THEODORE E.	Cpl.	14138747
LITTLE, CYRIL W.	Cpl.	36757282
GRIBARO, SAM M.	Pfc.	17090244
HUFFMAN, ROBERT F.	Pfc.	32911674
DAVIS, LAWRENCE	Sgt.	39274058
GOLDEN, FRANK	Pvt.	36856710
HENSON, THOMAS H. Jr.	Pvt.	20731364
SMITH, MEREDITH L. Jr.	Pvt.	33623608
BROWN, LEO	S/sgt	12129253
THOMPSON, NORMAN P.	Sgt.	36189449

Wounded and Hospitalized

			<u>HOSPITAL</u>
SMITH, LEO V.	1st Lt.	0-854522	LST 464
BORESHAFSKY, ALLEN	2nd Lt.	0-835135	165th Sta.
DAVIS, PAUL D.	T/sgt	37138190	165th Sta.
APELT, AUGUST E.	S/sgt	38207523	Died on "MERCY" 12/Nov
BEARD, EDWARD J.	S/sgt	20246005	"Mercy"
CAMPBELL, MARVIN	S/sgt	18043039	165th Sta.
COLLIER, MARION	S/sgt	14092717	165th Sta.
SINDLEDECKER, LLOYD R.	S/sgt	35589530	69th Fld H.

Page 2 -- 498th B.Sq. Wounded & Hospitalized Continued.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>HOSPITAL</u>
ALLAIN, DAVID E.	Sgt.	31036201	"Mercy"
GOLBORN, JERRY C.	Sgt.	39680588	76 Station
COLLINS, RALPH	Sgt.	35358370	165th Station
GRAVES, GEORGE R.	Sgt.	39021961	"Mercy"
KRISTY, HARRY	Sgt.	16069724	165th Station
LaBOUNTY, DOLPHEUS A.	Sgt.	36151036	"Mercy"
LEVEROCK, JOHN H.	Sgt.	35475633	"Mercy"
WRIGHT, HANS N.	Sgt.	17146664	"Mercy"
CHAIN, JOHN R.	Cpl.	35147689	LST 464
GEGETSKI, TONY	Cpl.	13047759	165th Station
HALL, LEE V.	Cpl.	31137187	"Mercy"
HOLLY, HARRY C.	Cpl.	33356033	165th Station
SANDLER, HAROLD M.	Cpl.	39021815	165th Station
WARD, WILLIAM W.	Cpl.	36349399	165th Station
ANDERSON, FRANK E.	Pfc.	31171096-	165th Station
DILLING, HUBERT H.	Pfc.	35546906	"Mercy"
PAVATA, CHARLES C.	Pfc.	19080856	76th Station
MALONE, FRANK B.	Pfc.	32931469	76th Station
HUSTAD, MAYNARD H.	Pvt.	36275272	"Mercy"
PROPE, JOHN	Pvt.	20446081	76th Station
ROTKO, EUGENE	Sgt.	39183600	69th Fld H.

Unaccounted For

FLAMINIO, PEPPINO J.	T/sgt	33430151
BROWN, LAWRENCE R.	S/sgt	16051897
FLYNN, JACK F.	S/sgt	32677887
HOWARD, LESTER S.	S/sgt	34450189
BALLIRANO, GAPTANO	Sgt.	12090465
BOTTI, JOHN J.	Sgt.	32323047
BLAN, VICTOR O.	Sgt.	38111876
ELDER, JAMES J.	Sgt.	18148946
KNOWN, JAMES E.	Sgt.	35491582
MILLER, JAMES A.	Sgt.	38239902
MORR, JOSEPH	Sgt.	35041707
RYDER, GEORGE M.	Sgt.	31202804
SULLIVAN, ODIS L.	Sgt.	14053772
CARLSON, HARRY I.	Cpl.	31109633
HAUGHEN, RAY H.	Cpl.	37314306
HOZZA, FREDERICK J.	Cpl.	12094791
LADNER, PURVIS J.	Cpl.	34349877
NEIMEYER, EDWIN A.	Cpl.	18065869
PORTNOY, SAUL	Cpl.	12156352
SCHWENAYDER, RAYMOND H.	Cpl.	38266275
WOZLEK, STANLEY J.	Cpl.	37183078
BOEHNMANN, LEEROY T.	Pfc.	38207901
COTTON, HOMER O.	Pfc.	39296928
GALLAGHER, JOHN P.	Pfc.	39296613

Page 3 -- 498th B.Sq. Unaccounted list Continued.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>
KING, ARTHUR S.	Pvt.	32146001
RESECK, ALBERT T.	Pvt.	39232825
NEBINGER, ROBERT G.	Cpl.	15112099
HARRIS, PERRY R.	Cpl.	54732232

SCHOLL, JOHN D. Cpl. 32399277
(EM sent ashore to hospital 9 Nov/44, however 1 body put ashore
13 Nov/44 carried papers of Cpl. Scholl).

S. S. THOMAS NELSON

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER OF TROOPS

13 November 1944

499th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF

CASUALTIES ON 12 NOVEMBER 1944

KILLED IN ACTION

Kenneth G. Johnson	M/Sgt	35267731
Edward Rasmussen	Sgt	39839231
Norman Boudreau	Sgt	20142146
Lee G. Carrice	Sgt	13024595
XXXXX Albert J. Grassel	Sgt	32348766
Harold E. Magart	Sgt	19174183
Herbert G. Boyns	Sgt	31262065
Willson Scott	Sgt	39239055
William R. Shane	Sgt	19086917
James Sing	Sgt	39847381
James C. Austin	Cpl	34268255
Roy B. Brundage	Cpl	38145717
Elbert R. Center	Cpl	36434681
Edward E. Deafenbaugh	Cpl	35408250
Denver C. Douglas	Cpl	36169973
Earl J. Fike	Cpl	33144847
Charles H. Leuenbrink	Cpl	15104307
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	Cpl	32511241
Martin N. Roth	Cpl	33422068
Americo J. Brayconi	Cpl	31091985
Michael Gallos	S/Sgt	32761015
Earl J. Anderson	Pfc	33270283
Daniel Barton	Pfc	38145708
Francis R. Bobay	Pfc	16087927
James M. Buxton, Jr	Pfc	17040679
William W. Gearhardt	Pfc	33698177
Orlando J. Giancarlo	Pfc	32743002
Ray O. Jackson	Pfc	39293657
Manuel G. Leite	Pfc	32495737
Harry L. MacDonald	Pfc	31099255
Archie N. Browning	Pfc	14160424
Constantino Macropoulos	Pvt	32358599
George Avedisian	Pvt	11070277

WOUNDED IN ACTION

Leroy B. Tumbleston	M/Sgt	34099370	76th St Hosp	
Joseph B. Pavelich	T/Sgt	17024412	165th Sta Hosp	
Conrad A. Rose	T/Sgt	39178549		Died 12 Nov
Peter P. Watts	T/Sgt	19059155	165th Sta Hosp	
Martin J. Cantwell	S/Sgt	32444909	165th Sta Hosp	

499th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON WOUNDED IN ACTION (CONTINUED)

Victor E. Angotta	Cpl	32286248	76th Sta Hosp	
Herman L. Quinius	Sgt	37150187	165th Sta Hosp	
Earle S. Hermanson	S/Sgt	6935911	USS Mercy	Died 12 Nov
James J. Borders	Sgt	34440608	165th Sta Hosp	
Donald R. Randall	Sgt	37329660		Died 12 Nov
Stanley M. Resnick	S/Sgt	16087666	165th Sta Hosp	
Corydon M. Johnson	S/Sgt	33632608	USS Mercy	
Harold L. Shawhan	Sgt	37205852	76th Sta Hosp	
Theodore W. Simmons	Sgt	32402926	76th Sta Hosp	
George W. Stacy	Sgt	35265831	76th Sta Hosp	
Thomas J. Brennan	Cpl	31113441	69th Fld Hosp	
Howard M. Buck	Cpl	31145348	69th Fld Hosp	
Joseph deSalvo	Cpl	32354395	165th Sta Hosp	
Herman J. Feder	Cpl	33622934	76th Sta Hosp	
Robert T. Hulsey	Cpl	17121132		Died 12 Nov
Charles F. Maloney	Cpl	12038051	76th Sta Hosp	
Ralph M. Martin	Cpl	35414258	LST 464	
Woodrow T. Nauman	Cpl	37232690	LST 464	
Larry B. Riddle	Cpl	13115797	76th Sta Hosp	
David Rosenstein	Cpl	33155532	USS Mercy	
Walter R. Schaefer	Cpl	13113623	69th Fld Hosp	
Joseph A. Sitek	Cpl	33324522	165th Sta Hosp	
Angelo L. Terranella	Cpl	33037189	76th Sta Hosp	
Robert H. Serex	Pfc	32309899	USS Mercy	
Robert T. Wakefield	Pfc	33282212	76th Sta Hosp	
Albert G. Miholovich	Pfc	39140400	USS Mercy	
Charles W. Vaughn	Sgt	34770356	USS Mercy	
Brownlow W. Pack	Sgt	14011134	LST 464	
Henry A. Richardson	Sgt	34665846	76th Sta Hosp	

UNACCOUNTED FOR

William T. Goodwin, Jr	M/Sgt	18017511
Charles Brycanski	S/Sgt	36501304
William A. DeSantis	S/Sgt	32268024
Francis E. McGrinn	S/Sgt	32337182
Perry W. Scott	S/Sgt	18109921
George J. Balcohko	Sgt	33262106
Michael Colton	Sgt	32405239
Floyd L. Foster	Sgt	14134173
Thomas C. Mitchell	Sgt	18061860
Tilford W. Rasmussen	Sgt	39839231
Julius J. Roberts	Sgt	39090064
Edwin M. Roland	Sgt	32337197
Rosaire A. Dubois	S/Sgt	11037699
Clifford L. Vick	Sgt	14070765
Eliza L. Wagner	Sgt	35466484
Umberto F. Capechietti	Cpl	11116977
William Evans	Cpl	32421538
Robert V. Henson	Cpl	38152892
David Kornblau	Cpl	32613040
Edward G. Naubauer	Cpl	32175170
Samuel B. Shrebnik	Cpl	31145684

499th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

UNACCOUNTED FOR (CONTINUED)

Edward J. Allen	Pfc	32324986
Peter J. Attanasio	Pfc	32402315
George L. Mattheisen	Pfc	19079591
Albert E. Murray	Pfc	33698099
Herbert K. Walker	Pfc	35327409
Robert L. Ingle	Pfc	34805779
Frank R. Laforest	Pfc	36700053
Paul A. McIntyre	Pfc	35407984
Anthony Marsili	Sgt	36798539
Walter G. Miller	S/Sgt	37449915
William J. Chaney	Pfc	17071118
Frederick A. Eilmann	Sgt	14147200
Robert J. Rau	Sgt	33621219
Perley J. Knighten	Sgt	34667592
Harry O. Patten	Sgt	12091107
Harry W. McDonald	Cpl	32311341

HEADQUARTERS
TROOP COMMANDERS OFFICE
S.S. THOMAS NELSON

13 November, 1944.

500TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

Wounded and Hospitalized

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>HOSPITAL</u>
MARIAS, ALFRED J.	1st Lt.	O-859948	LST 464
KNEELAND, ROBERT W.	2nd Lt.	O-698302	"Mercy"

Unaccounted For

BAKER, WILLIAM A. Jr.	S/sgt.	15335138
WACHTEL, GEORGE J.	S/sgt.	33362677

HEADQUARTERS
TROOP COMMANDERS OFFICE
S.S. THOMAS NELSON

13 November 1944.

501ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

Killed in Action, 12 November, 1944

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>
REDDING, MARION G.	S/sgt	34268839
NAGARRATTO, JAMES P.	Pvt.	6291647
STONER, ROBERT R.	Cpl.	13091108
WILLIAMS, CURTIS E.	Cpl.	34450283
ROSS, HERBERT K.	Cpl.	15066465
WEATHERWALKS, HAROLD W.	Cpl.	32385741

Wounded and Hospitalized

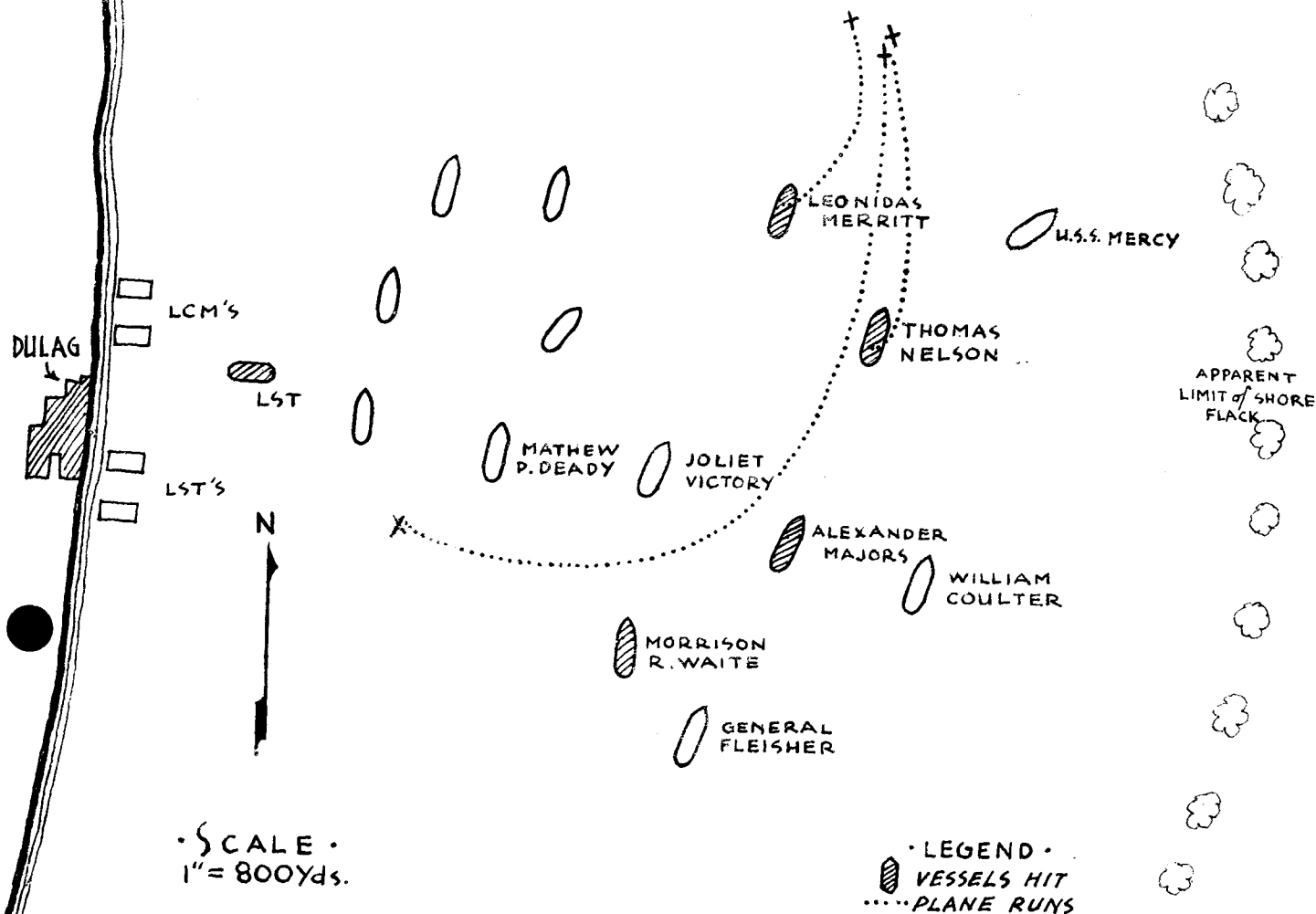
		<u>HOSPITAL</u>
KIMSEY, HAROLD R.	Sgt.	165th Station
JABOUR, MICHAEL P.	Sgt.	165th Station
ROUNTREE, THOMAS W. Jr.	Sgt.	165th Station
COURSEY, HARWEDA	Cpl.	69th Fld H.
TINCHER, EUGENE F.	Pfc.	165th Station
McWILLIAMS, LEO J.	Pfc.	165th Station
GREDENCE, LOUIS	Cpl.	76th Station
MOLETTEIRE, GIRARD L.	Cpl.	76th Station
LEE, JOHN T. Jr.	Pfc.	"Mercy"
HAKLAR, EMIL S.	Cpl.	76th Station

Unaccounted For

HALLMAN, THOMAS D. Jr.	Pfc.	14148294
THIERAULT, RAYMOND J.	Pfc.	31146713
WILLIAMS, CHARLES T.	Pfc.	37417126
AUERBACH, SAMUEL	Cpl.	12027453

JAP AIR ATTACKS DULAG HARBOR LEYTE, P.I.

SUNDAY 12 NOV. 1944
WEATHER: CAVU • WIND: NIL • SEA: CALM



• 345th BOMB GRP. LOADING PLAN •

NELSON: HQ. DETACHMENT
498th SQUADRON
499th " "
WAITE: 500th SQUADRON
501st " "
892nd CHEMICAL CO.

• VESSELS HIT, APPROX. TIME •

MERRITT: 1130/I, 1830/I
NELSON: 1130/I
LST: 1720/I
MAJORS: 1824/I
WAITE: 1829/I

ENEMY PLANES CRASHED SHIPS - 6
ENEMY PLANES CRASHED IN SEA - 5/6
ENEMY PLANES SHOT DOWN BY P38'S - 1

• Drawn by - Sgt. Chas O. Metzger •