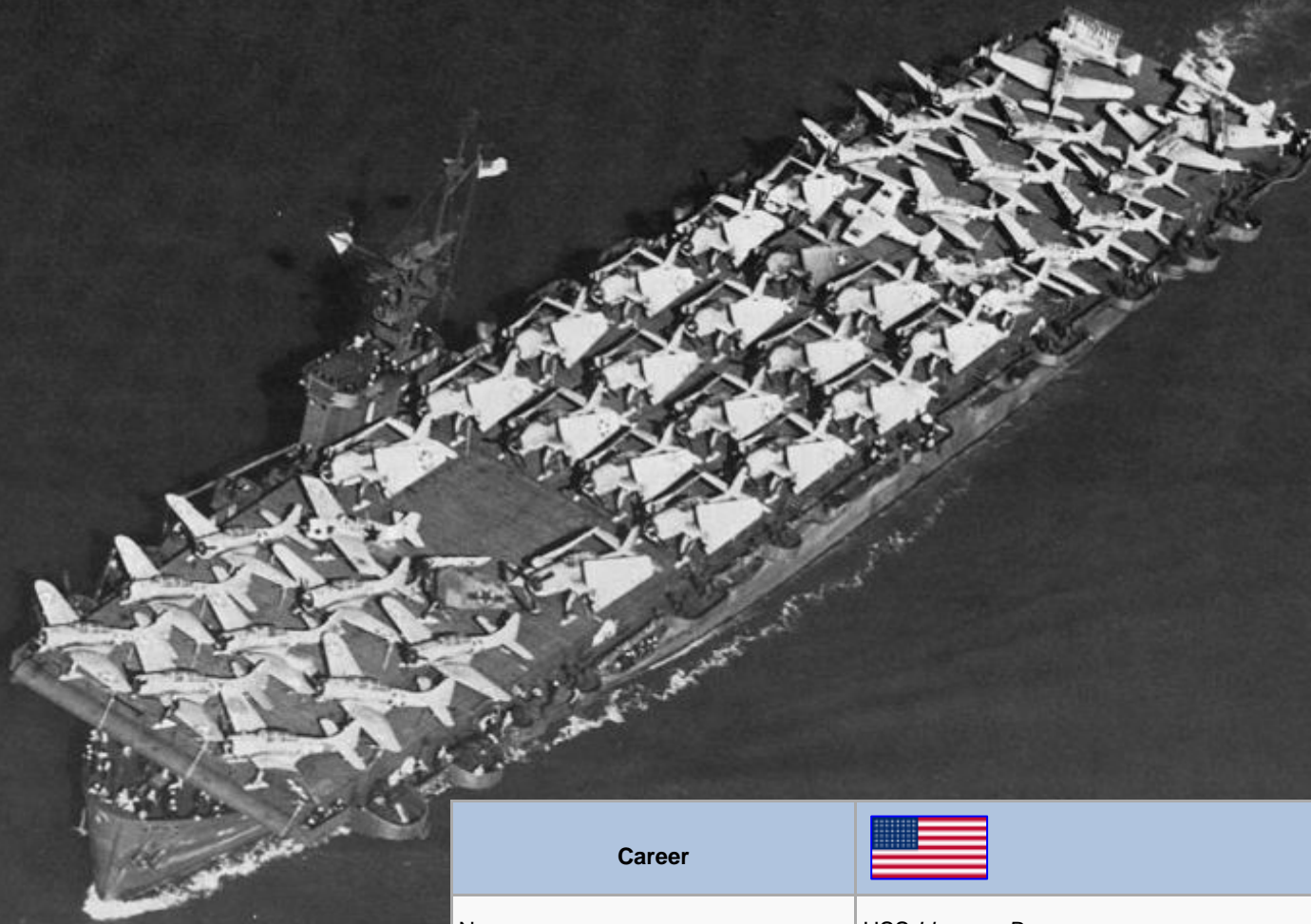



USS LISCOME BAY

USS Liscome Bay (CVE-56), a Casablanca-class escort carrier during World War II, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for Liscome Bay in Dall Island in the Alexander Archipelago off Alaska's southeast coast. She was lost to a submarine attack during Operation Galvanic, the Allied invasion of the Gilbert Islands, with a catastrophic loss of life, on November 24, 1943.



| Career |  |
|---------------|---|
| Name: | USS <i>Liscome Bay</i> |
| Builder: | Kaiser Shipyards |
| Laid down: | 9 December 1942 |
| Launched: | 19 April 1943 |
| Commissioned: | 7 August 1943 |
| Fate: | Sunk by Japanese submarine <i>I-175</i> on 24 November 1943 |

On 23 November, the Japanese submarine I-175 arrived off Makin. The temporary task group built around Rear Admiral H.M. Mullinnix's three escorts, Liscome Bay, USS Coral Sea and USS Corregidor commanded by Rear Admiral Robert M. Griffin in USS New Mexico was steaming 20 miles southwest of Butaritari Island at 15 knots. At 0430, 24 November, reveille was made in Liscome

Bay. The ship went to routine general quarters at 0505 as flight crews prepared their planes for dawn launchings.

There was no warning of a submarine in the area until about 0510 when a lookout shouted: "Here comes a torpedo!" The torpedo struck abaft the after engine room and hit the aircraft bomb stockpile, causing a major explosion engulfing the entire vessel and sending shrapnel out 5,000 yards. "It didn't look like a ship at all", wrote Lt. John C. W. Dix, communications officer on the nearby destroyer USS Hoel, "We thought it was an ammunition dump....She just went whom — an orange ball of flame."

At 0533, Liscome Bay listed to starboard and sank, carrying 53 officers and 591 enlisted men — including Admiral Mullinix, Captain Wiltsie, and **Cook Third Class Dorie Miller, famous for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor down with her.** Only 272 of her crew of 916 were rescued by destroyers USS Morris, USS Hughes and USS Hull.

Counting the sailors who went down with the carrier, American casualties of the assault on Makin exceeded the strength of the entire Japanese garrison of that island. Future legal scholar Robert Keeton, then a Navy lieutenant, survived the attack.