

DECLASSIFIED -

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U. S. S. PRINCETON (CVL23)

LOSS IN ACTION

BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF

24 OCTOBER 1944

The Chief of Naval Operations directs that this report be shown only to those persons to whom the report would be of value in the performance of their duties.

Steps shall be taken, accordingly, to insure that the report will be seen by those persons responsible for design, construction and repair of naval vessels, as well as for their operation, but by no others.

Classification (cancelled): ~~SECRET~~
by authority of

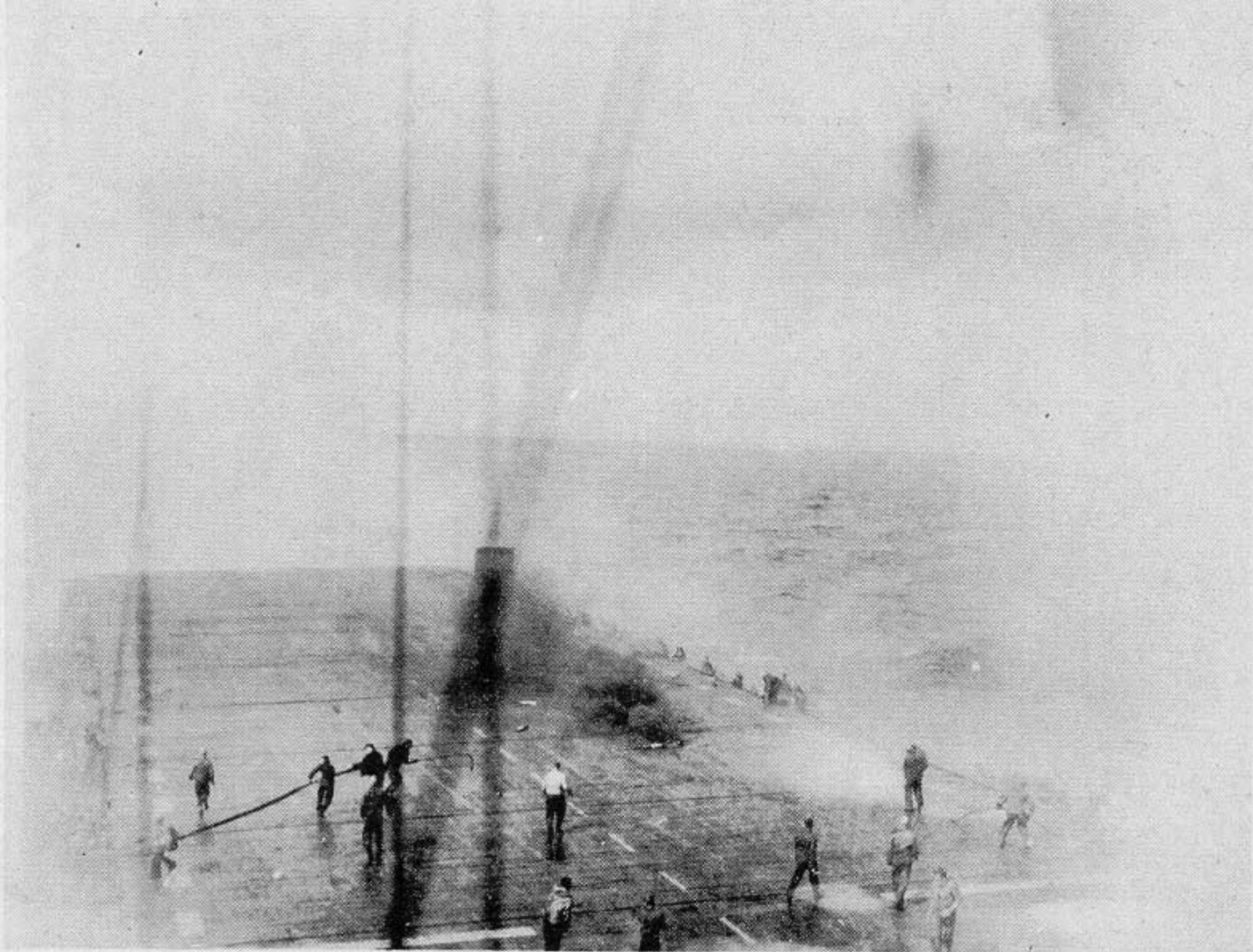
SCA 994
3/29/82 *Barbara J. Vaughan*

Department of the Navy

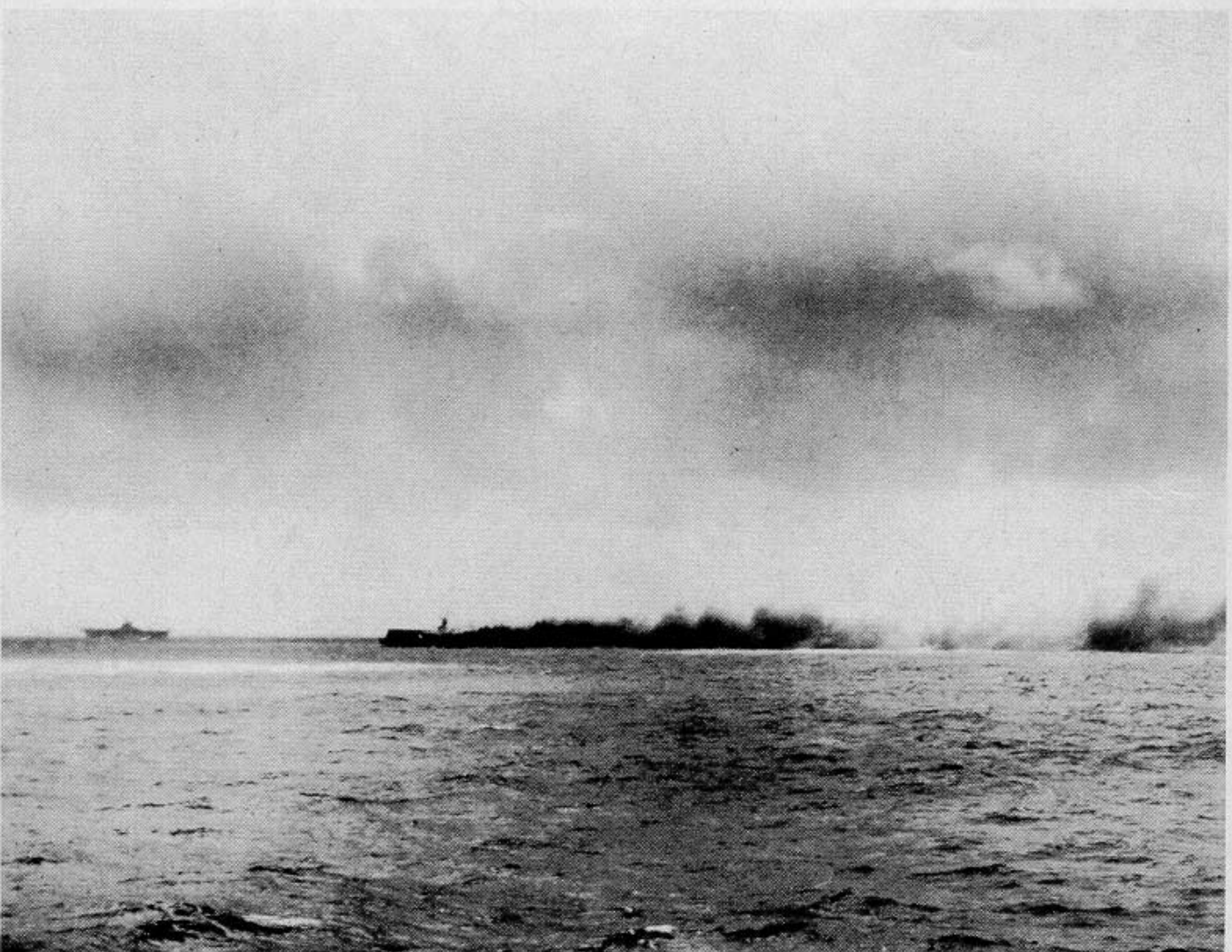
Preliminary Design Section
Bureau of Ships
Navy Department

30 OCTOBER, 1947

WAR DAMAGE REPORT No. 62



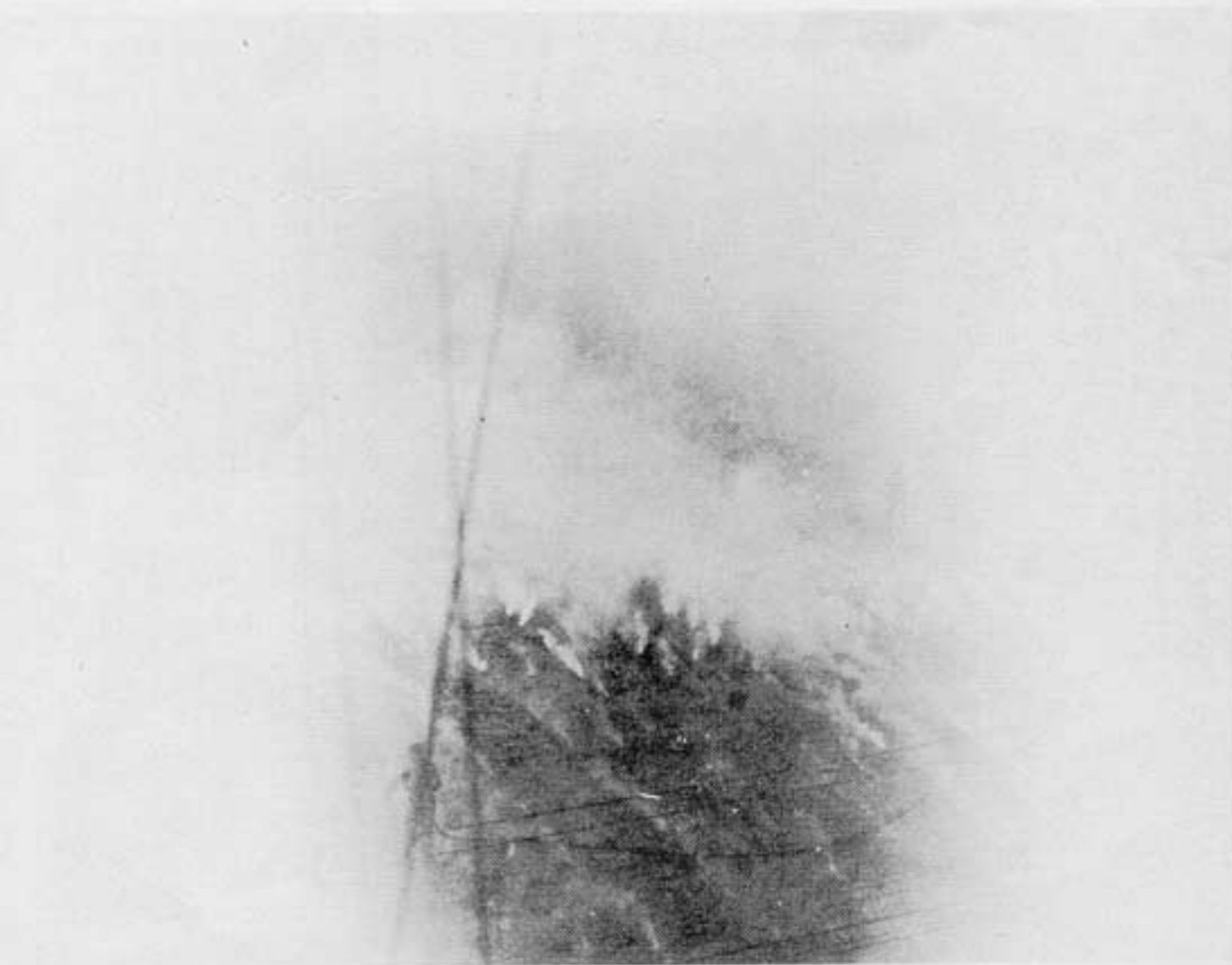
1. Black smoke emerging from bomb hole in flight deck.



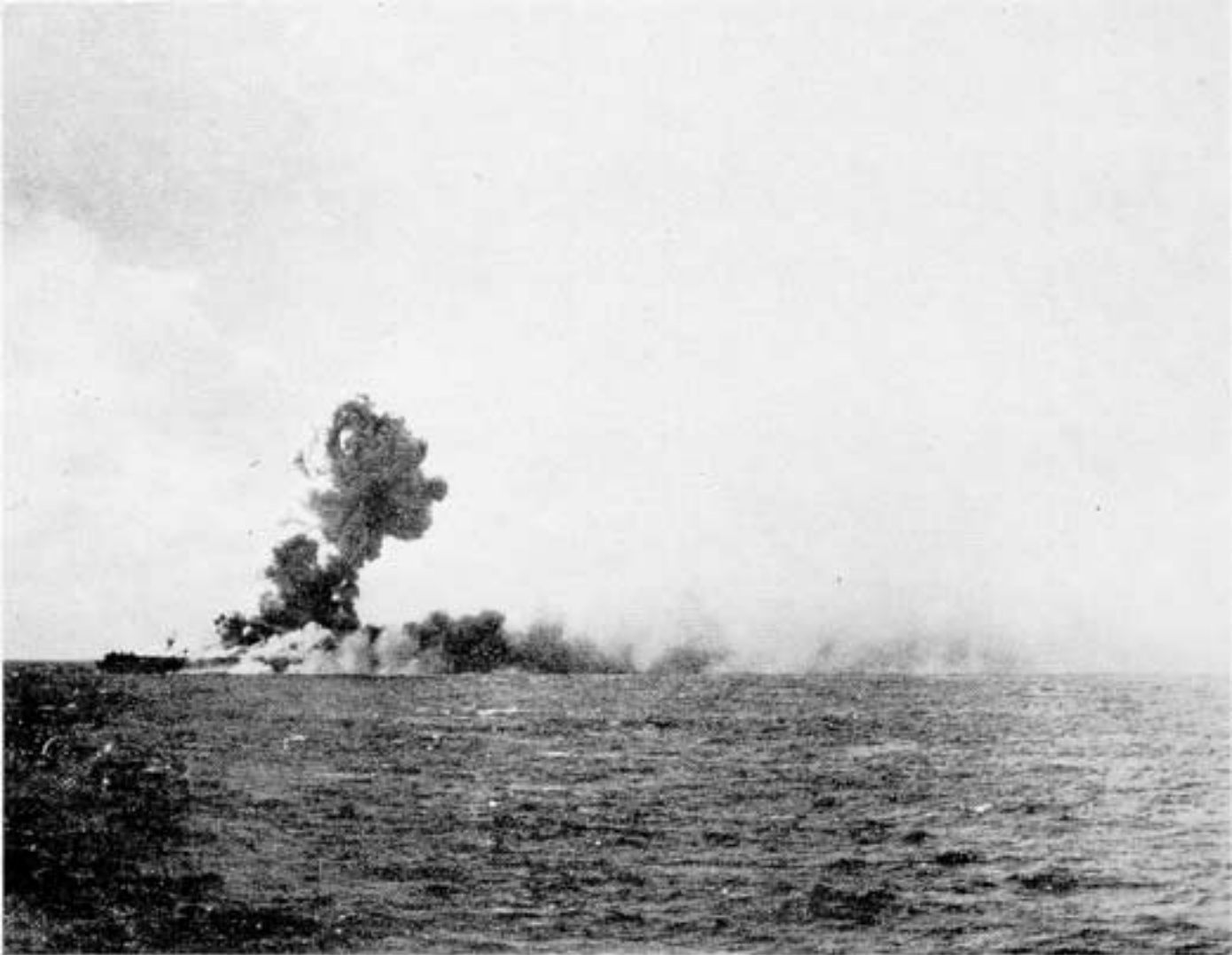
2. PRINCETON about two minutes after bomb hit. Note smoke on the port side which was drawn into the engineering spaces through the ventilation supply intakes.



3. PRINCETON at about 0953. Fire raging aft. Ship has turned to put wind 45 degrees on port bow. Smoke appears to be blowing clear of the ventilation supply intakes on the port side.



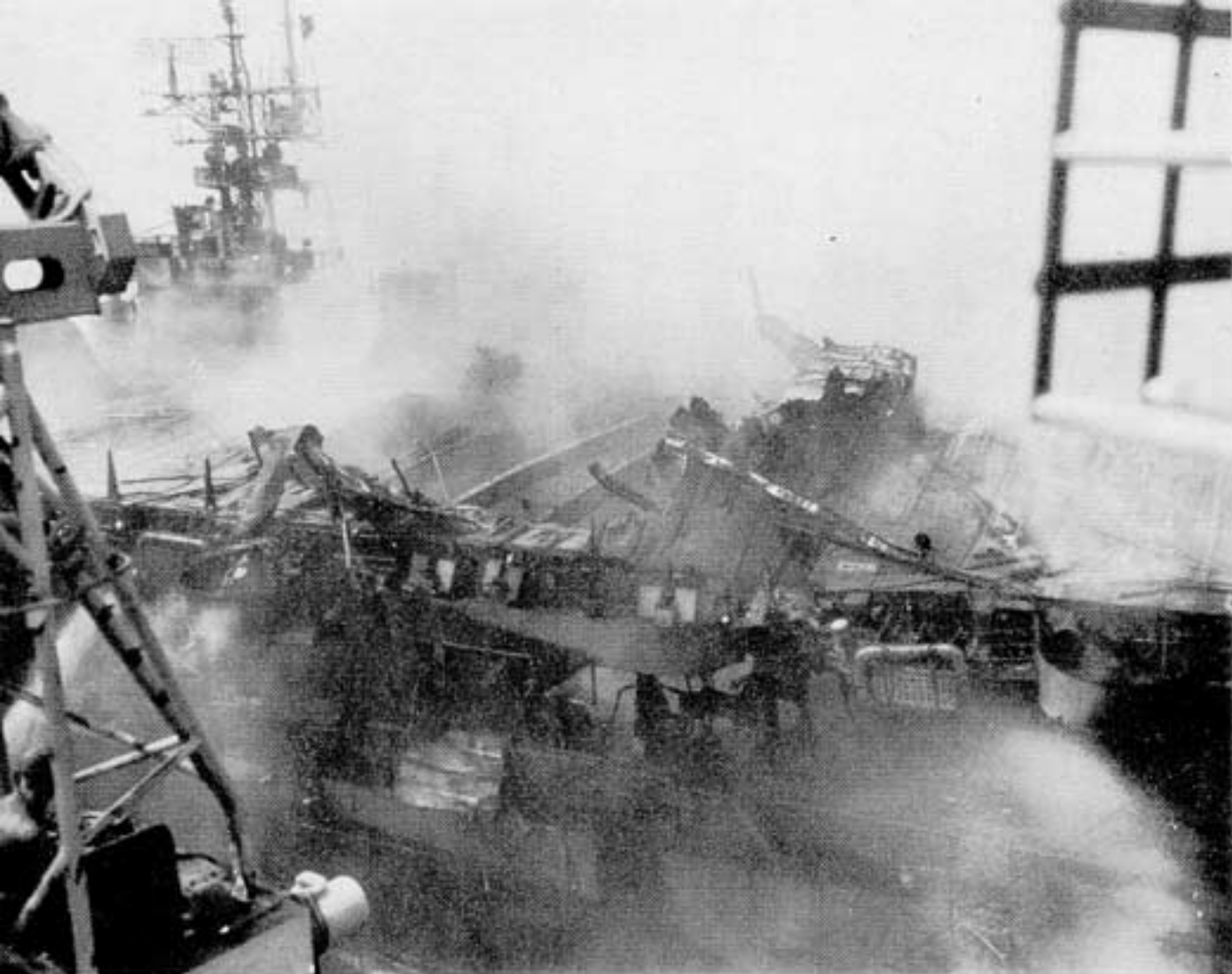
4. Flight deck smoking before first major explosion in hangar.



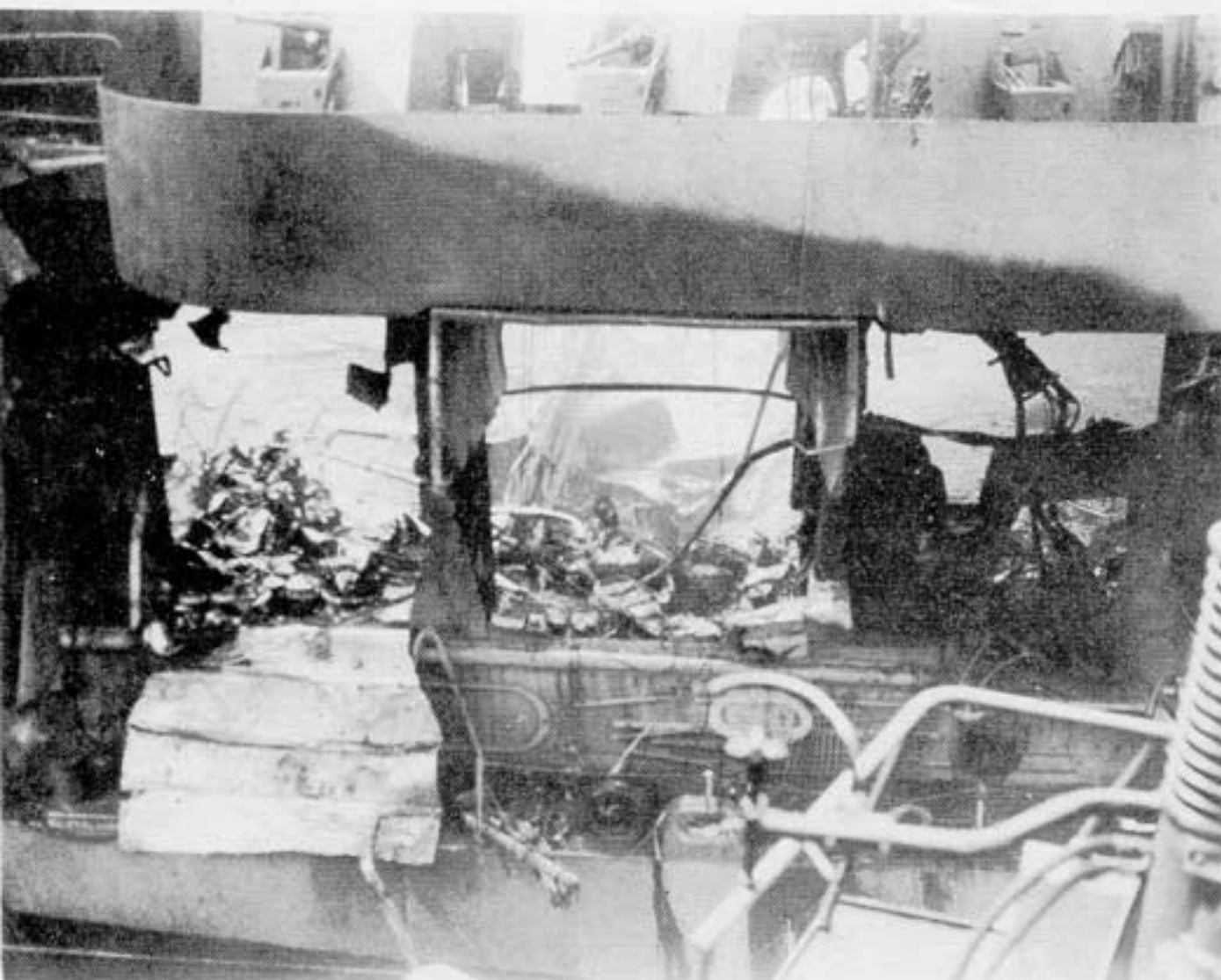
5. First major explosion in hangar at 1002.



6. General view of forward damage from explosions in hangar. Note beam on flight deck crane, inclined forward elevator platform, hole blown in flight deck and panels blown out on the port side of the hangar.



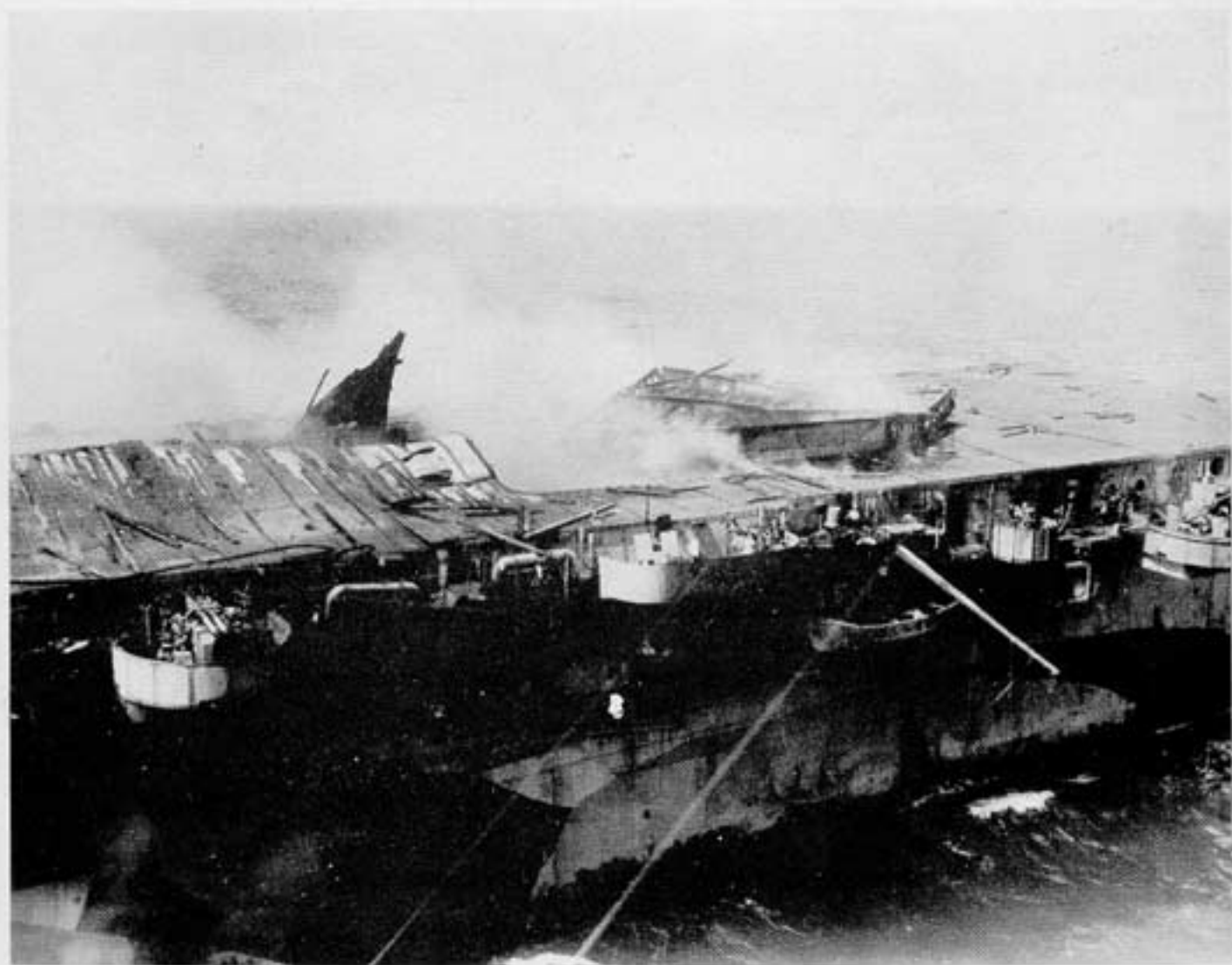
7. Close-up view of hole in flight deck between frames 68 and 80. Note transverse bents still intact but bowed upward.



8. View of damage to hangar deck seen through blown-out side of hangar. Note crumpled area of hangar deck centered at about frame 78.



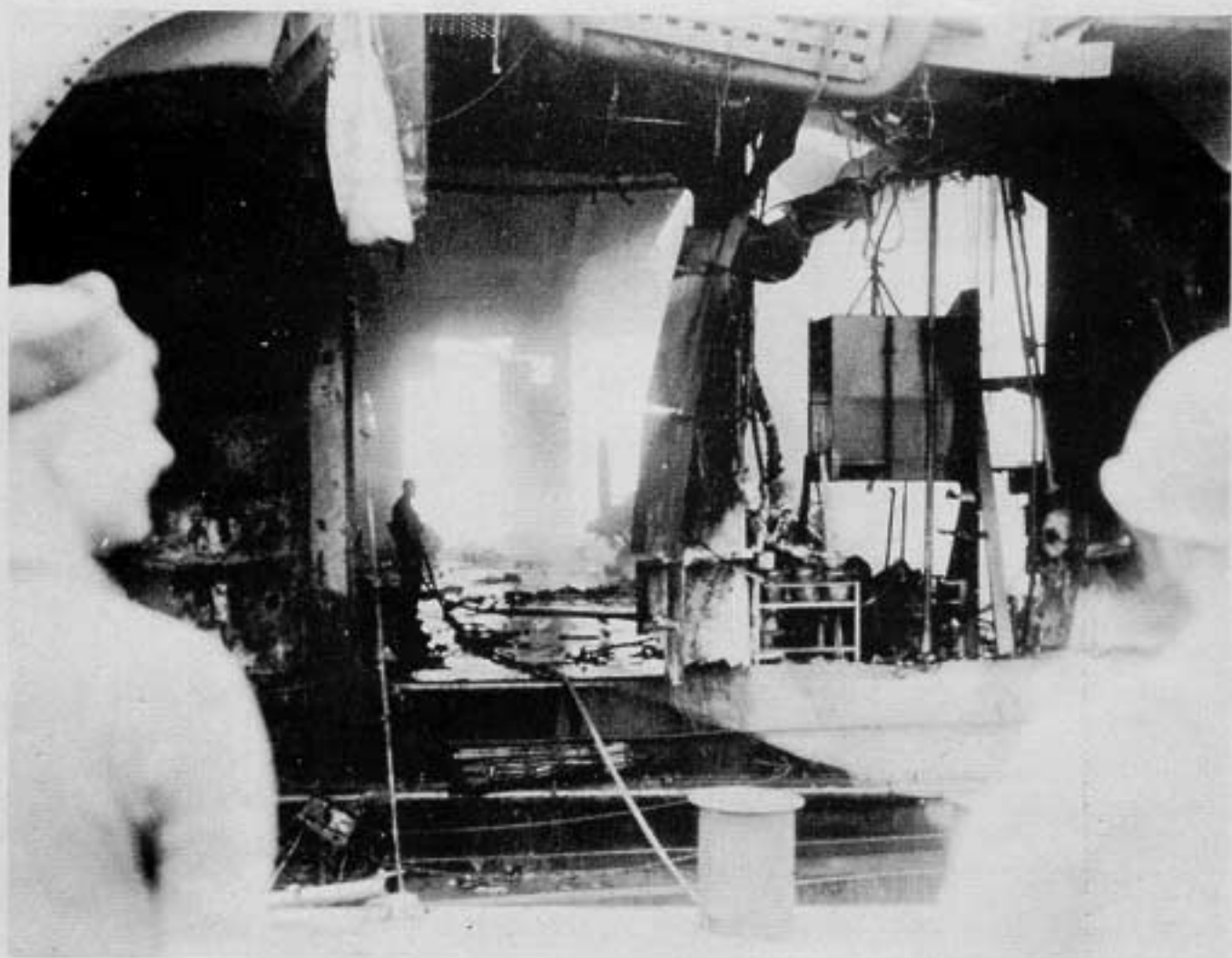
9. View of damage to port side of hangar between frames 74 and 86. Note similar damage to starboard side of hangar.



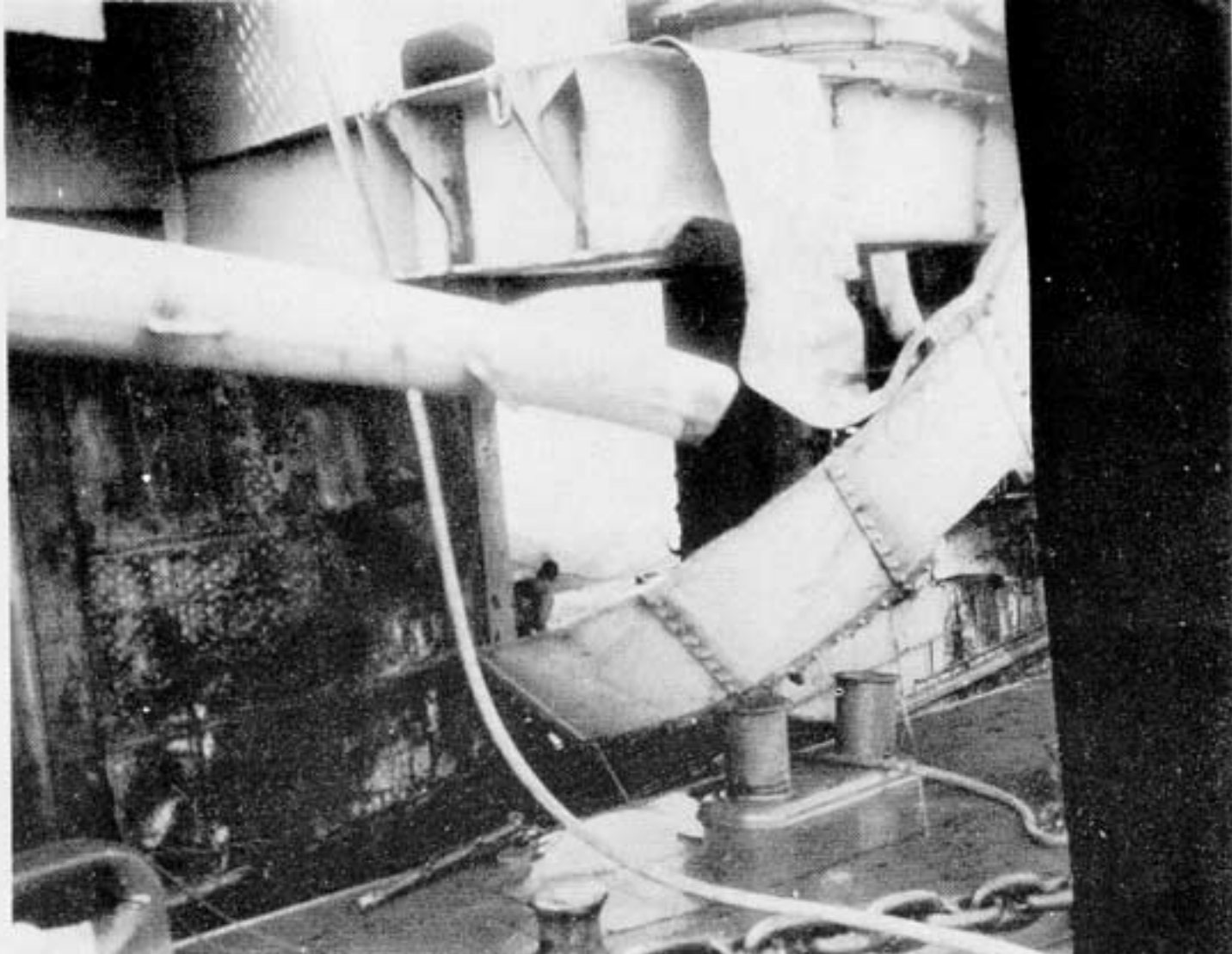
10. View of damage to after end of flight deck as a result of explosions in hangar. Note overturned elevator platform.



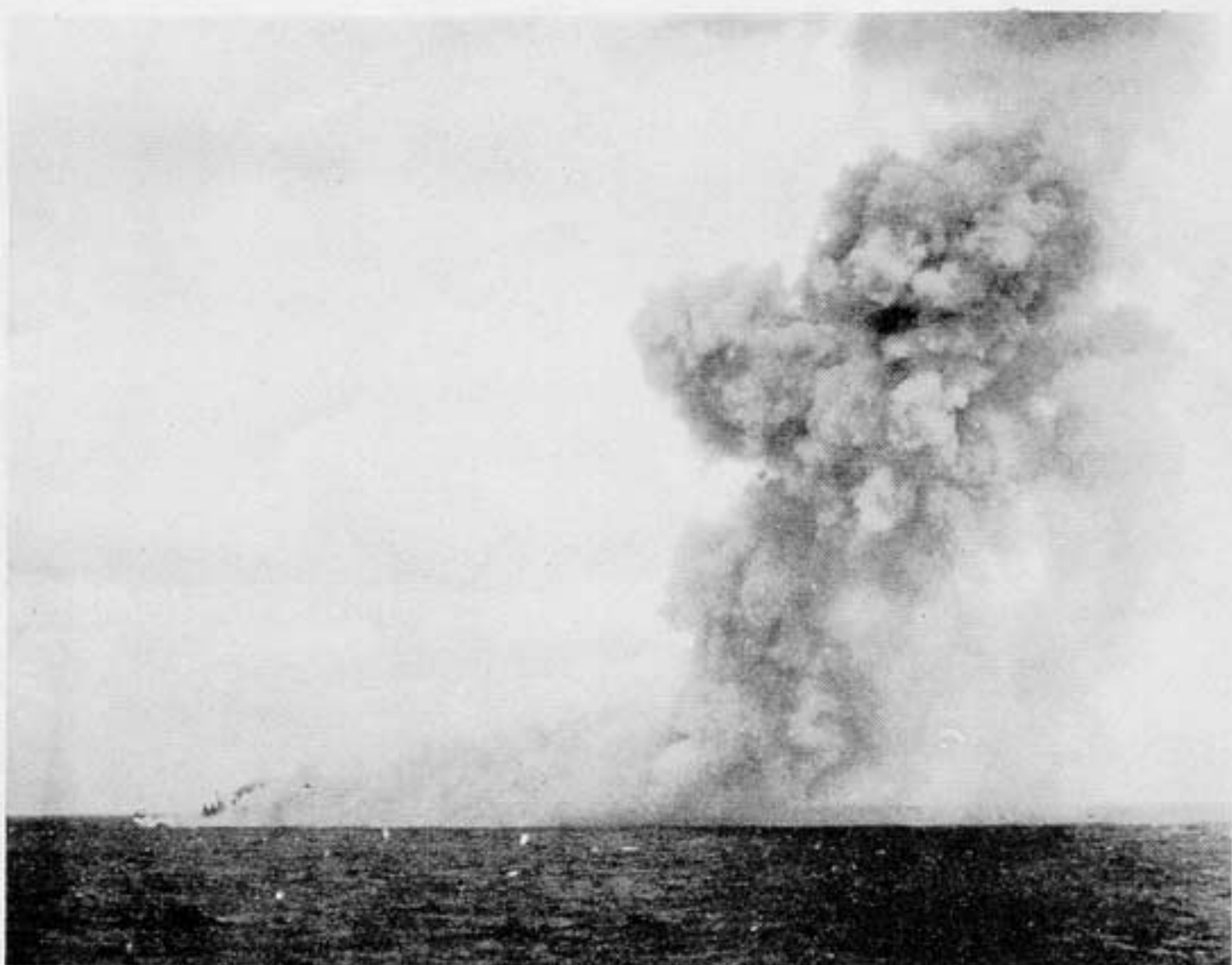
11. View of after port side of PRINCETON. Note hangar roller curtains demolished, panel between frames 110 and 113 blown out and hole in panel between frames 115 and 118.



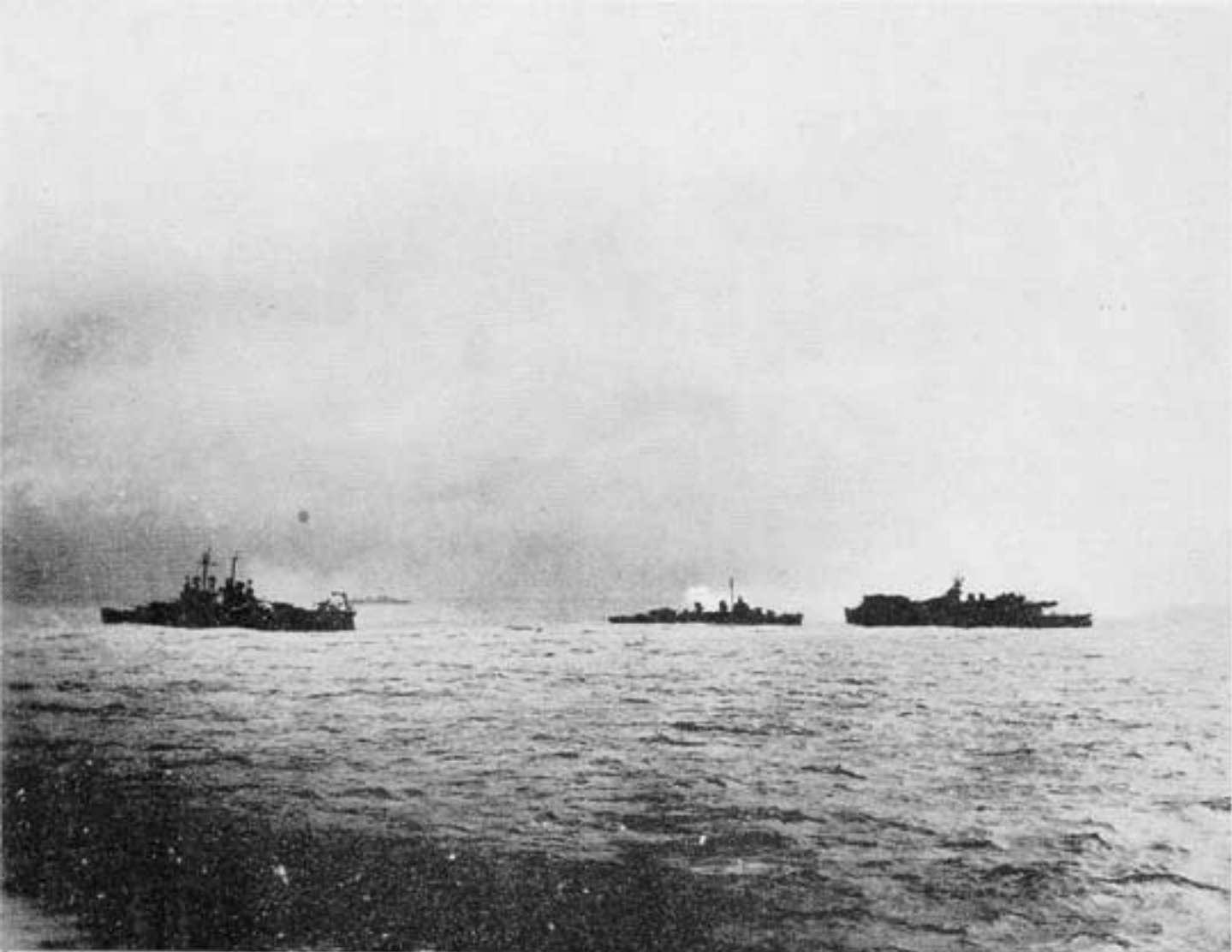
12. Close-up view of port side showing hangar roller curtain opening between frames 107 and 110 and blown-out panel between frames 110 and 113. Note similar damage to starboard side. One of the two airplane engines not consumed by the fire or demolished by the explosions in the hangar can be seen.



13. Hole blown in hangar deck at about frame 114. Gun sponson was damaged by ships alongside.



14. Smoke from detonation of bombs stowed in torpedo stowage. BIRMINGHAM visible at left edge of smoke.



15. PRINCETON after detonation of bombs in torpedo stowage.



16. Explosion of forward bomb magazines initiated by torpedo hits. PRINCETON had sunk by the time smoke cleared.



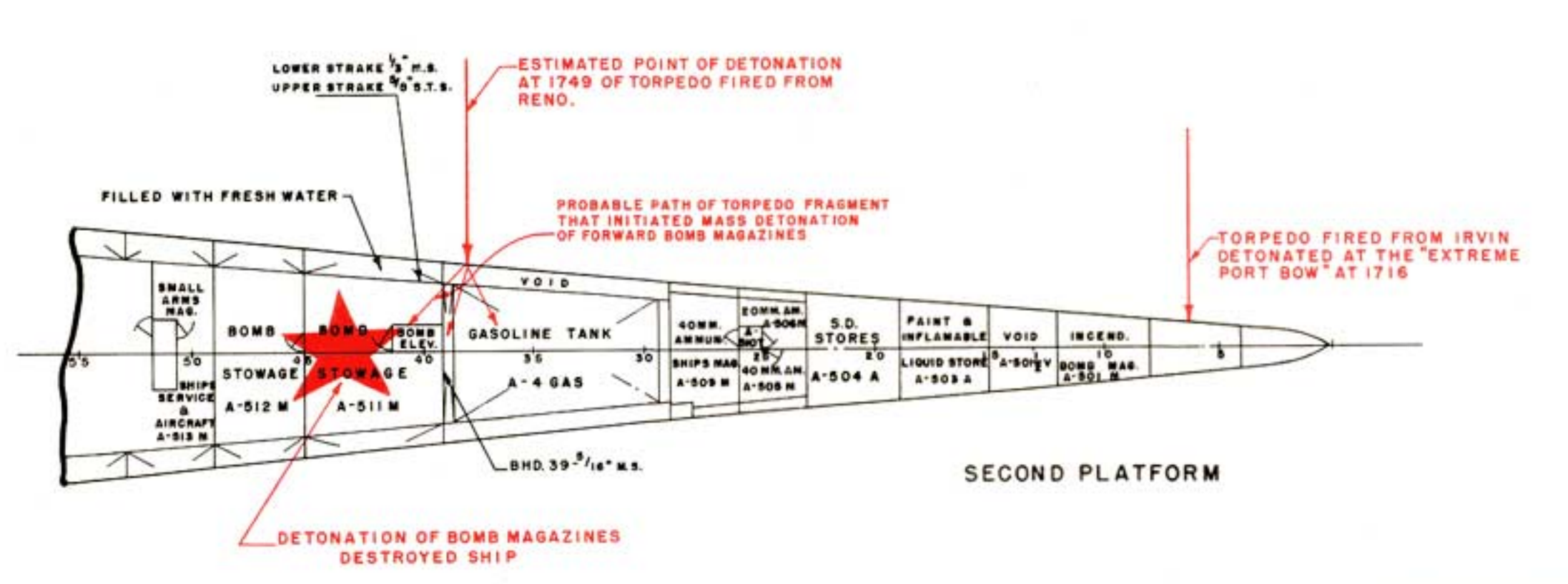
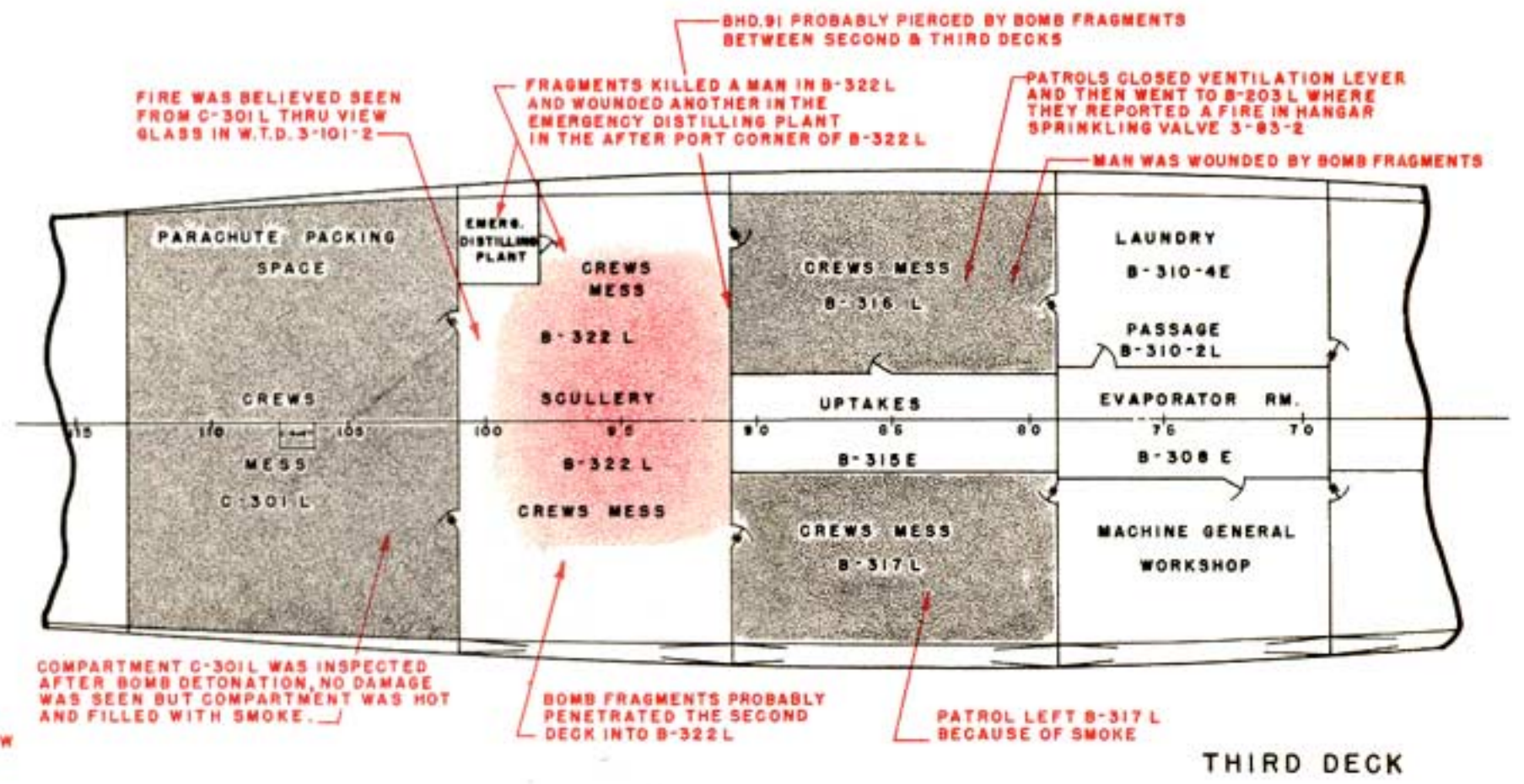
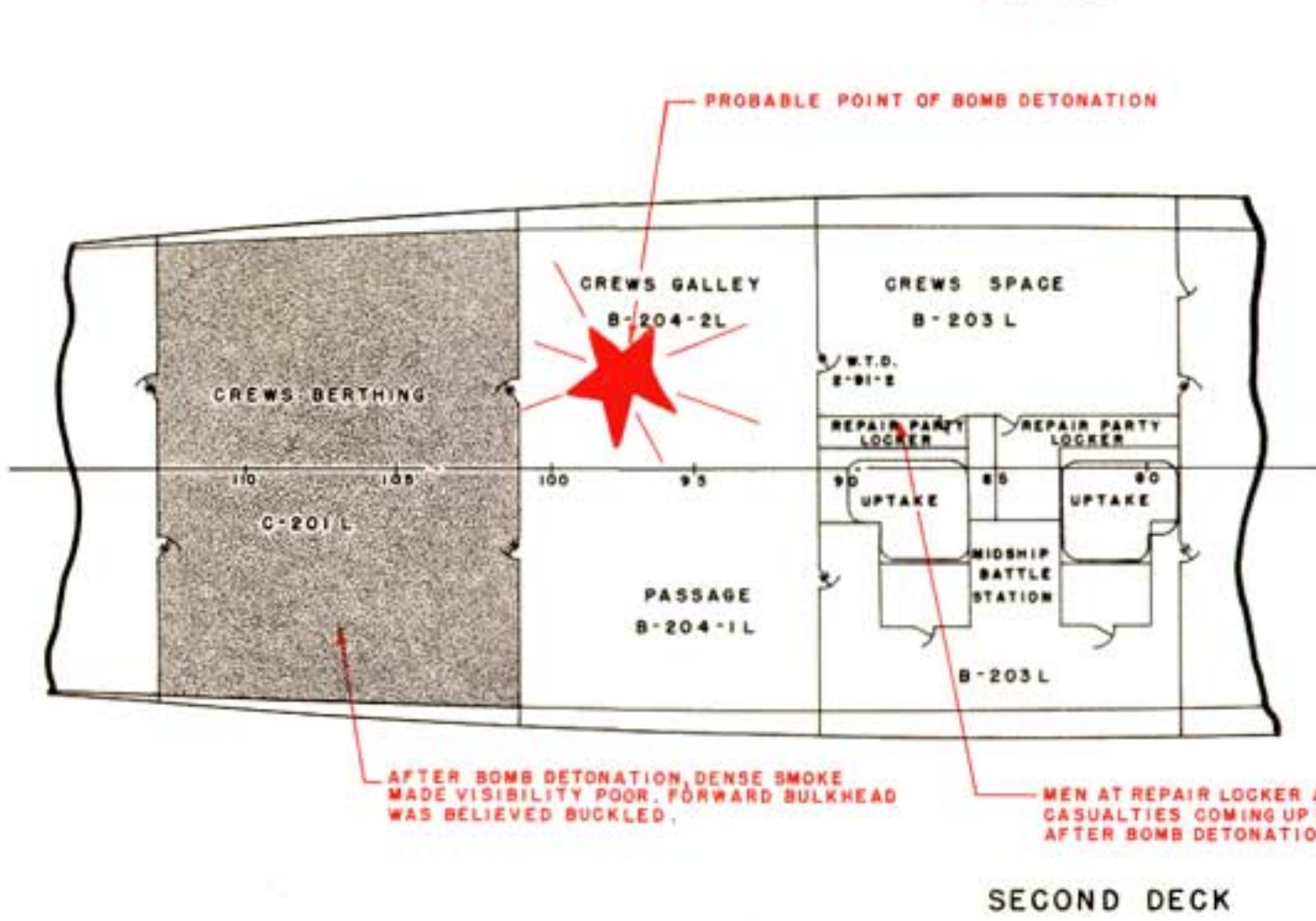
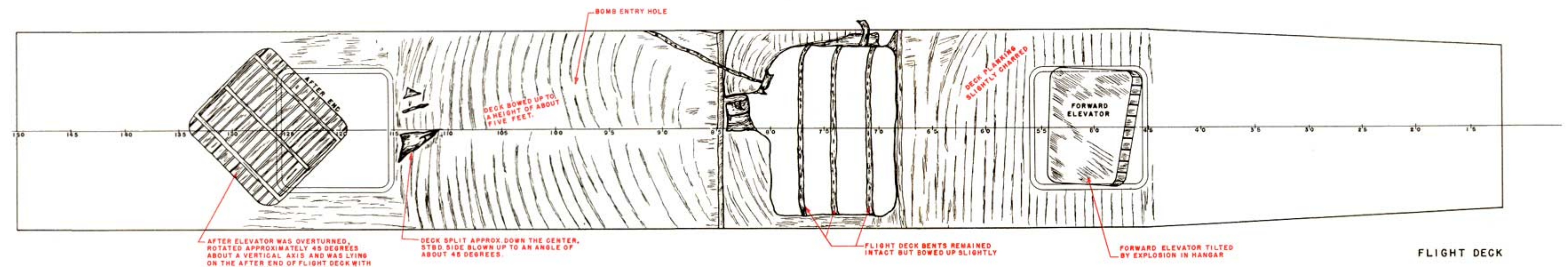
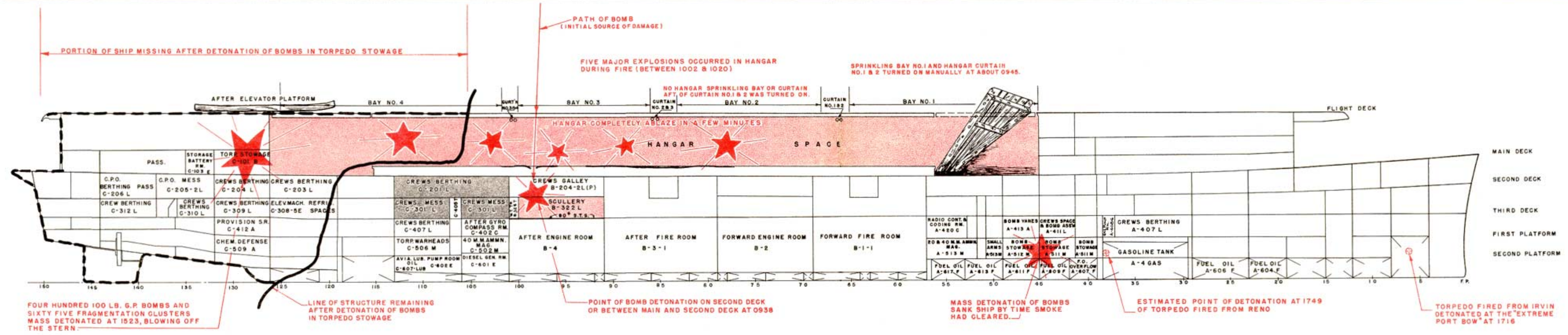
Photo # 80-G-270357 USS Birmingham fighting fires on USS Princeton, 24 Oct. 1944



Photo # NH 95651 USS Princeton off Seattle, Jan. 1944



STL. NO. 9201
USS PRINCETON, CVL 23
OFF SEATTLE, 3 JAN. 1944
SPEED 20 KNOTS - BOARD ON



U.S.S. PRINCETON CVL-23
 OFF LUZON 24 OCTOBER 1944
BOMB DAMAGE
 NAVY DEPT. BUREAU OF SHIPS