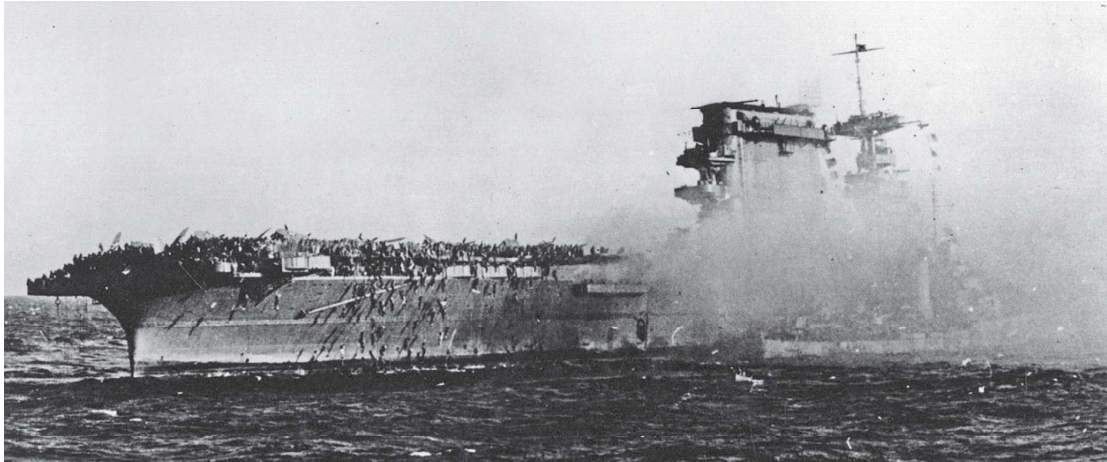


FULL BATTLE AND THE LOSS OF LEXINGTON



Sailors slide down ropes while abandoning the Lexington on 8 May 1942. A destroyer is giving assistance alongside the doomed carrier.

All available deck space was crowded with survivors, and several hundred men were in the water between the destroyer and *Lexington*. There also were many life rafts in the vicinity and a motor whaleboat from *Minneapolis* with about 40 survivors aboard. Stanley Johnston was one of the last off, and he noted the ship's dog Wags was rescued, and that there was time on the flightdeck for some of the aircrews waiting to disembark to be served with ice cream from gallon containers that had been brought up from below.

Rescue work continued into the evening as described by the Combat Narrative:

Morris backed her propellers several times, and when her stern was clear began backing away. A section of her bridge wind screen was carried away, a searchlight was damaged, and a foremast stay was snapped as she eased away from the carrier. At 1737 *Morris* went alongside *Minneapolis* and transferred about 200 survivors to the cruiser. *Morris* then relieved a ship screening *Yorktown*.

While *Morris* was alongside *Lexington* the *Anderson* and *Hammann* were circling the stricken carrier clockwise. At 1657 the *Anderson* proceeded to *Lexington's* port side but experienced difficulty, largely because of the carrier's pronounced list to port, in making fast. Unable to stay alongside, *Anderson* moved ahead to pick up survivors from the water. Before moving off she launched two small boats. These were filled with personnel from the water, who subsequently were taken aboard *Dewey*. *Anderson* proceeded to join *Yorktown* and transferred to the carrier 17 rescued officers and 360 men.

At 1536 *Hammann* was ordered to relieve *Phelps* in standing by *Lexington*, and soon afterward took station on the carrier's port quarter. Many men were taken aboard after lowering themselves down ropes and nets. Others were picked up by two small boats, a whaleboat and gig, which towed life rafts to *Minneapolis*.

At 1720 Admiral Kinkaid directed *Hammann* to move around to *Lexington's* starboard to pick up many men still in the water. *Lexington* was in the trough of the sea, drifting at one or two knots with the wind, and the men in the water on her leeward side were having difficulty getting