



# USS NIGHTMARE

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## Massacre on the Mitchell

### The Story of the USS Nightmare II

On a foggy night as most of the crew slept, the night watchman was making his rounds. Strange sounds were floating through the mist, strange even for the Mitchell. Growing ever more concerned as the sounds grew more intense, he thought about alerting the Captain, who was below in what he called Pier 51 - a part of the ship where most crew members were not allowed. But he also knew that he must not disturb the Captain for fear of being thrown in the brig, or worse, into the boiler pit from which he might never return. His hesitation probably cost him his life.

Just then, a thunderous noise came from the bow of the boat. As the night watchman raced forward, he saw lines that had been snapped and the boat was drifting into the river current. He panicked and sounded the general alarm! The Captain, with a crazed look in his eyes and something dripping from his fingers, was the first to appear. "You fool," he screamed as he saw the vessel had broken loose, and he ordered all engines started and all hands on deck.

As the crew appeared and ran to the bow, even in their sleepy daze they realized the danger they were in. The boat was caught in the main current, careening blindly into the darkness. A bridge loomed up through the fog directly in their path. Then came the first of what would be many agonizing crashes followed by the excruciating sounds of crunching steel and human bones. The Captain, the pilot, and the forward deckhands were the first to die. Screams penetrated the thick fog reverberating throughout the vessel. The remaining crew had no control of the boat as it went spinning downstream at the mercy of the murderous current and the obstacles that lay ahead.