



Three ships steamed, silently in column; steel sentinels on watch in the darkness that enveloped them. Heavy clouds wreathed Savo Island and formed a deceptive bank to the south of it. A light, mist-laden breeze blew in from the southeast, gently brushing the faces of the men who stood watch topside.

The second ship in that shadowy column steaming to the northward at 0145 on 9 August 1942, the heavy cruiser *Quincy* (CA-39), was in "Condition II," with one forward turret fully manned and half of the normal crew standing watch in Turret III aft. Throughout the darkened ship, the men off-watch, bone-tired from the almost ceaseless action that had accompanied the landings on Guadalcanal and Tulagi since 7 August, slept, if they could, close to their battle stations.

Captain Samuel Nobre Moore — nicknamed "Sammy" by his Naval Academy classmates — slept, fully-dressed in his rumpled khakis in his emergency cabin just off *Quincy's* pilot house. He had been in command of the sleek, powerful cruiser since 7 May 1942 — a little over three months to the day before.

Moore deserved a rest; the captain of a ship shoulders a big responsibility for the men under his command. He had been on his bridge for long hours already, over the span of several days. As he lay slumbering, stretched out in

SHE DIED SO OTHERS COULD LIVE

THE SAGA OF THE USS QUINCY AND THE FINAL FIGHT AT THE BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND

BY ROBERT J. CRESSMAN

USS *Quincy* (CA-39) photographed from USS *Wasp* (CV-7) at Noumea, New Caledonia, on 3 August 1942 — the eve of the Guadalcanal invasion. She would die six days later during the Battle of Savo Island. Note *Quincy's* signal flags and Measure 12, Modified, camouflage.