

## Notes of Explanation on the

### List of Personnel at Bari, Italy During the Raid on December 2, 1943

1. This data was assembled mainly from files from the National Archives and the U.S. Coast Guard. No lists of passengers aboard or others present in the harbor that night have been located. Research yielded lists for Navy gunnery (U.S. Navy Armed Guards) personnel and Merchant Marine sailors aboard the ships and these personnel were added to the list. A list of Army personnel was located in the records for the S.S. *John L. Motley*, but whether these personnel were aboard at the time of the attack is not clear. The names are in this listing, but do not contain identifying service numbers. Identity of a few of the cargo security officers has been found and they are also listed. The source file is a Microsoft EXCEL spreadsheet.

2. The list is as accurate as can be assembled at the present time. It may omit personnel or might contain names of a few who were not in the harbor that night. One of the major problems with this incident is that at least three of the ships carried high explosives and exploded after being bombed. Consequently, there were huge numbers of casualties in the harbor resulting in utter chaos. Adding to that situation was the fact that one of the ships carried a SECRET cargo of mustard gas bombs. Casualties were taken to any one of four U.S. or Allied hospitals. There were few or no survivors from some of the vessels depending on their crew's and the U.S. Navy Armed Guards' shore leave status at the time of the attack. Hospital records for the Allied hospitals are not available and the single U.S. hospital's files have not yet been located. According to a book about the incident, hospital records at British hospitals were changed to remove references to mustard gas by order of Sir Winston Churchill.

3. It should be noted that the column headings are only on the first page, but are generally self-explanatory. The one anomaly is that under the column headed "Date Attached," one of two pieces of data might be found. In the case of the U.S. Navy Armed Guard gun crews the date they were attached to the ship is listed (if available). For the Merchant Marine sailors, their age at the time is given. The last page is a key to abbreviations used in the list. Service numbers were included for each military person (if found in documentation), but for the Merchant Marine sailors, their certificate of identification number is in the service number column. Social Security Account Numbers (SSAN) for the Merchant Marine were extracted from Shipping Articles. In three cases, the fact that personnel were discharged from the ship prior to arrival at Bari is reflected (*SS John Harvey*).

4. This list was assembled by Colonel Fred Kolbrener and Mrs. Cynthia Hansen, Information Resource Management Office, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. They may be reached at (703) 696-8710 if you require any more information.