



The official Navy Department Press Release was consistent with LTJG Cushman's account of the sinking.



N A V Y D E P A R T M E N T

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PRESS AND RADIO

SEPTEMBER 12, 1945

MINESWEEPER BROKE IN TWO FROM EXPLOSION OF MINE

Sweeping mines under fire of Japanese coastal batteries on D-minus-5 day, at Balikpapan, Borneo, the USS YMS 365 was blown in two when a contact mine exploded under the amidships generator room. Eighteen officers and men of the ship's company of 33 were wounded.

The 136-foot minesweeper was operating only one mile off the beach selected for the assault landing. It was within easy range of the shore batteries which had been harassing the small craft since the beginning of the hazardous operation on D-minus-15 day. Four vessels were struck by shells.

The YMS 365 was lost June 26, 1945. Her loss was announced in a Navy Department Communique on July 18, 1945. The commanding officer, Lieutenant (junior grade) Fred C. Huff, U.S.N.R., of 3100 DeSoto Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, was conning the ship from the flying bridge. With him were Ensign Kendall D. Neisess, U.S.N.R., of Fullerton, California, and Cletus Irvin Burch, Seaman, First Class, U.S.N.R., of 390 Fifth Street, Linton, Indiana.

An influence mine had just been exploded by the ship's sweep gear. Then the contact mine explosion tore a segment from the hull and left the fore and aft sections still afloat but tenuously connected by a few strakes of deck and hull planking.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Huff was pinned to the deck of the flying bridge when the mast fell on him. Ensign Neisess and Burch were hurled through the air to fall on the forecastle deck many feet below. Burch sustained fractured vertebrae, while Ensign Neisess was badly cut.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Donald C. Cushman, U.S.N.R., whose father, Ralph Dudley Cushman, lives at 1315 Ashland Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois; Ensign Harry George Goelitz, Jr., U.S.N.R., whose mother Mrs. Mary Evans Goelitz, lives at 525 North East Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois, and Ruben D. Pasamonte, Seaman, Second Class, U.S.N.R., of Panama City, Canal Zone, were in the ship's wardroom when the blast came. All were injured, none seriously.

"We rattled around in there like peas in a bucket," said Lieutenant (junior grade) Cushman. "All loose gear flew through the air."

Edwin Johnson, Chief Motor Machinist's Mate, U.S.N.R., of Green Bay, Wisconsin, took eight men to the flying bridge and was able to extricate Lieutenant (junior grade) Huff from beneath the broken mast which crushed his legs to the deck.

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Meanwhile, Charles H. Morgan, Chief Pharmacist's Mate, First Class, U.S.N.R., of 1237 Clairmount Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, was treating the injured. He found that George E. Todd, Motor Machinist's Mate, Second Class, U.S.N.R., whose mother, Mrs. Ruth Basel, lives in Garfield Heights, Ohio, and Lawrence George Herron, Motor Machinist's Mate, Third Class, U.S.N.R., whose wife, Mrs. Lawrence G. Herron, lives at 614 Holly Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, and whose mother, Mrs. Marie M. Lettenmaier, resides at 1033 Beach Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, had been standing on deck almost directly over the explosion center. They were hurled many feet into the air and struck deck near the fantail.

During this time the YMS 365 had been proceeding directly toward the enemy-held beach, with the main engine running out of control. Johnson went below and secured the engine.

However, a strong current continued to set the ship shoreward. It was in this area, the day before, that the Japs had straddled the YMS 365 with eight projectiles, some of which landed close enough to shower water on the deck.

Although injured, Damon Edward Cooper, Boatswain's Mate, First Class, U.S.N., whose wife, Mrs. D. E. Cooper, lives at 2904 Columbus Avenue, Anderson, Indiana, made his way to the forecastle and let go the anchor, bringing the ship up less than three-quarters of a mile from the beach.

Soon the YMS 364 came alongside to remove the crew. Lieutenant (junior grade) Huff, last to leave, had just stepped from his ship when the vessel broke in two, the bow section capsizing immediately.

The survivors now saw the mascot of the YMS 365 swim out of the wreckage and clamber to the keel of the capsized bow section. The dog, known as "Doc," had adopted the ship in Galveston, Texas, two years before.

Despite the danger of Jap shell fire, the commanding officer of the YMS 364 urged by the survivors, obtained permission from the officer in tactical command to lie to while Johnson dived overboard, swam to the wreck and brought the dog back with him. "Doc" returned to the United States with the rest of the crew and is now waiting in California for his next ship.

This operation was the sixth for the YMS365. Previously the vessel had swept for mines at Lingayen Gulf, Zamboanga, Tawi Tawi, Jolo and Brunei Bay.

In addition to these mentioned above, the following officers and men were wounded in the mine explosion:

William "C" Bones, Gunner's Mate, Second Class, U.S.N.R., whose wife, Mrs. W. Bones, lives on Route #2, Box 28, Linton, Indiana, and whose mother, Mrs. Ruth Bones, has the address, P. O. Box 1103, Saginaw, Michigan.

Jessie Martin Kelly, Boatswain's Mate, Second Class, U.S.N., whose usual address is that of his guardian, Mrs. Mattie Taylor, Poulan, Georgia.

Edwin Mordenski, Motor Machinist's Mate, First Class, U.S.N.R., whose mother, Mrs. Antoinette Mordenski, lives at 3884 29th Street, Detroit, Michigan.

Stephen Joseph Nagy, Ship's Cook, Second Class, U.S.N.R., whose wife, Mrs. S. J. Nagy, has the address, P. O. Box 302, Fords, New Jersey, and whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nagy live at 186 Fifth Street, Fords, New Jersey.

Edmond Oscar Pelino, Chief Yeoman, U.S.N.R., whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Pelino, live at 521 Baldwin Street, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania.

George Jerry Powell, Electrician's Mate, Second Class, U.S.N.R., whose wife, Mrs. G. J. Powell, lives at 1521 East Alcott Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jacob George Weber, Seaman, Second Class, U.S.N.R., whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Weber, lives at East Tawas, Michigan.

Henry L. McLaughlin, Electrician's Mate, Second Class, U.S.N.R., of 42-04 Saull Street, Flushing, Long Island, New York.

William W. Jones, Seaman, First Class, U.S.N.R., of Shreveport, Louisiana.

The YMS 365 was built in the yards of the Wheeler Shipbuilding Corporation, Whitestone, Long Island, New York, and was commissioned in August, 1943.

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The last formal muster of the crew prior to the sinking took place on April 1, 1945. The following was reported to the Navy Department as part of the quarterly report sent to the Navy.

The muster and disposition of the crew after the sinking of YMS-365 as of June 26, 1945 is shown below:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Transferred to</b>
1	Bones, William C.	GM2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
2	Brown, George E.	MoMM2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
3	Burch, Cletus I.	S1c	Fleet Hospital, Samar, Philippines
4	Cooper, Damon E.	BM1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
5	Harwig, LaVerne D.	SoM2	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
6	Herron, Lawrence G.	MoMM3c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
7	Johnson, Edwin A.	CMoMM	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
8	Jones, William W.	S1c	Fleet Hospital, Samar, Philippines
9	Kelly, Jesse M.	BM2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
10	Kologinski, Edward	EM3c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
11	Martorano, Alfred F.	MoMM1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
12	Mitchell, James I.	MoMM2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
13	Mordenski, Edwin	MoMM1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
14	Morgan, Charles H.	CPhM	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
15	Nagy, Stephen J.	SC2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
16	Newman, Arthur S.	S1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
17	Nordyke, Benjamin T.	S1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
18	Pasamonte, Ruben D.	S2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
19	Pelino, Edmond O.	CY	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
20	Pomager, Joseph F.	SoM3c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
21	Powell, George J.	EM2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
22	Shannon, William H.	S1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
23	Shaw, Billy J.	Cox	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
24	Spitler, Dale E.	S1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
25	Stewart, Robert E.	S1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
26	Tobin, George D.	SM1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
27	Todd, George E.	MoMM2c	Fleet Hospital, Samar, Philippines
28	Weber, Jacob G.	S2c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
29	Wells, James J.	GM3c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco
30	Yeager, Herman G.	F1c	US Navy Receiving Station, San Francisco

**BM1c** – Boatswains Mate 1st class

**BM2c** – Boatswains Mate 2nd class

**BM3c** – Boatswains Mate third class

**CMoMM** – Chief Motor Machinists Mate

**Cox** - Coxswain

**CPhM** – Chief Pharmacists Mate

**CY** – Chief Yeoman

**EM2c** – Electricians Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**EM3c** – Electricians Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

**F1c** – Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class

**GM2c** – Gunners Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**GM3c** – Gunners Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

**MoMM1c** - Motor Machinists Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class

**MoMM2c** – Motor Machinists Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**MoMM3c** – Motor Machinists Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

**S1c** – Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class

**S2c** – Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**SC2** – Supply Clerk 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**SM2** – Signalman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**SoM2** – Sonarman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**SoM3** – Sonarman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

## **Minesweeping Order – Attack at Zamboanga, Mindinao, Philippine Islands March 30, 1945**



YMS 365

U. S. S. YMS-71  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

File YMS 71/A4-3

TOP SECRET

Minesweeping Order  
No. 3-45.

TASK ORGANIZATION

MINESWEEPING UNIT  
TASK UNIT 76.10.5  
U. S. S. YMS 71 (Flagship)

30 March 1945.

76.10.5 MINESWEEPING UNIT

Lieut. SALTmarsh

YMS 71(F), YMS 8, YMS 50,  
YMS 365.

4 YMS

1. Information as contained in Commander Seventh Amphibious Force Representative - Zamboanga Attack Order 1-45.
2. This UNIT will conduct combat minesweeping operations off designated landing beaches at SANGA SANGA ISLAND, in support of landing at SANGA SANGA, to ensure safe entry of transport units. This UNIT will conduct clearance minesweeping of TAWITAWI BAY on SUGAR Day and SUGAR Day Plus One as directed by OTC. Further this UNIT will conduct clearance minesweeping of areas as listed in Appendix 1 to Annex F of Commander Seventh Amphibious Force Representative - Zamboanga Attack Order 1-45, as shown in Annex A of this order.
3. Areas and positions referred to are as indicated in Commander Seventh Amphibious Force Representative - Zamboanga Attack Order 1-45.

When directed by OTC off SANGA SANGA ISLAND at approximately 0630 SUGAR Day proceed designated landing beaches SANGA SANGA in Starboard Quarter formation and commence clearance sweep of landing beach area for MOORED AND ACOUSTIC mines to depth of twenty feet. Flagship will act as guide ship and lead ship of formation. Lead ship will stream both sides Gropesa gear and will conduct sonar search ahead for MOORED mines. Lead ship will not stream acoustic gear. All ships less lead ship stream starboard side only and stream parallel pipes astern. All ships use 200 fathoms of sweep wire, one Mark 9 cutter and two Mark 11 cutters on each side, 4 1/2 fathoms of depressor wire; use float pendant same length as depth of sweep.



File YMS 71/44-3

TOP SECRET

30 March 1945.

MINESWEEPING ORDER

No. 3-45.

SECRET

Order of ships will be YMS 71, YMS 50, YMS 8, YMS 365.

During sweeping keep just inside of float of leading sweep, distance approximately one hundred yards between bow of ship and leading float.

Sweeping will be accomplished in clockwise direction working from outer limits toward the center of area to be swept. Turns will be made with a minimum of rudder. All ships have two dan buoys ready to be dropped to mark obstructions, uncharted reefs, mines, etc., as may be directed.

~~Upon completion of beach sweep at SANGA SANGA proceed if directed by OTC to TAWITAWI BAY and continue sweeping to depth of twenty feet for moored and acoustic mines. Should situation at SANGA SANGA not allow for prompt entry into TAWITAWI BAY Ships of UNIT will upon completion of SANGA SANGA beach sweep recover gear and await directive from OTC to commence sweeping of TAWITAWI BAY.~~

TAWITAWI BAY will be entered through area ~~HAIG~~ and ~~HAIG~~ and sweeping will be conducted of following areas in priority as shown to depths as indicated:

*JOHNNY WALKER*

*Connection:*

*Van Dusen*

<del>3. 1</del>	HAIG AND HAIG	20 Feet
<del>1. 1</del>	JOHNNY WALKER	40 FEET
<del>2. 1</del>	BLACK AND WHITE	40 Feet

Subsequent to SUGAR Day sweeping in TAWITAWI Bay will continue based on previous days operation. Should no mines be found on SUGAR Day, all ships of UNIT will stream both sides of Oropesa gear, closing in to swept waters and recovering inboard side, upon discovery of mines.

LCS Gunboats of ASSAULT SUPPORT UNIT will accompany formation when directed by OTC, remaining in swept waters, to afford fire support and act as destructor vessels for mines swept. Destroyers of ASSAULT SUPPORT UNIT will accompany formation when directed by OTC, remaining in swept waters, to afford fire support.

Subsequent to SANGA SANGA and TAWITAWI BAY sweeping, sweeping of SULU Areas will commence as directed by OTC. Annex A lists type of sweeping and sweeping data for Areas.

Be prepared to be towed.

Be prepared to provide counter battery fire.

- 2 -



Reliable Guerrilla information and reports from PT sources indicate positive moored mines from Bongao Island to Sangasiapu Island and between Sangasiapu Island and Lea Island. Mines are possibly land controlled although latest army intelligence indicates not now electrically operated. Mines reported are shaped like our 50 gal. oil drums and are floating on surface. Latest army intelligence, reports also that Guerrillas have cleared a channel between Sangasiapu Island and Lea Island. Accordingly minesweepers will initially approach Johnnie Walker area with caution and will initially proceed to destroy any mines on surface. As possible every effort to procure Guerrilla pilots for mined waters of Tawitawi Bay will be made.

File YMS 71/A4-3

TOP SECRET

30 March 1945.

MINESWEEPING ORDER

No. 3-45.

Provide anti-aircraft fire against enemy planes. Cause all lookouts to be particularly alert for suicide planes and suicide boats coming especially from shore area. It is highly possible that many small boats may be present in TANITAWI BAY considering enemy forces estimated on the island of BONGAO.

This plan is effective on receipt.

4. Ships fuel and water to capacity prior to leaving ZAMBOANGA. Fill lubricating oil tanks prior to leaving ZAMBOANGA. Report daily at 0600 to Task Unit Commander percentage of burnable fuel on hand. After gunnery action report by 1500 quantity of three inch ammunition expended.
5. Communications in accordance with Annex D to Commander Seventh Amphibious Force Representative - Zamboanga Attack Order 1-45.

When streaming and recovering sweep gear, indicate the progress of the operation by the use of "ABLE" flag as follows:

DIPPED	Started streaming or recovering.
TWO BLOCKED	Completed streaming or recovering.

Haul down "ABLE" on signal from lead ship.

Practice strict radio discipline. When ships of UNIT are called as UNIT via voice radio answer up in order of ships. COMMANDER MINESWEEPING UNIT in U. S. S. YMS 71.

Ernest O. SALTWARTH  
Lieutenant, U. S. Naval Reserve  
Commander Minesweeping Unit  
76.10.5

ANNEXES:

(A) MINESWEEPING DATA BY AREAS.

Authenticated:

Van D. Crum  
Van D. CRUM  
Lieutenant (jg) USNR.



TOP SECRET

APPENDIX 10 TO ANNEX "B"

COM7THPHIBFOR REP - ZAMBONGA ATTACK ORDER NO. 1-45.

DD 1  
YMS 21 2,5000  
(2) Sauffley  
2,5320 OTC  
YMS 8  
(3) 2,5040  
DD 4 Waller 3290  
DD 5 Philip 3070

YMS 365 (6) 3,5260  
LCS 42  
LCS 41  
LCI(M) 362  
LCI(M) 451  
LCS 42  
LCI 41  
LCI 362  
LCI 451  
LST 459  
LSM 42  
LSM 38  
LSM 39  
LSM 40  
YMS 50 (7) 3,5100

SC 741

Standard Interval: 600 yds.  
Standard Distance:  
Between LCI's: 300 yds.  
Between LSM's: 400 yds.  
Between LST & LSM: 500 yds.  
Fleet Guide in LST 459  
Fleet Center Between 2nd and 3rd columns.

LEGEND

- ( ) - Screening ship
- ( ) - LST
- ( ) - LSM
- ( ) - LCI
- ( ) - Tow

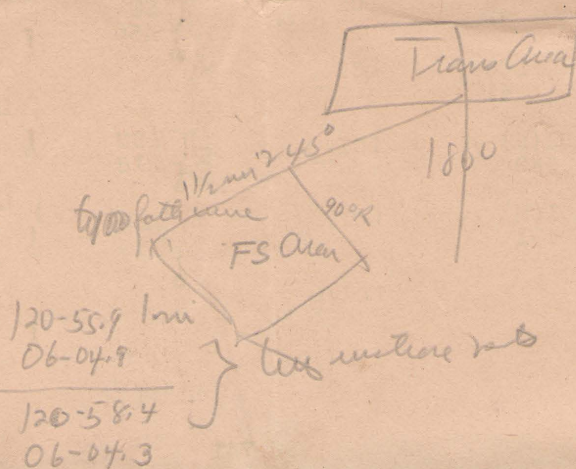
Appendix 10 To ANNEX "B"  
CRUISING DISPOSITION



25 feet  
 300 fathom  
 Port  
 3 intermediate One end.  
 Potatoes - Ending

same gear  
 0415-0430 -

Transit Area  
 06-08.3 SE corner  
 125-01.1 1 1/2 mi long  
 1 mi deep  
 near E & W (Bay side)  
 came to beach 180°  
 from center of  
 Trans. area



28 fathoms  
 1 mi - 1/2 intermediate  
 30 feet  
 150 fathoms mine at  
 depression.

DISTRIBUTION

One Copy Each

Com 7th Phib For  
Com 7th Phib For Rep - Zamboanga  
Com Des Ron 22 (WALLER)  
CTU 76.10.3 (LCS 42)  
CTU 76.10.4 (Lt. DEVANEY)  
WALLER  
SAUFLEY  
PHILIP  
LCS 41  
LCS 42  
YMS 8  
YMS 50  
YMS 365



TOP SECRET

ANNEX A TO CTU 76.10.5 (YMS71)  
MINESWEEPING ORDER 3-45.

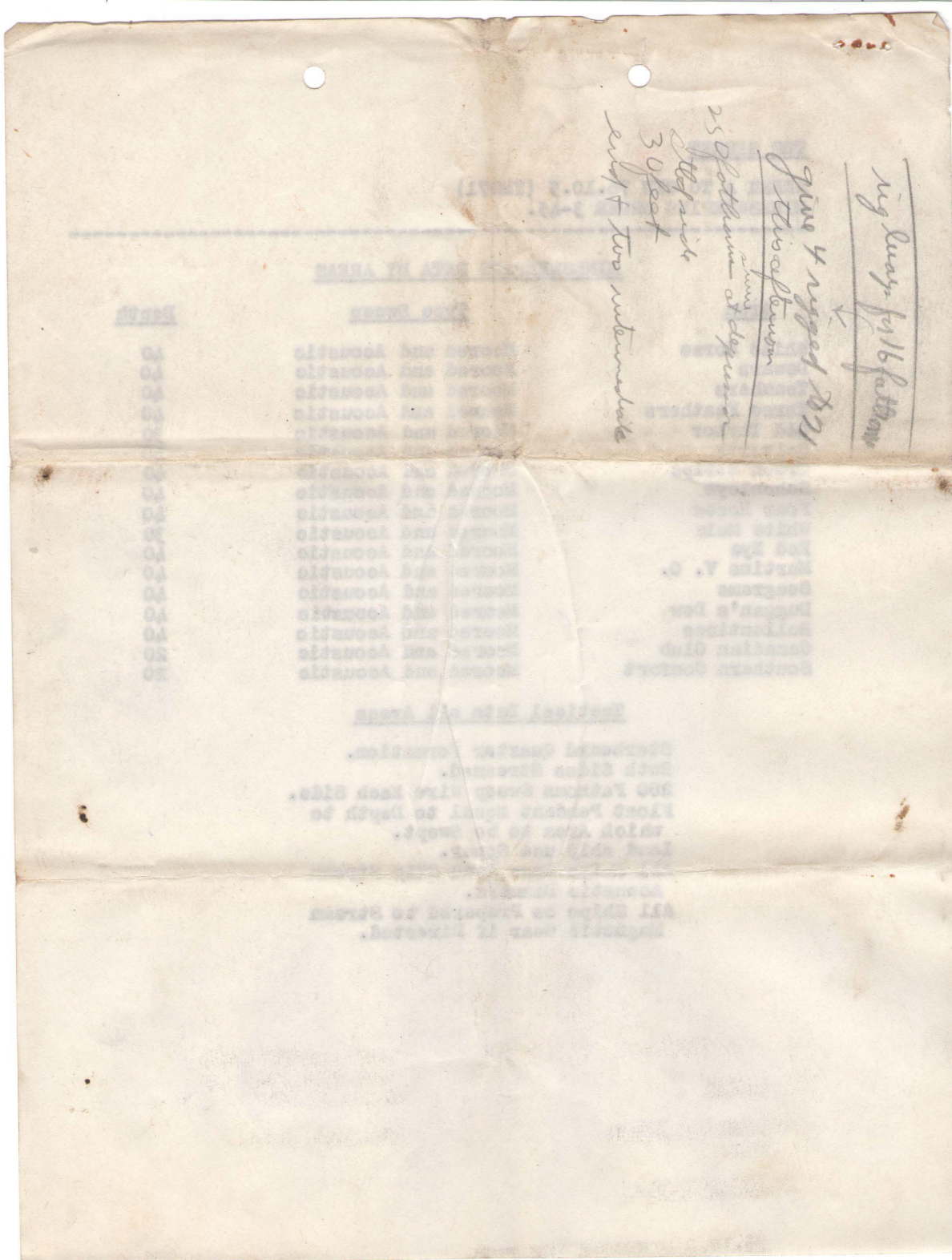
MINESWEEPING DATA BY AREAS

<u>Area</u>	<u>Type Sweep</u>	<u>Depth</u>
White Horse	Moored and Acoustic	40
Dewars	Moored and Acoustic	40
Teachers	Moored and Acoustic	40
Three Feathers	Moored and Acoustic	40
Old Taylor	Moored and Acoustic	30
Calverts	Moored and Acoustic	40
Green Stripe	Moored and Acoustic	40
Schenleys	Moored and Acoustic	40
Four Roses	Moored and Acoustic	40
White Mule	Moored and Acoustic	30
Red Eye	Moored and Acoustic	40
Martins V. O.	Moored and Acoustic	40
Seagrams	Moored and Acoustic	40
Duggan's Daw	Moored and Acoustic	40
Ballantines	Moored and Acoustic	40
Canadian Club	Moored and Acoustic	20
Southern Comfort	Moored and Acoustic	20

Tactical Data all Areas

Starboard Quarter Formation.  
Both Sides Streamed.  
200 Fathoms Sweep Wire Each Side.  
Float Pendant Equal to Depth to  
which Area to be Swept.  
Lead ship use Sonar.  
All ships Less Lead Ship Stream  
Acoustic Hammers.  
All Ships be Prepared to Stream  
Magnetic Gear if Directed.





rig buoy full bottom  
give 4 rigged 2021  
Stinson  
25 platform at depth  
30 feet  
sub + the intermediate