General Services Administration
National Archives and Records Service Washington, DC 20408

REFERENCE REPORT

INQUIRY: Information about shipwrecks(this Reference Report supercedes an earlier shipwreck report furnished by this branch).

REPORT: This report describes records of the U.S. Coast Guard, (Record Group 26) U.S. Customs Service, (Record Group 36) and Department of the Treasury (Record Group 56) in the custody of the National Archives which contain information about shipwrecks. This report also lists some of the published sources relating to shipwrecks.

The National Archives is a repository for permanently valuable records of the United States Government that are no longer needed for current administrative purposes. It is not staffed to render general information service but by advance arrangements with inquirers makes the records in its care available for public examination in its search rooms; and it furnishes reproductions of specifically designated documents for a fee.

I. Published sources.

The following publications contain information about vessel casualties:

U.S. Government Publications
Annual Reports of the U.S. Life-Saving Service, 1876-1914
Annual Reports of the U.S. Coast Guard, 1915-1931
Annual Reports of the Steamboat Inspection Service, 1881-1934
Annual Reports of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances (particularly reports issued before 1874, which sometimes include the reports of the Steamboat Inspection Service)
Merchant Vessel of the United States, 1868 to date, (These volumes are useful for determining the homeport of a vessel. Beginning in 1906, a list of casualties to American vessels is included)
Bearss, Edwin C., Fort Jefferson National Monument-Florida Shipwreck Study-The Dry Tortugas (Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1971)

Bennett, Robert F., Surfboats, Rockets, and Carronades (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976)

Noble, Dennis L. (comp.), United States Life-Saving Service Annotated Bibliography (Washington: U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division, 1975)

Strobridge, Truman (comp.), United States Coast Guard Annotated Bibliography (Washington: U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division, 1975)

Wise, Donald A., A Descriptive List of Treasure Maps and Charts in the Library of Congress (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973)

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury forwarding reports received from Collectors of Customs listing shipwrecks of vessels documented in their districts during the year ending June 30, 1848 (Sen Ex Doc 3, 30th Congress, 2nd Session, Congressional Serial Set Volume 529).

The publications noted above may be found in a library which has been designated as a depository for U.S. Government publications.

Other Publications

The New York Maritime Register. This weekly newspaper (established June 10, 1869) includes contemporaneous reports of marine disasters.

Holdcamper, Forrest R. (ed.) Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1807-1868 (Mystic, CT: The Steamship Historical Society)

Berman, Bruce D., Encyclopedia of American Shipwrecks (Boston: Meredith Press, 1972)

Gibbs, James A., Pacific Graveyard: A Narrative of Ships Lost Where the Columbia River Meets the Pacific Ocean (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1973)

Gibbs, James A., Shipwrecks of the Pacific Coast (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1962)

Gibbs, James A., Shipwrecks off San de Fuca (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1968)

Heden, Karl E., The Directory of Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes (Boston: Bruce Humphries, 1966)

Lonsdale, Adrian L. and Kaplan, H.R., A Guide to Sunken Ships in American Waters (Arlington, VA, Compass Publications, Inc., 1964)

Marx, Robert, Shipwrecks of the Western Hemisphere (New York: World Publishing Co., 1976)

Patterson, T.W., British Columbia Shipwrecks, (Langley, P.O. Box 3399 V3A 4R7, British Columbia, Stagecoach Publishing Co., 1968)

Potter, John S., Jr., The Treasure Divers Guide (New York: Bonanza Books, (1972)

Rattray, J.E., Ship Ashore! A Record of Maritime Disasters of Eastern Long Island (New York: Coward-McCann, 1955)

Stick, David, Graveyard of the Atlantic (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1952)

Local and other libraries in your community may be able to suggest other published sources of wreck information.

II. Records in the custody of the National Archives.

By an act passed June 20, 1874 (18 U.S. Statute at Large 125), masters or owners of American merchant vessels were required to report to the Collector of Customs of the port at which the vessel was documented any casualty involving loss of life, material loss of property, any serious injury to any person, or any material damage received by the vessel affecting seaworthiness. The Collector of Customs then forwarded one copy of the casualty report to the General Superintendent of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and kept one copy, usually copied in volumes containing blank wreck reports, and maintained among the records of his customshouse. A list of Customs Districts for which there are bound wreck reports in the National Archives is included in this report. These records are found among the Records of the U.S. Customs Service, Record Group 36.

Among the Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Record Group 26, there are bound volumes of abstracts of the wreck reports received from Collectors of Customs from 1874-85, and original reports received from 1908-13. Customs wreck reports received from 1913-39 are found on National Archives Microfilm Publication T925, United States Coast Guard Casualty and Wreck Reports, 1913-39. In all three series of Customs wreck reports, the reports are arranged numerically by a number assigned as they were received by the General Superintendent of the Life-Saving Service, regardless of the date of the casualty. The volumes of abstracts of wreck reports have alphabetical indexes arranged by name of vessel. The microfilmed reports of casualty are indexed on National Archives Microfilm Publication T926, Index to U.S. Coast Guard Casualty and Wreck Reports, 1913-39.

The Annual Reports of the Life-Saving Service each year from 1874-1914 include a table of casualties to vessels in foreign waters involving loss of life.

The information for this table was compiled from the wreck reports received from the Collectors of Customs. A microfilm copy of the tables published from 1876-1914 is described in item 88 of this report.

Keepers of Life-Saving Stations were required by regulations to make a report of assistance rendered by their station to any vessel, crew or person,

however small that assistance may have been. The assistance rendered reports were sent to the General Superintendent and a copy was retained in the station wreck report books. A list of life-saving stations for which there are wreck report books in the National Archives is included in this report.

The Annual Reports of the Life-Saving Service each year included a narrative report of services rendered by stations during the year and a table of casualties occurring near stations during the year. The information for these reports was compiled from the assistance rendered reports submitted by the keepers. A microfilm copy of the tables of casualties near stations is described in item 89 of this report.

The records of the U.S. Coast Guard also include copies of assistance rendered reports from all stations, 1901-15, and microfilmed copies of reports of assistance rendered by U.S. Coast Guard stations and cutters, 1916-40. The microfilmed assistance rendered reports are found on National Archives Microfilm Publication T920, U.S. Coast Guard Reports of Assistance Rendered to Individuals and Vessels, 1916-40. The reports of assistance rendered, 1901-15, are arranged chronologically by fiscal year and thereunder by Life-Saving Service District number. The microfilmed reports, 1916-40, are arranged chronologically by date of casualty in two groups: reports of assistance rendered and reports of miscellaneous services rendered.

Some information concerning shipwrecks and casualties can also be found among the records of the Lighthouse Service and the U.S. Revenue-Cutter Service. A list of abstracts of shipwrecks near individual light stations and reports and abstracts of reports of assistance rendered by individual U.S. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters that are in the National Archives is included in this report.

Information about casualties to American vessels can be found in Customs casualty reports and reports of assistance rendered by the Life-Saving Service and among the records of the Steamboat Inspection Service. Information about casualties to foreign vessels can be found among reports of assistance rendered, but information about casualties to foreign vessels in foreign waters is not generally documented in our holdings.

Reports of shipwrecks which occurred before 1874 are extremely rare, except for casualties to U.S. steam vessels which are documented in the records of the U.S. Steamboat Inspection Service which was established in 1852. Inquiries about the records of the Steamboat Inspection Service should be addressed to the Industrial and Social Branch (NNFS), Civil Archives Division, National Archives (GSA), Washington, DC 20408.

The following list of records containing information about shipwrecks are found mainly among the Records of the U.S. Coast Guard (Record Group 26), Records of the U.S. Customs Service (Record Group 36), and General Records of the Department of the Treasury (Record Group 56). Along with official reports and abstracts of reports of casualties and assistance rendered, are documents located by our staff which contain a significant amount of information concerning shipwrecks in a particular geographical location.

The Collectors of Customs reports of casualty contain approximately 180 pages per volume. Life-Saving Station reports of assistance rendered contain approximately 200 pages per volume. Electrostatic copies of the volumes can be furnished.

A. MAINE TO CONNECTICUT

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

1. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty, (number of volumes)

Barnstable, 1874-96 (6)
Bath, 1878-1938 (9)
Belfast, 1873-1902 (5)
Boothbay-Wiscasset, 1880-1919 (2)
Boston, 1874-94 (7)
Fairfield-Bridgeport, 1873-94 (2)
Bristol-Warren, 1877-1909 (1)
Frenchman's Bay, 1874-1917 (3)
Hartford, 1874-1913 (3)
Machias, 1886-94 (1)
New Bedford, 1874-94 (5)
New Haven, 1874-1900 (4)
Passamaquoddy, 1886-94 (1)
Penobscot, 1873-1902 (1)
Portsmouth, 1874-1909 (2)
Rockport, 1887-1912 (1)
Rockland, 1893-1901 (4)
Thomaston-Waldoboro, 1883-92 (1)
York, 1874-75 (1)

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

2. Life-Saving Stations Reports of Assistance Rendered, (number of volumes)

Coskata, 1883-1915 (2)
Cranberry Island, 1886-1915 (4)
Cross Island, 1883-1915 (3)
Crumple Island, 1883-1913 (3)

Davis Neck-Straitsmouth, 1884-1917 (4)
Great Boars Head, 1900-15 (1)
Isle of Shoals, 1914-15 (1)
Knobb's Beach, 1891-1902 (1)
Narragansett Pier, 1905-18 (1)
Plum Island, 1880-1917 (1)
Point Allerton, 1890-1918 (12)
Point Judith, 1903-17 (1)
Rye Beach, 1884-1914 (2)
Salisbury, 1898-1916 (2)
Sandy Point, 1899-1916 (1)
Wallis Sands, 1892-1916 (2)
Wood End, 1897-1907 (2)

3. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Reports of Assistance Rendered (electrostats)
Gresham, 1912-18 (300 pages)
Ossipee, 1915-19 (136 pages)
Mackinac, 1904-15 (52 pages)
Woodbury, 1884-1905 (1282 pages)
Itasca, 1910-13 (90 pages)

Abstracts
Dallas, 1886-95 (6 pages)
Dexter, 1886-95 (3 pages)
Gallatin, 1886-95 (2 pages)
Woodbury, 1886-95 (6 pages)

4. Light Station's Reports of Shipwrecks (photostats)

Cape Ann, 1900-12 (2 pages)
Cuttyhunk, 1882-96 (6 pages)
Libby Island, 1906-09 (1 page)
Little River, 1870-1908 (19 pages)
Stamford Harbor, 1882-1908 (4 pages)
Thatcher's Island, 1856-99 (7 pages)

5. "List of Wrecks and Casualties, Coast of Rhode Island and Fisher's Island, 1752-1907." Includes date, rig, name of vessel, locality, type of casualty. (Letter dated March 11, 1907, from the Superintendent, Third Life-Saving District, Wakefield, Rhode Island.) (12 pages, electrostats)

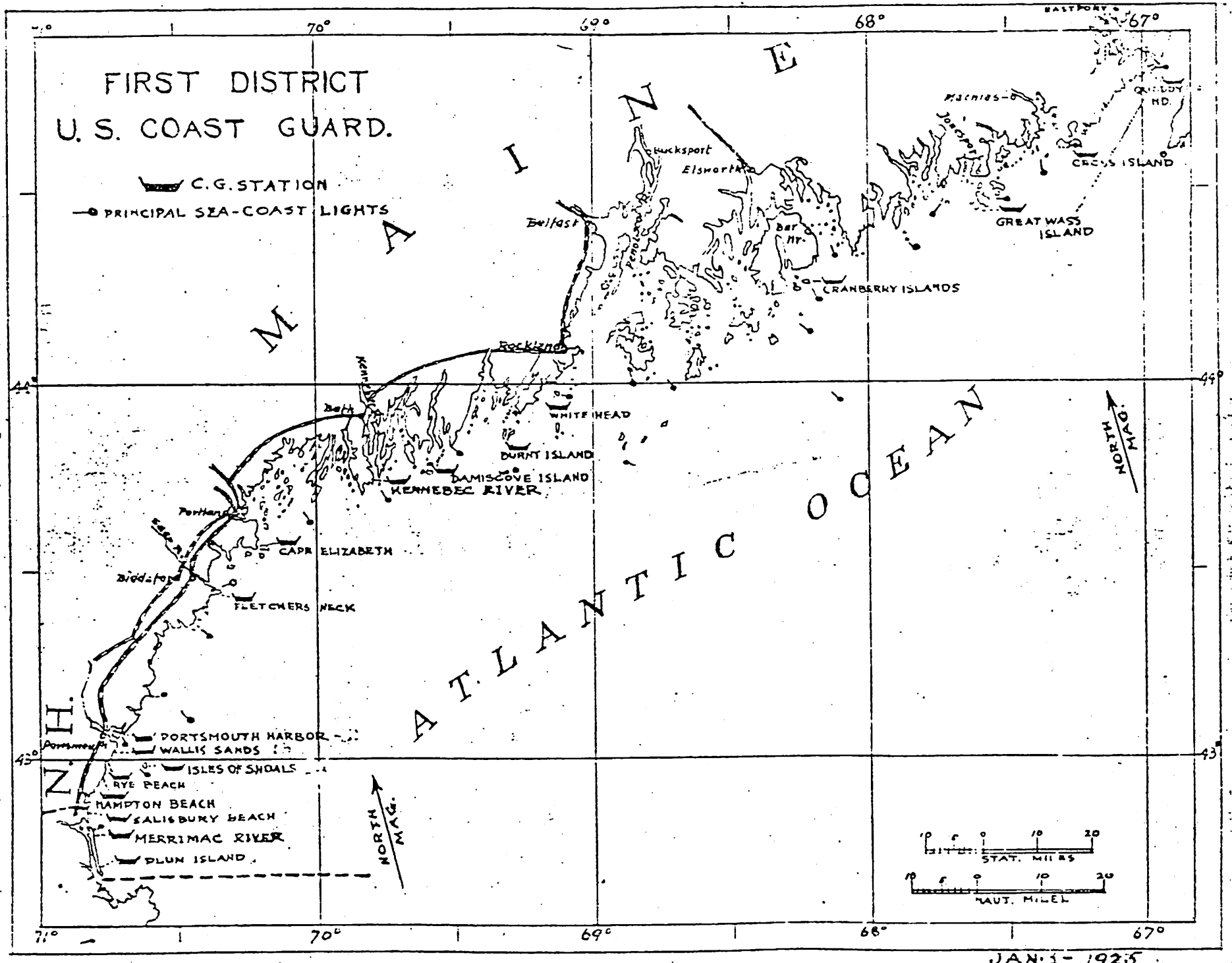
6. "The Sailor's Graveyard, Forty miles off Cape Cod shore where millions in treasure and thousands of lives have been swallowed by the angry sea." Chart showing location of 151 wrecks which occurred 1873-97. (News clipping from Boston Sunday Globe, February 7, 1897) (2 feet, oversized electrostat)

7. Statement of Wrecks and Casualties to vessels on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, from July 1, 1875-June 30, 1892. Shown are date, name and rig of vessel, locality, value of vessel and cargo, value of property lost and lives lost. (Life-Saving Letters Sent, Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 459-472) (13 pages, photostats)

8. List of Casualties occurring to vessels on Cape Cod, Nantucket Shoals, Nantucket Island, Muskegat Island, Nantucket Sound, Martha's Vineyard, and Vineyard Sound, 1907-17. Shown are date, name, rig, and tonnage of vessel, value of property lost and number of lives lost. (10 pages, electrostats)

9. Same report described above for the period 1917-22 (10 pages, electrostats)

10. Abstract of shipwrecks occurring near light station on the Maine and New Hampshire coasts, 1871-73. Shown are name of light station, date of casualty, name of vessel, lives lost, and remarks. (1 page, photostat)



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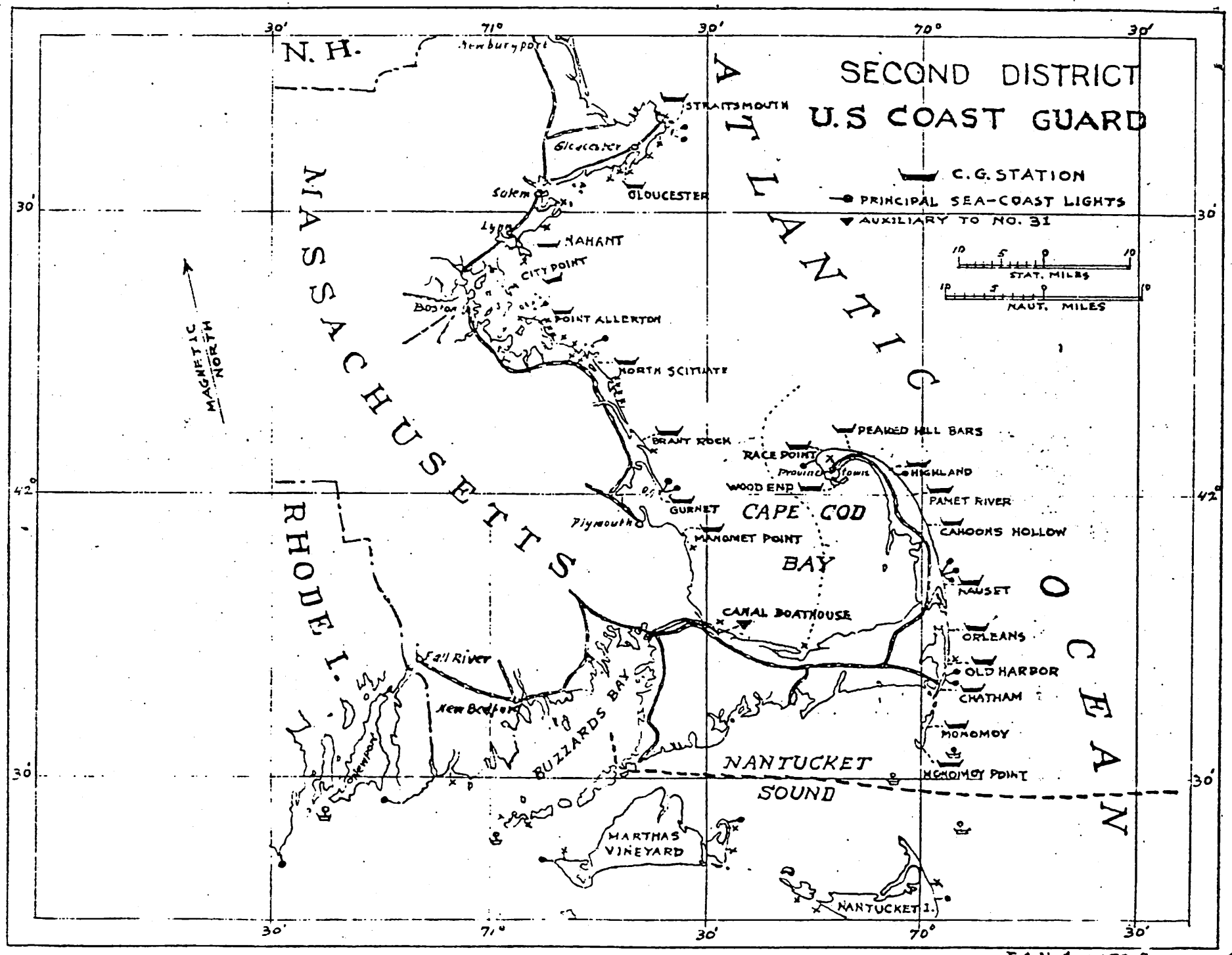

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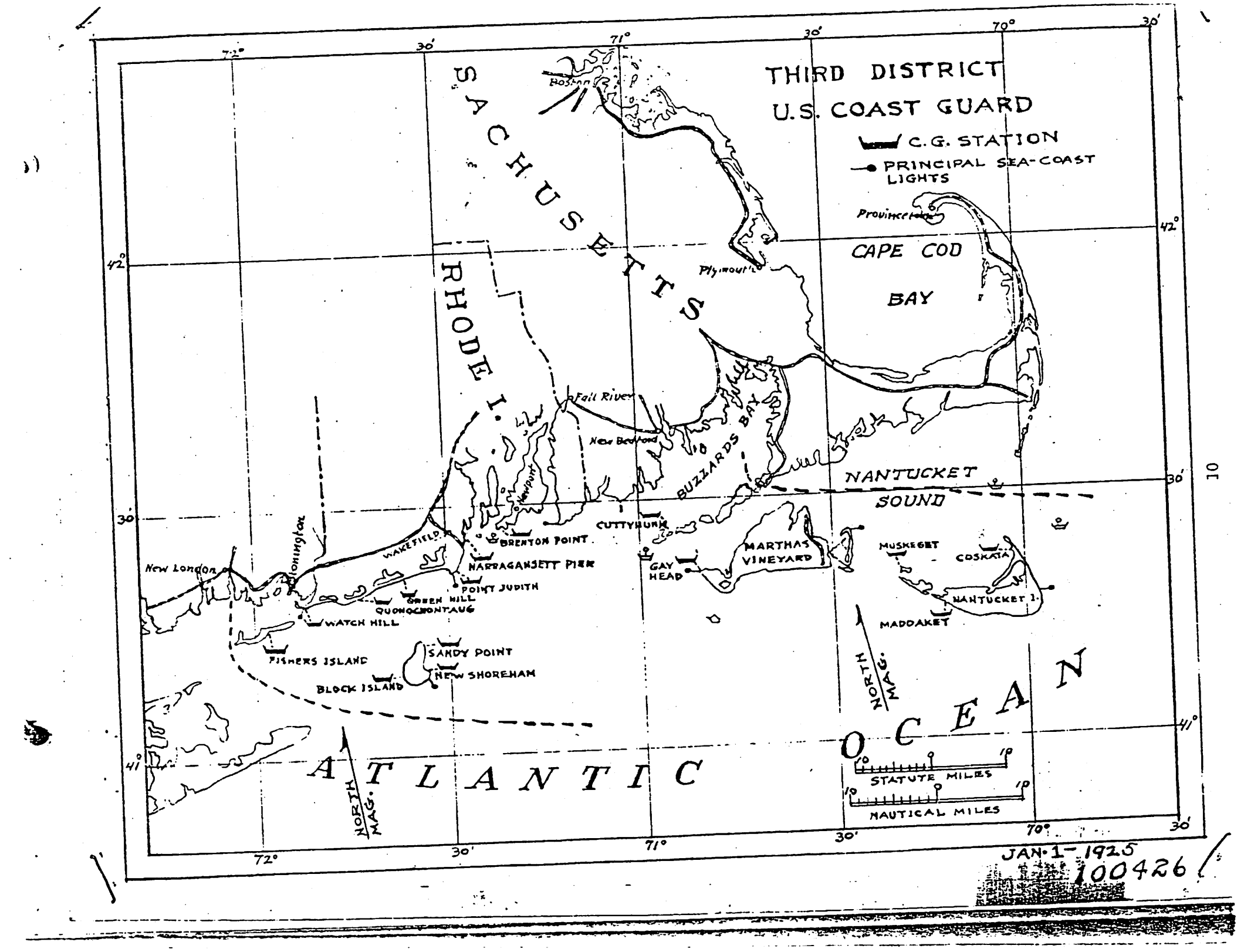

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B. NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

11. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)

Bridgeton, 1875-1913 (6)
Camden, 1894-1913 (1)
Great Egg Harbor-Somer's Point, 1874-1915 (3)
Little Egg Harbor, 1874-1897 (1)
Philadelphia, 1874-1923 (31)

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

12. Life-Saving Stations Reports of Assistance Rendered (number of volumes)

Absecon, 1879-1916 (1)
Avalon, 1895-1915 (1)
Barnegat, 1906-15 (3)
Bay Head, 1883-1921 (2)
Bellport, 1883-1919 (1)
Cape May, 1883-1925 (4)
Cedar Creek, 1886-1932 (1)
Chadwick, 1883-1923 (1)
Cold Spring, 1885-1908 (1)
Coney Island 1883-93(1)
Fire Island, 1896-1917 (6)
Forge River, 1884-1916 (1)
Forked River, 1883-1915 (3)
Great Egg, 1880-1916 (4)
Harvey Cedars, 1886-1915 (1)
Holly Beach, 1884-1915 (1)
Island Beach, 1886-1920 (3)
Little Beach, 1883-1915 (3)
Long Branch, 1889-1920 (1)
Loveladies Island, 1883-1915 (1)
Mantolocking, 1885-1919 (2)
Monmouth Beach, 1884-1915 (3)
Ocean City, 1904-15 (2)
Peck's Beach, 1896-1916 (1)
Rockaway Point, 1883-1917 (3)
Sandy Hook, 1883-1917 (8)
Seabright, 1875-1920 (2)
Sea Island, 1889-1914
Ship Bottom, 1886-1910 (1)
Spermacetti Cove, 1885-1925 (4)

Spring Lake, 1884-1915 (1)
Stone Harbor, 1916-21 (1)
Tatham's 1884-1916 (2)
Townsend's Inlet, 1883-1916 (2)
Turtle Gut, 1884-1908 (1)
Two Mile Beach, 1908-24 (2)
White River, 1887-1919 (4)

13. U.S. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Reports of assistance rendered (electrostats)
Gresham, 1901-03 (30 pages)
Seneca, 1908-13 (300 pages)

Abstracts (photostats)
Grant, 1886-95 (2 pages)
Hamilton, 1886-95 (3 pages)
Manhattan, 1886-95 (1 page)

14. Light Stations Reports of Shipwrecks (photostats)
Hudson City, 1905 (1 page)
Stepping Stone, 1896-1909 (1 page)

15. Wrecks near Deal Life-Saving Station, 1822-76. (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 315-317) (3 pages, photostats)

16. Wrecks on the New Jersey Coast between Sandy Hook and Barnegat from 1867-76. (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 319-322) (4 pages, photostats)

17. Strandings on the coast of New Jersey and New York from 1860-67 (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 339-340) (2 pages, photostats)

18. Strandings on the Coast of New Jersey from Sandy Hook to Barnegat from 1846-76. (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 351-353) (4 pages, photostats)

19. Disasters south of Barnegat to Cape May, New Jersey, 1840-June 27, 1879. (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 405-407) (3 pages, photostats)

20. Disasters along the coast of New Jersey from 1871-79 (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 411-414) (4 pages, photostats)

21. Disasters between Barnegat and Cape May, New Jersey, 1871-97. (Life-Saving Service, Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 180-181) (2 pages, photostats)

22. Wrecks and Casualties along the coast of New Jersey, 1871-97. (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 4, pages 494-498) (5 pages, photostats)

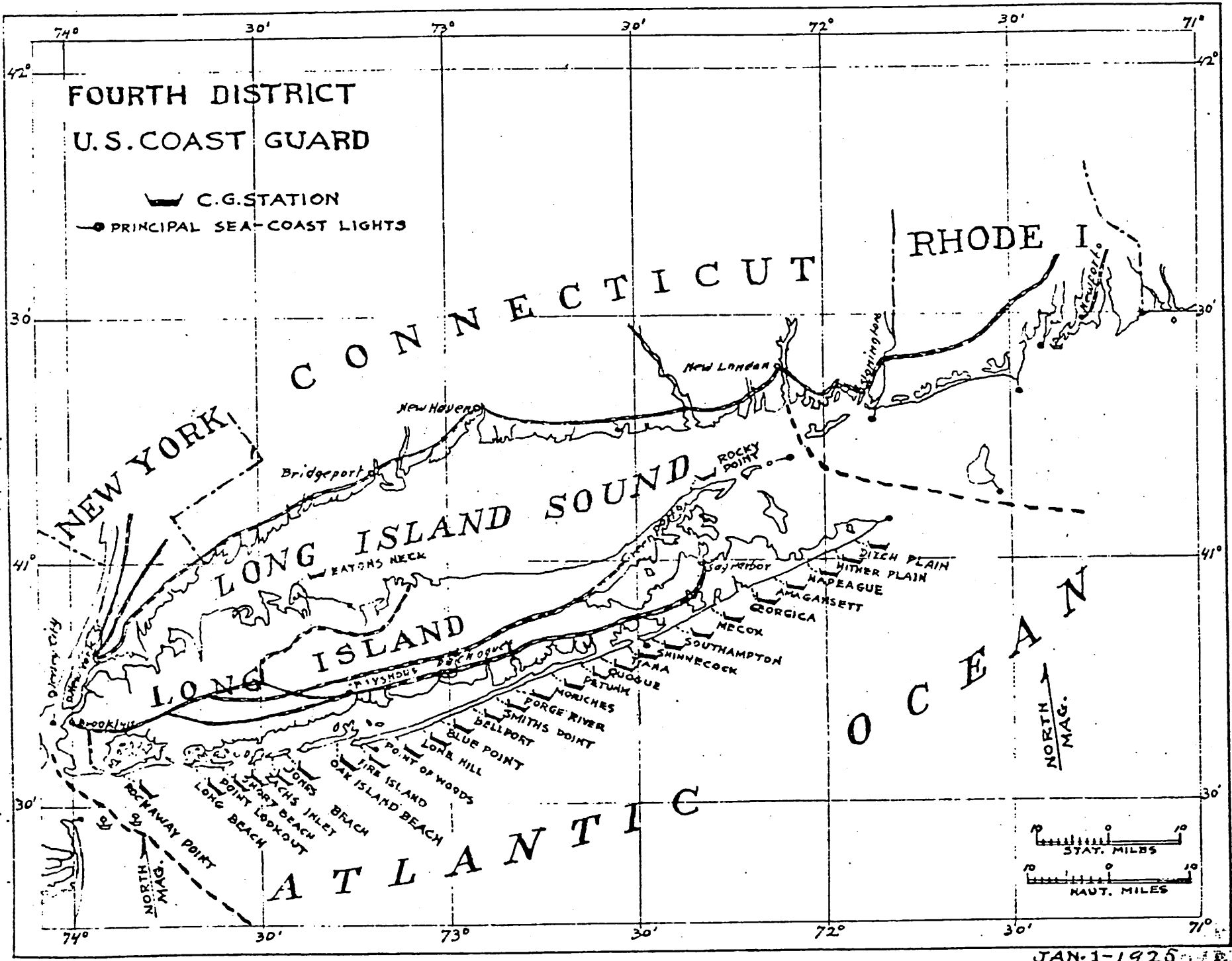
23. Brigantine Life-Saving Station record of rescues, 1876-1914. (from informal history of the Brigantine Life-Saving Station prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division) (6 pages, electrostats)

24. Deal Beach, summary of operations, May 20, 1876-June 24, 1921. (from informal history of the Deal Beach Life-Saving Station prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division) (3 pages, electrostats)

25. Accidents and casualties to vessels in the Fourth Coast Guard District, July 1, 1906 to June 30, 1916. Shown for each Coast Guard station on the coast of Long Island, New York, is a summary of operations for a ten-year period. (USCG subject classified correspondence file 651-Fourth District) (47 pages, electrostats)

26. Same report described above for the Fifth Coast Guard District (coast of New Jersey) (65 pages, electrostats)

27. Abstracts of shipwrecks occurring near light stations on the coast of New York, 1871-73. (1 page, photostat)



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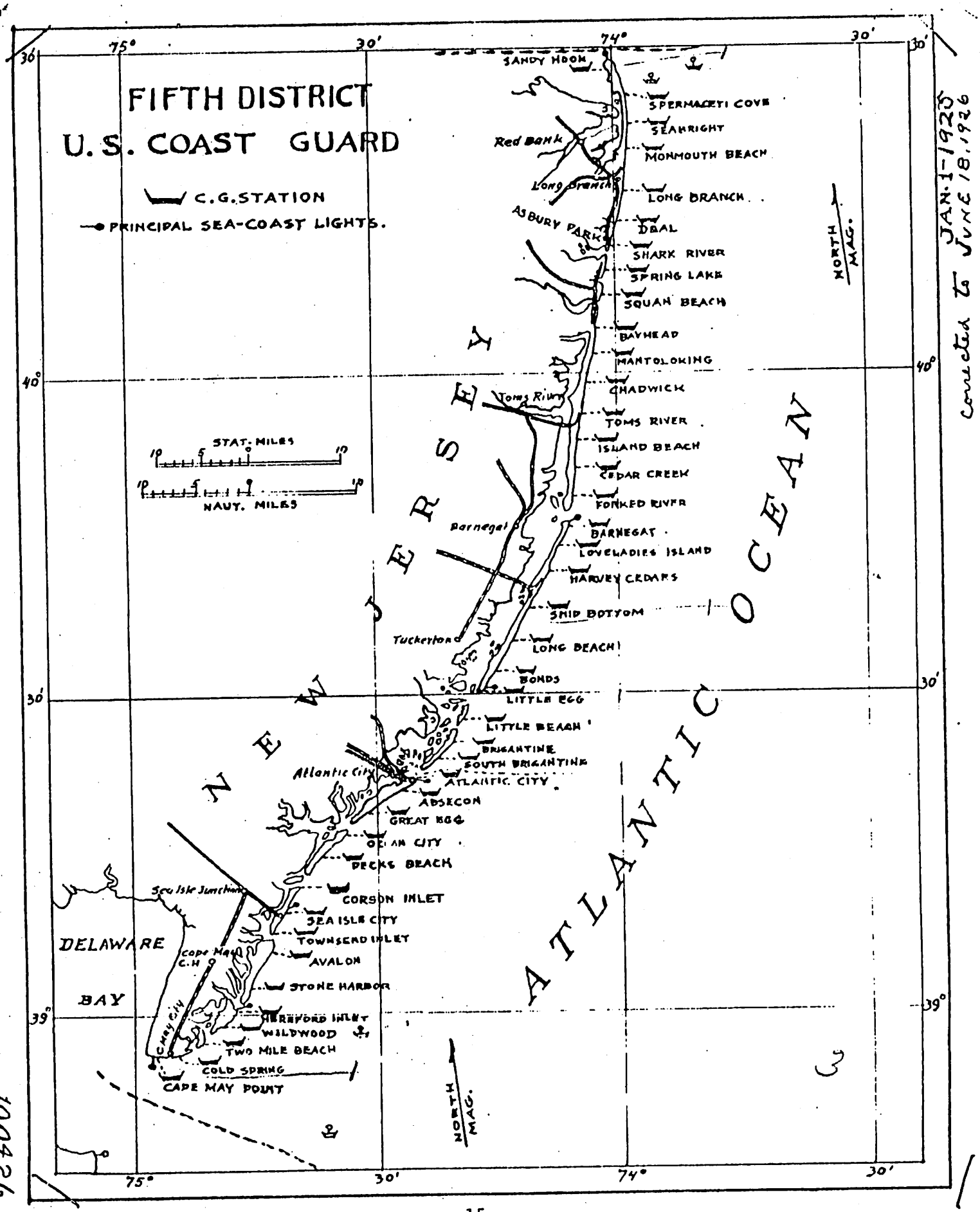

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C. DELAWARE TO GEORGIA

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

28. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)

Albermarle, 1889-1909, 1922-25 (2)
Alexandria, 1873-1913 (2)
Annapolis, 1875-1912 (1)
Baltimore, 1876-1924 (28)
Beaufort, SC, 1875-1919 (2)
Brunswick, 1875-76, 1885-1919 (3)
Charleston, 1874-1909 (3)
Georgetown, DC, 1895-1932 (1)
New Bern, 1874-86 (1)
Newport News, 1873-1909 (9)
Norfolk-Portsmouth, 1873-1909, 1923-36 (10)
Petersburg, 1874-83 (1)
Savannah, 1899-1921 (1)
Wilmington, 1886-1900 (1)

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

29. Life-Saving Service Reports of Assistance Rendered (number of volumes)

Assateague, 1883-1917 (5)
Big Kinnakeet, 1883-1918 (2)
Cape Hatteras, 1883-84 (1)
Cape Henlopen, 1875-80 (1)
Durant, 1910-17 (1)
Hog Island, 1883-1915 (3)
Lewes, 1884-1915 (5)
Little Kinnakeet, 1885-1921 (2)
Oregon Inlet, 1884-1920 (1)
Parramore Beach, 1884-1918 (2)
Wachapreague, 1883-1918 (3)
Wallop's Beach, 1884-1909
Wash Woods 1884-1917 (2)
Whales Head, 1899-1926 (1)

30. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Reports of assistance rendered (electrostats)
Tybee, 1896-1913 (40 pages)
Discover, 1878-93 (26 pages)
Seminole, 1914 (16 pages)

Abstracts of reports
Boutwell, 1886-95 (2 pages)
Colfax, 1886-95 (2 pages)
Ewing, 1886-95 (3 pages)
Hamilton, 1886-95 (3 pages)

31. Light Stations Reports of Shipwrecks (photostats)
Currituck Beach, 1876-1915 (12 pages)
Tybee, (1873-94 (2 pages)

32. Disasters on Cape Hatteras and shoals from 1876-92 and from 1875-95. (Life-Saving Service Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 4, pages 112-113 and 309-311) (5 pages, photostats)

33. Wrecks and casualties on or near Ocracoke Lifeboat Station, 1905-13 (from an informal history of the Ocracoke Life-Saving Station prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division) (2 pages, electrostats)

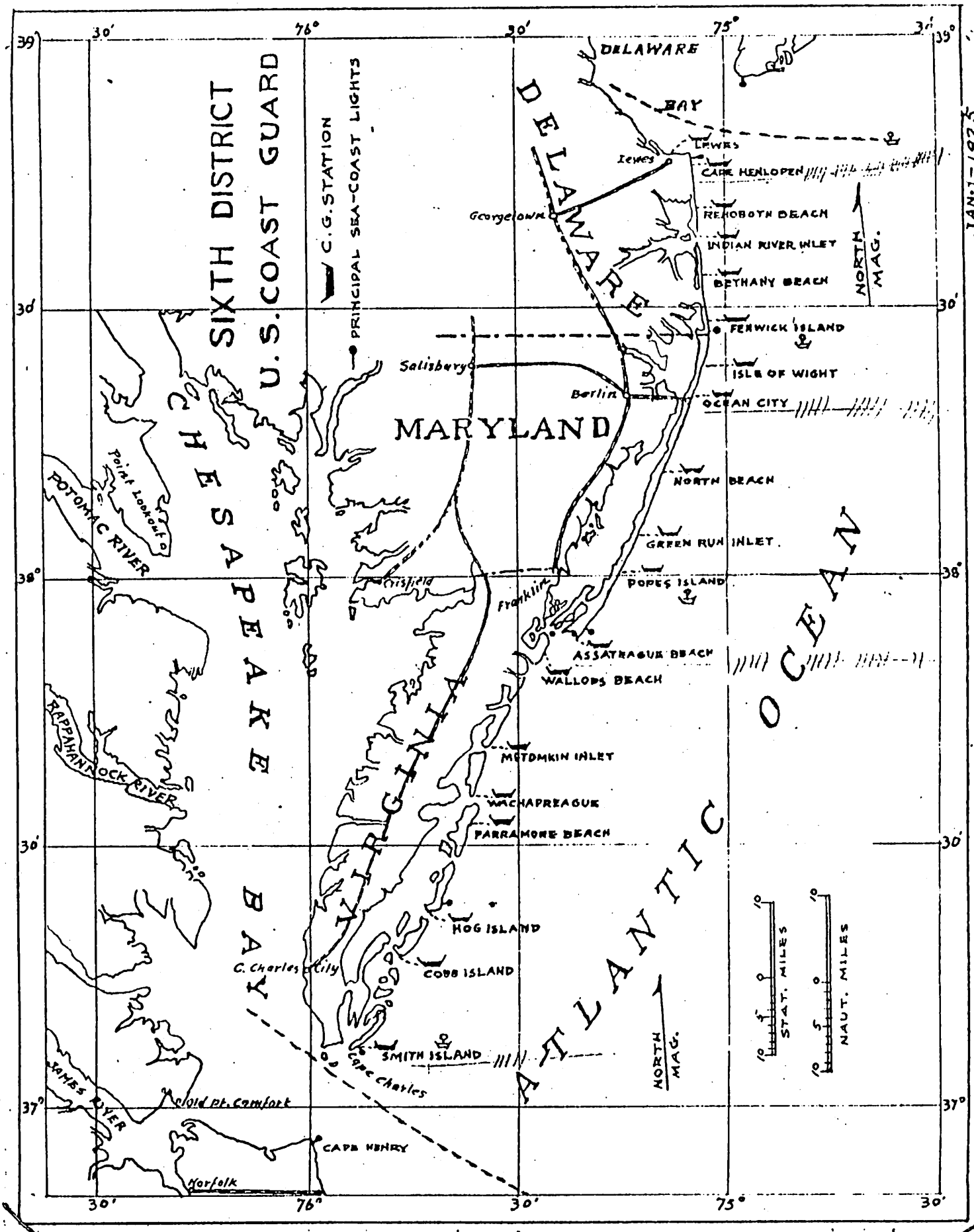
34. List of vessels that have gone ashore on Currituck Beach, North Carolina from 1852-74. (Currituck Beach Lighthouse Clipping File, fifth District) (1 page, electrostat)

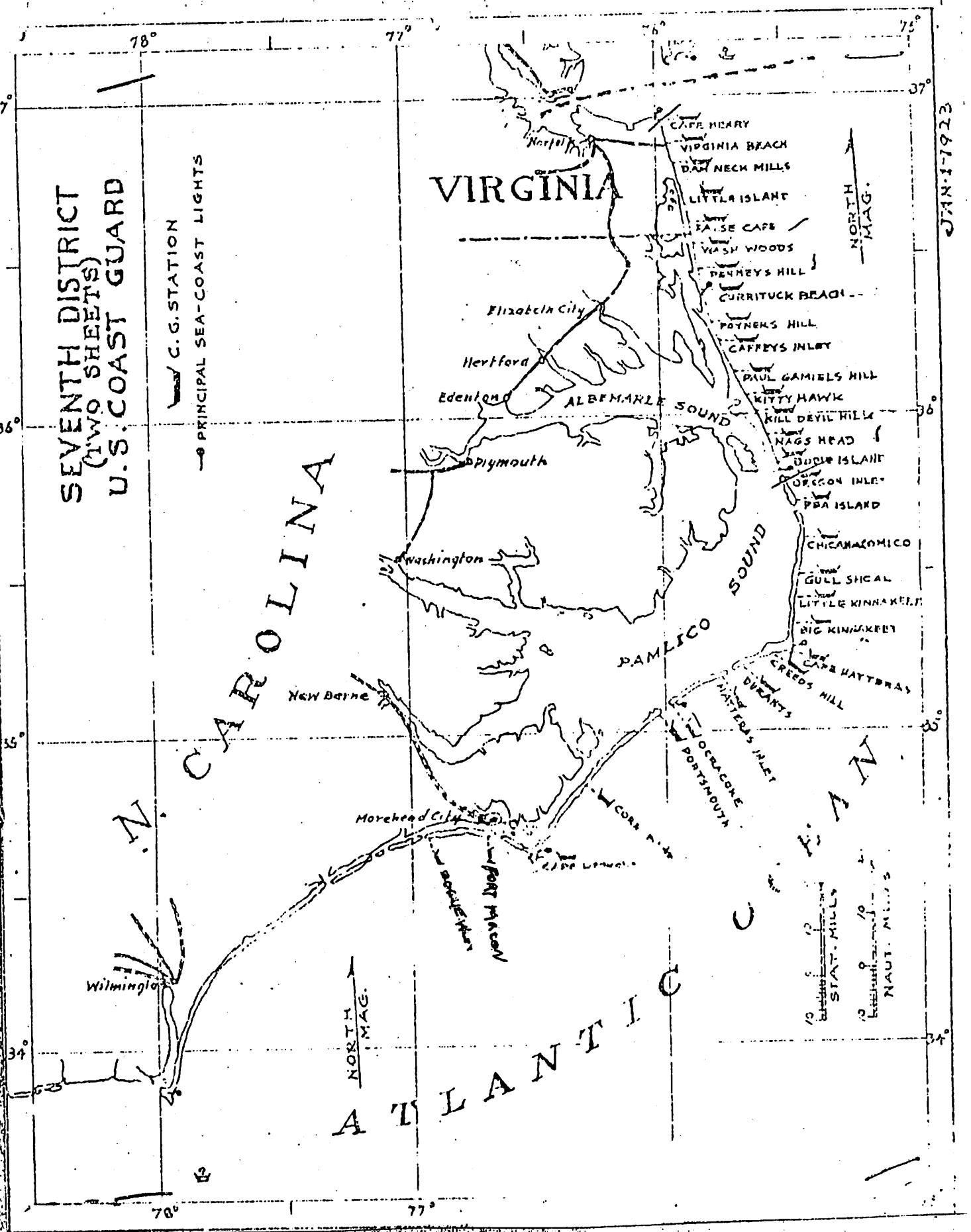
35. Accidents and casualties to vessels in the Sixth Coast Guard District (Delaware to Cape Charles, VA), from July 7, 1907 to June 30, 1917. Same report as described in item 25. (28 pages, electrostats)

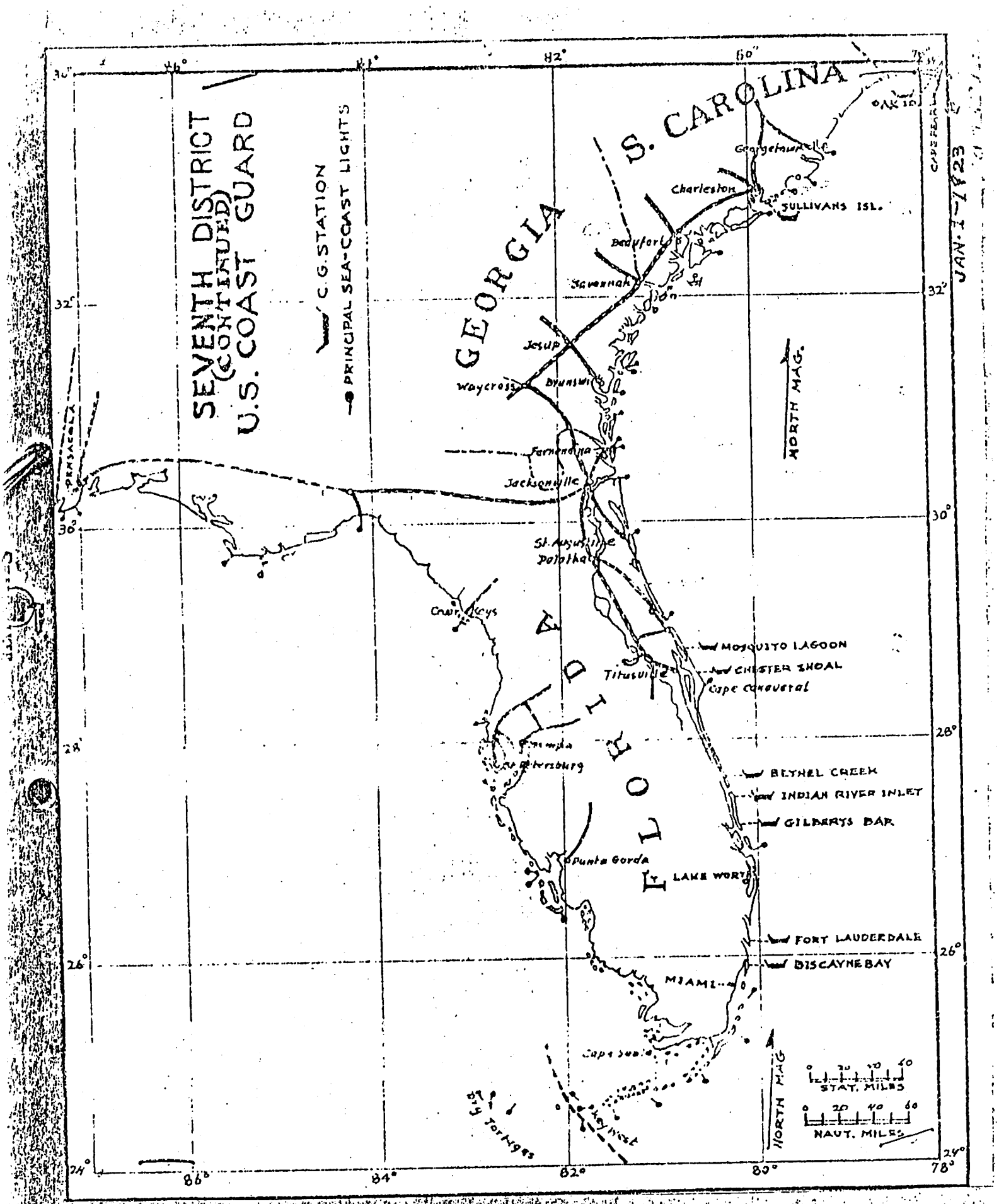
36. Same report as described above for the Seventh Coast Guard District. (Cape Henry, VA to Cape Fear, NC). (46 pages, electrostats)

37. Abstracts of shipwrecks near light stations on the coasts of the Fifth and Sixth Lighthouse Districts, 1871-73 (3 pages, photostats)

38. Letters received by the Secretary of the Treasury in 1870 from Collectors of Customs at the ports of Charleston, Georgetown, Edenton and Beaufort reporting on wrecks of U.S. and Confederate vessels in their districts (RG 56, Records of the Cotton and abandoned Property Division, file 1626) (19 pages, electrostats)


SIXTH DISTRICT
U.S. COAST GUARD
C.G. STATION
PRINCIPAL SEA-COAST LIGHTS
DELAWARE BAY
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
CHESAPEAKE BAY
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Lewes
Georgetown
Salisbury
Berlin
Crisfield
Franklin
C. Charles City
Cape Charles
Norfolk
Point Lookout
POTOMAC RIVER
RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER
JAMES RIVER
Old Pt. Comfort
CAPE HENRY
LEWES
CAPE HENLOPEN
REHOBOTH BEACH
INDIAN RIVER INLET
BETHANY BEACH
FENWICK ISLAND
ISLE OF WIGHT
OCEAN CITY
NORTH BEACH
GREEN RUN INLET
POPES ISLAND
ASSATEAGUE BEACH
WALLOPS BEACH
METOMKIN INLET
WACHAPREAGUE
PARRAMORE BEACH
HOG ISLAND
COBB ISLAND
SMITH ISLAND
NORTH MAG.
STAT. MILES
NAUT. MILES
JAN-1-1925
10042


SEVENTH DISTRICT
(TWO SHEETS)
U.S. COAST GUARD
C.G. STATION
PRINCIPAL SEA-COAST LIGHTS
VIRGINIA
N. CAROLINA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
ALBEMARLE SOUND
PAMLICO SOUND
Norfolk
Elizabeth City
Hertford
Edenton
Plymouth
Washington
New Berne
Morehead City
Wilmington
CAPE HENRY
VIRGINIA BEACH
DAM NECK MILLS
LITTLE ISLAND
FALSE CAPE
WASH WOODS
PENNEYS HILL
CURRITUCK BEACH
POYNERS HILL
CAFFEYS INLET
PAUL GAMIELS HILL
KITTY HAWK
KILL DEVIL HILL
NAGS HEAD
BODIE ISLAND
OREGON INLET
PEA ISLAND
CHICAMACOMICO
GULL SHOAL
LITTLE KINNAKEET
BIG KINNAKEET
CAPE HATTERAS
CREEDS HILL
DURANTS
HATTERAS INLET
OCRACOKE
PORTSMOUTH
CORE BANK
PORT MACON
BOGUE INLET
NORTH MAG.
STAT. MILLS
NAUT. MILLS
JAN. 1-1923
78°
77°
76°
75°
37°
36°
35°
34°


SEVENTH DISTRICT
(CONTINUED)
U.S. COAST GUARD
C.G. STATION
PRINCIPAL SEA-COAST LIGHTS
GEORGIA
S. CAROLINA
FLORIDA
Georgetown
Charleston
SULLIVANS ISL.
Beaufort
Savannah
Jesup
Waycross
Brunswick
Fernandina
Jacksonville
St. Augustine
Palatka
Cedar Keys
Titusville
Cape Canaveral
Tampa
St. Petersburg
Punta Gorda
LAKE WORTH
MIAMI
Cape Sable
Key West
Dry Tortugas
MOSQUITO LAGOON
CHESTER SHOAL
BETHEL CREEK
INDIAN RIVER INLET
GILBERTS BAR
FORT LAUDERDALE
BISCAYNE BAY
NORTH MAG.
STAT. MILES
NAUT. MILES
JAN. 1923
32°
30°
28°
26°
24°
86°
84°
82°
80°
78°

D. FLORIDA AND GULF COAST

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

39. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)

Appalachicola, 1874-1907 (1)
Biloxi, 1897-1918 (1)
Fernandina, 1874-1907 (2)
Jacksonville, 1874-90 (1)
Key West, 1873-97 (2)
Mobile, 1875-96 (2)
New Orleans, 1874-1902 (3)
Pensacola, 1881-1904 (3)
Tampa, 1886-1914 (1)

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

40. Life-Saving Stations Reports of Assistance Rendered (number of volumes)

Eighth District (all stations), 1889-90, 1896-99, 1902-14 (14)
Brazos, 1881-86 (1)
Gilberts Bar, 1886-1918 (1)
Fort Lauderdale, 1911-18 (2)
Sabine, 1894-95, 1902-18 (3)
San Luis, 1890-92 (1)
Santa Rosa, 1892-96 (1)

41. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Abstracts of reports of assistance rendered (photostats)
Crawford, 1886-95 (3 pages)
Forward, 1886-95 (1 page)
Seward, 1886-95 (2 pages)

42. Light Stations Reports of Shipwrecks (photostats)
Alligator Reef, 1874-1914 (5 pages)

43. Shipwrecks on the Florida Coast, 1837-96 (News clipping from the Daytona Beach Observer, 1935, article by Captain Charles H. Coe) (1 page, electrostat)

44. Summary of Casualties which have occurred to vessels by stranding on the Florida Reefs during the fiscal years of 1875-80. (Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, Letters Sent, Series R, volume 3, pages 162-163) (2 pages, photostats)

45. Report of the Appalachicola Collector of Customs dated June 30, 1848, of vessel wrecked during the year ending June 30, 1848 in his district. (Lighthouse Letters, Series P, volume 1849, page 119) (1 page, photostat)

46. Maritime Disasters on or near the Atlantic coast of the State of Florida and west of the state, from January 1, 1869 to June 30, 1879. (Life-Saving Letters Sent, Miscellaneous, volume 3, pages 404-415) (12 pages, photostats)

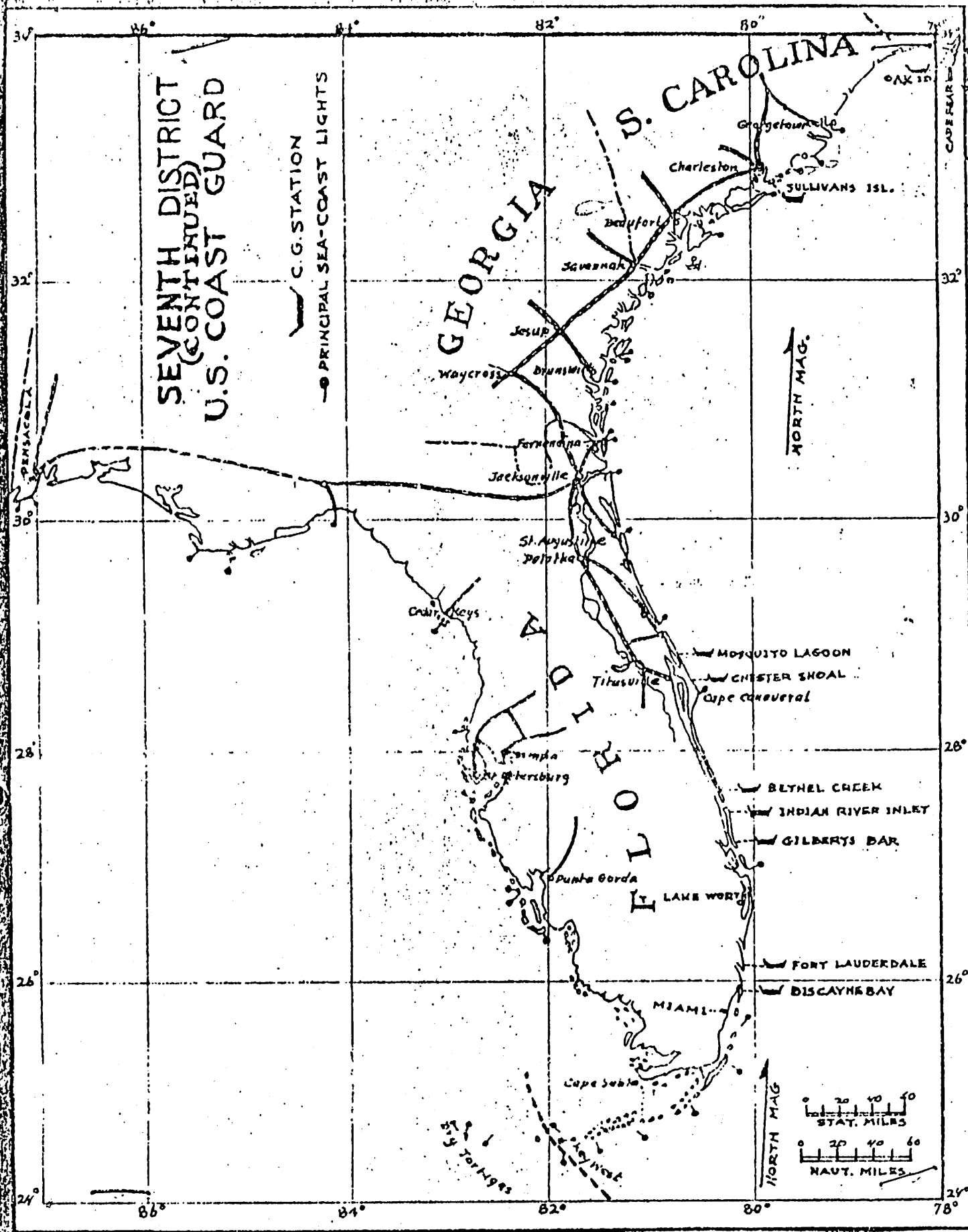
47. Table of casualties to vessels, December 30, 1910-November 22, 1918, at Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge. (from an informal history of the Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division) (2 pages, electrostats)

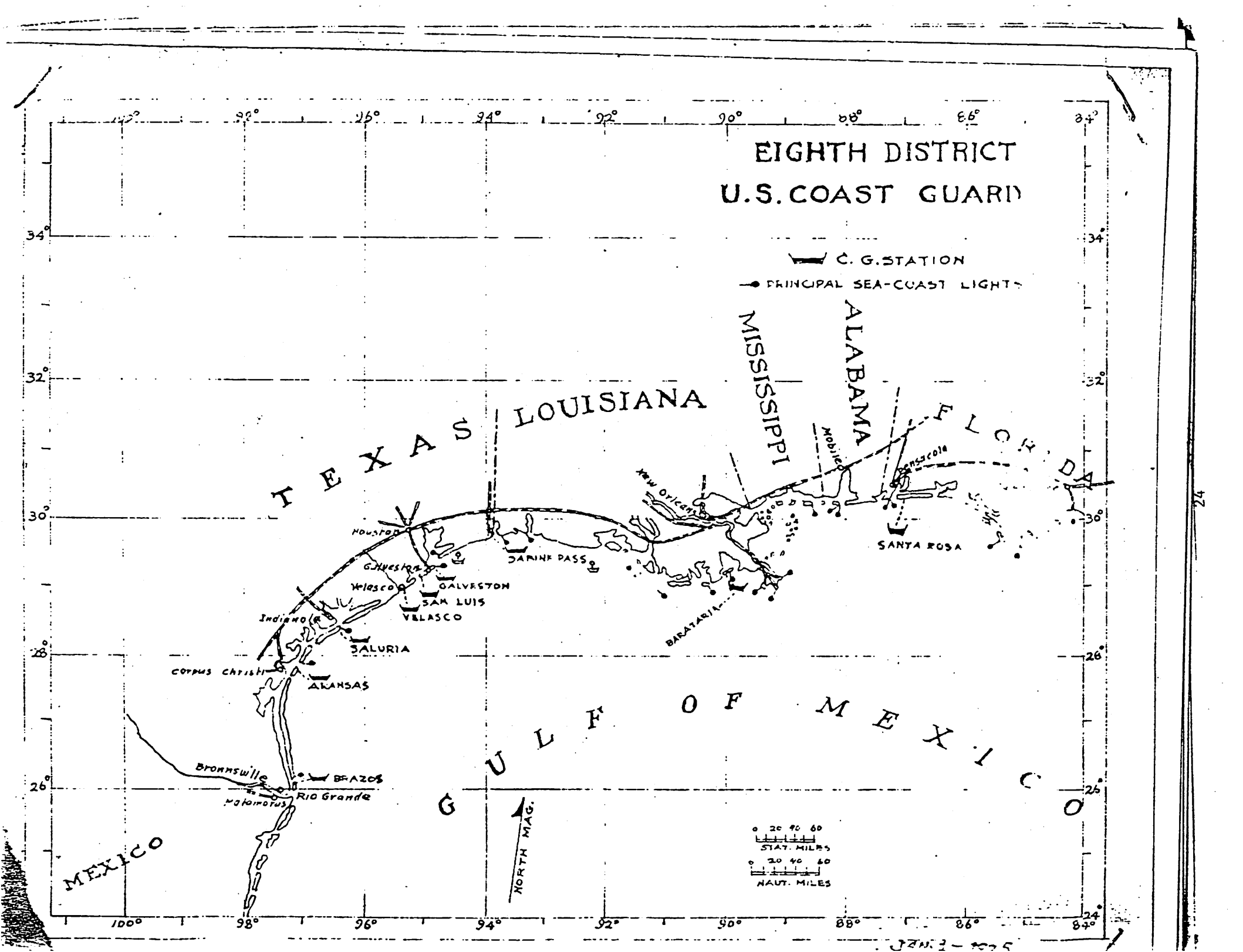
48. Assistance rendered by the Sabine Pass Life-Saving Station to vessels in distress, July 1, 1894-June 30, 1914. (from an informal history of the Sabine Pass Life-Saving Station prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Division) (4 pages, electrostats)

49. Letters received by the Secretary of the Treasury in 1870 from Collectors of Customs at the ports of Mobile, Appalachicola, Galveston, and Pensacola reporting on wrecks of U.S. and Confederate vessels in their districts (RG 56, Records of the Cotton and Abandoned Property Division, file 1626) (14 pages, electrostats)

50. Abstracts of shipwrecks near light stations in the 7th and 8th Lighthouse Districts, 1872-73 (2 pages, photostats)

51. Accidents and casualties to vessels 8th Coast Guard District (Florida Houses of Refuge), July 1, 1906-June 30, 1916. Same report as described in item 25. (13 pages, electrostats)


SEVENTH DISTRICT
(CONTINUED)
U.S. COAST GUARD
C.G. STATION
PRINCIPAL SEA-COAST LIGHTS
GEORGIA
S. CAROLINA
FLORIDA
Georgetown
Charleston
SULLIVANS ISL.
Beaufort
Savannah
Jesup
Waycross
Brunswick
Fernandina
Jacksonville
St. Augustine
Palatka
Cedar Keys
Titusville
Cape Canaveral
Pensacola
Tampa
St. Petersburg
Punta Gorda
LAKE WORTH
MIAMI
Cape Sable
Key West
Dry Tortugas
MOSQUITO LAGOON
CHESTER SHOAL
BETHEL CREEK
INDIAN RIVER INLET
GILBERTS BAR
FORT LAUDERDALE
BISCAYNE BAY
NORTH MAG.
NORTH MAG
STAT. MILES
NAUT. MILES
JAN. 1-1923
CAPE FEAR
86°
84°
82°
80°
78°
32°
30°
28°
26°
24°


EIGHTH DISTRICT
U.S. COAST GUARD
C. G. STATION
PRINCIPAL SEA-COAST LIGHTS
TEXAS
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
GULF OF MEXICO
MEXICO
Houston
Galveston
Velasco
GALVESTON
SAM LUIS
VELASCO
Indianola
SALURIA
Corpus Christi
ARANSAS
Brownsville
BRAZOS
Matamoros
Rio Grande
JAMINE PASS
New Orleans
BARATARIA
Mobile
Pensacola
SANTA ROSA
NORTH MAG.
0 20 40 60
STAT. MILES
0 20 40 60
NAUT. MILES
100°
98°
96°
94°
92°
90°
88°
86°
84°
34°
32°
30°
28°
26°
24°

E. GREAT LAKES

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

52. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)

Chicago, 1879-95 (8)
Detroit, 1889-93 (1)
Duluth, 1874-1901 (2)
Erie, 1874-83 (1)
Milwaukee, 1874-99 (9)
Osewgatchie, 1874-1912 (microfilm copies of these casualty reports are in the custody of our Industrial and Social Branch-NNFS)

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

53. Life-Saving Service Reports of Assistance Rendered (number of volumes)

Ashtabula, 1894-1904, 1911-15 (2)
Bailey's Harbor, 1896-1919 (3)
Buffalo, 1883-1918 (11)
Charlevoix, 1900-20 (4)
Charlotte, 1889-1918 (8)
Chicago, 1895-1902 (1)
Cleveland, 1883-1917 (11)
Crisps, 1885-1916 (1)
Duluth, 1895-1915 (20)
Erie, 1893-1917 (9)
Evanston, 1883-1917 (5)
Fort Niagara, 1893-1922 (4)
Grand Point Au Sable, 1883-1902 (1)
Holland, 1887-1936 (6)
Jackson Park, 1893-1916 (4)
Kenosha, 1883-1916(4)
Lake View Beach, 1898-1915 (1)
Marquette, 1891-1921 (3)
Milwaukee, 1893-1920 (3)
Muskegon, 1880-1918 (4)
North Manitou, 1883-1921 (4)
Oswego, 1883-1916 (6)
Portage-Ship Canal, 1886-1918 (4)
Racine, 1883-1921 (8)
Sheboygan, 1883-1917 (4)
South Chicago, 1890-1921 (4)
Sturgeon Bay, 1898-1918 (4)
Thunder Bay, 1883-1916 (5)
Two Rivers, 1883-1920 (5)
Vermillon, 1886-1922 (2)

54. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Reports of Assistance Rendered (electrostats)

Bibb, 1882-89 (22 pages)
Mackinac, 1906-15 (180 pages)

Abstracts of reports of assistance rendered (photostats)
Fessenden, 1886-95 (1 page)
Johnson, 1886-95 (3 pages)
Perry, 1886-95 (1 page)

55. Light Stations Reports of Shipwrecks (photostats)

Alpena, 1890-1902 (1 page)
Fair Haven, 1872-92 (2 pages)
Kalamazoo, 1872-95 (9 pages)
North Point, 1874-75 (1 page)
Presque Isle, 1879-1904 (3 pages)
Port des Morts, 1863-1938 (27 pages)
Pottawottamie, 1882-1911 (7 pages)
Rock of Ages, 1909-33 (1 page)
Rock Island, 1873-1908 (10 pages)
Two Harbors, 1913-14 (1 page)
Two Rivers, 1886-96 (1 page)
West Huron Island, 1898-1909 (1 page)

56. Wreck Report of the Great Lakes, 1886-91. Shown are the locations of 147 shipwrecks, and description of casualty is included (Chart published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture) (2 feet, oversized electrostat)

57. Report of wrecks which occurred on the Great Lakes from December 17, 1885-November 15, 1893 (pamphlet published by the Weather Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1894) (12 pages, electrostats)

58. Wrecks and casualties on the Great Lakes during 1895, 1896 and 1897, with chart. (pamphlet published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1898) (12 pages, electrostats)

59. Strandings reported to have occurred on the Great Lakes for the years 1928-37. Shown are name, rig, and tonnage of vessel, and location and date of casualty. (5 pages, electrostats)

60. Marine Casualties of the Great Lakes, 1863-73. Includes rig, tonnage, and name of vessel, owner and homeport, nature and locality of casualty. (86 pages, photostats. A positive microfilm copy of this report is available for $12.00 from our Publication Sales Branch (NEPS). Order National Archives Microfilm Publication T729)

61. Wrecks and casualties to vessel which have occurred on the east shore of Lake Michigan from 1878-83 (Life-Saving Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 1, pages 393-417) (25 pages, photostats)

62. Wrecks and casualties to vessels which have occurred on the west shore of Lake Michigan, 1878-83. (Life-Saving Letters Sent-Disaster to Shipping, volume 1, pages 418-479). (62 pages, photostats)

63. Wrecks and casualties to vessels by stranding south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Grand Haven, Michigan, from 1879-89 (Life-Saving Letters Sent-Disasters to Shipping, volume 3, pages 289-294) (6 pages, photostats)

64. Report of marine disaster, losses to vessels, and loss of life on the Northern Lakes in 1848. (Lighthouse Letter, Series P, volume 1849, pages 103-105). (4 pages, photostats)

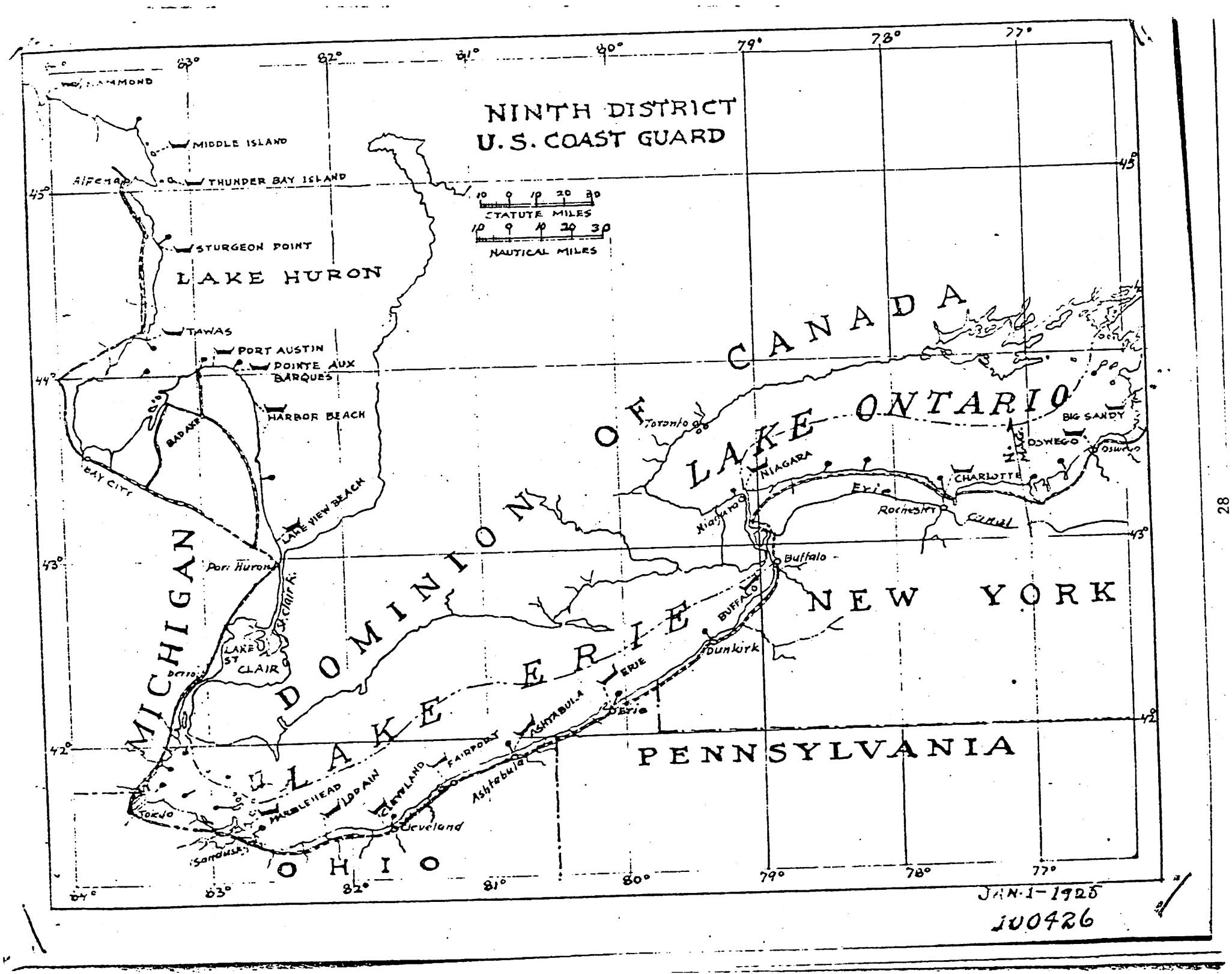
65. List of Marine Disasters in the District of Michigan, 1863-73. (Letter from the Grand Haven Collector of Customs, dated December 23, 1873, Life-Saving Letters Received, No. G18, volume 1) (5 pages, photostats)

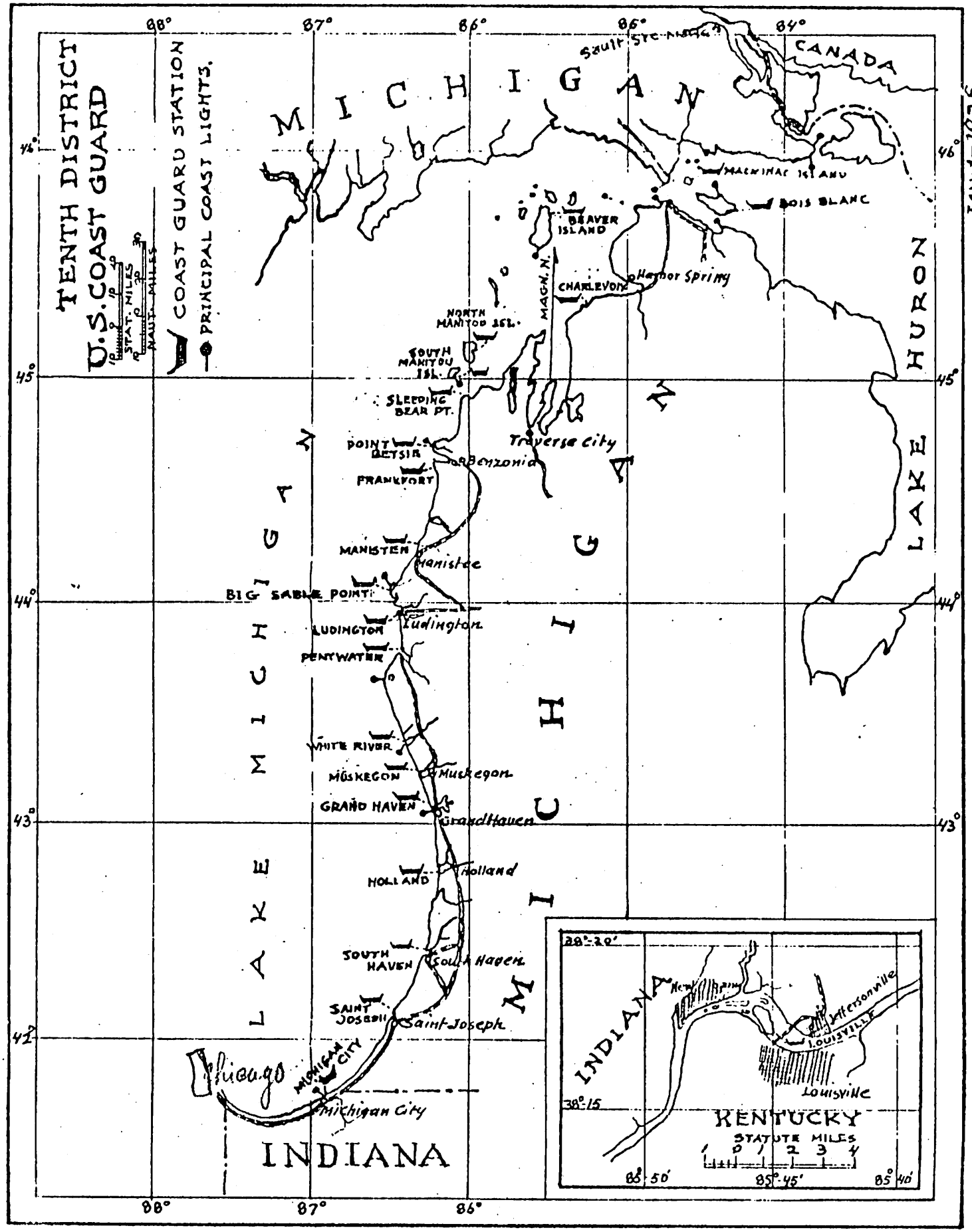
66. Abstract of shipwrecks occurring light station in the 10th and 11th Lighthouse Districts, 1872-73. (3 pages, photostats)

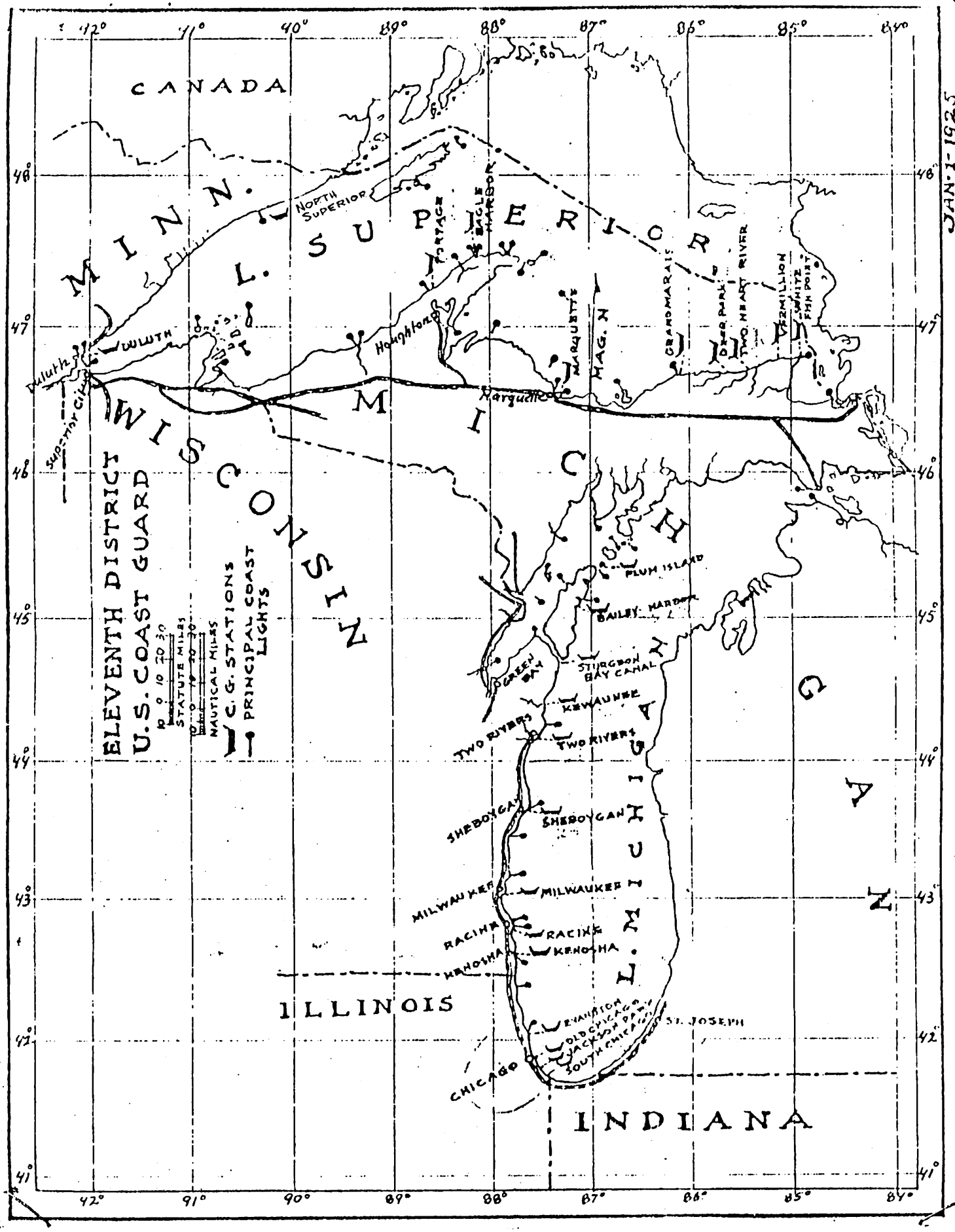
67. Accidents and casualties to vessels in the 10th Coast Guard District (Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron), July 1, 1908 to June 30, 1918. Same report as described in item 25. (53 pages, electrostats)

68. Same report described above for the 11th Coast Guard District (East Side of Lake Michigan). (50 pages, electrostats)

69. Same report described above for the 12th Coast Guard District (west side of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior). (70 pages, electrostats)


NINTH DISTRICT
U.S. COAST GUARD
HAMMOND
MIDDLE ISLAND
THUNDER BAY ISLAND
ALPENA
STURGEON POINT
LAKE HURON
TAWAS
PORT AUSTIN
POINTE AUX BARQUES
HARBOR BEACH
BAD AXE
BAY CITY
LAKE VIEW BEACH
Port Huron
ST. CLAIR R.
LAKE ST CLAIR
Detroit
MICHIGAN
DOMINION OF CANADA
LAKE ONTARIO
LAKE ERIE
Toronto
NIAGARA
Niagara
Erie
Rochester
CANAL
Buffalo
BUFFALO
Dunkirk
ERIE
Erie
ASHTABULA
FAIRPORT
Ashtabula
CLEVELAND
LORAIN
MARBLEHEAD
TOLEDO
Cleveland
SANDUSKY
OHIO
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW YORK
BIG SANDY
OSWEGO
Oswego
CHARLOTTE
STATUTE MILES
NAUTICAL MILES
JAN. 1 - 1925
JV0426


TENTH DISTRICT
U.S. COAST GUARD
COAST GUARD STATION
PRINCIPAL COAST LIGHTS.
STAT. MILES
NAUT. MILES
JAN. 1-1925
100426
MICHIGAN
LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE HURON
CANADA
Sault Ste Marie
MACKINAC ISLAND
BOIS BLANC
BEAVER ISLAND
CHARLEVOIX
Harbor Springs
NORTH MANITOU ISL.
SOUTH MANITOU ISL.
MACH. N.
SLEEPING BEAR PT.
POINT BETSIE
Traverse City
Benzonia
FRANKFORT
MANISTEE
Manistee
BIG SABLE POINT
LUDINGTON
Ludington
PENTWATER
WHITE RIVER
MUSKEGON
Muskegon
GRAND HAVEN
Grand Haven
HOLLAND
Holland
SOUTH HAVEN
South Haven
SAINT JOSEPH
Saint Joseph
MICHIGAN CITY
Michigan City
Chicago
INDIANA
88°
87°
86°
85°
84°
46°
45°
44°
43°
41°
INDIANA
New Albany
Jeffersonville
LOUISVILLE
Louisville
KENTUCKY
STATUTE MILES
0 1 2 3 4
38°-30'
38°-15
85°-50'
85°-45'
85°40'


ELEVENTH DISTRICT
U.S. COAST GUARD
C.G. STATIONS
PRINCIPAL COAST LIGHTS
STATUTE MILES
NAUTICAL MILES
CANADA
MINN.
L. SUPERIOR
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
LAKE MICHIGAN
DULUTH
SUPERIOR CITY
NORTH SUPERIOR
EAGLE HARBOR
HOUGHTON
MARQUETTE
MAG. N
GRAND MARAIS
DEER PARK
TWO HEART RIVER
VERMILION
WHITE FISH POINT
PLUM ISLAND
BAILEY HARBOR
GREEN BAY
STURGEON BAY CANAL
KEWAUNEE
TWO RIVERS
SHEBOYGAN
MILWAUKEE
RACINE
KENOSHA
EVANSTON
OLD CHICAGO
JACKSON PARK
SOUTH CHICAGO
ST. JOSEPH
CHICAGO
JAN-1-1925
100426

F. PACIFIC COAST

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

70. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)

Portland, 1874-1903 (1)
Puget Sound, 1884-98 (4)
San Francisco, 1874-98 (14)

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

71. Life-Saving Stations Reports of Assistance Rendered (number of volumes)

Cape Disappointment, 1902-15 (5)
Grays Harbor-Peterson Point, 1900-16 (2)
Point Bonita, 1902-15 (3)
Waadah Island, 1909-15 (1)

72. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Reports of assistance rendered (electrostats)
Arcata, 1903-14 (120 pages)
Grant, 1903-06 (12 pages)
Snohomish, 1909-20 (300 pages)
Scout, 1909-21 (90 pages)

Abstracts of reports (photostats)
Corwin, 1886-95 (2 pages)
Wolcott, 1886-95 (2 pages)

73. Light Stations reports of shipwrecks (photostats)
Santa Cruz, 1876-92 (4 pages)

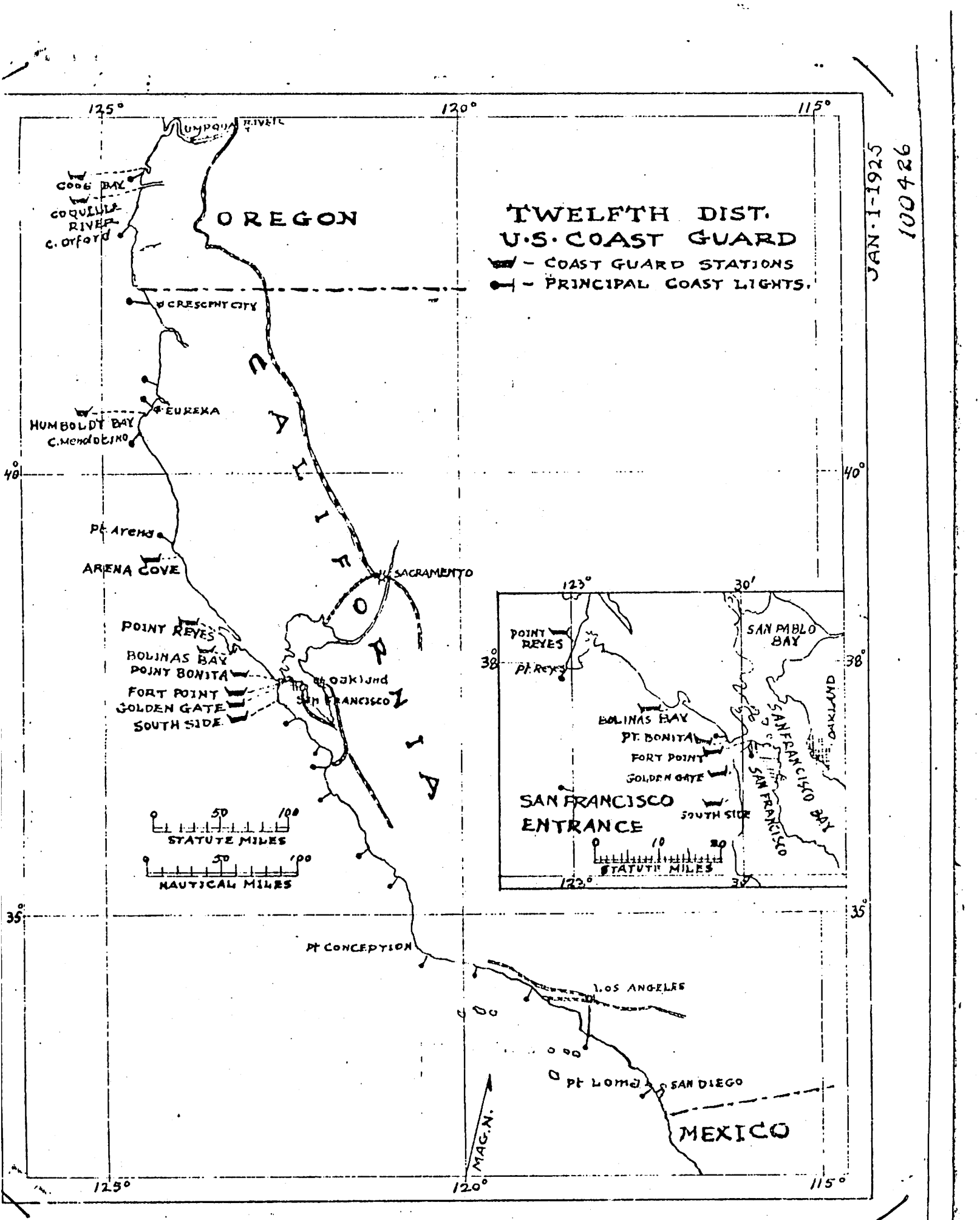
74. Shipwrecks resulting in total loss from January 1909-November 1938 (Letter dated November 8, 1938 from the Marine Department, San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce) (3 pages, electrostats)

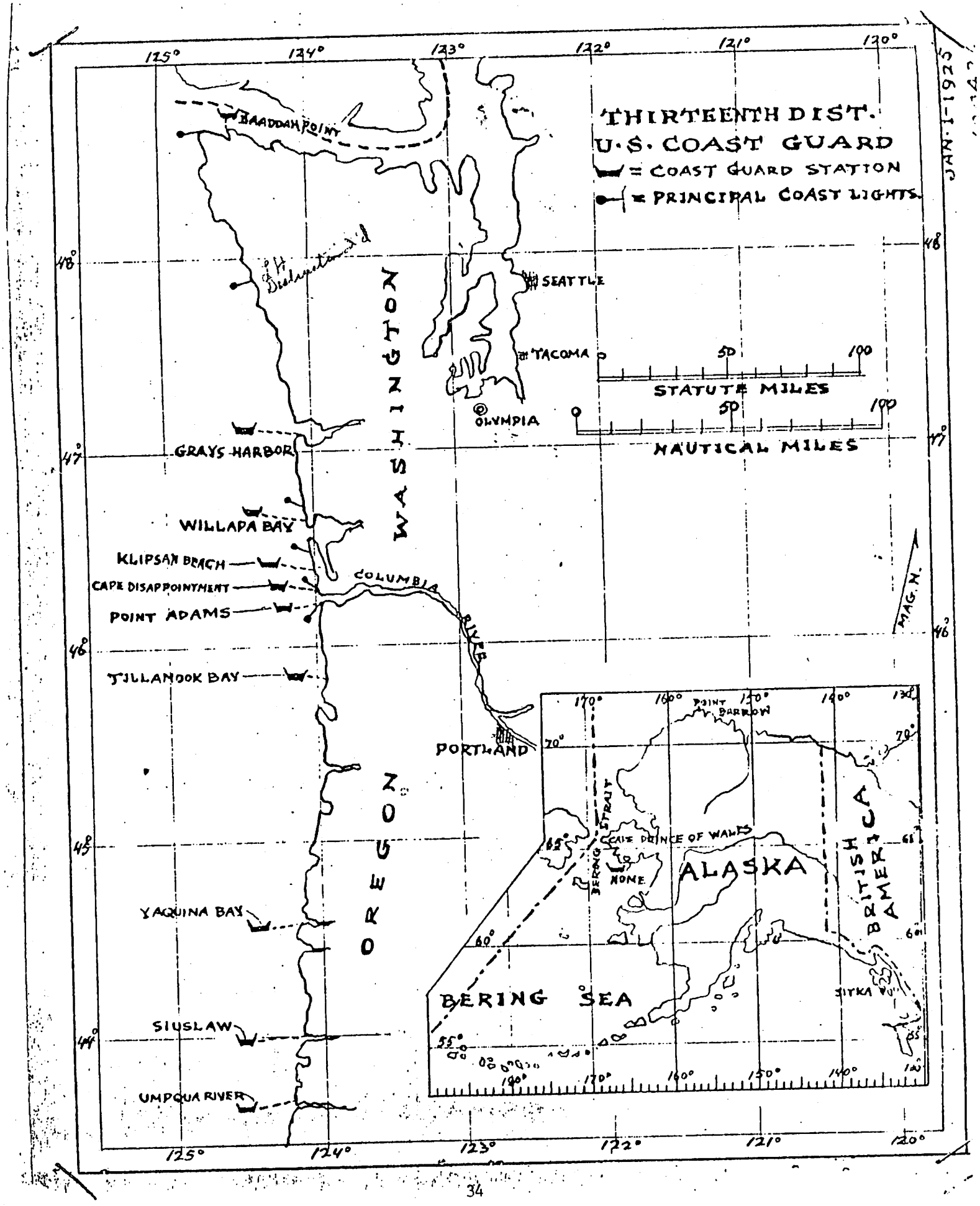
75. Groundings between Point Reyes and Cape Mendocino from January 1909-November 1938 (Letter dated November 8, 1938 from the Marine Department, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce) (2 pages, electrostats)

76. Marine Disasters north of San Francisco from January 1, 1870 to January 1, 1883 (Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, Letters Sent, Series R, volume 2, pages 72-103) (32 pages, photostats)

77. Letter dated December 19, 1868 from the Board of Marine Underwriters at San Francisco to the Engineer of the 12th and 13th Lighthouse District, listing shipwrecks on Pigeon Point, California, 1853-1968 (Lighthouse Board Letters Received from the 12th and 13th Lighthouse District Engineer, volume 235, pages 191-192) (2 pages, electrostats)

78. Statement of casualties to vessels and boats at which assistance was rendered by the Arena Cove, Humboldt Bay, Coquille River, Coos Bay, Umpquar River, and Siuslaw Coast Guard Stations, July 1, 1917 to February 28, 1926 (USCG subject classified correspondence, file 651-General 1926) (11 pages, electrostats)


TWELFTH DIST.
U.S. COAST GUARD
- COAST GUARD STATIONS
- PRINCIPAL COAST LIGHTS.
JAN·1-1925
100426
OREGON
CALIFORNIA
COOS BAY
COQUILLE RIVER
C. ORFORD
CRESCENT CITY
HUMBOLDT BAY
EUREKA
C. MENDOCINO
PT. ARENA
ARENA COVE
SACRAMENTO
POINT REYES
BOLINAS BAY
POINT BONITA
FORT POINT
GOLDEN GATE
SOUTH SIDE
OAKLAND
SAN FRANCISCO
STATUTE MILES
NAUTICAL MILES
PT CONCEPTION
LOS ANGELES
PT LOMA
SAN DIEGO
MEXICO
MAG. N.
SAN FRANCISCO ENTRANCE
SAN PABLO BAY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY
125°
120°
115°
40°
35°
38°
123°
30'


THIRTEENTH DIST.
U.S. COAST GUARD
= COAST GUARD STATION
= PRINCIPAL COAST LIGHTS.
JAN. 1-1925
BAADDAH POINT
SEATTLE
TACOMA
OLYMPIA
STATUTE MILES
NAUTICAL MILES
GRAYS HARBOR
WILLAPA BAY
KLIPSAN BEACH
CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT
POINT ADAMS
TILLAMOOK BAY
COLUMBIA RIVER
PORTLAND
YAQUINA BAY
SIUSLAW
UMPQUA RIVER
WASHINGTON
OREGON
MAG. N.
POINT BARROW
BERING STRAIT
CAPE PRINCE OF WALES
NOME
ALASKA
BRITISH AMERICA
BERING SEA
SITKA

G. ALASKA

79. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)
Sitka, 1873-94 (2)
Wrangel, 1892-1905 (1)

80. Revenue and Coast Guard Cutters

Reports of assistance rendered (electrostats)
Corwin, 1885-99 (74 pages)

Abstracts of reports (photostats)
Bear, 1885-96 (1 page)
Rush, 1886-95 (1 page)

81. Accidents and casualties to vessels near the Nome Coast Guard Station from July 1, 1907 to June 30, 1917 (same as item 25). (11 pages, electrostat)

82. Letter dated May 1928, enclosing a list of casualties to vessels at the Nome Coast Guard Station in 1926 and 1927 (U.S. Coast Guard classified correspondence file 651-13th District). (2 pages, electrostats)

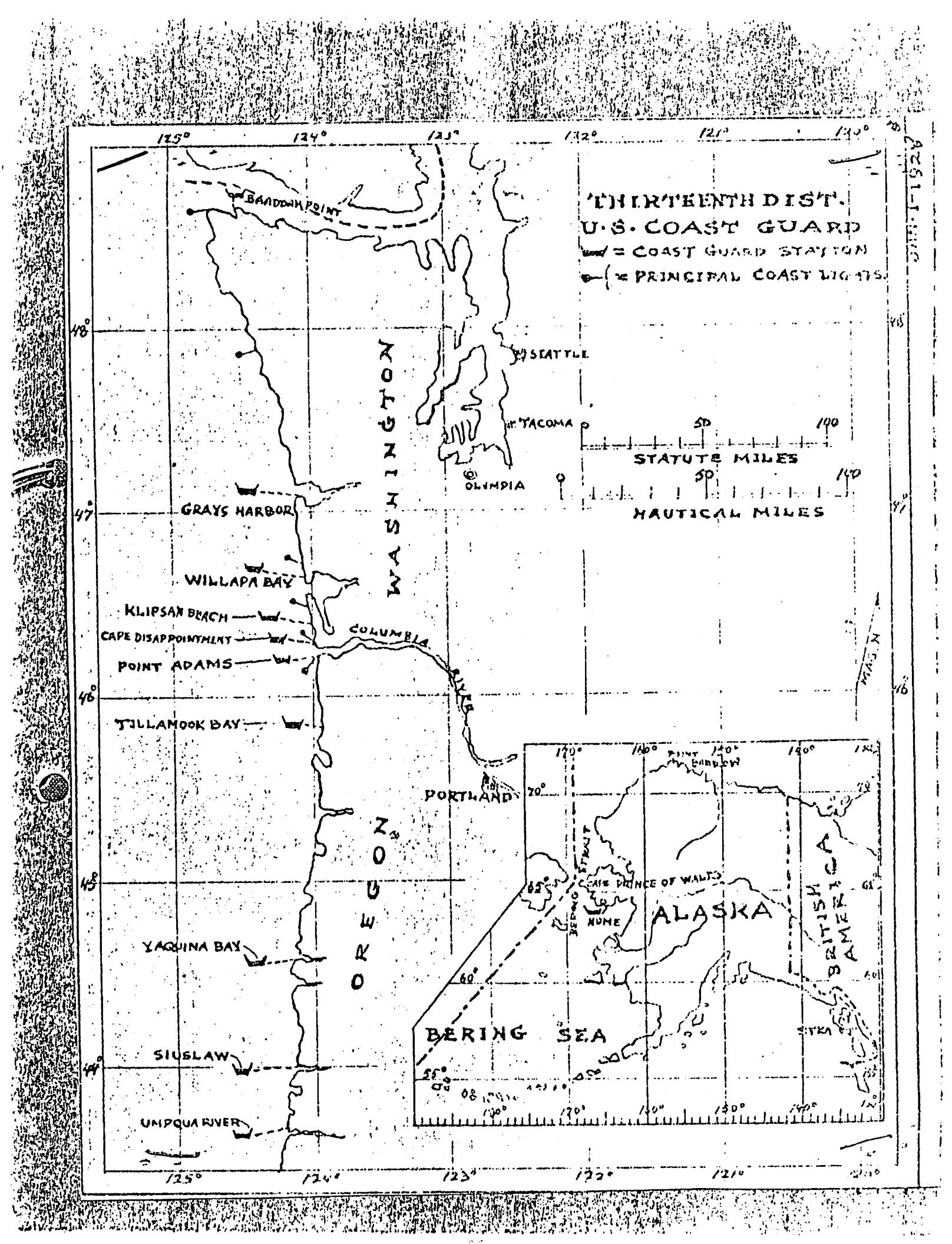
83. Arctic losses, 1868-88, showing date, name of vessel, and locality of casualty ("Alaska File", U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, Letters received, 1888) (4 pages, electrostats)

H. U.S. RIVER PORTS

84. Collectors of Customs Reports of Casualty (number of volumes)

Records of the U.S. Customs Service

Louisville, 1873-1929 (2)
Memphis, 1876-1905 (3)
Pittsburg, 1881-90 (1)
St. Louis, 1873-95 (4)


THIRTEENTH DIST.
U.S. COAST GUARD
= COAST GUARD STATION
= PRINCIPAL COAST LIGHTS
STATUTE MILES
NAUTICAL MILES
BADDWIN POINT
SEATTLE
TACOMA
OLYMPIA
GRAYS HARBOR
WILLAPA BAY
KLIPSAN BEACH
CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT
POINT ADAMS
TILLAMOOK BAY
YAQUINA BAY
SIUSLAW
UMPQUA RIVER
COLUMBIA RIVER
PORTLAND
WASHINGTON
OREGON
ALASKA
BERING SEA
BRITISH AMERICA
POINT BARROW
CAPE PRINCE OF WALES
NOME
STRAIT

I. GENERAL RECORDS

Records of the U.S. Coast Guard

85. Abstracts of reports of shipwrecks at or near light stations from 1868-72. Entries are arranged chronologically by date of casualty. Shown are name of lighthouse, name of vessel, cargo, and lives lost. (8 pages, photostats)

86. List of places on the coasts of the United States where vessels have stranded from 1865 to 1914. (published in the Annual Reports of the U.S. Life-Saving Service in 1874, 1884, 1894, 1904 and 1914) (Atlantic and Gulf coasts, 37 pages; Great Lakes coasts, 19 pages; Pacific coasts, 13 pages, electrostats)

87. U.S. Merchant Losses, December 7, 1941 to July 15, 1945. Shown are convoy number, name, rig and tonnage of vessel, lives saved, geographical location and latitude and longtitude of casualty. (Coast Guard at War, volume 14, part 2, pages 84-122) (39 pages, electrostats)

88. Table of casualties to vessels in U.S. waters and to American vessels in foreign waters involving loss of life, 1876-1914 (from tables published each year in the Annual Reports of the U.S. Life-Saving Service) (positive microfilm copy, $6.58)

89. Table of casualty reports received from life-saving stations, 1876-1914 (from the tables published each year in the Annual Reports of the U.S. Life-Saving Service). (positive microfilm copy, $15.00)

Our staff can make a search for records relating to specific shipwrecks if the full name of the vessel, its homeport, and the approximate date and locality of the casualty are provided.

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Reproductions of wreck charts of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts can be purchased from the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Charts of the Great Lakes can be purchased from the U.S.Army Engineer District, U.S. Lake Survey, Corps of Engineers, 630 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan. Information regarding regulations governing salvage on the Great Lakes can be obtained from that office.

Information about regulations governing salvage in territorials waters can be obtained from the District Directors of Customs in the Customs District where the wreck occurred, or from the District Engineer of the U.S. Army Engineer District, if the wreck occurred in a harbor or river.

Teresa F. Matchette

TERESA F. MATCHETTE
Judicial and Fiscal Branch
Civil Archives Division