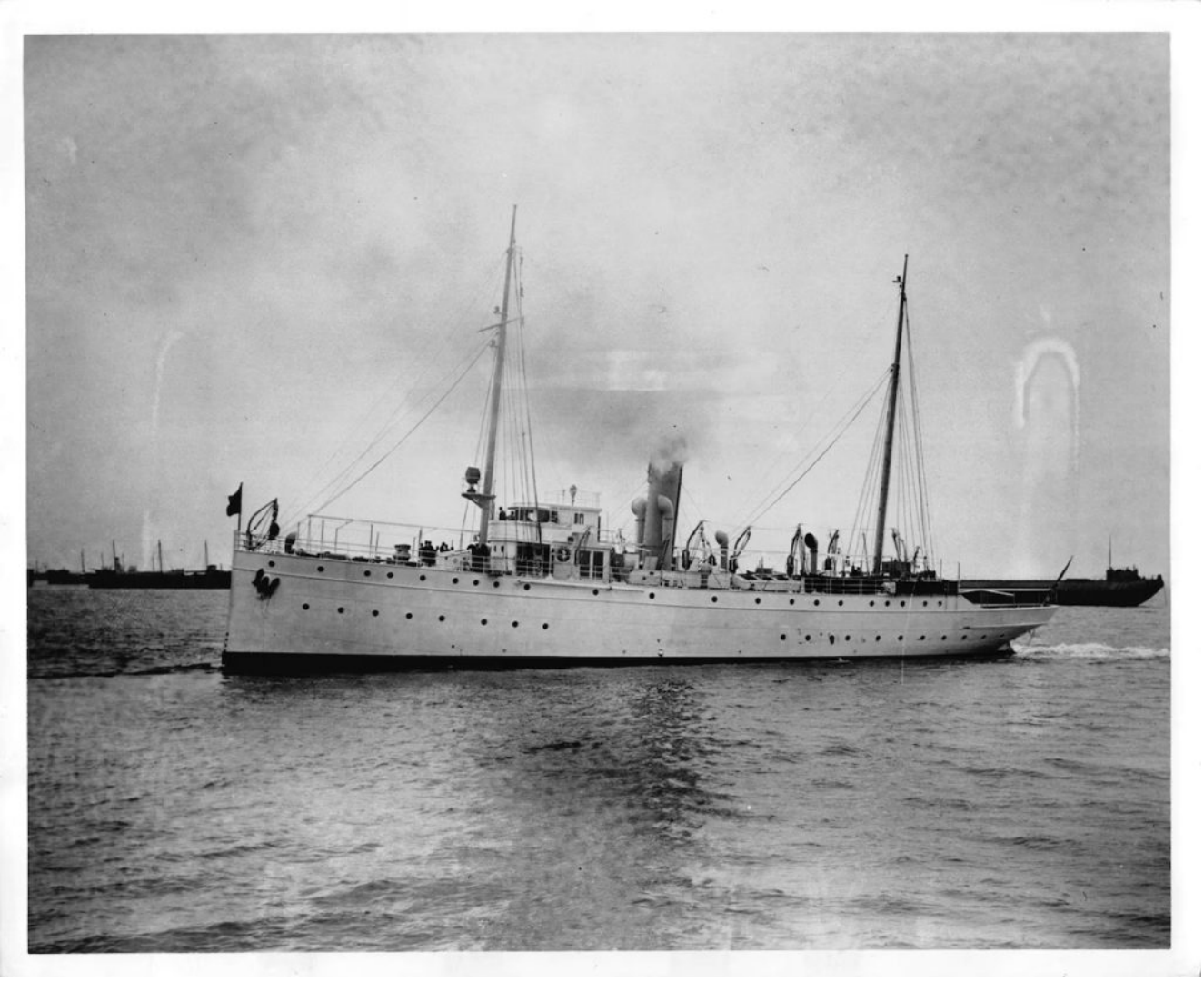
Wreckage of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Tampa Discovered Off Cornwall, United Kingdom



A historical photo of Coast Guard Cutter Tampa, which was lost in 1918 during World War I after being torpedoed by a German submarine. Tampa's wreckage was recently located off the coast of Cornwall, United Kingdom, marking the largest single naval American combat loss of life in World War I. (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

From U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, April 29, 2026

WASHINGTON – The wreckage of the Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* has been located and confirmed by the British technical-diving team Gasperados. The site lies approximately 50 miles off

Newquay, Cornwall, United Kingdom, at a depth exceeding 300 feet deep in the Atlantic Ocean.

Tampa was lost in 1918 during World War I after being torpedoed by a German submarine in the Bristol Channel. The vessel sank in less than three minutes, resulting in the death of all 131 people aboard—111 Coast Guardsmen, four U.S. Navy personnel, and 16 British Navy personnel and civilians. This remains the largest single American naval combat loss of life in World War I.

"Since 1790, the Coast Guard has defended our nation during every armed conflict in American history, a legacy reflected in the courage and sacrifice of the crew of Coast Guard Cutter Tampa," said Adm. Kevin Lunday, commandant of the Coast Guard. "When the Tampa was lost with all hands in 1918, it left an enduring grief in our service. Locating the wreck connects us to their sacrifice and reminds us that devotion to duty endures. We will always remember them. We are proud to carry their spirit forward in defense of the United States."

In 2023, the Coast Guard Historians Office was contacted by the Gasperados Dive Team regarding the *Tampa*. Over the past three years, the all-volunteer team conducted an extensive search for the wreckage.

"We provided the dive team with historical records and technical data to assist in confirming the wreck site," said Dr. William Thiesen, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian. "This included the archival images of the deck fittings, ship's wheel, bell , weaponry, and archival images of the *Tampa*."

The Coast Guard is now developing plans for underwater research and exploration in coordination with its offices of specialized capabilities, historians, cutter forces, robotics and autonomous systems, and dive locker.

Additional information about the Tampa's legacy can be

found **here**.