

USCG *Itasca*
Deck Logs
July 1 through July 12, 1937.

This document was produced from scans of photocopies of photocopies of the over-sized original logs. Some distortion occurred in the photocopying process. No attempt has been made to correct this distortion. Restoration consisted of removing photocopying and storage artefacts in Photoshop. Users will note that each officer making entries in the logs used his own pen, resulting in varying readability.

The first two pages of the document are a set of tables transcribing the explanations of the various weather and sea-state codes used in the logs. These are taken directly from the instructions in the front of the logs themselves; the Beaufort Wind Scale, in particular, shows clearly the state of transition the Coast Guard was in, as it defines wind speeds in terms of sails set.



The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery
2812 Fawkes Drive • Wilmington, DE 19808 • USA
Voice 302.994.4410 • Fax 302.994.7945 • www.tighar.org • info@tighar.org

Weather Abbreviations and Codes Used in *Itasca* Logs

Wind: Beaufort Scale				
Force of Wind		Velocity		
		Statute miles per hour	Nautical miles per hour	
0	Calm. Full-rigged ship, all sail set, little or no headway.	0 to 3	0 to 2.6	should be under 1 K
1	Light Air. Just sufficient to give steerage way.	8	6.9	1 to 3 K
2	Light Breeze. Speed of 1 or 2 knots, "full and by."	13	11.3	4 to 6 K
3	Gentle Breeze. Speed of 3 or 4 knots, "full and by."	18	15.6	7 to 10 K
4	Moderate Breeze. Speed of 5 or 6 knots, "full and by."	23	20.0	etc.
5	Fresh Breeze. All plain sail, "full and by."	28	24.3	
6	Strong Breeze. Topgallant sails over single-reefed topsails.	34	29.5	
7	Moderate Gale. Double-reefed topsails.	40	34.7	34 to 40 K
8	Fresh Gale. Treble-reefed topsails (or reefed upper topsails and courses).	48	41.6	
9	Strong Gale. Close-reefed topsails and courses (or lower topsails and courses).	56	48.6	64 K and over
10	Whole Gale. Close-reefed main topsail and reefed foresail (or lower main topsail and reefed foresail).	65	56.4	
11	Storm. Storm staysails.	75	65.1	
12	Hurricane. Under bare poles.	90 and over	78.1 and over	

Weather by Symbols			
b	Blue sky, cloudless	o	Overcast
bc	Blue sky with detached clouds	p	Passing showers of rain
c	Sky mainly cloudy	q	Squally weather
d	Drizzling, or light rain	w	Rainy weather, or continuous rain
e	Wet air, without rain	s	Snow, snowy weather, or snow falling
f	Fog, or foggy weather	t	Thunder
g	Gloomy, or dark, stormy-looking weather	u	Ugly appearance, or threatening weather
h	Hail	v	Variable weather
l	Lightning	w	Wet, or heavy dew
m	Misty weather	z	Hazy weather

Visibility:

0= Prominent objects not visible at 50 yards.

1= Prominent objects not visible at 200 yards.

2= Prominent objects not visible at 500 yards.

3= Prominent objects not visible at ½ mile.

4= Prominent objects not visible at 1 miles.

5= Prominent objects not visible at 2 miles.

6= Prominent objects not visible at 4 miles.

7= Prominent objects not visible at 7 miles.

8= Prominent objects not visible at 20 30 nautical miles

9= Prominent objects visible above 20 30 nautical miles

Cloud Codes and Definitions		
Ci.	Cirrus	Isolated feather clouds, of fine fibrous texture; “Mares’ tails.”
Ci.-S.	Cirro-Stratus	Fine whitish veil, giving a whitish appearance to the sky; often produces halos, “Cirrus haze.”
Ci.-Cu.	Cirro-Cumulus	Small, fleecy white balls and wisps, without shades, arranged in groups, and often in lines; “Mackerel sky.”
A.-Cu.	Alto-Cumulus	Larger white or grayish balls, with shaded portions, in flocks or rows, often so close that edges meet.
S.-Cu.	Strato-Cumulus	A succession of rolls of dark cloud which frequently cover the whole sky. The characteristic cloud of storm areas, especially of the forepart of those areas.
N. Nb.	Nimbus	Rain cloud. A thick layer of dark clouds without shape, from which continuous rain is falling. Cirro-Stratus or Alto-Stratus is seen through the breaks. Low-flying fragments are known as “scud.”
Cu.	Cumulus	Thick clouds whose summits are domes with protuberances, but whose bases are flat, “Woolpack” clouds.
Cu.-N. Cu. Nb.	Cumulo-Nimbus	Thundershower clouds. Mountainous clouds surrounded at top by veil of false cirrus, and below by nimbus-like masses of cloud.
S.	Stratus	Horizontal sheet of lifted fog.

Note: Cloud cover is estimated in 10ths. “Amount” of 2 is therefore read as “sky 2/10 covered.”

Sea Condition		
0	No swell	Calm or slight sea
1	Moderate swell	
2	Heavy swell	
3	No swell	Moderate sea.
4	Moderate swell	
5	Heavy swell	
6	Rather rough sea	
7	Rough sea	
8	Very rough sea	
9	Mountainous sea	