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USS *Hannibal* (AG-1)

USS *Hannibal* (AG-1) was launched 9 March 1898 as the 1,785 GRT steamer *Joseph Holland* of London. The ship was laid down at as North Dock yard hull 143 for F. S. Holland, London, by J. Blumer & Company at Sunderland, England. Completion was in April 1898.^{[1][4][note 1]}

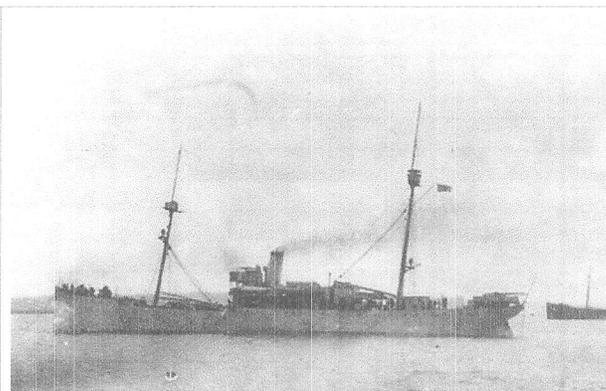
On 16 April 1898 the ship was purchased by the United States Navy and renamed *Hannibal*. She was one of the very few ships to serve in the U.S. Navy in the Spanish–American War, World War I and World War II. She was commissioned on 7 June 1898 with Commander Harrison Gray Otis Colby (USNA 1867) in command.^[5]

During the Spanish–American War, *Hannibal* participated in the Puerto Rico Campaign. On one occasion she and three other US ships bombarded the Spanish positions at the Battle of Fajardo.^[6] The ship was awarded The Spanish Campaign Medal and her officers and men were issued the Spanish Campaign badge for 1898 service.^[7]

From June 1898 – May 1908, *Hannibal* served in the Collier Service along the Atlantic coast. After an overhaul in 1908, she continued in the Collier Service with her base in New England for nearly three years. *Hannibal* was decommissioned on 15 August 1911.^[5]

She was recommissioned on 16 October 1911 and was assigned to the U.S. Survey Squadron to make depth soundings and surveys in preparation for the opening of the Panama Canal. Hydrographic surveys continued in the Caribbean until 1917, including operations in Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Cuba.^[5]

With the advent of World War I, *Hannibal* operated with the Patrol Force of the Atlantic Fleet. After an overhaul in early 1918, she became a tender to submarine chasers at Plymouth, England. *Hannibal* served in English waters until December, when she



Brest, France, circa. 1918–1919

History



United States

Name	<i>Joseph Holland</i> (1898) <i>Hannibal</i> (1898—1945)
Namesake	<u>Hannibal</u>
Builder	J. Blumer & Company, Sunderland, England
Yard number	143 ^[1]
Launched	9 March 1898 ^[1]
Completed	April 1898 ^[1]
Acquired	16 April 1898
Commissioned	7 June 1898
Decommissioned	20 August 1944
Reclassified	"AG-1" (July 1920)
Honors and awards	Spanish Campaign badge
Fate	Sunk as target 1 March 1945
General characteristics ^{[2][3]}	
Type	<u>Collier</u> <u>Hydrographic survey vessel</u>
Tonnage	1918: 1,109 <u>NRT</u> 1938: 5,056 <u>GRT</u>

sailed for the Azores via Gibraltar as a sub-chaser escort. In early 1919, she resumed sub-tender duties, and visited England, France, and Portugal returning to the United States in August escorting subchasers. The ship served in the Caribbean before lay up in mid-1919.^{[5][8]}

Hannibal remained in reserve during which she was classified as a "miscellaneous auxiliary" in July 1920 with the hull number AG-1 at Philadelphia until 9 February 1921, when she sailed for Cuba to resume survey operations which lasted until 1930. During the next decade *Hannibal* surveyed waters near Trinidad, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and the Panama Canal Zone.^{[5][8]}

In 1933, *Hannibal* and *Gannet* were the first U.S. Navy vessels to collect dynamic sounding data in which depth and oceanographic data were collected in one sounding and analyzed aboard.^[9] After serving the U.S. Navy for 42 years, 28 of which had been dedicated to supporting^[10] the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office, *Hannibal* was replaced by *Bowditch* in 1940.^[9]

During World War II, she operated out of Norfolk, Virginia in the Chesapeake Bay degaussing range. *Hannibal* was decommissioned on 20 August 1944 and was sunk as a bombing target on 1 March 1945, in the Chesapeake Bay, just to the northwest of Smith Island, Maryland.^[5]

A target hulk placed at the general location of *Hannibal's* sinking was referred to as *Hannibal*. That target lasted 21 years before it was largely obliterated. In 1966, the Navy brought in a second target ship, the *American Mariner*, a disused World War II Liberty ship, and sunk it next to the previous target. Although the *American Mariner* is currently the U.S. Navy's only active live-fire target ship in the Chesapeake Bay, by tradition it keeps the name of the original target ship on that site and is still referred to as the *Hannibal*.^[11]

	2,957 <u>NRT</u>
Displacement	1918: 4,000 <u>long tons</u> (4,100 t) 1938: 3,550 <u>long tons</u> (3,610 t)
Length	274 ft 1 in (83.54 m) overall 263 ft 4 in (80.26 m) <u>between perpendiculars</u>
Beam	39 ft 3 in (11.96 m) <u>load water line</u>
Draft	1918: 17 ft 7 in (5.36 m) <u>mean</u> 1938: 15 ft 6 in (4.72 m) <u>full load</u>
Depth	20 ft (6.1 m)
Installed power	2 single end boilers (propulsion & auxiliary power) 2 x 10kw, 1 5kw electric generating sets
Propulsion	Steam, vertical triple expansion, 1,100 ihp
Speed	9 kn (10 mph; 17 km/h)
Complement	306
Armament	As collier: 1 × 4 in (100 mm) gun, 2 × 3 in (76 mm) guns, 8 × <u>.50 cal (12.7 mm) machine guns</u> 1918: none 1938: 1 <u>4-inch/50-caliber gun</u> , 2 X <u>3-inch/50-caliber gun</u>
Notes	Purchased for \$147,941

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- [American Defense Service Medal](#)
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Footnotes

1. The newly sold *Hannibal* is in the same register under Steamers "H" (<https://books.google.com/books?id=DnM-AQAAMAAJ&pg=PP752#v=onepage&q&f=false>).

References

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5. Naval History And Heritage Command (14 July 2015). "Hannibal" (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/h/hannibal.html>). *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. Naval History And Heritage Command. Retrieved 1 April 2021.
6. Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1898 (<https://books.google.com/books?id=UStHAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA651>) (Report). Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. 1898. p. 651.
7. Naval History And Heritage Command (28 April 2017). "The Spanish Campaign Medal" (<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/awards/service-campaign/usn-spanish-campaign-medal.html>). *Decorations and Awards*. Naval History And Heritage Command. Retrieved 1 April 2021.
8. Naval Historical Center (Naval History And Heritage Command) (16 November 2004). "USS Hannibal (1898-1945, later AG-1)" (<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/OnlineLibrary/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-h/ag1.htm>). HyperWar, archive of NHC "Online Library of Selected Images". Retrieved 1 April 2021.

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10. Bryan, G. S. (1940). "Oceanographic activities of the Hydrographic Office and the United States Navy during 1939". *Transactions, American Geophysical Union*. **21** (2): 333–339. Bibcode:1940TrAGU..21..333B (<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1940TrAGU..21..333B>). doi:10.1029/TR021i002p00333 (<https://doi.org/10.1029%2FTR021i002p00333>).
11. Blakely, Stephen. "Strafing Chesapeake Bay's Target ship" (<https://www.soundingsonline.com/news/strafing-chesapeake-bays-target-ship>). *Soundings*. Soundings Publications LLC. Retrieved 1 April 2021.
 - *This article incorporates text from the public domain Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.*

External links

- *USS Hannibal* (1898–1945, later AG-1) (<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-h/ag1.htm>)
 - LeRoy R. Horstman's *USS Hannibal* (AG-1) Photo Album (Naval Historical Center Photographic Lot # NHF-187-H) (<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/albums/nhf187h/nhf187h.htm>)
 - NavSource: *USS Hannibal* (AG-1) ex *USS Hannibal* (1898–1921) (<http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/49/49001.htm>)
 - Navy Survey Ship (AGS) Designator Listing (http://patriot.net/~eastlnd2/O_hydro.htm)
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