

Minesweeping Feature

Halifax

August 1943

Healy

An eastern Canadian port – Even nerve-wracking strain and long hours didn't prevent humor from popping up during the Navy's recent minesweeping operations when Germany tried to bottle up Halifax Harbor.

The best story of all was told by the First Lieutenant of a tiny magnetic minesweeper. Here's how he told it:

“We were part of a flotilla sweeping through a thick, soupy fog. Visibility was bad. Suddenly we discovered we were off our course. And just as suddenly we exploded a mine close enough to nearly blow us out of the sea.

“A moment later the senior escort ship signalled for a report and our skipper replied:

“ ‘Off our course, but by guess and by God – we got a mine’ .”