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**Engineering Report No. 8**

**ON**

**THE EFFECT OF PAINT UPON THE TRANSMISSIBILITY**

**OF A RESILIENT MOUNTING—TESTED WITH**

**IMPROVED APPARATUS**

**Engineering Report No. 8**

**on**

**THE EFFECT OF PAINT UPON THE TRANSMISSIBILITY  
OF A RESILIENT MOUNTING—TESTED WITH  
IMPROVED APPARATUS**

**Contract N7onr-32904  
Project NR-264-OC3**

**"Resilient Mountings for Reciprocating and Rotating Machinery"**

**Sponsored by**

**Department of the Navy  
Office of Naval Research**

**Mechanical Engineering Department  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Technology Center  
Chicago 16, Illinois**

**Dated: May 28, 1954**

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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This research program was performed under the direction of the undersigned with the assistance of Messrs. O. E. Curth and R. A. Einveck.

Respectfully submitted,



Professor Chester A. Arents  
Project Director

## I. INTRODUCTION

### Background

Machinery units with their resilient mountings are sometimes located where it is easier to paint them than to avoid painting them. Consequently, they receive a coat of paint if precautionary measures are not taken to avoid this practice. The question naturally arises: Does a painted resilient mounting have the same isolation efficiency as an unpainted mounting? This report contains data on a mounting having successive coats of paint, excluding aging.

### Scope

Laboratory tests were scheduled to determine the effect of paint on the transmissibility characteristics of a resilient mounting. A Lord 204PH35 mounting was chosen for these tests because its transmissibility had been checked many times [1, 2]<sup>1</sup>. The mounting was tested prior to the application of paint, and then after each successive coat of paint.

The paint used in these tests was obtained from the U.S. Naval Reserve Training Center in Chicago, Ill. The paint is identified as follows: Enamel-Internal White Gloss; P-336-N; Mfd NFK KSY; Ports. Va; B-I- 3/53.

The transmissibility tests were made with an improved apparatus, which was developed by IIT personnel. As an aid to other investigations in this field, this improved apparatus is described in this report.

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<sup>1</sup>Numbers in brackets refer to bibliography

## II. PROCEDURE

### Transmissibility Tests on a Painted Resilient Mounting

A Lord 204PH35 resilient mounting was chosen for this test and was assembled in the improved test apparatus shown in Fig. 1. It was allowed to drift to its static equilibrium position...a period of approximately 2 weeks. The sequence of transmissibility tests is shown in Table 1.

TABLE I -- Sequence of Transmissibility

Chronological Order of Tests in Days	Remarks
1 st	Tested unpainted mounting and then applied first coat of paint.
20 th*	Tested with 1-coat of paint and applied 2-coat.
35 th	Tested with 2-coat of paint and applied 3-coat.
37 th	Tested with 3-coat and applied 4-coat.
47 th	Tested with 4-coat and applied 5-coat.
52 nd	Tested with 5-coat.

\*Paint was not completely dry on rubber portion of the mounting. Subsequent tests were run with dry paint.

Two Massa Model 117 accelerometers were used to obtain the mounting's transmissibility characteristics. One was used to indicate the motion of the driven side of the mounting, and the other was used to

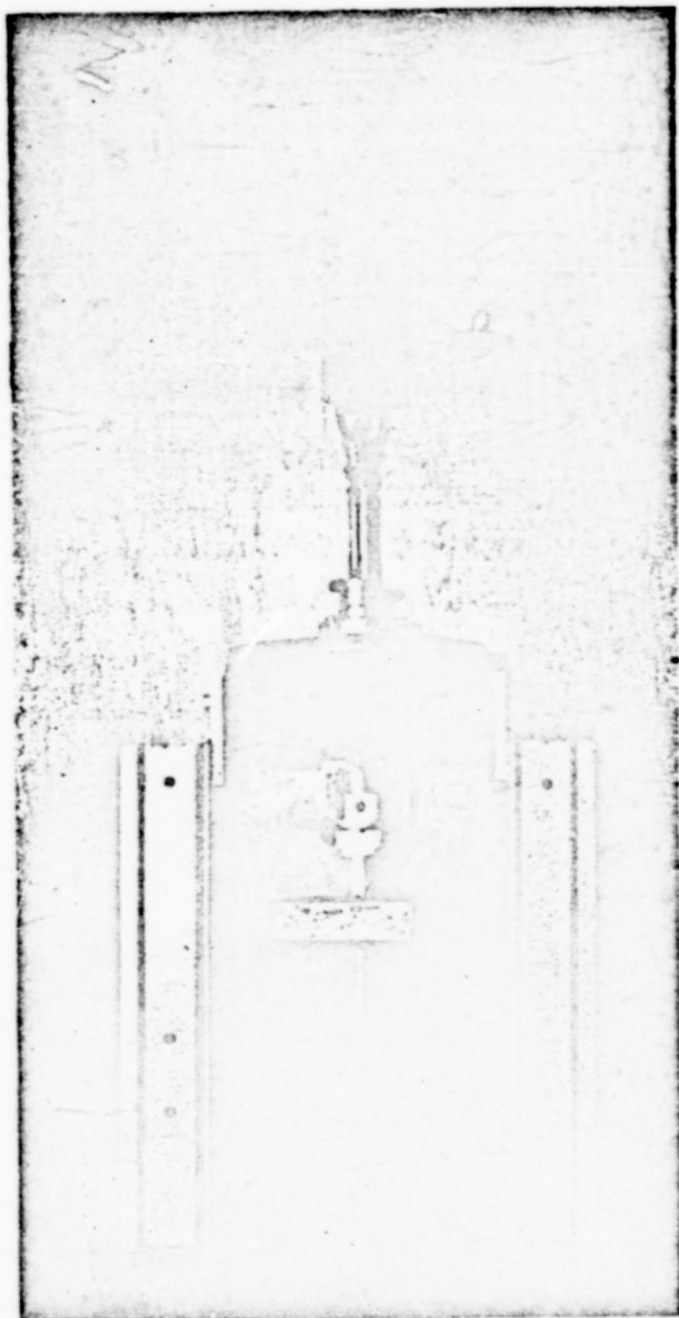


Figure 1

Photograph of Improved Testing Apparatus

indicate the motion of the mass which was the load for the mounting. It has been shown that the ratio of the two accelerometer readings is the transmissibility of an isolator with a rigid support [1, 2, 3]. The difference in the two readings expressed in decibels is the transmissibility in db. Readings were taken with Ballantine Model 300 voltmeters equipped, when necessary, with Ballantine Model 220A decade amplifiers. The sinusoidal wave form was checked by means of a Lissajous figure on a cathode ray oscilloscope.

#### Improved Apparatus for Transmissibility Tests

Since Engineering Reports 2, 3, and 4 were issued, [1, 2, 4] a new suspension system was developed for testing resilient mountings. This improved method of testing mountings is presented here to aid other investigators in simplifying their test apparatus. The present apparatus is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Unlike the previous method of testing isolators [1, 2] the new method eliminates most of the superstructure above the electromagnetic drive, including the guy wires and three of the four suspension springs, by hanging the isolator with its rated load below the electromagnetic driver, however, the instrumentation is the same as the previous method. This gives a stable system, which permits one to abandon the use of guy wires. A single spring holds the apparatus in the static equilibrium position and adjustments are easily made. This single supporting spring can easily be changed without disturbing the resilient mounting and its mass. The ease of changing springs is a considerable advantage, because spring resonances sometimes cause disturbances at certain frequencies, which eliminates taking data at these points in the frequency spectrum.

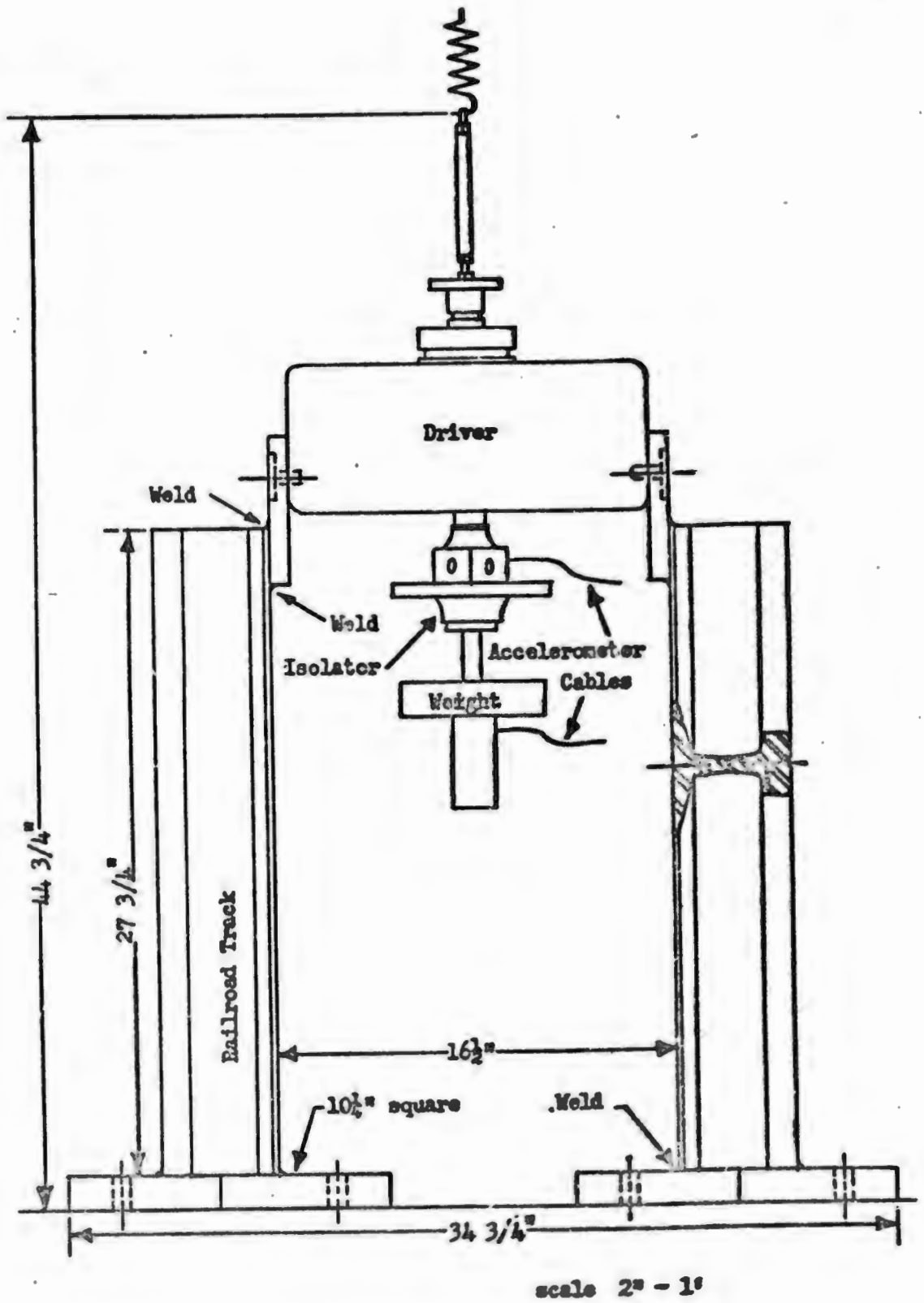


Fig. 2. Improved Transmissibility Testing Apparatus

If a spring is substituted having a different spring constant and dimensions, the resonances or disturbances are shifted in frequency, making it possible to obtain data.

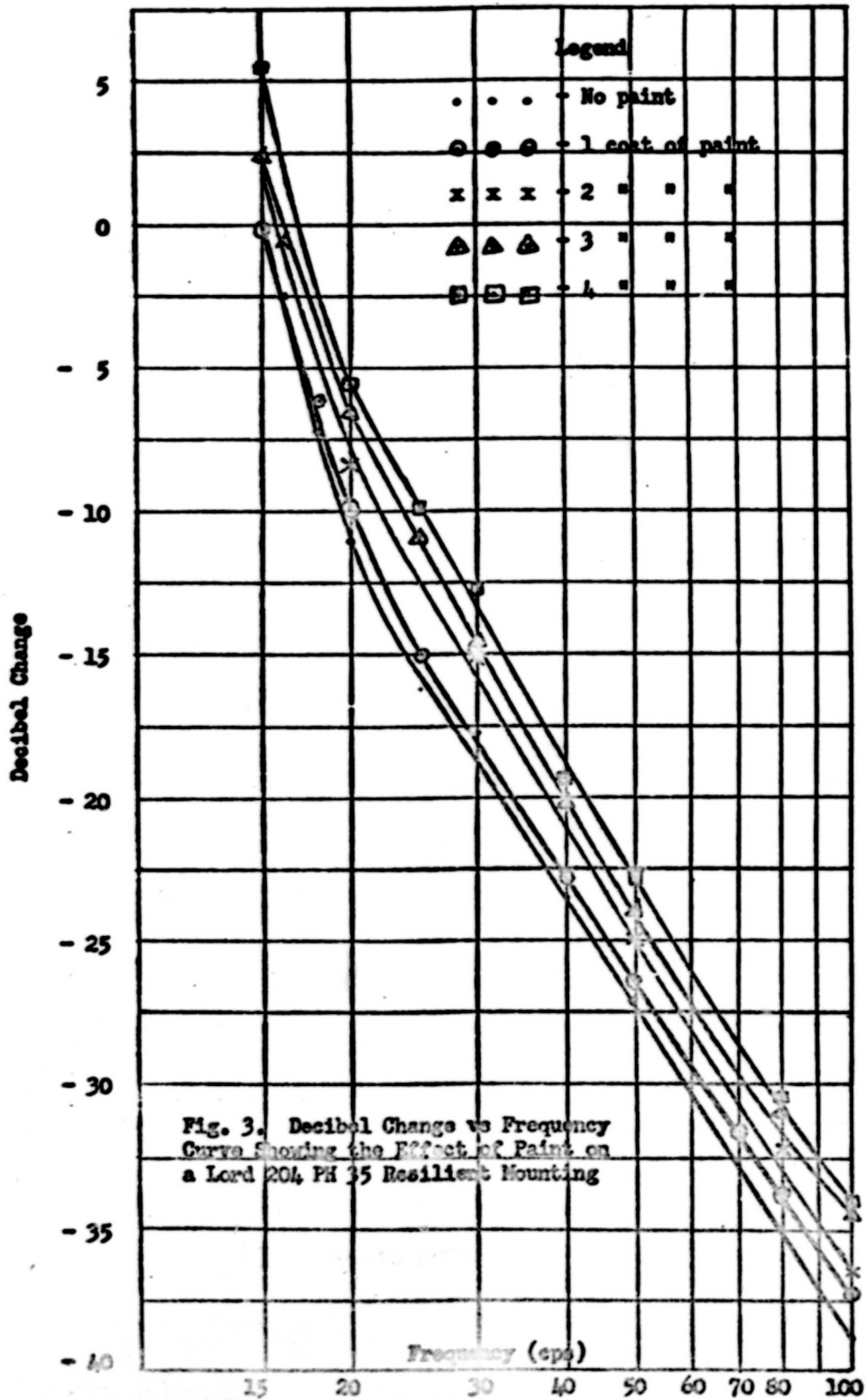
When hanging the mass from the isolator as shown in Fig. 1, it is noted that the isolator actually has a tensile load rather than the common compression load. Many isolators are symmetrical and either type of loading will give the same results. If a resilient mounting has been designed specifically for compression-type loads, one can make an adapter to load the mounting in compression as originally intended by the manufacturer.

### III. DISCUSSION OF TESTS RESULTS

Each of the first four coats of paint stiffened the mount slightly and shifted the resonance point to a slightly higher frequency, see Figs. 3 and 4. This reduced the mounting's effectiveness up to the first wave resonance, since an increase in the resonant frequency decreases the attenuation for any given frequency where attenuation occurs. This increase in the mounting's transmissibility occurs in the low frequency range, where every effort should be made to maintain as low a transmissibility as possible. Therefore, painting a resilient mounting has an undesirable effect.

The data taken for the fifth coat of paint was found to lie between that taken for 3 and 4 coats of paint. Examination of the unit revealed a crack in the coating of paint on the mounting at the point of maximum strain. This partially nullified the effect of the paint. At this point further testing ceased.

It had been planned to remove the mounting from the apparatus, keeping it under load, and allowing it to dry thoroughly, before performing a final test, which would show the effect of aged or hardened paint. This could not be done however, as the paint had peeled away from the rubber at the crack.



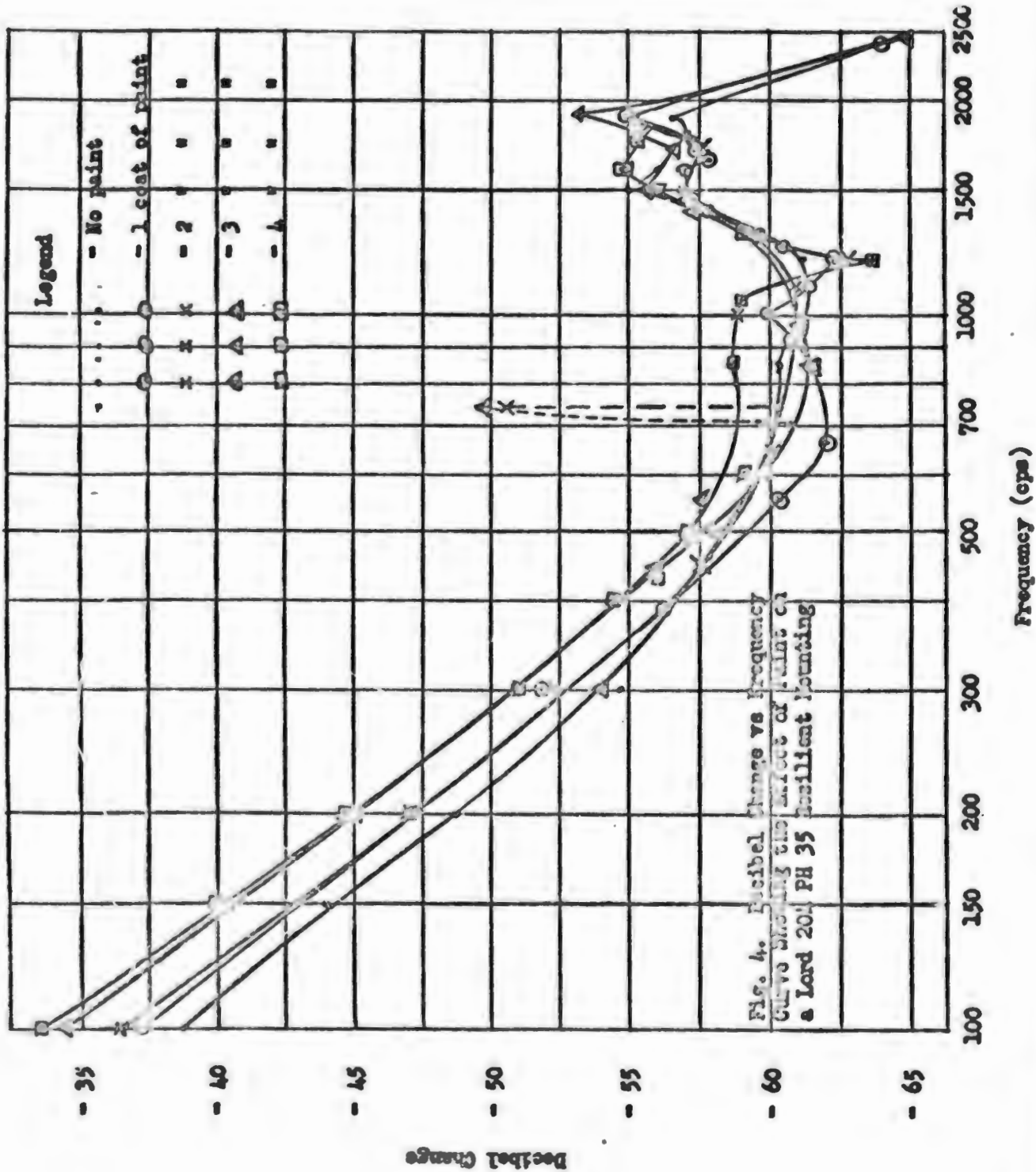


Fig. 4. Decibel Change vs Frequency Curves Showing the Effect of Paint on a Lord 201 PH 35 Resilient Mounting

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. The data taken after each coat of paint had dried indicates an increase in transmissibility of about 1 db for each coat applied. This increase, which may be attributed to an increase in stiffness, occurred between the vibration resonance and the frequency at which wave resonances occur. In other words, the paint effectively shifted the entire curve to the right and increased the transmissibility, which allows a greater portion of the disturbing force to reach the foundation.
2. The results given here are, of course, valid only for the type and size mounting tested. The effect of paint on a mounting rated at several hundred pounds might prove less objectionable, but time did not permit this datum to be taken. However, we may conclude that the effect of painting a mounting is to add to the stiffness of the mounting and increase its transmissibility. This effect is undesirable, and painting of resilient mountings should be avoided.
3. The improved method, outlined in this report, for testing resilient mountings to determine their transmission characteristics allows one to make these tests in a fraction of the time previously taken.

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