

1644

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

ACC

10000/109/504

MINE CLEARANCE
JAN. 1945 - MAR.

1645

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

10000/109/504

MINE CLEARANCE & BOMB DISPOSAL
JAN. 1945 - MAR. 1946

785017

Ex Comm.

61. Re see 60 for info. This came in after you had left. ^{sent by} ~~M to R.C.~~
25/26/77

62. Grand ~~Final~~ 18/10. 64.
63 to w/o. Navy S/C have been requested to forward answer to R.C.V.R copy to this office. It is understood they are bringing pressure to bear on the Ministry of Defence.

65. 18/10.

66. ~~Ex Comm.~~ ^{insert!} 65 to w/o - a very satisfactory letter, R.C.V.R. has a copy. 29/10.

27/12.

Wm cc 3423

69

A/Cso 24.1.1972

Re see 68.67 for info: Navy S/C will keep me informed as to action taken on the day after.

Wm 14/2

70

Note Navy S/C has checked with Min. of Defence and are writing a letter to Col R.C. (copy to us) BV 24/2 of letter not arrived. 18/8/72

71

Note

Letter to ... 5.10

785017

64.
604-63 for info. Navy S/C have been requested
to forward answer to R.C.V.C. copy to this office.
It is understood they are bringing pressure
to bear on the Ministry of Finance.

H.S. 18/10.

C/S Ex. Com.

66.

65 for info - a very satisfactory letter, R.C.V.C. V.R.
has a copy. 29/10.

500

27/12.

69

3423

A/Cso J.S. 15/12

Re see 68.67 for info. Navy S/C will keep me
informed as to action taken on the day after.

14/2

70

Note

Navy S/C has checked with Min. of Finance and
are writing a letter to Col T.C. (copy to us)
BV 24/2 of letter not arrived. 18/12

71

Note

Letter being signed today, will be down
with us tomorrow (I hope): 80 28/2

A/Cso J.S. 21/3

73

18/2

Ref ff 67-68 & mins 69-70-71 - at least at f 72

18/2

785017

cfr. Please see folio 43, in reply to 39 -
for written answer. PSTK

46
Where is LAC 134?

47.

Capt. Amundson

you agreed to produce a copy of LAC 134, asked for it

minutes 40.
Pskola.
49.
L.A.C. 13w is at 48 Pskola
Ogg.

2011

51

Chgo. Lelio 50 for information
Buck. 1915

Dec. 1919
 51
 Dec. 1919
 54
 Dec. 1919
 54

22.5%

2005-2009

T=x. Conn. 58.
C50/P 59 was pre 20 W. in reply to P 56
submitted for signature. ✓

File

785017

Capt. Conway: you agreed to produce a copy of LAC 134, action for in

minutes 46

Revised.

CSP.

49.

LAC 134 is at 48 minutes 46 40 45

Revised 2/14/5

51

CSP. This is for information

Revised 19/9

51

Revised 2/14.

Revised 5/10/1

3422

CSP. Info 53 for information: no action

Revised 2/14

Fix. Com.

58.

P 57 pre 40 20 10. in reply to P 56

submitter for signature.

Revised 2/14

Revised

20/10

29

CSD

28 replies to your 26. *Eh*

19/6/45

30

Executive Commissioner.

Folio 28 refers to the report in the Digest of the Home Press that mine clearance was not progressing as quickly as it should because it was being directed by officers who didn't know the job (Folio 26A)

19 June 45.

MS 19/6

Eh C.S.O.

Examine

37

~~C.S.O.~~ Please see at 26, Gen. Browning's reply to 34 on the use of the

Station Army for mine clearing ³⁵ Q2X318

Suggestion of X is a good one. I will find out

Why we are not using the boys *Eh 21/8.*

42

C.S.O. Folio 40 for information. ~~nothing is done at present~~ *3422*

The other officers mentioned in para 3. are taken from Admin. Units and

Br. the units *20/6/45*

h/19

117.

19/6/45

30

Executive Commissioner.

Folio 28 refers to the report in the Digest of the Rome Press that mine clearance was not progressing as quickly as it should because it was being directed by officers who didn't know the job (folio 26.)

19 June 45.

MS 19/6

SL

C.E.O.

Ex Line

37.

Please see at 36, Gen. Browning's reply to 34 on the use of the

Italian Army for mine clearing ^{25.} ROK 31/8

Supporter at X is a good one. I will find out why we are not having the boys ^{25.} 21/8.

37.

42.

C.E.O. Folio 40 for information. ~~nothing is done at moment~~ 3423

The other officers mentioned in para 3. are those from Admin. Units and Br. the units ROK 45.

21/8

DATE	PAGE
10 MAY 45	23
CAS. Ref your minute 22 21 I have been unable to locate a letter a copy of the same as the letter referred to. Lett at 22 has then been prepared for your approval and signature. At the same time letters are being posted to AFHQ in some detail, saying authority of the release of new equipment and transport of the use of St. Pauli Amara service, and also of the use of St. Pauli Amara service in combat function. L.G.S.C. <i>R. P. Langley</i>	
12 May	24
Ex Comm further action - after folio 22 - depends on your deliberations with MNIA as to responsibility for Mine Clearance. Meanwhile CAS have AFHQ 14 some details and transport from AFHQ CAS. 1-161 25. C.O.C. Land Forces Sub Com. Your staff officer (Lt Col Ingles) will have represented my view before on the desirability of the Fleet Army assuming full responsibility for mine clearance & of being afforded the services of suitable units for the work. May 7	
	25

1652

1653

785017

Ref your mail 21

I have been unable to locate a letter a copy of the same has been referred to. Letter dated 22 has been forwarded to you for your approval and signature.

At the same time letters are being forwarded to AFHQ in more detail, regarding authority for the release of our equipment and transport for the use of St. Francis Chinese service, and also for the use of St. Francis also now occupied in combat functions.

L.G.S.C.

R. R. Kays

24

Ex Comm further action - after folio 22 - depends on your deliberations with MNIA as to responsibility for Mine Clearance. Meanwhile CAS have some deliveries and transport from AFHQ.

D.A. Bonham (last) 1-10/1 CAS

3425

25

C.O.C. Land Forces Sub Com

Your staff officer (Lt Col Ingledew) will have represented my views before on the desirability of the Chinese Army assuming full responsibility for mine clearance & of being afforded the services of capable units for the work. May I have your views?

DS/13/5

Executive Commissioner

Please see my A.O. 19 of 17 May 1950, File 851 attached

MS/21N
d. Brown
May 1950

17 May

12 May

785017

Excerpts

16

Letters to

(1) Affluent.

(2) S. J.

for your signature.

See folios 17 & 18.

16/3

Re

17

for record

~~C. S.~~ V.P. C.A.S.

For action. 17/5/68.

Col Gripps. #8 ~~21~~ 21

1. I believe the Armistice Terms recently signed at A.F. 401. entitled us to use surrendered German troops for mine clearance. You should consult copy in E.C.S. possession. If this is so I suggest you prepare letter to 15 Army Gp stating where you would like them used.
2. With regard to equipment (allied) I doubt if A.F. 401. will allow German troops to use

1655

785017

(1) A/President.

(2) S. J.

for your signature.

See folios 17-18.

16/3

Re

17

16/3

C. J. V.P. C.A.S.

For action. 17/5/56.

Col Snippets. # 21

1. I believe the Armistice Terms recently signed at A.F. 40r. either is to use surrendered German troops for mine clearance. You should consult copy in E.C.S. possession. If this is so I suggest you prepare letter to 15th Army G.P. stating where you would like them used.

2 With regard to equipment (allied) I doubt if A.F. 40r. will allow German troops to use Allied devices which work of which are in secret list, but they might allow your Italian mine clearance experts to do so. I suggest you draft letter to A.F. 40r. 17 May 56.

Yours

785017

CSO

CA Sec intend to raise this matter
at COS meeting 30 Jan 45
3/11/45
NDR raised 11/11/45
Raised 2/2/45

CSF

Please see 6 for information.

Header

9 Feb 45

11/11/45
11/12/45

V.P. CAS

9

Please let me have a report (quite short) by

12/3

10/

To. Executive Commissioner.

By. minute 10. report is forwarded herewith

R.R. Lippert - 3418/4/45
Ch. Section

12 Mar. 1945
Recd 1800 hrs. 11/45

14

Ex Comm

Excellent report on

clearance. If you agree

to it?

785017

CST

Please see 6 for information.

Shaden *Cap*

9 Feb 45

11/12
DR/4/2

V.F.C.A.S.

9

Please let me have a report (quite short) by

DR/15/3

12/3

10

To. Executive Committee

Ref. minute 10. report is forwarded herewith

R.R. Lipp *3418*
Ch. Section

12 Mar. *9*
Reed Brooks. *9*

14

Ex Curr

Excellent report on current
clearance. If you agree I will
hand original list back to Mr.
Wyndham in the A.P.

15 *13/3*

- 1 Tea
- 2 Send this to G & S for info. C.O.S. send

DR/13/3

1653

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

JJTM

JJEC

1009

98

Ex Com.

75

FROM COUNTHAN AIS TRIESTE FOR GENERAL RELEASE

TRIESTE MARCH 20 (UEN)

MAR 21 1946

10,000 MINES IN MIRAMARE CASTLE

THE FAMOUS MIRAMARE CASTLE OF TRIESTE, ONCE THE ABODE OF MAXIMILIAN OF HAPSBURG AND HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE CHARLOTTE, REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE TO APPROACH, AS THE GERMANS LAID IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS THREE VICIOUS UNCHARTED MINIFIELDS, ALL PLACED IN DIFFICULT TERRAIN. SO FAR, SOME 10,000 MINES WERE REMOVED FROM THE CASTLE GROUNDS, AND SEVEN PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES IN MIRAMARE AS A RESULT OF GERMAN LAND-MINES.

IN VERGIA GIULIA'S BOMB'A"THE MINE REMOVAL IS THE WORK OF AN ITALIAN UNIT, WORKING UNDER THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR, WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MINIFIELDS. SO FAR, THIS UNIT LIFTED 35,000 GERMAN MINES, MADE HARMLESS 900 AIRCRAFT BOMBS AND DESTROYED 300 TONS OF MUNITIONS AT THE COST OF 26 LIVES AND 12 OTHER CASUALTIES.

3417

W/T L.W.KIRKLAND 1105.

(CAPT K)

PA 2/3

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1009 86 74
Office of the Flag Officer,
Liaison, Italy,
ROME.

5th March, 1946.

MAR 7 1946

No. F.O.L.I. 836/66.

UNITED LIAISON OFFICER, LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP,
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION, C.M.F., APO 394.
(Copy to:- Office of the Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission).

MINES CLEARANCE AT IMPERIA. 72

With reference to paragraph 2 of my letter
No. F.O.L.I. 836/66, dated 27th February, 1946, the
following information has now been received:

ONEGLIA - search for ground mines has been carried
out. Two have been removed. None remain.

PORTO SAN MAURIZIO - searching is now in progress.
One mine has been removed. It is believed
that one remains.

(signed) S. N. BLACKBURN

3416

for REAR ADMIRAL.

(CPT D)

7/3

PH. 7/3
S. N. BLACKBURN

Office of the Flag Officer,
Italy and Liaison,
ROME.

27th February, 1946.

No. P.C.I.L. 836/66.

CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER, LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP,
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION, C.M.F., APO 394.
(Copy to: - Office of the Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission).

MINE CLEARANCE AT IMPERIA.

With reference to your letter Ref. 20/53, dated 11th February, 1946, the Italian Ministry of Marine has already raised the question of the clearance of the approaches to the port of Imperia, and their request that a higher priority be given to sweeping in this area was forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station. The Commander-in-Chief in his reply, stated that approval could not be given for this, but pointed out that an inshore channel already existed between Savona and San Remo. About a week ago a flotilla of H.M. Minesweepers carried out a check sweep in this channel, thereby confirming its safety for navigation. These same sweepers are now engaged on a check sweep roughly between San Lorenzo and San Remo, and the completion of this operation in the very near future will open up a safe approach to Imperia from seaward.

2. A report on the work of Italian Mine Disposal Units in the Gulf of Genoa is being called for, and information relative to the harbour of Imperia will be passed to you on receipt.

3. Details concerning mine-lays and sweeping operations in the Gulf of Genoa can be obtained from the Italian Naval Authority in La Spezia.

3415

Enl. Dubois

Office of the Flag Officer,
Italy and Liaison,
ROME.

27th February, 1946.

No. P.O.I.L. 835/66.

MAR 1 1946

CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER, LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP,
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION, C.M.F., APO 394.
(Copy to:- Office of the Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission).

MINE CLEARANCE AT IMPERIA.

13
With reference to your letter Ref. 50/63, dated 11th February, 1946, the Italian Ministry of Marine has already raised the question of the clearance of the approaches to the port of Imperia, and their request that a higher priority be given to sweeping in this area was forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station. The Commander-in-Chief in his reply, stated that approval could not be given for this, but pointed out that an inshore channel already existed between Savona and San Remo. About a week ago a flotilla of H.M. Minesweepers carried out a check sweep in this channel, thereby confirming its safety for navigation. These same sweepers are now engaged on a check sweep roughly between San Lorenzo and San Remo, and the completion of this operation in the very near future will open up a safe approach to Imperia from seaward.

2. A report on the work of Italian Mine Disposal Units in the Gulf of Genoa is being called for, and information relative to the harbour of Imperia will be passed to you on receipt.

3. Details concerning mine-lays and sweeping operations in the Gulf of Genoa can be obtained from the Italian Naval Authority in La Spezia.

3415

S. H. DeBenedictis

for REAR ADMIRAL.

(1970)

1662

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1009

68

11th February, 1946.

FEB 14 1946

REFERENCE: 10/63

SUBJECT: Mine clearance of BOMBAY Harbour.

TO: Office of the Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission.

1. I attach herewith copy of a report received from Major
C. R. KOEFMAN which is passed to you for information and any
action you consider necessary.

W. Turner-Coles

W. TURNER-COLES.
Lt-Col.
Chief Liaison Officer.

See 7/77

see M69570

EC DIST - 14 Feb
ACTION - NAY S/C
INFO - EC

3413

ep B.V. 10/2 B.V.

9/14/2
(CAPT B)

18/2
10/2

18/2

1663

67

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
LIGURIA

11 February 1946

REFERENCE : AO/63

SUBJECT : Mine clearance of IMPERIA harbor.

TO : C.L.O.

1. Officers previously stationed in IMPERIA having called my attention to the need of opening Porto S. MAURIZIO and Porto ONIGLIA, the two small ports comprising the Port of IMPERIA, I took pains to investigate the situation.

2. There is no doubt as to the need for re-opening the port. IMPERIA has no hinterland and depends on sea and land transportation to bring food and raw materials. Furthermore it appears that the port could be easily re-opened.

The entrances to the ports are unobstructed and there is little debris in the ports. It is doubtful if the waters are mined to any extent. The German forces used the port and nearby waters until the last days of their stay. Only recently a French flotilla anchored for the night in one of the ports. The need for assurance of the safety of the waters remains, however.

3. The prefect of IMPERIA talked to the Minister of the Navy and was told that the Italian Navy had neither the means nor the authority to order the clearance. The Prefect was told that only the Naval Officer Commanding the Mediterranean could act.

4. I suggest that the Executive Commissioner be asked to take the matter up through channels to AMHQ.

3413

G.R. KOOPMAN
Major.
Liaison Officer.

785017

~~1001~~ 1009

22nd December, 1975.

DEC 28 1962

(Copies to: The Navy Sub-Commission,
The Regional Commissioner,
Allied Military Government, Yamanie Region).

63.

2. Perusal of the relevant radio charts would show that in the area between Chioggia and Punta Lagosta there are in fact fewer mines than in the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian Seas, where the larger part of the Italian effort is at present concentrated. There is, however, an Italian mine-sweeping flotilla established in Venice, ready to begin operations in local waters, and it has already been arranged that they shall co-operate with a Czech sweep between Porto Cervo and Chioggia to confirm that the waters are safe for summer and barge traffic from the Po to Venice. Further, Italian Naval Mine and Bomb Disposal Parties have dealt with or are dealing with mines washed ashore unbroken close inshore.

3. Every effort is being made by the British to assist the Italian Navy in expediting any nine clearance in Italian waters. Thirty-two British minesweepers are being transferred on loan free of charge to the Italian Navy, and when these become operational it is expected that a proportion of them will be assigned to the 3412

4. Copies of their correspondence are being forwarded to the Communications-Bureau, Headquarters Station.

Wham!

THE BATHING

785017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

RECEIVED, LINDA OLIVER

(Copies to: The Navy Sub-Commission, The Regional Commission, Allied Military Government, Venetia Region).

MEMO - CINCINNATI AND VENETIA REGION.

3

With reference to the Regional Commission, Allied Military Government, Venetia Region's letter to. RMI/OSC-(C) dated 13th December, 1945, you are informed that the desirability of clearing minefields in the interests of fishing and food production is not overlooked when mine-sweeping operations in Italian waters are decided by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station. These priorities are fixed in accordance with policy established at the Mediterranean Zone meetings of the International Mine-sweeping Board, to which the Italian Navy sends representatives.

2. Pursual of the relevant mine charts would show that in the area between Chioggia and Punta Inverna there are in fact fewer mines than in the Lagoon and Tyrrhenian Seas, where the larger part of the Italian effort is at present concentrated. There is however an Italian mine-sweeping flotilla established in Venice, ready to begin operations in local waters, and it has already been suggested that they shall carry out a sweep sweep between Porto Cervo and Chioggia to confirm that the waters are safe for schooners and large traffic from the Po to Venice. Further, Italian Naval Mine and Barb Disposal Parties have dealt with or are dealing with mines washed ashore or laid close inshore.

3. Every effort is being made by the Royal Navy to assist the Italian Navy in expediting mine clearance in Italian waters. Thirty-two British mine-sweepers are being transferred on loan free of charge to the Italian Navy, and when these become operational it is expected that a proportion of them will be assigned to the 3412

4. Copies of this correspondence are being forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.

W. Hamer

ENCLOSURE

see M.60 PH 10/11

(MISS S)

1666

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1009 46

JKD/zm

B/V

63

HEADQUARTERS
VENETIAN REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

TO : HQ. Allied Commission
Attn: Executive Commissioner

14 Dec. 45.

DEC 18 1945

SUBJECT : Mines - Chioggia and Punta Maestra

FILE NO : RMII/020-(C)

1. I send you herewith attached, a copy of a letter received from Provincial Commissioner, Venezia.
2. I am in full agreement with his proposals and hope that you will be able to induce the Italian Navy to take energetic action in this matter.

W. J. Dunlop

Regional Commissioner

Encl. (1)

B/V 23/11
H. J. Dunlop
Attd P.H.

(Original copy passed to Navy S/C for ACTION.)

See File 65.

3411
See M. 64

PA
12/12
14/12
15/12

de
(MISS 5)

VENEZIA PROVINCE
VENEZIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

To :- Headquarter Venezia Region
Subject :- Mines - Chioggia and Punta Lazzera.
File :- EMII/Ven/96

10th December 1945.

There are a number of mines still between CHIOGGIA and PUNTA LAZZERA. These are now a menace to the fishermen of CHIOGGIA. The situation will be worse when the winter storms come on and release these mines from their moorings. It is feared that they will interfere very seriously with the at present attenuated fishing industry of the place.

I have approached the Royal Navy with a request to clear these mines and have received a reply that they have no mine sweeping facilities at Venice.

They have passed my request to the Italian Ministry of Marine at Venice and recommend that a letter be written direct to the Naval Sub Commission, Headquarters, Allied Commission, requesting them also to bring pressure to bear on the Italian Ministry of Marine.

May the matter be referred to the Naval Sub Commission please. I feel that the clearing of these mines is an important matter in order to :

- a.) Assist the fishing industry of CHIOGGIA and reduce unemployment there,
- b.) Increase the food supply.

R.H. PAXBY, Colonel
Provincial Commissioner
Venezia Province.

3413

1868

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1009 ~~3607~~

(60)

MEMORANDUM

NOV 24 1945

Phone Message from ACLO Ancona received 1745 hrs, 23 Nov.

US tanker CEDAR MILLS loaded 5000 tons fuel oil leaving Ancona for Bari 19 Nov struck floating mine 600 yds from shore - seriously damaged. 10 missing, 3 seriously, 14 slightly injured.

S.H. White

S.H. WHITE Lt Col,
A/VP CA Section

Copy to: Exec Comm
Econ Sec
Transpt
Industry

See in 101

3403
11/26/45

APT 0) 008 24/11

1669

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISS N
APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

59

Ref: 1009/46/50

20 October 1945

Your Excellency,

53

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 5179 concerning the appointment of Capt. JONAS, 1908 as Greek representative to the International Organisation for clearance of mines in European waters.

The interested authorities have been informed.

Yours sincerely,

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

H.E. G. Exiataris,
Greek Delegation to the
Advisory Council for Italy.

Copy to: Civil Affairs Section
MATA
Navy s/c.

3408

PA 12/1

160976
GREEK DELEGATION
TO THE
ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR ITALY

Rome, October 17, 1945

36
OCT 19 1945

No. 5179

Subject: Appointment of Captain P. CONSTAS RHM

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that Captain P. Conostas RHM, Naval Technical Adviser, Greek Delegation to A.C.I., has been appointed by the Greek Admiralty as representative for Greece to the International Allied Committee Rome.

Relative order, as follows:

To: Captain Conostas RHM
In International Allied
Committee Rome.
From: Greek Admiralty Athens
131201B

" British Admiralty have established International Organization for Clearance of mines in European Waters and the presidency of Capt. M/S C-in-C Med. First meeting will be held on 5th November at Naples. You are appointed as representative for Greece."

I would be grateful if you would kindly inform the competent authorities with regard above appointment.

Captain Conostas RHM has been informed accordingly.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Sincerely yours,

G. Exinteris
Ambassador.

Rear Admiral
Ellery Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

Copies to:
C-in-C Med
F.O.I.L. Rome
N.O.I.C. Naples

3407

1674

785017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

NOV 19 1945

No. 5179

Subject: Appointment of Captain P. CONSTAS RHN

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that Captain P. Constas RHN, Naval Technical Adviser, Greek Delegation to A.C.I., has been appointed by the Greek Admiralty as representative for Greece to the International Allied Committee Rome.

Relative order, as follows:

To: Captain Constas RHN
In International Allied Committee Rome.
From: Greek Admiralty Athens
131201B

" British Admiralty have established International Organization for Clearance of mines in European Waters and the presidency of Capt. M/S C-in-C Med. First meeting will be held on 5th November at Naples. You are appointed as representative for Greece."

I would be grateful if you would kindly inform the competent authorities with regard above appointment.

Captain Constas RHN has been informed accordingly.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Sincerely yours,

G. Exintaris
G. Exintaris
Ambassador.

Rear Admiral
Ellery Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

Copies to:
C-in-C Med
F.O.I.L. Rome
N.O.I.C. Naples

3407

(Miss Sampson)

1672
1007
55
AC/53.2/EG

24th September 1945
SEP 24 1945

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance

TO : A.F.H.Q. (G-5 Section).

Reference your G-5:029.744- Italy of 9 September 1945.

1. This Commission agrees that mine clearance should now be treated as a responsibility of the Italian Government. It is also agreed that the decision on whether mine clearance in ITALY should be the responsibility of Civil or Military Government departments should be left to the Italian Government to decide once the Italian Army is handed over to the Italian Government.

2. This Commission also agrees that it should now confine its activities to procuring equipment for mine clearance work, either through normal civil supply channels or as items of military supply through MIA.

3. Land Forces Sub Commission (MIA) will only be concerned with the supply of technical equipment if the work is to be carried out by Military Personnel under the direction of the Ministry for War, the acquisition of military pattern equipment for civilian use should be handled through the normal civilian channels as is at present the case.

Is/ Emily V. Stone

ELDERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Land Forces Sub Commission
(MIA) (Your SB/4/5 of 19 Sep refers)
Ministry of War
Via XX Settembre
Rome

3406

1673

785017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

1009
46

53

Tel. 514 HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Transportation Sub-Commission IM/ga

Our Ref :- AC/541/162/Tn.3. 22 Sept. 1945

SUBJECT :- Minesweeping.

SEP 22 1945

TO :- Navy Sub-Commission, HQ A.C.

50

Your NSC/3597 of 18 Sept.

1. It is considered that minesweeping along the coast between Savona and Ventimiglia should be given a very low priority.
2. The railway from Savona to Ventimiglia was opened on 19 Sept.
3. The Port of Imperia is badly blocked with sunken ships and the port facilities are destroyed; the port is therefore of little value. San Remo was previously used as a harbour for pleasure craft and, although it might be used for schooners, is of no real economic importance.

L.M. Cooper

L.M. COOPER
Lt. Col.

COPY TO :- Executive Commissioner A.C.
HQ, Liguria Region, AMG
Flag Officer Italy & Liaison.

3405
21/9

24/9

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1009.
AC.

(52)

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, A.C. (MMA)

32/4/3

19 Sep 45

TO : C.A. SEC, A.C.

SEP 20 1945

(45)

Ref Memo on Mine Clearance from Executive Commissioner's Office
(Letter No. 1009/45/EC of 15 Sep).

1. It is agreed that the decision on whether Mine Clearance in ITALY should be the responsibility of Civil or Military Government departments should be left to the Italian Government to decide once the Italian Army is handed over to the Italian Government. Until then no change in current procedure is recommended. It is felt that MMA can only concern itself with the supply of technical equipment if the work is to be carried out by Military Personnel under the direction of the Minister for War; the acquisition of military pattern equipment for civilian use should be handled through the normal civilian channels as is at present the case.

D. Browning

Major General
MMA

Copy to: EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER, A.C. ←

RE

SEE F 55

3402

(PAG KUDSLUT)

Put PA 20/9
See 45

PA 20/9

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1009 96
50
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/3597
18 September 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Flag Officer Italy and Liaison.
Subject: Minesweeping.

SEP 19 1945

1. The Navy Sub-Commission has received a request from the Regional Commissioner, Liguria Region, Allied Military Government that the coastal belt from Savona to Ventimiglia be cleared of mines at an early date. The Regional Commissioner, Liguria Region considers that the Province of Imperia would be greatly assisted if coastwise shipping could be started now that goods and coal are arriving in the port of Savona and particularly as the railway in that area is not yet functioning.

2. It is requested that an appropriate priority be assigned for minesweeping the area between Savona and Ventimiglia and that the Navy Sub-Commission be informed of the date when it is anticipated that the clearing may be commenced.

H. St. J. Butler
H. ST. J. BUTLER,
CAPTAIN, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

Copy to:
Executive Commissioner, AC
Civil Affairs Section, AC
Hq. Liguria Region, AMG (Ref: Lig/
HQ/50 of 3 Sept. 1945).

4 F. 52
See 3403
3403

RESTRICTED

100940

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

LAC Airgram 134, dated 10 August 1945

FROM : FHCEG (Concurred FHGDS)

TO : Combined Civil Affairs Committee,
3 C-886 Pentagon Building,
Washington, D.C.

SEP 18 1945

(15 copies)

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance Equipment.

Requisition No. MGS-331-ENG. Rating IV.

Item No.	Nomenclature	Unit	Quantity
1.	Detectors, mine, w/necessary 6 months spare parts.	ea	1,000
2.	Fuse, safety No. 11	ft	10,000
3.	Fuse, instantaneous	ft	90,000
4.	Detonators, No. 8, commercial non-electric	ea	100,000
5.	Fuse lighters	ea	10,000
6.	Explosive cartridges, 4 oz	ea	20,000
7.	Used cable	ft	30,000

1. At the present time availabilities within the theatre to meet this requirement without replacement from Z.I. are as follows:

Item No. 1.

1,000 mine detector sets SCR-625 from US, 600 mine detectors 5/5A from British stocks.

Item No. 2.

5,000 ft US, 5,000 ft British stocks.

Item No. 3.

75,000 ft US, 90,000 ft British stocks.

Item No. 4.

100,000 US stocks.

Item No. 5.

10,000 US, 5,000 British stocks.

3402

8/10 26/9

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Item No. 3.

75,000ft US, 90,000 ft British stocks.

Item No. 4.

100,000 US stocks.

Item No. 5.

10,000 US, 5,000 British stocks.

Item No. 6.

20,000 British stocks.

Item No. 7.

Availability from Salvage Depots to be determined at time issue is to be made.

-1-

RESTRICTED

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

3402

B/0 24/9

See M61

(Mr. Kensler) 2-1-49

RESTRICTED

2. Items on this requisition are required to equip up to a maximum of 10,000 personnel for mine clearance. Full information is not available as to the number of land mines laid by the enemy in Italy but it is estimated that there are four million mines still uncleared in Italy.

3. These mines have been laid throughout Italy and there are large mine belts at the following places: Cassino, Anzio, Sangro River, Pescara, Chieti, Viterbo, Pisa, Florence, Rimini, Forli and Bologna. These areas are densely mined and so long as they are uncleared they are a potential danger to the civil population. Many civilians have been killed and wounded on these mine belts. In addition to this, much agricultural land remains uncultivated through non-clearance of mines. There are many roads, railways and beaches still to be cleared.

4. The problem is a national one and is being handled by the Italian Government with the full cooperation of the Allied Commission. This headquarters strongly recommends early approval and requests authority to transfer the items listed on this requisition to the extent they are available from US/UK theatre stocks at the time CCAC approval is received here. It is not contemplated that a requisition will be placed on ZI for any of this material.

Distribution:

The Directorate of Civil Affairs,
War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

(4 copies)

Allied Commission

(8 copies)

G-4(A) AFHQ

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DOS (Br) AFHQ

Ord Armn (Br) AFHQ

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. _____

785017

1680

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

Ref: 1009/45/MC

13 September 1945

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance

TO : Civil Affairs Section

1. Attached please find copy of letter G-5: 091.711-1 Italy dated 9 September 1945 from AFHQ, G-5.

2. In accordance with paragraph 4, would you please have a reply prepared for the Chief Commissioner's signature.

R. W. KEMSLEY

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

Copy to: Land Forces S.C. (MMIA)
(who are requested to forward their
views to C.A. Sec., copy to this
office, for inclusion in reply in
accordance with para 4 of enclosed letter).

Reply seen & submitted
25/9 C.A.S.

25/9 17/9
18/9

252 3401

1009/45
25/9

3827 1009 ne Ex Commissioner
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 091.711-1 Italy

9 September 1945

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Mine Clearance.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

Ref your 1009/39/EC of 5 September 1945.

1. As soon as the Italian Army has been made the responsibility of the Italian Government and when Northern Italian Territories (except Udine and Venezia Giulia) have been handed over to Italian jurisdiction it is considered that mine clearance will be a responsibility which will devolve entirely upon the Italian authorities. The decision as to whether mine clearance should be done by military or civil agencies should therefore be that of the Italian Government.

2. The provision of technical equipment for use by the Italian authorities in connection with mine clearance would appear to be the only activity in which the Allied Commission should concern itself. At the moment a reply from the CCS to the requisition contained in LAC Airgram 134 of 10 August is awaited. Should this requisition be approved, the equipment to be provided should be turned over to the Italian authorities under normal supply procedures.

3. Any further requests for mine clearance equipment could be handled either as items of civil supply through normal civil supply channels, or as items of military supply through MMIA.

4. Request your comments on the foregoing and in particular your recommendations in respect of para 3 above. Please also include the views of MMIA.


A. L. HAMBLIN
Brigadier General, GSC
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

(Res Kennel)

(1 SPARE COPY)

1682

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

Tel: 478208 HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION BCFW/cc
APO 394
Agriculture Sub-Commission

AGR/ 510.2.1.1

5 September 1945

SEP - 11 1945

SUBJECT: Mines and obstructions

TO : Regional Commissioner, Liguria Region
Attn: Regional Agricultural Officer

NR/EC

1. Attached herewith is a chart showing the minefields in the waters of Apuania Province. The chart has been furnished by the Navy Sub-Commission which in turn received it from the Commander in Chief Mediterranean. Since it was not possible at present to clear the area of mines with sweepers, C. in C. Med. released the chart to aid the fishermen select the safest routes to sea.

2. It must be made plain, however, that even with the attached information at hand, the fisherman goes to sea at its own risk.

3. It is requested that the chart be given to the Captain of the Port, Viareggio. Capt. Federici, I.R.N., fisheries liaison officer, should be instructed to pass the information on the chart also to other Captains of the Port in Liguria Region.

By Command of Rear Admiral Stone

Distribution:

Economic Section

Executive Commissioner

E.C.F. MULIERI

Lt. Comdr. USCGR

Chief Fisheries Division

for James M. Merriam

Director

MAJ KEMSEY
CAPT. BEXLEY

See M. 42
7/9

168

785017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

1009
110

UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Personnel for Mine Clearance Units.

LAND FORCES COM, A.C.
(M.I.A.) ROME
Tel: 489081 Ext. 533
ALIC/10/1
3 Sept. 45

SEP - 4 1945

TO : Ministry of War.

Reference your letter 20771 of 5 August 45.

1. It is regretted that your letter has not been replied to before, owing to discussions that have been taking place with other Allied M.I.A.'s interested.
2. Officers for the Combat Groups may not be withdrawn for this purpose as it is considered that the efficiency of the Combat Group Field Engineer Companies should not be impaired.
3. The other Officers mentioned in the list attached to your above letter may be posted against deficiencies in the authorized Mine Clearance Companies provided that they are not actively employed in the Administrative Division concerned or that competent replacements are provided, as agreed with the Allied Commanders concerned. The same applies to M.C.G.'s.
4. In general replacements for all units under the Central Office Mine Clearance (Page 79 Italian Army Order of Battle No. 2/11) will be provided as indicated in MIA A 110/13 of 31 August.
5. It is emphasized that the personnel indicated above may only be employed in authorized units of the Italian Army. The number of Italian Army personnel authorized for Mine Clearance can only be increased by MIA on orders from AFHQ. If, therefore, it is considered by the Italian authorities that more Army personnel should be employed on Mine Clearance, then application must be made by the Italian Government to the Allied Commission (Local Govt. Sub Commission), who have in fact got this matter in hand already.

AKK:cc

3398

for Major General
M.I.A.

Copy to : Executive Commission A.C.
Local Govt Sub-Commission A.C.

TO : Ministry of War.

SEP - 4 1945

N.R. cc

Reference your letter 20771 of 5 August 45.

1. It is regretted that your letter has not been replied to before, owing to discussions that have been taking place with other Allied H.Q.'s interested.
2. Officers for the Combat Groups may not be withdrawn for this purpose as it is considered that the efficiency of the Combat Group Field Engineer Companies should not be impaired.
3. The other Officers mentioned in the list attached to your above letter may be posted against deficiencies in the authorized Mine Clearance Companies provided that they are not actively employed in the Administrative Division concerned or that competent replacements are provided, as agreed with the Allied Commanders concerned. The same applies to N.C.O.'s.
4. In general replacements for all units under the Central Office Mine Clearance (Page 79 Italian Army Order of Battle No. 2/11) will be provided as indicated in MILA A 110/19 of 31 August.
5. It is emphasized that the personnel indicated above may only be employed in authorized units of the Italian Army. The number of Italian Army personnel authorized for Mine Clearance can only be increased by MILA on orders from AFHQ. If, therefore, it is considered by the Italian authorities that more Army personnel should be employed on Mine Clearance, then application must be made by the Italian Government to the Allied Commission (Local Govt. Sub Commission), who have in fact got this matter in hand at present.

Roberts *mjr*
for Major General
M.A.I.A.

Copy to : Executive Commission A.C.
Local Govt Sub-Commission A.C.
Internal : C (SD)
R2

(Des Kensley)

(M.A.I.A.)
Tel: 439041
Ext. 553
A110/10/1
3 Sept. 45

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1684

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

(39)

Ref: 1009/39/EO.

5 September 1945

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Mine Clearance.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
Attn: G-5 Section.

1. In my 8254/170/EO of 24 May 1945, para 4(b), I recommended that the responsibility for the supervision of the work of the Italian Army in the clearance of land mines should be transferred from the Civil Affairs Section to the Land Forces Sub-Commission. In your AG 091.711/115 SAC-O of 10 July 1945, para.7, you stated that the subject was under consideration with a view to the employment of German surrendered or POW personnel. I understand that these are now not available and the responsibility has continued to be borne by units of the Italian Army.

2. By 30 September it is expected that the operational control of the Italian Army and the bulk of the Northern Regions will have been handed back to the Italian Government. As from that date I propose progressively to reduce the responsibilities of the Civil Affairs Section with a view to closing down the Section. Clearly one of the first responsibilities which should be handed over is that of supervision of land mine clearance, and as I have recommended before, this responsibility should in my opinion become that of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. GOC Land Forces Sub-Commission does not alter his previous attitude and feels obliged to refuse to offer to take on any further responsibility. However, as the supervision has been carried on in the past by one Allied officer of the Civil Affairs Section, I do not think that GOC Land Forces Sub-Commission need be unduly alarmed at the extra work involved.

3. I should therefore be glad if instructions could be given to me to make this internal change in the Allied Commission and to GOC, MEIA to accept the additional responsibility.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

3397

COPY TO: LAND FORCES S.C.
CIVIL AFFAIRS SEC.

SEE FILE 43

10899

Major General L. BROWNING CB, CBE, MC.,
Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

C/o 29 Aug. '45.

AUG 30 1945

My dear Maurice

Thanks for your IOG9/34/EC dated 28 August
which I have read with interest.

I write this to make my position quite clear
and to show that it is not a question of obstinacy on my
part but merely one of over-loading and physical impossibility.

The state of affairs is this. A.F.H.Q. have
decided that it is in the Allied as well as the Italian
interest to reorganise the Italian Army from top to bottom
fundamentally, in order that a small army of quality shall
replace the huge army of low calibre which existed in the
past.

I have just finished three days discussion with
the Assistant Chief of Staff, General Ward, on the organis-
-ation and training angle. In addition there will be such
matters as reorganisation of the administrative services,
the judicial and penal system etc. The whole business will
be, as General Ward put it, a "herculean" task. He is right,
particularly as A.F.H.Q. want me to get a move on and get
the business started now, and the fact is that I am trying
to compete despite a continual outflow of trained officers
on demobilisation and an inflow of officers who know nothing
about this specialised game in M.M.I.A. The work under my
existing charter (e.g. cost, accounting, retentions etc) will
continue and the result of the above is that I now have even
more on my plate than I ever had before. The prospect is
staggering.

I therefore cannot alter my previous attitude and
offer to take on a further responsibility.

If you require more personnel for Mine Clearance,
and I can see that this is a big political and economic
factor, the answer is for you to apply to A.F.H.Q. for more
chaps to be put at your disposal for this purpose. Apart
from the 3,000 allotted to you, you have had allotted a
further 6,000 for the purpose of assisting with repatriation.
I understand you are only employing one-third of that number.

My dear

Maurice

Thanks for your IOOQ/34/EC dated 28 August which I have read with interest.

I write this to make my position quite clear and to show that it is not a question of obstinacy on my part but merely one of over-loading and physical impossibility.

The state of affairs is this. A.I.H.Q. have decided that it is in the Allied as well as the Italian interest to reorganise the Italian Army from top to bottom fundamentally, in order that a small army of quality shall replace the huge army of low calibre which existed in the past.

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I therefore cannot alter my previous attitude and offer to take on a further responsibility.

If you require more personnel for Mine Clearance, and I can see that this is a big political and economic factor, the answer is for you to apply to A.I.H.Q. for more chaps to be put at your disposal for this purpose. Apart from the 3,000 allotted to you, you have had allotted a further 6,000 for the purpose of assisting with repatriation. I understand you are only employing one-third of that number. Obviously, complete military units would be a better proposition than taking officers and NCOs and putting them in charge of newly organised gangs. It is therefore for your consideration as to whether you should not ask A.I.H.Q. for the use of, say two or three Field Companies for Mine Clearance work. These could be balanced against the shortfall in the 6,000

x from the Group

(Mr Kemsley)

mentioned above which you are not using. It is for A.E.H.Q. to say whether these could be spared or not. At any rate, there is a suggestion.

I have written to you pretty fully as I have to explain my attitude in this matter, and I hope it makes clear why, though I cannot accept any further responsibility, I am quite prepared for the Ministry of War to put troops at your disposal if A.E.H.Q. approve.

Yours Ever

Langley Browning

Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB.CBE. MC.,
Executive Commissioner, A.C.

3395

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

PERSONAL.

34

Ref: 1009/34/EC.

28 August 1945.

31/33

My dear General:

I would ask you to read the attached memorandum on mine clearance in Italy. You will agree, I think, that a first class job has been done in spite of many difficulties.

This is an appeal to you to alter your attitude regarding the responsibilities of the Italian Army in this respect. There can be no question in my mind and in the mind of many of the Chief Commissioner's advisers that mine clearance in Italy is a matter for the Italian Army - as is the case in our country. The last paragraphs of the memorandum are in my opinion very cogent.

I propose to advise the Chief Commissioner to raise this matter again and this time I should like your support.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Maurice Lush.

Major-General L. Browning, CB, CBE, MC,
General Officer Commanding,
Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMA).

MSL/JC.

Copy to: Brig.General A.L. Hamblen,
Asst COS, G-5 Sec, AFHQ.

Brigadier M. Carr, VP CA Section.

SEE F 36

338

5/9

Noted

PA 29/10

33

Memorandum to Civil Affairs Section

Subject : Mine Clearance

BACKGROUND

1. Since the entry of the Allies into Italy the problem of Mine Clearance has been dealt with by three agents: (a) MILIA, (b) Allied Commission, and (c) the Italian Ministry of War. Originally there was no organization in AG to deal with this matter but some elements of the Italian Army were used for the clearance of mines. Their work was almost entirely confined to SARDINIA and CALABRIA. As Italian troops began to be used operationally, this work was discontinued.
2. In July 1944 Allied Commission was allotted two companies of Italian Engineers to work on mine clearance for civilian needs. These Companies have been augmented to four at which number they still stand. It will be appreciated considering the large number of mines laid in this country, (probably running to six millions), that this is a very small number of men to work on this vast problem. Their activities have been almost entirely confined to the essential needs of the civilian population, i.e. clearance of bridge surrounds, water and power lines, towns and villages, railways etc. There remain, however, large areas of agricultural land and other less important public utility installations still to be cleared.
3. The Italian Government have charged the Ministry of War with the responsibility of Mine Clearance in Italy but the Ministry is denied the use of Italian Military personnel other than those mentioned above which are under the direct control of this Commission. In conjunction with Civil Affairs Section, the Ministry of War drew up a scheme for the employment of civilian personnel which is now in operation. MILIA provided a nucleus of instructors to initiate the scheme. Some comments on the work of the Italian Military companies and the Italian Civilian organization are made in the following paragraphs.

MILITARY COMPANIES

4. The two Companies originally allotted were, in July and August 1944, given the duty, in addition to Mine Clearance work, of instructing two recruit companies in mine clearance. After a short period of six weeks the two original companies were withdrawn, leaving this Commission with the two new Companies. One Company was put to work in the East of Italy and the other one in the West of Italy. While the work of mine clearance from its very nature is slow, these companies may be said in general to have given a good account of themselves in spite of many difficulties. Personnel has been frequently changed, clothing has been difficult to get, they are lacking in transport, and mine detectors were very difficult to obtain and still are.
5. The two Companies have between them lifted or destroyed 4,590,400 mines. These figures have been accepted by the Ministry of War but this Sub Commission considers them to be on the high side. The casualties suffered by the Companies are 86 killed and 73 injured and mutilated. These casualties are due to various factors, i.e. the high sensitivity of mines which have lain a long time, the growth of grass etc. which hides the usual signs of minefields, bad minefield discipline and a degree of recklessness which is inherent in the Italian due to familiarity with mines, despite casualties.

6. Two further Companies were later allotted in the Winter of 1944 and the

1. Since the entry of the Allies into Italy the problem of Mine Clearance has been dealt with by three agents: (a) MILIA, (b) Allied Commission, and (c) the Italian Ministry of War. Originally there was no organization in MI to deal with this matter but some elements of the Italian Army were used for the clearance of mines. Their work was almost entirely confined to SARDINIA and CALABRIA. As Italian troops began to be used operationally, this work was discontinued.

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6. Two further Companies were later allotted in the Winter of 1944 and the Spring of 1945. The last Company has only just completed its training and has been put to work on last Winter battle line.

CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION

7. The civilian squads set up by the Ministry of War, in spite of great difficulties which included not only lack of equipment, food and first aid, but clothing and housing, have expanded gradually to an approximate number of 1,500 workers. They are continually hampered by lack of transport and are inclined to become demoralised when casualties occur. It can be well understood that men

engaged continuously on this dangerous work are bound to be affected by such disadvantages and their morale will be lowered when they cannot even get transport to take wounded and injured to hospital. It may be added here that the fact that suitable equipment has not been made available is not due to any lack of initiative or hardwork on the part of the officers concerned in this Headquarters who, over a period of some 9 months, have continually pressed for the provision of equipment and transport. Their efforts however have only met with partial success.

8. The civilian mine clearing squads are much less expert than the military but are well paid. The casualties are 96 killed and 75 injured and mutilated. The stage has now been reached when it can no longer be expected that civilians will come forward for this work, and an expansion of the scheme by using civilians is impossible. The costs of using civilian labour are prohibitive.

USE OF GERMAN POWS

9. In agreement with the Acting President of the Allied Commission this Sub Commission made application to AFHQ in June of this year for the use of 40,000 surrendered personnel, with the necessary equipment to be provided from military sources, for mine clearance work. The numbers that it had been found possible to employ among the civilian population and the four companies allotted to this Commission were considered insufficient to make any appreciable headway in clearing up the large number of mines in this country and that only with the addition of a large number of personnel could any substantial progress be made. It was therefore suggested that 10,000 POWs should be put to work and if this ran successfully a larger number might well be employed. After a period of 3 months AFHQ now state that no surrendered personnel can be made available to this Commission for the purpose of mine clearance. Further, severe cuts in the equipment to be made available are contemplated.

10. The position is, therefore, precisely as it was three months ago. There are still insufficient personnel at work to really make headway in the clearance of mines, which daily becomes more difficult and dangerous, since the mines which have lain for a considerable time, are more sensitive and more difficult to find. They are taking a daily toll of life in considerable numbers and of all ages. Casualties among the civilian population are estimated to be not less than 5000 killed and 6000 injured and mutilated (these figures are incomplete, full returns not being available).

It might be argued that the work could be carried out by contractors. Experience shows however, that, not only is this an extremely expensive way of doing the work, but it is also extremely difficult to control and supervise, and it is open, owing to the Italian mentality, to a possibility of recurrence of the recent explosion which took place at Viareggio and which resulted in a considerable loss of life.

There can be only one conclusion: namely, that a very much larger and properly administered organization is required to tackle this immense problem.

11. It is my view that the organization which should and could tackle this work already exists, - it is the Italian Army, and the matter of mine clearance should be made a high priority responsibility of that Army.

12. This view is upheld by the fact that mine clearance itself is basically a military operation as it can only be satisfactorily done under strict disciplinary conditions, which cannot be established with civilians. Civilians are disinclined to do the work and cannot be got in the numbers required. The technical equipment both for laying and removing mines is essentially military and can only be obtained from military sources.

8. The civilian mine clearing squads are much less expert than the military but are well paid. The casualties are 96 killed and 75 injured and mutilated. The stage has now been reached when it can no longer be expected that civilians will come forward for this work, and an expansion of the scheme by using civilians is impossible. The costs of using civilian labour are prohibitive.

USE OF GERMAN POWS

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13. I therefore recommend that the Italian Army not only become immediately responsible for all mine clearance work in Italy, but also that it be given the opportunity and necessary assistance in the way of the supply of equipment to carry out this immense task which involves the removal of an estimated number of over four million mines.

14. There is every advantage in this responsibility being taken by the Military, and, so far as I can see, no disadvantage at all. Military operations

in this country are at an end, ^{and} there must be Ital an Military personnel available to do the work, even if they have the secondary role of guard battalions. The problem is a national one and should be treated as such. There are Engineer Combat Units already trained and equipped which should be used for mine clearance.

Further equipment required can be transferred direct through normal military channels from Allied Military sources to the Italian Army. There are available to the Italian Military authorities military schools, buildings etc., for training infantry in this work. It is, in fact, one of the normal functions of any infantryman to lift mines if necessary and I can see no objection to more men being found from infantry to augment the engineer element in the Italian Army for the purpose of mine clearance.

A really first rate performance in tackling this problem by the Italian Army would go far to raise its morale and prestige in the eyes of the general public.

22 Aug 45

Director
Local Government Sub-Commission

3392

1695

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1009

(28)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: AC/53/LG

18 Jun 45

SUBJECT: Rome Press Report on Mine Clearance.

JUN 18 1945

TO: Executive Commissioner.

(26)

- 1 Reference your 1009/26/EC of 15 Jun 45.
- 2 The report in the Daily Digest for 14 Jun 45 is somewhat misleading as the full article refers almost entirely to matters in the Rome Zone. They are, therefore, entirely the concern of the Italian Government and we are not in a position to say whether the officers concerned are competent.
- 3 It is very probable that lack of benzine is holding up the work. There is, of course, a serious shortage.
- 4 I can see no purpose in doing more than drawing the attention of the Ministry of War to this report. This is being done.

G. R. Bonham

G.R. UPJOHN, 3893
VP CA Section.

L 61

Copy to: Local Government Sub-Commission.

(125 Nelson)

see M 29430
1669

1696

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

~~SECRET~~ 2 Ex Comm
Copy No 3
Downgraded 24/6/45

21

P 54874
JUNE 18 1945

E/5568
JUNE 18 1945
ROUTINE

Shaden

From: AFHQ BOMBING BOMBED CITY PHOTOS
To: ACTION ALONG ROAD

JUN 18 1945

TOP SECRET

Air Ministry will release information bomb disposal. Reur
AG/35/14 of 7 June.

How you propose organising civilian squad? training? degree
and type military supervision while training and while engaged BD.
Answer earliest as meeting Thursday.

Dist

- Copy No 1 Action - Y. Govt MC
- 2 Info - Chief Commissioner
- 3 Exec Commr
- 4 CA Sec
- 5 File

3389

~~SECRET~~

(Mrs. A. A. A.)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref: 1009/26/EC.

15 June 45.

Subject: Rome Press report on mine clearance.

To: Civil Affairs Section.

Reference Digest of Rome Press of 14 June, page 5.

Will you please investigate the report in VOCE REPUBBLICANA
summarised in para 3.

E. Talbot

C.S.O.

To Executive Commissioner.

3388

20/6

Noted

see file 28

1698

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

26A

TRIBUNA DEL POPOLO

1. It is evident, says T. del P. commenting on the crisis, that if no conclusion is reached by the parties, the serious problem of leaving the country without a Govt will arise; in this case there would only be two paths to follow; either refuse to accept Bonomi's resignation or else have a new choice based on the consultations which have already been held.

VOC E REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. The result of a 42 days crisis is that the lieutenant again finds himself the arbiter of the situation. Once more, the Committee for Liberation has shown its powerlessness. Their strife benefits one person only, the Lieutenant of the King. (R. Pacciardi)

2. Bureaucracy must not only be separated, but also completely reorganized, writes Doger. All the employees who do not answer to the new democratic spirit of Italy ought to be dismissed.

cas
3. The clearing up of mines is not progressing as it should because the mine clearing units are directed by officers who know little about mines, and won't listen to the non-commissioned officers or workers who know more about the matter than they do.

3387

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION.

22

Telephone Ext. 620

10th May, 1945.

Reference No: AG/53/LG.

Subject : Mine Clearance

To: A.F.H.Q., (G.5 Section)

MAY 12 1945

1. The Acting President of this Commission considers that with the cessation of hostilities greater attention should be paid to the matter of mine clearance. To this end he considers that it should be possible for more equipment to be made available to the Italian Mine Clearance organisations than has hitherto been practicable.

2. Furthermore he considers that it may be possible to use prisoners of war in this work. Appendix 5 to 15 Army Group Administrative Directive No. 3 dated 18th April, specifically bars prisoners of war from being employed "on unhealthy or dangerous work", which would appear to prevent their use for mine clearance. On the other hand it may be that the Surrender Terms include a clause under which they may be used for the specific purpose of mine clearance.

3. May this Commission therefore please be advised whether the Surrender Terms do in fact include such a clause, and if so, what numbers of prisoners of war could be made available for work. It is estimated that 5000, together with the essential equipment, could be immediately employed, rising in numbers when the organisation is set up, to 10,000.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

G. R. Lupton
G. R. LUPTON, Brigadier,
Vice President,
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION.

3388

2A
16 May

RA
2/3/5

8

1700

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

1009

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMM. ON
Office of the President
APO 394

cc 1114
MAY 5 RECD

To: The Chief Commissioner.
From: Mr. Macmillan.

MAY 5 RECD

Now that operations have more or less ended,
do you think we could get some assistance with dealing
with the problem of mine removal in Italy? I should
have thought some of the equipment now being used by the
armies might have been available. Also I should have
thought that possibly Fascist or German prisoners might
be used.

HM

Exec. Comm.

3rd May, 1945.

Pls handle. I agree with
all of the Pres. views

EW 3385
CL

5/5

(HMS 10260)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref: 1009/17/EC.

16 March 1945.

Subject: Mine Clearance.

To: Acting President.

As instructed in your note of 10 March, I enclose a report, with map attached, on mine clearance.

As you will see from para. 8 of the report, AG have made a request for the formation of a fourth Mine Clearance Company and for the allotment of an extra 100 instructors.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Encl.

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[Handwritten signature]

1702

785017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

(17)

Ref: 1009/16/EC.

16 March 1945.

Subject: Mine Clearance.

To: G-5 AFHQ.

(13)

Further to telephone conversation Maj. BYLES / Maj. TALBOT of 14 March, I enclose copy of a report, with map attached, on mine clearance.

Major E. Talbot

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Encl.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 294
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

REPORT ON MINE CLEARANCE IN ITALY

1 The clearance of mines is carried out by:

- (a) Italian Mine Clearance Companies operating under AC.
- (b) Civilian Mine Clearance Squads operating under AC.
- (c) Civilian Squads operating under the Italian Ministry of War.

2 Mine Clearance Companies.

At present there are two mine clearance companies actually working - the 561 and the 562. The 561 Company has recently been moved from GASTA to LIVORNO where it is coming under the temporary command of the 35 CRG, LIVORNO for the purpose of clearing mines in and around LIVORNO. The 562 Company is at present operating in PESCARA and district. A new Company - the 563 - is mustering at CAVIA and will shortly move to PESCARA for training. When trained, the 563 Company will work along with the 562 and gain practical experience of the methods and organization as applied by that company.

3 Civilian Squads.

- (a) Civilian squads have been formed in TOSCANA Region and at present are operating at PISA, LUCCA, PISTOIA, VIAREGGIO and FLORENCE. Civilian squads are also operating in AMG 8 Army territory under WILLIA 3382.
- (b) The Italian Ministry of War have civilian Mine Clearance Squads in TOSCANA, LAZIO-UMBRIA and ABRUZZI-MARCHE Regions and in Southern Italy.

4 Personnel

- (a) The strength of the Mine Clearance Companies is 209 all ranks each. The number of civilians employed in mine clearance squads is about 400. Including the new Mine Clearance Company, the total personnel operating in Italy on Mine Clearance work is about 1,000.
- (b) In addition to the use of direct labour and the military, the Italian Ministry of War have some civilian contractors working in different parts of the country and while figures are not available, there must be two or three hundred men employed by these contractors on mine clearance.

5 Progress.

Progress has been continuous and the following figures show the number of mines lifted up to the end of February, 1945:

561 Mine Clearance Company	2,100
562 "	250,000
Civilian Squads operating under AC:	
PISA	4,600
LUCCA	4,500
PISTOIA	5,000
VIAREGGIO	500

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VIAREGGIO	500
FLORENCE	5,000

Cont.

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Cont.

Civilian Squads and Contractors
operating under the Ministry of War:

TOSCANA	10,000
LAZIO-UMBRIA	98,000
ABRUZZO-MARCHE	24,000
Southern ITALY	270,000
(Including SARDINIA)	
TOTAL	673,700

These figures take no account of the many thousands of mines which have been moved by the military of which no record is available. Estimates of the number of mines laid by the enemy in Italy cannot be given but the figure must run into millions and it is possible that 34 millions is an under-estimate.

6 Mines.

Workers are paid wages at the rate of 200 lire per day or more, depending on the locality in which they are working, with a bonus of 5 to 15 lire for each mine lifted. Military personnel are paid at the normal service pay for 1 of 0 Troops with a bonus of 35 lire per mine lifted. Contractors make their own arrangements for paying the men employed by them. All men employed on the mine clearance are covered against injuries and fatal accidents. They are also granted rations on the heavy workers' scale.

7 Training.

The country is divided into zones corresponding to Regions and the Ministry of War have Headquarters in each zone where Centres of Instruction are set up and workers are trained. Centres of Instruction have been set up in places such as SPOLITO, PERUGIA, PISA, FLORENCE, LUGO and PISTOIA and civilians are enrolled for training at these centres. Instructors are provided by the Ministry of War who run these Centres. A number of 3381 instructors have been trained at the Allied Military School of Engineering at CAMBRIDGE.

8 Future Planning.

Steps are being taken to set up zones in N.W. Italy so soon as the territory falls and a demand has recently been made to allot a hundred further instructors to count against the ceiling of 3,000 (Italian Military) allotted to AC. A further request has been made for the formation of a fourth Mine Clearance Company, also to count against the ceiling of 3,000 Italian Military personnel allotted to AC.

9 Transport.

Transportation is the biggest problem of mine clearance work. At present there is a great shortage of transport which leads to inability to keep workers fully employed and much time is lost moving to and from work sites which has prevented a wide expansion of the mine clearance scheme. With the withdrawal of powers of requisitioning from Regional Commissioners, the scheme will be considerably restricted and of necessity confined to towns and larger villages where local labour is to be employed. The Companies have very little transport, totally inadequate for their purposes but this to some

TOTAL 673,700

These figures take no account of the many thousands of mines which have been moved by the military of which no record is available. Estimates of the number of mines laid by the enemy in Italy cannot be given but the figure must run into millions and it is possible that 3½ millions is an under-estimate.

6 Wages.

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10. Mine Detectors.

- (a) 40 Mine Detectors (Allied Type) have been made available by AFHQ. This is inadequate. It is estimated that one mine detector is required per squad (5 - 10 men). The Italian Government have supplied a number of Italian Mine Detectors but it is preferable that either the American pattern or the British should be made available. The supply of batteries and replacements has been difficult to maintain. Mine Detectors cannot be used to detect all types of mines but it has been found that confidence and morale increase if mine detectors are available and can be provided. A request was submitted to AFHQ for 150 mine detectors and there is still a need for them although much of the work can and must be done without using detectors - i.e. by prodding. This is particularly so where wooden mines are encountered or when clearing railway tracks.
- (b)

11. Clothing, etc.

This is always a problem when dealing with civilians, many of whom are refugees. This is being solved by the allocation of salvaged clothing, blankets, etc., to the Ministry of War for distribution.

12. P.O.L.

Allocations are usually smaller than required.

13. (a) Attached is a map of part of Italy prepared by the Ministry of War.

It is a collation of information gathered by the Ministry from all sources and largely supplied by this Commission. It demonstrates clearly the size of the problem and the vice-spread nature of the minefields. There appear to be some inaccuracies in the map, however, and there is every reason to believe that more cleared areas should be shown than are indicated. As an instance, the town of PESCARA is shown in red (uncleared); in fact the whole town has been cleared for some considerable time but there are still minefields on the beach end in the locality.

- (b) A comparison of the yellow spots is also somewhat misleading. As an example, while there are numerous yellow spots in the vicinity of UNCA, the number of mines lifted in that area is only about one-tenth the number lifted near CHIARI where the 562 Company has lifted over 250,000 mines in a very thickly mined belt.

14. In conclusion, the main need for assistance to the Italian Mine Clearance Service is transport and after hostilities cease it is considered that every available assistance should be given in the clearance of mines by Italian Troops who are not required for operations, of which it is concluded there will be a considerable number. The fact that the Italian Ministry of War is at present responsible for this work will not make it difficult for the service to be extended in this way.

gpc

R.A. GRIPPS, Col.,
CSD CA Section.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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(b) A comparison of the yellow spots is also somewhat misleading. As an example, while there are numerous yellow spots in the vicinity of UNCCA, the number of mines lifted in that area is only about one-tenth the number lifted near GUSTI where the 5/2 Company has lifted over 250,000 mines in a very thickly mined belt.

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R.C.
R.J. GRIPPS, Col.,
GSD CA Section.

12 Mar 45.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1009 m
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the President
APO 394

To: Brigadier Lush.

From: Mr. Macmillan.

MAR 10 1945

Could I have a short report - I don't know under what heading it comes - about the problem of mine clearance? I know one of the most difficult things is the insufficient equipment. In view of the possibility of operations coming to an end, ought we to have a plan ready to make use of the equipment that would then be available?

Itan

10th March, 1945.

3379

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Tel. Ext. 412

MEMORANDUM

REFERENCE : G-4B/601/I

7 February 1945

SUBJECT : Italian Mine Clearance Coys.

TO : G.S.O. Civil Affairs Section.

FEB 9 1945

Further to this H.Q. letter numbered as above dated 1 Feb 45 to Land Forces Sub Commission, copy to you.

1. Instructions have now been issued by L.F.S.C. (ISMA) to the Italian War Ministry to proceed with the formation of a third Mine Clearance Coy to be known as 563 Italian Mine Clearance Coy.
2. The establishment for this Coy will be 8 Officers and 201 ORs, and the estimated date on which it will be ready to proceed to its operational area will be notified to you later.
3. Land Forces Sub Commission wish to postpone the formation of a fourth Coy until the formation of 563 Coy is complete.

FOR VICEPRESIDENT, ESTABLISHMENTS SECTION

3378

L. P. C.
f Sir J.E.T. RITCHIE Bt.
Lt. Colonel,
G-1 (B).

/av.
Copy to : Office of the Chief of Staff. ✓
(Attention Capt. Montant). ?

1009 80
5

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: 9/BA/CA.

2 Feb. 45.

SUBJECT : ~~Mine Clearance Companies.~~

FEB 3 1945

TO : ~~Land Forces Sub Commission (EMIA)~~

1. Reference telephone conversation (Maj. Reakes = Maj. Copleston).

2. Authority has today been received from Chief of Staff to form a third Mine Clearance Company. The personnel will be made available from the unallotted ceiling of 3,000 available to A.C.. It will be obliging therefore if you will instruct the Ministry of War to make preparations for the formation of this new company now.

3. The question of forming the three companies into a battalion will require to be considered and a new TO/WE drawn up.

R.R. Cripps
R.R. CRIPPS Col
CSO CA Section

Copy to: Chief of Staff ✓

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PA *Sh*

*PA *Sh**

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

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File

SA

Extract of Minutes of Chief of Staff's Meeting held on 2nd February 1945.

Mine Clearance. CA Sec asked for additional Italian personnel to build up another company for mine clearance. These men could be trained by the other two companies. COS agreed that one more company should be formed and asked Land Forces Sub-Commission to take the necessary action.

337c

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

Ref. 1009/1/000

31 January 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO : D000, Civil Affairs Section

Reference your file 9/84/01, Subject: Mine Clearance,
dated 27 Jan 45, please be prepared to bring this subject up at
the CAG's meeting on 2 February.

Cy to Ext Sec

Chief Staff Officer
To the Chief of Staff

3375

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: 9/BA/CA

27 Jan 45

JAN 28 1945

SUBJECT : Mine Clearance

TO : ~~Establishment~~ Section

1. Reference is made to Order of Battle of the Italian Army issued by Land Forces Sub Commission under the G/11 of 8 Jan 45.

2. The ceiling allotted to the Allied Commission is 3,000 Officers and EM/ORs. Of this total 1919 still remain unallotted.

3. At present there are two Mine Clearing Companies each with a strength of 8 Officers and 201 EM/ORs. Considerable progress has been made in cleaning mines in Italy but there is still a shortage of personnel for the work. The Italian Ministry of War have requested that at least a further two Mine Clearing Companies be formed and this Section is in favour of this being done at the earliest possible moment.

4. In planning for the future and particularly for N.F. Italy it is desired to plan for at least one additional company being made available for the North.

5. It is therefore requested that permission be given for 16 Officers and 402 EM/ORs being allocated to Mine Clearing Companies. This would leave 1919 all ranks available for other work of Allied Commission.

6. The matter has been taken up with Land Forces Sub Commission who ask that it be considered in light of the overall demands by Allied Commission for Italian Military Personnel. They are agreeable to the formation of the extra companies, once approval is given.

R.R. CRIPPS Col
CSO CA Section

Copy to: Chief of Staff Branch

BU for Cols - noted 9/1
MTg 2/2
(SST CILLELAND) iv

