

0 4 7 5

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1010

0477

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

785017

10000/109/1010

SALVAGE, SHIPPING
SEPT. 1944 - MAY 1946

785017

92.

CSO letter at 81 submitted for signature - copy of letter from Divisidg of Nav 2 was handed to SA.C. by Cdr. Sahlanau a action taken has been agreed to by him. *10/3 18/1613*

Ex-lon. 86.

84 is in reply to 63 - shall we send copy to French rep, or would SA.C. prefer to tell it to him *ack fully in his wgtal manner, 25/3*

Free 25/3.

87.

P.A. Will first inform the French Rep verbally (today).

175 (27/3)

88.

CSO. Send copy please to Admiral Moulec. *see 789 5304*

92 175/27/3

To Naval 9c
 Ref folio 91. will you please with letter to the M. of Marine as requested in folio 90 *AB 2/15*

93.

CSO Ref min 92. letter prepared by Navy S/C submitted for signature of C.C.

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

785017

84 is in reply to 63- shall we send copy
to French rep, or would Sa. C. prefer to tell
it to him last fully in his words manner.
FAC 25/3

91

P.A.

Will first inform the French Rep verbally (today).

175 (27/3)

91

CSO

Send copy please to Admiral Moullec, see 789
5304

92

175 (27/3)

to Naval Spc

Ref folio 91. will you please send
letter to the M. of Marine as requested
in folio 90

AlB 1/5

93

CSO

Ref min 92. Letter prepared by Navy Spc submitted for
signature of CC.

Thompson
20/3.

785017

Yes I agree. The question of reparations is still in abeyance and will be settled only at the Peace Treaty. I further think that Navy Sub-Commission suggestion should be followed unless some agreement can be reached now between the French and the Italian Government.

G.G. HANNAFORD,

Lt.Col.

18 February 1946.

Legal.

43.

Q.C.

at 72 is the legal opinion requested in your 71. 18/19/2. 18/20/2

77.

P.A.

I will speak from these two letters when I see

Cap. Moulllec.

178/43

78.

Cap. Moulllec has taken 11-75876

5353

it will return same.

178/513

79.

Ex. Com.

Lagos 75 + 76 returned by French legs and replied. Any further action please? copy to Navy SEC?

178/6

80

178/3

18 February 1946.

Legal.

43.

Q.E.

at 72 is the legal opinion requested in your 71.
18 19/2, J.H. 20/2

77.

P.A.

I will speak from these two letters when I see

Cap. Moullée.

WV/43

78.

Cap. Moullée has taken H 75876

5353

I will return same.

WV/513

79.

Ex. 611

Lagos 75 + 76 returned by French Rep
and replied. Any further action please?
Copy to Navy S/C?

↓

80/

Yes please - of both.

J.S. 6/3

WV 18/13

WV 1/3

WV/613

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

785017

60 60
 CSO. Notes ~~to~~ for info.

1/1/46

(71)

501/

C. L. A.

My own interpretation of Clause 15 of the Armistice
 Terms is that the Italian Govt will be required to
 raise the ships ~~for~~ ^{or} sunk, for employment by Allies
 in furtherance of the War effort - not by way of
 reparation. Do you agree.

5382

W/15/12.

0483

785017

Minute No. 46

TO: CSO

Our reply to Navy Sub-Commission should be that Allied Commission is not in a position to assume responsibility for the control of non-operational salvage in Italian waters. Navy Sub-Commission may, if it sees fit, offer to C-in-C Med. Colonel Buchanan's suggestions contained in Minute 44 (2) and (3).

18. 2/En. Com.

47 pae for signature

15/11

14/12

CSO for info 48849

SPH 13/12/45

*Polad (A)
Polad (B)*

Please see 51-53 - can this matter be dealt with through diplomatic channels or should AFHQ be approached? Navy SP refuse to play.

AS 29/12.

55.

5301

CSO

I don't think diplomatic channels will be any use, at least until the whole question of communication between the Italian & Yugoslav Govts. is settled. But I don't know Joint Economic Committee & Trieste handle such matters?

*31/12/45
CSO*

57.

*15/12/45
15/12/45*

785017

Operational salvage in Italian waters. Navy Sub-Commission may, if it sees fit, offer to C-in-C Med. Colonel Buchanan's suggestions contained in Minute 44 (2) and (3).

D/En. Com.

47 pae for signature

Final 15/11/45

Final 14/12/45

for info 45449 20

SPH 13/12/45

Polad (A)
Polad (E)

Please see 51-53 - can this matter be dealt with through diplomatic channels or should AT-HQ be approached? Navy S/C refuse to play.

45 29/12.

55.

5301

C.S.O.

I don't think diplomatic channels will be any use, at least until the whole question of communication between the Italian & Yugoslav Govts. is settled. But I will be Joint Economic Committee & Trieste handle such matters?

31/12/45

for En. Com.

57.

Letter at 12 submitted for signature - in answer

to 51-53. 55 refers. Legal S/C are the authority

to para 3.

I doubt if in practice this will have much effect.

45 3/1

for En. Com. (for)

Trans S/C

43.

Please see 41. May we have your views on this suggestion. A.C. is not really prepared to sponsor such a board which was requested by the Campbell Committee (now dissolved it is understood) would MEDBO be prepared to sponsor this board? I believe the Campbell Committee desires its authority from MEDBO.

2/11/45.
In the opinion of this Division the control of non-operational salvage, should revert to the Italian Ministry of Marine as soon as possible

CC Brooks
Port & Wharves Div Trans S/C

44.

TC: Executive Commissioner

5 November 1945

Reference Folio 41. The Campbell Committee, as you point out, has been dissolved, and the Mediterranean Shipping Board itself (MEDBO), of which it was a Sub-Committee, is expected to disappear about 1 December. Thereafter, the functions of MEDBO will devolve upon the newly-formed Rome Shipping Committee.

There appear to be three possible alternative "parents" to a Non-operational Salvage Committee such as the Campbell Committee visualized:

- (1) Allied Commission. It does not seem as if AC's life is likely to be long, and only the Navy Sub-Commission could produce the technical personnel with salvage knowledge; certainly this Sub-Commission cannot. Navy Sub-Commission, however, say that they cannot take on the extra responsibility.
- (2) Italian Ministry of Marine. This seems a better solution, but possibly the salvage of Allied ships may not get its due priority in this case.
- (3) Rome Shipping Committee. There seems no reason why the Rome Shipping Committee, on which are represented MT, USA, Italian Ministry of Marine, A.C., etc. should not have a Salvage Sub-Committee, and this seems the best solution, and is recommended. Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, could be represented on such a Sub-Committee by Staff Salvage Officer, FOIL, as suggested at Folio 40.

P.D.G. Buchanan
P.D.G. BUCHANAN, Colonel
Acting Director
Transportation Sub-Commission

c.s.d. 2/Ex Com. 45.

Please see 41 & 44. Propose returning to Navy S/C

785017

0485

0486

785017

2/11/45
In the opinion of this Bureau there is no control of non-operational salvage, should revert to the Italian Ministry of Marine as soon as possible
CC Brooks
Pinto & Walter Dir Trans %

44

TO: Executive Commissioner

5 November 1945

Reference Folio 41. The Campbell Committee, as you point out, has been dissolved, and the Mediterranean Shipping Board itself (MEDBO), of which it was a Sub-Committee, is expected to disappear about 1 December. Thereafter, the functions of MEDBO will devolve upon the newly-formed Rome Shipping Committee.

There appear to be three possible alternative "parents" to a Non-operational Salvage Committee such as the Campbell Committee visualized:

- (1) Allied Commission. It does not seem as if AC's life is likely to be long, and only the Navy Sub-Commission could produce the technical personnel with salvage knowledge; certainly this Sub-Commission cannot. Navy Sub-Commission, however, say that they cannot take on the extra responsibility.
- (2) Italian Ministry of Marine. This seems a better solution, but possibly the salvage of Allied ships may not get its due priority in this case.
- (3) Rome Shipping Committee. There seems no reason why the Rome Shipping Committee, on which are represented MIT, PSA, Italian Ministry of Marine, A.C., etc. should not have a Salvage Sub-Committee, and this seems the best solution, and is recommended. Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, could be represented on such a Sub-Committee by Staff Salvage Officer, FOIL, as suggested at Folio 40.

P.D.G. BUCHANAN, Colonel
Acting Director
Transportation Sub-Commission

C.S.D. D/Ex. Com. 45
Please see 41 & 44. Propose meeting to Navy S/C requesting them to act as suggested in 3 of 44.
8/11
7 Apr. bus see 46
7/11
J

0487

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

785017

COPY

File 8005/EC - PORTS

CSO

Re min 50 please see folio 60 in reply. I believe that this is an involved report which is best handled by Navy Sub/C whenever any implementation of any part of it is required.

ASA
1/8

CSO

For info. from 7/39

4/9

8/4/5

5339

0488

785017

22.

CSO: To see folios 20 and 21 for information on designation of non-operational port areas.

A committee has been formed to study and make recommendations on shipping in ports returned to Italian Control. See para 3 of folio 20 for composition of this committee.

See folio 6 for original proposal.

17 Mar 45.

Major

23

Economic Section.

*I don't appear clear yet - a letter
Transportation S/C - have we seen 20 & 21.*

See 17/3.

24

To Transportation Subcom.

*Please note folios 20 & 21 are former file
As Public Works sketches Subcom for similarity with
subsequent return of file to the Section.*

see other files

*See memo Subcom
19 Mar 45.
sub 555.*

To: Public Works & Utilities S/C 25

5353

Noted

To S.C. (SEEN BY P.W.U. - See)
21 Mar 45 (signature folio 21)
Tel 590 27

*See 24/45
P.W.U.*

To: Office of Economic Development

Noted return

Office 10/2/45

785017

23

Economic Section

I do, not appear at yr - 21
Transportation S/C - have ever seen 20 & 21.

17/3.

24

Transportation Section

Please note files 20 & 21 are former file
As Public Works Utilities Section for similarity noting &
subsequent return of file to the Section. subsequent return

Economic Section
19 Mar 45
20/55.

To: Public Works & Utilities S/C

5358

Noted

To S.C. (SEEN BY P.W.U. - Sec)
21 Mar 45 original file 21
Tel 590

last 21/4/45
P.W.U.

To: Office of Economic Development

Noted

noted

28.

CSO: See minutes 25 and 26 in answer to your 23.

JCR 23/3

23/3 p.c.

(55)

10: 0.50.

See Folio 10 et al.

12

1. We have received Navy Sub-Commission's comments to our memo of 19 Dec (folio 3). They state :

- (i) The Italian Interministerial Committee for Non-Operational Ship Salvage was formed up in Sept (see folio 9), and the matter of designating an AC Sub-Commission to coordinate their functions is under consideration by C-in-C Med (see para 2 of folio 10).
- (ii) The Navy S.C. has asked our C.C. to designate a Sub-Commission, other than Navy Sub-Commission, for responsibility of this coordination (see para 3 of folio 5 wherein a confidential letter NSC/1139B of 8 Nov is referred to for reasons).
- (iii) As to Med. Salvage Policy in Italian Waters, ^{as of} 22 Sept., see folios 7 and 8.

(ii) The Navy S.C. has asked our C.C. to designate a Sub-Commission, other than Navy Sub-Commission, for responsibility of this coordination (see para 3 of folio 5 wherein a confidential letter NSC/1139B of 8 Nov is referred to for reasons).

(iii) As to Med. Salvage Policy in Italian Waters, ^{as of} 22 Sept., see folios 7 and 8.

2. We have not yet received Economic Section reply to our request of 19 Dec (folio 5) but am following this up with them.

8 Jan 45
Office, Chief of Staff,
Ext 451.

Major.

Ref 2 - they may have nothing more
than Navy Sec. is add. How can follow up - 9/6

13.

TO: CSO

To suggest to COS that CC see folio 10 and para 3 of folio 5 for information.

16 Jan 45

十一

Menu Review

Dr. See the letter referenced to in

para 3 y page 5 from

Navy S/C.

Σ 17/1
De folio 4A Proport.
94/13/1

17/11

2

17

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

785017

is under consideration by C-in-C Med (see para 2 of folio 10).

(ii) The Navy S.C. has asked our C.C. to designate a Sub-Commission, other than Navy Sub-Commission, for responsibility of this coordination (see para 3 of folio 5 wherein a confidential letter NSC/1139B of 8 Nov is referred to for reasons).

(iii) As to Med. Salvage Policy in Italian Waters, ^{as of} 22 Sept., see folios 7 and 8.

2. We have not yet received Economic Section reply to our request of 15 Dec (folio 3) but am following this up with them.

8 Jan 45
Office, Chief of Staff,
Ext 451.

Ref 2 - Navy may have nothing more to add. However follow up - 9/11
JCB Major.

13.

TO: C S O

To suggest to COS that CC see folio 10 and para 3 of folio 5 for information.

16 Jan 45

JCB
Ma 5357

14.

Maj's Reply

M. get the letter referred to in para 3 of page 5 from Navy S/C.

See folio 4A prepared, 18/1
St 17/1

17.

C.S.O: Folio 16 answers our inquiry (folio 3) for time being. Reference is made again to minute 13 above. *JCB 26/1*

19

C.S.O: see folio 18: Reply of CC per his folio 11. *JCB 10/2*

JCB

0492

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

785017

Ref. : 780/5045

20 May 1946.

MAY 20 1946

SUBJECT: Cable Laying Vessel GILBERT.

TO : Ministry of Marine, Rome.

1. I am to inform you that an agreement has been reached whereby all questions concerning Italian vessels found sunk in French waters should be taken up by the Italian Government direct with the French Government.

2. Accordingly, it is requested that your inquiry regarding subject ship be placed directly with the French Government.

For the Chief Commissioner

N. W. HIND-SMITH

Director,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Navy S/C.

91 refused.

5356

17 20
18 20

0493

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

785017

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 561.1

13 May 1946

SUBJECT: Cable Laying Vessel GIASONE.

MAY 17 1946

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394.

Reference G-5 letter 561.1 of 8 April 1946, and
the accompanying CinC Med letter, reference No. 1038/Med.
00500/55 of 26 March 1946.

The attached reply from the Admiralty to CinC
Med, reference M.2474/46 of 1 May 1946, is forwarded in
order that you may inform the Italian Government of its
contents.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

/s/ A. L. HAMBLIN
Brigadier General G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Encl:
as above.

Copy to:
Naval S/C (Alcom)
NLO, AFHQ.

for Mr 92-93794

5355

(CARTER)

0494

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

785017

COPY

Whitehall 9000, Ext: 808

M.2474/46

1 May 1946.

The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

Copies to: The Flag Officer Liaison, Italy.
The Allied Force Headquarters, Italy.

Their Lordships have had under consideration your submission of the 26th March, No. 1038/Med.00500/55, concerning the return to the Italian Royal Navy of the Cable ship GLASONE.

2., I am to inform you that in February of this year an arrangement was made between the Foreign Office and the French Government that all questions concerning Italian vessels found sunk in French waters should be taken up by the Italian Government direct with the French Government. The Italian Ministry of Marine should, therefore, be asked to approach the French Governments about the GLASONE.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.

GCED/DEH.

5354

0 4 9 5

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 5601/89/EC.

29 March 1946.

SUBJECT: Salvage of Shipping.

TO : French Representative to the
Allied Commission.

The attached copy of letter Med. 46/1352/25/1 dated 13 March 46, from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, addressed to Navy Sub-Commission, AG, is passed to you for information.

M. W. HIND-SMITH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Incl.

5353

10 2/3
200

0496

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

785017

File

300

85

NO ALCOH

23 MARCH 46

AND VENEZIA GIULIA FOR JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

200

RESTRICTED

SUGGEST YOU CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALIA SHIPPING SOCIETY IN TRIESTE
FOR DECISION WHETHER THEY ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR GUARDING STEAMSHIP BOX

[Handwritten signature]

ROUTINE

Office of the Executive Officer

C. R. DRAYBROOKE

300

5352

0497

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMM ON
NAVY SUB-COMMISSION APO 394

NSC/4774
22 March 1946.

MAR 23 1946

MEMORANDUM TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER.

Subject: Salvage Shipping.

Reference: (a) Office of Executive Commissioner letter
5604/EC of 4 February 1946.

Enclosure: (A) CinC Mediterranean letter Med.
46/1352/25/1 of 13 March 1946.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith in
compliance with the request contained in reference (a).

Respectfully,

G. F. Mentz

G. F. MENTZ,
Captain, U.S. Navy.

See M. 86.97.88

see 789

5351

(CAPT D)

0498

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

785017

560498

83

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Station.
13th March, 1946.

Med. 46/1352/25/1
NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION.

SALVAGE OF SHIPPING.

With reference to M.S.C./4556 of 5th February, 1946, it is understood that the question of the salvage of French ships sunk in Italian harbours has been fully discussed by Captain Blackburn with the Fleet Salvage Officer on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

2. At all times the Salvage Committee has arranged to raise ships, irrespective of nationality, as required by the Ministry of War Transport. More French ships were raised than any other nationality, e.g. "SIDI AISSA", "PORT. ST. LOUIS", "MARSEILLE", "IPANEURA", "PIERRE CLAUDE", about 20 French barges and a large number of French tugs. The only British ships raised in Italy were "EMPIRE MOON" and "DALEMAN".

3. There were never less than three French representatives on the Salvage Committee; their requests and priorities were always dealt with to their satisfaction.

Peter Cozalek

for ADMIRAL 5350

see 8/4

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

785017

file 81

Ref. : 5604/81/EC ✓

16 March 1946.

SUBJECT: SS. Rex.

TO : Joint Economic Committee
(Attn. Lt.Col. Bickelsteth
ANG Venezia Giulia)

- 61
1. Reference your 13A/ANG/EC 17/179 of 22 January 1946.
 2. Attached is copy of letter received by the Navy Sub-Commission from the Ministry of Marine.
 3. Would you please take this matter up again with the appropriate Yugoslav authorities in order to ensure that pilfering does not continue.

SIA

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.COPY TO: Navy S/C
Lt.Col. Apostolo
S.O. to CC

see 1782

5349

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

785017

COPYCOPY

From : MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : H.S.C. - A.C.
Date : 11th March 1946
Ref. : 809/UT

SUBJECT: SS. "REX"

Further reference is made to this Ministry's 246/UT of 22nd January 1946 and to your letter HSC/4517 of 30th January 1946.

PIUMARE have again approached this Ministry, making it known that, despite the Allied Commission's letter to the Joint Economic Committee (Att. to Lt. Col. Eichensteth) AMG XIII Corps (letter No. 5604/56/EC of 7th January last) the looting of the ss. "REX" continues.

In consequence, it is requested that the Allied Commission may take action with the appropriate authorities in the Trieste area so that they may prevent further damage to the ship in accordance with orders received.

/s/ THE MINISTER

GCE/P.
12

5348

0501

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

785017

5604
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512PERSONAL
and
CONFIDENTIAL

76

SUBJECT: Salvage of Allied
Shipping in Italian WatersBrig. F. G. A. PARSONS
G-5, AFHQ, CMF

G-5: 560.1 NET

28 February 1946 MAR 2 1946

Dear Auth.

With reference to your D.O. letter No. 5604/74/EC of 22 February 1946 on the question of the Salvage of French Ships in Italian Waters, I have examined the papers in our files and have discussed the matter with C-in-C MED Liaison Officer.

I do not think there is any doubt but that the Admiralty is a perfectly proper channel through which to obtain a ruling on the subject. Under Combined Chiefs of Staff's paper No. 515/1 of 19 March 1944 they are authorized to act as agents for the Combined Chiefs of Staff with whom they deal through the British Admiralty Delegation in Washington. In point of fact this authority referred primarily to the operation of Italian Naval Vessels. I am assured however that, if this turned out to be a case which is not covered by it, the Admiralty will quickly enough inform C-in-C MED. Captain Gambier, the Naval Liaison Officer here is anyhow going to Malta in the next day or two and will check up on this point with the Commodore i/c Administration.

As the matter of the Yugoslav request for the salvaging of their ships under the Armistice Terms, which is a parallel case to that of the French request, has already been referred to the Admiralty, who will presumably pass it on to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, I don't think we can take the matter up direct with the latter at this stage.

We will presumably receive the official decision in due course, but, after reading Article 15 of the Armistice, I have little doubt that it is intended to apply only to vessels in a usable condition and that it does not cover wrecks. If Article 15 is not applicable, the matter becomes one for direct diplomatic negotiations in the form of a claim for reparations. In that case, the parties would have to reach agreement as to whether the claimant should finance the salvage and later claim reparations or whether the Italian Government would finance the work as a reparation in kind.

See M. 77 to 80

Copy to Navy s/c

ready
CSO

534

PA 26
R22

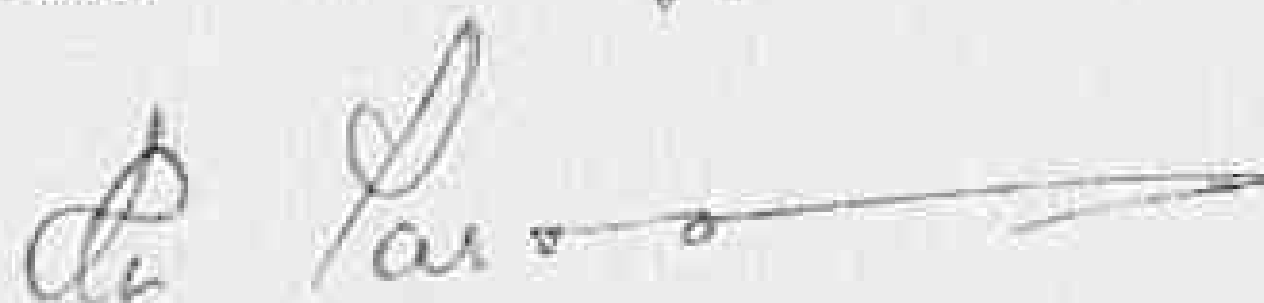
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

75

In view of the importance to the French of shipping, I should have thought that they could reach a provisional arrangement as to the financing of the salvage operations without prejudice to the final result of the negotiations.

Yours Sincerely,



Brig. M. S. Lush, CB, MC
Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

Ref: 5604/74/EC.

22 February 1946.

I wonder whether you would look into the case of the request by the French Representative to the Allied Commission for salvage of French ships sunk in Italian harbours. Our last letter on the subject was one from the Navy Sub-Commission, Ref: NSC/4534 of 1 Feb 46. Yugoslav claims of the same nature have also been made.

The French base their request on an interpretation of Clause 65 of the Armistice Terms which states that Allied ships in Italian harbours will be handed over. My interpretation of that clause is that only such ships as are necessary for the prosecution of the war would be actually salvaged and that the disposal of other ships must be left to some arrangement to be made for reparations.

The French, however, are desperately short of ships and they see their ships lying in Italian harbours. An example is their refrigerator ship S.S. "San Jose". They want to get them out and floating and, furthermore, they want to get them out at the expense of the Italians who, after all, were responsible for sinking them. They have applied for funds (AM Lire) to be supplied to them for this purpose. The CCS have turned it down and, being French, they do not much like the idea of advancing good French francs for such a purpose.

My sympathy is ~~very much~~ with them although I do not agree with their interpretation of the Armistice Terms and I should like to help them because they feel that they are being consistently blocked in this respect and that discrimination is being made against them as opposed to US or UK interests.

Another point in this matter arises. The Navy Sub-Commission are always told that the matter has been referred to the British Admiralty for instructions. This puts it at once on a unilateral basis.

I would very much prefer the matter to be raised with the CCS in the simple form as to whether, owing to the desperate shortage of French ships afloat, the French Government should be allowed to raise these ships under the terms of the Armistice, or whether they should be instructed to negotiate the matter directly between themselves and the Italian Government, i.e., on a credit basis.

M. S. LUSH

See 76

Brigadier F.C.A. Parsons,
Asst. Chief of Staff,
G-5 Section

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

785017

0 5 0 3

I wonder whether you would look into the case of the request by the French Representative to the Allied Commission for salvage of French ships sunk in Italian harbours. Our last letter on the subject was one from the Navy Sub-Commission, Ref: NSC/4531 of 1 Feb 46. Yugoslav claims of the same nature have also been made.

The French base their request on an interpretation of Clause 65 of the Armistice Terms which states that Allied ships in Italian harbours will be handed over. My interpretation of that clause is that only such ships as are necessary for the prosecution of the war would be actually salvaged and that the disposal of other ships must be left to some arrangement to be made for reparations.

The French, however, are desperately short of ships and they see their ships lying in Italian harbours. An example is their refrigerator ship S.S. "San Jose". They want to get them out and floating and, furthermore, they want to get them out at the expense of the Italians who, after all, were responsible for sinking them. They have applied for funds (All Lire) to be supplied to them for this purpose. The CCS have turned it down and, being French, they do not much like the idea of advancing good French francs for such a purpose.

My sympathy is ~~very much~~ with them although I do not agree with their interpretation of the Armistice Terms and I should like to help them because they feel that they are being consistently blocked in this respect and that discrimination is being made against them as opposed to US or UK interests.

Another point in this matter arises. The Navy Sub-Commission are always told that the matter has been referred to the British Admiralty for instructions. This puts it at once on a unilateral basis.

I would very much prefer the matter to be raised with the CCS in the simple form as to whether, owing to the desperate shortage of French ships afloat, the French Government should be allowed to raise these ships under the terms of the Armistice, or whether they should be instructed to negotiate the matter directly between themselves and the Italian Government, i.e., on a credit basis.

M. G. LUSH

See 76

Brigadier F.G.A. Parsons,
Asst. Chief of Staff,
G-5 Section,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

MSL/JG.

Copy to: Navy Sub-Commission.

MSL 123/2

0305

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

785017

5604

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
NAVY SUB-COMMISSION APO 394

70

15 February 1946.

Memorandum For Acting Chief Commissioner:

67

69

With reference to our conversation this morning regarding the question of salvage of Allied vessels and in particular to the request of the French Representative for the salvage of the S.S. "SAN JOSE", I am enclosing herewith Navy Sub-Commission's letters NSC/4000 of 17 November 1945 and NSC/4531 of 1 February 1946, in which it was recommended to Allied Force Headquarters that private contracts should be entered into for the salvage and repair of subject vessels by the governments concerned and that responsibility for the payment for costs involved be determined at a later date, or subject to final settlement as reparations.

In connection with the general question of salvage of Allied vessels, it is submitted that from the technical point of view there are cases where it would be economically unsound and hardly worth the effort to carry out salvage operations, whereas there are a number of other vessels (of which the SAN JOSE is one) which present no difficulty from the technical point of view and may be considered well worth-while for salvage operations.

Respectfully,

G. F. Mentz
G. F. Mentz,
Captain, U.S. Navy.

See mem 71-72-73.

5344

plus 74.

8

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

785017

69

NSC/4531
1 February 1946

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
 To: Allied Force Headquarters, C-5 Section.

Subject: Request by French Representative to the Allied Commission
 for Salvage of the S.S. "SAN JOSE".

References: (a) Navy S/C ltr NSC/4000 of 17 November 1945.
 (b) Navy S/C ltr NSC/4242 of 17 December 1945.
 (c) AFHQ ltr C-5: 560.1 NEI of 30 January 1946.

Enclosure: (A) Copy French Representative to the Allied Commission
 ltr of 24 January to the Navy S/C, Relative to
 Salvage of S.S. San Jose.

1. In reference (a), with enclosure, the Navy Sub-Commission forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters a request from the Yugoslav Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy for the salvage and repair of seven Yugoslav vessels sunk in Italian waters at the expense of the Italian Government and submitted to Allied Force Headquarters for consideration that private contracts should be entered into for the salvage and repair of ex-Yugoslav vessels, as in the case of the S.S. *HERINGOVINA*, and that responsibility for the payment of costs involved be determined at a later date.

2. In reference (b), the Navy Sub-Commission reported to Allied Force Headquarters that the French Government was taking the same position as the Yugoslav Government in the matter of ships sunk in Italian waters, namely, that under Article 15 of the Armistice Terms the Italian Government is liable for the cost of repairs to ships sunk or damaged as a result, either directly or indirectly, of Italian participation in the war against the United Nations, and requested the policy to be adopted in this premise.

3. In reference (c), received this date, Allied Force Headquarters informs Headquarters Allied Commission that the salvage of Yugoslav ships sunk in Italian waters has been referred to the Admiralty for decision and notes that the French Government has made representation along the same lines to the United States, British and Italian Governments on the question of French vessels sunk in Italian waters.

4. Enclosure (A), forwarded herewith, is a specific request from the French Representative to the Allied Commission for the salvage of the S.S. "SAN JOSE", sunk off Olbia, at the expense of the Italian Government and to be accomplished by the Italian Ministry of Marine. This request may be the forerunner of additional requests by the French Representative to the Allied

0507

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

785017

NSC/4531

1 February 1946

68

Subject: Request by French Representative to the Allied Commission
for Salvage of the S.S. "SAN JOSE".

Commission for the salvage of other French merchant vessels sunk in Italian harbors. It is noted that in this particular case (Enclosure A) the salvage of the S.S. "SAN JOSE" would not appear, technically, to offer serious difficulty with respect to salvage operations of that vessel.

5. It is further noted that the French Representative requests "a rapid decision" in this matter as the lack of cold storage vessels in the French Merchant Marine is acute.

6. It is assumed that the question of salvage of the "SAN JOSE" would come under the same category as the previous requests from the Yugoslav Delegation for the salvage and repair of the seven Yugoslav vessels sunk in Italian waters and will be referred to the Admiralty for decision.

G. F. MENTZ,
CAPTAIN, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

1 FEB 1946

5342

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/4000
17 November 1945

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Allied Force Headquarters.
Subject: Salvage of Yugoslav Ships Sunk in Italian Waters.
Enclosure: (A) Copy Yugoslav Delegation to the Advisory Council
for Italy ltr Br. 1554 of 13 November 1945.

1. The Yugoslav Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy in enclosure (A) requests that action be initiated to salvage and repair 7 Yugoslav vessels sunk in Italian waters at the expense of the Italian Government. In separate correspondence, the Yugoslav Delegation informs the Navy Sub-Commission, AC that a contract was signed on 10 November 1945 with Ing. GUIDO BIASINI, Via Piedigrotta 23, Naples for the salvage of the S.S. HERCEGOVINA, sunk at Baia near Naples.

2. Under the provisions of Article 15 of the Armistice Terms, United Nations merchant ships in Italian hands will be assembled in ports to be specified by the United Nations for disposal as directed by them. Any necessary repairs to any of the above-mentioned vessels will be effected by the Italian Government, if required at their expense.

3. Except under the provisions referred to in paragraph 2 above, no specific provision is included in the Armistice Terms to require the Italian Government to salvage and repair United Nations merchant ships sunk in Italian waters or elsewhere as the result of Italian actions, utilizing Italian facilities at the expense of the Italian Government. In view of the precedent which would be created by acceding to the request of the Yugoslav Delegation in enclosure (A) and the implications involved affecting Italy financially and the Italian shipbuilding industry, instructions are requested prior to taking any action on the Yugoslav request.

4. It is submitted for consideration that the Yugoslav Delegation be informed that private contracts should be entered into for the salvage and repair of ex-Yugoslav vessels, as in the case of the S.S. HERCEGOVINA, and that the responsibility for the payment for costs involved be determined at a later date.

5. An early reply would be appreciated in order that the Yugoslav Delegation may be advised as to the action taken.

Copy to: CINC MED
COMNAVNAV
Chief Commissioner, AC
Finance S/C, AC

/s/ G. L. Warren
Rear Admiral
Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

COPY

5341.

0509

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

785017

66

Ref: 5604/EC ✓

14 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Raising of French Ships.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission.

64

65

1. I refer to Minute No. 39 of 11 February 1946 and Minute No. 40 of 10 February addressed to you by Captain MOULLEC, French Representative to the Allied Commission, and to conversation Lieut. THOMAS - Brigadier LUSH.

2. I shall be grateful if Captain MOULLEC can be reassured by documentary evidence if possible that this matter is being prosecuted by C-in-C MED with the British Admiralty. In this matter, as in others, the French Representative has given the impression that he and his Government are of the opinion that French rights under the Armistice Terms are not being sufficiently safeguarded.

M. S. LUSH

MSI/JG.

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

5340

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

785017

Translation

Allied Commission
The French Representative
N. 40

Rome, 10 February 1946

Captain Mouillec
French Representative to the Allied Commission
to
the Director of
Navy Sub-Commission

Subject : Raising of French ships.

1. - I thank you for the information you so kindly sent me in your letter N. 4055480 of the 19/1/46 about the ships seized by Italy.
2. - The French Government to which such information were forwarded wants to emphasize the facts that such ships were seized by Italy. The HIGH-SEAS agreement which might seem to have given a contract basis to the ceding of such ships is considered as non existing, for it was signed under enemy pressure. The statement made by the United Nations on January 5th, 1943, applies to the agreement in question.
3. - The French Government considers that such ships as have been found in Italian harbours must be raised and repaired at the charge of the Italian Government, according to the Armistice agreement.

I have therefore been requested to ask for your intervention with the Italian Authorities so that the necessary works be started on such ships as can be raised and put back in operation.

4. - The ships that should be raised as speedily as possible are the following:

SAN JON	8480 t.	T B	ORITA
PIERRE CLAUDE	1787		NALES
ESTEREL	3100		TRAPANI
RUMDIS	3713		PALESTRO
JACQUES SCHEFFER	1757		PALESTRO
ARLONA	5457		PALESTRO
RAECLAIS	4999		PALESTRO
DEBAY	3078		NAPLES
SEMI OKRA	2821		NAPLES
VERGNA	1956		NAPLES

I shall shortly send you all the informations I have on the state and location of such ships.

Mouillec

To : Navy Sub-Commission
Copies to : Executive Commission
Archives (2)

5339

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

785017

Translation

Allied Commission
The French Representative
N. 39

Rome, 11 Fevrier 1946

Captain Moullec
French Representative to the Allied Commission
in Italy
to
the Director of
Navy Sub-Commission

Subject : Missing of the French merchant ship 'San-Jose'

Captain BELFUSCH who is in charge of the recovering of French naval material in Italy, has lately been to Sardinia.

The naval authorities of the island, with whom he spoke, stated that the Italian Navy had on the spot the personnel and material necessary to put back in operation the French merchant ship 'San Jose', stranded at OLBIA. They were therefore in a position to start the works as soon as the Navy Department in Rome would issue the order.

Will you kindly contact the Navy Department so that the order in question may be sent to the naval authorities in Sardinia.

s. Moullec

To : Navy Sub-Commission

Copies to :
Executive Commissioner
Archives (2)

e/c

5338

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

785017

Ref: 5604/33 ✓

4 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Salvage - Shipping.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission.
Attn: Rear Admiral Warren.

1. You know that the French Representative to the Allied Commission is constantly pressing for arrangements to be made to raise French ships sunk in Italian harbours. I know that your Sub-Commission has been helpful to him and has asked him for details. The real objection has been on the financial side which the attached letter covers.

2. Captain Moullec always reiterates the argument that British ships have been raised in Italian harbours and that the present policy is discriminatory against the French and other nations. We have countered this by saying that the only British ships raised have been those required for operations in connection with the war.

3. I should be most grateful if you could support the argument made in the last sentence by producing for me some facts and figures of British ships raised from Italian harbours since operations began in Italy. Perhaps you would include details of when and where the ship was found, how it was raised - whether by the Royal Navy or Italian contract, who paid for it, and particularly for what purpose the ship was used after salvage.

4. The French are feeling very strongly on this subject and I think we should have all the ammunition we can at our disposal.

M. S. LUSH

MSI/JG.

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner.

5337

See Folio 84

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

785017

62

Ref: 5604/EO

27 January 1946

SUBJECT: S.S. Rex.

TO : Chief Liaison Officer Liguria (Genoa).

1. Reference Lig/10/38 of 21 December 1945 from AMG Liguria Region.
2. Attached is copy of reply we have received from the Joint Economic Committee, AMG XIII Corps.
3. We will inform you of all future developments.

B. SANTSON

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Copy to: Lt. Col. Apostolo
Liaison Officer to CE.
Lt. Col. Stearns

5336

H
M/L
B

0514

785017

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

3604
2924
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
13 CORPS

Date 22 Jan. 46
JAN 25 1946

13C/AMG, LC. 17 149
S.S. "REX"

FILE REF:
SUBJECT

H.Q. A.C. A.P.O. 394 - Office of the Executive Commissioner.

In reply to your letters 5304/53/EC of 7 Jan 46 and 5304/53/EC of 17 Jan 46 this matter has been raised with the Joint Economic Committee, vide - Minute 101 of Industry and Commerce Sub-Committee of the Joint Economic Committee held on 15 Jan 46.

"LIMER REK. A request had been received from Allied Commission Rome, concerning the pilfering from the wreck of this vessel, which, according to the owners, was now amounting to serious damage. As there was much valuable material on this vessel, which could be salvaged, it was requested that arrangements should be made for the guarding of the wreck to prevent further damage.

Ing. Kovacic stated that this was a matter for the Naval Authorities and could not be dealt with at the Committee.

Lt.Col. Bickersteth requested that the Yugoslav Naval Authorities should be informed."

This office is taking up all queries of shipping with the Yugoslavs in the strongest possible way and you will be informed of all future developments.

See J. 81.

For Lt.Col.D.S.BICKERSTETH

5335

Handwritten signature
N.J. LISTER
LIEUT R.A.
ECONOMICS

HJL/g1

See F.62

38
36
In reply to your letters 5304/58/Ec of 17 Jan 46 and 5304/58/Ec of 7 Jan 46 and Joint Economic Committee, vide - Minute 101 of Industry and Commerce Sub-Committee of the Joint Economic Committee held on 16 Jan 46.

"TINER REK. A request had been received from Allied Commission Rome, concerning the pilfering from the wreck of this vessel, which, according to the owners, was now amounting to serious damage. As there was much valuable material on this vessel, which could be salvaged, it was requested that arrangements should be made for the guarding of the wreck to prevent further damage.

Ing. Kovecic stated that this was a matter for the Naval Authorities and could not be dealt with at the Committee.

It. Col. Sickersteth requested that the Yugoslav Naval Authorities should be informed."

This office is taking up all queries of shipping with the Yugoslavs in the strongest possible way and you will be informed of all future developments.

See 9.81.

For It. Col. D.S. SICKERSTETH

5335

Howard Hunter

N.J. LISTER
LIEUT R.A.
ECONOMICS

MJL/g1

See F.62

(MISS S)

0516

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

785017

58

Ref: 5604/58/EG

January 1946

SUBJECT: S.S. "Box".

TO : Joint Economic Committee
(Attention Lt. Col. Hohensteth)
AMC XIII Corps.

56

An early reply would be appreciated to this HQ's letter 5604/56/EG
of 7 January 1946.

B. SANPSON

Chief Staff Officer
to Executive Commissioner

5334

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 5604/55/NO

7 January 1946

SUBJECT: S.S. Rex.

TO : Joint Economic Committee
(Attention Lt. Col. Richensteth
AMC XIII Corps).

1. Attached please find copy of letter dated 20 December 1945 from the owners of the liner "Rex" which was sunk off Capo d'Istria.

2. It would be appreciated if you could look into this matter with a view to ensuring that the ship remains in status quo, until final determination of the rights of ownership can be established.

3. Naturally the fact that the ship lies in waters east of the Morgan line does not affect the owners' claim; all waters around Venezia Giulia are, until the peace treaty, Italian, whoever the temporary occupants of the land may be.

FM
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Copy to: A.C.L.G. Liguria Region.

see M57 F.58
5333

0518

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

1483

5604

EX Comm

HEADQUARTERS
LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A. P. O. 394

m/t/c

21 - Dec.- 1945

FILE : Lig / Hq / 38

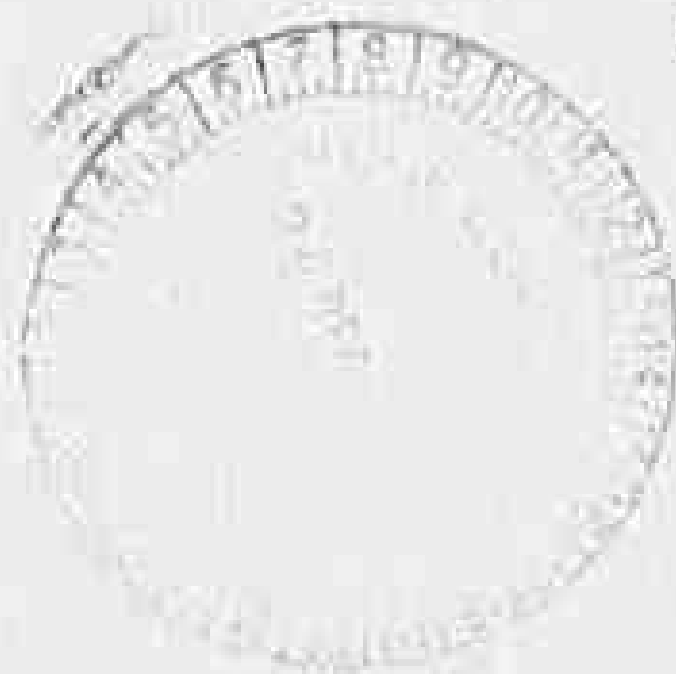
DEC 27 1945

SUBJECT : S.S. REX sunk in waters East of temporary boundary between Italy and Yugoslavia.

TO : Allied Commission, attention Ex.Com.

1. Here with is submitted a letter of inquiry from the owners of the S.S. REX.
2. If it seems appropriate to you, the owners of the ship would appreciate the forwarding of this letter through proper channels in order to insure that the ship remains in statu quo, until final determination of the rights of ownership.

1 incl.



William R. Jordan

WILLIAM R. JORDAN
Colonel C.A.C.
Regional Commissioner

see 1754 to 55

5332

See 56462

8/1
(MISS)

0519

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

785017

TELEGRAMMI
ITALMAR - GENOVATELEFONI URBANI
28.301-28.771-28.941TELEFONI INTERC.
22.215-22.347

Italia

SOCIETÀ ANONIMA DI NAVIGAZIONE

SEDE IN GENOVA - CAPITALE SOCIALE L. 500.000.000 INTERAMENTE VERSATO

CITADE NELLA RISPOSTA
DIREZIONEGenova, Dec. 24th. 1945
Fiorini Defensori 34 - P. 270 271
col. J. J.To the Provincial Commissioner
Allied Military Government
G e n o a.

Sir :

SUBJECT : s.s. "REX" sunk in waters east of the
temporary boundary between Italy and Yugoslavia.

Although we are not unaware of the fact that the matter dwelt upon in this letter is technically outside your own jurisdiction, we feel constrained by the stress of circumstances to appeal to you nevertheless, in the hope - our only hope - that as it is, after all, a vital interest for us who have their business in this city of Genoa, you may see your way clear to intervene with your Colleagues in the Venezia Giulia territory were it only to convey our representations on the subject.

You are already cognizant of the circumstance, mentioned in our previous fortnightly reports to you, that our s.s. "REX" was bombed, burnt and sunk off CAPO D' ISTRIA (Semedella Locality); there now she lies on her port side, more or less half submerged and her starboard side exposed out of the water. In that condition, a few cable lengths off shore, unguarded and unprotected, she is open and accessible to all and sundry who choose to board her. All attempts made by our Trieste agents to have the ship patrolled, have so far

./.

See 56

Italia

SOCIETA' ANONIMA DI NAVIGAZIONE

Foglio N. two

been in vain. Because of this utter abandonment, the "REX" is thus a helpless prey to all thieves and looters who are left free and unpunished to go and rip off anything they care to take. It is a veritable case of encouragement to crime, a defiance to decency, a challenge to the democratic sense of respect to private property.

All this has been going on for quite some time, but, according to late reports, it is comparatively recent that piratical activities in tearing the ship apart have been organised on wholesale scale under the very eyes of the local Yugoslav Authorities who, to put it mildly, are doing nothing to prevent it.

Although the "REX" is hardly expected to refloat as a liner, her material, machinery and appurtenances are of immense value to us and counted upon as precious replacements and repair resources for other less pretentious vessels. The "REX" is, in short, a considerable source of things needed and which it will be next to impossible to procure in other ways. Meantime the ruthless havoc being wrought by the looters does more harm in spoiling what they leave than, perhaps, by what they take.

While we are appreciative of the by no means slight difficulties under which the AMG are labouring in that part of the country, we feel confident that, upon consideration of the matter, they will hardly countenance the wanton destruction and thievery in question. We trust we may be allowed to add that, so far as is reasonable to perceive, there is no political issue involved, but more simply a resolution whether acts of sheer piracy should be allowed to go on unheeded for the benefit of evil doers. If it is, then one would be forced to think power is extinct on earth to restore law.

Thanking you beforehand for anything you will consider feasible to do in the premises, we are,

Yours Very Respectfully,

For and on behalf of the Società "ITALIA"

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

785017

0520

been in vain. Because of this utter abandonment, the "REX" is thus a helpless prey to all thieves and looters who are left free and unpunished to go and rip off anything they care to take. It is a veritable case of encouragement to crime, a defiance to decency, a challenge to the democratic sense of respect to private property.

All this has been going on for quite some time, but, according to late reports, it is comparatively recent that piratical activities in tearing the ship apart have been organised on whole-sale scale under the very eyes of the local Yugoslav Authorities who, to put it mildly, are doing nothing to prevent it.

Although the "REX" is hardly expected to refloat as a liner, her material, machinery and appurtenances are of immense value to us and counted upon as precious replacements and repair resources for other less pretentious vessels. The "REX" is, in short, a considerable source of things needed and which it will be next to impossible to procure in other ways. Meantime the ruthless havoc being wrought by the looters does more harm in spoiling what they leave than, perhaps, by what they take.

While we are appreciative of the by no means slight difficulties under which the AMG are labouring in that part of the country, we feel confident that, upon consideration of the matter, they will hardly countenance the wanton destruction and thievery in question. We trust we may be allowed to add that, so far as is reasonable to perceive, there is no political issue involved, but more simply a resolution whether acts of sheer piracy should be allowed to go on unheeded for the benefit of evil doers. If it is, then one would be forced to think power is extinct ³⁰ on earth to restore law.

Thanking you beforehand for anything you will consider feasible to do in the premises, we are,

Yours Very Respectfully,

For and on behalf of the Società "ITALIA"

0521

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

785017

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

785017

5604

49

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394NSC/4204
10 December 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
Subject: Co-ordination of Non-operational Salvage in Italian Waters.
Reference: (a) CINC MED ltr Med 45/217/4/3 of 28 September 1945.
(b) Navy S/C ltr NSC/4016 of 16 September 1945.
Enclosure: (A) Copy Ministry of Marine ltr 24531/2 of 2 December 1945.

1. In reply to reference (a), it is regretted that the Allied Commission is not in a position to assume responsibility for the control of non-operational salvage in Italian waters.

2. The Italian Ministry of Marine, in reply to reference (b), in enclosure (A) informs the Navy Sub-Commission that non-operational salvage in Italian waters can be co-ordinated by the "Interministerial Committee for Marine Salvage" without Allied assistance. It is therefore considered that the activation of the non-operational salvage committee recommended by the Campbell Committee is not required, and the Italian Ministry of Marine will be informed accordingly.

3. By copy of this letter the Transportation Sub-Commission, AC is requested to inform the Navy Sub-Commission, AC whether it is desired to nominate a representative for the Italian "Interministerial Committee for Marine Salvage", otherwise the Ministry of Marine will be advised that no Allied Commission representatives will attend the meetings of the committee.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN

REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC
For CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

5329

Copy to: (w/c Encl.)

FOIL

Executive Commissioner, AC
Transportation S/C, AC.

(110) 41 13/12/45

PA 13/12

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

785017

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : F.S.C. - H.Q. - A.C.
Date: 2nd December, 1945.
Ref.: 24531/2

Subject: Coordination of non-operational Salvage Work.

1. In reply to your letter NSC/4016 dated 16th November, 1945, this Ministry is of the opinion that non-operational salvage can be co-ordinated by the "INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR MARINE SALVAGE" and thus the responsibility for this can be accepted by the Italian Government without Allied intervention.

2. The assistance of an Allied Commission Representative at the above committee would be welcomed, however.

CHIEF OF CABINET.

C
O
P
Y

5328

0524

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

(47)

Ref: 5036/47/10

14 November 1946

SUBJECT: Salvage Policy in Italian Waters

TO : Navy Subcommittee

(41)

1. Reference your memo/3522 of 22 Oct 46.
2. It is regretted that Allied Commission is not in a position to assume responsibility for the control of non-operational salvage in Italian waters.
3. It is suggested that this responsibility might be assumed by the Italian Ministry of Marine.

F. H. McCLEARY
Lt Col.,
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Copy to: Transportation S/O.

PA
5327
11/11
11/11

0525

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

785017

5604 39

(41)

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/3822
22 October 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission, 24 1945
To : Executive Commissioner, Hq. Allied Commission.
Subject: Salvage policy in Italian Waters. 39
Reference: (a) Navy Sub-Commission ltr. NSC/3425 of 30 August 1945. 40
Enclosure: (A) Copy Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean ltr. Med.45/217/4/3 of 28 September 1945.

1. The Navy Sub-Commission, AC by reference (a) made certain comments to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean relative to the activation of the committee to co-ordinate non-operational salvage in Italian waters, the formation of which was recommended by the Campbell Committee report.

2. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, in enclosure (A), states that as the Mediterranean Salvage Committee which is concerned primarily with operational salvage will be dissolved at the end of November, there is no objection to the activation of the non-operational Salvage Committee recommended by the Campbell Committee if such control is still considered necessary. It is further suggested that the Committee should derive its authority from the Allied Commission.

3. The Navy Sub-Commission, AC is not in a position to take over this responsibility on account of the limited number of officer personnel available and the fact that the Sub-Commission has no field organization. In order that the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean may be informed, instructions are requested as to whether the Allied Commission will assume responsibility for the control of non-operational salvage in Italian waters. In the event it is determined to assume this responsibility, it is requested that an office of the Allied Commission other than the Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission be designated to co-ordinate and supervise this work.

5326

Whang
See 11/22 to HH
45.26

Copy to:
CINCMED.
FOIL.

REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC. F47

(MISS SANDER)

0 5 2 8

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

(40)

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Station,
28th September, 1945.

Med.45/217/4/3.
THE NAVY SUB COMMISSION, HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED COMMISSION.
(Copy to:
The Flag Officer, Italy and Liaison).

SALVAGE POLICY IN ITALIAN WATERS

With reference to your NSC/3425 dated 30th August 1945,
it has been decided that the present Salvage Committee having
fulfilled its purpose will cease to function at the end of
November.

2. There is therefore no objection to the activation of the
Campbell Committee to take over the responsibility of non-
operational salvage in Italy if such control is still con-
sidered necessary.
3. It is suggested however, that such a committee should
derive its authority from the Allied Commission in view of the
fact that the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean's Salvage
organisation and resources are now being withdrawn from Italy.
4. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean however could be
represented on this committee by the Staff Salvage Officer on
the staff of the Flag Officer, Italy and Liaison.

/s/ Peter Cazalet
for A D M I R A L

C
O
P
Y

5325

See 441

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
 Navy Sub-Commission AUG 304

WAC/3423
30 August 1945

SEP -4 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Nq. Allied Commission.
To: Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

Subject: Committee for Non-operational Salvage in Italian Waters -
Activation of. 25 21

Reference: (a) CIRC MED Ltr Med.45/217/4/3 of 21 August 1945.
(b) Navy Sub-Commission Ltr HHC/3040 of 24 July 1945.
(c) CIRC MED Ltr Med.45/659/19/1 of 10 August 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Copy Minute 46, Campbell Committee Meeting of 12 April 1945, R/O Director of Harbor Craft, AFM, Ltr of 12 April 1945.

1. The Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean in reference (a), in reply to reference (b), suggests that the formation of the Salvage Authority recommended by the Campbell Committee be held in abeyance and that the functions thereof be performed by the present Salvage Committee, Mediterranean.

2. The recommendations contained in Section 4 of the Campbell Committee Report, with reference to the formation of a Salvage Authority, were based on Minute 46 of Minutes of the meeting of the Campbell Committee in Rome on 13 April 1945, a copy of which is forwarded herewith as enclosure (A).

3. The Campbell Committee Report has been approved by the Chief Administrative Officer on behalf of the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean and by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and the Italian Ministry of Marine has been directed to take the necessary steps to implement the policies established therein. If it is not desired to activate the Salvage Authority recommended in Section 4 of the Campbell Committee Report, it is suggested that the matter be taken up with Allied Force Headquarters in order that the Campbell Committee Report may be modified. It is considered urgent that the responsibility for the co-ordination of non-operational salvage in Italian Waters be definitely fixed.

4. As a matter of information, no Salvage Liaison Officer, as stated in paragraph 3 of reference (a), is attached directly to the Navy Sub-Commission, AC. In accordance with the provisions of reference (c), one Sub-Lieutenant is assigned to the staff of Flag Officer Italy and Liaison as Staff Salvage Officer.

A 5324

RA 4/10

See also 41-40

see M. 77.40

(Miss L. M. M. M.)

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

785017

HSC/3425
30 August 1945Subject: Committee for Non-operational Salvage in Italian Waters -
Activation of.

5. Pending a final decision, the Offices referred to in paragraph 3 of reference (a) will be notified of the dates of meetings of the Salvage Committee, Mediterranean, upon receipt of this information.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN

REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC,
for CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Copy to:
(W/C Ref.(a) and Encl.A)

AFHQ G-5
COMNAVNAV
FOIL
MEMO

Chief Commissioner, AC
Executive Commissioner, AC
Transportation Sub-Commission, AC
Public Works & Utilities S/C, AC.

5323

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

785017

(37)

MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING BOARD.

Minutes of Meeting of CAMPBELL COMMITTEE in ROME

13th April, 1945.

46. Salvage. Ref. 30. Lt. Cdr. Young, Deputy F.S.O., drew the attention of the meeting to the amendments he considered necessary to the memorandum of the Director of Harbour Craft on the salvage of Italian small craft discussed at the last meeting. He pointed out, for instance, in Item 2 of the memorandum, the Ministry of Marine, when an area or port has been handed over to Italians, compile a list of vessels found sunk and which they intend to salvage. The list should be submitted through the Navy S/C. to C in C. Med., and from this the salvage of craft necessary to the Allies, such as dredgers, is taken over by the British Navy Salvage organisation. The C in C. Med. is not interested in the salvage of the remaining craft, which is entirely a matter for the Italian Ministry of Marine. The Ministry of Marine is responsible for the salvage of all Italian craft other than those required by Allied Authorities in a non-operational area or port.

Lt. Cdr. Young suggested that item 5 be deleted because the R.I.M. salvage is part of the Ministry of Marine organisation, and is inclined to be confused with an organisation under Col. Spinelli who is in charge of a salvage group which works entirely under the direction of Fleet Salvage Officer, Mediterranean.

Item No.7. of memo to be deleted and new paragraph inserted.

It was therefore agreed that the D.O.H.C. memorandum on salvage of Italian small craft dated 5th April be cancelled and substituted by a new memorandum attached.

Lt. Cdr. Young advised that the Salvage Committee, Western Med., will hold its first meeting on 24th April, and recommended that the Sub-Committee take over where C in C. Med. Salvage leaves off in the control of Italian salvage. He also stated that the appointment of a Salvage Liaison Officer to FOTALI will be made in about ten day's time.

Col. Gasse presented a list of salvage firms showing the work they were at present engaged in, and this was passed to D.O.H.C.

C
O
P
Y

5322

ENCLOSURE (A)

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

785017

AMENDED MEMORANDUM.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of Director of Harbour Craft
Western Mediterranean

12th April, 1945.

To: Chairman, Campbell Committee, MEDCO.

Subject: Salvage of Italian Small Craft.

1. Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean is responsible for all salvage in the Mediterranean.
2. The Italian Ministry of Marine is responsible for the salvage of all Italian craft other than those required for the use of the Allied Forces in any non-operational port or area.
3. C in C. Med. will shortly appoint a Salvage Liaison Officer to be attached to FOTALI Base or Navy Sub-Commission who will be his representative on salvage matters.
4. The salvage branch of the Italian Ministry of Marine is the Divisione Ricupero who supervise all salvage in territory under the jurisdiction of the Italian Government.
5. Colonel Spinelli has been appointed as R.I.N. Salvage Officer Liaison by the Commander in Chief, Mediterranean. He is in charge of an Italian group which works entirely under the direction of the Fleet Salvage Officer, Mediterranean.
6. All privately owned craft is salvaged by private salvage companies or individuals under licences granted to the owner of the craft upon application to Divisione Ricupero.
7. In practice the Italian Ministry of Marine submit lists of vessels found in any non-operational area to C in C. Med. The salvage of any craft not required for the use of the Allied Forces then becomes the responsibility of the Italian Ministry of Marine.
8. It would seem it is left to the owner of the craft other than those still required by Fleet Salvage Officer such as dredgers, and R.I.N. craft, to make applications for salvage. It is not clear if priorities are established or what supervision is exercised.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- i. That Divisione Ricupero prepare a list of all salvageable small craft, details of licences issued and progress of work.
- ii. Salvage Liaison Officer, Director of Harbour Craft, Transportation Sub-Commission and Divisione Ricupero representatives meet as soon as possible to decide how the salvage of craft required for the agreed programme can be accelerated, and hold regular meetings thereafter.
- iii. An Officer now on Navy Sub-Commission act as Salvage Liaison Officer representative until the arrival of the latter.
- iv. Fleet Salvage Officer's view is that the suggested Sub-Committee would fulfil a useful function in controlling salvage of Italian craft not required by the Allied Forces (see 7. above).
- v. Fleet Salvage Officer concurs with recommendation that the Salvage Officer on FOTALI's staff attend these meetings in order to co-ordinate the resources used for salvage generally.

5321

C
O
P
Y

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

785017

(35)

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Station,
Allied Force Headquarters,
21st August, 1945.

Med 45/217/4/3.
THE NAVY SUB COMMISSION, HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

NON-OPERATIONAL SALVAGE IN ITALIAN WATERS - RESPONSIBILITY FOR.

With reference to your NSC/3040 dated 24th July 1945, the present Salvage Committee, Mediterranean, has been dealing with all questions of non-operational salvage in Italian waters and to avoid complications it is considered that the formation of the new committee might be postponed with advantage until outstanding items have been dealt with.

2. Subsequently the new committee could be formed and the present one dissolved or alternatively the old one be taken over by the new.

3. Although the Public Works and Utilities Sub Commission, Allied Commission, the Director of Harbour Craft and the Transportation Sub Commission, Allied Commission, are all represented on the present committee either through the Ministry of War Transport or through the Salvage Liaison Officer, Navy Sub Commission, Allied Commission, it would be advantageous to all concerned if they directly attended the meetings of the present Salvage Committee and you will be informed of dates of meetings accordingly.

/s/ J.R.S. HAINES

for ADMIRAL

C
O
P
Y

5320

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

785017

Tel 120

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

EJR/ao

INTER OFFICE MEMO

Reference : 109/PWU

31 July 1945

Subject : Non-operational salvage in
Italian Waters - Responsibility for.

AUG 1 1945

To : CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, A.C.

From : Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission

1. Reference to NSC/3040 of 24 July 1945 relative to the activation of the Salvage Authority.
2. The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission nominates Major C.P.B. Goldson as its representative on the Salvage Authority. Major Goldson is stationed at Genoa in the office of the Regional Engineer, Liguria Region.

E.J. Ristedt
 E.J. RISTEDT
 Colonel, C.E.
 A/Director

Copies to :

AFHQ, G-5
 Chief Commissioner
 Executive Commissioner
 Economic Section, Prod. Div.
 Regional Commissioner Liguria Region
 (Att. Regional Engineer)
 Major C.P.B. Goldson, R.A.

5319

3/8

(S/Cino Ristedt)

0 5 3 3

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

785017

C O P Y

(37)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

AC/534/10/TN.3

31 July 1945

SUBJECT: Campbell Committee Report

TO : Executive Commissioner

1. Reference your letter 8005/53/EC dated 23 July 1945.
2. The Campbell Committee Report will need continuous implementation by all concerned. It will be necessary to investigate the problems from time to time as they arise, and take appropriate action either directly or by calling a meeting of the full Committee.
3. The following letters from Navy Sub-Commission will serve as examples of implementation to date: -
 - (a) No. 2863 of 6 July (copy in your possession) directs the Ministry of Marine to take action to implement the policies laid down.
 - (b) No. 3032 of 24 July (copy attached) to AFHQ deals with the transfer of Ports in Italy to Italian Government control.
 - (c) No. 3040 of 24 July (copy attached) to C. in C. Med. discusses the activation of non-operational salvage in Italian waters.
4. A copy of the Campbell Committee Report is attached herewith.

29 /s/ Charles W. Walton for
E. B. McKINLEY
Brigadier General, USA
Acting Vice President

3 Encls. 3032 of 24 July, 3040 of 24 July,
Campbell Committee Report

Copy to: Navy Subcommission

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394HSC/3040
24 July 1945

JUL 26 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

Subject: Non-operational Salvage in Italian Waters -
Responsibility for.

Reference: (a) CINC MEB Ltr Med.45/217/4/3 of 1 January 1945,
to FOTA Only.
(b) CINC MEB Ltr Med.45/219/2/2 of 7 March 1945,
not to all Info Address.
(c) Navy Sub-Commission Ltr HSC/2863 of 6 July 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of Section IV, Campbell Committee Report (Salvage).

1. The Flag Officer, Taranto and Adriatic, Italy (Rome), was informed by reference (a) that the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean will continue for the present to control non-operational salvage in Italian Waters, employing the Flag Officer, Taranto and Adriatic, Italy (Rome), as the channel of correspondence with the Italian Ministry of Marine. No information has been received indicating that these instructions are modified.

2. A Salvage Committee, Mediterranean was formed by reference (b) for non-operational salvage, composed of representatives of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, the Ministry of War Transport, the War Shipping Administration, the French Navy and Merchant Marine, and the Italian Navy. This Committee is understood to be primarily concerned with the non-operational salvage of Allied vessels and Italian vessels which may be required in the interest of the war effort, rather than non-operational salvage of Italian vessels in the interest of Italian economy and port clearance.

3. The Italian Ministry of Marine was informed in reference (c) that the Campbell Committee Report has been approved by the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean and the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and directed to take the necessary steps to implement the policies established. A copy of Section IV of the Report, relating to Salvage, is forwarded herewith for information. Paragraph 4 thereof recommends that an Authority be established to co-ordinate non-operational salvage, including representatives from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, the Director of Harbour Craft, Mediterranean, the Transportation Sub-Commission, Allied Commission and the Italian Ministry of Marine. It is recommended that the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean issue a directive to activate the Salvage Authority. Representatives from the offices concerned should be nominated.

(3) Lno (Rover)

53670
See P/A at 870
PA 27

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

30
 NSC/3040
 24 July 1945

Subject: Non-operational Salvage in Italian Waters -
 Responsibility for.

by name, a chairman appointed, and the Authority directed to conduct meetings at specified times. It is considered that the meetings should be held at Headquarters, Allied Commission, Rome. It is further suggested that representatives from the Flag Officer, Italy and Liaison (FOIL), and the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission, Allied Commission be included in the Salvage Authority.

4. It is considered to be of the utmost importance that non-operational salvage activities in Italian Waters be co-ordinated and controlled to insure that the maximum results are obtained.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN
 REAR ADMIRAL
 CHIEF, NAVAL SUB-COMMISSION, AC,
 for CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Copy to:
 AFHQ C-5.
 COMNAVSTA.
 FOIL.
 NSC/3040.
 Chief Commissioner, AC.
 Executive Commissioner, AC.
 Transportation Sub-Commission, AC.
 Public Works & Utilities S/C, AC.

PA 27/7/45
 MP

See 34

5316

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

785017

MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING BOARDCAMMELL COMMITTEE.SECTION IVSALVAGE.

1. The Committee have examined the question of salvage insofar as it affects clearance of ports and recovery of sunken or damaged harbour craft, tugs and lighters, for use in Returned Ports.
2. It has been ascertained that subject to the overriding authority of the salvage requirements of the Commander in Chief, Mediterranean, the Italian Ministry of Marine is responsible for the salvage, in any non-operational port or area, of all Italian vessels other than those required for the use of the Allied Services.
3. All privately owned craft can only be salvaged by private salvage companies or individuals under licences granted to the owner by the Divisione Ricupero of the Italian Ministry of Marine, whose local representation where there is no individual representation of the Divisione Ricupero, is the Port Technical Services Section of the office of the Captain of the Port.
4. As no priorities are established or supervision exercised other than that for R.I.M. craft, and that exercised by the Fleet Salvage Officer in the case of craft required for the Allied Forces, the Committee recommend that an authority be set up for the purpose of allotting priorities and deciding how requirements of craft for port working and clearance can be met from salvaged civilian craft. For this purpose the Authority should include representatives from the Commander in Chief, Mediterranean, Director of Harbour Craft, Transportation Sub-Commission, A.C., and the Italian Ministry of Marine (Divisione Ricupero). The Authority should confine its activities only to those ports which will revert to Italian control and in those areas which are declared non-operational by the Allies.
5. In the event of any Italian vessel or craft having been salvaged by private enterprise and thereafter requisitioned by either the Allied or Italian Authorities, the Committee have been advised that the question of compensation will be arranged and settled by the Italian Government.

5315

ENCLOSURE (A)

C
O
P
Y

0537

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

785017

5604
 HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
 Navy Sub-Commission JPO 394

NEG/1798
 13 March 1945

MAR 14 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
 To : Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
 Subject: Non-operational Italian Port Areas - Designation of.

1. The Chairman, Mediterranean Shipping Board, has appointed a Committee at Headquarters, AC headed by Mr. Ian Campbell to study and make recommendations with respect to shipping in ports which have been returned to Italian control. A copy of MEDBO letter of 24 February 1945, constituting the Committee, is enclosed herewith. A representative of the Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. AC has been designated to the Committee.

2. In order for the Committee to make a comprehensive study of the situation and submit appropriate recommendations, a designation of port areas which are now considered by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean as non-operational and which are returned to Italian control, is essential. It is further necessary that the Committee be informed generally as to the port areas which it is anticipated will be returned to Italian control when the remainder of German-held Italy is liberated.

3. For your information, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, letter MED 45/219/3/6 of 11 December 1944, proposed that all ports in Italy and Italian islands, including Sardinia and Sicily, be designated as non-operational for salvage purposes, except the ports and areas designated therein. The Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. AC has not been informed whether these areas are confirmed.

REAR ADMIRAL
 CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.
 for CHIEF COMMISSIONER

5314

Copy to:
 Executive Commissioner,
 Hq. AC.

noted [signature]

P/A [signature]

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

785017

COPYMEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING BOARD
A.F.H.Q., C.M.F.MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING BOARD
SHIPPING AND RECEPTION OF SHIPS IN PORTS.

- 1.) It has been agreed as soon as practicable the Italian Authorities should take over the operation of such Italian ports as are not under Allied Military Control.
- 2.) MEDBO have agreed that a Sub-Committee under the direction of Mr. Ian Campbell should examine the possibilities of such transference.
- 3.) The Committee should comprise representative of Royal Navy, War Shipping Administration, Allied Commission, G.I. (Mov. & Tr.) Tr. U.S.A. and the appropriate Italian Governmental Authorities.
- 4.) The Committee cannot at this stage be empowered to come to any decision on this matter, but submit their report in writing to MEDBO for transmission to the appropriate authority for sanction.
- 5.) The Committee should examine and report on such questions as the -
 - a). The appointment of one responsible Italian authority in each port who would be responsible to the Shipping Authority for the turnaround of vessels in his port.
 - b). The means of communication between ports and the Shipping Authority.
 - c). The provision of clerical staff to give daily reports on ships outturns and expected dates of completion.
 - d). The manning and control of tugs and harbour craft.
 - e). Berthing of vessels on arrival.
 - f). The method for control of stevedores in the interest of turnaround of shipping.
 - g). The payment of stevedores and the possibility of making a charge on the civilian cargoes for this purpose which would be payable by the receiver.
 - h). The payment of tugs, lighters, etc. and the possibilities of instituting dues on Civilian cargoes to reimburse dock authorities for costs in an equitable manner.
 - i). The transmission of orders to ships on completion of discharge.

5313

24th February 1945.

Sgd.) D. GIBSON GRAHAM

0 5 3 9

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

785017

5604

18

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

8 February 1945.

FEB 10 1945

MEMORANDUM TO COLONEL NIRO VALENZANO

Subject: Italian S.S. "POLCEVERO".

1. The above named vessel was sunk in the Aegean in 180 fathoms and salvage is considered impossible.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

cc: COS
CC files

11 refers

5312

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

see M19.
[Handwritten signature]

0540

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

785017

5604

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

MSC/1561
23 January 1945.
JAN 26 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Chief of Staff, Allied Commission.

Subject: Non-operational Salvage - Control of.

1. Reference 5604/3/COS dated 19 December 1944.
2. It will be noted from the attached copy of Med. 45/217/4/3 dated 4 January 1945, that for the present the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, will continue to control non-operational salvage through the Flag Officer, Taranto Adriatic and Liaison, Italy, (Rome).
3. Lieutenant-Commander E.C. DAVIES, R.N.V.R. will keep contact with the Interministerial Committee at the Italian Ministry of Marine.

H. W. E. E. E.
H. W. E. E. E.
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, A.C.

Copy to:
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
ECONOMIC SECTION
PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES
SC. AC.

5311

PM

see Minute 17
PM 2/1

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

785017

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Station,
Allied Force Headquarters,
4th January, 1945

Med.45/217/4/3/
THE FLAG OFFICER, TARANTO AND ADRIATIC, ITALY (ROME)
(Copy to:-
The Flag Officer, Taranto and Adriatic, Italy)

SALVAGE POLICY IN MEDITERRANEAN - ITALIAN WATERS.

1. With reference to NSC/1139 of 8th November, 1944, the Deputy Principal Salvage Officer, Mediterranean, is now paying a visit to Admiralty and will raise certain questions on the non-operational salvage of Allied and ex-German vessels in Italian waters.

2. It may be that certain of the Italian salvage resources now employed by, or available to, the Italian Ministry of Marine will be required for work on the above mentioned vessels.

3. The question of non-operational salvage as a whole (i.e. not only of Italian owned vessels) will therefore again be reviewed when the Deputy Principal Salvage Officer, Mediterranean returns with further information on the Admiralty policy on these questions.

4. Meanwhile, in view of the above, and the difficulties attached to delegating the responsibility of non-operational salvage to the Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, the recommendation in paragraph 6 of the above quoted letter is concurred in.

5. The Commander-in-Chief, will therefore continue for the present to control non-operational salvage in Italian waters employing the Flag Officer, Taranto and Adriatic, Italy (Rome) as the channel of correspondence with the Italian Ministry of Marine. The Flag Officer, Taranto and Adriatic, Italy (Rome) is requested to inform interested authorities accordingly.

6. Navy Sub-Commission letters NSC/1281 dated 9th December, NSC/1367 dated 21st December and the Flag Officer, Taranto and Adriatic, Italy (Rome) signal times 211047 December, also refer.

5310

/s/ L.H. Phillips
for ADMIRAL

Q 5 4 2

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

785017

WBS/afe

5 January 1945
JAN - 6 1945

Naval Subcommittee:

Can you give me any information as to the location of the sinking of the Italian Steamer POLCEVERO, 4000 tons, on the 27th of December, 1943. The owners would like to undertake salvage operations if at all practicable.

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral
Chief Commissioner

cc: CofS ✓
CC File

See 18

5339

0543

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~NSC/1365
28 December 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Chief of Staff, Headquarters, A.C.

Subject: Italian Interministerial Committee for Non-operational Salvage.

Enclosure: (A) Copy Ministry of Marine ltr B.5515 of 9 Dec. 1944.
(B) Copy Mediterranean Temporary Memorandum No. 214 of 9 September 1944.
(C) Copy CinC-Med ltr Med. 45/219/3/6 of 11 Dec. 1944.
(D) Copy Navy Sub-Com. AC. confi ltr NSC/1367 of 21 Dec. 1944.

1. Chief of Staff, A.C. letter 5604/3/CCS of 19 December 1944, forwarded to the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C., a copy of the Italian President of the Council of Minister's letter of 16 December 1944, which out-lined the organization established by the Italian Government for non-operational salvage. The Interministerial Committee has been in the process of formation since last September and is now constituted as indicated in Enclosure (A). A copy of Mediterranean Temporary Memorandum No. 214, which outlines the salvage policy in Italian Waters and a copy of Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean letter of 11 December 1944, which defines the areas in which non-operational salvage may be conducted, are forwarded herewith as enclosures (B) and (C), respectively.

2. While the Navy Sub-Commission has collaborated with the Italian Ministry of Marine in the organization of the Interministerial Committee for non-operational salvage, it is pointed out that this work is essentially a civilian commitment which should not be controlled by a military sub-commission of the Allied Commission. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, was advised accordingly in enclosure (D) which recommended that a sub-commission of the Allied Commission, A.C. be designed to co-ordinate the functions of the Interministerial Committee. A signal has been received from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, stating that the matter is under consideration. Verbal information which has been received indicates that the whole question of non-operational salvage in Italian Waters is being reviewed prior to the actual transfer of this responsibility to the Allied Commission.

3. In view of the above facts, it is recommended that no further action be taken by the Allied Commission, pending advice from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. In the meanwhile, the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C., will continue to take the necessary action on current non-operational salvage matters.

Copy to:
Deputy Chief of Staff,
Economic Section
Public Wks & Utilities SC.AC.

H. W. ZIROLI
H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

see M 12 to 14

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

785017

COPY

FROM: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
 TO : Various Ministeries and for Information F.O.L.I. - Rome.
 DATE: 9/12/44
 Ref.: B.5515

Subject: Interministerial Committee for Non-operational Ship Salvage, etc.,

Further to circular No. B. 5001 of 26th ulto. you are informed that the above Committee is now composed as follows:

Vice Admiral Bruto BRIVONESI - President.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| - For. I.R.N. | (Rear Admiral VICEDOMINI, Federico
(Traffic Section - Maristat
(Col. (Naval Eng.) RAPISARDA, Leonardo
(Maricost
(Lt. Col. (N. Eng.) GAZZO, Giuseppe
(Salvage Div. Maricost. |
| - For Merchant Navy. | (Col. FORTINI, Giuseppe
(Col. BORDOLI, Guido - Tech. Off. Marimercant. |
| - For Captaincies of the Port. | (Major (C.P.) PAGANO, Francesco. |
| - For Owners | (Col. (N. Eng.) DARDANONI, G. for Liners.
(Dr. CAMELI, Francesco for Cargo Vessels.
(Mr. LONGOBARDI, Pietro for M/Schooners. |
| - For Insurance Cos. | Dr. ROMANO, Dullio |
| - For Shipyards | Major (N. Eng.) ERCOLE, Umberto. |
| - For Salvage Cos. | Dr. FERA, Giorgia. |
| - For Ministry of Commerce and Labor. | Eng. CALTAGIRONE, Francesco. |
| - For Ministry of Finance | (Dr. DI PRISCO, Mario
(Capt. CANALI, Davide |
| - For Ministry of Agriculture | Lt. FUSCO, Nicola. |
| - For Ministry of Public Works | Eng. GRECO, Luigi. |
| - For Committee of Industrial Experts | Lt.Col (N.Eng.) SACCHIODOTI, Cesare. |

Major (Naval Eng.) CIGNOZZI, Corrado will act as Secretary to the Committee. The President of the Interministerial Committee will notify the Members in regard to the Date and place of the first Meeting.

(ENCLOSURE (A)).

(Sgd) THE MINISTER.

5307

CONFIDENTIAL:

22.9.44

CONFIDENTIAL

MEDITERRANEAN TEMPORARY MEMORANDAM.T. 214. Salvage Policy in the Mediterranean - Italian Waters.

The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, through the Flag Officers concerned, controls all operational salvage in the Mediterranean, on which either Allied or Italian salvage resources are employed. This includes: -

- (a) The port clearance necessary in all harbours required for the use of the Allied Forces.
- (b) The salvage in non-operational areas of such ships and craft which may be required for the use of the Allied Forces.

2. The requirements of the Commander-in-Chief for Italian salvage operations under 1(a) will be placed with the Italian Minister of Marine, through the Italian Naval Liaison Officer (Salvage) (see paragraph 4). The Italian Minister of Marine is also responsible to the Commander-in-Chief through the Flag Officer, Taranto, Adriatic and Liaison (Rome) for Italian salvage operations under 1(b).

3. The Royal Navy and United States Navy authorities concerned will be informed by the Commander-in-Chief of all such salvage operations undertaken. These authorities should, in turn, inform the Commander-in-Chief, through the normal service channels, of any salvage operations they consider necessary.

4. The representative of the Italian Minister of Marine in these matters will be known as the Italian Naval Liaison Officer (Salvage) short title I.N.L.O.(Sv). This duty is at present carried out by Lieutenant Colonel Spinelli, Viale Luigi 28, Rome (Telephone No. 863595).

5. Normally, Italian Salvage carried out under paragraph 1 above, will utilise Royal Italian Navy and/or commercial equipment. The Italian Naval Liaison Officer (Salvage) is to request the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean for the loan of Royal Navy equipment if this is necessary. Such equipment will be issued by the Royal Navy Salvage Authority detailed, to the Italian Naval Officer or firm in charge of the particular salvage undertaking, against a receipt in triplicate. The Royal Navy Salvage Authority is to despatch the original copy of the receipt to the Fleet Salvage Officer, the duplicate to the Italian Naval Liaison Officer (Salvage) and will retain the triplicate. When the equipment is returned, the Royal Navy Salvage Authority receiving it will inform both the Fleet Salvage Officer, and the Italian Naval Liaison Officer (Salvage), giving sufficient detail to enable the receipt concerned to be identified.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017CONFIDENTIALM.TM 214. Salvage Policy in the Mediterranean - Italian Waters.

6. The provision of consumable stores required for Italian salvage operations carried out under paragraph 1 above will be the responsibility of the Minister of Marine. In case of real necessity, the Italian Naval Liaison Officer (Salvage) may apply direct to the Fleet Salvage Officer for the release of materials and stores in small quantities from Royal Navy sources. Any release approved, will be subject to the procedure laid down in Mediterranean Temporary Memorandum 43, paragraph o(11).

7. Italian Naval or commercial salvage personnel employed in operational areas (1a) will be entitled to British Naval rations as an off-shore party. Those employed in non-operational areas (1b) will be entitled to Royal Italian Navy rations or civilian personnel rations respectively.

8. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, has delegated the responsibility of port clearance in all non-operational Italian harbours to the Allied Control Commission.

9. The Royal Navy and United States Navy shore authorities concerned will be kept informed by the Allied Control Commission of all such salvage operations undertaken. These authorities should, in turn, inform the Allied Control Commission of any salvage or port clearance operations they consider necessary in non-operational areas.

10. (a) All Italian vessels and equipment salvaged (except those included in 10(b) below) are to be handed over to the Italian Government. Those required for the use of the Allied Forces should be requisitioned in the normal way. Where British resources have been employed, an account of the cost of salvage and or repair is to be forwarded to the Flag Officer, Taranto, Adriatic and Liaison (Rome).

(b) All Allied vessels and equipment are the property of the Governments, private owners, or underwriters concerned.

Ex-German vessels are the property of the Prize Court in London.

Ex-Italian vessels in North African waters are the property of Prize Court in London.

No salvage of vessels included in sub-paragraph (b) should be undertaken without the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, or Allied Control Commission, who will take the necessary action with the owners.

11. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, will inform the Allied Control Commission when any port can be considered to be non-operational, in order that the Allied Control Commission may assume the responsibility of any non-operational port clearance or salvage necessary.

Med. 217/4/17/

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

COPY

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Station
Allied Force Headquarters.
11th December, 1944.

Med.45/219/3/6.

THE VICE ADMIRAL, MALTA AND CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN.
THE FLAG OFFICER, TARANTO AND ADRIATIC
THE FLAG OFFICER, NORTHERN AREA, MEDITERRANEAN
THE COMMANDER, UNITED STATES EIGHTH FLEET.

(Copy to each.)

Copy to:- The Flag Officer, Taranto, Adriatic and Liaison
Italy, Rome.)

SALVAGE IN ITALIAN WATERS

It is proposed to inform the Allied Commission that all ports
in Italy and Italian islands including Sardinia and Sicily are
"non-operational" for the purpose of Mediterranean Temporary Memorandum
214 paragraph 11 with the following exceptions:-

Leghorn and all to the North.
Naples
Ancona and all to the North.
Manfredonia
Barletta
Bari
Brindisi
Taranto
Maddalena
Palermo.

2. Flag Officers addressed are requested to confirm or amend as
requisite.

for ADMIRAL

(Enclosure (C))

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

785017

CONFIDENTIAL
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-LHEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394NSC/1367
21 December 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
 To : Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
 Subject: Non-operational Salvage - Italian Waters.

1. Navy Sub-Commission confidential letter NSC/1139B of 8 November 1944, commented on the proposed transfer of the responsibility for non-operational salvage in Italian Waters to the Allied Commission. It is pointed out that a copy of Mediterranean Temporary Memorandum No. 214 of 22 September 1944, was first received as an enclosure to Deputy Principal Salvage Officer, Mediterranean, letter No. 3448 of 27 October 1944, and was not construed as a formal notification of the transfer to the Allied Commission.

2. A copy of the President of the Italian Council of Minister's letter of 16 December 1944, which informs the Allied Commission that an Interministerial Committee has been organized for non-operational salvage, is enclosed herewith. A copy of the Italian Ministry of Marine letter of 26 November 1944, showing the membership and organization of this committee was forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, by Navy Sub-Commission confidential letter NSC/1281 of 9 December 1944. It is noted that the Italian Navy has not been designated to co-ordinate non-operational salvage, but that the seat of the Committee is in the Italian Navy Department and Vice Admiral Bruto BRIVONESI, IRN., is president of the committee.

3. For the reasons stated in Navy Sub-Commission confidential letter NSC/1139B of 8 November 1944, it is not considered desirable that the Navy Sub-Commission, AC, assume responsibility for co-ordinating non-operational salvage under the Italian Interministerial Committee. Accordingly, the Flag Officer Taranto Adriatic and Liaison, Italy, Rome, with concurrence by the Deputy Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, has requested authority from the Flag Officer Taranto Adriatic and Liaison, Italy, Taranto, to request the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, to designate a sub-commission other than the Navy Sub-Commission, AC, for this responsibility.

5383

H. W. ZIROLI,
 Commodore, U.S. Navy,
 for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

Copy to:
 FOTALI, TARANTO
 D. PRIN SALVAGE OFFICER, MED.
 PUB WKS & UTILITIES, SC. AC.

(Enclosure (D)).

0549

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

785017

COPY

The President of the Council of Ministers.

n.212:8:3/14625-13-5

Rome, 16 November 1944.

sec 3A

Dear Admiral Stone,

I received your letter of September 16th A/CC 091.711-2 communicating me informations about the control of the Allied Authorities over the salvage operations for the ships which have been sunk or damaged.

Considering that direct control would be maintained only for operative salvages, including the clearing of the harbours required by the Allied Forces, and the salvage of ships which, though they are not in operative areas, are deemed to be useful for the Allied Forces, I communicate to you that we have organized an Interministerial Committee to take care of the work which has been left to the competence of the Italian Government. In this Committee, all the Ministries concerned are represented, particularly the Navy and the Public Works Department, the shipowners, the navy yards, (for repairs), the insurance companies, and the Salvage Firms.

The Committee whose seat is in the Navy Department, is preparing a general plan on the following basis:

- 1). requisitioned ships - in charge of the R. Navy;
- 2). non requisitioned ships - their owners would take care of them with means of their own; should these means be lacking, the R. Navy or other Ministries would be put in charge.
- 3). crafts belonging to the Ministry of Public Works or other civilian Administrations of the State - the Public Works Department would take care of those, and if necessary, ask for the help of the Navy.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours sincerely,

5302

s/ I. Bonomi.

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission
R O M E

(Appendix to Enclosure (D)).

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

785017

4A

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 39AC-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L
CONFIDENTIALMSC/11395
8 November 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
Subject: Salvage Policy in the Mediterranean - Italian Waters.

1. The Deputy Principal Salvage Officer, Mediterranean letter No. 3448 of 27 October 1944, forwarded a copy of Mediterranean Temporary Confidential Memoranda No. 214 of 22 September 1944, in connection with the subject policy and requested that if approved, it be forwarded to Lieutenant Colonel SPINELLI, I.R.N. The formation of this policy has been under consideration for the past two months. It is regretted that while assurances have been received from the Italian Ministry of Marine that that Ministry will be designated as the agency to co-ordinate non-operational salvage in Italy, no reply has been received to Acting Chief Commissioner, A.C. letter of 16 September 1944 to the President of the Italian Council of Ministers, requesting that an agency of the Italian Government be designated as responsible for this function. A letter was forwarded to the President on 4 November 1944, requesting that the decision be expedited. This delay was anticipated in paragraph 9 of FOT/II, Rome letter No. I. 275/1 of 2 September 1944 to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, prepared in conjunction with the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C., which recommended that an interim policy be promulgated without further discussions.

2. At the present time, however, there are certain practical considerations which make it undesirable for the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C. to approve Mediterranean Temporary Confidential Memoranda No. 214. In the first place, there is no record of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean having delegated non-operational salvage in Italy to the Allied Commission. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean in letter Med. 219/3/4 of 10 July 1944, proposed that the Allied Commission accept responsibility for commercial salvage of Italian vessels in the ports of Eastern Sicily and Reggio (Calabria). As far as can be determined this responsibility has not yet been accepted, nor has responsibility for non-operational salvage in the subject waters been delegated to the Allied Commission. For example, Flag Officer Western Italy Confidential Memoranda No. 698 of 24 September 1944 of 19 October 1944, in connection with the turn-over of the ports of PIGBINO and SAN STEFANO, respectively, issued instructions to Italian Naval authorities for salvage operations. No mention of the Allied Commission was made in the directive nor was this office furnished with a copy of instructions, directly. This question therefore remains to

/the



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

785017

CONFIDENTIALHEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 39448
REC/11378
8 November 1944.Subject: Salvage Policy in the Mediterranean - Italian Waters.

be settled before the Italian Ministry of Marine can be advised that such a decision has been reached.

3. A further practical difficulty has arisen from the fact that it now appears that the Italian Ministry of Marine will be designated to co-ordinate non-operational salvage instead of the Italian Ministry of Public Works and Utilities, in which case the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C., would be the Allied agency to handle these matters. The Navy Sub-Commission, however, is not totally a separate entity. Not only are all of the policies of the Sub-Commission formulated by FOTALL, Taranto, but in fact the Staff of FOTALL, Rome and the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C., are amalgamated in one office. The Navy Sub-Commission is in the anomalous position of having authority to address correspondence to the Ministry of Marine emanating from or relating to the Allied Commission, whereas the Ministry has been given direct orders that all correspondence relating to the Italian Navy must be addressed to FOTALL, Rome. If the Navy Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission is to assume responsibility for non-operational salvage, it will be necessary to have this order rescinded for such matters as relate to non-operational salvage, otherwise no actual transfer of responsibilities will be accomplished. Furthermore, no technical officers are assigned to the staff of FOTALL, Rome - Navy Sub-Commission, A.C., at the present time.

4. A further defect in Mediterranean Temporary Confidential Memoranda No. 214 is that it provides for the issuance of orders to the Italian Ministry of Marine by three separate offices as follows:

- (a) By CinC.MED. for operational salvage.
- (b) By FOTALL, Rome, for salvage in non-operational areas for ships and crafts required for use by the Allied Forces.
- (c) By Allied Commission for non-operational salvage.

It is obvious that the issuance of directives by all three of the above offices to the Italian Ministry of Marine in connection with salvage can only lead to utter chaos and confusion.

5. With reference to paragraph 10 (b) of Mediterranean Temporary Confidential Memoranda No. 214, which states that ex-German vessels and ex-Italian vessels in North African waters are the property of the Prize Court in London, it is submitted that cases may arise where such vessels are the property of other Allied Nations.



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

4e

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APG 394NSC/1139B
8 November 1944.CONFIDENTIALSubject: Salvage Policy in the Mediterranean - Italian Waters.

6. In view of the above, it is recommended that CinC. MED. retain control over all salvage operations in the subject waters at least until such time as the organization of the Italian Government for this work is established and has commenced actual operation. This is particularly desirable in as much as CinC. MED. already has available a highly efficient staff of technical experts to supervise salvage operations.

7. If the above recommendation is not concurred in, it is suggested that the following action be taken to clarify the situation.

- (a) CinC. MED. issue a directive for operational salvage excluding all provisions for non-operational salvage by the Italian Government.
- (b) CinC. Med. delegate the responsibility for non-operational salvage in the subject waters to the Allied Commission defining from time to time the areas in which non-operational salvage may be conducted.
- (c) The Allied Commission issue a directive covering non-operational salvage.

H. W. ZIEGLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, A.C.

5299

Copy to:
COMNAV, Taranto.
Dep. Prin. Salvage Officer, MED.
Public Wks & Utilities SC, AC.



0553

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

785017

3 file

Tel: 451

19 December 1944.

Ref: 5604/3/003

SUBJECT: Salvage Operations.

TO : DOOS Economic Section.
Director, Navy Sub-Commission.

29 3A

1. Attention is directed to Prime Minister's letter No. 21283/14625-13-5 of 16 Dec 44, copy attached.
2. You are directed to submit your comments re: Interministerial Committee in the Italian Navy Dept and its general plan and basis of operation.

5293

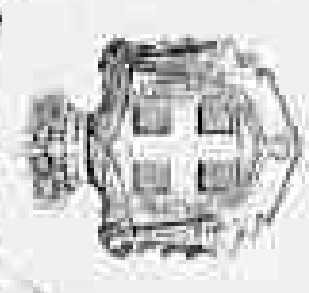
4 Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

Incl:
as above

BU 27 Dec Noted

14/12

N. 21283/14625-135



Roma, 16 dicembre 1944

3A

Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri

DEC. 1.5.1944

Caro Ammiraglio Stone,

ho ricevuto la sua lettera del 15 sette ore
u.s. N.A/CC 691.711-2 e prendo atto di quanto Ella ha comunicato cir-
ca il controllo delle Autorità Alleate sulle operazioni di recupere-
ro di naviglio affondato o danneggiato.

Considerato che il controllo diretto sarebbe avvenuto soltan-
to per i recuperi operativi, incluso lo sgombero dei porti neces-
sari alle Forze Alleate e il ricupero di navi una, per non trascurare
detti in zone operative, sono ritenute utili alle Forze Alleate,
mi prego comunicarle che per tutto il rimanente lavoro lasciato
alla competenza del Governo Italiano è stato provveduto con
l'istituzione di un Comitato interministeriale nel quale sono rap-
presentati tutti i Ministeri interessati ed in particolare quel-
li della Marina e dei Lavori Pubblici, oltre gli enti competenti, i comi-
tati di riparazione, gli enti assicuratori e le ditte ricuperatrici.

Il Comitato, che ha sede presso il Ministero della Marina, sta
elaborando un piano generale sulle seguenti basi:

- 1) navi e natanti requisiti - provvedimento direttamente la R.M.A.
rima;
- 2) navi non requisite - provvederebbero i proprietari con mezzi
propri e, in mancanza di tali mezzi, la Marina od altri ministere-
ri;
- 3) galleggianti di proprietà del ministero dei Lavori Pubblici o

Al Contrammiraglio
Ellery STONE
Il Presidente Commissione Alleata
ROMA

785017

0554

Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri

DEC 15 1944

Caro Contrammiraglio Stone,

Ho ricevuto la sua lettera del 15 settembre
u.s. N.A/CC 691.711-2 e prendo atto di quanto Ella ci comunica circa
il controllo delle Autorità Alleate sulle operazioni di recupero
di navaglio affondato o danneggiato.

Considerato che il controllo diretto sarebbe mantenuto soltanto
per i recuperi operativi, incluso lo sgombero dei ponti necessa-
ri alle Forze Alleate e il recupero di navi che, pur non trovan-
do in sede operativa, siano ritenute utili alle Forze Alleate,
mi prego comunicare che per tutto il rimanente lavoro richiesto

alla competenza del Governo Italiano è stato proceduto con
l'istituzione di un Comitato interministeriale nel quale sono rap-
presentati tutti i Ministeri interessati ed in particolare quel-
li della Marina e dei Lavori Pubblici, oltre gli armatori, i can-
tieri di riparazione, gli enti assicuratori e le ditte ricupere.

Il Comitato, che ha sede presso il Ministero della Marina, sta
elaborando un piano generale sulle seguenti basi:

- 1) navi e natanti requisiti - provvisoriamente direttamente la Marina;
- 2) navi non requisite - provvederebbero i proprietari con mezzi
propri o, in mancanza di tali mezzi, la Marina od altri Ministere-
ri;
- 3) galleggianti di proprietà del ministero dei Lavori Pubblici o

Al Contrammiraglio
ELERY STONE

(Il Presidente Commissione Alleata

ROMA

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

785017

0 5 5 5

0556

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

785017

di altre amministrazioni civili dello Stato - provvederemo lo
stesso ministero del Lavoro Pubblici che, se necessario, esse
dovranno l'ausilio della marcia.

Granica, come al lavoro, e non dovremmo salire

Granica

*Al Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri*

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

The President of the Council of Ministers

n. 21213/14625-13-5

Rome, 16 December 1944

19 DEC 1944

Dear Admiral Stone,

I received your letter of September 16th N/CC 091.741 -2 communicating me informations about the control of the Allied Authorities over the salvage operations for the ships which have been sunk or damaged.

Considering that direct control would be maintained only for operative salvages, including the clearing of the harbours required by the Allied Forces, and the salvage of ships which, though they are not in operative areas, are deemed to be useful for the Allied Forces, I communicate to you that we have organized an interministerial Committee to take care of the work which has been left to the competence of the Italian Government. In this Committee, all the Ministries concerned are represented, particularly the Navy and Public Works Departments, the shipowners, the navy yards (for repairs), the insurance companies, and the Salvage Firms.

The Committee whose seat is in the Navy Department, is preparing a general plan on the following basis:

- 1) requisitioned ships - in charge of the R. Navy;
- 2) non requisitioned ships - their owners would take care of them with means of their own; should these means be lacking, the R. Navy or other Ministries would be put in charge;
- 3) ships belonging to the Ministry of Public Works or other civilian Administrations of the State - the Public Works Department would take care of these, and if necessary, ask for the help of the Navy.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours sincerely,

s/ I. Bonomi

Admiral Willy Stone
Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission
R o m e

trans. e.o.

0558

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

785017

5604

①

A/OS 691.711-2

16 September 1944

19 DEC 1944

My dear Mr. Prime Minister :

Up to the present time the Naval Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, has exercised complete control over all salvage operations in Italian waters, including Sicily and Sardinia. It is now planned to retain direct control only over operational salvage, including port clearance necessary in all harbors required for the use of Allied Forces and the salvage of such ships and crafts in non-operational areas as may be required for use by the Allied Forces. All other non-operational salvage will be gradually turned over to the Italian Government under the Allied Control Commission.

Salvage facilities of the Italian Navy and commercial salvage firms have been utilized through the Italian Ministry of Marine to excellent advantage for salvage work. The Naval Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, will continue to employ a proportion of these facilities, the remainder will be available for non-operational salvage. In order that appropriate instructions may be issued, information is requested as to whether the Italian Ministry of Marine or the Italian Ministry of Public Works is responsible for the broad planning and co-ordination of harbor clearance and re-construction work and the actual salvage operations.

Yours very truly,

5295

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner.

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government
R O M E

Copy to:

Naval C-C Med
PWU. S.C.
Navy S.C.

