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MINES
DEC. 45 - FEB. 46

SU-1

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Op-415-E211-SFM
(SC)S81-1
Ser.02092P415



CONFIDENTIAL

24 FEB 1946

From: CNO
To: All Ships and Stations
Subj: Classification of Documents and Correspondence
Relating to Mine Warfare.

Ref: (a) Op-30-3M-ETW, (SC)S81-1 Ser. 01299330 of
12 October 1944 (NDB C44-119)
(b) NAV Ord OCL M28-44 of 29 November 1944
(c) Op30C3-HF Ser. 029930 of 9 December 1941

1. Reference (a) is a list of Mine Warfare Reports required by CNO. Any of these reports which have previously been submitted with a classification higher than that listed in the following paragraphs should be reclassified as indicated.

2. Reports numbers (1) and (4) are dispatch reports and no reclassification is authorized for them.

Report No. 2	<u>Minelaying Operation</u>	Confidential
" 3	<u>Mine Detail or Advanced Base Mine Depot</u>	Restricted
" 5	<u>Drifting Mines (letter reports)</u>	Unclassified
" 6	<u>Mines Swept</u>	Confidential
" 7	<u>Mine Sweeping Operation</u>	Confidential
" 8	<u>Mine Disposal (or Recovery) Operation - Restricted except when there is reference to U.S. mines in which case classification is in accordance with ref.(b).</u>	6400
" 9	<u>Mine Disposal Monthly - Same as for Mine Disposal report above.</u>	
" 10	<u>Enemy Mine Warfare Intelligence Classified according to source</u>	

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Ser. 02092P415

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3. The classification of the Bomb Disposal Reports required by ref.(c) may be Restricted except where specific attack involving the following tools is given in detail: Liquid fuze discharger (LFD), Stevens Stopper (SS), or VT fuze kit.
4. Correspondence dealing with logistic information such as requests for, shipments of, and inventories of mines and mine material may be classified Restricted. This provision applies only to such correspondence dated prior to 1 January 1946, and which does not also contain other classified matter which has not been reduced to the restricted level. Correspondence of this nature dated subsequent to the above date is not included in this provision and should be classified as necessary according to content and in accordance with existing regulations and instructions.

D. C. Ramsey

D. C. Ramsey
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

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U/C
TO. NAVY SUB COMMISSION.

FROM. MARISTAT.

NO. 49165.

Reference (communication from) ALPHQ dated 15th December last.
You are informed that we have hastened action of Marina Ancona to remove mine
which have drifted ashore close to Railway track in Ancona- Rimini area.

..... Sgd DE COURTEN 1340/22.

T/P F/L FOR A.M.
Dist. 0-5, 13-16, 18, 25, log. NSC(4).

P.R. 23/12

SU-1
6203

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

23rd December, 1945.

No: F.O.I.L. 836/48.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER,
HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION.

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

MINES - CHIoggia AND PUNTA MAESTRA.

With reference to the Regional Commissioner, Allied Military Government, Venezia Region's letter No. RM/020-(G) dated 14th December, 1945, you are informed that the desirability of clearing minefields in the interests of fishing and food production is not overlooked when minesweeping priorities in Italian waters are decided by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station. These priorities are fixed in accordance with policy established at the Mediterranean Zone meetings of the International Minesweeping Board, to which the Italian Navy sends representatives.

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

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

With reference to the Regional Commissioner, Allied Military Government, Venezia Region's letter No. RXII/020-(G) dated 14th December, 1945, you are informed that the desirability of clearing minefields in the interests of fishing and food production is not overlooked when minesweeping priorities in Italian waters are decided by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station. These priorities are fixed in accordance with policy established at the Mediterranean Zone meetings of the International Minesweeping Board, to which the Italian Navy sends representatives.

2. Perusal of the relevant mine charts would show that in the area between Chioggia and Punta Maestra there are in fact fewer lays than in the Ligurian and Tyrrhenian Seas, where the larger part of the Italian effort is at present concentrated. There is however an Italian minesweeping flotilla established in Venice, ready to begin operations in local waters, and it has already been arranged that they shall carry out a check sweep between Porto Oranto and Chioggia to confirm that the waters are safe for schooner and barge traffic from the Po to Venice. Further, Italian Naval Mine and Bomb Disposal Parties have dealt with or are dealing with mines washed ashore or laid close inshore.

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

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

Signed G. L. WARREN.

REAR-ADMIRAL.

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U.S. Naval Attache

Rome, Italy

19 July

46.

(a) ALGERIA Rome conf. report No. 90-16 dated 3 June 1946.

As Stated.

4-2

ITALY-SOUTH AFRICAN-PRINCIPAL SURVEYING-COAST DEFENSES-MINEFIED SEA AREAS.SWIFT CHANNELS THROUGH MINEY AFRICAN MINE FIELDS.

Enclosure (A) Chart showing swept channels through North Adriatic mine fields

1. Enclosure (A) was received by this office from the Northeast Italy Representative of SHIMMEL, Italy and is supplementary to information submitted in reference (a).

2. Enclosure (A) is a chart with graphic soundings from the mouth of River PO to CAPE FROSTHOLD. On this chart have been plotted-in the swept channels through the mine fields. The operational sweeping was conducted by the British Royal Navy and the information contained on this chart is dated as of 30 June 1946.

3. The legend set forth on the chart identifies the various mine fields as well as pertinent information regarding the location and safe passage routes.

4. It will be shown from this chart that the channels leading to the port of VENEZIA GUELIA are as follows:

CHANNELS CLEARED OF MINES: TO TRIESTE, MONTEALCONE, ORIDO.

PORTS ON COAST CONSIDERED FREE OF MINES: UDINE, SANTA CRUCIS, MIRAMARE, SANCOLA, CEDRAS, SAN BASTOLONE.

PORTS NOT YET OUT OF MINEZ ZONES: MONTE, SIOTIANA.

PORTS STILL ENDANGERED BY MINES: PORTO MERO, BARBARA, MELVIGORE.

5. No denying is now in process off the GULF Lagoon. Likewise, the channels inside the GULF Lagoon are not yet free of mines except the main

ENTRY CHANNELS THROUGH NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN FIELDS.

Enclosure: (A) Chart showing swept channels through North Atlantic mine fields.

1. Enclosure (A) was received by this office from the Northeast Italy Representative of SHANSHUO, Italy and is supplementary to information submitted in reference (a).

2. Enclosure (A) is a chart with graphic soundings from the mouth of River PO to CAPE FROSTWORTH. On this chart have been plotted in the swept channels through the mine fields. The operational sweeping was conducted by the British Royal Navy and the information contained on this chart is dated as of 30 June 1946.

3. The legend set forth on the chart identifies the various mine fields as well as pertinent information regarding the location and safe passage routes.

4. It will be shown from this chart that the channels leading to the port of VENEZIA CIVILIA are as follows:

CHANNELS CLEARED OF MINES: TO TRIESTE, MONFALCONE, GRADO.

PORTS ON COAST CONSIDERED FREE OF MINES: UDINE, SANTA GIUSEPPE, MIRAMARE, BARCOLANA, CEMAS, SAN NICOLA.

PORTS NOT YET OUT OF MINED ZONES: MONFALCONE, TRIESTE.

PORTS STILL ENDANGERED BY MINES: PORTO RUSSO, BARCOLANA, BELVEDERE.

5. No de-mining is now in progress off the GRADO Lagoon. Likewise, the channels inside the GRADO Lagoon are not yet free of mines except the main crustacean channel for small craft from GRADO leading to VENEZIA. The lagoon is being left for the Italian Navy to clear of mines.

6. The following are the methods of sweeping in the main ports of VENEZIA CIVILIA:

(2) CHL, Combarbed (Orig. A B), Combarbed (1), 2/A Bona (1), Bona (1), Combarbed (2), File.

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19 July 1946.

- (A) TRIESTE: Magnetic and also cytar mines were found in the entrance of TRIESTE harbor; the former being detonated by HMS LL/SA. The cytar mines were left to become extinct. This minefield is now considered safe.
- (B) POLA: Magnetic mines were found both in the inner harbor and the outer harbor of POLA. M.L.'s first searched both harbors for mined mines. HMS then LL/SA outer harbor and "K" craft LL/SA the inner harbor.
7. The method of minesweeping was "osopena" - LL/SA - LL/Pulmed SA.
8. Craft used were HMS - M.L. - L.C.V. with shallow wire sweep, "K" craft (specially built for shallow water LL/SA sweeping).
9. Types of mines found were German "M", "M", "M" - every type of G.L., some fitted with snag lines and chain moorings, others with chain moorings and cutters attached.
10. This sweeping was done entirely by the British Navy. At present the British Navy is sweeping only in waters east of 21 degrees east longitude; the areas west of that are an Italian commitment.

(especially built for shallow water (1/2 mile sweeping)).

9. Types of mines found were German type, mine, mine - every type of C.I., some fitted with mag lines and chain moorings, others with chain moorings and anchors attached.

10. This sweeping was done entirely by the British Navy. At present the British Navy is sweeping only in waters east of 21 degrees east longitude; the areas west of that are an Italian commitment.

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MINES CHIOGGIA AND PUNTA MAESTRA.

DISPOSAL OF MINES ASHORE IN ANCONA RIVINT AREA.

CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO MINE WELFARE.

SWEPT CHANNELS THROUGH NORTH~~WEST~~ ADRIATIC MINE FIELDS.

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