

ACC

10000/124/308 IRN-19/N

10000/124/308 IRN-19/N ALLIED SHIPS SUNK
IN SICILIAN WATERS.
DEC. 46 - SEP. 47

0661

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH.

FILE: IEM-19/W

ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN SICILIAN WATERS.

10000/124/308

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM DEC 1946
TO Sub Oct 1947
CATALOGUE

0 6 6 2

ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN SICILIAN WATERS.

10000/124/308

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM DEC 1946
TO Sep 1947
CATALOGUE.

Further action by British Naval Attache, Rome.

7322

2294-2227

H 20/2

BRITISH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Telegrams: Shipminder: Genoa

Tel. 54654

Ref: J.R.S/et

GENOVA 15th. September 1947
Piazza della Vittoria 15-BThe FLAG OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY
R O M EALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN SICILIAN WATERS.

I have your Memo dated 3rd. September 1947, Ref. No. FOLI/975, regarding Ships sunk in Sicilian waters.

Our records indicate the "Empire Florizel" and the "Ocean Peace" are the only two identified British ships in the waters mentioned. the "Empire Florizel" in Augusta, the "Ocean Peace" in Avola. The wrecks of both of these vessels have been sold, as they lie, to Mr. Pasquale Giuffrida of Catania.


J.R. Smith.

2. My

Latter please
or in this finished? 2/10/47

NA.

2322

THE FLAG OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY,
Rome.

3rd September, 1947.

No.FOLI/975.

THE DIRECTOR,
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
(Copy to:- The Director of Merchant Ship Repairs,
Western Mediterranean,
Piazza della Vittoria, 15, Genoa).

ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN SICILIAN WATERS.

The enclosed translation of the Ministry of Defence (Navy)'s letter No.34452, dated 20th August, 1947, is referred for necessary action.

2. The Director of Merchant Ship Repairs, Western Mediterranean is requested to inform the Director of the Italian Naval Branch, should he be able to identify any of the wrecks included in the Ministry of Defence (Navy)'s letter

(F's) please.

Crown. Crow 2321

For REAR-ADMIRAL.

RECEIVED

4 SEP 1947

NAVAL BRANCH HEADQ.

975

From: Ministry of Defence, Navy (Maristat).
To: Flag Officer Liaison, Italy, Rome.
Date: 20th August 1947.
Ref.: 34452.

Subject: Allied Ships Sunk in Sicilian Waters.

Forwarded enclosed is a list of Allied ships sunk in Sicilian waters, containing all the information in the possession of the Italian Navy, and you are requested to inform us of the intentions of the Allied Authorities regarding the removal of the above wrecks.

(Sgd) for The Chief of Naval Staff.



2320

LIST OF ALLIED WARSHIPS SUNK IN SICILIAN WATERS.

- British steamship - sunk in the Augusta anchorage, 300 metres E.S.E. of Fort Vittoria, since July 1943. Marked by a buoy. ✓
- British liberty ship - sunk in July 1943 in the August anchorage, about 700 metres from the Punta Vigna island. Loaded with explosives, machinery and petrol.
- Allied steamship - approx. 3,000 tons G.R.T. Sunk in July 1943 on the Avola beach in a depth of 20 metres, and approx. 400 metres N.E. of Capo Negro. Loaded with fuel.
- Allied steamship - Sunk on the 10th July 1943 in a depth of 30 metres on the Avola beach, about 400 metres N.E. of Capo Negro. Loaded with tanks, petrol and motor transport. Displacement 2,500 G.R.T.
- Allied steamship - sunk on the 10th of July 1943 in a depth of 30 metres, off Avola, about 1,100 metres N.E. of Capo Negro.



Mm 40

Roma 20 AGO 1947

Stato Maggiore della Regia Marina

M F.O.I.I.

ROMA

Reg. O.B.S. 11/1 B.D.

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO MARISTAT - ROMA

Prot. N. 34452 Allegato

ARGOMENTO: Navi alleate affondate nelle acque della Sicilia.

Si rimette un elenco di unità alleate affondate nelle acque della Sicilia, corre dato di tutte le notizie in possesso della M.M., con preghiera di voler far conoscere gli intendimenti delle Autorità Alleate in merito alla rimozione dei predetti relitti.

IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE

P
P

2318

ELenco DELLE NAVI ALLIMATE AFFONDATE NELLE ACQUE DELLA
S I C I L I A

- P/fo Inglese - affondato nella rada di Augusta, a 300 metri per E.S.E. del forte Vittoria, fin del luglio 1943. Segnalato con gavitello.
- LIBERTY Inglese- affondato nel luglio 1943 nella rada di Augusta a circa 700 metri dall'isolotto piccolo di punta Vagnali. Carico di esplosivo, macchinari e benzina.
- P/fo Alleato - di circa 3.000 tonn. stanza lorde affondato nel luglio 1943 sulla spiaggia di ~~stretta~~ Avola in 20 metri di fondale a circa 400 metri per N.E. da Capo Negro. Carico di carburante.
- P/fo Alleato - Affondato il 10 luglio 1943 in fondali di 30 metri sulla spiaggia di Avola a circa 600 metri per N.E. da Capo Negro. Carico di carri armati, bandiera, automezzi. Disl. 2.500 Tsl.
- P/fo Alleato - affondato il 10/7/1943 in 80 metri di fondale nei pressi di Avola a circa 1.100 metri per N.E. di Capo Negro.



2317

0669

Allied Force Headquarters
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
APO 794

IRM-19/N/ 226

23 July 1947

Subject: ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN THE PORT OF AUGUSTA AND BARI -
"EMPIRE FLORIZEL" "OCEAN PEACE" AND "FORT ATHABASKA".

To: THE MINISTRY OF MERCANTILE MARINE.

Reference: (a) Ministry of Mercantile Marine's ltr. No.12625/P dated
20 December 1946.
(b) Ministry of Mercantile Marine's ltr. No.1191/P dated
25 January 1947.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of the Director of Merchant Ship Repairs, Western
Mediterranean's ltr. J.R.S/st dated 8 July 1947.
(B) Copy of the British Ministry of Transport, Representative,
Italian Area's ltr. GAB/2040/47 dated 14 July 1947.

1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded in reply to references
(a) and (b).
2. The "EMPIRE FLORIZEL" and "OCEAN PEACE" are the British
vessels sunk in the port of Augusta and referred to in reference (a).

H
24/7.

S. D. CLASHBURN
Rear Admiral,
DIRECTOR, ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH.

25 JUL 1947 2316

BRITISH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

A.P.O. S. 551 C.M.F.

25, Corso d'Italia, Roma

Telegrams: Shipminder, Rome.

Tel. 843041 -Ext-37-

843045/46

Ref: GAB/2040/47

14th July, 1947.

To : Italian Naval Branch, A.F.H.Q., A.P.O. 794.
From : British Ministry of Transport Representative (Italian Area), ROME.
Subject : SUNKEN BRITISH VESSELS BARI AND SICILY.

Reference your letter dated 21st June, 1947 (IRN/19/N/176).

The Director of Merchant Ship Repairs, Western Med., Ministry of Transport, informs me Mr. Pasquale Giuffrida of Catania has taken up the option which he had on the British vessels:-

"EMPIRE FLORIZEL"	sunk in a Sicilian port (Augusta)
"OCEAN PEACE"	sunk in a Sicilian port (" ")
"PORT ATHABASKA"	sunk in Bari.

2. The information received by this office with respect to the cargoes indicates that:

"EMPIRE FLORIZEL"	cargo consists of medical supplies, motor vehicles, ammunitions, coal and machinery;
"OCEAN PEACE"	cargo consists of coal, ammunitions, motor-cycles and other miscellaneous motor vehicles;
"PORT ATHABASKA"	cargo consists of coal, miscellaneous Army stores, ammunitions and motor gears.

3. The above mentioned information has been conveyed on to the Ministero della Marina Mercantile (Servizio Domanio e Porti).

G. A. Bell
G. A. BELL.

British Ministry of Transport Representative (Italian Area) 2315

16 JUL 1947

BRITISH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

GENOVA 11th. July 1947
Piazza della Vittoria 15-B

Telegrams: Shipminder. Genoa

Tel. 55034

Ref: B.R.S/et

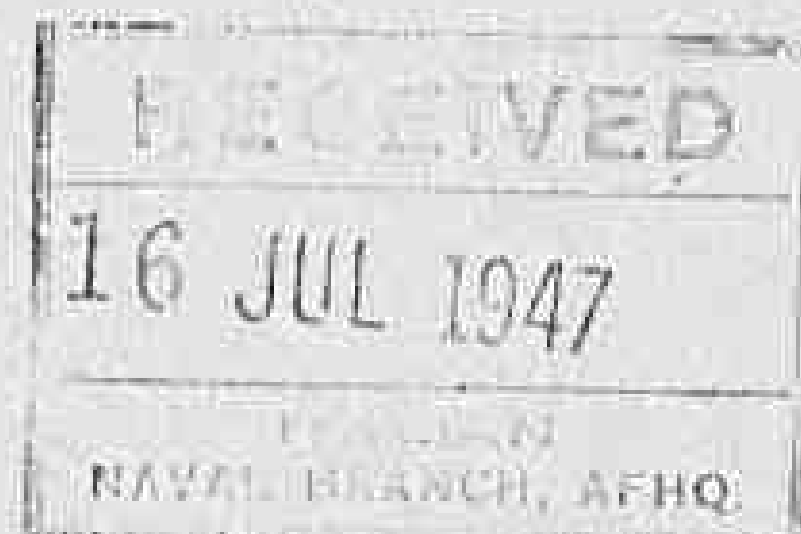
To ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
A.P.O. 794Subject: "EMPIRE FLORIZEL" "FORT ATHABASKA" "OCEAN PEACE".

I have your letter of the 21st. June 1947, Ref. IRN/19/
N/176, regarding the above vessels for acknowledgment.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter sent to the
British Ministry of Transport Representative, Mr. BELL in Rome,
who, I understand, will be getting into communication with you.

J. R. Smith
J. R. Smith
Director Merchant Ship Repairs
Western Mediterranean.

ENC. -



2314

Copy

55034

8th. July 1947

J.R.S/et

Registered

Dear Mr. Bell,

I am forwarding a copy of Delivery Note with agreed terms of sale and cargo salvage of the "Empire Florizel" "Fort Athabaska" & "Ocean Peace".

I confirm that Mr. Pasquale Giuffrida has received his original goodwill deposit. I leave it to you to inform the appropriate Allied and Italian Authorities of the terms of the sale.

Yours sincerely

J.R. Smith
Director Merchant Ship Repairs
Western Mediterranean

Enc.-

G.A. BELL Esq.,
M.O.T.R. (Italian Area)
Corso d'Italia, 25
R O M E

2313

ALLIED Force Headquarters
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
APO 794

IRM-19/N/176

21 June 1947

Subject: ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN THE PORT OF AUGUSTA.

To: THE DIRECTOR OF MERCHANT SHIP REPAIRS,
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

Reference: (a) The Director of Merchant Ship Repairs, Western
Mediterranean's ltr. dated 27 April 1947.

1. With regard to reference (a) it would be appreciated if London could now be hastened for a decision regarding the abandonment of the "EMPIRE FLORIZEL" and "OCEAN PEACE" sunk in Augusta harbour.

2. It is most desirable that this question be liquidated as soon as possible in view of the imminent ratification of the Italian Peace Treaty and the subsequent closing down of this Branch.

H
21/6

(Soo.) R. F. PRYCE .
for REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH.

24 JUN

2312

BRITISH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Telegrams: Shipminder. Genoa

Tel.

Ref:

GENOVA 27th. April 1947
Piazza della Vittoria 15-B

To: ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS , Italian Naval Branch , APO 794
Date: 27th. April 1947
From: JR. Smith, D.M.S.R. Western Med - Genoa.
Subject: ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN THE PORT OF AUGUSTA.
Reference: IRN/19/N/70 - (a) to DMSR, dated 8th. April 1947.

Further to my previous letter dated 15th. April 1947 on the same subject, we have now been made a firm offer for the purchase of the ships in question. This offer has been communicated to London. Immediately on receipt of their advice you will be notified if it is this Ministry's intention to proceed with the notice of abandonment.

J.R. Smith
J.R. Smith
Director Merchant Ship Repairs
Western Mediterranean.



0675

ALLIED Force Headquarters
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
APO 794

IRM-19/N/ 70

15 April 1947

Subject: ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN THE PORT OF AUGUSTA.

To: THE DIRECTOR OF MERCHANT SHIP REPAIRS, WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN,
15/8 PIAZZA DELLA VITTORIA, GENOA.

Reference: (a) The Director of Merchant Ship Repairs, Western
Mediterranean ltr. J.R.S./et dated 8 April 1947.

1. In reply to reference (a), it is agreed that in the circumstances, a notice of abandonment should be served in order to allow the Italian Authorities, subject to your approval, to remove the wrecks in question.

2. In the event, therefore, that the removal of these wrecks by the Italian Authorities is approved, it is requested that the necessary notice of abandonment in respect of the "EMPIRE FLORIZEL" and "OCEAN PEACE", be served to the Capitano di Porto, Augusta, through the Italian Ministry of Mercantile Marine, and forwarded to this Branch for onward transmission.

H. W. ZIROLL,
COMMANDER, U. S. NAVY.
FOR REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH.

151510/4
JMS

16 APR 1947 2310

BRITISH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Telegrams: Shipminder, Genoa

Tel. 55034

GENOVA 8th April 1947
Piazza della Vittoria 15.6

Ref: J.R.S/et

To : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Italian Military Affairs Section
A.P.O.794
Date: 8th April 1947.
From: Director Merchant Ship Repairs -Genoa

Your letters dated 6th March & 12th March 1947
Ref. IRN-19/N/92 & IRN-19/N/118 respectively, were only received
in this office on the 7th instant.

I have no records of the Minute:

- (a) Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission's minute
NSC/5845 dated 6th January 1947. -

having been received in this office; however there is a copy
of the missing Minute in your letter dated 12th March.

From investigations it would appear that the two
vessels in question are the "EMPIRE FLORIZEL" and "OCEAN PEACE".

As we understand that neither of these vessels
constitute a navigation danger, no action by the Ministry of Trans-
port would appear necessary, but however, if the Authorities are
likely to require their removal, notice of abandonment will have
to be given to the Port Authorities that the vessels are abandoned
to them.

If you are in agreement will you please let me know
and I will serve the necessary notice of abandonment.



J.R.S/et
Director Merchant Ship Repairs
Western Mediterranean.

2309

0 6 7 7

IRM-19/N/ 118

12 March 1947

From: Naval Sub-Section, Italian Military Affairs Section.
To: The Director of Merchant Ship Repairs, Western Mediterranean,
15/8, Piazza della Vittoria, Genoa.

Subject: Allied Ships Sunk in the Port of Augusta.

Reference: (a) Director of Merchant Ship Repairs' ltr. dated 27
February 1947.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission's
minute MSC/5845 dated 6 January 1947.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith in accordance with
reference (a).

11/3
H
12/3

H. W. ZIROLI,
COMMODORE, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, NAVAL SUB-SECTION, IMAS.

12/2/47
11/3

14 MAR 1947

2308

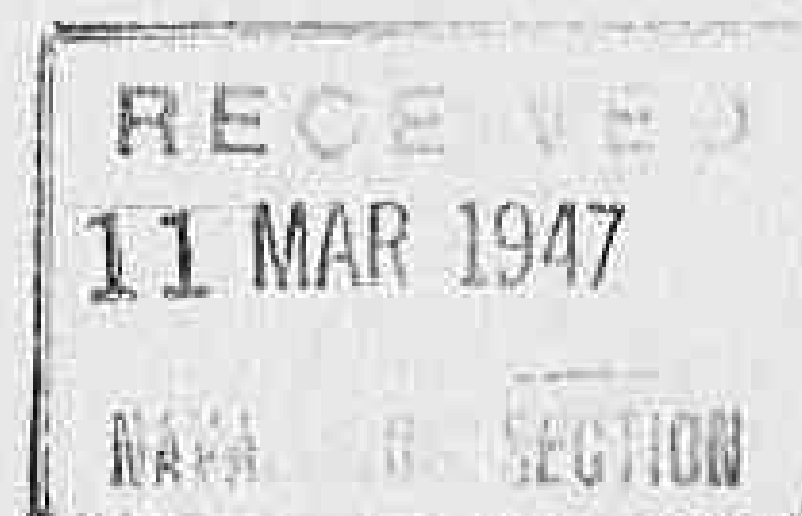
FROM: J.R. SMITH, Esq. DIRECTOR MERCHANT SHIP REPAIRS, WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN
15/8, Piazza della Vittoria, GENOA.
DATE: 27th of February, 1947.
TO : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Italian Military Affairs Section
Naval Sub Section, APO 794.

Subject: Allied Ships sunk in the Port of Augusta.

Reference: (a) Navy Sub-Commission, Minute NSC/5845 dated
6 January 1947.

Referring to your letter IRN-19/N/14 dated 6th of February, 1947, an exhaustive search of our files has been made but we have not been able to trace the letter in question. We would appreciate a copy of the same.


DIRECTOR MERCHANT SHIP REPAIRS
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN.



2307

IRN-19/N/ 88

6 March 1947.

From: Naval Sub-Section, Italian Military Affairs Section.
To: Ministry of Mercantile Marine.
Subject: SS. ~~PORT~~ ATHABASKA - sunk in the port of Bari.
Reference: (a) Ministry of Mercantile Marine ltr. 1191/P of
25 January 1947.

1. Further to the request contained in reference (a) you are advised that the authorities in London have been hastened by signal to obtain Canadian approval for abandoning the wreck, inasmuch as the PORT ATHABASKA is of Canadian origin.

2. Upon receipt of their approval, you will be advised.

H. W. ZIROLL,
COMMODORE, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, NAVAL SUB-SECTION, IMAS.

8 MAR 1947

2306

0880

IRN-19/W/92

6 March 1947

From: Naval Sub-Section, Italian Military Affairs Section.
To: The Director of Merchant Ship Repair, Western Mediterranean.
Subject: Allied Ships Sunk in the Port of Augusta.
Reference: (a) Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission's minute
MSC/5845 dated 6th January 1947.

1. A reply to reference (a) not having been received, information is requested as to when it may be expected or how the matter now stands.

H. W. ZIMMEL,
COMMODORE, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL
DIRECTOR, NAVAL SUB-SECTION, IMAS.

H
7/3
H
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8 MAR 1947

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ITALIAN MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION
NAVAL SUB SECTION
APO 794

IRN-19/N/ 14

6 February 1947.

From: Director, Naval Sub-Section, Italian Military Affairs
Section.
To: The Director of Merchant Ship Repair, Western
Mediterranean.
Subject: Allied Ships Sunk in the Port of AUGUSTA.
Reference: (a) Navy Sub-Commission, Minute NSC/5845 dated
6 January 1947.

1. It would be appreciated if a reply to reference (a)
could now be forwarded.

W. D. EMMANN
Comdr, USNR
For REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, NAVAL SUB-SECTION, IMAS.

H
b/v06/6/47
MRC

7 FEB 1947

2304

From: MINISTRY OF MERCANTILE MARINE
To : N.S.C. - A.C.) Rome
Date: 25th January 1947
Ref.: 1191/P.

Subject: S.S. "Fort Athabaska", sunk in the port of Bari

The Navy Sub Commission is requested to communicate what decisions have been made by the Allied Authorities regarding the removal of the British SS. "Fort Athabaska" which is sunk in the port of Bari.

for THE MINISTER

RECEIVED

31 JAN 1947

Navy Sub-Commission

JLE/P.
31

2303

0683

785020



Roma 25 GEN 1947. 194

Ministero della Marina

DIREZIONE
DELLA MARINA MERCANTILE

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione Navale
ROMA

Divisione IV
Del. 1191 / P. Allegati

Risposta al f. del
S. A.

OGGETTO: Piroscalo Fort Athabaska affondato nel
porto di Bari.=

Si prega codesta Commissione di vo-
ler comunicare quali decisioni sono state prese
dalle Autorità Alleate in merito allo sgombrò
del piroscafo Fort Athabaska, di bandiera ingle-
se, affondato nel porto di Bari.

IL MINISTRO

2302

ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN THE PORT OF AUGUSTA

Ministry of Mercantile Marine's letter 12625/P of 20th Dec. 1946

II

MSC/ 5845

The Director of Merchant Ship Repair,
Western Mediterranean.

Forwarded for your remarks please.

2.
appreciated.

Your opinion in paragraph 5 of Minute I would be

H. W. ZIROLI,
COMMODORE, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL,
CHIEF, NAVAL SUB-COMMISSION, A.C.ROME,
6th January, 1947.

9 JAN 1947

2301

IRN-19

07/17/71
JMS

From: MINISTRY OF MERCANTILE MARINE
To : H.S.G. - A.G. - Rome
Date: 20th December 1946
Ref.: 12625/P.

Subject: Allied ships sunk in the port of Augusta

*Copy
forwarded*

A British ship of unknown type (it appears to be a vessel of over 10,000 tons burden) is lying completely submerged in the port of Augusta, off Fort "Vittoria". She was sunk a few days after the occupation of the port, following air bombing which caused the explosion of the cargo which was mainly of ammunition.

It has not been possible to collect any further information about the ship, whose name is not even known.

It appears that the ship is not salvageable and must, therefore, be demolished on the spot.

*See
book*

Another British ship, of the "Empire" class, is lying sunken in the same port, E.N.E. of Isola Grande, and, according to our information, she was loaded with a cargo of explosives, machinery, motor vehicles, and petrol. She was hit by bombs and appears to have been scuttled by the Allies to prevent her explosion.

It is therefore requested that the Navy Sub Commission should inform us whether the Allied Authorities will provide for the removal of the above 2 ships or whether they are not concerned with the question and leave the salvage in Italian hands.

for THE MINISTER

JLB/P.
27

2300

Ministero
della Marina Mercantile

Roma 20 DIC. 1946

LA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione Navale

Direzione IV
Prot. 12625 P. Allegato

R O M A

Proposta al Seglio del
Dir. La. N.º

OGGETTO Navi alleate sommerse nel porto di Augusta.

Nel porto di Augusta, e precisamente nei pressi del forte "Vittoria", trovansi, completamente sommerso, un piroscafo inglese di tipo imprecisato (pare si tratti di una nave di oltre 10.000 tonnellate di portate), affondato pochi giorni dopo la occupazione del porto, in seguito ad azione aerea che provocò l'esplosione del carico, costituito in massima parte da munizioni.

Altre notizie non è stato possibile raccogliere su tale nave di cui non si conosce neanche il nome.

Sembra che la nave non sia ricuperabile e che, pertanto, debba essere demolita sul posto.

Nel porto stesso, ad E.N.E. dell'Isola Grande, giace affondato, con gli alberi emergenti, un piroscafo inglese della classe "Empire". Secondo informazioni assunte, la nave aveva a bordo un carico costituito da esplosivi, macchinari, automezzi e benzina. Colpita da bombe di aereo, pare che detta nave sia stata fatta affondare dalle autorità Alleate allo scopo di evitarne l'esplosione.

Ciò premesso, si prega codesta Commissione di voler comunicare se alla rimozione delle due navi sopraindicate provvederanno le autorità Alleate o se le autorità stesse si disintressano della questione, lasciando all'Amministrazione Italiana il compito di provvedere al riguardo.

2299

IL MINISTRO

Divisione IV
 Prot. 12625/P Allegato
 Direzione al Segretario del
 Vice
 N.º

OGGETTO: Navi alleate sommerse nel porto di Augusta.

Nel porto di Augusta, e precisamente nei pressi del forte "Vittoria", trovansi, completamente sommerso, un piroscafo inglese di tipo imprecisato (pare si tratti di una nave di oltre 10.000 tonnellate di portata), affondato pochi giorni dopo la occupazione del porto, in seguito ad azione aerea che provocò l'esplosione del carico, costituito in massima parte da munizioni.

Altre notizie non è stato possibile raccogliere su tale nave di cui non si conosce neanche il nome.

Sembra che la nave non sia recuperabile e che, pertanto, debba essere demolita sul posto.

Nel porto stesso, ad E.M.E. dell'Isola Grande, giace affondato, con gli alberi emergenti, un piroscafo inglese della classe "Empire". Secondo informazioni assunte, la nave aveva a bordo un carico costituito da esplosivi, macchinari, automezzi e benzina. Colpita da bombe di aereo, pare che detta nave sia stata fatta affondare dalle Autorità Alleate allo scopo di evitarne l'esplosione.

2299

Ciò premesso, si prega codesta Commissione di voler comunicare se alla rimozione delle due navi sovraindicate provvederanno le Autorità Alleate o se le Autorità stesse si disinteressano della questione, lasciando all'Amministrazione Italiana il compito di provvedere al riguardo.

IL MINISTRO

Maxwell

0 6 8 8