

ACC 10000/125/300

80/PAT.

CLEARANCE OF MINE FIELDS

AUG. 1944

0.7.1.3.

FILE 80/PAT	MINUTE SHEET No. 1.	
DATE.		PAGE

6596

TO	FOLIO	INFO.	ACTION.
	Attachment		
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY		
	Major MAGNUS		
✓	Major BRADY		
	Capt. SALVENDY		
	Chief CLARK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. FAY		
	Dr. FOWLES		
	Mr. VILLA		
	REMARKS.		

6595

13 AUG Recd

9/8A/AS

SECRET

Minutes of Conference "Mine Clearance", Office of A/Head Admin Section 9 Aug 44.

Present: Col Upjohn (Chair)

Col Todd
Col Cripps
Col McCarthy
Lt Col Dove
Lt Col Shipp
Major Maskery
Major Mitchell
Major Phillips
Major Fletcher

Admin Section
Industry Sub-Commission
Admin Section
Partisans Sub-Commission
HQ AAI
RC & MG Section
Industry Sub-Commission
HQ AAI
Army Sub-Commission
HQ AAI

Meeting opened at 1435 hours.

1 Col Upjohn opened the meeting by explaining that he had called it in order to explore the problems of mine clearance, before taking the matter up with the Italian Government, as he considered that no useful purpose would be served in pressing for action by that Government without being able to state what assistance could be given from Allied sources or having a clear idea of what the problem involved. He felt sure the Government would ask for assistance and he wished to be prepared to state to what extent that could be done.

The Chairman agreed when a question was asked, that the main responsibility was, of course, one for the Italian Government.

The Chairman stated that there were two main headings under which he proposed to divide the discussion:

- (a) technical production of instruments;
- (b) organisation and responsibility of mine clearance work.

2 Col Todd stated that before he could proceed to give any opinion as to production he would like to know:

- (a) how many detectors were likely to be required;
- (b) whether he could see a blue print of the design of a detector;
- (c) whether the detector was on Secret list and the possibility of its release.

3 In reply, Lt Colonel Dowd stated:

- (a) the requirements could be based upon 1 instrument to a Squad of 20 men.
- (b) He had a blue print which could be inspected by IndustrySC. It involved certain articles already in short supply and unlikely to arrive for a considerable period, and of such a nature that it was unlikely that they could be manufactured in this country.
- (c) Detectors are on the Secret List.
- (d) Italian type detectors are useless, they are NOT designed either for this terrain or modern type of mines.

4 Some discussion then followed and it was agreed that in view of the difficulties of manufacturing in this country, delivery at any near future date was not practicable. Recourse to the system of mine clearance by "prodding" will be the only effective method.

Major Maskery to inspect the blue print in order to see if there was any possibility of manufacture whatsoever.

5 The Chairman then asked what assistance could be given by AAI and MIA by way of instruction in order to build up a nucleus of trained Italian instructors. He also mentioned that length of time was required to complete a course.

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6 Major Mitchell replied that to train men as instructors capable of dealing with all types of mine (Allied and Enemy) would take 3 to 4 weeks each course. He considered that instructors would require the comprehensive course. Mass squads of workers could be trained in 10 days. He considered it very unlikely that it would be possible to make instructors available for Italian Schools from AAI. He stated that AAI school had just completed a course for Italian Army students but this had been done at the expense of a Course for Allied Troops. The school would be filled for some time to come with Allied students.

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7 Major Phillips (MIA) stated that some instructors were being trained for internal security bns, and the Coy's of Italian Engineers at present working with AMG were training 2 additional companies.

8 In reply to a question Lt Col Dove stated that AAI had no mine field charts on a national basis, but that AFHQ might be in possession.

9 The Chairman concluded that he now had a basis on which to take up the matter with the Italian Government, whose main need would be instructors for squads, which he would suggest might mainly be drawn from PARTISANS. He would inform them that from an equipment point of view, the likelihood of up-to-date equipment being made available was very remote. Location by "prodding" would be the initial method. (Industry stated that the instruments can be manufactured in this country).

As to instructors he would write:

(a) to HQ AAI asking for assistance in training an initial number of civilians as instructors;

(b) to MIA asking them to train civilians through the Italian Army.

He would ask the Italian Government to start selecting suitable men for such courses and concluded by asking Col McCarthy to see the CE Major General Coxwell. Rogers and enquire if he could render assistance in this matter.

Distribution : {2} Copies to each officer present.
 {2} File.

Ext: 608
RHC/wb

- 9 AUG Recd

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

9/8A/AS

8 Aug 44

SUBJECT : Clearance of Minefields.

TO : Col Fiske, RC & MG Section.
Col McCarthy, Patriots Branch.
Col Todd, ~~General~~ Sub-Commission, INDUSTRY.
Army Sub-Commission.

- 1 A conference on the above subject at which your presence is requested will be held in VP Admin Section's room at 1430 hours Wednesday 9 Aug 44.
- 2 The following matters will be discussed ;
 - a the provision by the Italian Army of Instructors;
 - b the provision of instruments and other equipment, including the possibility of manufacture;
 - c the establishment of schools of instruction or itinerant training teams.

G. R. Upjohn

G. R. UPJOHN, Col
A/Head, Adm Sec

Ext: 525
SHW/wb

6593

