

ACC

10000/141/856

10000/141/856

BOMB DISPOSAL  
MAY, JUN. 1945



22 Jun 45  
Civil Affairs Section.

*D. D. Bunker* 1.6.1  
G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.,  
VP CA Section.

5.

CA Sec

Land Forces SE. have recd a letter dated 20 June, same origin as folio 1, raising the issue of responsibility for BD without ref to the correspondence on this file. a reply is now being considered.

In view of this development EC will defer a decision for the moment as the problem may solve itself.

It is suggested that Maj Reakes continues contact with Maj Baumann on this subject.

Office of EC  
24/6/45

*E. Thorden* may

(6)

Local Government

Noh Minute 5. - bring up again in 14 days. 1094

27 June

- noted for.

*D. D. Bunker* 1.6.1  
CAS

21

- L.G. - Agreed. The civilian organisation was UNPA which, generally, has been dissolved. I doubt if they were experts. They were handled in the field by Pub. Inf. I am sure the services ought to

G. S. Bunker Fisher 1. Col.  
CAS

(5)

L.G.

Agreed. The civilian organisation was UNPA which, generally, has been dissolved. I doubt if they were experts. They were handled in the field by Pub. Inf. I am sure the Services ought to deal with it.

21 June

1093

1. Reference your Minute 2 above. Since writing Minute 1 this Sub Commission

5. As far as I can ascertain, the Ministry of War has no civilian organization for bomb disposal, nor do I consider, at this stage, the organization of such squads to be necessary, as it is my belief that it is not a very large or widespread problem and can be dealt with by Italian Military. I am therefore not in a position to answer the telegram at Folio 3.

4. I consider that the proper channel for correspondence in the matter of bomb disposal should be through the Local Government Sub-Commission and not Civil Affairs Section.

5. The following action has been taken on this date:

a) MIA have been asked to obtain the exact position with regard to bomb disposal from the Ministry of War.

b) C-3 Section, MIA, have been telephoned and the views expressed above have been conveyed to that Section. It was suggested that the release of the information referred to in Folio 3 should be made by ASA, through Service Sub-Commissions concerned.

6. May I please have your concurrence in the action so far taken and a decision as to whether or not the Mine Clearance Branch of this Sub-Commission is to interest itself in bomb disposal.

19th June 1945

2.

L.G. Agreed. The civilian organization was UNPA which, generally, has been dissolved. I doubt if they were experts. They were handled in the Field by Pub. Inf. I am sure the Service ought to deal with it.

21 June

R. R. B. M. H. A. L. 1.6.1  
CAS

To: Civil Affairs Section.

1003

1. Reference your Minute 2 above. Since writing Minute 1 this Sub-Commission has ascertained from MIA that in the Ministry of War the Inspectorate of Artillery is responsible for the technical details of bomb disposal. Its instructions on the executive side are carried out through and by the Military District Commanders. These in their turn use either civilians employed locally for the work or the UNPA organisation where it exists.

2. If I am to take it that the Services Sub-Commissions will in fact be responsible for this work in future, may an instruction to that effect please be obtained from the Executive Commissioner's Office.

21st June 1945

R. R. B. M. H. A. L. 1.6.1  
Director,  
Local Government S/C.

55

May Baumann

5 LUG 1945

SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal

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

G/97

30 June 1945

TO : AFHQ G-5

Ref: G-5 384.51

1. Request information whether it is definitely intended that the Italian Ministry of War will hereafter be responsible for Bomb Disposal in areas returned to the Italian Government.
2. If the answer to para 1 above is "Yes", request instructions as to category from which bomb disposal units will be drawn.

/s/ Capt Temple  
for Major General  
MMIA

Internal: RE

Jw/

ws 02 July

*File*  
*MMIA are taking over  
Bomb disposal. They are  
leaving it to the Ministry  
of War to do that job. N39.4  
This Sub Commission. Jd*

*PK 16 July*

*LG (Major Riches)*

*MMIA are taking Bombs*

*174*

*AB*

1092

*6275 LG*

9364

L. Govt (3)

# INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Copy No 1

Originator's Reference: F 94874  
Date/Time of Origin: JUNE 181156B

Message Centre No: E/5568  
Date Time Rec'd: JUNE 181420B  
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACHED SITE FHGG  
TO : ACTION ALCON ROME

TOP SECRET

Air Ministry will release information bomb disposal. Reur  
AC/35/LG of 7 June.

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

## Dist

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Copy No 1 | Action - L. Govt SC       |
| 2         | Info - Chief Commissioner |
| 3         | Exec Commr                |
| 4         | CA Sec                    |
| 5         | File                      |

AC/33/LG - Encl: 1184 - (Vol. XI)

AC/33/LG - Encl: 1070 - (Vol. X)

7 June  
19 May

TOP SECRET

1091

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APC 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AC/35/LG

7 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal.

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

Reference your C-5:384.54 of 19th May 1945 and subsequent conversation (Major WEAVER - Major MACHANARA).

1. On the evacuation of Bomb Disposal Units the Italian Ministry of War can be made responsible for Bomb Disposal throughout ITALY. At present they are doing some of this work in Italian Government territory.

2. It is suggested that before finally deciding to make the Italian Ministry of War responsible for this work the following points might be considered,

- (a) As Allied troops will be remaining in Italy for some months to come at least a few Bomb Disposal Units should be retained until the final embarkation.
- (b) As these units have special equipment (which is on the secret list) it is desired that they should continue as long as possible to help the Italian Government in removal of bombs.
- (c) If the Ministry of War are to be made responsible then a quantity of equipment on the secret list with transport should be handed over to them to enable the work to be carried out with safety to personnel. Information should also be released to the Italian concerning British Bomb fuses which are still on the secret list.
- (d) It is probably the case that if the BD Units could be left for a few more months they would be able to remove or make safe the bombs still remaining in Italy.
3. It is considered that no distinction should be made between civil and military installations and that so long as BD Units are working they should remove bombs wherever they are found.
4. Bomb Disposal has always been an L of G commitment and must remain so until territory is handed back to the Italian Government or L of G ceases to function in Italy. This Commission cannot accept responsibility for Bomb Disposal but it would suggest to the Italian Government that the Italian Ministry of War be responsible for this matter. Military Government territory subject to AC supervision.

Reference your G-5:384.51 of 19th May 1945 and subsequent conversation (Major KEARNS - Major KACHAMARA).

1. On the evacuation of Bomb Disposal Units the Italian Ministry of War can be made responsible for Bomb Disposal throughout ITALY. At present they are doing some of this work in Italian Government territory.

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(c) If the Ministry of War are to be made responsible then a quantity of equipment on the secret list with transport should be handed over to them to enable the work to be carried out with safety to personnel. Information should also be released to the Italian concerning British Bomb fuses which are still on the secret list.

(d) It is probably the case that if the DD Units could be left for a few more months they would be able to remove or make safe the bombs still remaining in Italy.

3. It is considered that no distinction should be made between civil and military installations and that so long as DD Units are working they should remove bombs wherever they are found.

4. Bomb Disposal has always been an L of C commitment and must remain so until territory is handed back to the Italian Government or L of C ceases to function in Italy. This Commission cannot accept responsibility for Bomb Disposal but it would suggest to the Italian Government that the Italian Ministry of War be responsible for this matter in Military Government territory subject to AC supervision.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

C 5 284.51

20 June 45

G.R. URJOHN, Brig.  
VP CA Section.

*Italian Signature & Antilley*  
*53*ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

CJM/sb

27 MAY 1945

19 May 1945

22 MAY 1945

22 MAY 1945

G-5: 384.51

SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission  
APO 394.

1. The present movement of Troops involves the imminent evacuation of Bomb Disposal Units. Alternative measures for Bomb Disposal are therefore imperative.
2. A signal is now with the War Office to ask, whether or not, British bomb fuses be removed from the Secret list and until that decision is received no firm policy can be implemented. U.S. fuses are not restricted.
3. It would appear from conversations that the military will dispose of bombs affecting their installations while those not so placed would be the concern of the civil authority. Opinion is expressed also that the matter is one for the Allied Commission.
4. Should bombs and fuses remain in the Secret category it would appear that BD personnel would remain for supervision with a liaison officer with Allied Commission.
5. At the moment discussion is tentative but your views are requested as soon as possible in view of the ultimate responsibility of the Italian Government.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

C. J. MACNANARA  
Major, P.C.

1089

5878/LG

1297

