

ACC

10000/143/28

785016

10000/143/28

UXB
NOV. 1943 - JAN. 1944

785016

SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal439/7
28 JAN 1944

Rear AMG. Eighth Army (9)

OM/4

AMG.H.Q. A.C.H.F.

25 January 1944.

Reference your AMG 439/7 of 20 Jan.44.

1. There are two U.X.B. Disposal squads in Eighth Army.
2. The use of Carabinieri for actual bomb reconnaissance is limited as generally they have had little training in this work.
3. As a medium for quickly bringing to notice the presence of U.X.B. they are effective.

1254

B/f new location
Sent 29/1
Noted
B/f

Ed Buller Major
Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
AMG. Eighth Army.

785016

28 JAN 1944

u39-8

HEADQUARTERS
AMG 5 ARMY
A.P.O. 464 U.S. ARMY

SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal.

27th January 1944

TO : H.Q., AMG, A.C.M.F.

103/5

1. With reference to your AMG/439/7 dated 20 January, 1944, the only means available to AMG for disposing of UXBs are the American Ordnance Bomb Disposal Units with H.Q., Fifth Army. No special squads have been put at AMG's disposal and the Army Ordnance Squads will only satisfy requests from AMG after the demands of the Tactical Units have been met.
2. Unsuccessful attempts have been made through Colonel Mocserini, a member of General Basso's staff, to obtain Italian Bomb Disposal Squads to deal with bombs which the Ordnance has no time to tackle. There are in Naples several technicians who are qualified to undertake such work, but they are all civilians. The military authorities are unwilling to have such work done by civilians in the Army areas and for some reason the Italians are unwilling to call these men into the Italian Army.
3. As regards bomb reconnaissance, no CORR have been specially trained or allotted for this duty. However, CORR in the course of their normal duties have reported the presence of suspected UXBs and mines and have provided guides for the Army services sent to remove them.
4. The question of lifting mines is a very serious one. The Army will not lift any mines except those which have to be lifted in the course of the Advance of our own troops, and the view is taken that this should be an Italian responsibility. So far the Italians are unwilling to undertake the work (see para 2 above) and even if the men were available there is no mine detecting equipment available for non-tactical formations.

J. O. M. Ashley 1253

J.O.M. ASHLEY.
COLONEL, CHIEF OF STAFF.
for S.C.A.O. AMG FIFTH ARMY.

Copy to Public Safety Division.
File.

DRM/kr

785016

Subject:- Bomb Disposal.AMC Hq.,
15 Army Group,
C.M.F.Ref. AMG/439/71
20 January 44.

S.C.A.P.O. thru S.C.A.O. AMG Fifth Army.
" " " " Eighth Army.

With reference to this Headquarters AMG/401/23 dated 1 Dec 43. Some U.X.B. Disposal Squads have been located for service in rear areas. Will you please report if any of these special squads have yet been allotted for service with Fifth and Eighth Armies. If there has been no allocation please say what means are at the call of AMG Officers for Bomb Disposal.

Please also report whether any effective use is being made of Carabinieri for Bomb Reconnaissance.

W. B. L. L. L.
Lt. Colonel,
Chief, Public Safety.

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U. S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH SECRETHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Safety Division

AMG/14047/18

15 January, 1944

SUBJECT : Bomb Disposal

TO : RMAO's Regions I and II.

1. The following locations of Military Bomb Disposal Units are given for your information:

Naples	P.B.S.	35th Ord. B.D. Co.
Foggia	MAAF	4-6 Ord. B.D. Squads
Bari	MAAF	2 Ord. B.D. Squads
Palermo	I.B.S.	1 Platoon 35th B.D. Co.

2. If the services of these units are required in the Regions, application should be made direct to the Unit Concerned.

*Scanned from original
for 14047/18
This one is for Region I*

Paul G. Hirt
PAUL G. HIRT
Colonel, Infantry,
Chief, Public Safety Division.

Copy to: MGS AFHQ. (3 copies) (for information: MGS-321-27 of 10
January, 1944 refers)

AMG 15 Army Group (for information)

1251

U. S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH SECRET

785016

Subject: Bomb Disposal.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: SAC,
13 Army Group,
C.I.P.

Ref: 100/101/23.
1 December 43.

1. C.I.P. 100/101/23.
2. C.I.P. 100/101/23.
3. C.I.P. 100/101/23.
4. C.I.P. 100/101/23.

Bomb disposal squads of U.S. Army units will be formed and allocated for work with units and Base Sections. They will be available for teams on application to Headquarters to which assigned for action, in conjunction with U.S. organizations with regards to provision of technical assistance in establishing reporting system and actual disposal action.

Details of liaison and formulation of plans for bomb disposal may best be left till the arrival of these special squads in the field.

One squad consists of 1 Officer and six men fully equipped to handle all normal U.S. bombs.

[Signature]
S. J. J. THOMAS-THOMAS,
Colonel, Chief Staff Officer.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

DSJ/DW/JW

29 NOV 1943

26 November 1943

MGS 321-27

SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal

TO : HQ AMG CWP
HQ AMG, 15 Army Group

Further to our letter MGS 321-1 of 13 November.

1. U. S. bomb disposal units in this theatre comprise two companies, and nine Bomb Disposal Squads Sep. (Sep signifies "separate", i.e. independent). Plans have been approved in Washington to de-activate the two companies, and by utilising their personnel to form twenty-four Bomb Disposal Squads Sep. These squads will consist of one officer and six men, and will be fully equipped to handle all normal incidents of UXB.

2. Normal assignments of squads will be to Armies and Base Sections, and they will be available on application through the normal channels, to the Headquarters to which they are assigned, for action in conjunction with local AMG/ACC organisations with regard to the provision of technical assistance in establishing reporting systems, as well as for actual disposal duties.

3. It is considered that details of liaison, and the formulation of plans for bomb disposal, may best be worked out in the field. (Para 2 (b) (iv) of our letter under reference refers). In this connection it is notified that all U. S. Bomb Disposal Officers in this theatre are qualified to establish reporting facilities, and to train personnel in their functions.

[Signature]
D. S. JACKSON
Lt. Colonel

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Subject: Proposed Ordnance Bomb Disposal Service with AMG/ACCCONFIDENTIAL.H.Q., A.M.G.,
15 Army Group,
C. M. F.M.G.S.,
A.F.H.Q.AMG/401/15.
18.Nov.43.

Reference your letter MCS 321-1 dated 13.Nov.43.

1. The Public Safety organisation of AMG operating in 15 Army Group will, once it is set up, handle the matter of unexploded bombs.
2. Forward Police officers will report detection and deal with any when they can, appealing to the nearest Bomb Disposal unit.
3. With regard to para.2(b) of the above-quoted letter:-
 - (i) The Carabinieri Services for reconnaissance will be made use of.
 - (ii) Technical advice will be obtained from the nearest Bomb Disposal Squad who will be notified of U.X.B.
 - (iii) At present there would appear no need to have a special squad allocated to AMG, 15 Army Group.
 - (iv) A plan kept as elastic as possible is at present considered to be the most suitable.

MPL/JG.

Major-General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Military Government Section

NOV 1943

MGS 321-1

13 November, 1943

(3)

SUBJECT: Proposed Ordnance Bomb Disposal Service with AMB/ACC.

TO : H.Q., A.M.G. (A.C.C.), C.M.F.
H.Q., A.M.G., 15 Army Group. ✓

1. A proposal has recently been received from the War Department that Ordnance Officers should be attached to AMB/ACC staffs in order to institute a procedure for the reporting of unexploded bombs. The comments of this Headquarters were invited, together with recommendations, should the proposal be considered acceptable, as to the echelons to which these officers should be attached.

2. The matter was referred to Ordnance Section at this Headquarters whose comments and proposals are summarized hereunder.

(a) Comments

(i) Italian civilians are invariably in dread of UXB and co-operate eagerly in reporting any suspicious indications. In Sicily, Bomb Disposal officers obtained complete reports in towns covered by discussing the problem with the local Carabinieri who, thereafter, obtained full information of all incidents in the area.

(ii) The civilians of the larger cities had set up P.A.D. and bomb reconnaissance systems. It is obvious that these systems can be combined with the utilization of the Carabinieri in order to submit reports to Military Government established.

(b) Proposals

(i) Military Government Elements arrange to coordinate civilian reconnaissance for areas under their control by using existent P.A.D. and Carabinieri services.

(ii) That technical advice be obtained from Commanding Officers of Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squads which, where conditions warrant, can be attached to near-by Army organisations to be available for the protection of the particular areas. These officers can also provide reconnaissance training as required. Incident reports can then be verified by civilian reconnaissance agents and turned over to the Bomb Disposal Officer for disposal through the Military Government officer

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in charge.

(iii) It is not recommended that special Bomb Disposal Officers be assigned to MGS, as on completion of pending re-organization a sufficient number of Bomb Disposal Squads (Bep) will be available for complete coverage of this problem whether in civilian or tactical areas.

(iv) That tentative requirements for this service be considered by the Military Government Section as elastic a plan as possible so that they can be revised as desired by Military Commanders concerned dependent upon conditions as they change from time to time. This would obtain more satisfactory results than attempting to establish a fixed number of units in any given location.

The proposals put forward have been accepted, and the War Department informed accordingly.

3. It is requested that you will forward your comments and suggestions on this matter to this Headquarters, particularly in respect of the proposal contained in paragraph 2 (b) (iv), above.

[Signature]
D. S. JACKLING,
Colonel.

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