

ACC

10000/143/130

10000/143/130

BOMB & MINE DISPOSAL
(REGION I)
AUG. - DEC. 1943

AMCOT/HON/RS

Region I.

RPS/446

BS

29

BOMB & MINE DISPOSAL

143

120

0005

BOMB & MINE DISPOSAL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785016

143

130

10000

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM AUG. 1943

TO DEC. 1943

CATALOGUE.

File No.PS.
Sheet No.

Folio No.	Ref.	Date.	To/From.	Subject.
1-3	CP/MFN/Int.	7/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Palermo	
4		9/9/43	" D.C.S.O. to C.S.O.	Ref 273
5			To Capt. Graham	" 1-4
6		15/9/43	From DCSO to C.S.O.	
7	1101/PS	16/9/43	" D.C.C.A.O.	Amgot to undertake removal of land mines
8	1101/PS	17/9/43	" Five R6.D.	Comments on 7.
9-11	1101/PS	20/9/43	To Civil Police	
12	1101/PS	20/9/43	To Amgot Liaison	
13				Extract from Minutes of CAPOs Meeting 8/9
14-18	GP/MFN/Int.	11/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Palermo	
19	6/1/P	15/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Enna	
20	1101/PS	25/9/43	To 7 th Army	Ref. 19.
21	1101/PS	20/9/43	To Amgot Liaison	
22	AM/23/62	24/9/43		Copy Amgot Liaison C.K. 15-AG.
23-25		26/9/43		Study of Situation by Col. Rolles
26-27-28		26/9/43		Correspondence re Explosives
29-30-31		27/9/43	From Col. Surote	Bombs & Explosives
32	PA	25/9/43	" Staff Captain	Disposal of Marine Mines
33-38	1101/PS	28/9/43	To Civilian Supply Co.	Use of Explosives in Suburban Mines
39-40	6/1/P	28/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Enna	Unexploded Bombs.
41-42	6/17/1/CPs	30/9/43	To C.P.S. from SCA	Proposal " "
43	1101/PS	2/10/43	To C.E.N. 1 Diol	Ref. 39.

USA.

103

7	1101/PS	16/9/43	^ D L C A D	Amgot to undertake removal of land mines
8	1101/PS	17/9/43	" Fire R6.D	Comments on %
9-11	1101/PS	20/9/43	To Civil Police	
12	1101/PS	20/9/43	To Amgot Liaison	
13				Extract from Minutes of CAP's Meeting 8/9
14-18	GP/MEN/CO	11/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Catania	
19	6/1/P	15/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Enna	
20	1101/PS	25/9/43	To 7 th Army	Ref. 19.
21	1101/PS	20/9/43	To Amgot Liaison	
22	A4/23/62	24/9/43		Copy to Amgot Liaison C.E. 15 AG.
23-25		26/9/43		Study of Situation by Col. Rolles
26-27-28		26/9/43		Correspondence re Explosives
29-30-31		27/9/43	From Col. Snootle	Bombs & Explosives
32	A	25/9/43	" Staff Captain	Disposal of Marine Mines
33-38	1101/PS	28/9/43	To British Supply Dept.	Use of Explosives in Sulphur Mines
39-40	6/1/P	28/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Enna	Unexploded Bombs.
41-42	6/7/1/CPS	30/9/43	To CAPS from SCA	Proposal "
43	1101/PS	2/10/43	To GEN ^o 1 Diot	Ref. 39.
44	1101/PS	2/10/43	To S.C.A.O. Enna	Ref. 40.
45	5013/CS	1/10/43	From Civ Supplies	Ref. 37.
46		2/10/43	" Seventh Army	20 Referred to Natoussa
47		5/10/43	To C.L.O. from C.P.S	re 41-42
48		5/10/43	To C.P.S	Bombs Mine Disposal - Employment Mine Disposal
49	CAT/58	30/9/43	From S.C.A.O. Catania	Mines & Bombs
50		4/10/43		Disposal of U.S.A.
51	SY 241/5	2/10/43	From Flag Officer Sicily	Disposal of Marine Mines

USA

File No.PS..
Sheet No.

Folio No.	Ref.	Date.	To/From.	Subject.
52	1520/C	3/10/43		Mine Clearance
53-54		22/9/43	To Official Civil Affairs Troop.	
55-56		8/10/43	From L.A.O. Troop	Removal of Bombs etc
56	1101/PS	9/10/43	To G.O.C. No. 101	Mine Clearance
57	1101/PS	8/10/43	To S.C.A.O. Troop.	Mine Sweeping
58/59		6/10/43	CE No 1 Dist	Disposal of UXBS. Folio 50.
60/61		28 Sep	Gen Sanniers	Letter re BD
62		13 Oct.		Extract from P.S. Bulletin No. 8.
63	CE3450/1	11 Oct	CE No 1 Dist	Disposal of UXBS.
64-65		15/10/43	From SC.A.O. Troop.	Mine Field, Tarynau, Levaue Horta
66		17/10/43	From SC.A.O. Henaia.	Mine Clearing Squad.
67	1101/PS	18/10/43	To Com. Revell.	Isoli Lgard
68	1104/PS	20/10	SCAO Messia	Bomb Mine Disposal
69	NR9531	24/10	C.G. Nakawa	Ref. Alencavilla, Muguor
70	1520/G	16/10/43	From No 1 Dist.	Mine Clearance by Italians
71	5050/TR	7.11.43	From SC.A.O. Troop	Reply to Folio 57
72		7.11.43	From No 6	Reply to Folio 67
73-77	476	13.11.43	SCAO Troop	Mine Clearance Troop
78	NR917-16	16.11.43	US removal of base	base fields Japanese

Forwarded to
Civil Affairs
for a.p. 10.10.43

57	1101/PS	8/10/43	To S.C.A.P.O. Tapan.	Mine Sweeping
58/59		6/10/43	CE No 1 Dist	Disposal of UXBS. Folio 50.
60/62		28 Sep	Gen Sarninos	Letter re BD
62		13 Oct.		Extracts from P.S. Bulletin No. 8.
63	CE 3450/1	11 Oct	CE No 1 Dist	Disposal of UXBS.
64-65		15/10/43	SCAO Tapan.	Mine Field, Tapanona, Leningo Harels
66		17/10/43	From SCAO-Herana.	Mine Clearing Squad.
67.	1101/PS	18/10/43	To Com. Revell.	Isoli K. G. d. d.
68	1101/PS	20/10	SCAO Messina	Bomb Mine Disposal
69	VR 9831	21/10	C.B. Watson	Ref. Abancuallo, Abugayot
70	1520/G	16/10/43	From No 1 Dist.	Mine Clearance By Italians
71	5050/TR	7.11.43	From SCAO Tapan	Reply to folio 57
72		7.11.43	From No B	Reply to folio 67
73-77	476	13.11.43	SCAO Tapan	Mine Clearance Tapan
78	NB 14/10	16.11.43	US Naval op. Code	Mine Field, Tapanona

Passed to
Civil Defense
for a P.S. 10

50

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540
420 394

File NPS 476

19 December 1943

SUBJECT Marine Mines
TO THE
THROUGH ASK HQ

1. Reference communication from this HQ - ref. NPS 476 dated 20th November 1943, the attached copy of communication received from SCAC Beirut is forwarded for your information and necessary action.

Encl. 2

1. SCAC letter
2. Inselmi letter

CHARLES POLARIS
Lt. Colonel
Regional Civil Affairs Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
REGION NO.1 HEADQUARTERS
APC.394

FILE - RPS.476

9th December, 1943.

SUBJECT - FLOATING MINES AT TRAPANI.

TO - COMMANDANT, NAVAL OPERATING BASE, PALERMO.
(By telephone at 11-40 am; 9th Dec. '43).

Information has been received from Trapani that
a mine has been washed ashore near the Lighthouse at
Capo Grianitile between Campobello and Mazara.

Will you please deal with it?

REPLY.

The Mine Disposal Squad are operating in this
vicinity now and this one will be dealt with too.

W.L. Wilson Lieut.
Public Safety Division.

Copy for the information of Major Bartlett, SCAPC., Trapani.

4497

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS.
APO.394.

FILE NO. RPS. 476.

9th December, 1943.

SUBJECT - MARINE MINES.

TO - SCAPO., TRAPANI; through SCAO.

1. Attached message to and reply from Commandant,
W.C.B. is forwarded for your information.

By order of Lt. Colonel Charles Poletti.

Major,
for Russell A. Snook,
Chief Public Safety Division.

Enc. 1.
Message to NOB.

4496

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS.
APO.394.

FILE NO. RPS. 475.

9th December, 1943.

SUBJECT - MARINE MINES.

TO - SCARPO, TRAPANI; through SCPO.

1. Attached message to and reply from Commandant,
M.C.B. is forwarded for your information.

By order of Lt. Colonel Charles Poletti.

Major,
For Russell A. Snook,
Chief Public Safety Division.

Enc. 1.
Message to HCB.

4493

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
REGION NO. 1 HEADQUARTERS
APO. 394

FILE - RPS.476

9th December, 1943.

SUBJECT - FLOATING MINES AT TRAPANI.

TO - COMMANDANT, NAVAL OPERATING BASE, PALERMO.
(By telephone at 11-40 am; 9th Dec. '43).

Information has been received from Trapani that
a mine has been washed ashore near the Lighthouse at
Cape Grisnatile between Campobello and Mazara.

Will you please deal with it?

REPLY.

The Mine Disposal Squad are operating in this
vicinity now and this one will be dealt with too.

W. Wilson Lieut.
Public Safety Division.

4494

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
MILITARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

File H.F.S. 476

29 November 1943

Subject; Marine Mines

To : SACO Trepuri

- (1) Reference previous correspondence dealing with the question of marine mines in vicinity of Trepuri and Barcola. I attach copies of communications addressed to AFM and received from H.O.R. in connection with this matter.

BY ORDER of Lt. Col. CHARLES POLITTI, DCAG.

RUSSELL A. SPOCK
Lt. Colonel
Chief Public Safety Division

Encl.

Copy of letter to AFM
" " " from H.O.R.

4493

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

File R.P.S. 476

20 November 1943

SUBJECT - MARINE MINES

TO - A. F. HQ. THROUGH A.M.G. HEADQUARTERS

- (1) Information has been received at this Headquarters from Lt. Colonel Floyd P. Thomas, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Trapani, that a number of mines were floating free in the area west of Sicily and particularly around Favignana Island.

The situation has become critical as the result of recent storms at sea; some of the mines have been blown in an easterly or north-easterly direction towards shore. One drifted ashore near Trapani Harbour and others were seen floating free in the vicinity.

Should the wind change to the opposite direction, these floating mines would be a grave danger to shipping; so far one ship laden with grain has been lost.

The mines are partly magnetic, are named "Antenne Mines" and are of German origin. Attempts to explode them by rifle fire have been unsuccessful.

- (2) Considerable correspondence has passed between this Headquarters and Naval Operating Base, Mines Disposal Section Palermo, on this matter.

Naval Operating Base originally promised attention but later altered their decision by letter, the main part of which is as follows;

"The sweeping of defensive mine fields such as the one in question is normally the responsibility of the nation that created the field. In this case the Italian Nation should be requested to provide the ships and personnel for the work. It is not possible to sweep the field with forces available at Palermo."

- (3) It is requested that immediate steps be taken by the competent authority to remove the danger.

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Region Civil Affairs Officer

Beach
Ward Disposal

111
SICILY, NEW BRUNSWICK
SICILY MOTOR HEAD LAMP
LOT 254

November 5, 1943

SICILY : H-3 876

SUBJECT : Machine Motor

PC : H-3

THRU : H-3 876

1. Reference communication from this HQ - Ref. 2 3 876 -
dated 26th November 1943, the attached copy of communication
received from SICILY Motor is for included for your information
and necessary action.

WHITING POINT
111 876

Regional Office of the 0 floor

Encl. 1 -
SICILY Letter

2
Sicily letter

1057

UNITED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

To:- Senior Civil Affairs Officer.
TRAPANI

Civil Affairs Office.
Municipality: MARSALA. 27th November 1943.

Subject:- Mine floating at the seacoast-

AMG/MARS/14.

Herewith attached letter dated 27th Nov. from "Ditta Carlo-
Alberto Anselmi-Marsala" on the above subject, for necessary action.


Major, Civil Affairs Officer.
Marsala.

4490

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

(TRAPANI Sicily)

SCAO/5072/TR

29 November 1945

SUBJECT: Marine mine

TO : Public Safety Division, Sicily Region Hq

THRU : SCAO, Sicily Region Hq

1. A marine mine, from an incomplete report received, washed against a breakwater in Trapani harbor, exploded and killed five people. It was not ascertained whether the mine was tampered with or exploded upon contact with the breakwater.

2. Your attention is invited to the attached report from Marsala on floating mines off the west coast.

JOHN J. STEPHAN

Capt. Inf

Adj-Trapani

Forwarded:

FLOYD E. THOMAS

Lt Col, Inf

SCAO-Trapani

TELEFONO N° 1005
TELEGRAMMI ANSELMI
C.P.C. TRAPANI 209**ANSELMI**

DITTA CARIALBERTO ANSELMI - MARSALA

VINI SERVITI ALLE TAVOLE REALI - CASA FONDATA NEL 1874 - STABILIMENTO PROPRIO AL BOEO

MARSALA, 27 Novembre 1943

Spett. Comando Militare degli Eserciti Alleati

Marsala

Vi informiamo che a circa metri seicento di distanza dal nostro Stabilimento vi è una Mina vagante.*

Vi preghiamo di provvedere, con cortese urgenza, per la relativa rimozione.*

Porgendo anticipati vivi ringraziamenti, distintamente Vi salutiamo.*

Carialberto Anselmi

(Translation)

to C. A. O. Marsala

1458

We inform you that there is a mine floating about 600 metres from our Establishment —

We beg you to remove this mine at your earliest convenience —

We thank in advance

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

File R.P.S. 476

29 November 1943

Subject; Marine Mines

To ; SCAG Trapani

- (1) Reference previous correspondence dealing with the question of marine mines in vicinity of Trapani and Marsala. I attach copies of communications addressed to AFHQ and received from N.O.B. in connection with this matter.

BY ORDER of Lt. Col. CHARLES POLETTI, SCAG.

RUSSELL A. SMOOK
Lt. Colonel
Chief Public Safety Division

Encl.

Copy of letter to AFHQ
" " " from N.O.B.

4487

3rd Ind.

29 November 1943

File R.P.S. 476

To; AGO Agrigento

- (1) Forwarded for your information.
BY ORDER of Lt. Colonel CHARLES FOLETTI, AGO.

4486

RUSSELL A. SMOOF
Lt. Colonel
Chief Public Safety Division

2nd Endorsement U. S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE
AMC Civil Affairs Office PALERMO, SICILY
ltr 8 Nov. 1943, AG/S/1050

MKR:ehd

26 November 1943

Serial; 571

From; The Commandant
To ; Officer-in-charge, Allied Military Government, Sicily Region
Headquarters

Subject; Capitanaria (Harbor Master) Porto Empedocle.

1. There is no Naval authority or activity now at Porto Empedocle. The questions herein are considered to be purely civil matters, except the question of minesweeping.
2. Negotiations are now underway in an attempt to have Italian Naval minesweepers assigned to sweep mines in Porto Empedocle area and in the Marsala, Trapani area. It is also planned to have an Italian Naval authority in those places, whose function would be to issue sailing instructions for coastwise shipping.

L. DAUGHTY, Jr.

M.Y. REVILL
Commander U.S.N.R.
by direction

3rd Ind.

File R.P.S. 476

29 November 1943

To; SCAO Agrigento

4485

(1) Forwarded for your information.

BY ORDER of Lt. Colonel CHARLES POIETTI, SCAO.

RUSSELL A. SNOOK
Lt. Colonel
Chief Public Safety Division

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE
PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita
(TRAPANI Sicily)

SCAO/5069/TR
26 November 1945

SUBJECT: Floating Marine Mines

TO : Commandant NOB, USN, Palermo (thru Sub Saf Div)

THRU : SCAC, Sicily Region 1

1. Attached is a report of marine mines floating offshore Marsala.

John J. Simon
JOHN J. SIMON
Capt, Inf
Adj-Trapani

Forwarded/

R. G. Kraft, Major
for
FLOYD E THOMAS
Lt Col, Inf
SCAC-Trapani

*Letter dated
26/11/45 to AFHQ
deals with them
AM*

4484

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT

To:- Senior Civil Affairs Officer.

T R A P A N I

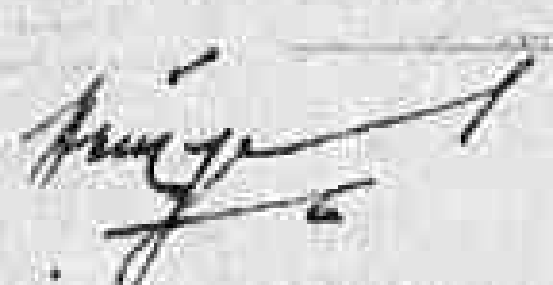
Civil Affairs Office.

Municipio. MARSALA; 23 Nov. 1943.

Subject:- lines floating at sea coast-

A.G./ARS/14.

I attach hereto letters No. 261 and No. 276, dated 23rd Nov. 1943 from the District Maritime Officer of Marsala, on the above subject for necessary action.


Major, Civil Affairs Officer.
Marsala.

261 only att'd as receipt in B.D. Regd.
25/11

Ufficio Comandante Marina-Mare

Pret. n° 261

Marsala 23 novembre 1943

AL COMANDO ALLEATO

MARSALA

ARGOMENTO: Mine alla deriva:

Urgente

Il Comando Brigata Guardia di Finanza di Penticelle informa che su quella spiaggia trovansi due mine alla deriva attive.

Si prega pertanto di voler disporre affinché le mine suddette siano disattivate e rimosse, costituendo, nei confronti di quell'abitato, serio pericolo.

IL REGGENTE DEL PORTO
(Penzance marie)

Foranini

4482

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512.

File R.P.S. 476.

26th November, 1943.

SUBJECT - MARINE MINES.

TO - A. F. HQ. THROUGH A.M.G. HEADQUARTERS.

(1)

Information has been received at this Headquarters from Lt. Colonel Floyd S. Thomas, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Trapani, that a number of mines were floating free in the area west of Sicily and particularly around Favignana Island.

The situation has become critical as the result of re storms at sea; some of the mines have been blown in an east or north-easterly direction towards shore. One drifted ash near Trapani Harbour and others were seen floating free in the vicinity.

Should the wind change to the opposite direction, the floating mines would be a grave danger to shipping; so far ship laden with grain has been lost.

The mines are partly magnetic, are named "Antennae Mines" and are of German origin. Attempts to explode them by rifle fire have been unsuccessful.

(2)

Considerable correspondence has passed between this Headquarters and Naval Operating Base, Mines Disposal Section Palermo, on this matter.

Naval Operating Base originally promised attention but later altered their decision by letter, the main part of which is as follows:

"The sweeping of defensive mine fields such as the one in question is normally the responsibility of the nation that created the field. In this case the Italian Navy should be requested to provide the ships and personnel for the work. It is not possible to sweep the field with forces available at Palermo."

(3)

It is requested that immediate steps be taken by the competent authority to remove the danger.

CHARLES POLETTI
LT. COLONEL
REGION CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512.

RL/476/CPS/BHJ.
24/11/43.

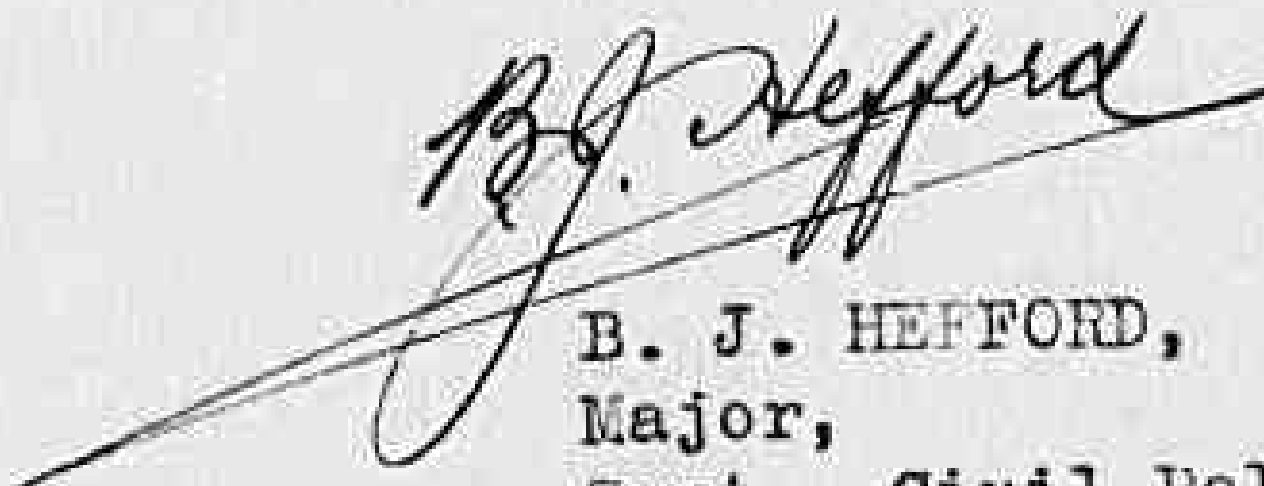
SUBJECT : Minefield of Coast of TRAPANI.

TO : Chief - Public Safety Division, No. 1 Region.

1. At folio 78 is a reply from U.S., N.O.B., Palermo, to the communication sent from this Region (copy at 76).

2. The effect of 78 is to refer to the earlier letter from N.O.B., Palermo, at 72, which explains that it is not possible to sweep the minefield in question with forces available at Palermo; that the responsibility for sweeping such fields is normally that of the nation which created them, and in this case it is suggested that the Italian Navy should be requested, through Allied Force Headquarters, to provide the ships and personnel for this work.

3. It is therefore requested that this matter be taken up with Allied Force Headquarters, through the appropriate channels.


B. J. HEFFORD,
Major,

Supt., Civil Police Section.

6480

NB/A17-10

U. S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE
Palermo, Sicily

134

78

LD/wdm

2A

Serial: 506

November 16, 1943.

From: Commandant.
To: Allied Military Government Headquarters, Palermo, Sicily.

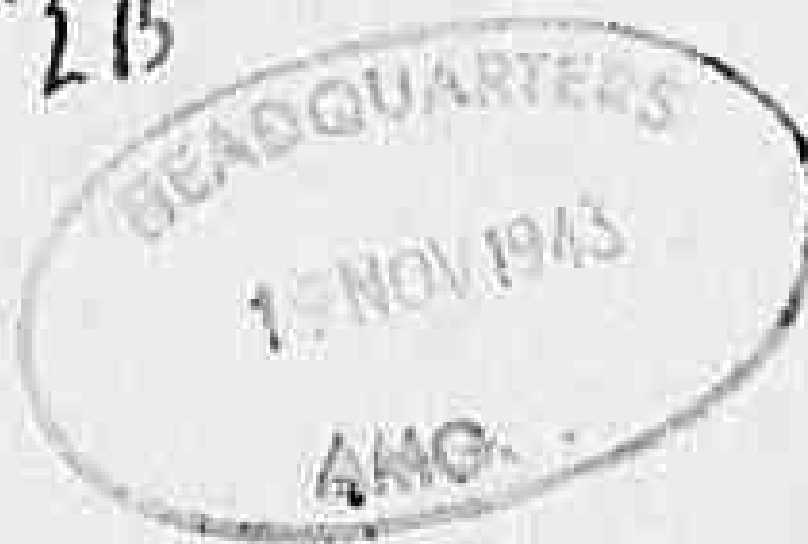
Subject: Mine fields - Trapani.

Reference: (a) ComNOB Palermo ltr. to AMG Palermo of 7 November 1943.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of memo from Lt.Col. Thomas of 10 November.

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

2B

cc: ComNavNAW
CinCMed

L. Doughty, Jr.



2B

C
O
P
Y

MEMO TO CAPTAIN DOUGHTY, USN - Palermo.

There has been a German mine field off Favignana Island (near Trapani). It is a hazard to all navigation off the west coast of Sicily. Mines have been breaking loose and are floating free. Recently I lost a grain ship with 1500 Q. of grain and 5 lives. Another mine is under guard in Trapani harbor. Others have been seen floating loose since the recent rough weather. Please send necessary men and equipment here to clear up this hazard, for it affects both coastwise shipping and convoy routes.

/s/
F.E. THOMAS,
Lt.Col. Inf.
SCAO, Trapani

4478

C
O
P
Y

22 NOV 1949

5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512.

RL/617/17/CPS/BJH.
10/11/43.

SUBJECT : Floating Mines.

TO : General Branca, Commander 6th Brigade,
Carabinieri Reali.

Reproduced below is a copy of a report respecting Mines
floating off the coast for your information and necessary action.

B. J. HOFFORD,
Major,
Supt., Civil Police Section.

"Three reports of floating mines have reached this office, due
to the rough weather I was not able to locate the mines reported
on Sunday the 1st., I made a personal search for them, but was not
able to find them.

Tuesday, September 2nd a mine was reported and it was found by
me. I made an effort to sink it with rifle fire but was not able
to do so. We have this mine secured to the shore of the Island
of Favignana. The mine is a German magnetic mine, about six or
eight hundred pounds.

The course of the floating mines were checked by me and I am
of the opinion that they are floating towards Marsala. They all
have passed between Levanzo and Favignana and the one we found was
floating in that direction.

Two mines floated ashore on the Island of Laretti O and ~~4437~~
destroyed."

Civil Affairs Officer,
Favignana, 3/11/43.

ARMED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

SCAC/5049/TA

7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Marine Mines

TO : Brigade Commander, CRRR, Palermo (thru Commissioner of Public Safety)
THRU : SCIO Sicily Region Hq

1. In compliance with subject Public Safety Bulletin No 8 SCGOT/1010/PS, herewith is a report of beached and floating mines.

JOHN J SIENASZ

Capt. 1st Lt

1st Lt

Date: 7 Nov 43

Forwarded:

FLOYD E THOMAS

Lt Col, Inf

SCIO-Trapani

TRAPANI (Sicily)

SCAC/5049/TR
7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Marine Mines

TO : Brigade Commander, CCRR, Palermo (thru Commissioner of Public Safety)
THRU : DEAO Sicily Region Hq

1. In compliance with subject Public Safety Bulletin No 3
MGOT/1010/PS, herewith is a report of beached and floating
mines.

John J. Siemasz
JOHN J SIEMASZ
Capt, INF
1st. Trapani

Date: 7 Nov 43
Forwarded:

Floyd E Thomas
FLOYD E THOMAS
Lt Col, Inf
SC/O-Trapani

617/15
NOV 1943

1176

Favignana

3 11 1943.

Subject. Mines.

To SCAO. Trapani.

Three reports of floating mines have reached this office. Due to the rough weather I was not able to locate the mines reported on Sunday the 1st. I made a personal search for them but was not able to find them.

Tuesday September 2nd. a mine was reported and it was found by me. I made an effort to sink it with rifle fire but was not able to do so. We have this mine secured to the shore of the island of Favignana. The mine is a German magnetic mine, about six or eight hundred pounds.

The course of the floating mines were checked by me and I am of the opinion that they are floating towards Marsala. They all have passed between Levanzo and Favignana and the one we found was floating in that direction.

Two mines floated ashore on the island of Marattimo and were destroyed.

William C. Boyd

William C. Boyd
Captain CMP. SCAO.

6475

77

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512.

RI/1101/CPS/BJH
13/11/43

SUBJECT : Minefield off Coast of TRAPANI.

TO : Chief, Public Safety Division, No. 1 Region.

1. The reports (folio 71) have already been forwarded to the Naval Authorities vide folios 65 and 67.

2. U.S., N.O.B. Palermo, have replied (folio 72) suggesting that the matter be taken up with Allied Force Headquarters as it is not possible to sweep this field with forces available at Palermo.

B. J. Hefford

B. J. HEFFORD,
Major,
Supt., Civil Police Section.

*Superintendent
Civil Police Section.
Immediate action has
now been proposed.
See 76 & return file
Cathkin
16/11/43*

10 NOV 1943

76

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

File RCAC 476

12/11/43

SUBJECT: Marina Mines

TO : Senior Civil Affairs Officer - TRIPANI

1. References your RCAC/5055/TR dated 10/11/43.
2. Both the above letter and the previous one have been forwarded to Commander, Naval Operating Base, U. S. Navy, Palermo. Prior to forwarding the letters, contact was made by telephone and immediate action was promised.

CHARLES ROBERTS
Lt. Colonel
Regional Civil Affairs Officer
4470

18686
19061
E. J. 16

75

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
NAVY DEPARTMENT
NAVY SECRETARIAT

NO 518

11/11/43

File 2020 475

SUBJECT: Marine Base

TO : Naval Operating Base, Mine Disposal Section, Palermo
Irt.

1. The information is forwarded in confirmation of telephone message at 1030 hours on this date.

2. Information has been received at this headquarters from Mr. Colonel "Lloyd" Thomas, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Irapati, that a number of mines are floating free in the area west of Irt, particularly around Savigne Island.

3. The situation has become critical since a storm raging at sea, the wind has blown from the east or northeast and one has already washed ashore near Irapati Harbor. Five others are within sight. Should the direction of the wind change to south, there is a grave danger of these mines being blown into the convoy route. The mines which are mostly magnetic are called "antenna mines" and are of German origin. Attempts have been made to explode them by rifle fire without success.

4. It is requested that this area be cleared by mine sweepers, thus removing a dangerous threat to shipping.

THOMAS, LLOYD

Lt. Colonel

Regional Civil Affairs Officer

COPY TO: SCAG Irapati

74

SCAO/5058/TR
November 10, 1943

File 476

SUBJECT : Marine Mines
TO : Capt. Dought, U. S. Navy, Palermo
THRU : Regional Civil Affairs Officer,
Region 1, Palermo

1. Attached hereto find the Trapani Harbor Master's report on floating mines seen off port to leeway at lat. 37° 40'N and long. 12° 29'Eg. These probably have floated loose from the mine field around Favignana Island, heretofore reported on. There probably are other mines afloat and free along the west coast of Sicily, a menace both to coastwise shipping and to convoys in case they are carried into the convoy route. Recent rough weather has scattered them.

FLOYD E. THOMAS
Lt. Col., Inf.,
R.C.A.O., Trapani.

File SCAO 476

1st Ind.

4471

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT, SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS, APO 512
12 November 1943

TO: Commandant Naval Operating Base, U.S. Navy Palermo Port

Forwarded in amplification of previous report submitted from this HQ. on 10 November 1943.

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
R.C.A.O.

73

785016

November 8, 1943.

SUBJECT: Marine Mines.

TO : Regional Civil Affairs Officer, Palermo.

1. Commandations have been sent both to AMGOT HQ. before Region 36. I was repeated and to your office since the separation, asking that the Navy do something to clear the area of the sea off western Sicily, particularly around Favignana Island, of the hazard of Marine Mines. I do not know what action has been taken at Palermo, but so far the Navy has done nothing here, to my knowledge.

2. Today the situation becomes increasingly serious. A storm at sea has been raging and mines are floating free. By the grace of God the wind has not been blowing north or west, in which event these mines would have been thrown in to the convey route, but the wind has blown them due east, or northeast, and southeast. One has already reached shore near Trapani Harbor, and five others have been sighted. How many are going to remain afloat as a constant menace to coastwise shipping is a matter of conjecture. These are partly magnetic and are called "Antennae Mines" of German origin, they explode on contact. A local Italian specialist has refused to have anything to do with them, as too dangerous, and recommends that they be towed to sea and exploded by counter-mining.

3. Captain Boyd, CAO at Favignana has tried without success to explode them by rifle fire. There are no local troops equipped to undertake bomb disposal. Meantime we have evacuated the area menaced and placed guards to watch certain portions of the coast. I have not been able to get thru by telephone to advise you of these facts.

4. Request that renewed efforts be made to get the

6370

SUBJECT: Marine Mines.

TO : Regional Civil Affairs Officer, Palermo.

1. Communications heretofore have been sent both to AMCOM HQ. before Region No. 1 was separated and to your office since the separation, asking that the Navy do something to clear the area of the sea off western Sicily, particularly around Favignana Island, of the hazard of Marine Mines. I do not know what action has been taken at Palermo, but so far the Navy has done nothing here, to my knowledge.

2. Today the situation becomes increasingly serious. A storm at sea has been raging and mines are floating free. By the grace of God the wind has not been blowing north or west, in which event these mines would have been thrown in to the convey route, but the wind has blown them due east, or north-east, and south-east. One has already reached shore near Trapani Harbor, and five others have been sighted. Now many are going to remain afloat as a constant menace to coastwise shipping in a matter of conjecture. These are partly magnetic and are called "Antenna Mines" of German origin,---they explode on contact. A local Italian specialist has refused to have anything to do with them, as too dangerous, and recommends that they be towed to sea and exploded by counter-mining.

5670

3. Captain Boyd, CMO at Favignana has tried without success to explode them by rifle fire. There are no local troops equipped to undertake bomb disposal. Meantime we have evacuated the area around and placed guards to watch certain portions of the coast. I have not been able to get thru by telephone to advise you of these facts.

4. Request that renewed efforts be made to get the Navy to sweep the whole area where these mines may be, and to send someone here to render assistance once which have approached shore and can be handled.

FLOYD E. THOMAS
Lt. Col. Inf.,
S.O.A.C., Trapani.

PET/11d

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION 1
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

File 100-100000 Date 12-11-43

To- Civil Police Section
Special Police Branch
Major Richardson
Fire Section
Prisons Section

FOR: *Necessary action please*

REMARKS-

Cattichinbatham
Majors



4469

72

U. S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE,
PALERMO, SICILY
Navy 157, c/o F.P.O.
New York, N.Y.

November 7, 1943.

Commissioner of Public Safety,
Allied Military Government,
Palermo, Sicily.

Dear Sir:-

With reference to your letter of 18 October 1943 in regard to the minefields off the coast of Trapani, it is suggested that the matter be taken up directly with Allied Force Headquarters.

The sweeping of defensive mine fields such as the one in question is normally the responsibility of the nation that created the field. In this case the Italian Navy should be requested to provide the ships and personnel for the work.

It is not possible to sweep this field with forces available at Palermo.

Respectfully,

L. Doughty Jr.
L. DOUGHTY, Jr.
Captain U. S. N. Ret.
Commandant
U.S. Naval Operating Base,
Palermo, Sicily. 4468

Copy to: CINCMED
COMNAVNAW

COPY

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

File No. AMGOT/1101/PS
AMGOT HQ., Sicily

18 October, 1943

SUBJECT: Minefield - Isoli Egardi.

To: Commander Revell, U.S.N.

Referring to previous discussions on the subject of mines off the coast of Trapani, the attached report and sketch have been received from the Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Province of Trapani.

Your courteous assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

LEMUEL L. BOLLES
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of
Public Safety.

4467

COPY

COPY

Favignana

15 10 1943

Subject: Mine Field, Favignana, Levanzo, Marettimo.

To LT. COL. F.E. THOMAS, SCAO, Trapani.

I have gone over the extent of the mine field here and find that it is Approx. five miles wide and eight miles long. I have attached a sketch of same, as near as I could make it from the information I could gather.

This mine field should be cleared as it is a old one and in rough weather the mines are liable to break loose. It also is on top of some of our best fishing ground. We are not able to sweep it ourselves as we do not have the material nor the experinced personnel.

Willaim C Boyd
Captain CMP.CAO.

1st Ind.

SCAO: Trepani 18 Oct. 43
To: Public Safety Division Hq.AMGOT, Palermo.

1. In compliance with AMGOT 1010/PS of 13 Oct 43 it is requested that above report be forwarded to the Bridade Commander C.C. R.R.

R.G. CROFT, Major
for

Lt.Col.F.E. THOMAS, SCAO
Trapani.

COPY

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

SCAO 150501 TR

7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Mine Mine Field

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety (thru SCAO)

THRU : RCVO Sicily Region HQ

1. Reference Amget/1101/PS dated 8 Oct 43. Although no covering letter can be located in our files the attached letter and map of mine field prepared by the CAO of Favignana may have been forwarded previously.

2. However, because of its importance it is again submitted. Rough weather has been freeing mines from the Favignana-Levanzo-Marettime mine field. Reports, on mines beached at Marsala and Favignana or found floating between these two points, have been forwarded to Brigade Commander CCRR, Palermo.

3. Not only is this mine field a peril to coast-wise shipping but it also constitutes a threat to Allied convoys. A southwest gale would free mines and drive them into the convoy lanes.

4. If our navy cannot undertake the sweeping, perhaps the task could be delegated to the Italian navy.

5. No mines have been located in Trapani harbor.



John J. Sienk
JOHN J. SIENK
Capt, Inf
A.C.J.-Trapani

7 Nov 43

Date

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

SCAO/50501 TR

7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Marine Mine Field

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety (thru SCAO)

THRU : RCO Sicily Region HQ

57

1. Reference Amget/1101/PS dated 8 Oct 43. Although no covering letter can be located in our files the attached letter and map of mine field prepared by the CAO of Favignana may have been forwarded previously.

2. However, because of its importance it is again submitted. Rough weather has been freeing mines from the Favignana-Levanzo-Marettime mine field. Reports, on mines beached at Marsala and Favignana or found floating between these two points, have been forwarded to Brigade Commander CCRR, Palermo.

3. Not only is this mine field a peril to coast-wise shipping but it also constitutes a threat to Allied convoys. A southwest gale would free mines and drive them into the convoy lanes.

4. If our navy cannot undertake the sweeping, perhaps the task could be delegated to the Italian navy.

5. No mines have been located in Trapani harbor.



Date

7 Nov 43

Forwarded:

Floyd E. Thomas

FLOYD E THOMAS

Lt Col, Inf

SCAO-Trapani

We have already lost one grain ship from a mine.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CC

SCAO 60501 TR

7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Mine Mine Field

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety (thru SCAO)

FROM : SC-O Chiefly Region B

1. Reference August/1101/PS dated 8 Oct 43. Although no covering letter can be located in our files the attached letter and map of mine field prepared by the CIG of Faviggna may have been forwarded previously.

2. Moreover, because of its importance it is again submitted. Rough weather has been keeping mines from the Faviggna-Levante-Barette mine field. Reports, on mine barges at Marsala and Faviggna or found floating between these two points, have been forwarded to Brigade Commander CUBB, Palermo.

3. Not only is this mine field a peril to coastwise shipping but it also constitutes a threat to Allied convoys. A southeast gale would free mines and drive them into the convey lanes.

4. If our navy cannot undertake the sweeping, perhaps the task could be delegated to the Italian navy.

5. No mines have been located in Trapani harbor.

1.2.14

[Signature]
JOHN J. SHERMAN
Capt. Inf
Adj-Gen of

7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Mine Mine Field

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety (thru SCMO)

THRU : SCMO Sicily Region HQ

1. Reference is made to L101/TS dated 3 Oct 43. Although no covering letter can be located in our files the attached letter and map of mine field prepared by the CAG of Favignana may have been forwarded previously.

2. However, because of its importance it is again submitted. Rough weather has been freeing mines from the Favignana-Lavagna-Marettimo mine field. Reports, on mines located at Marettimo and Favignana or found floating between these two points, have been forwarded to Brigade Commander COMB, Palermo.

3. Not only is this mine field a peril to coast-wise shipping but it also constitutes a threat to Allied convoys. A southeast gale would free mines and drive them into the convoy lanes.

4. If our navy cannot undertake the sweeping, perhaps the task could be delegated to the Italian navy.

5. No mines have been located in Trapani harbor.

Date 7 Nov 43

Forwarded:

FLOYD E THOMAS
Lt Col. Inf
SCMO-Trapani

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN J. SQUASSO
Capt. Inf
Adj-Trapani

Favignana
5 11 1943

Subject. Mine Field.
To SCAO. Trapani.

On October 15 1943, I wrote you as follows:

I have gone over the extent of the mine field here and find that it is approx. five miles wide and eight miles long. I have attached a sketch of same, as near as I could make it from the information I could gather.

This mine field should be cleared as it is a old one and in rough weather the mines are liable to break loose. It also is on top of some of our best fishing ground. We are not able to sweep it ourselves as we do not have the material nor the experienced personnel.

The above as per your verbal request.

William C. Boyd
William C. Boyd
Captain CMP. CAO.

4482

Mine Field

Approx 8 Miles X 5 Miles

Mayettime

Fovignano

Mine Field

Approx 8 Miles X 5 Miles

442

Levanzo

PRESENT DRIFT OF MINES

Fovignona.

210056

251-D

RAD

21 OCTOBER

RESTRICTED - ROUTINE

REF NR: 9831

TO: CG, SEVENTH ARMY

REFERENCE LETTER AMGOT/1101/PS DATED 25 SEPTEMBER TO
 PM SEVENTH ARMY, MARESCIALLO MAGGIORE DI ARTIGLIERIA INGRADI ANGELO
 IS AVAILABLE AT MDS. IS POW RPT IS POW STILL NEEDED

SIGNED: CG, MATOUSA
 TIME SIGNED: 201454-A

(SIGNED CG MATOUSA CITE NAPMS TO CG SEVENTH ARMY ATTEN-

TION PM FOR ACTION)

*Regular Army, inform
 and inform from
 [signature]*

*C/S
 [signature]
 H. H. BOT
 [signature]
 [signature]*

*PA. [signature]
 21/10*

*[signature]
 Yes. Please have
 cable [signature]
 [signature]
 Army [signature]*

Plans and Mine Disposal.

S.C. S. Province of Messina.

68
ANGOT/1104/PS

File
20 October 3
See 1004/PS

With reference to your letter of 17 October, the disposal of mines etc. is covered by ANGOT Public Safety Bulletin No. 8 para. 19 which should have reached you before your letter was written.

The release of additional prisoners of war for this purpose is at present out of the question and your best course would be to get in touch with the Legion Commander of the CC.RR. at Messina who will be acquainted with the details of the scheme.

Arrangements for the loan of mine detectors from No. 1 District are not yet completed.


ERNEST L. HOLMES,
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

PH 4460

Minfield - Isoli Wardi.
Commander Navell, U.S.N.

hlc

67.
1101/181000

18 October, 3.

Referring to previous discussions on the subject of
mines off the coast of Trapani, the attached report and sketch
have been received from the Senior Civil Affairs Officer,
Province of Trapani.

Your courteous assistance in this matter will be
appreciated.

LEWIS L. BOWLES
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of
Public Safety.

See 65

A M. G. O. T.

PROVINCE OF MESSINA

66

This Ref.:

Messina 17th October 1943

Your Ref.:

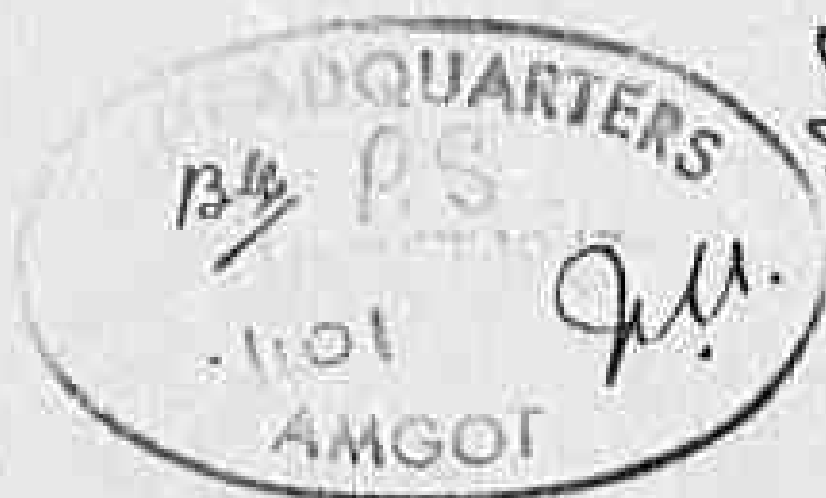
Enclosures:

SUBJECT:-

MINE CLEARING SQUAD

To :- C.S.O.AMGOT Hq.

1. In the Western portion of Messina province there are many acres which were thoroughly mined by the retreating German and Italian troops. This, aside from the constant danger to civilians, is preventing the sowing of crops as well as harvesting them.
2. The British area forces in this province will not remove mines or ammunition from private property. They will provide mine detectors and teach ex-soldiers to use them.
3. We would like to obtain the services of fifteen Italian army prisoners from the P.O.W. enclosure at Cefalù in Palermo province to do this mine cleaning work. It is understood that they are skilled in this work and are believed to be part of the crew that laid the mines we propose to remove. We have competent ex Italian army personnel to supervise the work.
4. The release of fifteen prisoners of war from the Cefalù camp is requested. Can this be arranged for us?



Stephen B. Story
STEPHEN B. STORY
Lt. Col. - CMP
S.C.A.O. - Messina

Reply at 1659

65

Favignana

15 10 1943

Subject. Mine Field. Favignana, Levanzo, Marettimo.

To LT. COL. F. E. Thomas, SCAO. Trapani.

I have gone over the extent of the mine field here and find that it is approx. five miles wide and eight miles long. I have attached a sketch of same, as near as I could make it from the information I could gather.

This mine field should be cleared as it is a old one and in rough weather the mines are liable to break loose. It also is on top of some of our best fishing ground. We are not able to sweep it ourselves as we do not have the material nor the experienced personnel.

William C Boyd
William C Boyd
Captain CMP. CAC.

*Report sketch
forwarded to Comd.
Favignana, No 17
at 67. P. 18/10*

See 57

1st June

S.C. A.O. - Trapani 18 OCT 43

To: Public Safety Division, HQ August, Palermo

1. In compliance with AM 6/10/10/PS

of 13 OCT 43 it is requested that above report be forwarded to the Brigade Commander
cc. R.R.

R. G. Capt. Mign

To LT. COL. F. E. Thomas, SCAO. Tapani.

I have gone over the extent of the mine field here and find that it is approx. five miles wide and eight miles long. I have attached a sketch of same, as near as I could make it from the information I could gather.

This mine field should be cleared as it is a old one and in rough weather the mines are liable to break loose. It also is on top of some of our best fishing ground. We are not able to sweep it ourselves as we do not have the material nor the experienced personnel.

William C Boyd
William C Boyd
Captain CMP. CAO.

*Report sketch
forwarded to Comd.
Fleet, No. 17.
at 67. 18/10*

See 57

1st Jua

S.C. A.O. - Tapani 18 Oct 43
To: Public Safety Division, HQ Angot, Palomo

1. In compliance with AM 6/10/10/PS of 13 Oct 43 it is requested that above report be forwarded to the Bengase Commander
cc. R R.

R H Capt, Angot
to Lt. Col. P. E. Thomas - S.C. A.O. Tapani



SUBJECT:- Disposal of U.X.Bs.



Commissioner of Public Safety,
A.M.C.O.P., HQ.
SICILY.

No.2 C.P. (Works)
HQ. No.1 District
CE 3450/1
11 OCT 43.

*amended by
70
Ruth*

43

1. Ref AMEOT/1101/PS dated 2 OCT 43.

2. Mine detectors are in very short supply. An endeavour will be made however to provide one on loan for your headquarters. It is essential, however, that the detector should be used and maintained by skilled and trained operators. Have you such personnel available now or have the operators yet to be trained?

See also - 52.

This must have crossed 52.

B/F 23/10.

Noted

18/10

Ruth

/s/

Walter New May

Col.
C.E.

4457

19. Bomb and Mine Disposal.

- (i) Reports indicate the presence in many places on the Island of large numbers of land mines, unexploded bombs, duds, etc. These constitute a serious menace to both military and civilians.
- (ii) The military authorities are dealing with the above wherever a threat exists to military operations. The removal of all other bombs, mines, etc., is the responsibility of the local Sicilian Governmental agencies.
- (iii) This will be accomplished as follows:
 - (a) Reports. It is the duty of all persons having knowledge of the location of any land mine, unexploded bomb, mortar, artillery, projectile, etc to report the facts without delay to the nearest Police Station or Carabinieri.
 - (b) Reconnaissance. Directions have been issued by the Commanding General, Carabinieri Reali, providing for the further steps required to protect the public pending final disposal of the bombs, mines, etc. This will include proper marking of the danger area, warning to all persons in the vicinity, evacuation where necessary and procurement of the services of a bomb disposal unit.
 - (c) Disposition. Untrained persons are forbidden to tamper with any type of ammunition, bomb or mine. The disposal of these instruments is a highly technical procedure and hazardous to untrained persons.

Special arrangements for disposal of the foregoing are under arrangement by the Carabinieri Reali.

- 2 -

(iv) Unused military ammunition, arms and explosives.

- (c) Quantities of military ammunition and explosives of various sorts have been abandoned by the enemy. This should be reported to the nearest Carabinieri or other police officer at once. The exact location of all such stocks, great or small, with as much detail as possible, must reach the Carabinieri officer in charge of each Comune.
- (b) All military weapons of every description not at present in the possession of the Carabinieri will be reported to the nearest Carabinieri station. Hand weapons will be delivered by the person in possession of or finding such arms. The location of heavier weapons will be reported only.
- (c) The location, kind and quantities of all enemy property as described above will be reported through regular Carabinieri channels to the Brigade Commander, CC.RR. at Palermo.
- (d) A special Ordnance Detachment is now attached to I.E.S. which is in charge of the collection and disposition of the military property des-

tion of any land mine, unexploded bomb, artillery projectile, etc. to report the facts without delay to the nearest Police Station or Carabinieri.

- (b) Reconnaissance. Directions have been issued by the Commanding General, Carabinieri Reali, providing for the further steps required to protect the public pending final disposal of the bombs, mines, etc. This will include proper marking of the danger area, warning to all persons in the vicinity, evacuation where necessary and procurement of the services of a bomb disposal unit.
- (c) Disposition. Untrained persons are forbidden to tamper with any type of ammunition, bomb or mine. The disposal of these instruments is a highly technical procedure and hazardous to untrained persons.

Special arrangements for disposal of the foregoing are under arrangement by the Carabinieri Reali.

- 2 -

(iv) Unused military ammunition, arms and explosives.

- (a) Quantities of military ammunition and explosives of various sorts have been abandoned by the enemy. This should be reported to the nearest Carabinieri or other police officer at once. The exact location of all such stocks, great or small, with as much detail as possible, must reach the Carabinieri officer in charge of each Comune.

- (b) All military weapons of every description not at present in the possession of the Carabinieri will be reported to the nearest Carabinieri station. Hard weapons will be delivered by the person in possession of or finding such arms. The location of heavier weapons will be reported only.

- (c) The location, kind and quantities of all enemy property as described above will be reported through regular Carabinieri channels to the Brigade Commander, CC.PP. at Palermo.

- (d) A special Ordnance Detachment is now attached to I.B.S. which is in charge of the collection and disposition of the military property described in this paragraph. He will deal with the Carabinieri through the Superintendent of Civil Police, ASOT. A similar organization is in existence in the Eastern portion of the Island and details of its operation have been issued to S.C.A.O.s concerned.

(v) Marine Mines

There have been reports of marine mines becoming loose and constituting a menace in certain harbours and on beaches of the Island. The presence of any such marine mines in areas under the jurisdiction of U.S.A. and/or U.S.N. should be reported at once through channels to the Brigade Commander CC.PP. at Palermo. The disposition of marine mines will be undertaken by the Commandant M.C.B., U.S.N. at Palermo.

- (vi) The Flag Officer, Sicily has requested that the finding of any mines on or near the beaches under the Royal Navy should be reported to him.

- (vii) The provisions of this directive will be carried out under the general supervision of S.C.A.O.s in the several provinces.

~~Ref. 1101184~~
 1101184

The matter referred
 to in attached is in hand
 but Gen. Darrine specially
 asks that a copy of his
 letter be sent to you.

Br. Jefford

Major

apt. 1101184

29/43.

Recd. 30/9

PA

11/10

SUPERIOR OFFICE OF ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

61
30/6, 28th 1943.

N.127/2

Subject: Removal, transportation and unloading of explosive materials.

To : the Allied Military Government
Public Safety Division.
Attention - Civil Police Section.

I have attentively examined the organization requested from your office for the removal, transportation and unloading of all the explosive materials stored in the safe territory.

I met the artillery Major La Barthe Geotain who resides at Baginella, and is a specialized man in this work and he can direct under his own responsibility. He suggested to constitute three nuclei of the various nuclei, which can be directed by the Lieutenant Major Gussery, Canadian Cavalry, Lt. La Barthe, who are very able, as they have always performed such a task.

The eighteen laborers can be chosen amongst the prisoner soldiers at war camp of the 22nd artillery.

I am unable to furnish the names of these soldiers, because it is necessary that the laborers would be authorized to go to the war camp to question those who are acquainted with this work.

No candidate I have found the Director-General and the three laborers nucleus chief, Major L. Barthe proposed for the removal, transportation and destruction of explosive materials the constitution as follows:

- 1) A general direction in relation, with relative advice and work.
- 2) Three nuclei nucleus under the supervision of Lieutenant Gussery, Canadian Cavalry, and Lt. La Barthe; each nucleus consists of six men who will be taken amongst prisoners.
- 3) Three trucks to be assigned to each nucleus for the transportation of the materials and material to the places which shall be approved.
- 4) A nucleus for the Director, the removal, control, inspection and unloading material at the different places to make up for. 4455
- 5) There is a part of the prisoners; ten special laborers; three men for the removal and unloading of the materials in the city three laborers for the removal transportation of explosive materials, loaded the requested material for the relative destruction.

It is understood and agreed that these men will be provided with the necessary equipment, and will be authorized to all these men to go where they think necessary, and will be authorized themselves with the major for further work.

Attention - Civil Police Section.

I have attentively examined the organization requested from your office for the removal, transportation and unloading of all the explosive materials stored in the said territory.

I met the artillery Major La Dornier Gauthier who resides at Baguio, and in a confidential way in this respect and he can direct under his own responsibility. He suggested to constitute three sections of the removal work, which can be directed by the Marshall Major Gauthier, Gauthier, Gauthier, Gauthier, Gauthier, who are very able, as they have always performed such a work.

The eighteen laborers can be chosen amongst the prisoners held at the camp of the 2nd artillery.

I am unable to furnish the names of these soldiers, because it is necessary that Marshall Major Gauthier would be authorized to go to the war camp to question those who are acquainted with this work.

To conclude I have found the Director-General and the three Marshall Major Gauthier, Major G. Gauthier proposes for the removal, transportation and destruction of explosive materials the constitution as follows:

- 1) A removal division in Baguio, with relative offices and staff.
- 2) Three removal sections under the direction of Marshall Major Gauthier, Gauthier, Gauthier, and G. Gauthier; each section composed of six workmen to be taken amongst prisoners.
- 3) Three trucks to be assigned to each section for the transportation of the removed and material to the places which must be destroyed.
- 4) A detachment for the Director, the removal, control, inspection and supervision services of the different plans to run up for.
- 5) There is a team of ten pack-animals, ten pack-animals, three horses, 30 mules each long, by 15 mules in Baguio; three pack-animals for the removal transportation of explosives; mules loaded with compressed sand for the relative destruction.

It is understood that removal work will begin with the removal of the explosives, and subsequently proceed to all other materials from the time mules, gradually will transport themselves with the major who directs them.

THE GENERAL DIRECTOR GENERAL

General Gauthier

G. G. G.

6647

COMANDO SUPERIORE DEI CARABINIERI REALI DELLA SICILIA

N. 121/2 di prot.

Palermo, addì 28 settembre 1943

Risposta al foglio

n.

OGGETTO: Rastrellamento trasporto e scarico di ordigni esplosivi.

Carte annessa n.

~~Al~~ Allied Military Government Public Safety Division

Attention

Civil Police Section

Ho preso in attento esame le organizzazione richiestemi da cotesto ufficio per la ricerca, il trasporto, e lo scarico di tutti gli ordigni esplosivi sparsi nel territorio dell'isola.

Ho rintracciato il maggiore di artiglieria LA BARBERA Gaetano, residente a Bagheria, il quale è specializzato in questo servizio, che per tanto può dirigere sotto la sua responsabilità.

Egli ha suggerito di costituire tre nuclei di sei operai ciascuno, i quali nuclei possono essere diretti dai marescialli MIGLIORE Giuseppe, CAMMIZZARO Achille, DI DIA Pasquale, i quali sono molto pratici per avere sempre disimpegnato il servizio di trasporto e scatifica ordigni esplosivi.

I diciotto operai occorrenti possono essere scelti tra i soldati prigionieri presso il campo di concentramento del 22° artiglieria.

Non posso fornire i nomi di questi soldati, perché è necessario che il maresciallo Migliore abbia l'autorizzazione di recarsi al campo di concentramento per interrogare quelli che sono pratici per qua-

Risposta al foglio

n.

OGGETTO: Restrallamento trasporto e scarico di ordigni esplosivi.

Carle annesse n.

— Allied Military Government Public Safety Division

Attention

Civil Police Section

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Non posso fornire i nomi di questi soldati, perché é necessario che il maresciallo Migliore abbia l'autorizzazione di recarsi al campo di concentramento per interrogare quelli che sono pratici per questo servizio.

In conclusione ho trovato l'ufficiale direttore, i tre marescialli capi nucleo.

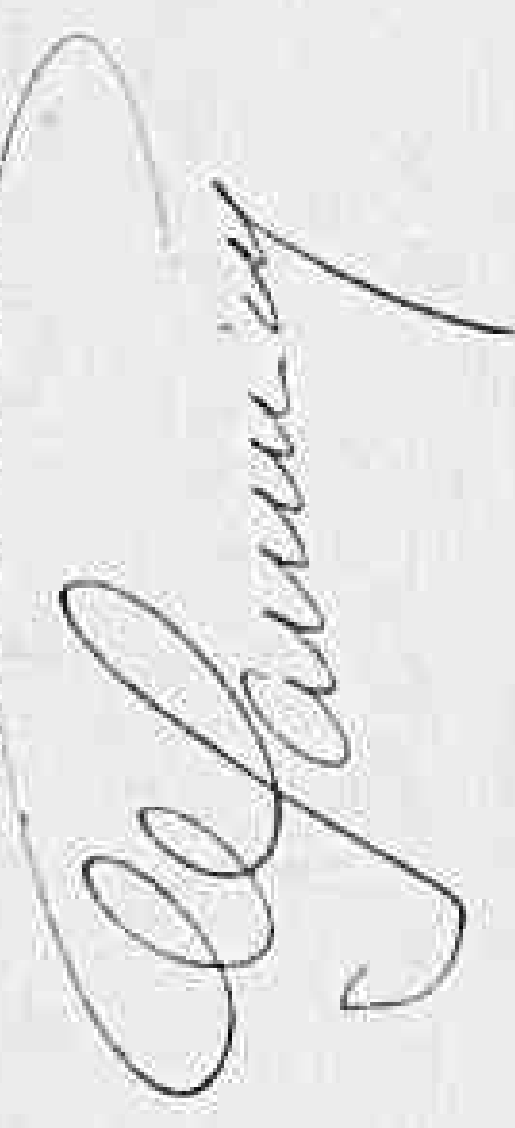
Il maggiore La Barbera propone per i lavori di rastrellamento, trasporto e distruzione degli ordigni esplosivi la costituzione:

- 1°)-d'una direzione di rastrellamento a Palermo con relativo ufficio e personale;
- 2°)-tre nuclei rastrellatori alle dipendenze dei marescialli MIGLIORE Giuseppe, CANTIZZARO Achille e DI DIA Pasquale; ogni nucleo composto di sei uomini di fatica da rilevare dei prigionieri;
- 3°)-tre autocarri da assegnare a ciascun nucleo pel trasporto del personale e dei materiali nei locali da bonificare;
- 4°)-un'autovettura a disposizione del direttore del servizio di rastrellamento per controllo, ispezione e ricognizione dei vari locali da bonificare;
- 5°)-occorrono badili 10, gravine 10, fune da m/m 18 lunghe metri 20 numero tre, barelle per eventuale trasporto di esplosivi n.3, caselle cariche di tritolo compresso e miccia a lenta combustione occorrenti per le relative distruzioni.

E' inteso che il lavoro di rastrellamento verrebbe iniziato con la provincia di Palermo, e successivamente esteso a tutte le altre provincie dell'isola ove man mano i tre nuclei si trasferirebbero unitamente al maggiore che li dirige.

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE SUPERIORE

-Ernesto Sannino-



Subject :- Disposal of UXB's.

H.Q. A.M.G.O.T.
PALMIR.

~~58~~
2 C.E. Works, 59
Hq No. 1 District.
CE 3450
6 Oct 43.

see 58
Herewith copy of 2 C.E. Works letter CE 3450 dated
1 Oct 43 for information.



W. H. New May
for Col.
C.E.

443

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

ROUTING SLIP.

TO SEE :- 58/59

C.P.S.....

D.C.P.S.....

PRISON SECTION.....

CIVIL POLICE SECTION.....

PEACE AND CIVIL DEFENCE
SECTION.....

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION
SECTION.....

66-2

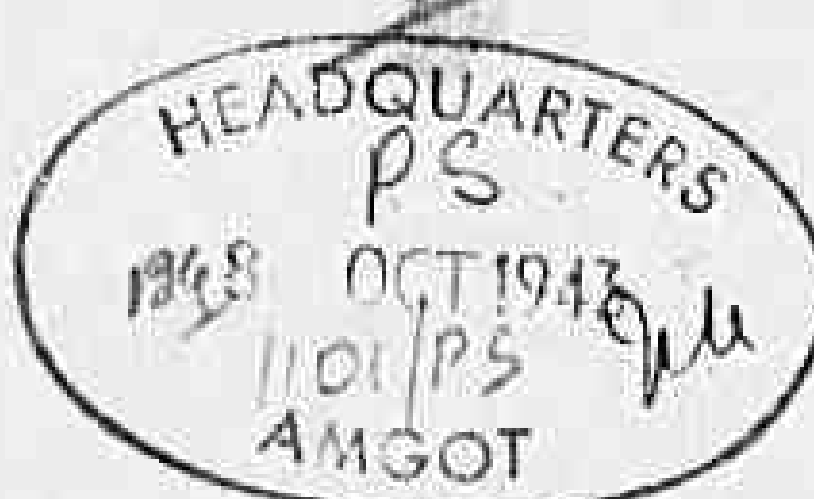
COPY.

Subject:- Disposal of UXB's.

2 C .Works,
HQ No.1.District,
CE 3450
1 Oct 43.

C.E. 15 Army Group.

Copy to:-
AMGOT Liaison, Main 15 Army Group.
"G" No.1.District.



1. Ref your 15AG/2512(Br)/RE dated 28 Sep and AMGOT Liaison AL/23/62 dated 24 Sep.

2. Below are the answers to queries set out in the latter letter as regards the Eastern part of the island.

(a) 3 British B.D. Sections are available in No.1. District Area. Some hundreds of Allied UXB's have already been disposed of - most of them in the MESSINA area. Mine clearance has so far been confined to minefields likely to impede the war effort or be a source of danger to our own troops.

(b) A B.D. expert could be made available to instruct the Carabinieri but a good interpreter would be required to assist him.

(c) "G" No.1. District are endeavouring to arrange volunteer P.O.W. mine clearance parties and this office has agreed to assist as far as possible with mine detectors for their use and will, if necessary, arrange for instruction of P.O.W. personnel.

(Signed) xxxxxxxxxxxx
Colonel,
C.E.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

57

1002/1101/IS

Mine Sweeping.S.C.A.F.C., Trapani
(through S.C.A.O.)

8 October, 3.

In your report for September (Para. K), reference is made to the need for further mine-sweeping in Trapani Harbor. This has been discussed with N.O.B. Before detaching mine-sweepers from more vital tasks, they desire a more definite picture of the existing situation.

Will you let me have a brief specific report of the present marine mine situation in Trapani Harbor with as much data as possible as to the importance of the purposes to be served by further sweeping. Your presentation will be the subject of further discussion with N.O.B. You will be advised promptly of the result.

LESLIE L. SCHLES
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

6450

Mine Clearance

1101/73

G.O.C. Noel District

9 October 3

1. The views of MICO on the above subject, as called for in your 1520/G of 3 October, 1943:

2. In view of the decision of the Military Authorities that they are unable to attempt removal of bombs or mines not a menace to military operations, the Public Safety Division has been arranging this matter.
3. The general plan is well under way to have this work done by the CC.PR. under the direction of the Superior Command CC.PR. Palermo (See enclosure (1)). The immediate direction is to be decentralized to the Legion Commanders at Messina and Palermo respectively (see enclosure (2)).
4. S.C.A.G.'s and S.C.A.P.O.'s would have general supervision but the basis of the plans developed is that responsibility for this work be definitely upon an Italian agency and not upon officers of the Allied Military Government.
5. Agreements has been secured from Seventh Army to the release of selected P.O.W. who volunteer for mine clearance work either by parole or in custody of the CC.PR. These men are now being selected and their names will be submitted to G-2, Seventh Army at once.
6. In order that you may be completely informed as to all steps thus far undertaken here, copies of certain other correspondence is attached.
7. It will be appreciated if mine detectors can be placed at the disposal of both the Palermo and Messina Legions CC.PR.
8. The services of an instructor in bomb disposal and mine clearance will be of very great help. He should be placed at the disposal of the Commissioner, Public Safety Division, in Palermo, for temporary duty as an instructor.
9. You will note that clearance of marine mines is in hand on certain portions of the coast. In that portion under British jurisdiction the question has not as yet been fully answered.
10. It is our recommendation that the above plan for disposing of this entire matter in Sicily have your approval.

9 October 5

1785016

1. The views of MGOT on the above subject, as called for in your 1520/G of 3 October, 1945:
2. In view of the decision of the Military Authorities that they are unable to attempt removal of bombs or mines not a nuisance to military operations, the Public Safety Division has been arranging this matter.
3. The general plan is well under way to have this work done by the CC.RR. under the direction of the Superior Council CC.RR. Palermo (see enclosure (1)). The immediate direction is to be decentralized to the Legion Commanders at Messina and Palermo respectively (see enclosure (2)).
4. S.C.A.C.'s and S.C.A.P.C.'s would have general supervision but the basis of the plans developed is that responsibility for this work be definitely upon an Italian agency and not upon officers of the Allied Military Government.
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9. You will note that clearance of marine mines is in hand on certain portions of the coast. In that portion under British jurisdiction the question has not as yet been fully answered.
10. It is our recommendation that the above plans for disposing of this entire matter in Sicily have your approval.

Copy sent to Civil Police
by C.P.S. *Lapio.*

CHARLES M. SPENCER,
Colonel, C.S.C.,
Chief Staff Officer.

Records air field of Chinisa property 54
of CWO Mfr. Bartolomeo Bernighiano. There are
a number of Bombs and bullets, as it is
sowing time his men are afraid to work
he begs this Command to take measures
in sending some men to collect them.
9/11 at Rec does not possess ammunition of any sort.

Near the air field of Chimarra property 54
of Cdr. M. Bartolomeo Bernighian, there are
a number of Bombs and bullets, as it is
sowing time his men are afraid to work
so he begs this Command to take measures
in sending some men to collect them.
Note: Col. Thomas
9/11/50 has not received ammunition of any sort.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

SCAO/5007/TP
HEADQUARTERS October 8, 1943
P.S.
1101 AMGO

SUBJECT: Removal of Bombs, etc.

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety, Hq. AMGO,
Palermo.

1. Since the removal of the 3rd Inf. Div. from this area we have had no contact with troops available to do such removal work, and a number of requests have come in. (91st Recon. *Sg.* is here, but they decline to act).
2. Please contact Hq. 7th Army, I.B.S. or whatever is the proper Hq., and ascertain to what nearest unit we can ^{make} application for removal of bombs, mines, unexploded shells, etc.

Raymond E. Thomas

RAYMOND E. THOMAS,
Lt. Col., Inf.,
S.C.A.O. - Trapani.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

ROUTING SLIP

TO SEE :-

49.51.55

C.P.S.

D.C.P.S.

~~PRISON SECTION~~

~~CIVIL POLICE SECTION~~

~~FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE SECTION~~

~~LICENSING AND REGISTRATION SECTION~~

5-5

54415007/78
October 8, 1943

SUBJECT: Removal of Bombs, etc.

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety, Hq. AMGOT,
Palermo.

1. Since the removal of the 3rd Inf. Div. from this area we have had no contact with troops available to do such removal work, and a number of requests have come in. (91st Recon. ~~SG~~ is here, but they decline to act).

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4426

FLOYD E. THOMAS,
Lt. Col., Inf.,
S.O.A.O. - Trapani.

azienda agraria

Massiere - marcanza - marcanzotta,,

dott. agr. Carmelo Cernigliaro Iardella
Trapani

53
Trapani. 22 Settembre 1943
via S. ne. altri popoli. 10

Al Signor Ufficiale per gli Affari Civili
del Comune di Trapani

T R A P A N I

Palazzo D'Alì

La Informo che nell'Azienda Agraria "Marcanza Soprana" situata ad est del campo di Chinisia, di proprietà del Cav. Uff. Bartolomeo Cernigliaro, si trovano ancora moltissime bombe inesplose disseminate nel terreno.

Trovansi altresì circa 8.000 proiettili abbandonati dalle truppe Italo-Tedesche nel fabbricato dell'Azienda stessa.

Tali segnalazioni sono state fatte in precedenza alle autorità civili e militari Italiani, ma le bombe non sono state mai rimosse ed i proiettili non sono stati mai asportati.

Quanto sopra perchè sia provveduto con cortese urgenza non potendo, per il momento mettere a cultura quegli appezzamenti di terreno dove risultano disseminati bombe inesplose ed altro materiale.

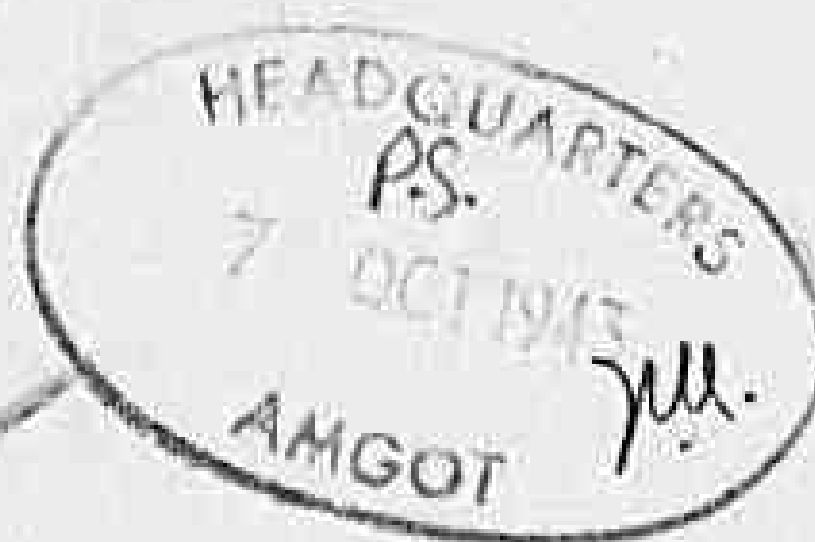
Ringrazio ed ossequio.



6445

52

1101/PS

SUBJECT:- Mine Clearance.

1520/G.

3 Oct 43.

AMGOT (Through 7 Army).

Area Commanders in Eastern SICILY have several times been approached by SCAOs on the subject of clearance of mines from agricultural and other areas.

The military policy with regard to mine clearance is that British and Allied troops will not be used for this purpose except to clear such mines as are hindering operations or administration.

SCAO CATANIA, with whom the matter has been discussed, agreed to the possibility of providing Italians for this purpose; while the SCAO MESSINA has been approached by an ex-Italian NCO who is willing to raise a party to undertake mine clearance.

If you are in agreement with the use of Italian volunteers for this purpose, a number of mine detectors can be provided, and instruction can be given to the Italians in the use of detectors and other means of mine clearance. The responsibility for clearing such mines as they wish will then rest with SCAOs.

I request that you will forward your views on this proposal.

Major General,
Commanding,
No. 1 District.

In the Field.

Copies to:- SCAO CATANIA.
SCAO MESSINA.
56 Area.
151 Sub Area.
CE.
'Q'.

6444

51

FROM .. THE FLAG OFFICER, SICILY.

DATE .. 2nd October 1943. No.SY.291/3.

TO .. HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF
OCCUPIED TERRITORY, SICILY.

With reference to your AMDOT/1101/IS of the 20th September 1943, the finding of any mines on or near the beaches under the Royal Navy should be reported to the Flag Officer, Sicily, when arrangements will be made for their disposal.



Ch. Young

REAR-ADMIRAL.

Rev M
1805/1/1/2

4443

SUBJECT:- Mines & Bombs.

4-9

Cor Ref:- CAT/58.

To:- AMGOT H.Q.
PALERMO.

RECEIVED
P.S.
11/1/58
AMGOT

From:- Lt. Col. Wallisley,
S.O.A.A.O.
Province of Catania.

The question of the removal of mines and the disposal of unexploded bombs and Italian ammunition is causing me some anxiety. In the neighbourhood of IONIA many persons have lost their lives by walking on to minefields. The very difficult question then arises as to the recovery of the corpses. Shell lives be risked in bringing them back or shall the scandal and danger to ~~the~~ health be faced by leaving them where they are? The C.A.P.O. of IONIA has himself brought back several of these bodies but I have told him not to do so any more. The Military Authorities have declined to interest themselves in the matter. I therefore suggested that Italian volunteers might be recruited from F.O. W. Camps in North Africa. This solution of the difficulty is at present under consideration but it is only a partial answer to the problem as there is a great shortage of detectors and these are naturally required where urgent operations are in progress.

In addition to the problem of minefields there is the question of unexploded bombs and enemy ammunition of which large quantities are lying about on this side of the Island. This ammunition should not be touched except by experts but again the Military Authorities have declined to help.

Similar difficulties have no doubt arisen in other parts of the Island and I shall be glad to know whether they have been overcome and if so by what means.

J. Wallisley

Rupin

the question of the removal of mines and the disposal of unexploded bombs and Italian ammunition is causing me some anxiety. In the neighbourhood of IONIA many persons have lost their lives by walking on to minefields. The very difficult question then arises as to the recovery of the corpses. Shall lives be risked in bringing them back or shall the scandal and danger to ~~the~~ health be faced by leaving them where they are? The C.A.P.O. of IONIA has himself brought back several of these bodies but I have told him not to do so any more. The Military Authorities have declined to interest themselves in the matter. I therefore suggested that Italian volunteers might be recruited from P.O. W. Camps in North Africa. This solution of the difficulty is at present under consideration but it is only a partial answer to the problem as there is a great shortage of detectors and these are naturally required where urgent operations are in progress.

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Similar difficulties have no doubt arisen in other parts of the Island and I shall be glad to know whether they have been overcome and if so by what means.

Catania.
30 Sep 43.

Duffy

J. Hollender

Lt. Col.
C.A.P.O.

148

5th Oct. 1943

Memorandum to Commissioner of Public Safety

Subject:- Bomb and Mine Disposal - Employment of Prisoners of War

The treatment of P.O.W. is governed by Geneva Convention dated 27 July 1929.

2. The work on which P.O.W. are not allowed to be employed is defined in Arts 31 and 32 of the Convention. Under Art. 31, "work done by P.O.W. shall have no direct connection with the operations of the war. In particular, it is forbidden to employ prisoners in the manufacture or transport of arms or munitions of any kind or on the transport of material destined for combat units". In my opinion, this restriction applies only to the employment described when the employment amounts to an act against the interests of the prisoner's own army or country. I consider it does not prevent the use of P.O.W. for the removal of land mines or bombs after the tide of war has left the locality and the removal is required only for the safety of the prisoners' own countrymen. Furthermore, the removal could not now be against the interests of the prisoners' own army or country when general armistice has taken place.

3. Under Art. 32, it is forbidden to employ P.O.W. on dangerous work. In my opinion if the P.O.W. employed are trained bomb and mine disposal personnel and they consent to the employment, there is no objection to it.

4. As P.O.W. are the responsibility of "A" Branch in the British Army and of G-1 in the American Army, I think that the actual decision on the use of P.O.W. for the work of moving bombs and mines should be taken by that Branch acting on J.A.G.'s advice. It will be desirable, however, to send a copy of this opinion to the H.Q. concerned as indicating our views.

0945-4/10/43

By Lt. Col. Patten G-1-7th H.

with request for prompt decision

Lt. Colonel.
D.C.I.O.

4/10/43

To C.L.O.

5/10/43 9000

47

Please note page 41-42
Is there legal objection
to employing P.W.s on
this work?

With their consent?

Without their consent?

Rather urgent -

Waller

C.P.O.

200 43

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL
A.P.O. 758

October 2, 1943

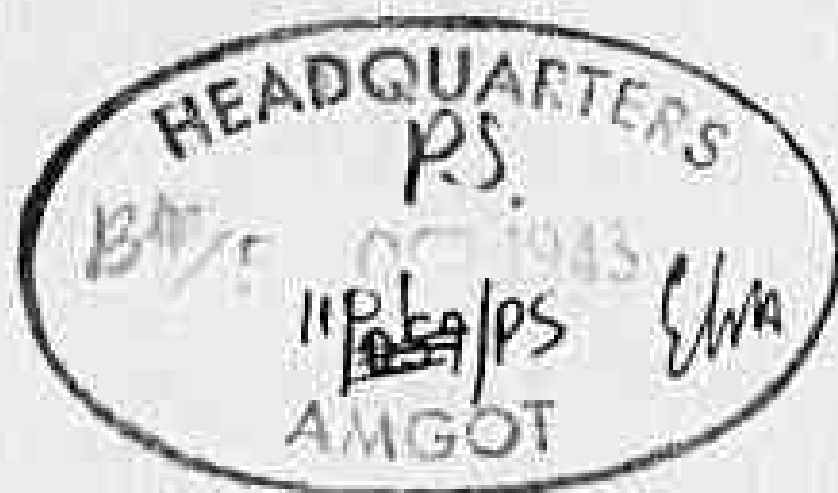
SUBJECT: Bomb Disposal Expert in Prisoner of War Cage.

TO : Allied Military Government,
AMGOT Hq., Sicily.

For attention of Colonel Lemuel L. Bolles,
Commissioner of Public Safety

1. Your letter of 25 September 1943, regarding Marescillo Maggiore di Artiglieria Ingre Giovanni Di Angelo, has been referred to Provost Marshal General, NATOUSA, in as much as this POW is not located in Sicily, but has been evacuated to North Africa.

For the Provost Marshal:



John A. McVOY
JOHN A. McVOY,
Major, CMP

Run 1740/10/43
Bolles

4440

45
AMGOT/5013/ES

Explosives, License to Sell.

S.C.A.O., Caltanissetta.

1 Oct.

3

1. Reference is made to letter of Meira Guideppe to you dated 20 Sept. 1943 and which was forwarded to this Headquarters. This letter made the following statements and requests:

- a. Writer was licensed by the Italian Government to sell explosives and to store up to 20 tons of explosives and 100,000 detonating caps.
- b. Sources of supply have been cut off.
- c. Requests he be furnished with explosives taken from the Italian Army.
- d. Requests license to sell to mines and quarries.

2. Explosives of the Italian Army are not now available for civilian use.

3. It is suggested that you license the applicant to resume business, selling only to bona fide mines and quarries. There is no source of such supplies open as yet, but it is hoped such materials as are required for mining may be available soon.

4. Copy of this letter is being sent to C.I.C., Island Base Section, who wish to make an investigation of the applicant. It will be advisable for you to cooperate with the C.I.C. officer in Caltanissetta in this matter.

5. If such license is issued, the Public Safety Division of this Headquarters should be advised as to the location of all deposits of explosives so licensed.

4439

JHP/tbw

cc - Public Safety Div.

cc C.I.C. 1-3-5

1147 INDOEN

JOHN T. ZELLARS,
Colonel, Infantry,
Acting Director, Economics
and Supply Division.

38 ref 37 1 Oct. 3

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4439

JHP/thw

cc - Public Safety Div. *Thw*

cc C.I.C. 1.3.5
1943 10/10/43

JOHN T. ZELLARS,
Colonel, Infantry,
Acting Director, Economics
and Supply Division.

Ref 37

426

ANCO/1101/PS

Unexploded Bombs.

S.G.A.C.
Province of Anna.

2 October, 3

40
With reference to your 6/1/P of 28 September, 1943,
No. 1 District are being asked to lend a mine detector.

A plan is approaching completion whereby a special
squad is to be organized under the Carabinieri to dispose of
unexploded bombs etc. in the Island, but some military
instruction will be necessary before the squad can function.

19
Meanwhile, your 6/1/P of 15 September, 1943 is being
pursued, but the Maresciallo-Maggiore has not yet been located.



R.M.J. MARTIN
Lieut.-Col.,
Deputy Commissioner of
Public Safety.

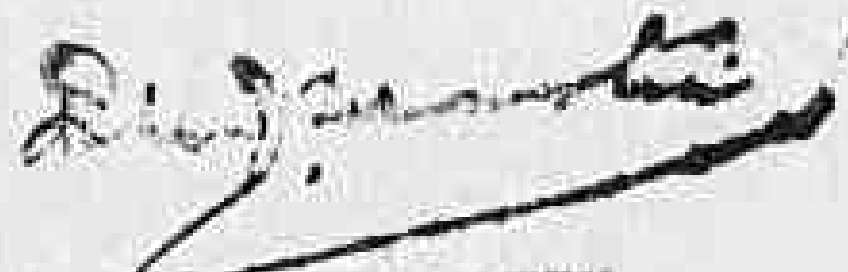
4438

Disposal of Unexploded Bombs.

C.D., No. 1 District.

2 October, 3

21-22 39
Referring to 15AC/2512(Br)/RE of 26 September, 1943
and enclosures, would it be possible for one or more mine
detectors to be lent to this Headquarters, apart from the
major questions raised in this office AMST/1101/PS of 20
September, 1943 to AMST Liaison.

21

R.H.S. MARTIN
Lieut. Col.,
for Commissioner of
Public Safety.

4437

SUBJECT: Disposal of Unexploded Bombs

1101/PS
ANGOT/617/1/CPS
ANGOT HQ SICILY
Public Safety Division
Civil Police Section

30 September 1943

TO : The Commissioner of Public Safety.

With reference to my memorandum dated 27th September, 1943, on the above subject.

General Sannino has now submitted his proposals and requirements in connection with the organisation of Bomb Disposal Squads and I submit them for your consideration in conjunction with the previous papers.

R. A. Snook
RUSSELL A SNOOK
Lt Colonel
Supt Civil Police.

4430

Comando Superiore Reali della Sicilia

28 September 1943. 41

Subject: Conveyance and disposal of explosives.

I have examined the organisation requested by this office for the conveyance and disposal of all the explosives which are in the Island. The Major La Barbera Gaetano, living at Bagheria, is very practical in this service, and which he can direct upon his responsibility. He thinks to establish three nucleus of six workmen each. The nucleus can be directed by the following marshalls, who are very able:

- 1 Marshall MIGLIORE Giuseppe
- 2 " CANNIZZARO Achille
- 3 " DI DIA Pasquale.

The 18 workmen can be selected among the prisoner soldiers at the 22nd Artillery's concentration camp.

Then the managerial office and the three marshalls - chief nucleus - are ready. The Major La Barbera, for this works proposes the constitution.

1. Of an enquiry management in Palermo
- 2 Three nucleus directed by the aforesaid marshalls
- 3 Three motor cars - one for each nucleus
- 4 One motor car for the manager
- 5 The following will also be necessary:

10 shovels, 10 pickaxes, 3 ropes (20meters long), 3 litters for the conveyance of the explosives, box full of little bit and flint, The work should be initiated at Palermo and after at all the Provinces of Sicily.

Subject: Unexploded Bombs

Ref: 6/1/P

AMGOT HQ,
15 Army Group

40

The countryside is full of unexploded bombs and mines. Ex-soldiers are dealing with the bombs. They cannot deal with the mines without a detector. Can you lend me a detector?

Enna,
28 Sep 43



[Signature]
Lt Col.,
S.C.A.O.

John at 424

4434

SUBJECT:- Disposal of Unexploded Bombs.

HQ 15 Army Group
C.M.F.

C.E., No. 1 District.



15AG/2512(Br)/RE

22 28 Sep. 43. 21

The Attached letters AI/23/62 of 24 Sep and AMGOT/1101/PS of 20 Sep are passed to you for necessary action.

(Sg)

R.L. UHATE
Major
Brigadier
Chief Engineer.

Copy to:- HQ, AMGOT, PALERMO.
AMGOT Liaison 15 Army Group Main.

4.11.43
Action at 21.

SUBJECT:- Use of Explosives in Sulphur Mines.

1101
MCOE/1101/18

MAJOR H.Q. SICILY

28th September 43

TO:- Civilian Supply Division.

The attached application received by the S.C.A.C., Province of Galtanissetta, from one Maira Guiseppe, applies for the transfer of explosives taken over from the Italian Army for use in the sulphur mines in Galtanissetta Province, and is forwarded for favour of opinion in the first instance as to the necessity for explosives under the present circumstances.

If you consider the proposal worthy of consideration, perhaps you will take the matter up with the appropriate section of Seventh Army Headquarters. This Division will only be interested in the location of the explosives if and when the application is approved.

Approved by Air Supplies
See 45 B.

[Signature]
Lieut-Colonel,
Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety.

37
COPY

To His Excellency the Governor of A.M.G.O.T. Caltanissetta.

I the undersigned Maira Giuseppe fu Antonino, pyrotechnist living at Caltanissetta Nicolo Signore della Catta, 4, possess in the region Xiboli - Cacciagalline, some houses with annexed land, destined, according to authorisation of Nov. 1941 granted by the Italian Home Office and transmitted through this Prefecture, to depot of explosives up to 20 tons and one hundred thousand detonators. The material was being supplied by the Joint Stock Company (with powder mill) G. Stacchini of Rome. This my depot supplied the explosives to the sulphur mines and to the quarries (stone, plaster and salt) of this Province and neighbouring provinces. As now, for the actual state of war, the supply of the foresaid company G. Stacchini is failing, I cannot provide the explosives for the mines and the quarries.

I therefore beg your Excellency to order that the explosives existing in Sicily, formerly belonging to the Italian Army or of any other province, may be brought to my depot on the purpose of industrial distribution for the mines and the quarries.

I ask you besides that I may be authorized to sell by retail the remaining explosives of my depot, which I regularly and timely denounced, as they are requested by the managers of quarries (stone plaster and sale quarries). I declare myself willing to follow in the sale your orders.

Confident that this my petition may be looked upon with your favour.
I thank you very much.

Respectfully yours

Maira Giuseppe

Caltanissetta Sept 20 1943

4432

SUBJECT:-

Offer of Services for Bomb Disposal.

1101
AMCOT/1101/23

AMCOT H.O., SICILY

28th September 1943

TO:-

Superintendent of Civil Police.

The attached application received by the S.C.A.O., Caltanissetta Province, from one Maira Giuseppe offering his services in connection with the disposal of unexploded bombs etc., is forwarded in case General Samino may wish to make use of this applicant's services.

[Signature]
Lient-Colonel,
Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety.

4421

COPY

To His Excellency the Governor of A.M.G.O.T. Caltanissetta.

I the undersigned, Maira Giuseppe fu Antonio, pyrotechnist living at Caltanissetta, Nicolo Signore della Citta 4, expose as follows:-

I possess in the region Serra della Difesa an authorised pyrotechnic workshop. In the war 1914-18 I belonged as foreman pyrotechnist with some American squads to the workshops for loading and unloading shells of Piacenza. I put these my capacities at disposal of your Excellency so that you may authorise me to sweep in the regions of this Province and near lands the explosives formerly belonging to Ital. or German Army, to avoid that these explosives, taken by inexperienced hands, may explode, causing woundings and death. On the contrary, if they are gathered, they may be utilised for industrial purposes in the sulphur mines and in the quarries or in similar places whence plaster and salt may be extracted.

I beg to ask you also to be provided with personnel and a truck to take away those formerly belonging to the Ital. or German Army to carry out the above said sweeping. I don't doubt this request will be also satisfied, as it is for humanitarian and industrial purposes.

Should it offer some difficulty, I am willing to do the same work at your Excellency's service. Confident that this my petition may be looked upon with your favour and always ready to follow the orders given by your Excellency as regards this matter, I thank you very much.

Respectfully yours

Maira Giuseppe

Caltanissetta. 20 Sept 43.

P.S. As this work is a dangerous one, I beg you to ask a congruous compensation for it.

D.C.P.S.

1101

2/10/4 I think this man is actuated
more by commercial motives than by
a desire to risk his life on behalf
of the Allies or his fellow countrymen.

At the same time it might be
useful to place his services at the
disposal of Combined.

I don't know what to suggest
in the way of pay but I feel we
should effect some kind of
arrangement on his behalf if we
engage him.

G. H. Johnson.
my

28/9.

1129

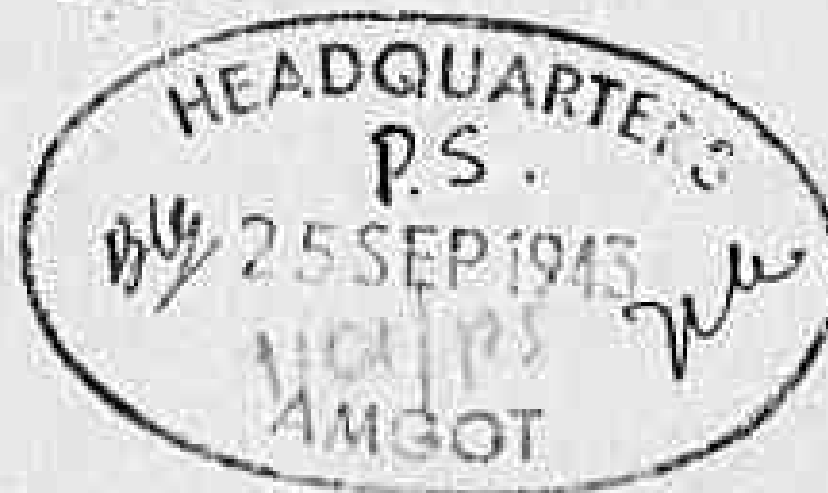
EXPLOSIVES

HQrs. AMGOT

Attached applications to work in and to collect explosives by MAIRA GUISEPPE are forwarded for consideration please.

Caltanissetta
23 Sept. 1943

W. R. Irish
Lt. Col.,
S.C.A.O., Caltanissetta Province.



4428

Calt Prov/Supply

Subject:- U.K.B. & mines.

To: D.C.P.S.

Ref. 22, 23, 24, 25.

In para. 2 it is stated that ^{all} instructions have been given ^{study} to the Fin. Dep. to select suitable ^{only} personnel for reconnaissance.

My recollection is that the whole of the reconnaissance was to be done by the C.C.R.A. assisted by any C.D. personnel available & suitable.

I do not think that any of the F.B. personnel is suitable for the job & the training would have to be done by an experienced officer.

In para. 3 - the D.D. work was done by the Italian anti-aircraft artillery prior to the occupation.

The memo. by C.P.S. appears to answer 22 but it is noted that a very suitable arrangement has been made in the E. of the Island by provision of a special military unit. This should also be done here in my opinion.

[Signature]

Subject: Disposal of Marine Mines.

Naval Liaison Officer,
Headquarters,
15 Army Group.



AL 3/65
25-Sep-43.

(21)

(32)

Enclosed please find copy of ANGOT/1101/PS dated
20-Sep-43.

Would you please be so good as to send same on to
Flag Officer, Sicily, with a view to his making the necessary
arrangements.

ANGOT Liaison,
15 Army Group, C.M.F.
HF/JG.

H. Parker
Captain,
Staff Captain,
ANGOT Liaison.

Copy to: ANGOT HQ., PALERMO. ✓

4426

617/11/ERS 21
1101
Bomb file
AMC HQ SICILY,
Public Safety Division,
Civil Police Section.
HQ CC RR Palermo.

27th September, 1943.

TO : The Commissioner of Public Safety.

Based on the directive and plan attached, the following action is proposed :-

- (a) with respect to the location of bombs and explosives; the issue of the attached instructions to the CC.RR.
- (b) The organisation of a Bomb Disposal Squad in the CC.RR; the following action has been taken, in this respect -
 - (i) a Squad composed of three marescialli and one other officer, former members of the Italian Army, have been selected. Personnel from prisoners of war will be selected to work under these officers. Three squads will be organised each under the control of an officer who will be responsible to General Sannino. The size of the Squad may be expanded if found necessary and qualified personnel can be located.

(ii) As soon as the organisation of the Squad is complete the areas of its operations will be defined and the work commenced. The present indications are that the work can be started about October 1st.

(iii) It will be necessary to secure a list of names of prisoners of war and arrange for their use on this work. This will be submitted as soon as received from General Sannino.

(iv) It is recommended that the Squad operates first in the Province of Palermo and when the work is completed there it can be detailed to other parts of the Island as needed.

I will withhold final action until specific instructions are received from you.

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RUSSELL A. SNOOK,
Lt. Colonel.
Superintendent,
Civil Police Section.

AMG HQ SICILY,
Public Safety Division,
Civil Police Section,
HQ CC.RN Palermo.

27th September, 1943.

SPECIAL POLICE INSTRUCTION NO.

Carabinieri

Disposition of Unexploded Bombs, Mines, Arms, etc.

TO: Il Generale Ernesto Sannino,
Comando Superiore dei
Carabinieri Reali della Sicilia.

1. Explosives of various kinds are to be found in many parts of the Island and constitute a serious danger.
2. It will be the duty of the Carabinieri to make searches for such explosives and to investigate reports received from the public.
3. Danger areas must be marked and persons warned or evacuated where necessary until proper disposition can be made. Until further instructions are issued reports of the location of explosives will be made to this office.
4. The necessary steps are to be taken to complete the organisation of the Bomb Disposal Squad under your supervision as early as possible. When the organisation is completed instructions will be given respecting its use.

4425

RUSSELL A. SMOK.
Lt. Colonel.
Superintendent,
Civil Police Section.

DRAFT

SUBJECT : Bomb and Mine Disposal

AMCOT/1101/PS

AMCOT H.Q. SICILY

September, 1943.

*copy of covering note to
land police at 9/11*

1. Reports indicate the presence in many places on the Island of large numbers of land mines, unexploded bombs, duds, etc. These constitute a serious menace to both military and civilians.
2. The military authorities are dealing with the above wherever a threat exists to military operations. The removal of all other bombs, mines, etc., is the responsibility of the local Sicilian Governmental agencies.

3. This will be accomplished as follows :

- (a) Reports. It is the duty of all persons having knowledge of the location of any land mine, unexploded bomb, dud artillery projectile etc. to report the facts without delay to the nearest Police Station or Carabinieri.

- (b) Reconnaissance. Directions have been issued by the Commanding General, Carabinieri Reali, providing for the further steps required to protect the public pending final disposal of the bombs, mines, etc. This will include proper marking of the danger area, warning to all persons in the vicinity, evacuation where necessary and procurement of the services of a bomb disposal unit.

- (c) Disposition. Untrained persons are forbidden to tamper with any type of bomb or mine. The disposal of these instruments

constitute a serious threat

2. The military authorities are dealing with the above wherever a threat exists to military operations. The removal of all other bombs, mines, etc., is the responsibility of the local Sicilian Governmental agencies.

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(b) Reconnaissance. Directions have been issued by the Commanding General, Carabinieri Reali, providing for the further steps required to protect the public pending final disposal of the bombs, mines. etc. This will include proper marking of the danger area, warning to all persons in the vicinity, evacuation where necessary and procurement of the services of a bomb disposal unit.

(c) Disposition. Untrained persons are forbidden to tamper with any type of bomb or mine. The disposal of these instruments is a highly technical procedure and hazardous to untrained persons.

Special arrangements for disposal of the foregoing are under arrangement by the Carabinieri Reali.

4. Unused military ammunition, arms and explosives
(a) Quantities of military ammunition and explosives

of various sorts have been abandoned by the enemy. This should be reported to the nearest Carabinieri or other police officer at once. The exact location of all such stocks, great or small/

or small, with as much detail as possible, must reach the Carabinieri officer in charge of each commune.

(b) All military weapons of every description not at present in the possession of the Carabinieri will be reported to the nearest carabinieri. ^{shells} Hand weapons will be delivered by the person in possession of finding such arms. The location of heavier weapons will be reported on ly.

(c) The location, kind and quantities of all enemy property as described above will be reported through regular Carabinieri channels to the Brigade Commander CC.RR. at Palermo.

(d) A special Ordnance Detachment is now attached to I.B.S. which is in charge of the collection and disposition of the military property described in this paragraph. He will deal with the Carabinieri through the Superintendent of Civil Police,

AMGOT. *A similar organization is in charge in the Eastern portion of the island and details of its operation have been issued to sectors concerned.*

5.

There have been reports of marine mines becoming loose and constituting a menace in certain harbours and on beaches of the Island. The presence of any such marine mines in areas under the jurisdiction of U.S.A. and/or U.S.N. should be reported at once through channels to the Brigade Commander CC.RR. at Palermo. The disposition of marine mines will be undertaken by the Commandant N.O.B. U.S.N. at Palermo. ⁶⁴²³

P. The provisions of this directive will be carried out under the general supervision of S.C.A.P.O's on duty in the several provinces.

Instructions covering the above subjects in areas under the

jurisdiction of British units have been requested.

heavier weapons will be reported on 13.

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AMCOT. A similar organization is in existence in the Eastern frontiers of the island and details of its operations have been reported to set it's concern.

Marine Mines

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6. 1423

The provisions of this directive will be carried out under the general supervision of S.C.A.P.O's on duty in the several provinces.

6. Instructions covering the above subjects in areas under the jurisdiction of British units have been requested.

The High Office, Sicily has requested that the four days of any mine or a heavy the beaches under the Royal Navy should be reported to the

MANUEL L. BOLLES
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of
Public Safety.

Distribution :-

1101/PS
Study of Situation by Col. Paller 25
Place in file

SUBJECT: Disposition of Unexploded Bombs, Land Mines, Explosives, etc.

In conformity with instructions, D.C.C.A.O. 16 September 1943, the following action in connection with the disposition of unexploded bombs, etc. has been taken.

For the purposes of this subject, land mines and unexploded artillery projectiles, are considered in the same category as unexploded aerial bombs. The procedure for the disposition of this category of explosive agents falls roughly into three separate phases:

1. Location and Report. This is a function to be performed by the Civil Defense organizations aided by other Italian civil agencies. No particular training of this purpose is necessary as all that is involved is to report the location of the unexploded bomb, projectile, land mines, to the nearest member of the Carabinieri.
2. Reconnaissance. Bomb reconnaissance is normally performed by members of the police or fire departments especially trained for the purpose. There are available in the Public Safety Division several trained bomb reconnaissance agents. Instructions have been given to the Carabinieri and the fire department to select personnel suitable for the performance of this duty. This personnel will be instructed by an officer of the Public Safety Division detailed for that purpose. Upon receiving a report of the presence of bombs or other dangerous explosives, a reconnaissance agent will visit the spot, mark it suitably, warn or evacuate civilians in the vicinity and prepare an adequate report.
3. Removal. The removal and orientation of unexploded bombs, projectiles, and other material operation and requires careful

has been taken.

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3. Removal. The removal and orientation of unexploded bombs, projectiles, or land mines, is a highly technical operation and requires careful and trained personnel. Unless recently changed, correct procedure in

24

the United States and in the United Kingdom prevent ordinary civil agencies from attempting to remove or detonate unexploded bombs. In the United States, the actual removal of unexploded bombs is carried out by especially trained units of the Ordnance Department; in the United Kingdom by the Royal Engineers; in

Italy prior to our occupation by *Autonomous Corps*.

Under the existing circumstances and in view of the position taken by the 7th Army, the actual removal of bombs can be accomplished by any one of the following methods which are recommended in the order stated:

1. Request the Italian authorities to place a detachment of trained military personnel at the disposal of the Military Government for this purpose.
2. Secure the services of a bomb disposal expert from either the United States Ordnance Department or the British Royal Engineers or from the Italian Army.
3. Organize one or more squads preferably from Italian military personnel, or if that be impracticable, from ordinary civilian labor.

These squads to be given instructions and training by the bomb disposal expert mentioned above and thereafter under his general supervision to carry out the actual removal of all unexploded bombs, mines, and other projectiles.

Marine Mines. Several localities off the coast of Sicily, it has been reported that marine mines have gone adrift and constitute a menace. Commissioner of Public Safety is exploring this question with the Naval authorities. It will be the subject of substant report.

Recommendations. In connection with the general subject, the following

Under the existing circumstances and in view of the position taken by the 7th Army, the actual removal of bombs can be accomplished by any one of the following methods which are recommended in the order stated:

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Marine Mines. Several localities off the coast of Sicily, it has been reported that marine mines have gone adrift and constitute a menace. Commissioner of Public Safety is exploring this question with the Naval authorities. It will be the subject of substant report.

Recommendations. In connection with the general subject, the following recommendations require action by the C.C.A.O., and are submitted below.

1. That a bomb disposal expert be attached to the garrison in Sicily for the purpose of directing and supervising the removal of all unexploded bombs, etc.

23

2. That a general salvage campaign be inaugurated in Sicily under the authority of the Military Government operating through Italian civil agencies for the purpose of collecting all stocks of ammunition and other explosives. While this is actually the function of the military authorities, it is understood that a decision has been taken that this work will not be done under the direction of the military commander. In the meantime the presence on the Island of large quantities of explosives and ammunition of various types constitute a serious threat against both military and civil security.

1420

and other explosives. While this is actually the first time military authorities, it is understood that a decision has been taken that this work will not be done under the direction of the military commander. In the meantime the presence on the Island of large quantities of explosives and ammunition of various types constitute a serious threat against both military and civil security.

4420

Subject: Disposal of Unexploded Bombs.

22
AJ/23/62

24. Sep. 43.

Chief Engineer,
Headquarters,
15 Army Group.

HEADQUARTERS
P.S.

25 SEP 1943

ANGOT

1. Reference the attached copy letter, ANGOT/1101/PS dated 20. Sep. 43, would you please advise this Branch:-

- (a) What arrangements are in force for bomb disposal and their clearance in the Island.
- (b) Whether it would be possible to put a bomb disposal and mine clearing expert at the disposal of ANGOT in order to teach the Carabinieri Reale
- (c) Whether the use of Italian Military Units is contemplated for bomb disposal and mine clearing.

2. As regards the Eastern portion of the Island, it is thought that all these matters are probably being dealt with by the Battlefield Clearance Unit which is operating under Portbase.

H. Pauer.

Captain,
Staff Captain,
ANGOT Liaison.

See
file
1128 p 3.

ANGOT Liaison,
15 Army Group Main,
FIELD.
HQ/JG.

Copy to: H.Q. ANGOT, PALERMO. ✓

4419

Disposal of Unexploded Bombs.

AUGUST/1101/PS.

JURY Mission - 15 Army Group,
Bomb Disposal Officer.

20 Sep.

3.

1. In order to dispose of unexploded bombs, mines, etc., constituting a menace to the civil population in Sicily, arrangements have been made for doing so, but as the C.O.B.A. since military personnel is not available for the purpose.
2. It is proposed to organize one or more bomb disposal units from Italian ex military personnel to operate under the C.O.B.A. Since, however, this is a highly technical matter it is essential that a bomb disposal expert be available to instruct and supervise these units. No such officer is at present available at 7th Army or I.R.S. nor on duty with USMC. The detail should not be more than temporary.
3. It is requested that a bomb disposal expert be made available to these headquarters for the above purpose either from the Italian, British, or U.S. army or navy at the earliest date possible.
4. At the same time will you explore the possibility of securing the service of a unit of the Italian Army especially trained for bomb and mine disposal, which could possibly be made available for duty in Sicily.

CHARLES M. GEORGE,
Colonel, G. S. C.
Chief Staff Officer.

See 39.

4418

Bomb Disposal expert in Prisoner of
War Stockade.
Provost Marshal, Seventh Army.

AMCOT/1101/PS

25 September 3

As you may be aware, we are experiencing considerable difficulty in providing for the disposal of unexploded bombs, etc., in various parts of SICILY.

It is reported that Maresciallo Maggiore di Artiglieria Ingra Giovanni di Angelo who was in charge of the bomb disposal squad at ENNA, was taken prisoner and is, or was, in a P.W. Stockade at Licata.

It would be appreciated if enquiries could be instituted in order to verify this statement and if it is correct, it might be possible for the warrant officer to be paroled.

*Additional copy
of this letter
sent to Provost Marshal
Army B. 21/10*

EMUEL L. BOLLES,
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

*Relayed to HQ 7th Army
by Provost Marshal
See 46
B.*

PA B. 3417

A. M. G. O. G.
PROVINCE OF ENNA



Your ref.

my ref. 6/1/P

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Enna, 15 Sep 43

Subject: Maresciallo Maggiore di Artigliere Ingra Giovanni
di Angelo.

AMGOT HQ, (For attention Public Safety Division)
15 Army Group

1. Maresciallo Maggiore di Artiglieria Ingra Giovanni di Angelo, born at Enna on 20 Sep 1904, was in charge of the bomb disposal squad at Enna.
2. He was taken prisoner of war and is thought to be in a camp at Trieste.
3. This man's services would be extremely valuable in dealing with the many unexploded bombs, shells, grenades, etc in the province. Accordingly it is suggested that he might be released on parole and returned to Enna to carry on his former work.

ECM.

Lt J. Walters.
Major,
C.A.P.O.,
for S.C.A.O.

Action at 4416

TO C.P.S.

Register 118
pic 1101

Notes, thank you.

12/8

This does not really concern
us as the "bombs" are evidently
Land grenades.

Cotnam
Mj

13/9/43

Maj. Mason -
Do not wish to
take above for
granted - Kato
Put it there -
Baller

Guth

MJ 23/9

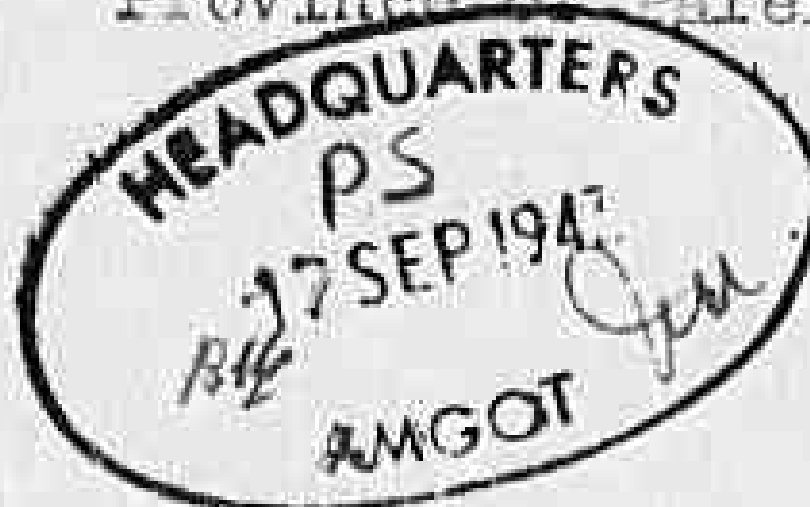
12/9/43

To Supt & PAD

For appropriate
Attention - Note initial
communication dated
17th of August - Nearly
a month is too long a time -
Please Expedite. Balles

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Province of Palermo

CP/MFN/ev



11 September 1943

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Ordnance - SEVENTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
Thru Chief Staff Officer - AMGOT HEADQUARTERS.

Enclosed, for your attention and action, is a letter from the Police Office regarding unexploded bombs.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Senior Civil Affairs Officer.

Encl.
1

4415

785016

Torino 8
Div. 3.2. N. 592

COMMISSARIATO DI P.S. PALAZZO REALE
Palermo, 11 17 Agosto 1943

SCAO 4
Palermo

O G G E T T O: Bombe inesplose -

MEANQUANTERS
PS 1943
7 SEP 1943
AMGO PER CONOSCENZA

AL COMANDO GENIO AMERICANO
ALLA R. E U S T U R A
COMITATO PROTEZIONE ANTIAEREA

= P A L E R M O =

Per i provvedimenti di competenza, si trascrive, qui di seguito, una denuncia, a firma del Sac. VANNELLI Rosario, parroco della Parrocchia S. Nicolò alla Albergheria, circa il rinvenimento di N.4 bombe a mano inesplose ed alcune capsule di rivoltella di cui chiede la rimozione:

"Io sottoscritto Parroco di S. Nicolò all'Albergheria, dimorante nella casa canonica della Parrocchia Via Lo Monaco Giacomo N.2 attualmente sfollato a Misilmeri, dovendomi recare a Palermo per affari e visitare la mia casa, mi sono accorto che sotto un balcone di essa che sporge in un piccolo vicolo chiuso dove si accede regolarmente dalla mia entrata, ma che è di facile accesso anche dalla parte opposta per un muricciuolo a secco, scavalcato spesso nonelli, di uno scatolo malamente chiuso. - Volendomi accertare di che si trattasse vi ho trovato N.4 bombe a mano non esplose e alcune capsule di rivoltella. - Temendo che qualche monello accedesse in quel luogo e che curata o monelleria potesse commettere qualche atto inconsulto ho ritirato dallo scatolo e ne ho dato avviso alla S.V. perchè da persone competenti ne facciano curare il ritiro."

Intanto non trovandomi io a Palermo, quando ne disporrò di ritirare la predetta di darmene un precedenza avviso a mezzo del Sacrista della mia Parrocchia per farmi trovare di presenza."

IL COMMISSARIO CAPO DI P.S.

(Gaspere Ausiello)

[Signature]

103
ANGOS PER CONOSCENZA

ALLA R. Q U E S T U R A

COMITATO PROTEZIONE ANTIAEREA

= P A L E R M O =

Per i provvedimenti di competenza, si trascrive, qui di seguito, una denuncia, a firma del Sac. VANNELLI Rosario, parroco della Parrocchia S. Niccolò alla Albergheria, circa il rinvenimento di N.4 bombe a mano inesplose ed alcune capsule di rivoltella di cui chiede la rimozione:

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Intanto non trovandomi io a Palermo, quando ne disporrò, il ritiro La prego di darmene un precedenza avviso a mezzo del Sacerista della mia Parrocchia per farmi trovare di presenza. ""

IL COMMISSARIO CAPO DI P.S.

(Gaspere Ausiello)

M. Ausiello

15

Subject: Unsubstantiated source

To the Honorable Members of the

Committee on

to the "Pact" - starting

with Committee of assigned protection

Pakistan

For consistent measures in early further their

a declaration signed by the United Nations

League, states by the United Nations of the United

the United Nations, in receiving the assistance of the

United Nations, in receiving the assistance of the

United Nations, in receiving the assistance of the

United Nations, in receiving the assistance of the

United Nations, in receiving the assistance of the

United Nations, in receiving the assistance of the

2413

street boys often ²over-claim, by means of a fox
not well clothed. Wanting to assure myself
what that fox contained, I found 4 hard frosts
unexploded and many needles exposed. Fearing
that some of the street boys would get in the place
and for curiosity they might have done some
wrong I withdrew the fox and now I inform
you in order that the fox may be sent for
by competent people.

In as much as I am not living in Palermo
I therefore wish a previous notice through the
vestry keeper of my Parish church in order to
be present.

A former commissioner of P.S.
(Gaspare Scumello)

File 1101/PS

Extract from Minutes of CAPOs Meeting 8 Sep 43. 1310. DISPOSAL OF UNEXPLODED BOMBS AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES.

The C.P.S. said it was desired to know what arrangements had been made for clearance of unexploded bombs and whether such arrangements were in operation.

The main difficulty in the Provinces was the lack of transport and personnel available for collection of the unexploded bombs.

- 4 -

Reference was made to the existence of mines between TRAPANI and the EGADI ISLANDS. The presence of grenades etc. in the countryside produced, apart from the danger to peasants working in the fields, the possibility of these explosives falling into wrong hands and being used to the detriment of public safety.

It was agreed that the use of civilian labour would facilitate matters.

6911

Disposal of Marine Mines

AMCOT/1101/PS

AMCOT Liaison Officer with 15th Army
Group

Sept. 20, 3

1. Arrangements have been completed with the Commandant N.O.B. U.S.N., Palermo for the disposal of any loose marine mines on beaches or in adjacent waters on the coast line of Sicily under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy. I am informed that the remaining coast line is under the control of the Royal Navy.

2. The procedure to be followed with N.O.B. U.S.N. at Palermo is that they will be advised by the Brigade Commander, C.C.R.R., of the location of any such loose mine and thereafter undertake the disposition of such mine.

3. It is requested that similar arrangements be made with the appropriate officer of the Royal Navy and that we be advised of the procedure to be followed, the location and commander of the office to which reports are to be submitted.

CS
CHARLES M. SPOTFORD,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief Staff Officer.

4410

PA

Col. Bolles:
OK - go ahead.
Clough

Col. Spafford:

IBS say give you no
further information than is
contained herein.

Recommend signature of
letter and approval of draft of
instructions.

6

(COPY)

Disposition of Land Mines, Unexploded
Bombs, etc.

AMCOT/1101/PS

Supt. Civil Police

Sept. 20, 1943.

1. There is attached draft Directive covering policy to be followed with reference to disposal of land mines, unexploded bombs, etc. for the collection and disposition of all enemy ammunition and weapons of all types and for the report of loose marine mines in local harbors or on beaches.

2. Disposition of bombs, mines, etc. referred to in Para. 3 is to be accomplished by the Carabinieri.

3. Collection and disposition of ammunition and weapons referred to in Para. 4 will be under the direction of Major Elmer H. Braun, Ord-Sec. Room 43 I.E.S. Via Bari - Phone Clover 48.

4. Reports of marine mines should be made to the Commandant N.O.B., U.S.N., Phone Cadet 601 Br. 25 N.E. Cor. Shipyard, Palermo City.

5. You will be advised later in reference to procedure covering marine mines in water under Royal Navy jurisdiction.

6. N.O.B. is willing to undertake disposal of unexploded bombs on land within a reasonable distance of Palermo City.

7. Please arrange the necessary details for putting the provisions of the directive into effect.

4409

occupied	Infantry Division Concerning travel into & out of German territory
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LEONARD BOLLES,
Col. Inf.
Commissioner of Public
Safety.

DRAFTSUBJECT: Bomb and Other ExplosivesSECRET/4401/03SECRET H.Q. BOMBING

September, 1944.

1. Reports indicate the presence in many places on the Island of large numbers of land mines, unexploded bombs, duds, etc. These constitute a serious menace to both military and civilians.
2. The military authorities are dealing with the above wherever a threat exists to military operations. The removal of all other bombs, mines, etc., is the responsibility of the Local Sicilian Governmental agencies.

3. This will be accomplished as follows:

(a) Reports. It is the duty of all persons having knowledge of the location of any land mine, unexploded bomb, dud or artillery projectile etc. to report the facts without delay to the nearest Police Station or Carabinieri.

(b) Recognition. Directions have been issued by the Carabinieri General, Carabinieri Headquarters, providing for the further steps required to protect the public pending final disposal of the bombs, mines, etc. This will include proper marking of the danger area, warning to all persons in the vicinity, evacuation where necessary and procurement of the services of a bomb disposal unit.

(c) Disposal. Untrained persons are forbidden to tamper with any type of bomb or mine. The disposal of these instruments

10

2. The military authorities are dealing with the above mentioned threat entirely to military operations. The removal of all other loads, mines, etc., is the responsibility of the local Italian Governmental agencies.

3. This will be accomplished as follows :

(a) Reports. It is the duty of all persons having knowledge of the location of any land mine, unexploded bomb, and artillery projectile etc. to report the facts without delay to the nearest Police Station or Carabinieri.

(b) Recognition. Directions have been issued by the Carabinieri General, Carabinieri Regli, providing for the further steps required to protect the public pending final disposal of the bombs, mines, etc. This will include proper marking of the danger area, warning to all persons in the vicinity, evacuation where necessary and procurement of the services of a bomb disposal unit.

(c) Disposition. Untrained persons are forbidden to tamper with any type of ^{ammunition} bomb or mine. The disposal of these instruments is a highly technical procedure and hazardous to untrained persons.

Special arrangements for disposal of the foregoing are under arrangement by the Carabinieri Regli.

4. Unused military ammunition, arms and explosives

(A) Quantities of military ammunition and explosives of various sorts have been abandoned by the enemy. This should be reported to the nearest Carabinieri or other police officer at once. The exact location of all such stocks, Great

or small/

408

or small, with as much detail as possible, must reach the Carabinieri officer in charge of each command.

(b) All military weapons of every description not at present in the possession of the Carabinieri will be reported to the nearest carabinieri. Hand weapons will be delivered by the person in possession of finding such arms. The location of heavier weapons will be reported orally.

(c) The location, kind and quantities of all enemy property as described above will be reported through regular Carabinieri channels to the Brigade Commander CC.RR. at Palermo.

(d) A special Ordnance Detachment is now attached to I.B.S. which is in charge of the collection and disposition of the military property described in this paragraph. He will deal with the Carabinieri through the Superintendent of Civil Police, AMMOT.

5. Marine Mines

There have been reports of marine mines becoming loose and constituting a menace in certain harbours and on beaches of the Island. The presence of any such marine mines in areas under the jurisdiction of U.S.A. and/or U.S.M. should be reported at once through channels to the Brigade Commander CC.RR. at Palermo. The disposition of marine mines will be undertaken by the Commandant M.O.B. U.S.M. at Palermo.

6. The provisions of this directive will be carried out under the general supervision of S.G.A.P.O's on duty in the several provinces.

7. Instructions covering the above subjects in areas under the jurisdiction of British units have been requested.

heavier weapons will be reported on ly.

- (c) The location, kind and quantities of all enemy property as described above will be reported through regular Carabinieri channels to the Brigade Commander CC.MR. at Palermo.
- (a) A special Ordnance Detachment is now attached to I.B.S. which is in charge of the collection and disposition of the military property described in this paragraph. He will deal with the Carabinieri through the Superintendent of Civil Police,

AMCOT.

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7. Instructions covering the above subjects in areas under the jurisdiction of British units have been requested.

Distribution :-

LEONARD L. BOLLES
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of
Public Safety.

SUBJECT : Unexploded Bombs and Land Mines.

AMCOT/1101/PS

AMCOT H.Q., Sicily.

17 September, 1943.

TO : C.P.S.

1. The contents of AMCOT/1101/PS dated 16 September, 1943 have been noted and detailed facts are given below. With regard to para. 2, however, the removal of bombs is not the responsibility of Civil Defence in England or Italy, neither is it in America unless the duty has been recently assigned to them.

BOMBS

2. In America and in England the method of dealing with unexploded bombs is broadly as follows. The incidents are divided into three stages - Reconnaissance, Report and Removal.

- (a) The bomb location is reported by the wardens to C.D. Controller and the locality is cleared and roped off.
- (b) C.D. Controller informs Police who, in turn, inform the military authorities.
- (c) The military authorities inform the B.D.S. (units of Engineers and, in some cases such as large "land-mines", the Navy), who defuse the bombs and remove them.

3. The Italian method was very similar - the C.D. organization or police reported the bombs and the military (A.A. units) defused and in some cases only, removed them.

4. The C.D. organization in occupied Italy can still continue to perform the first two of the stages, i.e. Reconnaissance and Report, but there is no trained personnel to deal with the third stage - Removal.

5. The following are the alternatives :-

- (a) The Allied B.D.S. to continue to function generally.
- (b) The release of trained Italian Army Personnel, with officers, to serve under the C.D. Controller in each area subject to bombing.

6. /

-2-

6. As bomb defusing and removal has never been a C.D. responsibility, there are no trained officers or men amongst the Public Safety staff.

7. Certain detecting apparatus is necessary for dealing with unexploded bombs, and none is supplied to Civil Defence.

MINES

8. The problem of the land mines laid by an enemy has never arisen in England or America.

In England certain coastal districts are affected by land mines laid on the beaches by our own Forces and their location and removal is entirely a military responsibility.

9. Mine detectors and detonators are essential for this duty.

10. C.D. organization do not possess such apparatus nor have they the trained personnel in either America, England, or Italy.

11. C.D. personnel could only obtain information as to location of mine fields, report them to military and rope off the area.

12. The alternatives in this case are similar to those for dealing with unexploded bombs, i.e.:

(a) Allied military units to continue to remove the mines.

(b) The release of trained Italian troops under their officers to act under C.D. Controller in detailed location and detonation.

13. As there may be some difficulty in the case of paroled P.O.W. for dangerous tasks, it might prove necessary to obtain the co-operation of the Italian Government in the matter.


G.H.L. MASON
Major
A/Supt., Fire & C.D. Sec.

AMCOT/1101/PSAMCOT HQ., SICILY16 September 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Public Security.

1. The personnel of the 7th Army will soon be removed from Sicily. It is not feasible for them to leave military personnel behind to remove mines. It then falls on AMCOT to devise some system and train personnel for a complete job of removal and explosion of all land mines on the Island. While this job is something we do not want to do there seems to be no alternative.

2. One of the functions of Civilian Defence is the removal of bombs. There are several officers assigned to AMCOT who are well qualified for this work. One of these officers could be quickly trained in the removal or the explosion of land mines. He could then train a group of men, probably one from each province, to take charge of this type of work.

F. J. McSherry
FRANK J. McSHERRY
Brigadier General, USA
D.C.C.A.O.

4405

See 8.

C.S.O.

2 - 5.

7 Army will not remove any mines which do not hinder army ops. They suggest that areas be voided off by AR1601.

2. Do you wish to accept this or is it your view that all known mines (wherever they are) should be removed by the army? If the latter we must approach ISAG for a directive.

CRB 15 Sep. 43

4404

See Spout
Capt. Graham.

Please handle.
We cannot accept this
responsibility, except to
mark mine fields.

Enough

7th Army agrees. However,
they are not going to clear
the mines. The designs
were for publication to assist
propaganda to avoid them.

7th Army

C.S.O.

2 & 3.

I must emphatically agree with C.P.S. and I feel that 7 Army must have misunderstood Col. Poletti. Clearly minefields is a technical job to be supervised by Engineers.

2. I suggest (a) you contact Col. Poletti to see whether he really did agree to this and (b) - we approach 7 Army to change their opinion - the type of approach will depend on answer to (a).

P.F.

9/9.

Poletti expressed surprise. He said that mine
disposal is an army job. He was asked to see
possibly of warship etc. Capt. Graham to take of
last 7 Army.

9/9

78

4403



2nd Ind.
HEADQUARTERS 7TH ARMY, OFFICE OF A.C. OF S., G-2, 2 SEPTEMBER 43.

TO: Public Safety Division, ANGOT.

1. For your information and necessary action.
2. Attached copy of Memo, 21 August 1943, to A.C. of S., G-2, 7th Army, which explains origin of this matter.

For the A.C. of S., G-2:

B. S. Carter
B. S. CARTER,
Major, G.S.C.

3rd Ind.

CP/MFN/nr

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT, Palermo Province, 7 September 1943.
(8-30-43)

TO: Chief Staff Officer, AMGOT Headquarters.

Forwarded for action.

Charles Poletti
CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Senior Civil Affairs Officer

ENCL- 3
2 Drawings, 1 Memo.

Cfo This matter was discussed at yesterday's conference of Provincial CAPs and a formal memorandum on the subject is being prepared. Meanwhile, I suggest that the clearance of Minifields is, or should be, a military rather than a civil responsibility.

9/9/43

Samuel G. Wells
Col. Inf
C.A.S.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
Office of A.C. of S., G-2
APO 758 U.S. ARMY

2
21 August 1943

MEMO:

SUBJECT: Warning to Civilians regarding Danger of Mines and Explosives.

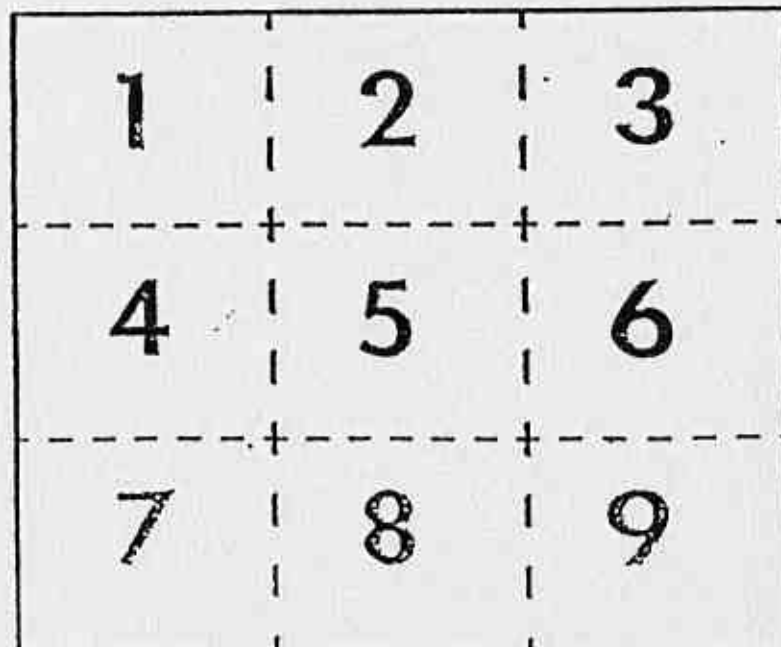
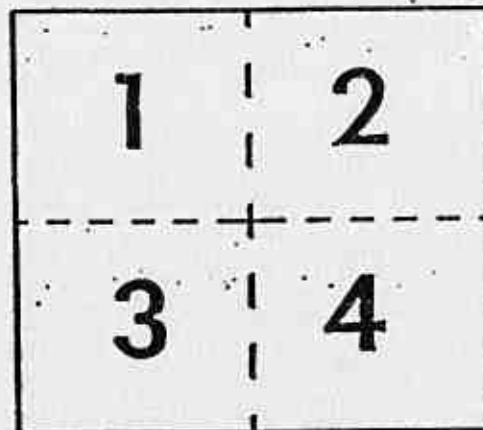
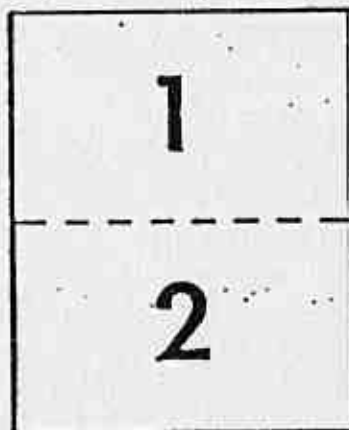
TO : Col. Koch, A.C. of S., G-2.

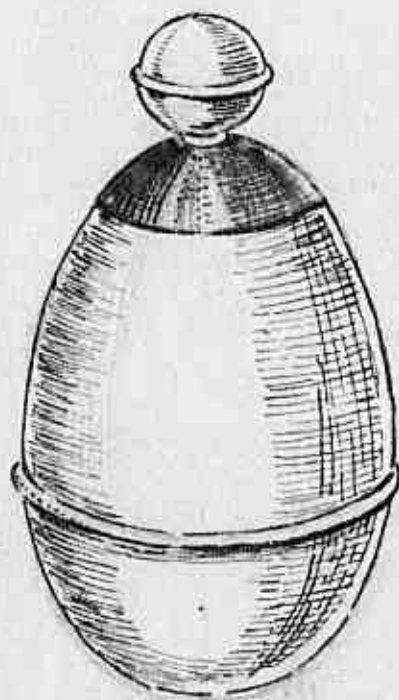
1. Many instances have been reported of Sicilian civilians being killed and injured by mines, shells, hand-grenades, etc.
2. The adoption of precautionary measures to prevent such accidents would seem to be a responsibility of AMGOT, and the question has therefore been discussed with Lt. Col. Poletti.
3. Lt. Col. Poletti agrees that AMGOT will do everything possible to warn the population by proclamations, newspaper articles, town criers, etc., of the dangers involved, and to instruct them regarding necessary precautions.
4. Lt. Col. Poletti requests that the competent experts, Hq. 7th Army, furnish AMGOT with suitable technical instructions.
5. Col. Davidson, Engineers, has offered to have Capt. Roseby, a mine detection and explosives expert, prepare a simple set of instructions illustrated with diagrams for translation and publication by AMGOT to all inhabitants.
6. Furthermore the Engineers are in a position to prepare a more detailed technical set of instructions for the Carabinieri or other local organizations to assist them in clearing mine fields, which is not considered an Army responsibility.

7
B. S. CARTER
Major, A.U.S.
4401

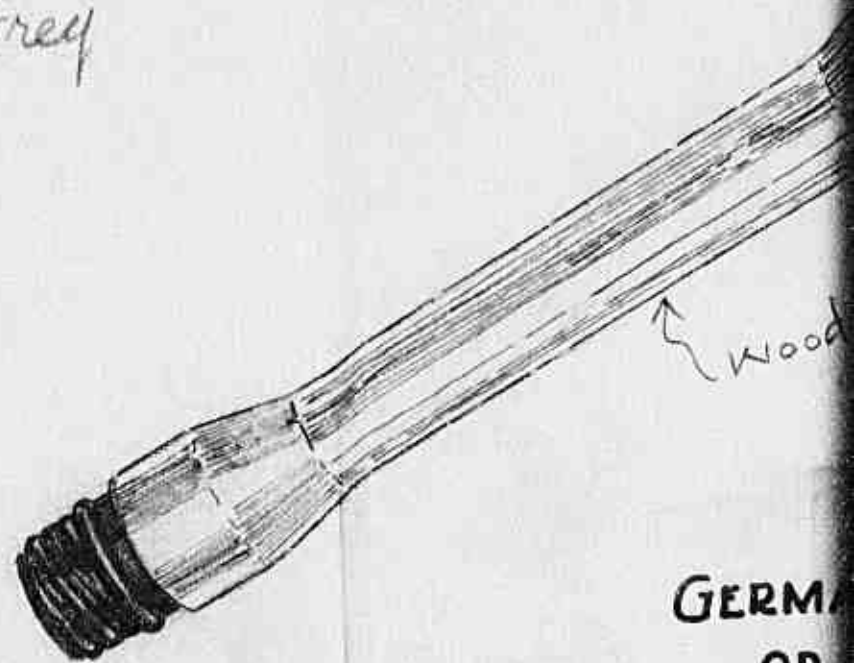
MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.





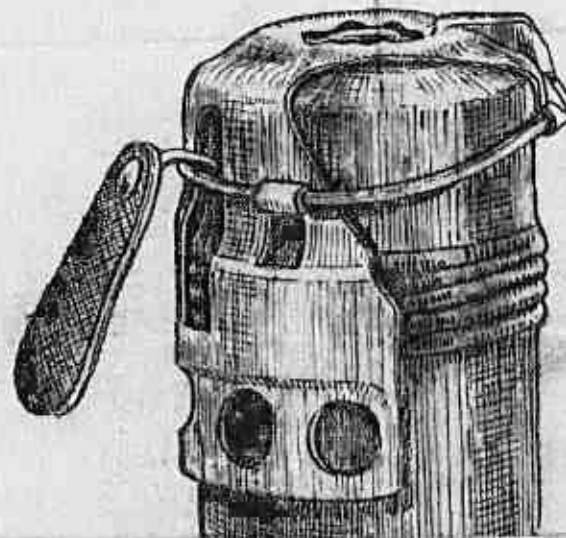
GERMAN EGG
GRENADE



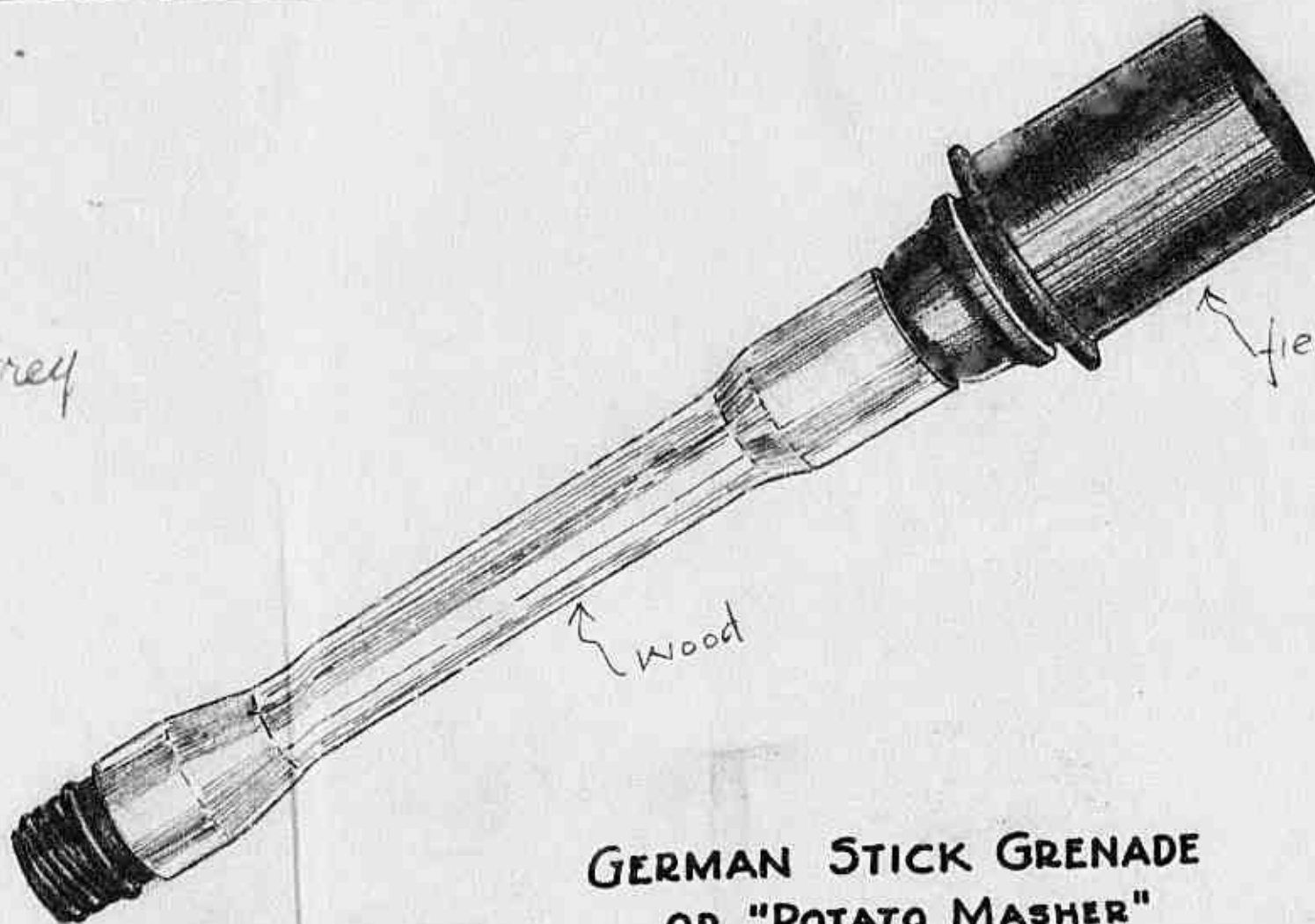
GERMAN
OR



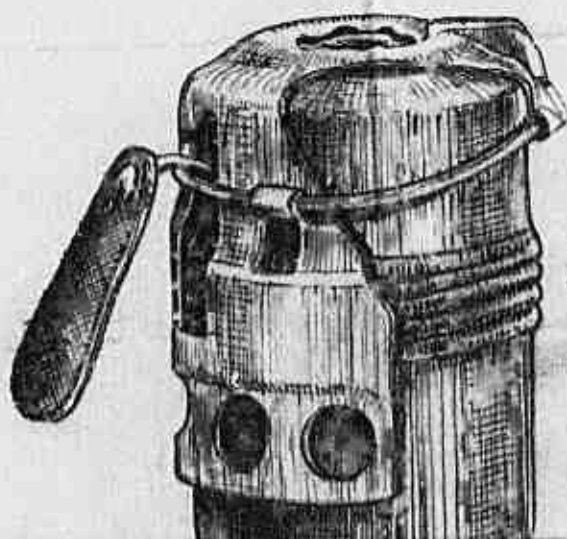
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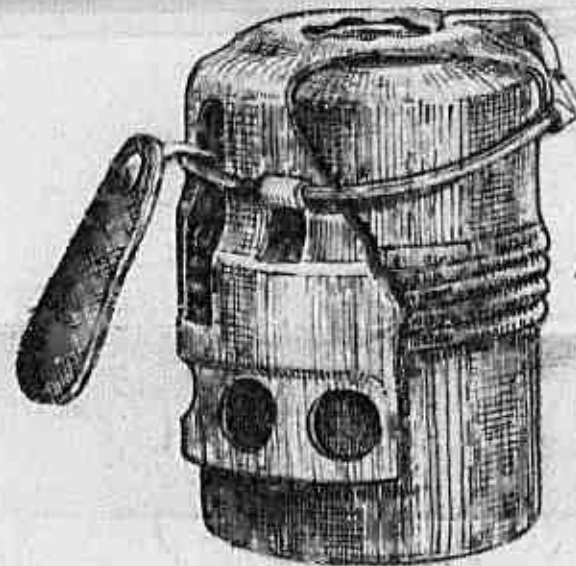


GERMAN STICK GRENADE
OR "POTATO MASHER"





Painted Red



Painted Red

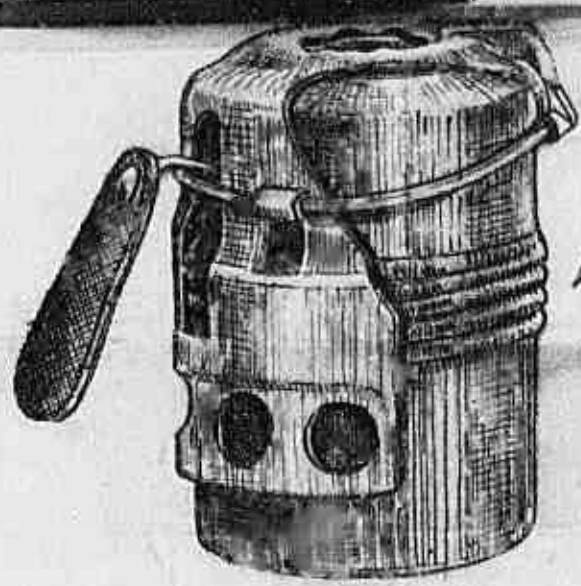
THREE TYPES OF ITALIAN CONCUSSION GR



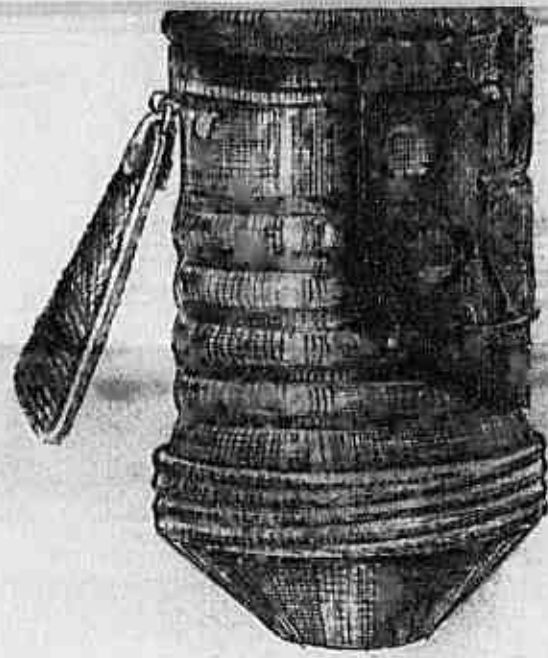
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AMERICAN OFFENSIVE
GRENADE

AM



Painted Red

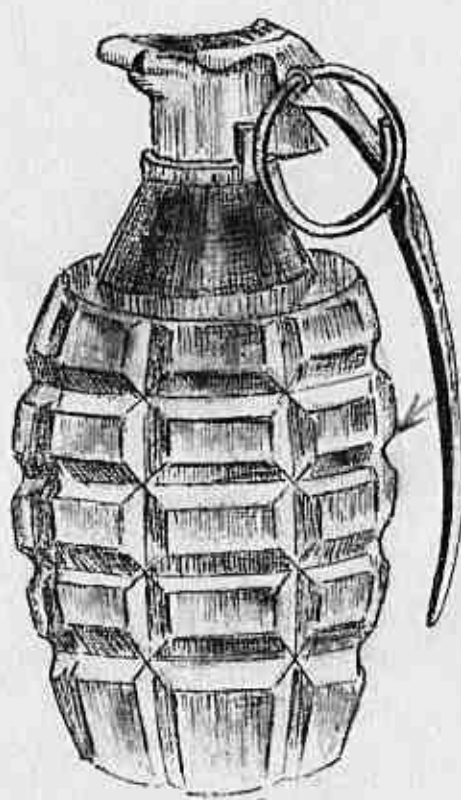


Painted Red

THREE TYPES OF ITALIAN CONCUSSION GRENADE



Black



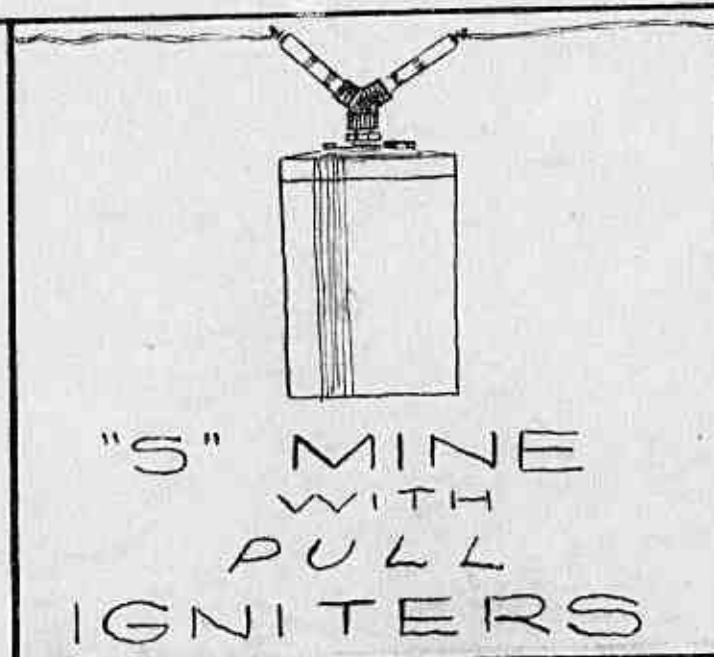
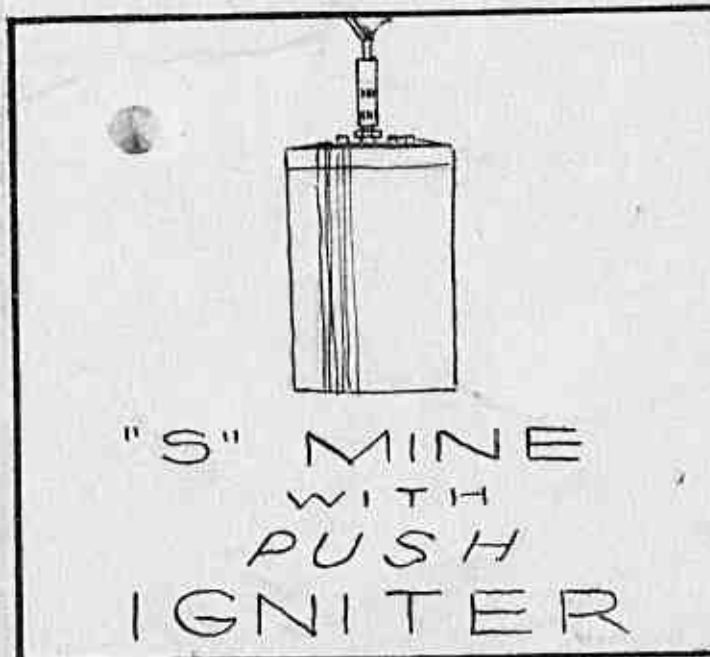
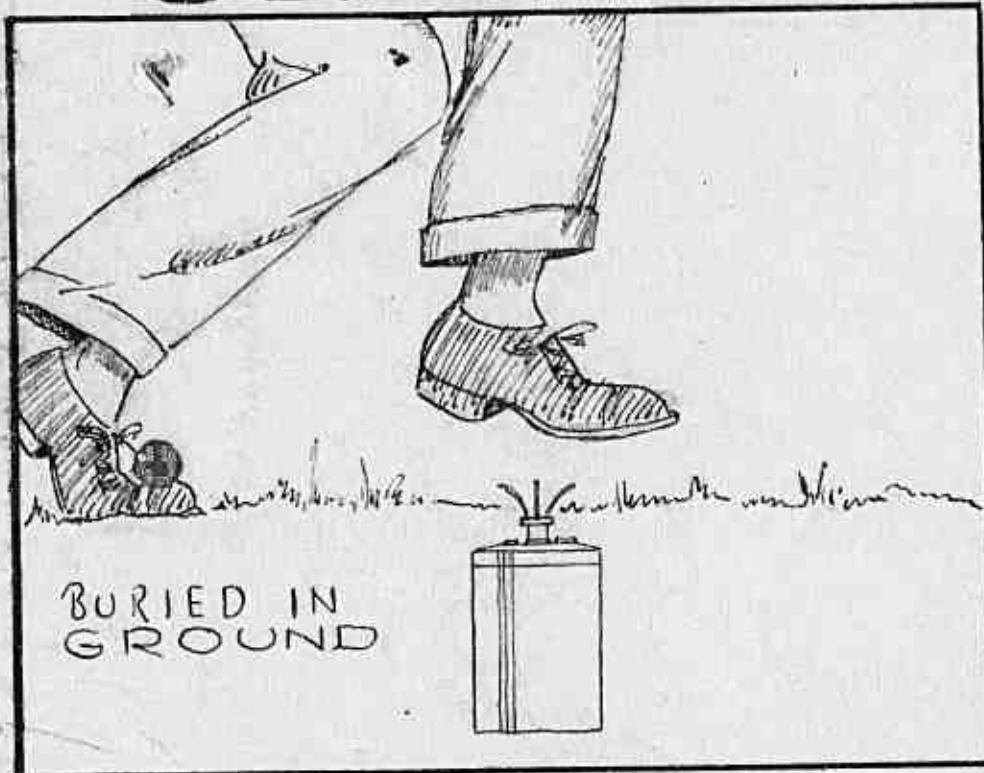
yellow or
olive Drab

OFFENSIVE
DE

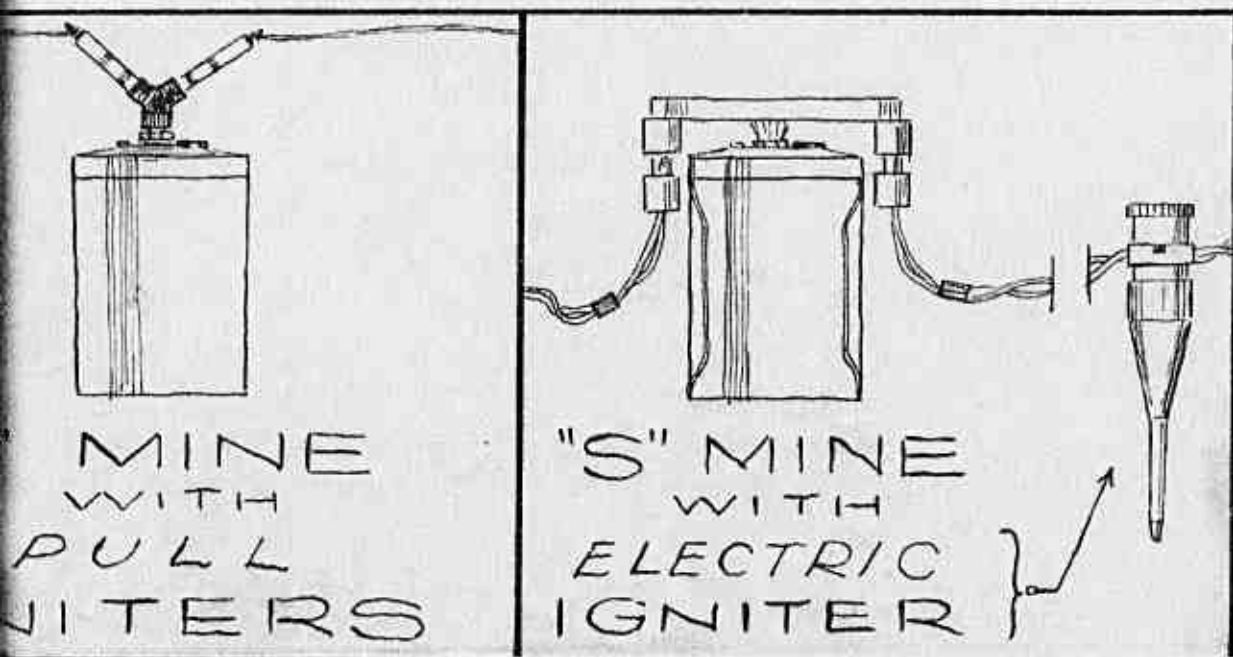
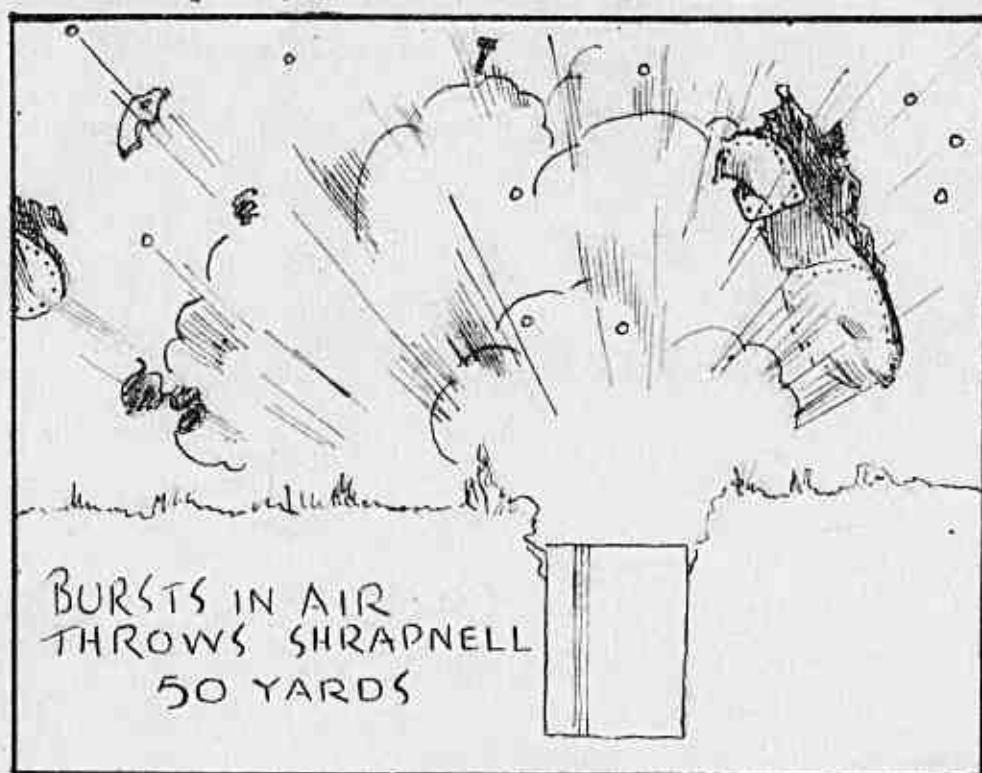
AMERICAN FRAGMENTATION GRENADE

Prepared by the 343rd Regiment
of Engineers (GS), US Army-29 August 1943

GERMAN "S" MINE



"S" MINE



GERMAN "S" MINE

This small cylindrical mine, illustrated, is about 10 cm in diameter and 12.7 cm high. A part of the mine is projected into the ground from 0.32 meters to 1.22 meters where it explodes about 350, 6.4 mm steel balls in all directions.

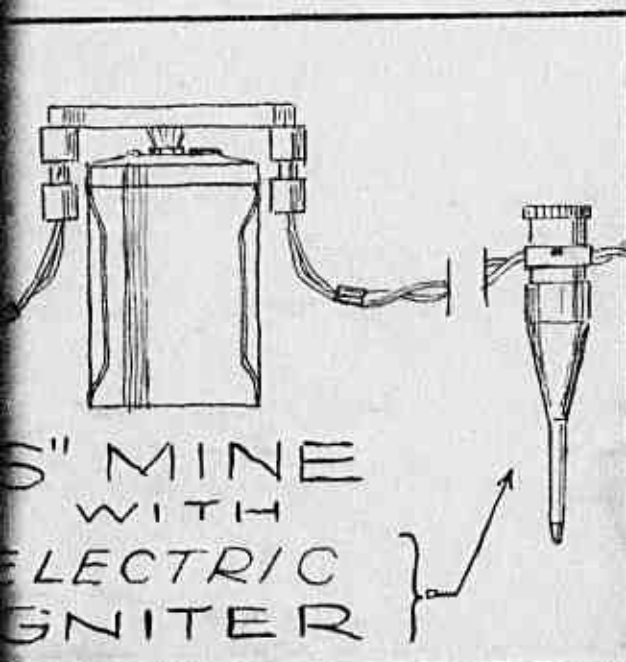
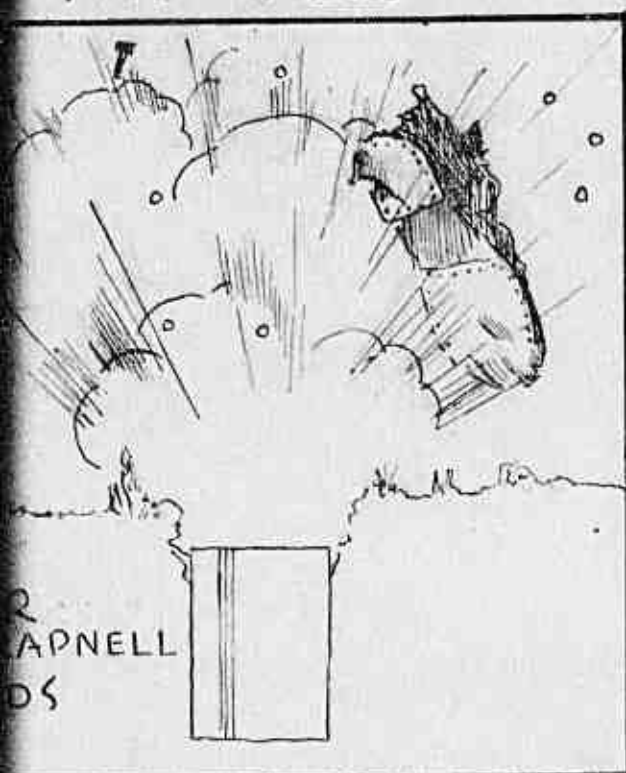
The "S" Mine is a lethal weapon causing serious injuries within a radius of 30 meters and killing within a radius of 80 meters.

There are three most common methods of igniting the "S" Mine, namely: 1. The push igniter which requires a pressure of 7 kg to actuate it. 2. The trip igniter to which a trip wire or cord is attached and which requires a pull of about 7 kg to actuate it. 3. The electric igniter which when stepped on generates sufficient strength to fire the mine or may be as many as 16 electric igniters for one "S" Mine.

"S" Mines are generally found buried in the ground with the igniter or igniters projecting slightly above the ground. Look for them around buildings, road diversions and notices, entrances to buildings, approaches to tanks, obstacles, barbed wire entanglements, military materiel, and demolished structures and bridges.

If an "S" Mine is located stay away from the area surrounding it and if possible leave a sign to indicate their presence to the local Police who will take proper precautions.

INE



GERMAN "S" MINE

This small cylindrical mine, illustrated on the left is about 10 cm in diameter and 13.7 cm high. On firing, part of the mine is projected into the air to a height of 0.92 meters to 1.22 meters where it explodes scattering about 350, 6.4 mm steel balls in all directions.

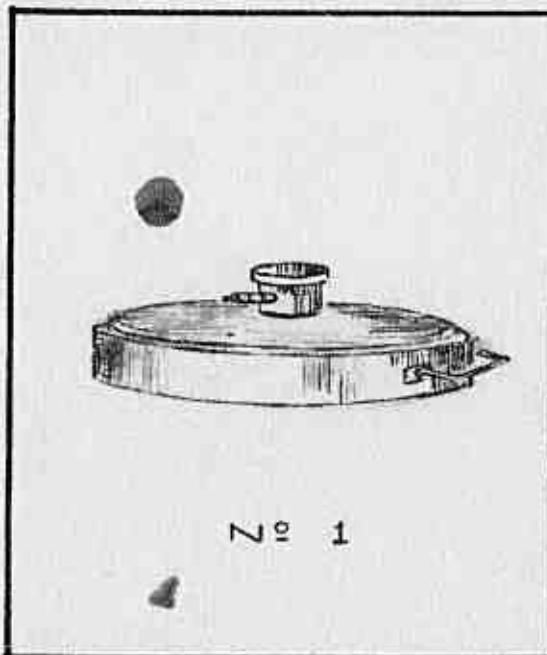
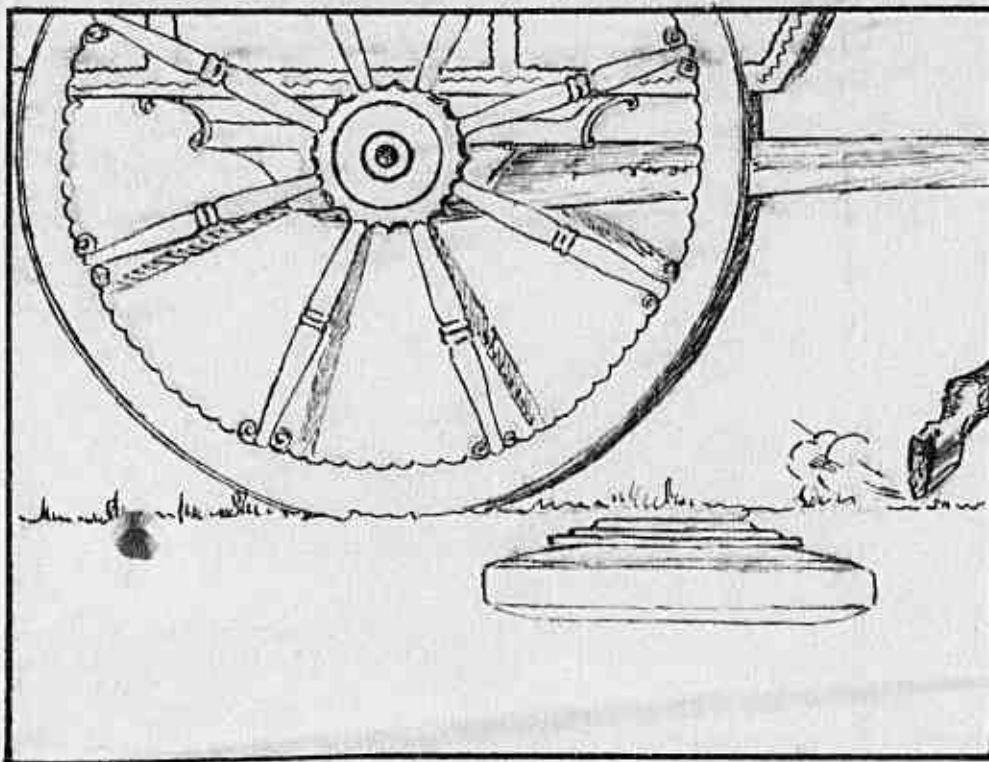
The "S" Mine is a lethal weapon capable of inflicting serious injuries within a radius of 100 meters and killing within a radius of 50 meters.

There are three most common methods of exploding the "S" Mine, namely: 1. The push igniter which requires a pressure of 7 kg to actuate it. 2. The pull igniter to which a trip wire or cord is attached. This igniter requires a pull of about 7 kg to actuate it. 3. The electric igniter which when stepped on generates a current of sufficient strength to fire the mine electrically. There may be as many as 18 electric igniters connected to one "S" Mine.

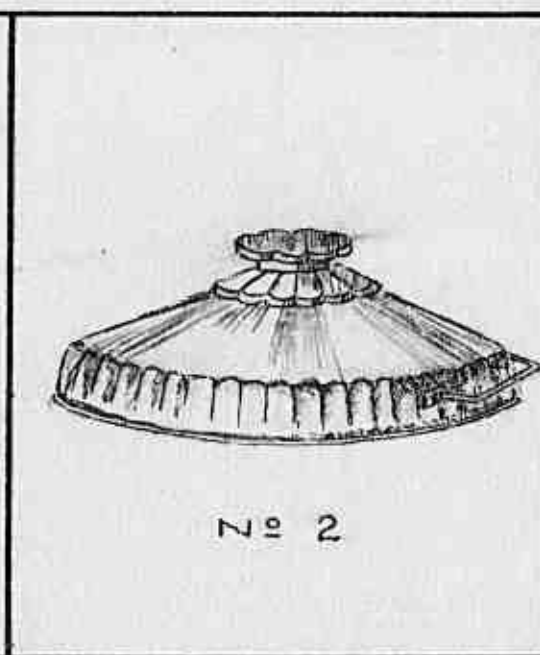
"S" Mines are generally found buried with the top of the igniter or igniters projecting slightly above the surface of the ground. Look for them around kilo stones, notices, road diversions and notices, paths, road junctions, entrances to building, approaches to gun emplacements, tank obstacles, barbed wire entanglements, ~~and~~ abandoned military materiel, *and demolished structures, roads and bridges.*

If an "S" Mine is located stay away from the general area surrounding it and if possible leave some sort of warning sign to indicate their presence to others. Then notify the local Police who will take proper steps to eliminate the hazard.

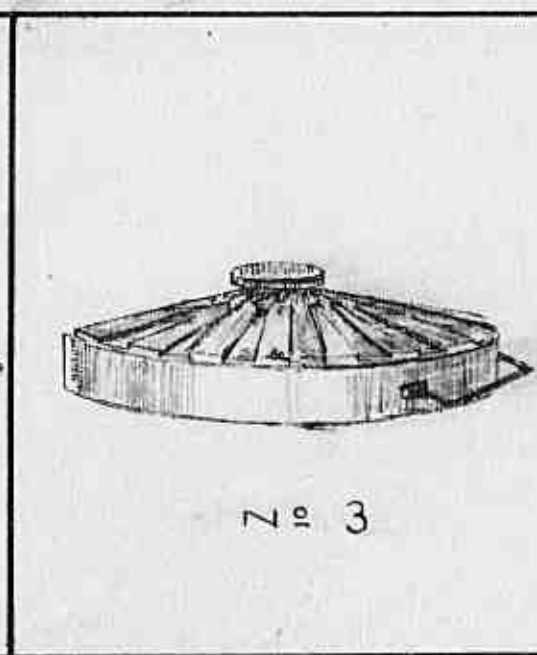
GERMAN "TELLER" MINES



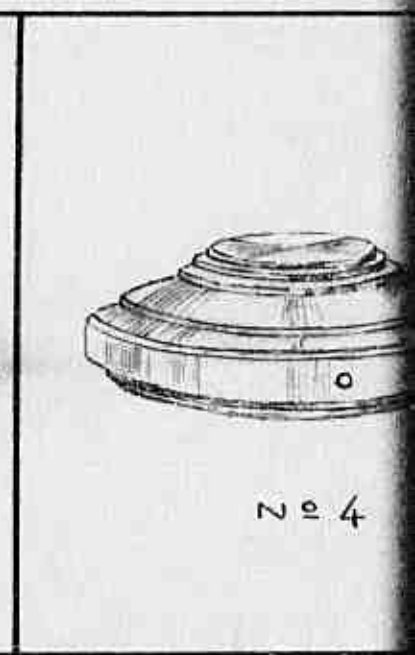
No 1



No 2



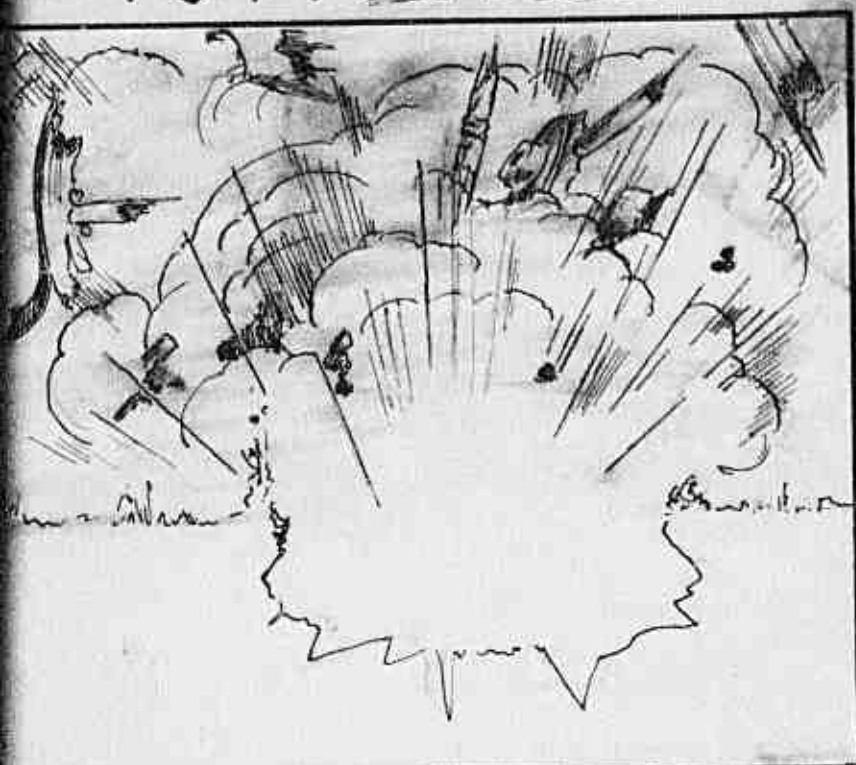
No 3



No 4

OTHER "HEAVY" MINES

MINES

GERMAN AND ITALIAN LAND MINES

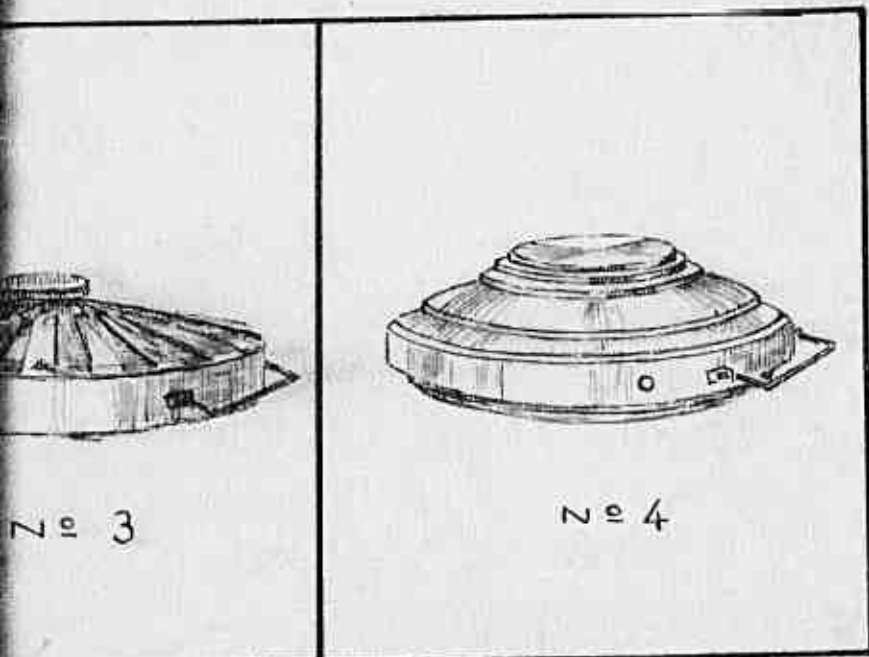
The various types of land mines commonly found in Sicily are illustrated on the left.

The land mine is a weapon designed to delay and immobilize armored vehicles, trucks, and so forth. They are loaded with from 2 to 6 kg of high explosive and generally require a weight of about 150 kg to actuate them. A native cart has sufficient weight to explode a land mine and the effect of the explosion is to demolish the cart and kill the driver and the horse.

Land mines are generally buried and may be found thickly sown in fields. Usually the area covered with them is fenced off with wire, however, the troops laying the mines may remove the fence when they retreat. In addition to regular fields land mines are likely to be found in the following places:

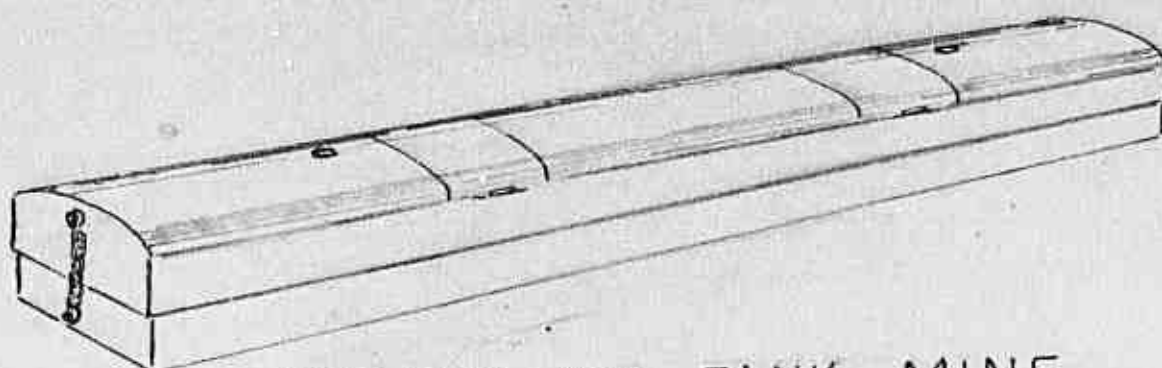
1. Shoulders or berms of roads.
2. Pot holes and ravelled edges of macadam.
3. Cart paths.
4. Causeways.
5. Road junctions and turn-offs.
6. Approached to bridges and culverts.
7. Sharp corners and road cuts.
8. Temporary cuts around craters.
9. Obvious parking spots on the side of roads.
10. Railroad track junctions.
11. Line of telephone poles.

After the presence of land mines is noted or suspected, leave some sort of a warning notice in the area to notify others of the danger, do not attempt to remove the mine but notify the local police who will take the proper steps to eliminate them.

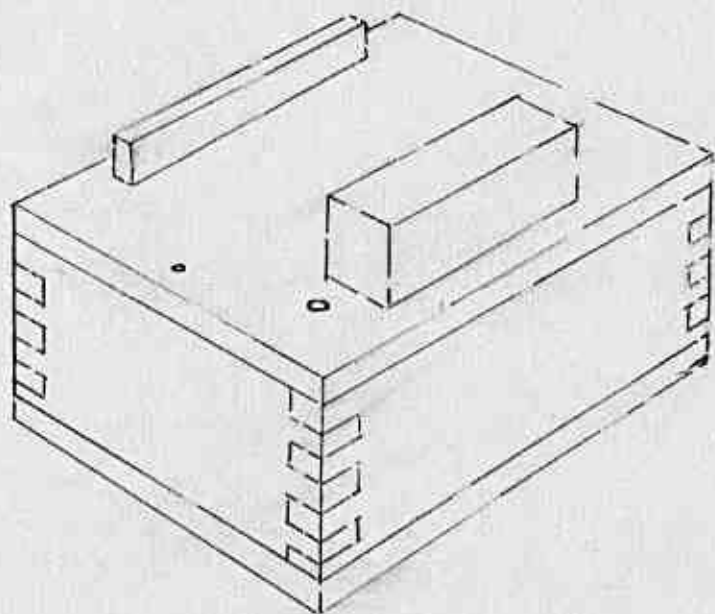


MINES

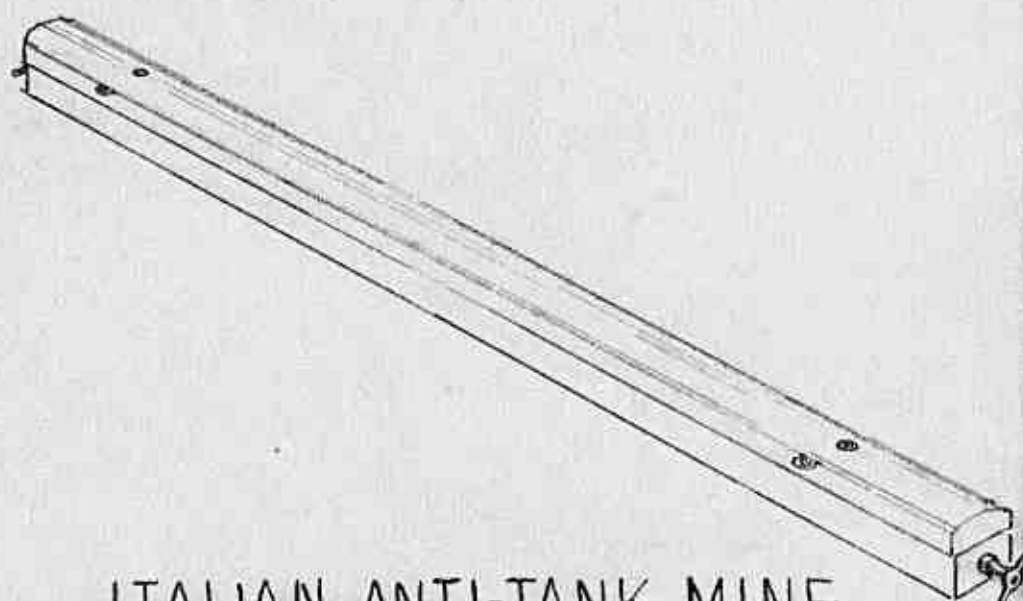
OTHER "HEAVY" MINES



ITALIAN ANTI-TANK MINE
[B-2]

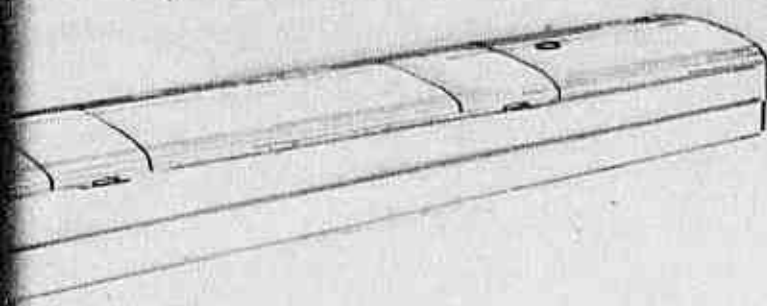


GERMAN WOODEN-BOX MINE



ITALIAN ANTI-TANK MINE
[V3 OR N5]

AVY" MINES



IAN ANTI-TANK MINE
[B-2]



ITALIAN ANTI-TANK MINE
[V3 or N5]

GENERAL RULES TO AVOID INJURY OR DEATH FROM MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS

1. Do not pick up objects in a battle area. They may be booby trapped and if so they will kill or maim you when you lift them.
2. Never run in a suspected mine area. The weight of a running adult can be sufficient to actuate a land mine.
3. Do not attempt to move a vehicle or any type of obstacle. They may be booby trapped.
4. Do not attempt to take a mine, shell, or grenade apart. The disarming of this material is a job for experts.
5. If you should find a land mine on the surface of the ground do not attempt to move it it may be booby trapped.

Prepared by the 343rd Regiment
Engineers (G.S.), U.S. Army 26 Aug

MINES



MINE

-TANK MINE
OR N5 }GENERAL RULES TO AVOID INJURY OR
DEATH FROM MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS

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Prepared by the 343rd Regiment of
Engineers (G.S.), U.S. Army 26 August 1943

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