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Authority 795020
By W/NARA Date 12/5/11



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Authority 795020

By W NARA Date 12/5/11

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 6-2 FAR EAST COMMAND

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Date From _____ To _____
Line No _____ To _____

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APD 500
9 November 1949

SUBJECT: Effectiveness of Moored Mines Versus Submarines

TO : Flag Intelligence Officer
Staff, Commander Naval Forces, Far East,
FPO 1165, Tokyo

Reference your letter, file CNFE/S76-1 Serial 0475, subject:
"Effectiveness of Moored Mines Versus Submarines", dated 15 October
1949. Submitted herewith all available information this headquarters
has on subject request.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

1 Incl
Data re Loss of
Japanese Submarines

C. S. Miers
C. S. MIERS
Colonel, GSC
Executive Officer

MEMO FOR RECORD

Ltr fr CNFE/S76-1, Serial 0475, subject: "Effectiveness of
Moored Mines Versus Submarines" dated 15 Oct 49, requested info
on above subject. Tgts Br (Capt Patterson) conferred with G-2.
Historical Sec re possible sources for information. Historical
Sec obtained desired information from the Japanese 2nd Demobilization
Bureau, Tokyo. This ltr forwards all available data to CNFE.

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APR 500
9 November 1949

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SUBJECT: Effectiveness of Mined Mines Versus Submarines

TO : Flag Intelligence Officer
Staff, Commander Naval Forces, Far East,
APO IIG, Tokyo

Reference your letter, CNE 276-1 Serial 0175, subject:

"Effectiveness of Mined Mines Versus Submarines", dated 15 October

1949. Substantiated herewith all available information this headquarters

has on subject request.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

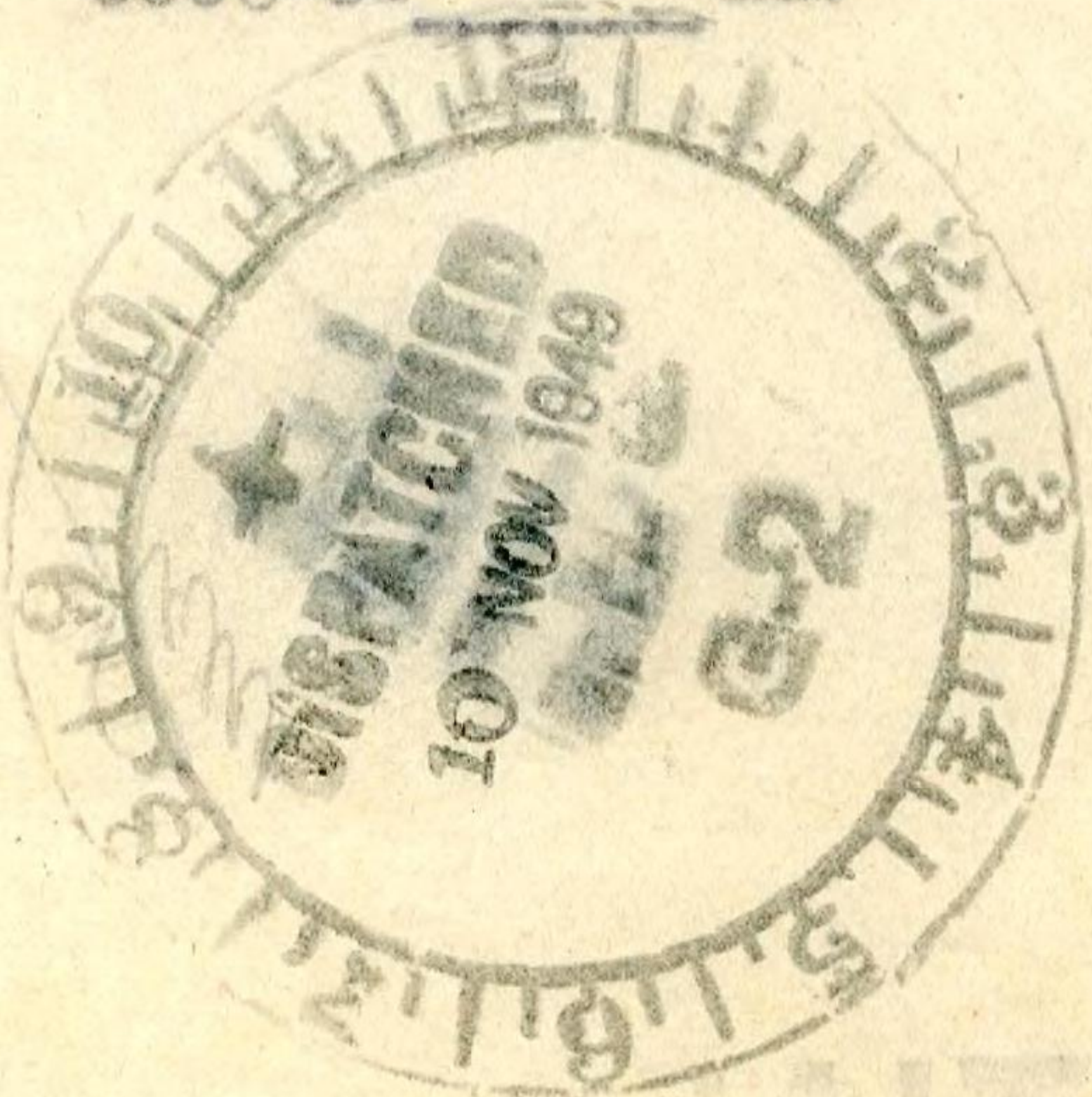
C. S. MIMS
Colonel, USC
Executive Officer

1 Incl
Data re loss of
Japanese submarines

MEMO FOR RECORD

Ltr fr CNE 276-1, Serial 0175, subject: "Effectiveness of Mined Mines Versus Submarines" dated 15 Oct 49, requested info on above subject. Ltr fr (Capt Patterson) conferred with G-2. Historical Sec re possible sources for information. Historical Sec obtained desired information from the Japanese 2nd Demobilization Bureau, Tokyo. This ltr forwards all available data to CNE.

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15 OCT 1949

From: Commander Naval Forces, Far East

To: Commander-in-Chief, Far East Command (Att'n. A.C. of S., G-2)

Subj: Effectiveness of moored mines versus submarines

1. During World War II one effort was made to counter Japanese submarine operations by means of surface laid moored mines. Two fields of approximately 160 mines each, laid in two parallel lines, were planted on each side of Buka Pass, north of Bougainville in the Solomons Islands, one late in April and the other early in May of 1944.

2. In view of possible future operations all available information regarding the effectiveness of moored mines versus submarines is desired. Little or no information is available on the fields mentioned in paragraph one. Two possible sinkings might have resulted from these fields in accordance with information found in a document entitled "Table of Losses of Imperial Submarines." dated 31 October 1945, compiled by the Historical Facts Investigation Department. The I-16 is listed as having been lost in August of 1944 in the Solomons Area while on transport duty to Bougainville. The information on the I-176 is more definite. It is listed as having been sunk by a mine in the vicinity of Buka in June of 1944 while on transport duty from Truk to Buka. Confirmation of this last and any other pertinent information as to the results of these mine fields will be appreciated.

G. P. HUNTER
Chief of Staff

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Detailed Data re: Loss of Japanese Submarines.

Second Demobilization Bureau
Liquidation Division.

4 November 1949.

According to the data now kept in the custody of the Second Demobilization Bureau Liquidation Division, the Japanese naval vessels which are deemed to have been lost in the vicinity of Buka Pass since March 1944 are the following two:

1. Submarine I-176.

- a. This submarine left Truk on 10 May 1944 on the duty of operational transportation to Buka Island but became missing before she reached Buka.
- b. Although it was then presumed that she was sunk by the enemy depth-charge attack in her action with enemy patrol vessels near Buka Pass, but this was only inferred based on the intelligence from U.S. communications.
- c. In "Table of Losses of Imperial Submarines", dated 31 October 1945, she is listed as "sunk by depth-charge attack".

2. Submarine I-16.

- a. This submarine left Truk on 4 May 1944 on the duty of operational transportation to Buin but as she had become missing after her departure, she was acknowledged as sunk on 25 June.
 - b. As the details of her scheduled movement are not known, it is not clear when, where and by what cause was she actually sunk.
 - c. According to what the persons then relative to this case
- End 12*

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said on the matter, it is inferred that she was scheduled to enter Buin from the east of Bougainville.

- d. It can not be determined how was her sinking caused-- whether by the attack of the enemy aeroplanes or vessels or mines.

But supposing she was sunk by her striking a mine, as the Japanese Navy had not laid any mines in that area, that mine might have been one of those laid by the U.S. forces.

- e. In "Table of Losses of Imperial Submarines", dated 31 October 1945, the assumed time of her sinking is listed as "August", but this is a mistake and should read "25 June".

3. Concerning 4th Inquiry of Check Sheet. *Memorandum.*

There is no Japanese naval vessels other than the afore-said two submarines that were possible to have been lost in the sea areas to the north-west of the Solomon Islands since March 1944. However, Submarine I-171 left Rabaul at the end of January 1944 on the duty of operational transportation to Buka, but became missing after her departure and acknowledged as sunk in mid-March.

In "Table of Losses of Japanese Submarines", dated 31 October 1945, the position of her sinking is listed as "Bismark Area" but it is deemed that "vicinity of Buka" is far more correct than that. However, as the same as the case of Submarine I-16, the correct location, time and cause of her sinking are not known to us.

*The answers to this questionnaire were
translated from Japanese and English, by G-2/TIS*

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff

AFO 500
3 September 1949

SUBJECT: Report of Russian Mine
THRU: Director of Intelligence
General Staff
United States Army
Washington 25, D. C.
TO: Chief of Naval Operations
(Director of Naval Intelligence)
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Forwarded herewith is report by General Headquarters Technical Intelligence Detachment, G-2, on a Russian sea mine which was recovered by the U. S. Seventh Division on the beach of Miusaya Bay, Aomori Prefecture, in January of this year.

2. The mine is believed to be a modification of the Mark M KB (Mark M AG) contact, chemical horn type Russian mine and as such is apparently unreported.

3. It is emphasized that no technical analysis of the mine in its recovered state was made. Detailed study by G-2 Technical Intelligence Detachment was begun in August after all major elements of the sensing and actuating mechanism had been removed and subjected to severe weathering, shock damage, and loss. No record had been made of the original circuits or arrangement of the parts so that conclusions by General Headquarters Technical Intelligence Detachment as to the operation of the mine are conjectural.

4. Internal mine parts, appropriately tagged, are being held at the Tokyo First Arsenal (TID) and the mine case (with main explosive charge intact) at the Ikego Ammunition Depot pending reply as to desired disposition.

5. Request that Office of Naval Intelligence indicate desired disposition.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

1 Incl
GHQ TID "Russian Sea Mine"
(4 copies)

C. S. MYERS
Colonel, GSC
Executive Officer

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Handwritten initials

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MISSD/TNS/MBA/bp

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Ltr fr ACofS, G-2, FEC, to CNO thru ID, dtd 3 Sep 49

MEMO FOR RECORD:

1. Basic is letter AGOA 471, CG, 8th Army, subject: "Disposition of Russian Mine", 22 Jul 49, which reported discovery of a Russian Sea Mine by 7th US Div, stated that mine was being held for possible intelligence requirements at Ikego Am Depot, and requested disposition instructions.
2. 1st Ind to basic stated that internal fittings would be turned over to a representative of TID and that mine case, detonators, etc., would be held at depot pending disposition instructions.
3. C/N TID to G-2, basic subject, 28 Jul 49, states that: Ord has no interest in mine; COMNAVFE (Comdr Bromley) states that Navy is very interested in sea mines and requested detailed information; study of mine would be made and report rendered to interested agencies.
4. Ltr above forwards copies of mine report thru MID to CNO as the agency in the ZI primarily concerned and requests disposition instructions.

TNS *M.S.*
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**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND**
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff

APO 500
3 September 1949

SUBJECT: Report of Russian Mine

TO: Commander
United States Naval Forces
Far East, Navy No. 1165
ATTENTION: Flag Intelligence Officer

1. Forwarded herewith is report by General Headquarters Technical Intelligence Detachment, G-2, on a Russian sea mine which was recovered by the U. S. Seventh Division on the beach of Miumaya Bay, Aomori Prefecture, in January of this year.

2. The mine is believed to be a modification of the Mark M KB (Mark M AG) contact, chemical horn type Russian mine and as such is apparently unreported.

3. Copies of the attached reports are being forwarded to Office of Naval Intelligence thru Intelligence Division for information, evaluation and disposition instructions. It is emphasized that no technical analysis of the mine in its recovered state was made. Detailed study by G-2 Technical Intelligence Detachment was begun in August after all major elements of the sensing and actuating mechanism had been removed and subjected to severe weathering, shock damage, and loss. No record had been made of the original circuits or arrangement of the parts so that conclusions by GHQ TID as to the operation of the mine are conjectural.

4. Internal mine parts, appropriately tagged, are being held at the Tokyo First Arsenal (TID) and the mine case (with main explosive charge intact) at the Ikego Ammunition Depot pending reply as to desired disposition.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

1 Incl
Report, GHQ TID "Russian
Sea Mine"

C. S. MYERS
Colonel, GSC
Executive Officer

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Ltr fr ACoFS, G-2 FEC, to COMNAVFE, dtd 25 Aug 49

MEMO FOR RECORD:

1. Basic is letter AGOA 471, CG, 8th Army, subject: "Disposition of Russian Mine", 22 Jul 49, which reported discovery of a Russian Sea Mine by 7th US Div, stated that mine was being held for possible intelligence requirements at Ikego AM Depot, and requested disposition instructions.

2. 1st Ind to basic stated that internal fittings would be turned over to a representative of TID and that mine case, detonators, etc., would be held at depot pending disposition instructions.

3. C/N TID to G-2, basic subject, 28 Jul 49, states that: Ord has no interest in mine; COMNAVFE (Comdr Bromley) states that Navy is very interested in sea mines and requested detailed information; study of mine would be made and report rendered to interested agencies.

4. Ltr above forwards a copy of TID report on subject mine to COMNAVFE as interested agency.

TNS 1.7.6
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Authority 795020

By W NARA Date 12/5/11

