

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS 120TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

APO #45, US Army
23 Oct 1944

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER

3)

MINE POLICY

1. References:

- a. Operations Memo. No. 2, Hq 7th Army, MINE DOCTRINE.
- b. Mines, Minefields and Booby Traps, AFHQ, 3rd Edition.

2. General:

a. The provisions of Operations Memo, No. 2, Hq 7th Army are in effect, and will be strictly adhered to. This memorandum is written to further define the duties and responsibilities of this battalion and to provide an SOP procedure within the battalion for the clearing of mines.

b. The size, shape and marking of standard signs are shown in Par. 6. Each company will see that they have at all times an adequate number of these signs, and that they are properly used.

3. Road Clearing:

a. Road sweeping teams will include personnel whose specific duty it is to post signs along roads indicating extent to which sweeping operations have been conducted.

b. As roads are swept, standard (see Par 6.) signs reading "MINES CLEARED 3 FEET" will be posted, on both sides of the road, in such a way as to be easily visible from either direction. Distance between signs will not exceed 200 yards.

c. At road junctions all roads which have not been swept will be blocked off, and a standard sign reading "THIS ROAD IS NOT CLEARED" will be securely placed in the center of the uncleared road.

d. Roads swept by units other than Engineers, will not be considered clear until they are carefully checked by Engineer troops. Companies supporting Infantry units will check with Infantry mine platoons to determine which roads have been swept by them. At the earliest possible time, these roads will be checked and the proper signs posted.

e. The use of tracing tape will be discouraged. Wherever tracing tape has been used, it will be replaced by barbed wire at the earliest possible time.

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f. Where bivouac areas alongside roads have not been cleared, nor occupied by troops, a sign reading "~~AREA~~ AREA NOT CLEARED" will be posted at the time of the road clearing operation, at intervals not to exceed 400 yards.

g. When an entire road is not swept for mines, a barricade with a sign reading "THIS ROAD IS NOT CLEARED" will be placed on the road at the end of the swept section of road.

h. When a road is swept for mines, the ground adjacent for a distance of 3 feet beyond the bottom of the barrow pit will also be swept.

4. Bivouac Areas:

a. Where bivouac areas alongside roads have not been cleared, signs reading "AREA NOT CLEARED" will be posted at the time road is swept. These signs will be spaced at intervals not to exceed 400 yards

b. When an area is cleared, the limit of clearing wire be plainly marked by signs facing the cleared area, reading "AREA NOT CLEARED", along the perimeter of the cleared area. Signs along entrance to area will read "BIVOUAC AREA CLEARED." When necessary, a single strand of barbed wire will be strung along the perimeter of the cleared area. When wire is placed, it will be approximately 3 feet above the ground, and signs (red triangle) will be affixed to the wire.

c. Bivouac areas used by troops, for some time, in which no mines have been found, may be considered clear. In this case, the limit of used area will be marked as in par 4b, above.

d. Generally, all troops are responsible for the clearing of their own bivouac areas. Exceptions are: Division Headquarters, Medical Battalion, Quartermaster Company, Ordnance Company. Clearing operations for these units will be done on order through S-3.

5. Mine Removal and Disposal:

a. Handling of armed mines will be reduced to a minimum. Numerous casualties have occurred recently while R-mines were being handled.

b. No attempt will be made to disarm any R-mine, or Teller mine (Teller No. 1 excepted). Mines will be removed by rope, pulled, not carried, to a safe place, and detonated by explosives.

c. Mines will be detonated when removed, when such action will not endanger friendly troops. When detonation is not possible, mines will be wired and marked off, and detonated as soon as it is safe to do so.

d. When for any reason it is necessary to leave mines undestroyed, a barbed wire fence will be immediately strung around the mines, and standard minefield signs placed on the fence. The exact

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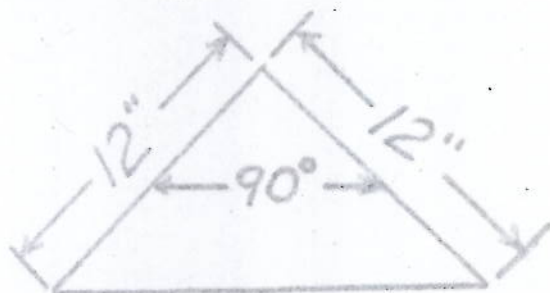
Location of any such pile of mines will be reported in the same manner as a minefield. These stockpiles will be sufficiently far from the road that they will not interfere with signal wiremen.

e. The use of tracing tape for marking off of mine areas will be restricted to front line marking. As soon as it is possible to do so, tracing tape will be replaced by barbed wire.

6. a. Each company is responsible for the manufacture of signs for its own use. Materials for the construction of signs are available through S-4. 12" x 24" terneplate will be used for all signs, with a base coat of Red and White lettering.

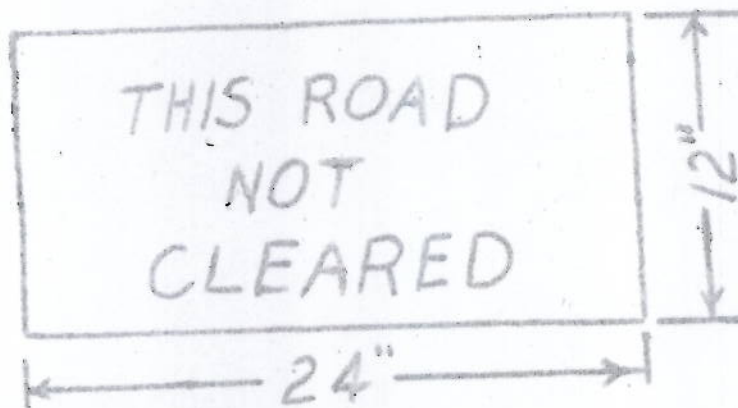
b. Minefield:

Triangle, solid red, 12" side. Four (4) triangles may be cut from one sheet of terneplate. To be used on minefield boundaries and on mine dumps.



c. THIS ROAD IS NOT CLEARED:

To be used at entrance of all unswept roads, and at end of sweeping. Red, with White letters, 3" high:



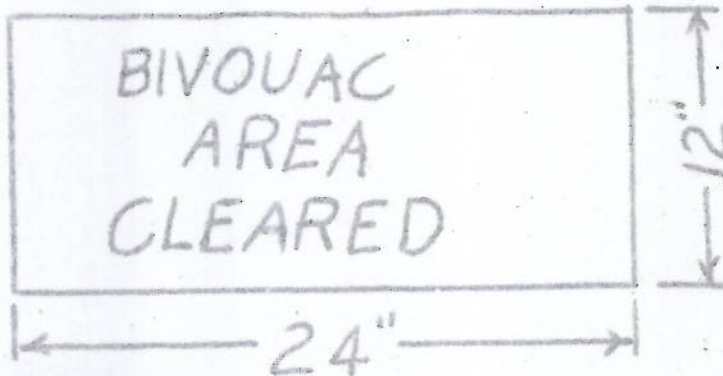
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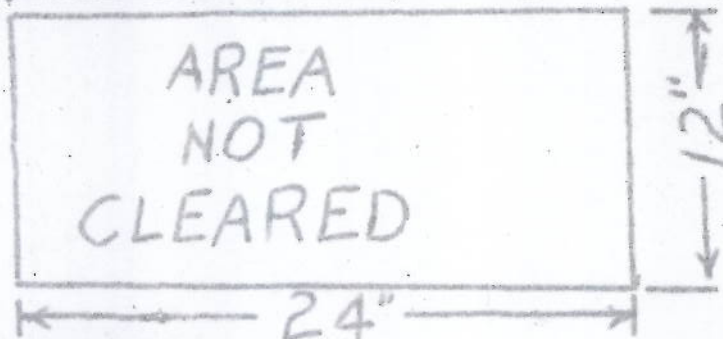
d. BIVOUAC AREA CLEARED:

To be placed at entrance to bivouac areas. Red with White letters 3" high:



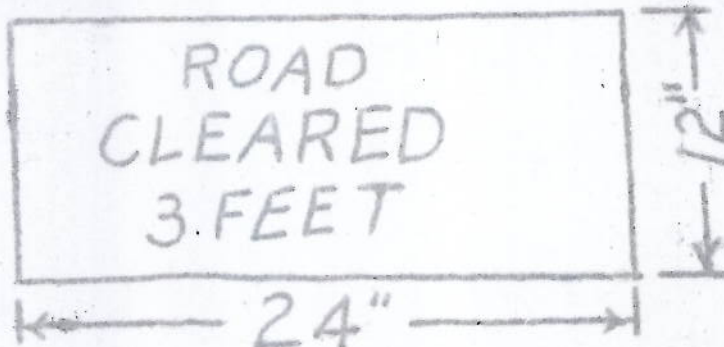
e. AREA NOT CLEARED:

To be placed along roads where bivouac areas have not as yet been cleared. Red, with White letters, 3" high:



f. ROAD CLEARED 3 FEET:

To be placed along all swept roads. Red, with White letters 3" high:



By order of Lt Col MONNIER:

Benjamin E Billups
 BENJAMIN E BILLUPS
 Major, Corps of Engineers
 S-3

DISTRIBUTION:

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A. O. 45
Oct 1944

ENGINEER INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
NO 2)

CURRENT MINE PRACTICE
(See also Engr Int. Bul No 1, Sept 29)

Though the general pattern of enemy mine practice remains the same as described in Engr Int Bul No 1, 29 Sept 1944, additional information is reported since then is here published.

ANTI-LIFTING DEVICES FOR R MINE 43:

In the past few days, 3 methods of rigging the R Mine 43 with anti-lifting devices have been observed. Though all three methods were realized as possible when this type mine was first discovered, these are the first reported instances of their being put into practice.

A. Using side wells:

In this method, 2 igniters are inserted in side wells of mine and attached to two wires, one fastened to stake at side of mine and one fastened to stake beneath mine. Rigged in this manner, the mine will detonate whether it is lifted straight up or pulled out sideways.

B. Using top well:

In this method, a zc 35 igniter is placed in the top well, and the mine is planted upside down, so that igniter is beneath mine. Wire from igniter is fastened to stake beneath mine, so that mine will detonate when lifted.

C. End igniters upside down:

Two mines have been found with the normal zc 42 igniters in the end wells inserted upside down, so that wings of release pin are below the end of the pressure plate instead of resting on top of it. The pin has wire attached to loop, running down through hole in bottom of tray (hole provided to manipulate the spring-loaded shutter) and attached to stake under mine. Rigged in this manner, the mine will detonate when lifted, or if charge is lifted out of tray without removing igniter. (Only one of the end igniters can be reversed in this manner; the charge will not fit with both igniters reversed. Also, if both igniters were reversed, the anti-tank effect of the mine would be lost). See sketch.

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