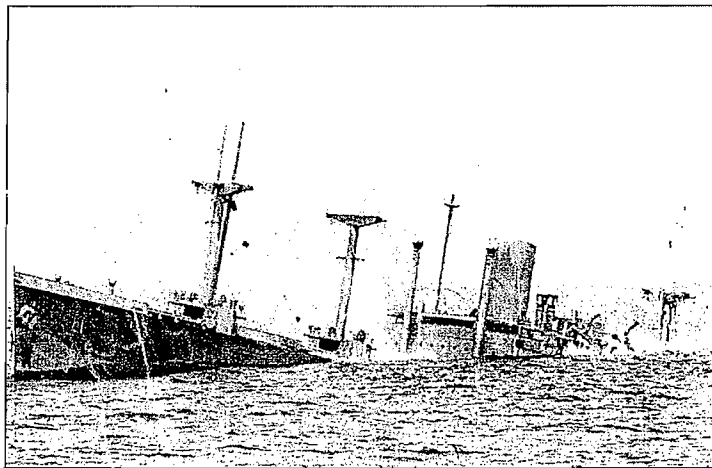




U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command

OFF-SHORE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL AGENTS AND WEAPONS CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED STATES

Compiled by the
Historical Research and Response Team



Historical Database No. 26

This information is cleared for public release.

Historical Research and Response Team
Corporate Information Office
U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command
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III. MEDITERRANEAN SEA

1. Bari Harbor Mustard Bomb Accident

DATE: 2 Dec 43
LOCATION: Bari Harbor, Italy
MATERIAL: 2,000 M47A1 100-pound mustard bombs

COMMENT: Although not a sea disposal, on 2 Dec 43 the *S.S. John Harvey*, loaded with 2,000 M47A1 mustard bombs, was destroyed during a German air raid at Bari Harbor, Italy. The only members of the crew who were aware of the chemical munitions were killed in the raid. The destruction of the ship resulted in mustard agent contaminating the oily water in the harbor and inflicting 617 casualties. The harbor clean-up took three weeks and lots of lime as a decontaminant once the causative agent was determined.

2. WWII Ischia Chemical Disposal

DATE: 21 Oct-5 Nov 45 and 1-15 Dec 45
LOCATION: Mediterranean Sea off Italy, near island of Ischia (near Naples)
MATERIAL: phosgene bombs
cyanogen chloride bombs
hydrogen cyanide bombs

COMMENT: The material was loaded at Italian ports under U.S. Army control. The quantity of each item is unknown.

3. WWII Mustard Bomb Disposal

DATE: After World War II (?)
LOCATION: Mediterranean Sea
MATERIAL: M47 100-pound mustard bombs

4. WWII Manfredonia Bay Mustard Bomb Accident

DATE: December 1945/January 1946
LOCATION: Manfredonia Bay area
MATERIAL: 100-pound M47-series mustard bombs

COMMENT: Unknown number of 100-pound mustard bombs were transported from La Serpe to Manfredonia. During unloading operations, one barge either sank or listed enough that a portion of the bombs fell into the water. A number of the bombs were recovered 2-3 weeks later and sea dumped 54 miles away at an unknown location. Later, bombs were discovered floating nearby and in the harbor, some from the harbor and some from the sea disposal. Additional bombs were thought to have settled into the harbor mud.

5. WWII Naples Chemical Disposal

DATE: unknown
LOCATION: sea disposal from Naples area
MATERIAL: 13,000 mustard 4.2-inch mortar shells and mustard artillery shells
438 55-gallon drums of mustard agent

6. 1946 Ischia Chemical Disposal

DATE: 1-23 Apr 46
LOCATION: Mediterranean Sea off Italy near island of Ischia (near Naples)
MATERIAL: unspecified quantity of mustard and lewisite bombs

COMMENT: The material came from Auera, Italy.

7. 1946 St. Raphael Chemical Disposal

DATE: July-October 1946
LOCATION: Mediterranean Sea off St. Raphael, France
MATERIAL: 1,700 lewisite bombs
1,700 mustard bombs

COMMENT: The material came from France.

IV. INDIAN OCEAN

1. WWII Pakistan Mustard Disposal

DATE: 1943
LOCATION: offshore from Karachi, Pakistan
MATERIAL: unknown quantity of mustard bombs

COMMENT: Material was loose dumped in 250 feet of water.

2. WWII Bay of Bengal Mustard Disposal

DATE: 10 May 45
LOCATION: Bay of Bengal
MATERIAL: 33-gallon (British Imperial) drums of mustard agent
M47A2 100-pound mustard bombs

COMMENT: The *U.S.S. George B. Porter* sea disposed a portion of 16,000 mustard bombs formerly stored at Ondal Advance Chemical Park. The ships instructions were to sea dispose the items in at least 5,000 feet of water and 60 miles from the nearest land. This particular load was sea disposed in 1,200 fathoms.

3. WWII Bay of Bengal Mustard Disposal

DATE: 11 May 45
LOCATION: Bay of Bengal
MATERIAL: 33-gallon (British Imperial) drums of mustard agent
M47A2 100-pound mustard bombs

COMMENT: The *U.S.S. George B. Porter* sea disposed a portion of 16,000 mustard bombs formerly stored at Ondal Advance Chemical Park. The ships instructions were to sea dispose the items in at least 5,000 feet of water and 60 miles from the nearest land. This particular load was sea disposed in 1,300 fathoms.