MINES

MINE IDENTIFICATION MANUAL

DESCRIPTION AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MINES

OCTOBER 1943
SAFE HANDLING OF EXPLOSIVES CAUGHT IN FISHING GEAR

FISHERMEN OPERATING OTTER TRAWLS, SCALLOP DREDGES AND OTHER FORMS OF BOTTOM TENDING GEAR ARE WARNED THAT BOTH EXPLOSIVE AND NON-EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE MAY BE PRESENT ON FISHING GROUND'S ADJACENT TO THE U. S. COAST. RECORDS INDICATE THAT SNAGGING OF EXPLOSIVES IN FISHING GEAR IS OCCURRING WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY. MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE OR ANY OBJECT NOT READILY IDENTIFIED AS A NON-EXPLOSIVE ITEM THAT MAY BE SNAGGED OR NETTED IN FISHING GEAR.

1. ANY OBJECT NOT READILY IDENTIFIED MUST BE TREATED AS AN EXPLOSIVE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BRING IT ON BOARD OR ALONGSIDE. RELEASE IT AND NOTIFY THE NEAREST COAST GUARD STATION GIVING YOUR POSITION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT.

2. IF UNABLE TO RELEASE THE OBJECT STREAM IT AFT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. KEEP CREW AT FORWARD END OF VESSEL AWAY FROM THE STERN. MAINTAIN STEERAGEWAY AS NECESSARY TO STAY IN AREA UNTIL INSTRUCTIONS ARE RECEIVED AND STANDBY FOR ASSISTANCE.

THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIONS DEPICT THE EXPLOSIVES MOST LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED.
RESTRICTED

ORDNANCE PAMPHLET NO. 898 (FIRST REVISION).

MINE IDENTIFICATION MANUAL.

1. Ordnance Pamphlet Number 898, First Revision, contains outline drawings of all types of mines in general use.
2. It is intended that this publication be given wide distribution to forces ashore and afloat for the purpose of identifying mines which may be encountered and to facilitate reports thereon.
3. This publication supersedes such parts of Ordnance Pamphlet 814 (Mine Watch Manual) as pertain to identification of mines. Ordnance Pamphlet No. 898 dated October 1942 is hereby superseded and should be destroyed upon receipt of Ordnance Pamphlet No. 898, First Revision.
4. This publication is restricted and should be handled in accordance with the provisions of Article 76, U. S. Navy Regulations, 1920.

W. H. P. Blandy,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.
MINE IDENTIFICATION MANUAL

TYPES OF MINES

1. Present-day mines may be divided into two general classifications—"controlled" and "independent." Controlled mines are mines which are controlled (fired) by an observer from a safe observation point. Independent mines are mines with self-contained firing mechanisms which function automatically. Independent mines may be subdivided as "contact" and "noncontact" or "influence" mines. In the former, the firing mechanism requires that an extending "horn" be moved or bent or that a wire "antenna" or some part of the mine be touched for the mine to fire. In the latter, the mere existence of metal, sound, or other disturbing influence in the vicinity of the mine may be all that is necessary to cause it to fire. The external appearance of a mine will not, in many cases, indicate the type firing mechanism used.

2. Independent mines may be divided into three types, depending on their final position in the water. These are:

   (a) Drifting Mines.—Mines which float on or just under the surface of the water.

   (b) Moored Mines.—Mines which are held under the surface of the water by a chain or wire attached to a heavy weight or "anchor" which rests on the bottom.

   (c) Ground Mines.—Mines which are heavier than water and rest on the bottom.

METHOD OF LAYING

3. All types of independent mines can be laid by aircraft, surface craft, and submarines. Controlled mines are laid by special surface layers.

IDENTIFICATION

4. The following points may be considered in identifying mines:

   (a) Color.—Mines are normally painted black but may be other colors and are occasionally camouflaged. This paint frequently wears off, exposing red paint underneath. Where mines have been in the water for a long time, heavy marine growth may completely cover the case and external fittings.

   (b) Size and Shape.—Mines are usually spherical, spherical with a cylindrical section between the two halves, or cylindrical in shape, and vary in diameter from about 16 inches to 46 inches, and in length up to about 125 inches. There are, however, a number of mines of irregular shape which do not fall into any of the above classes.

   (c) External Fittings.—Numerous fittings which are located in or extend from mine cases may be used for purposes of identification. These include:

      (1) Cover Plates.—Either one or both ends of mine cases are usually covered by cover plates bolted to the mine case. These plates normally vary from one to two feet in diameter.

      (2) Horns.—Approximately two-thirds of all mines have horns extending from the mine case. These horns vary in length from 1/2 inch to over 1 foot, but are normally about 5 inches in length. The three most common types are a short copper spike, a long steel spike, and a thick lead horn. Where used, they vary in number from 3 to 11. Horns of mines which have broken adrift are frequently bent or entirely broken off.

      (3) Hydrostats.—Many mines contain one or more devices located in holes in the mine case for operating mechanisms within the mine. These devices usually do not extend beyond the mine case.

      (4) Mooring Wires and Antennae.—Most types of mines are connected to steel mooring wires or chains at one end. Several types have copper antenna wires (not over 100 feet in length) connected to the other end. These antennae are usually attached to steel floats (in most cases about 1 foot in diameter and 1 1/2 to 2 feet in length), painted black and occasionally...
containing horns. Mine sweeping cables or normal wear may cause the float and any part or all of either mooring cable or antenna to be missing. Floats are frequently found by themselves, and as such are harmless.

5. In order to facilitate identification, the mines in this publication are arranged in the following order:

(a) Spherical mines.—

(1) Without horns.—Arranged in order of diameter with small mines first.

(2) With horns.—Arranged as above. Where two or more mines of same diameter are shown, the one with the fewest horns is shown first.

(b) Spherical with center section.—

(1) Without horns.—Arranged in order of diameter. Mines of same diameter are arranged in order of length.

(2) With horns.—Same as without horns.

(c) Mines with antennae and floats.—

(1) Spherical mines.—Arranged in order of diameter.

(2) Spherical mines with center section.—Same as (b) (1).

(d) Cylindrical and odd-shaped mines.—Same as (b) (1). Where a mine of a given type may be of more than one size, it is located by the smallest size.
TYPE-121
NO HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-125
NO HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-31
NO HORNS

36"
TYPE-140
4-LEAD HORNS
DIMENSIONS NOT KNOWN
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-45
4-HORNS

30"
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-34
6-SPIKE HORMS

30"
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

TYPE-21
7-SPIKE HORNS

SIDE VIEW
TYPE-15
8-SPIKE HORNS
TYPE-87
5-LEAD HORNS
3-SPIKE HORNS
TYPE-89
5-LEAD HORN
3-SPIKES
TYPE-83
5-LEAD HORNS

SIDE VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

TOP VIEW

34"
TYPE-13
7-LEAD HORNS

TOP VIEW
BOTTOM VIEW
SIDE VIEW
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-42

7-LEAD HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-84
5-LEAD HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-43

9-LEAD HORNS

42"
TYPE-124

NO HORNs
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-123
NO HORNS

32"

59 or 69"
TYPE-122
NO HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

59"-83"

32" or 40"

TYPE-122

NO HORNS

SIDE VIEW

24
TYPE-71
NO HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

36"

50"
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-12

NO HORN
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-19
NO HORNS

58"  40"

28
TYPE-41
6-LEAD HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW
TYPE-106

NO HORNS

VARIATIONS
A—NO SIDE PLATES.
   6 INCH BAND CONNECTING
   UPPER AND LOWER HEMISPHERES.
B—NO LOWER SIDE PLATES
   LIFTING LUGS 45 DEGREES
   APART.
C—6 INCH BAND CONNECTING
   UPPER AND LOWER HEMISPHERES — LIFTING LUGS
   45 DEGREES APART.
TYPE-137
4-LEAD HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-16
6-LEAD HORG
TYPE- 33
6-LEAD HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SPIKE HORN

45" - 54"

40"

TYPE-14

9 OR 11 BRASS OR SPIKE HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-86

7-LEAD HОРNS
TYPE-62
4-COPPER HORNS
TYPE-64
4-COPPER HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-63
4-COPPER HORNS

34"
TYPE-65
3-COPPER HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

40°or 46°

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-88

4 or 6 LEAD HORN$S$
9 - SPIKES ON SMALL FLOAT
TYPE-67
4-COPPER HORNS
TYPE-72
3-COPPER HORN

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW
TYPE-20

4-SPIKE HORNS
TYPE-17

4 OR 8 SPIKE HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW
TYPE-46

6-HORNS
DIMENSIONS NOT KNOWN
TYPE-76
NO HORNS

SIDE VIEW

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

40"  18"

50
TYPE-81
NO HORNS
SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW

REAR VIEW

TYPE - 24
NO HORNS
SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW

REAR VIEW

TYPE-23
NO HORNS
TYPE-74
SAME AS TYPE-70 EXCEPT FOR BOTTOM PLATE.

TYPE-70
NO HORTNS
SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW

REAR VIEW

TYPE- 22

NO HORNS
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-101
NO HORNS
TYPE-66

3-LEAD HORNS

SIDE VIEW
TYPE-107
NO HORNS
TYPE-105

NO HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

21"

12"
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

TYPE-69
NO HORNS

SIDE VIEW
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE-77

NO HORNS
TYPE-104

NO HORNS
USUALLY PAINTED LIGHT BLUE
TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW

TYPE - 78
NO HORNS

7.9"
19.0"
TYPE-25
NO HORNS

TOP VIEW

BOTTOM VIEW

SIDE VIEW
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