

NAVAL COMMANDER, WESTERN TASK FORCE
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN NUMBER 2

29 MAY 1944

This Bulletin will be the last printed bulletin issued by Naval Commander, Western Task Force prior to D-day. Last minute changes will be disseminated by signal. This bulletin should be inserted between page 2 of the NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH and page 1 of Intelligence Bulletin No. 1. Sections of this Bulletin correspond to the order used in Bulletin No. 1.

PART I - SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Overlays showing revised beach heights for use on the shoreline sketches are forwarded with this bulletin. Revised graph gradient sheets are also enclosed. Attention is invited to the fact that the above revisions change the data shown on the shoreline sketches.

PART II - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The outstanding changes in the situation are as follows:-

OMAHA: The 30' tower at 638926 (see shoreline sketch), just east of Pointe et Raz de la Percee has been torn down. This was an important landmark.

Four houses and 2 small huts just back of the sea wall at and around intersection of grid lines 66 and 91 have been torn down.

House shown on shoreline sketch as a possible landmark at grid location 693893 was torn down between 19 May and 24 May.

Wave-top photos reveal that the church spire at Vierville probably will not be seen, by small craft, above the line of the cliffs, unless line of sight is along valley exit or a considerable distance offshore.

Exit 678900. West end of anti-tank ditch has been extended to westward to grid 67279017.

Underwater obstacles have been added since Bulletin No. 1 and work is still in progress. The principal additions have been stakes and a few ramps, some of which have been placed forward of element "C" at exit 697893. From the corrected beach gradient data seawardmost obstacles are placed at approximately the 6-7 foot contour above Low Low Water. A plot of obstacles as of 22 May is shown on the corrected beach gradients issued with Commander Task Force ONE TWO TWO "AMERICAN NEPTUNE BEACH MOSAICS AND DEFENCE MAPS" which have been given a limited distribution to certain holders of the NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH. This is intended as a briefing aid for lower units.

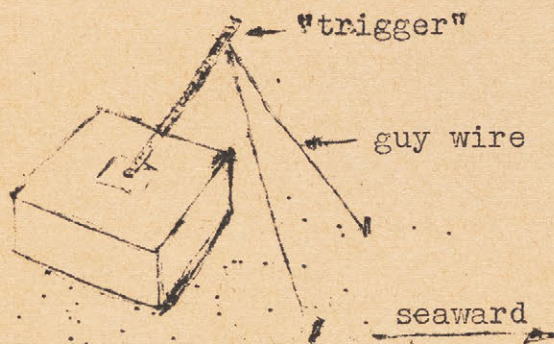
UTAH: Around 22 May practically all ramp type obstacles, which formed the seaward most line of obstacles, had been removed. This may be due to their destruction by recent storms or because of silting. Work along the beach is still in progress and it may be assumed that they will probably be replaced. This change has been shown on the corrected beach gradients in Commander Task Force ONE TWO TWO "AMERICAN NEPTUNE BEACH MOSAICS AND DEFENSE MAPS" mentioned above. The seaward most line of continuous obstacles now lie above the 12' line, approximately.

ILES ST. MARCOUF: Photo cover of 24 May reveals demolition activity on a small scale at Ile Du Large. A section of the wall about 30' long and 13' deep has been demolished at the NE corner of the small boat harbor. In view of the apparently small openings in walls surrounding this old fort this demolition may possibly have been made to permit the movement of large equipment. The round tower opposite the lighthouse inside the circular court has been torn down. There is some activity evident on top of and about midway along the rampart leading SW from the circular fort.

No construction or evidence that this is defense activity is yet apparent. None of the demolitions have destroyed landmarks.

GENERAL:

Underwater Obstacles and Mines on Beaches: Additional wave-top oblique photos reveal a new type of beach mine in the NEPTUNE area. To date none have been observed on the American Assault Beaches, but activity in connection with laying of beach obstacles is still in progress and their presence by D-day should be anticipated. The mine is referred to as the "Box" Mine, which was at first believed to be of wood. In view of the fact that horses



are being employed to drag these across the beaches, it is now considered that they are probably of steel or concrete. The guy wires prevent the surf from dislodging the "Trigger".

Floating rafts have been observed apparently anchored down with concrete blocks. These rise with the tide and thereby maintain their efficiency at varying levels of the tide. Near Grandcamp Les

Bains much use is being made of long poles or stakes resting on Element "C" and a new improvised wood obstacle has been observed, which resembles a road construction barricade, approximately 16 feet long, 6 to 7 feet high.

It has been confirmed by photos that the enemy is employing old French projectiles as mines, the nose fuse is removed and a pronged detonator inserted. These have been observed attached to tops of stakes. (see sketch of stake in NCWTF Intelligence Bulletin No. 1, page 15).

BATTERY BOMBARDMENT PLAN:

The Battery Bombardment Plan, Folio N for insertion in the NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH is enclosed herewith. This document is not intended as a detailed time-table of exact times and type of bombardment, but is an aid to studying batteries and an effort to present the First Army Fire Plan (Air Bombardment) and Naval Gun-Fire Plans in a combined and simplified graphic form. For details refer to the approved plans in operation orders. Changes to the Joint Fire Plan, submitted by First U.S. Army on 27 May, effect the following changes to this map. Corrections should be made accordingly.

A. In addition to the 4 missions requested for pre Y-day air bombardment, battery number 4 (355138) was bombed on 9/10 May with considerable damage resulting.

On May 23 batteries numbers 5 and 16 were raided. No damage was inflicted on the casemates at number 16 (528916), or open positions at 5 (533918). Also on May 23 a raid was carried out against number 1A (366201) with considerable damage resulting to casemates under construction. Battery position 7A (372198) also received several "stray" bombs from this attack but no serious damage was observed to the 6 casemates under construction.

Although not scheduled for pre-Y-day bombardment these attacks should be marked on the battery bombardment plan chart.

B. D-1 Day Air Bombardment: Eliminate batteries numbers 1, 1A, 3, 8A, 5 and 4. Add 9A, grid 361053 (this is a new number and refers to the guns in the open which are intended for casemates under construction at 13A, 361056). To this list now add batteries 3, 1, 1A, 5, 4 and 8 as alternates in case element of surprise is lost.

C. H-420 minutes to H-44 minutes: Change number 8A from an alternate to an assigned battery to be bombed.

D. Change "H-34 Minutes to H-hour" to read "H-30 minutes to H-5 minutes" (this is medium night and heavy day bombardment). Add 1A to this group. (Position number 1 is included in both categories, 2 missions).

E. Change "H-30 minutes to H-Hour" to read "H-hour to H plus 10 minutes". Delete targets number 1, 1A and 5A. Change 16A from an alternate to an assigned target for bombardment. (Target number 5A is within the British area and is scheduled for continuous bombardment from 40 minutes before sunrise to 240 minutes after sunrise).

F. H plus 2 hours (Alt. Group): Delete numbers 14 and 13A. Add number 16 as an alternate.

BATTERIES:

Commander Task Force ONE TWO TWO Photographic Interpretation report number 44 has been issued to certain holders of the NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH. The information listed below should be incorporated therein:

Group I.

- 16 528916 On 22 May number 1 casemate was being roofed. Numbers 2, 3 and 4 appeared completed and partially earth banked. It is reported that this battery was bombed on 23 May with no apparent damage to casemates. Some damage probably caused to light AA guns in vicinity, and approximately 175 mines were detonated between the two belts of perimeter wire at rear of position.
- 16A At least 3 guns of this battery are still in temporary position at 531914.
- 5 533918 Bombed on 23 May. No damage to emplacements reported. All four are occupied. Road in front of position was cratered and 1 bomb hit in wire perimeter.

Group III.

- 13 848853 Photo coverage of 22 May reveals camouflage removed from No. 1 emplacement, which appears to be unoccupied.

Group IV.

- 7 246264 Low oblique photos show this battery in a neglected state. Objects in the emplacements appear to resemble piles of brushwood around inclined logs. The O.P. at 24552670 is probably used.
- 2 266268 Photo cover of 14 May reveals construction activity continuing at good pace on casemates, three of which are covered by camouflage, but it appears evident that all 4 guns will be restricted from firing onto the assault area.
- 297054 A 4-gun ?Fd.Tp. battery has been reported in rough open emplacements 24' inside diameter, built into hedges, guns camouflaged, camouflage measuring 18' x 6'. Spacing number 1 to 2, 283 yards, 2, 3 and 4 approximately 140 yards apart. Centerline roughly SW. A single local defense emplacement 290 yards to rear. The 4 emplacements are pin pointed at 29620538, 29700541, 29730544, 29750547. Range of 13000 yards will extend just inside N limit of UTAH. At 297069 an unoccupied field position is visible.
- 11 353290 The 3 original naval turret guns are now in completed casemates 20' x 27'. Number 1 facing NE; numbers 2 and 3 facing N. A fourth casemate 47' long x 43' wide, facing NE, has been completed. 250 feet SE of number 1. The new casemate resembles those at number 5A (797871) which probably house 155 mm guns. From siting of this new casemate it is probably intended as number 1 of a mixed 4 gun battery. Casemates restrict all guns of this battery from firing onto American Assault Area.
- 355106 Delete. Now considered a strong point and not a battery.
- 13A 361056 Casemates still not occupied; guns in open at 361053 assigned First U.S. Army Battery number 9A (361054).
- 9A
- 1A 366201 Guns moved from this location around 19 May. Construction on casemates at a standstill since bombing of 12 May. An O.P. was reported under construction at 36852005. On May 23rd this battery position was bombed again. Two direct hits were scored on excavations for casemates 2, 3 and 4 with a very near miss in number 1. The O.P. under construction sustained 1 direct hit on edge of excavation, and 1 very near miss. Construction apparatus in area badly damaged. This may well be the end of these casemates. Location of guns is still unknown.
- 7A 372198 During the 23rd May attack several bombs fell on this battery position. 4 craters are observed in area of the casemates, with 2 near misses on shelters under construction to the rear. Damage to constructional apparatus is probable.
- 8A 396229 See note on back of folio N; location of guns is still not known.

Group V.

- 17A 323174 Still unoccupied. Note new First U.S. Army battery number assignment.
- 12A 336197 Now assigned First U.S. Army number 12A. Position unoccupied, however, it is still uncertain whether this is a prepared position for a 105 F.G.H. 13000 or 150 H. 14600. Folio N lists this position as 105, but for uniformity it should be changed to 150 H. 14600 to conform with change in NCWTF Intelligence Bulletin No. 1.

12B 343191 This is the newly accepted grid for position listed as 343192 and 12B is the new number assigned by First U. S. Army.

Special attention is directed to the fact that both of the 170 mm gun batteries in the American NEPTUNE area (1A and 8A) have moved from their prepared positions; this was undoubtedly prompted by recent bombings in the vicinity of these positions. It is felt that these batteries will remain in the area, but to date their new locations have not been observed. See NCWTF Intelligence Bulletin No. 1, page 1 for tactics normally employed for 170 mm medium gun batteries.

Condition of exits through inundations, BEACH UTAH. The inundated area immediately behind beach UTAH is noticeably drying up. The following tabulation shows the conditions of the roads as of 24 May 1944:

- 406034 Exit: (15' waterbound macadam road). This road is clear and is being used by vehicles.
- 415021 Exit: (8' to 10' track). This track appears wet and muddy for entire length through the inundated area.
- 418016 Exit: (10' stone surfaced road.) This road appears wet for entire length through inundated area except for a 200' stretch about 1500' inland.
- 420012 Exit: (8' track) This exit appears wet and partly muddy through the present inundation, a length of approximately 5750'.
- 422010 Exit: (12' stone surfaced road). This road is intermittently wet for an overall length of 6500'. The total length of wet area is approximately 4500'.
- 428999 Exit: (12' surfaced road). This road is clear.
- 443982 Exit: (15' stone surfaced road). This road is intermittently wet from 4800' inland to 9150' inland. The total length of wet area is approximately 2400'.
- 452967 Exit: (15' stone surfaced road). This road is clear.

NEW TYPE OF ENEMY MINE:

Reconnaissance photographs show that the enemy is laying a new type of defense mine which is cylindrical, about 4 feet long and 2 feet 9 inches in diameter. This mine which is being laid chiefly in depths of 2 or 3 fathoms, is believed to be a ground mine of simple construction with possibly a snag line. For the present this mine is known by the cover name "KATIE".

ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE: Dispositions in the Cotentin Peninsula have probably been altered as the result of the arrival of the 91st Infantry Division in the Carentan - St. Sauveur Le Vicomte - Valognes area between 8 and 15 May. 91st Infantry Division has apparently taken over part of the sector formerly occupied by the 243rd Infantry Division, which may have now moved North and West to the La Haye du Puits - Bricquebes - Ste. Croix - Hague area.

TACTICS OF "HUMAN TORPEDOES":

Further information has recently been received concerning tactics of the new type of German "Human Torpedo" (sometimes referred to as S.P.S.), which was described on page 3 of Intelligence Bulletin No. 1, dated 21 May 1944. Experience at Anzio indicates that attacks by "Human Torpedoes" may be accompanied by air attacks, designed to divert the attention of patrol vessels and to reduce the efficiency of lookouts. Such attacks may occur during daylight as well as at night. It is now confirmed that the pistol fitted to the released torpedo is of the non-contact, magnetic type. It may also be acoustic, and may possibly become a magnetic mine upon completion of its run. Attention is also invited to the possibility of sneak attacks by E-Boats and W-Boats during enemy air raids.

PART III - CHANGES TO NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH

Page 21 of NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH, Table VII(C), value for 03 hours on 12 August should be changed from 12.6 to 17.4.

Page 48 of NEPTUNE MONOGRAPH, Note under Section C, Estimated Scale of Enemy Air Force Effort against Operation "OVERLORD", delete figure 11, and insert figure 8, so that note reads: "See NCWTF Intelligence Bulletin No. 1, dated 21 May 1944, page 8."

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