DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND867143
By NARA Date 6/5/12

MU

maritime unit

OSS ARCHIVES

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

This booklet has been prepared for use within OSS, particularly by MU Branch for the general orientation of its own personnel. Its primary purpose is to define the basic organization of the Branch, its functions, doctrine, and purpose. It is neither a technical training manual nor a historical record of actual accomplishments.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MARITIME UNIT

MU

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

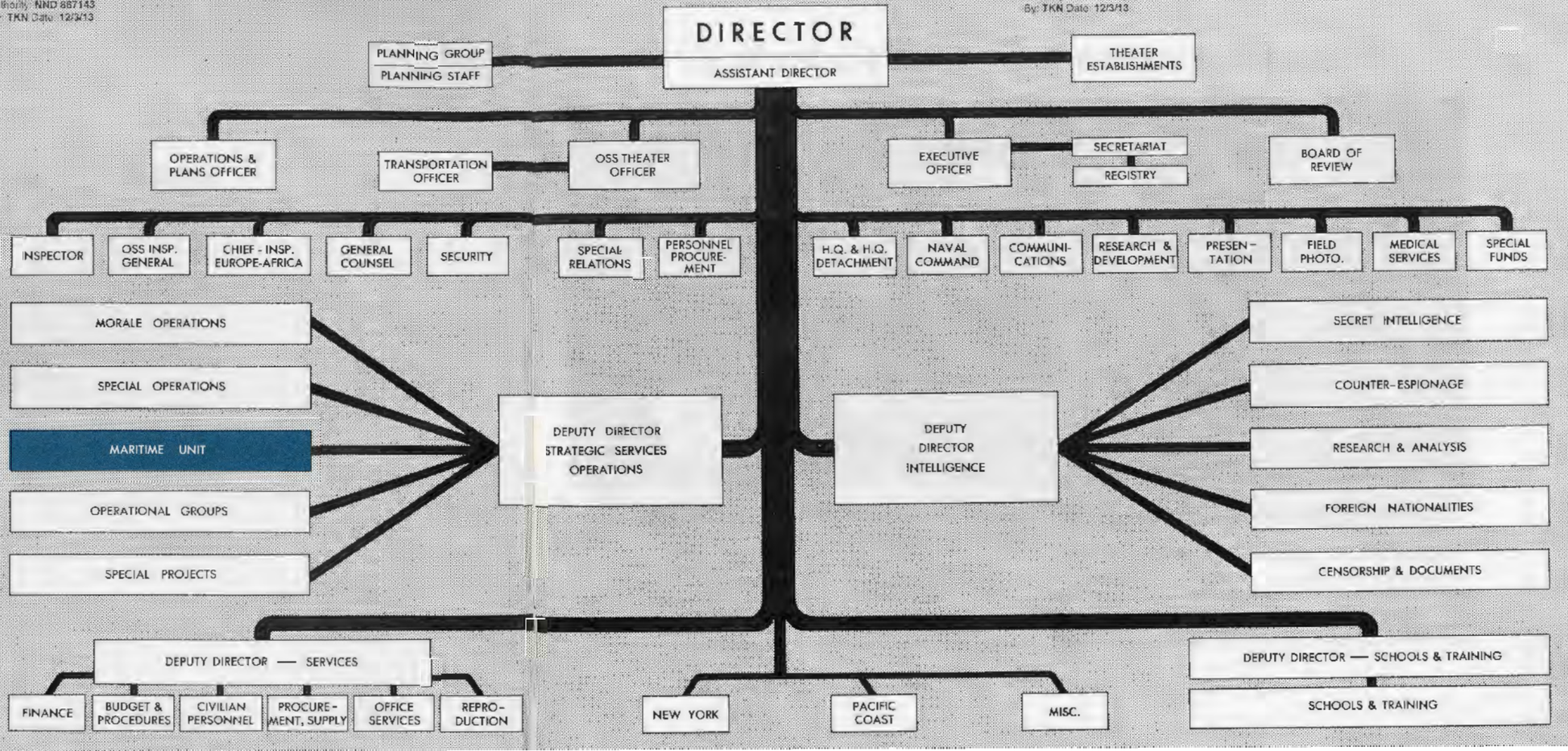
DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

is an agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, charged with collecting and analyzing strategic information and secret intelligence required for military operations, and with planning and executing programs of physical sabotage and morale subversion against the enemy in support of military operations.

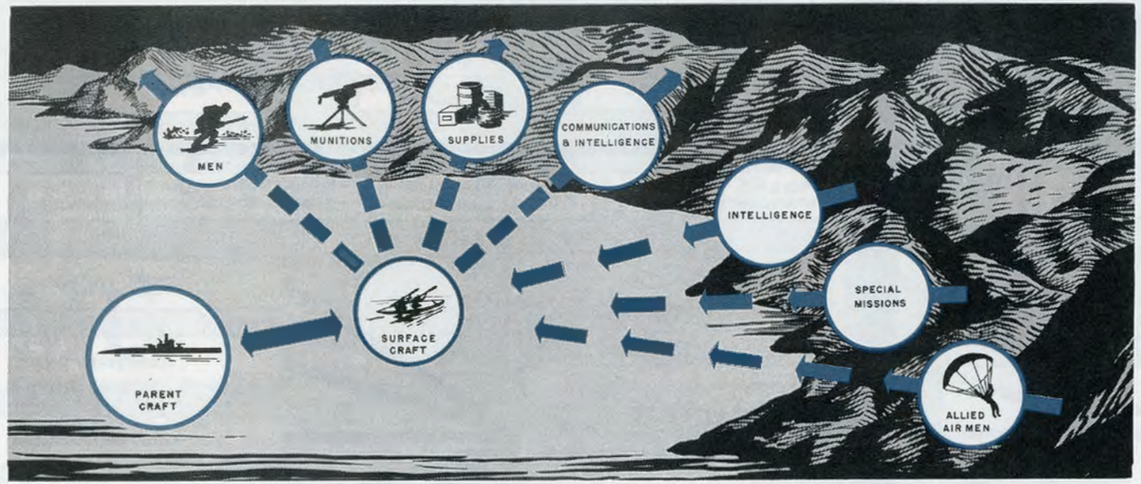
MU MARITIME UNIT

plans and carries out the amphibious phases of these activities, and assists in the development of the special equipment required. It penetrates enemy coastal areas, introducing operatives and their equipment for maritime sabotage and other OSS operations. Wherever targets for sabotage may be reached by water, wherever access to enemy land areas may be obtained by water, wherever information is required on water approaches and character of shoreline and coast, MU's special techniques in clandestine ferrying, maritime sabotage, and beach and hydrographic reconnaissance are utilized.



DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

CLANDESTINE FERRYING



MU OPERATIONS ARE THE AMPHIBIOUS PHASES OF OSS INTELLIGENCE AND SABOTAGE

Men, munitions, supplies, and communications are secretly infiltrated into enemy areas over water, and communications and returning personnel brought out. OSS intelligence or demolition operatives, liaison officers to guerrilla or resistance groups, or special missions from the Theater Commander may be transported. Airmen shot down over enemy-held territory are brought back. Specially equipped operatives may be landed to carry out beach reconnaissance on the character and gradient of beaches and the depths and shallows of the off-shore coast, data of value in planning amphibious assaults.

The parent craft, which may be a submarine, destroyer, or motor torpedo boat, penetrates to within landing distance of the enemy coast. The operatives transfer to small surface craft, surfboard, rubber boat, or kayak, for the trip to and from the shore.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MARITIME SABOTAGE



Swimmers, especially trained in the use of underwater equipment and techniques, attack enemy shipping and port installations. Ferried close to their objectives in a small boat or raft, they swim under water, carrying an explosive charge.

Either Limpets or standard waterproofed demolition charges are used for attacks on the hulls of enemy vessels. Fixing the charge to the target, the operative returns unobserved under water to the ferrying craft. The charge is detonated by a time delay.

Expert underwater swimmers also perform offshore hydrographic reconnaissance.

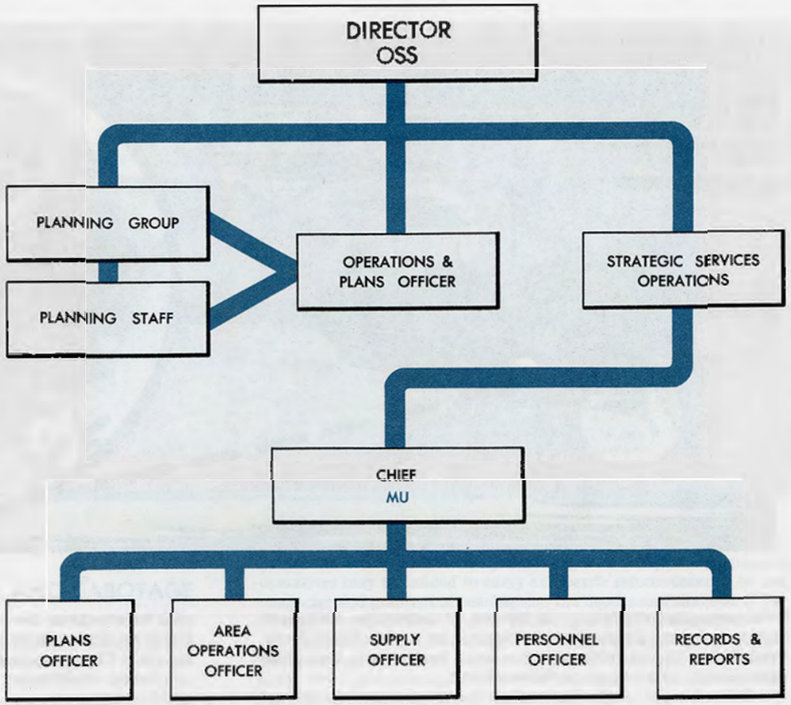
DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MU PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON

Strategic services plans and over-all programs are initiated and developed by the Planning Staff in conjunction with the Plans Officer of each branch. The Planning Gronp integrates the plans with military and naval operations. The Operations and Plans Officer informs the Director of the plans and operations of the branches in the process of development or execution. When the Director has approved a plan, it is forwarded to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for consideration and snbmitted to the Theater Commander for final approval.

MU Headquarters is chiefly concerned with recruiting and training personnel and with procuring the special equipment needed for operations in all theaters.

For the Central Pacific Theater, MU Headqnarters not only fulfills these functions but also originates specific operational plans.



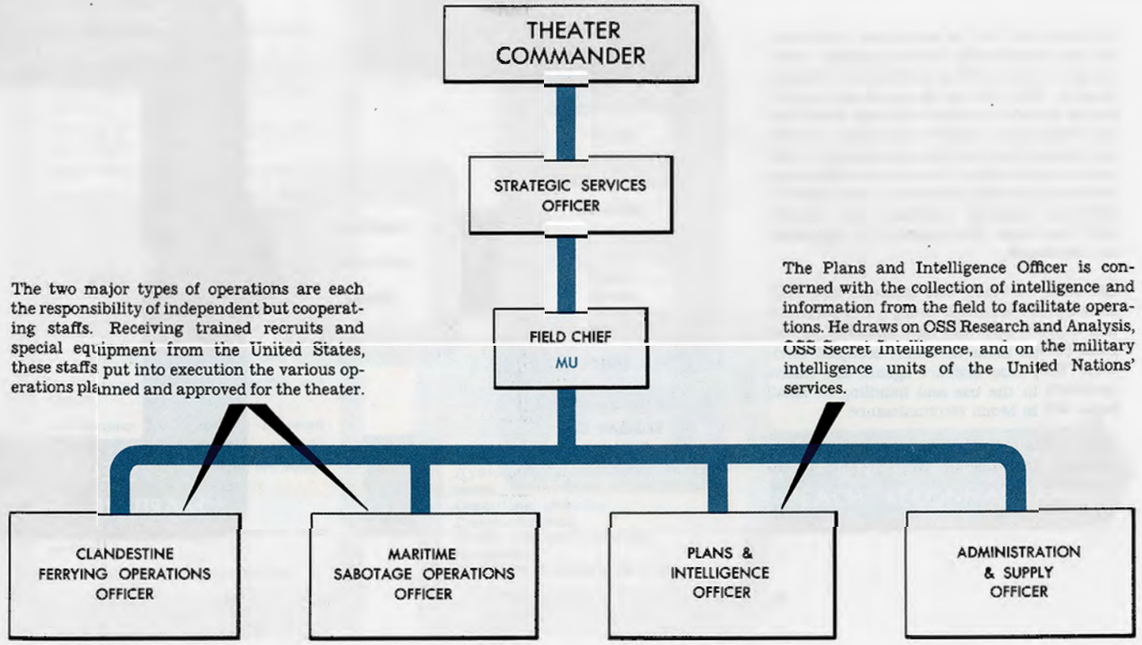
DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MU FIELD BASE ORGANIZATION varies with the operational opportunities and requirements of the theater.

IN SEAC

The two major types of operations are each the responsibility of independent but cooperating staffs. Receiving trained recruits and special equipment from the United States, these staffs put into execution the various operations planned and approved for the theater.

The Plans and Intelligence Officer is concerned with the collection of intelligence and information from the field to facilitate operations. He draws on OSS Research and Analysis, OSS Secret Intelligence, and on the military intelligence units of the United Nations' services.



DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

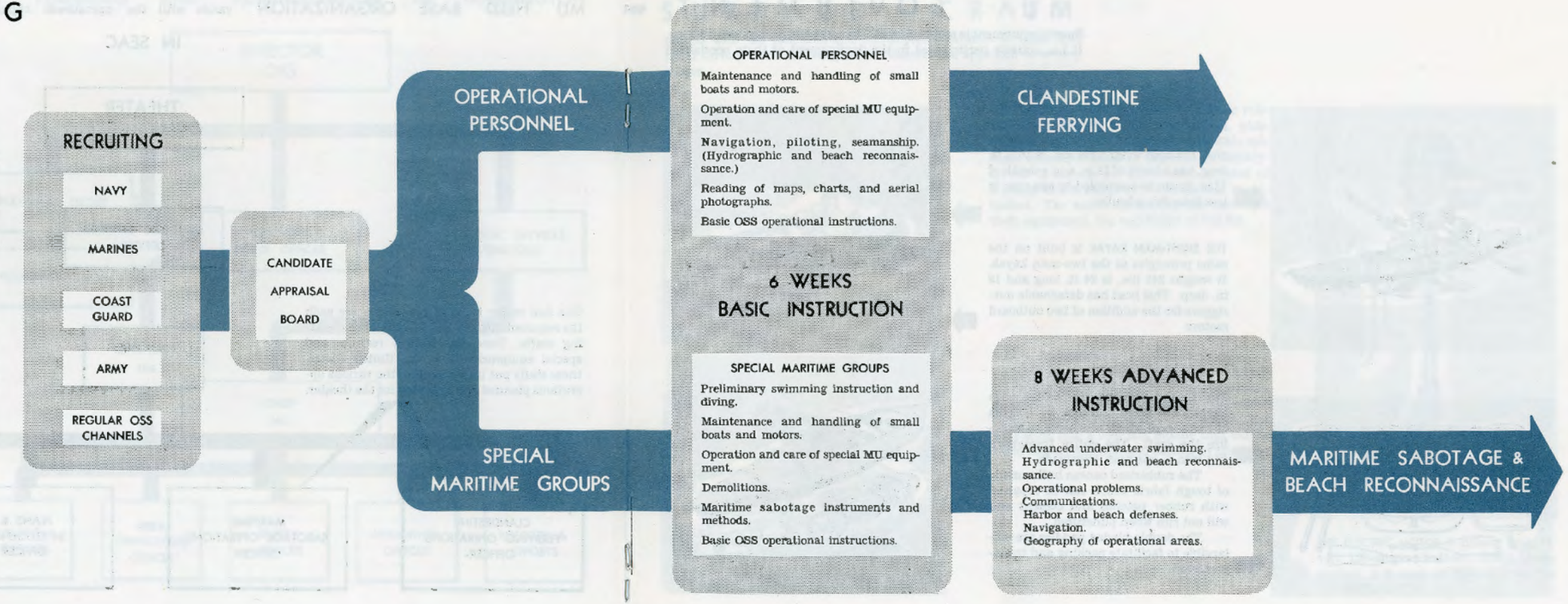
DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MU TRAINING

To train men for its specialized operations, MU conducts its own training program under the general supervision of Schools & Training Branch. Men selected as operatives must be highly qualified in swimming and small boat handling. After intensive instruction at basic and advanced schools the men are sent to field bases overseas where training is continuously carried on between missions to keep them in first-class physical condition and familiar with the latest developments in equipment and technique.

OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL infiltrate and exfiltrate Special Maritime Groups, and personnel and supplies for other OSS branches, to and from coastal areas of enemy-occupied territory. They also instruct agents and native operators in the use and handling of small boats and in beach reconnaissance.

SPECIAL MARITIME GROUPS carry out maritime sabotage and offshore hydrographic reconnaissance.



DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MU EQUIPMENT, SURFACE CRAFT

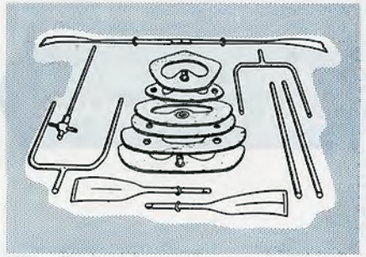
Special equipment is required by MU to carry out its various missions. It has actively participated in the development of these specialized devices with the Research and Development Branch of OSS. The small surface craft are designed for clandestine approach to enemy shores.



THE TWO-MAN KAYAK is a collapsible, portable boat made of a plywood frame covered by rubberized canvas. Assembled, the boat weighs 104 lbs., is 16½ ft. long, has a beam of 34 in. and a depth of 13 in. It can be assembled by two men in less than five minutes.

THE EIGHT-MAN KAYAK is built on the same principles as the two-man kayak. It weighs 245 lbs., is 24 ft. long and 19 in. deep. This boat has detachable outriggers for the addition of two outboard motors.

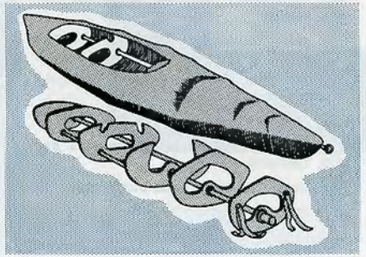




The shaped plywood frames for both kayaks are fitted together by lengths of metal pipe which also serve to stabilize the craft. The entire framework fits into a one-man haversack.

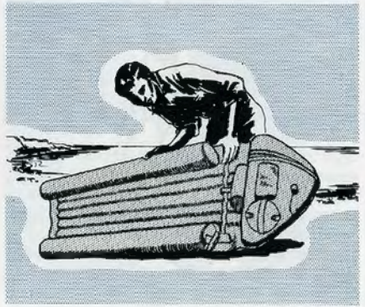
The rubberized canvas hull is made of tough fabric which can be repaired with rubber patches and cement and will not run when punctured.

The double-bladed paddles are collapsible to facilitate packing and transportation.

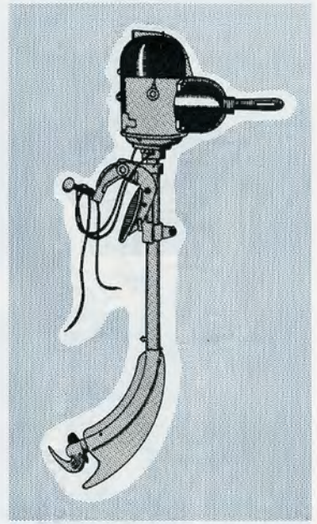




THE TWO-MAN SURFBOARD is a pneumatic rubber surfboard, 10½ ft. long, 3 ft. 7 in. wide, weighing about 310 lbs. A compressed air cylinder inflates it in a few minutes. A battery-driven ¾ horsepower motor with a speed of 5 knots and a range of 10 miles can be attached. The surfboard carries two men and their equipment, the equivalent of 900 lbs.



THE "MATARRASSINO," an inflatable one-man rubber float, is a British adaptation of an Italian development. Inflated by means of a built-in hand-operated bellows, it is equipped with a pocket, and is propelled by the operator. The float folds into a compact bundle that can be fitted into a knapsack and carried by one man.



THE ELECTRIC MOTOR is driven by a 12-volt, 120-ampere battery. Silent in operation, it is used as motive power for the surfboard.

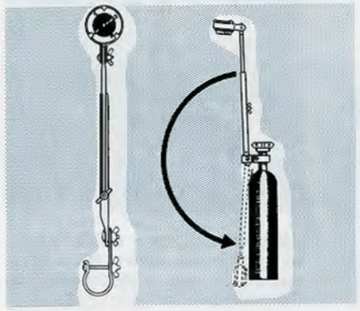
DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MU UNDERWATER AND

Underwater approaches to enemy shipping and installations for sabotage have been made feasible through the development and use of specialized equipment.



THE LAMBERTSON UNIT is a completely self-contained breathing device which enables a swimmer to approach his target beneath the water surface without leaving a wake, breathing bubbles, or other traces of his presence or movements. The face piece provides excellent visibility, and all controls and gauges are accessible without hampering the swimmer's motions. This unit allows a swimmer to spend an hour under water, and travel more than a mile.



THE UNDERWATER COMPASS is a standard waterproof compass fitted into a holder which is attached to the Lambertson Unit. A joint enables the swimmer to raise the compass to eye level or push it down flush to his body. It does not interfere with swimming in either position.

SWIM FINS. The large Swim Fin is the improved OSS design. Its base is the standard swim fin on which an extra length of live rubber has been vulcanized. The proper use of swim fins doubles a swimmer's speed and range.

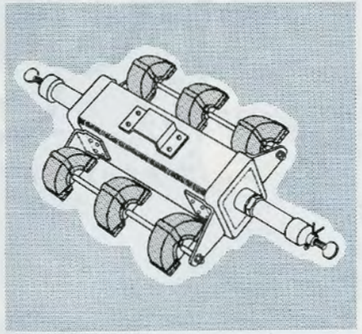


DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

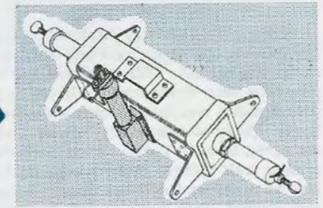
Special light-weight waterproof devices enable the beach reconnaissance operative with a minimum of apparatus to make and record accurate observations of beach composition, gradient, and depth.

THE LIMPET is an explosive weapon designed for use against enemy merchant vessels. The explosive charge is contained in a waterproof plastic case equipped with strong magnets for adhesion to the metal plates of the target.



The Limpet is most effective when used about 5 ft. below the water surface, its charge being sufficient to blow a hole about 25 sq. ft. in a merchant vessel. The Limpet may be attached under water either by a swimmer or from a small boat with the aid of an extendable placing rod. A range of time delays permits the operator to make his escape.

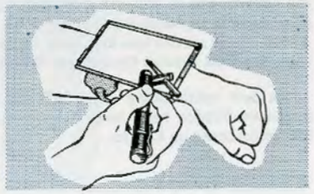
THE PIN-UP GIRL is essentially the same explosive weapon as the Limpet, but the method of attaching the container to the target has been changed. A cartridge-driven pinning device which will penetrate wood or steel hulls has been substituted for the magnets of the Limpet case.



THE BEACH SAND AUGUR takes a cubic sample of sand 8 in. long and ¾ in. in diameter. The sand is transferred to plastic tubes carried in a bandolier.



UNDERWATER PAD AND PENCIL. The writing pad, mounted on a strong leather wrist strap, is made of white "ivorine" cards deeply grooved in one inch squares to facilitate the tabulation of soundings in the dark. The underwater pencil is a modification of the vest-pocket flashlight. A chinagraph pencil has been added. The lens in the flashlight is movable, allowing the operator to regulate the amount of light transmitted.



DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

MU OPERATIONS

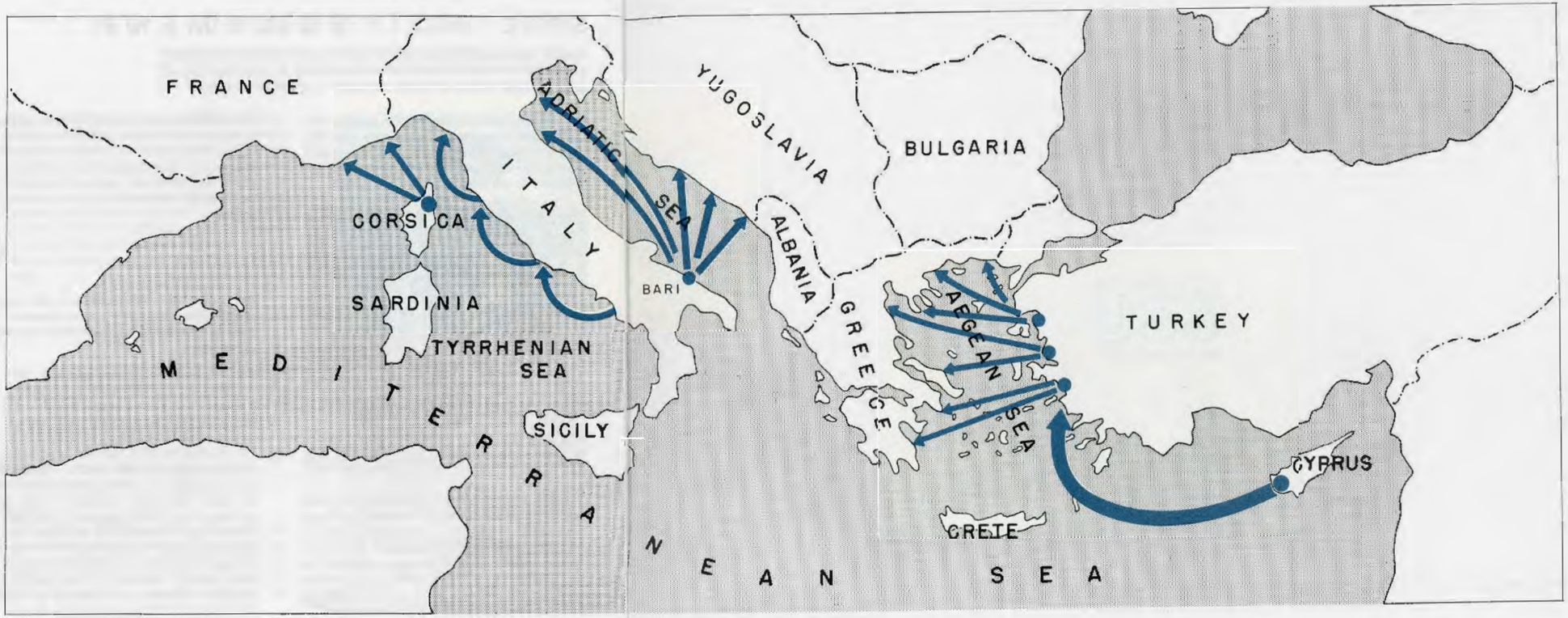
Representative of MU operations are those carried out in the Mediterranean theater.

Extensive and highly successful clandestine ferrying operations have been carried out in the Aegean Sea. OSS personnel and supplies have been transported to Greece in support of native resistance groups and guerrilla forces. Fleets of caiques ply between Cyprus and secret bases in Turkey. From these bases smaller craft operate, making pinpoint landings at night on the Greek coast. Refugees and downed fliers, rescued and brought to evacuation points by Greek guerrillas, have been picked up and brought to Cyprus.

MU plans and supervises the operations of an amphibious group of the Italian Navy in the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Adriatic Sea. Specializing in demolition attacks and shore sabotage, the unit has a successful record under MU control.

Clandestine ferrying operations across the Adriatic Sea in support of Yugoslav guerrillas have been conducted by MU from Bari. A ship repair service has also been conducted there for OSS Special Operations Branch.

A few infiltrations along the coast of Southern France have been carried out by MU units based on Corsica.



DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 867143
By: TKN Date: 12/3/13

OSS

PRESENTATION

LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH, OSS