

Supreme Commander
one copy

1688.
VFA
HCA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-3 (Ops) Division

SHAEF/2997/Ops

29 January 1944

SUBJECT: Operation Policy Memoranda

TO : Distribution G-3A

Reference SHAEF/2297/Ops dated 16 December 1943.

1. There are attached herewith:

a. The first Operation Policy Memorandum to be issued by this Headquarters, BEACH MARKINGS.

b. The complete distribution for all Operation Memoranda. This distribution list, G-3A, will not accompany subsequent issues of Memoranda as it is visualized that addressees will attach it to the cover of their new file on this subject for easy reference.

2. In connection with a. above, The Admiralty will issue, shortly, colored panoramas illustrating the Beach Markings described therein. This issue will be made to all ships and craft engaging in proposed operations.

3. Covering letters normally will not accompany subsequently issued Operation Memoranda.

4. Commanders desiring extra copies of any Operation Policy Memorandum for direct distribution to lower formations will apply to the AC of S, G-3, this Headquarters.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

H. H. Bull

H. H. BULL,

Major General, G.S.C.,
A.C. of S., G-3

Inclosures (2)

- 1 - OP MEMO NO 1 (Beach Markings)
- 2 - Distribution list



*Review
see 10/25/73*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

Guidelines for Com Hdqrs 7/5/73

By

ARK

NLE DATE *10/25/73*

CONFIDENTIAL

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

29 January 1944

OPERATION MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 1)



BEACH MARKINGS

1. OBJECT

The object of this memorandum is to coordinate the use on beaches of all markings, signs and lights whose purpose is to aid the navigation of ships and craft.

2. DEFINITIONS

a. Sector. A sector is a part of an enemy coastline. The entire coastline, whatever its nature, beach, cliff, rock, esplanade, etc., is divided into sectors. Sector limits are geographical features which can easily be identified either from charts, maps, or air photographs. In very long sectors where no convenient feature can be found, a landmark just inland may have to be used. The length of sectors cannot be specified; they may vary from less than 100 yards to over 2000 yards, but they will seldom exceed 5000 yards.

Sectors are referred to by the Anglo-American phonetically pronounced letters of the alphabet as:-

ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE, etc.

These letters are assigned from RIGHT to LEFT facing shoreward, and are in alphabetical sequence.

b. Beaches. A beach is a definite part of a sector chosen as appropriate for landing. No sector will contain more than three beaches. Beaches will be coloured GREEN-WHITE-RED from RIGHT to LEFT facing shoreward. If only two beaches per sector are required for landings, WHITE beach will be omitted. If only one beach is used it will be coloured GREEN. Beaches will be referred to by sector letter, colour and the word "Beach". Example: FOX GREEN BEACH.

3. BEACH MARKING SIGNS (Numbers underlined below refer to Appendix 'A').

a. Day beach signs.

- (1) Left limit, facing shoreward: All left limits for GREEN, WHITE and RED beaches will be marked by a WHITE canvas rectangle twelve by four feet on sixteen foot poles, supported by guys and displayed horizontally. In addition, GREEN and RED beaches only will be marked by an additional horizontal rectangle similar to the WHITE one just specified, but of the same colour as the beach. This second rectangle will be placed alongside the WHITE one and on the side toward the center of the beach (1).

DECLASSIFIED

Authority Guidelines for Com. Hq. 7/5/72

By ARK NLE DATE 10/25/73

(2) Right limit, facing shoreward: A similar WHITE canvas rectangle displayed vertically for WHITE beach and two similar rectangles displayed similarly for GREEN and RED beaches, the coloured rectangle being toward the center of the beach. (4)

(3) Centre of beach: A WHITE canvas square, each side of nine feet, on sixteen foot poles, supported by guys. Within the square will be painted an eight foot square in the appropriate colour for that beach. Within the eight foot square the sector letter will appear in WHITE except for WHITE Beach, in which case the letter will be BLACK (2 and 3).

b. Day transit signs, for draft guidance only, will be five foot white equilateral triangles placed in transit. (5) When more than one transit is established on any beach, and more than one beaching berth is established under any transit, each pair of beacons will be painted with a number in black, Number One berth being on the RIGHT facing shoreward.

c. Casualty evacuation signs will be white canvas squares, each side of six feet with a conventional red cross of four foot axes (6).

3. Flags.

(1) Beach Master's flag: Black (7).

(2) Beaching position flag: International "4" (Square yellow flag) waved from side to side (8).

(3) Beach Signal Station flag: Blue and white (9).

(4) Danger flag: Red (10).

4. BEACH MARKING LIGHTS (Numbers underlined below refer to appendix 'A')

a. Beach lights.

(1) Left limit: Two fixed lights, 8 feet apart, of the same colour as the beach, fixed horizontally and supported on the 16 foot poles used for the day limit sign (1).

(2) Right limit: The same colour as for the left limit, but fixed vertically, 8 feet apart, and supported on the 16 foot poles used for the day limit signs (4).

(3) Centre light: The sector letter will be flashed to seaward in the colour of the beach. (2 and 3)

b. Transit lights: Two fixed amber lights in transit (5).

c. Casualty evacuation lights: Five red lights in the form of a cross, the axes of which will be four feet (6).

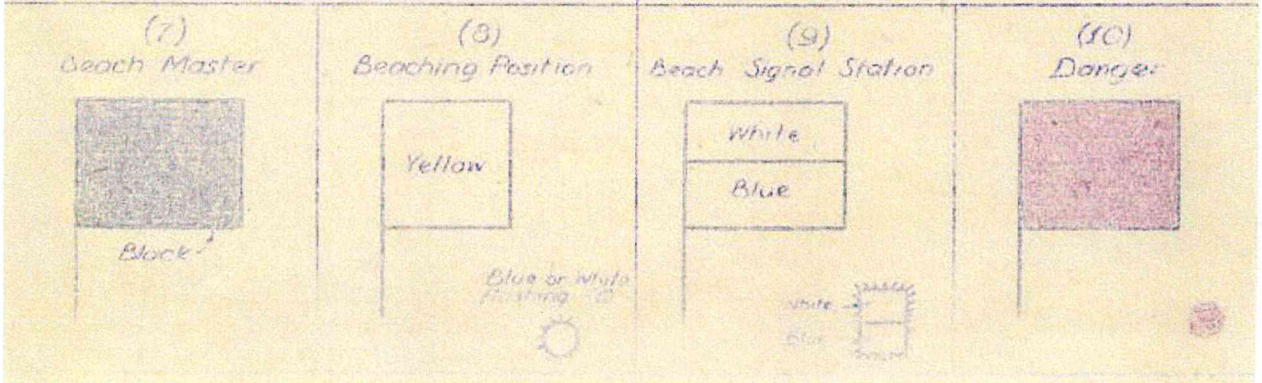
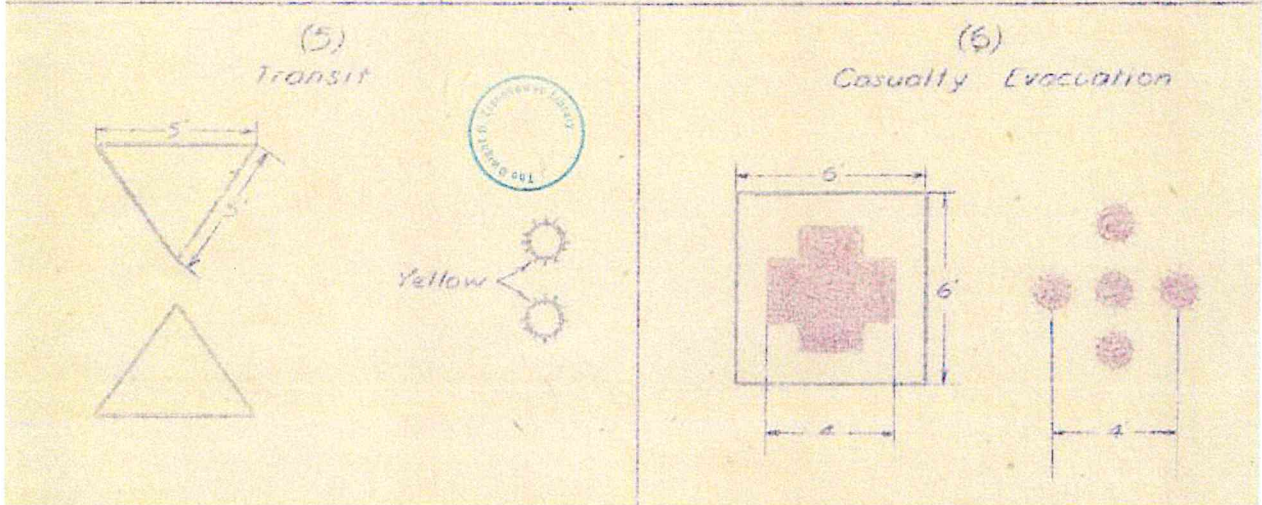
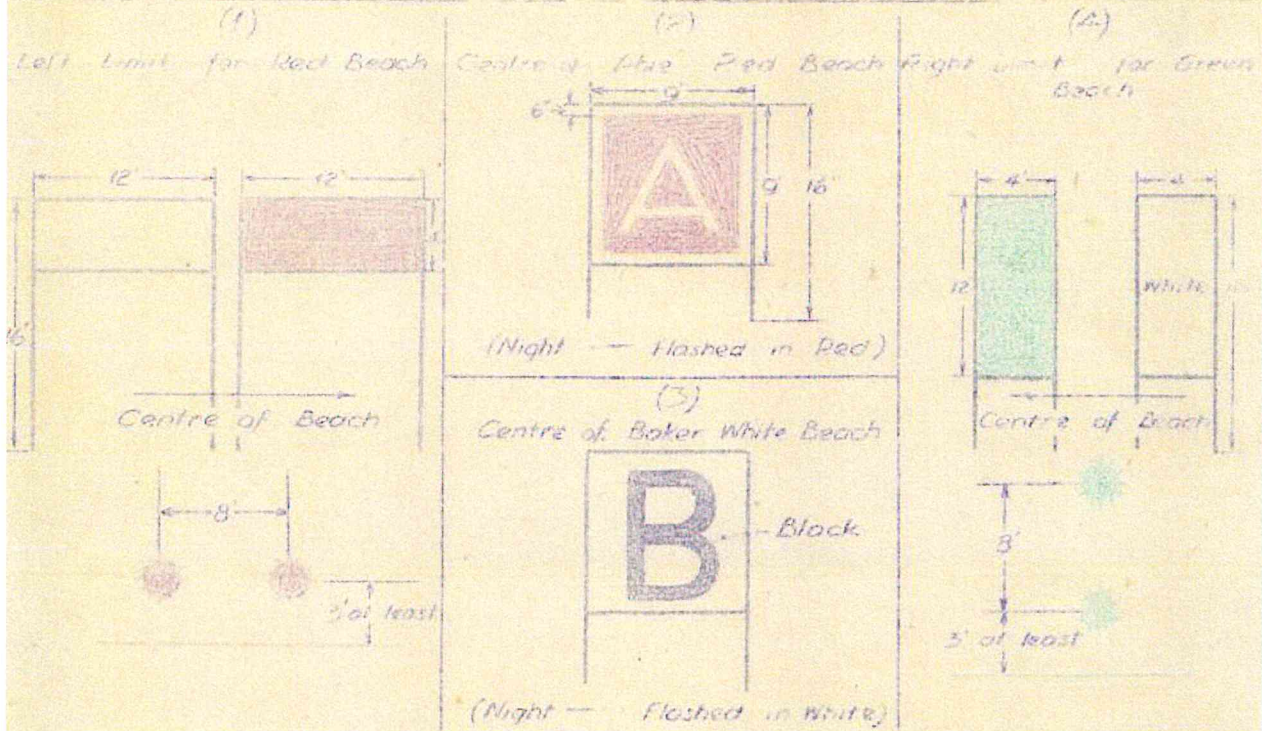
DECLASSIFIED

Authority Guidelines for Com. Hdqrs. 7/5/73

By ARK NLE DATE 10/25/73

APPENDIX 'A'
to OP MEMO NO 1
dated 23 January, 1944

Illustrations of Beach Markings and Lights



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX 'B'

to OP MEMO NO 1

dated 29 January 1944

HYDROGRAPHICAL MARKINGS AND DANGER SIGNALS

1. WRECKS OR OBSTRUCTIONS

a. Wrecks or obstructions will be marked:

- (1) By day, by a cross plank buoy with 5 foot wooden upright painted in green and white horizontal bands (each 1 ft. in length) and carrying a green square flag. The buoy will be fitted with a mooring of 8 fathom of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hemp.
- (2) By night, by a green fixed or flashing light fixed to the upright.

b. All landing craft will be permanently fitted with one of the buoys referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above. It will be so placed that it will "watch" automatically should the craft sink.

c. Wrecked landing craft which are uncovered by the tide will be marked by lashing upright to the hull a 15 foot pole painted, flagged and lighted as in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) above. Two poles may be lashed together to obtain the requisite height, if necessary. All major landing craft will carry two spare painted 15 ft poles fitted with green square flags to be landed if required for use by the Beach Parties.

d. Shoals or obstructions located by Hydrographic Craft off the beach will be marked by these craft using the buoy described in sub-paragraph (1) above, moored with a hundred-pound sinker.

e. The buoys and marks referred to above must be given a wide berth, the craft passing to leeward (or downstream) where possible.

2. PORT HAND BUOYS

These will be a cross plank buoy with a 5 foot black wooden upright and black pennant exhibiting a white fixed or flashing light by night, moored with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hemp to a hundred-pound sinker.

3. STARBOARD HAND BUOYS

These will be a cross plank buoy with a 5 foot red wooden upright and red and yellow diagonal square flag, exhibiting a red fixed or flashing light by night, moored with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hemp to a hundred-pound sinker.

4. SURVEYING MARKS

a. Hydrographic Units may use marks, buoys and lights of any shape or colour, provided they cannot be confused in any way with the marks, buoys and lights laid down above, nor with the standard system of Beach signs and lights.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority Guidelines for Com. Hdqrs. 7/5/75

By ARK NLE DATE 10/25/73

b. The following day markings are strongly recommended:-

(1) Ashore.

Yellow poles marked with white and/or yellow Burgee.

(2) Afloat.

Gross plank buoy with white upright, carrying a white, yellow or blue (or any desired combination of these colours) Burgee.

c. Should it be necessary for survey work to be carried out at night it is considered that the colour and use of lights must rest with the Commander.