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NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

4 November 1943

From: Director of Naval Intelligence  
To: Distribution List Appended  
SUBJECT: Shipping Facilities - Potential Sabotage of

1. With the decreased efficiency of submarine warfare, and as Allied Armies continue to advance on all fronts, the Axis may, in desperation, take additional steps to stop the movement of men and materials from the United States to combat areas. Information received recently indicates that the Winter of 1943-44 may have been designated as the appropriate time for intensification of German sabotage activities in the United States. That information indicates also that emphasis will be placed on shipping facilities.

2. American seamen's papers have been stolen in foreign ports with alarming regularity. This may indicate an attempt is being made to ship sabotage agents aboard merchant vessels.

3. Explosive mines of various types are known to be in use by Axis agents operating in the Mediterranean. Successful use of this equipment gives rise to the possibility that it will be utilized in British and American ports. These mines have been of two types - first, the so-called bilge keel torpedo mine which is attached to the bilge keels by a number of hand screw clamps (illustrated in Enclosure 1). The detonation of these mines is accomplished by either a Mark 1 or Mark 2 delay action timer installed in the torpedo itself or by a small propeller set to function after so many revolutions. In many cases both types of timers have been set - the one to operate in case of failure of the other. Counter measures to be taken against this torpedo are:

- (a) The effective guard force to prevent approach of unauthorized boats or swimmers.
- (b) Constant movement of the ship's propeller in reverse will create a slip stream along the hull.
- (c) Frequent sweeping of the hull with a cable.
- (d) Inspection of the hull by divers at frequent intervals and invariably just prior to the departure of the ship.
- (e) Small depth charges dropped overside at frequent and irregular intervals.

The second type is classed as limpet mines. These may be either a magnet type or the pneumatic type which is held in place on the bottom of the hull by an inflated tube. The precautionary measures mentioned above would also be effective in combating these mines.

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In view of the difficulty in importing into the Western Hemisphere, or manufacturing the above types of mines, more attention will probably be given by sabotage agents to the use of explosives or incendiary devices which may be disguised as items of cargo or which may be secreted in the cargo.

Stevedores, repair crews, fumigators and all other persons permitted access to the vessels, including crew members, have opportunities to secrete aboard the ship explosives and incendiaries of an infinite variety of camouflaged articles. All such devices are dependent on the successful operation of a delayed action detonator. While these detonators may be home made or improvised, it seems more likely that the standard mechanical types which could be smuggled into this country will be used. The three most popular of these are the Mark 1 or Mark 2 (illustrated in Enclosure 2), or the pencil delay operating on the basis of chemical reaction between an acid and a mixture of potassium, chlorate and sugar, or the pencil type detonator operating on the principle of acid reaction on metal.

Attention must be given to the possibility of Axis Agents operating as labor agitators, rumor mongers, and generally disruptive elements along the water front.

4. The above is forwarded to the addressees for information. The Office of Naval Intelligence is desirous of being informed of any facts which appear to be connected with the above observations.

/s/ R. E. SCHUIRMANN

Enclosures:  
1 - Bilge Keel Mine  
2 - Mark 1 and Mark 2 Timers

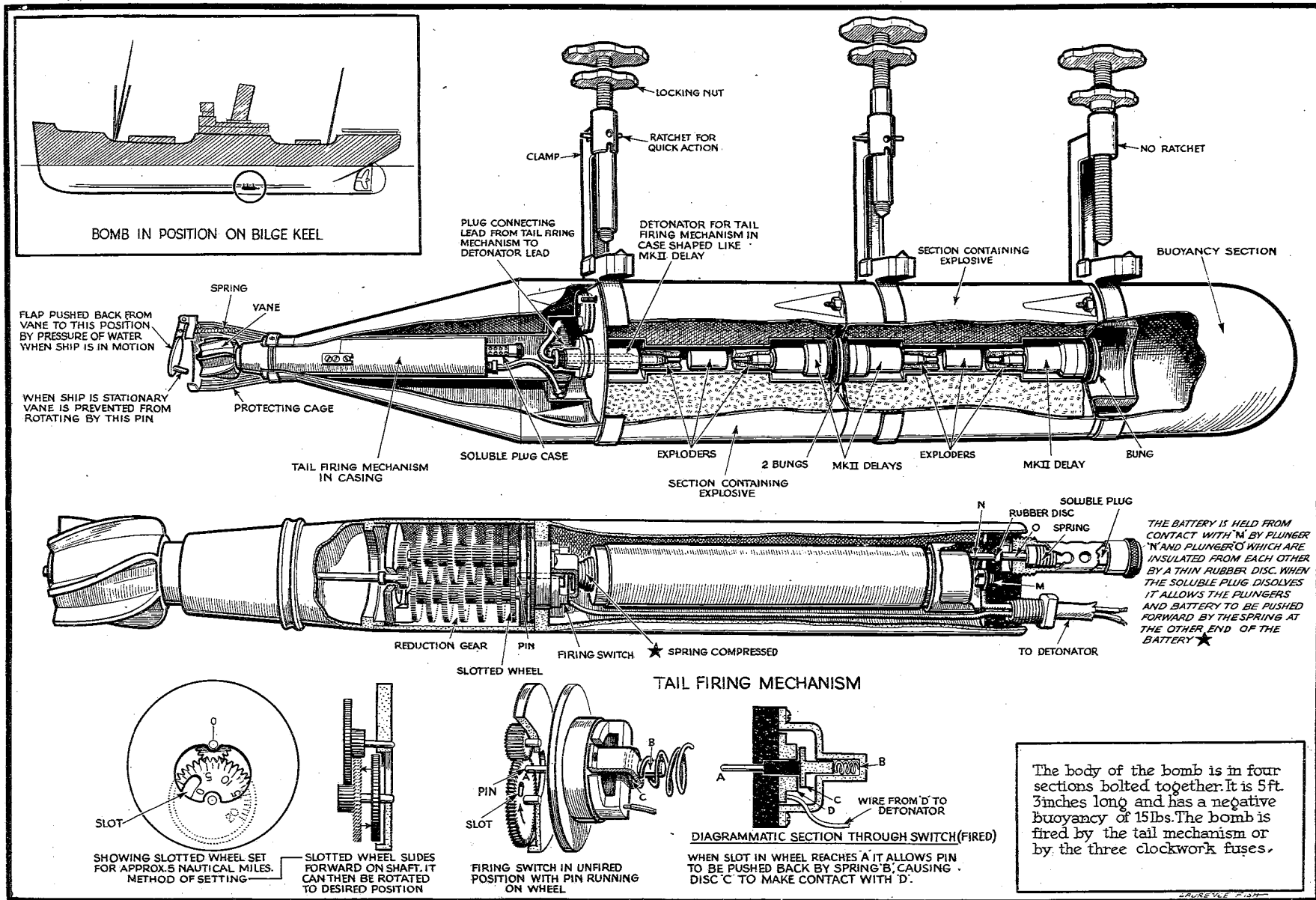
R. E. SCHUIRMANN

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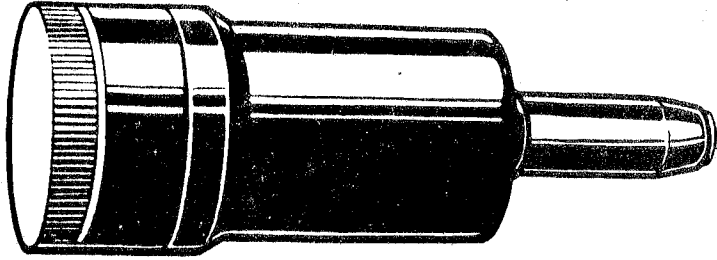
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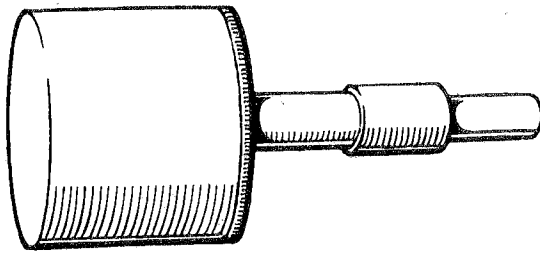
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Enclosure (1)



Life Size Line Drawing  
of Mark II German Delay.



Life Size Line Drawing  
of Mark I German Delay.

Enclosure (2)