

Sharks mingled with porpoises at divers worked

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to be pushed out of the way so that work could proceed and, he recalled, one bonito swam straight into him.

"One hears the saying that where there are porpoises there are no sharks, but this is quite untrue. We saw sharks mingling with porpoise," he observed.

The members of the team are based on Malta but are sent out on any job in the Mediterranean area. They expect to return to Malta in about one week.

CLEARED MINES

Lt. Rea was awarded the M.B.E. for clearing mines off the East Coast of England from Dungeness to Yorkshire in 1952. In 1946 he received a mention for work he had carried out in Palestine. His home is at Portsmouth.

Full of praise for the hospitality he and his team had received while in Mombasa, Lt. Rea said it made a change for the team to be chased by rhinos instead of being chased by fish when they went out on safari with Commander and Mrs. Blunt, of Mtwapa.

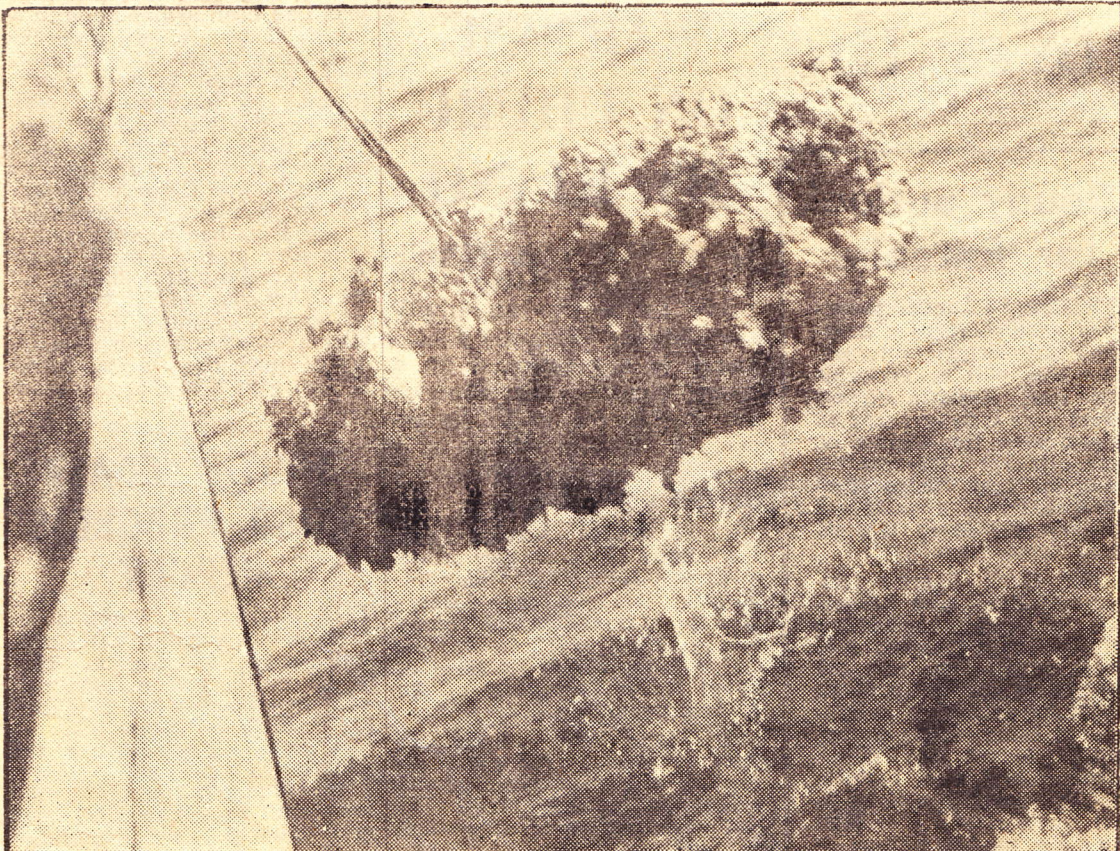
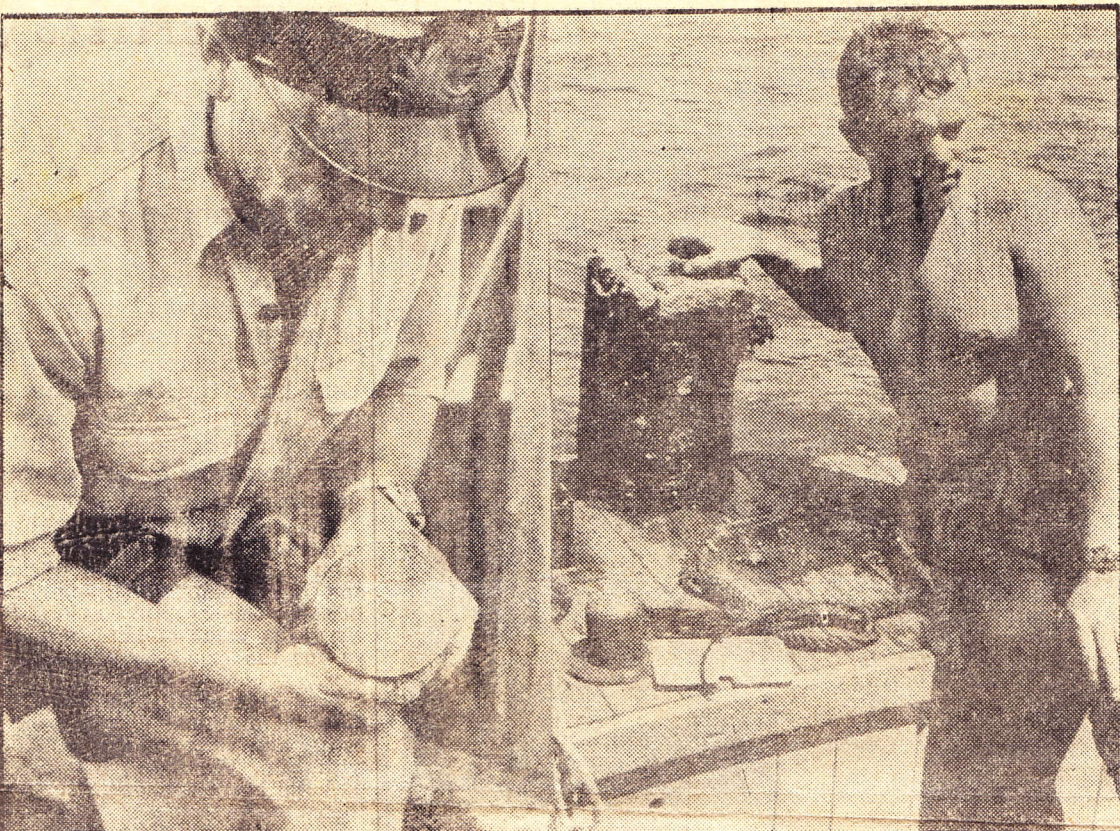
"We were well looked after socially," he said.

He also expressed his appreciation of the advice and assistance received from Mr Peter Williams, the Shore Bo'sun and Port Diver.

RAILWAY SERIES

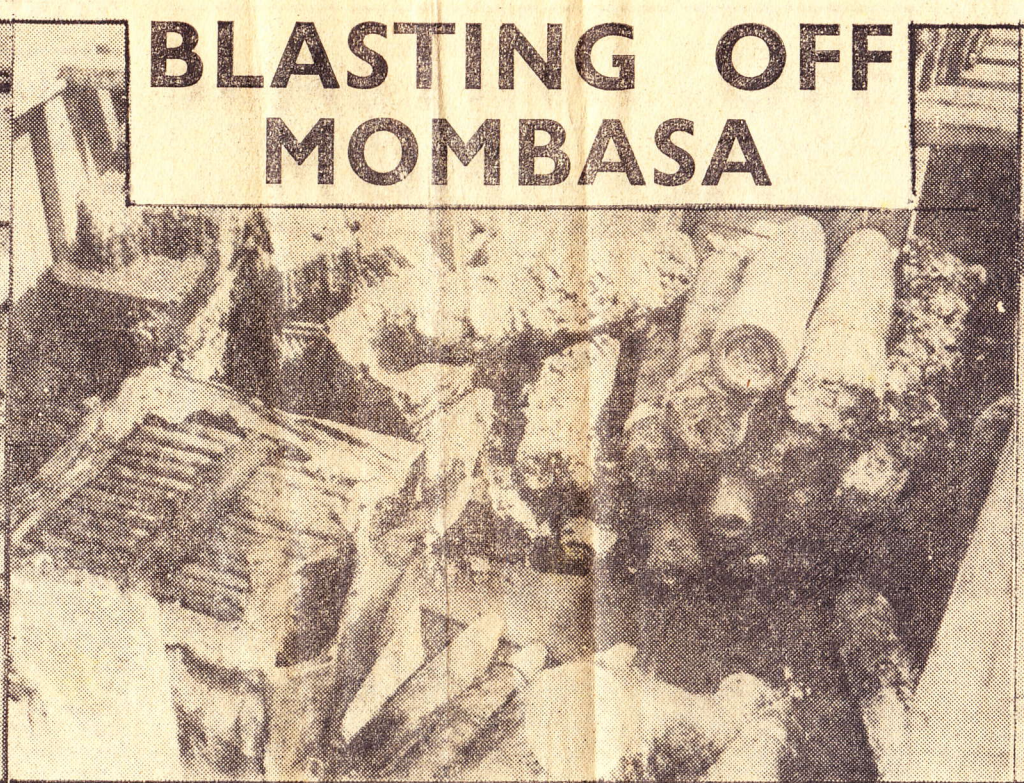
The two explosions which brought to an end the work of the team occurred at 3-10 p.m. and 3-30 p.m. last Wednesday — the same day on which it was announced East African Railways and Harbours would start their series of blasts to deepen the channel for deep-laden tankers.

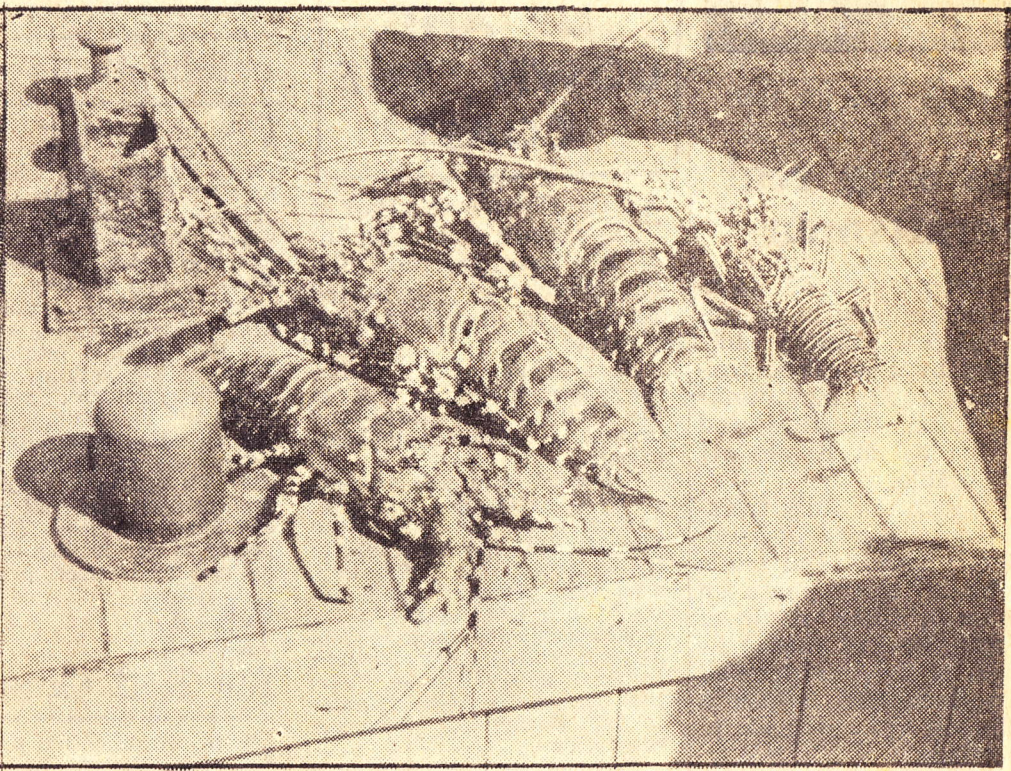
Owing to unforeseen circumstances, however, these blasts did not take place and will now begin on Monday, between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Bathers and gogglers are warned that they should not enter the water between those times and to exercise caution when they do so afterwards, as the blasts are likely to attract sharks to the area because of stunned and mutilated fish.



Lieutenant J. Rea, in charge of the Fleet Clearance Diving Team from Malta which has been blasting wartime explosives from the seabed at the entrance to Kilindini, is pictured top left with one of the shells recovered by the team. On the right is Petty Officer R. Hartshorn with a box of .303 ammunition. Above is a 500 lb. bomb being lifted out of the water.

BLASTING OFF MOMBASA





Royal Navy team clears seabed of ammunition

SHOALS of fish so thick that they had to be pushed out of the way were encountered by a Royal Navy bomb disposal team which has just completed blasting wartime ammunition from the seabed off Mombasa.

The Fleet Clearance Diving Team, Malta, to give the group its official title, is commanded by Lt. Jack Rea, M.B.E., R.N., who arrived in Mombasa with his team of five men in October.

QUITE A LOT

They were called in after a diver discovered ammunition on the seabed. The team made a sweep of the channel and, in the words of Lt. Rea, "discovered quite a lot of explosives".

The ammunition was located at a depth of 50 ft. and a pile was made on the seabed. Last Wednesday the ammunition was blown up. Lighter ammunition, such as shells, was taken further out to sea and dumped

team's dangerous mission, but was full of wonder at the fish life which they saw in the depths.

"The fish were of most brilliant hues," he said. "Each day was a contrast. The visibility was very good for about two hours after the ebb tide."

SHARK COMPANY

The first day the team went out in the boat a shark followed them and circled the boat for some time — "not a very good introduction to our task," said Lt. Rea.

In the water the team encountered shark, barracuda and many other varieties of fish but, apart from one incident, they were not molested.

The team dived in pairs and Lt. Rea recalled that on one occasion, while he and another member of the team were on the seabed, they disturbed a huge eel lying underneath a box of ammunition.

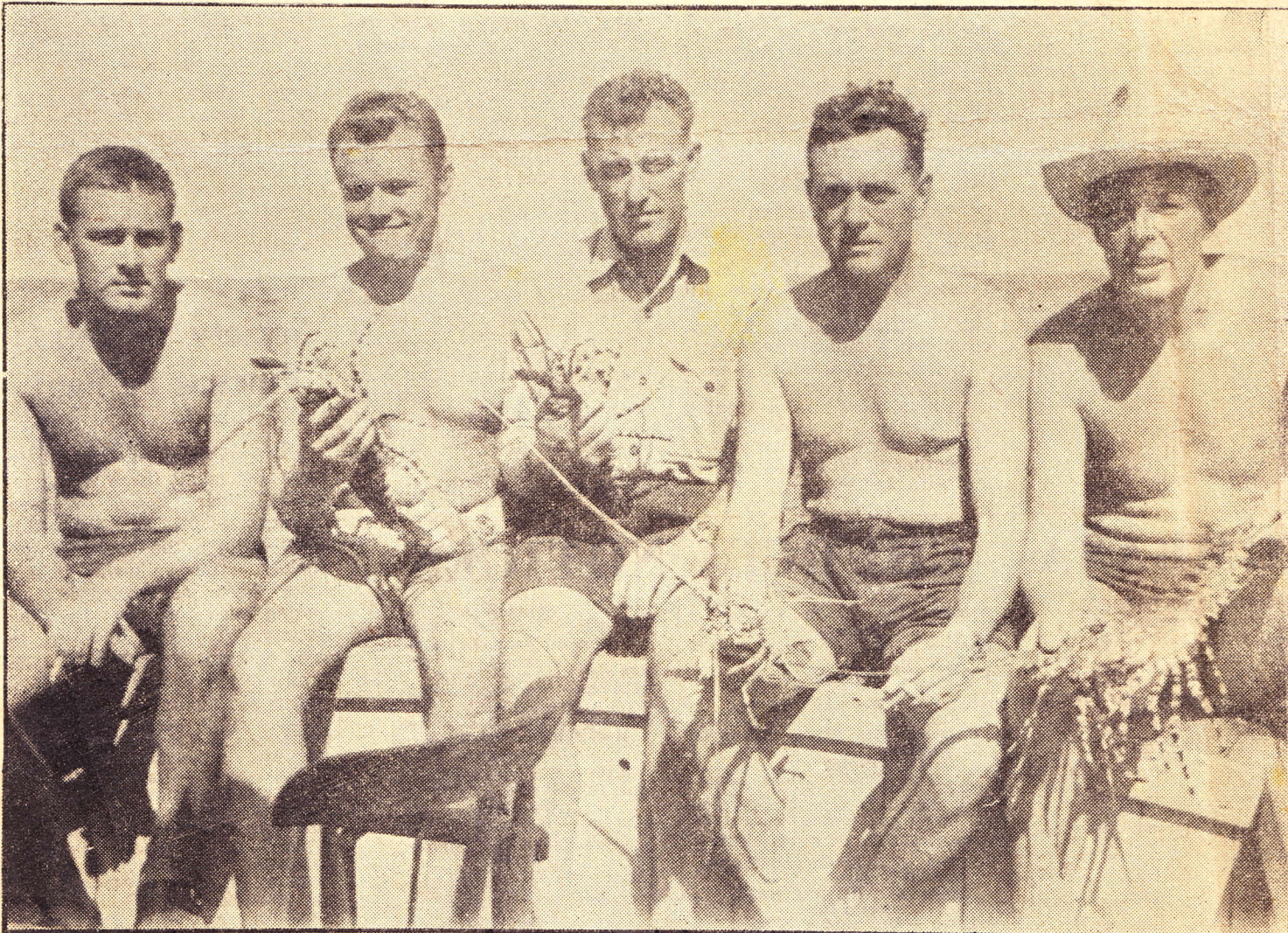
BARED TEETH

"The eel swam away. Then it decided to turn back and it came for us, baring its teeth. It did no damage and eventually swam off."

This was the first time the team had dived in tropical waters... and invariably they caught their dinners — crayfish and fish — while in the water.

Lt. Rea said the fish took little





Our picture in Page One shows a column of water more than 100 feet high caused by one of the under-water explosions which have been carried out this week by a team of naval divers at the entrance to Kilindini. The purpose of the blasting was to remove war-

time ammunition from the seabed. The pictures on this page show the men who have been doing the work and some of the things they found 50 feet below the surface of the water. Top left can be seen some of the fish stunned by the explosions and captured

when they floated to the surface, and on the right are some of the crayfish the divers collected on the ocean floor. In the centre are some of the explosives recovered by the team — 4.5 and 3.5 shells, .404 and 20 mm ammunition. Above are members of the team — Ldg.

Seaman C. Jones, Petty Officer R. Hartshorn, Petty Officer W. Wyvel, Lt. J. Rea and Ldg. Seaman D. J. Lott. The picture on the right shows Mr. P. A. Williams, the E.A.R.H. Shore Bo'sun and Port Diver who helped the team carry out its operation successfully.



A column of water more than 100ft. high rises as some of the wartime ammunition is blasted from the sea bed off Mombasa.

BOMBS OFF MOMBASA CLEARED

Navy divers prefer to talk of fish

A ROYAL NAVY bomb disposal team has now completed clearing a small arsenal of wartime explosives from the sea bed at the entrance to Kilindini harbour.

The Fleet Clearance Diving Team, Malta, to give the group its official title, is commanded by Lt. Jack Rea M.B.E., R.N.

They were called to Mombasa after a diver discovered the ammunition.

The team made a sweep of the channel and in the words of Lt. Rea, "discovered quite a lot of explosives".

Shells dumped

The ammunition was located at a depth of 50ft. and a pile was made on the seabed.

It was blown up except for shells, which were taken further out to sea and dumped. Modest and unassuming, Lt. Rea talked little about the team's dangerous mission, but was full of wonder at the fish life which they saw in the depths.

"The fish were of most brilliant hues," he said. "Each day was a contrast.

The team encountered sharks, barracuda and many other varieties of fish but, apart from one incident, they were not molested.

Lt. Rea recalled that while he and another member of the

team were on the seabed, they disturbed a huge eel lying underneath a box of ammunition.

"The eel swam away. Then it decided to turn back and it came for us, baring its teeth. It did no damage and eventually swam off."

This was the first time the team had dived in tropical waters and invariably they caught their dinners — crayfish and other fish.

Lt. Rea said the fish took little or no notice of the divers at work on the seabed. They had to be pushed out of the way so that work could proceed.

"One hears the saying that where there are porpoise, there are no sharks, but this is quite untrue. We saw sharks mingling with porpoise," he observed.