

COPY OF LETTER FROM N.O.I.C. ORTONA to N.O.I.C. BARI

16th June, 1944

On 13th June. H.D.M.L. 1046, which arrived here shortly after mid-day. was called out at approx. 1400 to recover a rubber dinghy belonging to the U.S.A.A.F. This was done and while the H.D.M.L. was at sea another call came from the U.S.A.A.F. for HSL 2358 to proceed North of PESCARA to a position 15 miles behind enemy lines. The HSL set off but developed engine trouble and had to return. H.D.M.L. 1046 was then asked to go and without returning to harbour set off. They were instrumental in saving the lives of 10 members of the U.S.A.A.F. the crew of a Liberator which had been forced down into the sea. This heroic deed was performed at great risk as the M.L. was close inshore within range of the enemy's guns. We wish to record our appreciation of the service done by the ship as we had no other craft available here, and the O.C. U.S.A.A.F. tenders his heartfelt thanks and commends the crew of the H.D.M.L. for decorations. Two of the crew were seriously injured but are now progressing favourably.

Signed: H. Martin, Lieut. R.N.R.

\* N.O.I.C. ORTONA

*N.O.I.C.*

\* *Naval Officer in Command.*

*H.D.M.L.*

\* *Harbour Defence Motor Launch.*

*H.S.L.*

\* *Harbour Defence Motor Launch.*