



Bomb at Montebello Vicentino, 8th Paratrooper Engineers Regiment Folgore intervenes

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The disposal of an explosive device dating back to the **Second World War** was successfully completed yesterday. It was discovered on March 17th inside a **high-speed rail construction site in Montebello Vicentino**. The 500-pound (over 225kg) aerial bomb, a potentially still lethal war remnant, was first defused on-site and then safely transported to a quarry in the **municipality of Alonte (VI)**, where it was detonated in a controlled manner.

The delicate operation was carried out by the bomb disposal experts of the **8th Paratrooper Engineers Regiment "Folgore"** based in Legnago (VR), a highly specialized unit of the Italian Army in explosive ordnance disposal operations, even in high-risk scenarios.

A not isolated discovery

The discovery of the **aerial bomb** occurred in an area already affected by previous **war clearance activities**. In recent months, in fact, the **Army specialists** had operated several times in the same area, characterized by intense **infrastructural activity** for the construction of the new **high-speed railway line (TAV)**. The frequency of discoveries confirms how the **Italian subsoil**, especially in areas of **historic bombings**, still holds numerous **unexploded ordnances** dating back to the **Second World War**.

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A moment of the briefing before the delicate operation.

The initial assessment and securing

After the **discovery on March 17th**, the **bomb disposal experts of the 8th Paratrooper Engineers Regiment “Folgore”** promptly arrived at the **high-speed rail construction site** to conduct an initial **technical assessment**. The analysis focused on the **condition of the device**, the type of bomb, and the presence of **active triggering systems**. Given the **danger of the device** and its proximity to **strategic road infrastructures**, the construction of a **containment structure** was immediately ordered, designed to **minimize damage** in case of **accidental explosion** and reduce the **evacuation radius**.

This measure also allowed for limiting the impact on **civil activities** and **traffic**, enabling a reduction of the evacuation radius, although it was necessary to order a **temporary suspension of circulation** along a section of the **A4 Brescia-Padova highway**.

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Phase of transporting the device.

Coordination between institutions

The entire operation was managed with careful coordination between various institutions. The **Prefecture of Vicenza**, in synergy with the **Comando Forze Operative Nord** of Padua, led the operations on the ground, ensuring compliance with safety protocols and guaranteeing maximum transparency towards the population.

Alongside the Army soldiers, the **Police Headquarters of Vicenza**, the **Fire Brigade**, the **Italian Red Cross**, and the **emergency medical personnel** operated with professionalism and dedication, ready to intervene at every stage of the operation.

Once the defusing was completed, the activation systems were separated from the bomb body, rendering it harmless. The device was then loaded onto a specially equipped military vehicle and **transported to the quarry in Alonte**, where it was finally neutralized with a controlled detonation, without causing damage or disturbance to the local population.

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Loading the device onto the military vehicle for transport to the quarry in Alonte.

A daily commitment in service of the Nation

The intervention at Montebello Vicentino is just one of the numerous operations that the Engineers Corps carries out every year across the national territory. In the **first three months of 2025** alone, the **8th Regiment completed about 100 clearance operations**, destroying **over 200 war devices** of various types and calibers: aerial bombs, artillery shells, mines, grenades, and other explosive remnants.

Numbers that highlight the importance of a competence that, even eighty years after the end of the conflict, continues to be crucial for public safety and the development of the country's infrastructure.

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Setting up the explosive charge for detonation.

The role of the 8th Regiment “Folgore”

The **8th Paratrooper Engineers Regiment “Folgore”** represents one of the **excellences of the Italian Army**. Composed of **highly trained personnel** and equipped with **cutting-edge technology**, the Regiment is capable of operating in **complex scenarios**, both **nationally** and in **international missions**, with tasks ranging from **war clearance** to **combat support**, and including **humanitarian operations** and **civil protection**.

The **activity of explosive ordnance disposal** not only concerns the past but is also an **investment in future safety**. Every **defused bomb**, every **operation completed without incidents**, is a step forward towards a **safer territory for all**.

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Verification and preparation of the tools for securing the device.