

SELF-PROTECTION BY SHIPS

PARAVANES VS. MOORED MINES

A measure of self-protection for ships against moored mines may be given by streaming paravanes from the bow of the vessel.

A paravane is launched at one end of a wire cable, the other end of which is fixed aboard ship. When the vessel picks up speed, the paravane takes up a predetermined depth and streams out to the side, thereby stretching the cable taut. The bow wave of a moving ship usually deflects the moored mine away from the bow. Normally, the mine would swing back in against the ship's side, but with a pair of paravanes streamed, the mine is caught by the cable and dragged along it to the paravane.

At the paravane the mine mooring is severed by a cutter. The picture to the left is of a United States paravane, and clearly shows the cutter on top of the float. The sketch to the right illustrates the progressive steps in the catching of a mine by a bow paravane.

