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REGULATIONS FOR ARMY ORDNANCE SERVICES

PART II

PAMPHLET No. 4

METHODS TO BE EMPLOYED FOR THE DESTRUCTION, UNDER VARIOUS CONDITIONS, OF FILLED SHELL, BOMBS, ETC.

SECTION I

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The term "**projectiles**," as used in this pamphlet, covers shell, bombs and grenades.

2. The destruction of filled projectiles should be carried out under the supervision of the I.O.O., except that in the case of blind projectiles found on Artillery and Tank Corps ranges the destruction will be carried out by the gunnery staff under the orders of the commandant. In the infantry the destruction of blind projectiles will be carried out by the weapon training staff under the orders of the C.O. In all cases the destruction will be carried out under the supervision of an officer.

3. The number of men employed should be as few as possible, consistent with the extent and degree of urgency of the operations.

4. Whenever possible, having due regard to safety in handling, blind or unserviceable projectiles may be dumped in deep water where they cannot be recovered. Detonators and other light stores which might, if loose, be eventually washed ashore must be packed in boxes weighted with sand. In such cases the local Naval authorities should always be consulted. **Phosphorus-filled ammunition may only be disposed of in this way**, provided the precautions laid down in R.A.O.C., Part II, Pamphlet No. 1, 1933, para. 75 (2), are observed.

5. When filled projectiles are ordered to be destroyed by dropping in deep water, their plugs should be loosened or their fuzes or pistols replaced by plugs in the laboratory, before

they are taken out to be thrown overboard, the plugs being removed just before the projectiles are thrown into the water. If there is any difficulty in loosening or removing the plug or fuze, force should not be used, but the projectile should be lowered overboard with the plug or fuze in position.

6. Projectiles with fixed fuzes should be lowered in a sling, or other suitable contrivance, to the surface of the water and then released. They must not be dropped directly from the deck into the water, as this might cause the fuze to function.

7. When projectiles are to be destroyed and no suitable cover is available, the following are the minimum distances from the point of burst within which no person should be permitted to approach :—

Shrapnel	18-pr. and under	300 yds.	} Applicable also to bombs of various natures containing similar weights of explosive.
Shrapnel	above 18-pr.	500 yds.	
Projectiles, filled with gunpowder, except shrapnel shell	under 4·7-in.	500 yds.	
	4·7-in. and above	800 yds.	
Projectiles filled with H.E.	4-in. and under	1,200 yds.	
" "	4·5-in. to 60-pr.	1,500 yds.	
" "	6-in.	1,800 yds.	} 300 yds. per 1 in. of calibre
" "	above 6-in.		

Where these distances are not practicable, earthworks of suitable height should be thrown up round the projectile to give corresponding protection to the surrounding terrain, and a trench, dug-out or splinter-proof cover arranged for the firing party if no adequate local protection is available.

SECTION II

BLIND PROJECTILES

A. GENERAL

8. Whilst the instructions regarding the handling or movement of blind projectiles must be rigidly observed, the following information, if it can be obtained without contravening these instructions, should be furnished in all cases :—

- (a) *Projectile*.—Calibre, Mark, method of filling, manufacturer and date of manufacture. General condition of driving band and body with special reference to groove marking.

- (b) *Fuze*.—Nature, Mark, Lot number, date of filling and filler. General condition of fuze as far as it can be ascertained, *e.g.*, with No. 106 type, tape still in position, etc.

8A. Blind projectiles should be treated with caution ; it must be assumed that the fuze is armed.

9. Whenever possible, such projectiles should be destroyed *in situ*. If a projectile is in such a position (*e.g.* in a trench or shell-hole) that the fragments from its explosion are not likely to be projected to a great distance, it should be destroyed without handling or moving, sandbags filled with sand, or earth free from large stones, being placed upon it in such a position as to limit, as far as possible, the projection of fragments. On level or open ground, the projectile to be destroyed will be entrenched by throwing up the adjacent earth, sand, etc., on all sides of it to a suitable height. It may, however, be necessary to move the projectile to a trench or pit in the ground specially prepared beforehand and not less than 6 ft. deep. The risk of moving a fuzed projectile a distance may, under certain conditions, be avoided by digging the pit close to it and gently lowering it by means of ropes manipulated from a distance ; but this may only be done when adequate protection can be provided to the operators whilst the lowering is in progress.

10. When it is impossible to destroy blind projectiles *in situ*, they should be carried on their sides by hand or on some form of improvised stretcher ; they should not be conveyed in wheeled vehicles except in the case of blind projectiles in populated areas, for which *see* para. 11.

B. IN POPULATED AREAS

11. The following precautions will be observed by all persons concerned in the recovery, handling and transport of blind projectiles in populated areas, should occasion for such recovery, etc., arise :—

- (a) Men employed in excavating to recover a blind projectile should be warned to work carefully, taking every caution to prevent the pick-axe or other tool used from impinging on the projectile.
- (b) Projectiles should be handled carefully from the time they are first disclosed until loaded into the vehicle in which they are to be transported. They should be kept in a horizontal position throughout (*i.e.* on their sides), and no attempt should be made to remove or otherwise disturb or handle the fuze.

- (c) Projectiles should be loaded carefully for transport on their sides, spaced three feet apart from each other in every direction. They should be secured from movement by a packing of sandbags underneath and between them. If sandbags are not available, some other form of suitable packing should be arranged, which will tend to deaden vibration and prevent movement.
- (d) Recovered projectiles will on no account be sent by rail, but should be loaded on a vehicle with rubber-tired wheels and good springs, which should be taken to its destination by a route on which the least traffic is likely to be encountered.

12. If destruction by dropping in deep water is practicable, the recovered projectiles should be placed on a barge and taken out to sea in suitable weather for dumping overboard under the conditions detailed in paras. 5 and 6. Otherwise, arrangements must be made for their destruction by means of guncotton in a suitable locality, the procedure laid down in paras. 13 and 14 being followed, as applicable.

SECTION III

METHODS OF DESTRUCTION

A. BLIND PROJECTILES

13.—(1) Plugs or fuzes should not be removed or tampered with in any way.

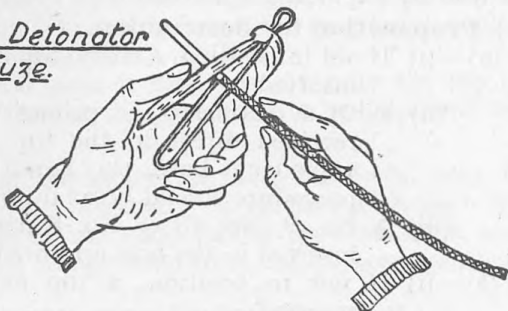
(2) **Electrically.***

- (a) The exploder, dynamo box, should be locked and the key retained in the possession of the I.O.O.
- (b) Guncotton, wet slabs, 15 oz. or 1 lb. (one for 4·5-in. and below, two or more for 4·7-in. and above), should be placed near the shoulder of the projectile. The slabs should make contact with each other.
- (c) A rectified guncotton primer should then be inserted in each slab, leaving the rectifier in the primer.

* As the exploder, dynamo, Mk. V or V*, cannot be relied on to operate a service detonator or fuze if the length of cable, E.1, Mk. II, between it and the exploder exceeds 2,760 yards, the largest projectiles *filled* H.E. that may be destroyed in this way is 9·2-in., unless adequate cover is available (*see* para. 7).

- (d) Main cables should be made fast about 4 ft. from their ends.
 - (e) Cables should be connected to a No. 9 or No. 13 detonator.
 - (f) The rectifier should be removed and the detonator inserted in the primer.
 - (g) Sandbags filled with sand, or with earth free from large stones, should be placed over the charge (*see* App. II), care being taken not to disarrange the cables or detonator.
 - (h) All persons should be retired under cover or to a safe distance.
 - (j) The exploder box should be unlocked by the I.O.O. and cables connected.
 - (k) After the exploder dynamo has been operated, the cables should immediately be disconnected and the box relocked.
- (3) **With safety fuze and No. 8 detonator.**
- (a) Guncotton, wet slabs, 15 oz. or 1 lb. (one for 4.5-in. and below, two or more for 4.7-in. and above), should be placed near the fuze-hole and in contact with the shoulder of the projectile. The slabs should make contact with one another.
 - (b) A rectified guncotton primer should be inserted in each slab, leaving the rectifier in the primer.
 - (c) The end of a freshly cut length of safety fuze No. 11 should be inserted into the detonator and secured by carefully crimping the end of the detonator tube, close to the mouth, with a jack knife in the manner shown in the following sketch.

Connecting Detonator
to Safety Fuze.



Care must be taken to avoid twisting the end of the fuze against the face of the detonator filling. A sharp knife must be used to cut the fuze; otherwise the waterproofing may be carried across the

powder train. The end entering the detonator must be cut straight across the fuze, the other end obliquely. A minimum length of 2 ft. of fuze will always be used. The portion of the fuze removed should be long enough to burn as a test piece before the remainder is inserted into the detonator. (Safety fuze burns at the rate of 2 ft. a minute approximately.)

- (d) The rectifier should be removed and the detonator inserted.
- (e) Sandbags filled with sand, or with earth free from large stones, should be placed over the charge (*see* App. II), care being taken not to disarrange the fuze or detonator.
- (f) All persons should be retired under cover or to a safe distance.
- (g) The safety fuze should be ignited with a Match, fuzee, safety.

B. UNSERVICEABLE PROJECTILES

14.—(1) Unserviceable projectiles with fixed fuzes and/or fixed gaines should be destroyed as for blind shell (*see* para. 13).

(2) A guncotton slab will often cut a projectile into two or more pieces or even only bend or dent it without detonating the filling. Where possible, therefore, the internal exploder system present in unserviceable projectiles should be utilized, the fuze and gaine, if present, being removed.

(3) The general precautions and sequence of operations laid down in para. 13 should be followed where applicable. Mortar bombs that are not fitted with detonators may be destroyed by exploding a detonator in the central tube.

(4) Preparation for destruction.

- (a)—(i) If not in position, a trotyl top exploder should be inserted.
- (ii) With a rectifier, G.C. primer, a hole should be rectified direct in the top exploder. If the exploder is hard, this is not possible, and the procedure should be as in (b) below.
- (iii) A No. 9, No. 13 or No. 8 detonator should be inserted in the hole and fired as in para. 13.
- (b)—(i) If not in position, a top exploder should be inserted.
- (ii) A guncotton dry primer should be fixed with clay or luting in the nose. (*It is important that the base of the primer should be in contact with the top of the exploder.*)

- (iii) A No. 9, No. 13 or No. 8 detonator should be inserted in the primer and fired as in para. 13.

C. LARGE QUANTITIES OF PROJECTILES

15.—(1) Observation of cases of accidental explosion, etc., of large quantities of filled H.E. projectiles and actual operations carried out in the destruction of unserviceable or obsolete stocks lead to the conclusion that no greater risk need be involved in detonating H.E. shell in bulk than when a single filled shell or bomb of large calibre is detonated. In fact, the demolition of a number of filled H.E. projectiles (say 1 to 2 tons), carefully carried out in one operation, may result in a more perfect detonation of the whole, so that the presence of flying fragments of any considerable size would be negligible. The propagation of earth and air waves, however, makes it essential that the destruction of such projectiles in bulk should only be carried out in localities distant 2 miles from the nearest buildings. In still larger open spaces quantities up to 100 tons have been successfully detonated.

(2) The general procedure to be followed is the same as that laid down in paras. 13 and 14, but stores with different natures of filling will be destroyed separately, *e.g.* H.E. and smoke projectiles will not be destroyed together. Projectiles of different calibres, but the same nature of filling, may, however, be destroyed together.

(3) A suitable position would be where a depression in the ground already exists. A trench should be dug in the lowest part to a depth of not less than 6 ft., in which the projectiles to be destroyed should be arranged in layers, each layer consisting of two rows, with their fuze-holes pointing inward, each projectile in contact with its neighbour. Guncotton slabs should be placed in a line in between the fuze-holes, each slab in contact with its neighbour.

If more than one layer is made use of, only the top layer need be prepared to take the guncotton to be employed as the destroying agent.

(4) In arranging the guncotton and sandbags, care must be taken to keep the projectiles in contact with each other, and to prevent earth and sand falling between them and so deadening the blow transmitted from the adjacent projectiles.

D. SMOKE PROJECTILES (W.P.)

16.—(1) Special precautions.

- (a) Ground used for the destruction of a projectile containing white phosphorus will be considered as a

contaminated area within a radius of not less than 10 yds. from the projectile when a trench is used (*see* (2) (a), below). It will not be used for the destruction of any other explosives or projectiles.

- (b) Care will be taken to prevent operators carrying phosphorus on their boots to other grounds or into buildings.
- (c) All tools, shovels, etc., used on the ground and buckets or tanks used in conveying leaky projectiles will be inspected after use by the I.O.O. and certified by him "Free from phosphorus" before being returned to store.
- (d) Phosphorus may cause serious burns if brought into contact with the skin. Should such an accident occur, the affected part should receive a first aid dressing with a bandage soaked in clean water, **NOT OIL**, and applied so as to exclude air. Early medical attention is desirable.
- (e) A plentiful supply of water should be available to cope with a possible spontaneous ignition.

(2) Destruction.

- (a) The destruction of smoke projectiles is best carried out in shallow trenches, *i.e.* of "U" section, about 2 ft. deep, into which air can freely enter. A layer of shavings or similar material laid in the trench will absorb phosphorus which might otherwise escape into the ground; this must all be burnt afterwards and the ground in and round the trenches must be stirred and exposed. Any phosphorus left lying dormant might inflame long afterwards.
- (b) The best method of destruction is by means of a G.C. dry primer inserted into the fuze-hole (*see* para. 14 (4) (b)). All personnel should be retired under cover to windward (200-300 yds. is sufficient distance), but the I.O.O. should remain to insert a No. 8 detonator, with 2 ft. of safety fuze, in the primer. He should then ignite the safety fuze and join the others, under cover.
- (c) In the case of blinds or projectiles with fixed fuzes, destruction will be effected as laid down in para. 13.
- (d) When burnt out, the remains of the projectiles should be turned over by one operative using a long iron rod. The fragments should be finally gathered together (not handled) and roasted on a wood fire until all traces of phosphorus are removed.

E. CLEARING THE GROUND AFTER DESTRUCTION

17. After the destruction of filled projectiles by means of guncotton has been carried out in accordance with the instructions laid down above, the pit or trench and the ground in the vicinity must be carefully searched to ascertain whether any explosives, fragments of shell, etc., containing explosives or unfired fuzes remain. Any such explosives, etc., found will, if practicable, be destroyed *in situ*, the instructions laid down in pamphlets R.A.O.S., Part II, being followed as they are applicable. If destruction *in situ* is impracticable, the explosives, etc., will be carefully collected and conveyed to a suitable site for destruction, all due precautions being strictly observed, particularly in the case of unexploded fuzes or gaines (either loose or in fragments of shell, etc.) which may be in a dangerous condition.

SECTION IV

FILLED STORES WHOSE DESTRUCTION IS DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE

18. The following is a list of other stores whose disposal and destruction is dealt with elsewhere :—

Unserviceable and doubtful cordite	...	...	R.A.O.S., Part II, Pamphlet No. 7.
Unserviceable obsolete	or	{ Pyrotechnic stores, in- cluding signal cart- ridges, signal grenades, etc.	{ R.A.O.S., Part II, Pamphlet No. 12.
Unserviceable obsolete	or	{ Tubes Primers Gaines Fuzes Detonators	{ R.A.O.S., Part II, Pamphlet No. 5.
Wetted gunowder	...	...	...
Unserviceable gunpowder	...	...	...
Waste gunpowder	...	...	...
Tonite	...	...	...
H.E. of various kinds	...	...	...
Misfired 1-in. aiming rifle and gun ammunition including tubes and primers	...	...	{ Equipment Regula- tions, Part I and Part 3, Section IX.
Condemned S.A.A.	...	...	{ R.A.O.S., Part II, Pamphlet No. 6.
Fuzes 106 type (uncapped or with broken sealing wires)	...	...	{ Appendix I.
Instructions for the disposal of war trophies and explosive carriers, other than service stores	...	...	{ Appendix III.

APPENDIX I

(Referred to in para. 18)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEALING WITH FUZES, NO. 106 TYPE, WHICH HAVE BECOME UNCAPPED OR HAVE THE WIRE SEAL BROKEN

Fuzes, percussion, Nos. 106, 106E, 115 and 115E, defective as above, which are withdrawn from use will be dealt with as follows :—

(1) Each fuze will be examined *in situ*, to ascertain if the brass tape under the hammer head is present and correct, or otherwise. If correct, the safety cap should be replaced and secured in position by means of a becket, as shown in **Fig. 1**, and the fuze returned to the C.O.O., Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, for special examination and resealing.

(2) If the brass tape or the half-collars under the hammer head are found to be deficient, or if the brass tape is so assembled or damaged that the safety cap cannot be easily replaced, the fuze will be regarded as dangerous and destroyed under expert supervision, as follows :—

- (a) The fuze should be handled with great care and carried in a horizontal position to a suitable site for the destruction to be carried out.
- (b) Place the fuze at the bottom of a small trench about 1 ft. deep. Rectify a 1-oz. guncotton primer and place it against the base of the fuze. Insert a No. 8 detonator, with at least 18 in. of safety fuze attached, into the guncotton primer. Place a sandbag filled with sand, or with loose earth free from stones, over the fuze. The operator in charge having seen that every one is clear or under cover, will then ignite the safety fuze and retire under cover.
- (c) Fuzes which are in the above condition (*i.e.* unsafe) in shell, and which can be made safe as described below, will be removed from the shell under precautions, and treated as at (a) and (b)—
 - (i) Provided the hammer is supported by the half-collars, a fuze with brass tape and half-collars in position, but badly assembled or damaged, may be regarded as safe for removal.
 - (ii) If the tape and half-collars are deficient and the hammer is in its original raised position, the

fuze should be made safe for removal by inserting a piece of wood (having a slot to take the hammer stem) under the hammer head, and securing it by a frapping of cord or tape round the stem, thus temporarily replacing the tape and collars and preventing any movement of the hammer.

- (d) Unsafe fuzes in shell which cannot be made safe (*i.e.* fuzes in which the tape and half-collars are deficient and the hammer is not in its original raised position) must be regarded as in a highly dangerous condition, due to the possibility of the hammer point having penetrated the detonator or the hammer point impinging on the detonator; hence no attempt in such cases should be made to move the hammer or to extract the fuze from the shell.

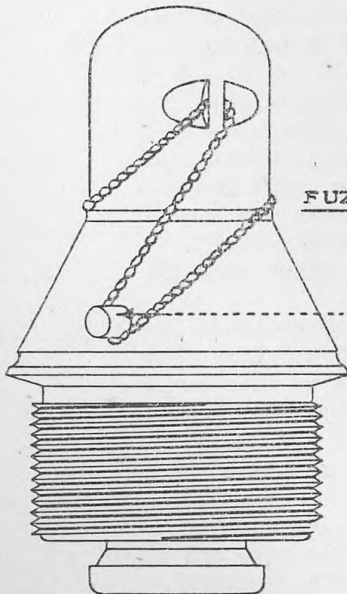
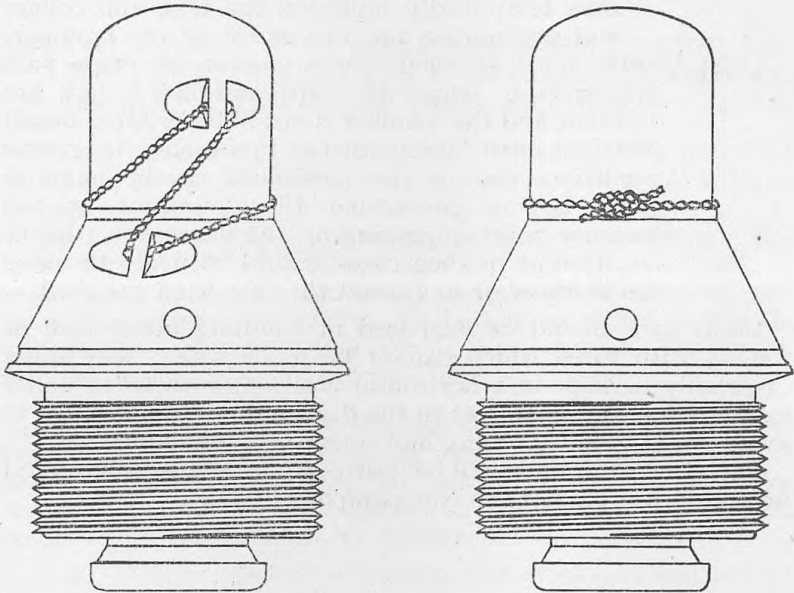
Great care should be exercised in handling fuzed shell or rounds with fuzes which cannot be made safe; they must invariably be kept in a horizontal position, both when under examination and in transit to the destruction ground, so as to avoid the possibility of any movement of the hammer.

Such shell or rounds will be destroyed as detailed for a blind projectile (*see* para. 13 in this pamphlet).

FUZE , PERCUSSION, WITH CAP, N°106.

METHOD OF SECURING CAP WITH CORD.

FUZES WITH EYE FORMED IN BODY.



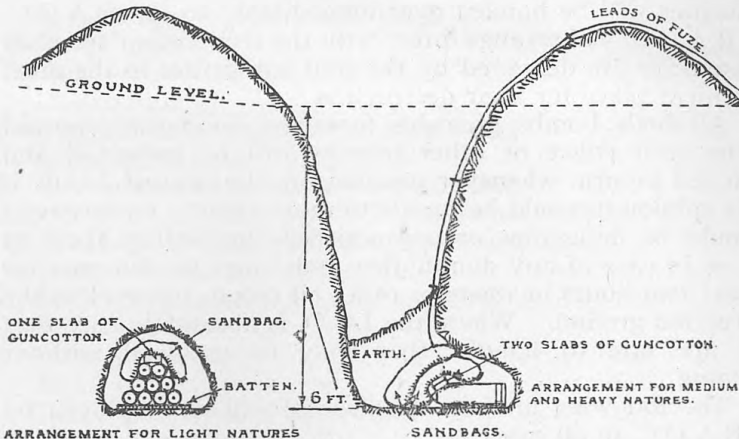
FUZES WITHOUT EYE IN BODY.

--- WOOD PLUG DRIVEN INTO TOMMY
HOLE.

FIG. 1.

APPENDIX II

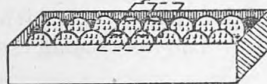
DIAGRAM OF TRENCH OR PIT FOR DESTROYING PROJECTILES



ARRANGEMENT FOR LIGHT NATURES
AND FOR PROJECTILES OF ALL NATURES
WHEN DESTRUCTION IS TO BE CARRIED
OUT AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 15.

OTHER SANDBAGS TO BE PLACED IN
FRONT OF SHELL.

POSITION FOR SLABS OF GUNCOTTON (SHOWN DOTTED).



GRENADES PREPARED FOR DESTRUCTION.

16 PACKED IN THEIR OWN BOX, THE
WOODEN PARTITIONS BEING TAKEN
OUT FIRST. THE FOUR IN THE
MIDDLE SHOULD BE BASE UPWARDS
WITH PLUGS TAKEN OUT, AND THE
GUNCOTTON SLABS SHOULD BE
PLACED OVER THESE.

APPENDIX III

(Referred to in para. 18)

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WAR
TROPHIES AND EXPLOSIVE CARRIERS,
OTHER THAN SERVICE STORES.**

1. All ammunition, filled or inert (except shells, bombs, grenades, fuzes and detonators), or any explosive carrier, surrendered by the civil police or other persons to the military authorities will be handed over immediately to the R.A.O.C. The R.A.O.C. will arrange direct with the civil authorities that such articles are delivered by the civil authorities to the most convenient place for their destruction.

2. All shells, bombs, grenades, fuzes and detonators reported by the civil police or other persons will be inspected and destroyed in situ, whenever possible, by the nearest I.O.O. if in his opinion it would be unsafe to move them. If, however, it would be dangerous or impracticable to destroy them in situ, or in case of any doubt, they must first be drowned for at least two hours in waste or other oil before removal to the destruction ground. Where the I.O.O. is absolutely sure that they are safe to handle, they may be removed without drowning.

3. The following methods of disposal will be employed by the R.A.O.C. in all cases :—

(a) *No attempt will be made either to break them down or partially to dismantle them.*

(b) If facilities are available, they will be disposed of by dumping in deep water. Should this not be practicable, they will be destroyed with adequate safety precautions under the personal supervision of an I.O.O.

(c) When destruction has to be undertaken, the method to be employed will be left to the discretion of the I.O.O., who will exercise the utmost care in handling the material and will be responsible for the personnel which he employs and the way in which they carry out the work.

4. In the event of any unforeseen difficulty arising, a report on the situation will be made to the Chief Inspector of Armaments, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and to command headquarters. The article or articles involved will be placed in safe custody pending further instructions.

5. Arms or weapons surrendered to the R.A.O.C. by the civil police will be broken down and brought to produce, unless there is any suspicion that to do so would be dangerous, in which case they will be dealt with in accordance with para. 3 above.

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