

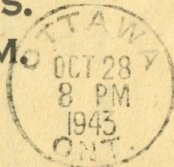
*If not delivered in five days return to
WARTIME BUREAU OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL - OTTAWA.*

M. F. B. 1483

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H.Q. 1772-39-1996

O. H. M. S.
S. DE S. M.



A. MacDonalda
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Mr. James W. MacDonald,
R.R. #3,
SARNIA, Ont.

"Don't waste words - Don't waste paper"
"Economisez les mots et le papier"

RETAIN THE ENVELOPE IN WHICH THIS LETTER WAS DELIVERED

To the Technical Personnel of Canada

GENTLEMEN:—

The Army Technical Development Board (Department of National Defence, Ottawa) has a problem of great importance which it wishes to place before all technically-trained personnel in Canada. Upon the solution of this problem depend the lives of thousands of men in the Allied forces and the time of the termination of the war itself. The technical societies of Canada have been asked by the Army Technical Development Board to assist in the search for solutions. Therefore this letter is being circulated by a Joint Central Committee which represents the societies whose names appear at its conclusion.

The war must be fought on the territory of the enemy for the Allies to win. The most serious obstacle to invading that territory is the land mine. The problem before us is to find better methods of detecting and disposing of these obstacles. New methods will have to be speedy and safe, or at least speedier and safer than present methods, if they are to be accepted.

Shortly, a meeting will be held in your locality under the direction of a joint local committee, at which by means of a lecture with slides and moving pictures, you will be informed in detail of the nature of land mines and of methods of detection and disposal already tried and adopted or discarded. This letter is an advance notice. In the meantime, you are asked to consider the problem, and as an aid certain general information is supplied with this letter.

If you cannot attend the meeting write to the secretary of the central committee whose address appears below and a printed copy of the lecture will be mailed to you. You may address your further inquiries to the secretary or to the local chairman for your region, whose name and address will be announced at the meeting.

Bring with you to the meeting the envelope in which this circular arrived, noting on it any change of address. The meeting is not open to the public, but your envelope will serve as identification and will assure you of admission.

It is permissible to discuss this matter with others who may be of some assistance, but you are requested not to circulate it heedlessly or to the general public. There will be no mention of it in the press.

THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER. Do not be casual about it. The lives of some of your relatives and friends may depend upon the effort that you exert. Nothing less than your best will be good enough.

Submitted on behalf of:—

THE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE OF CANADA

THE DOMINION COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGY

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY

THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (Members in Canada)

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (Members in Canada)

L. AUSTIN WRIGHT,
Secretary, Joint Central Committee,
2050 Mansfield St.,
Montreal, Que.

Circular Letter No. 1

**The meeting for your area takes place at 8.00 p.m.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, in the
AUDITORIUM, SARNIA COLLEGIATE &
TECHNICAL SCHOOL, SARNIA, ONT.**

P.T.O.

NOTE: All matters relating to this topic are to be treated as CONFIDENTIAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

MINES

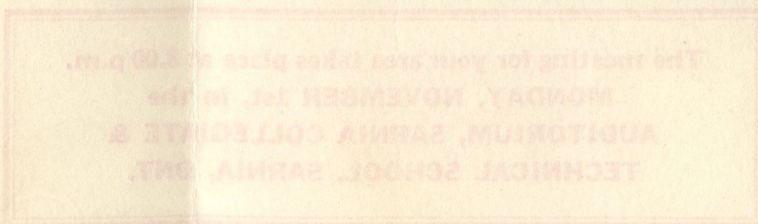
- 1) Mines are classified as (a) Anti-Personnel
(b) Anti-Tank
- 2) They may be detonated by pressure from the top (anti-tank) and/or a pull from the side or bottom (anti-personnel).
- 3) They may be laid on the surface or at depths as low as twenty-four (24) inches.
- 4) The explosive is usually TNT in sufficient quantity to put out of action any vehicle made up to the present time.
- 5) Usually they are laid in quantities (fields) over a considerable area at strategic points such as narrow defiles, beaches.
- 6) The fields are always covered by machine and anti-tank guns, barbed wire and booby traps.

DETECTION METHODS ALREADY IN USE

- 1) Probing ground with sharp instrument.
- 2) Detectors employing vacuum tubes and balanced circuits.

DISPOSAL METHODS ALREADY IN USE

- 1) Removal by hand (slow and dangerous).
- 2) Exploding in place:
 - (a) With heavy roller in advance of a tank (not satisfactory because of excessive damage to equipment).
 - (b) Beating the ground in advance of tank (same as "A").
 - (c) Fire from aircraft or artillery (difficult to produce uniform or reliable pattern; uneconomical expenditure of ammunition).
- 3) Ploughing mines to the side (not practical in rocky soil or with deep mines).



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