

KOREAN WAR PROJECT

ENEMY BOX TYPE AND ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

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ENEMY BOX TYPE AND ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

The following report, together with attached sketches, prepared by the 1st Marine Division Engineer Battalion, presents a concise picture of the increased enemy mine and booby trapping activities encountered by Division units during recent weeks:

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1. Enemy Anti-Personnel Mine (See Sketch # 1 attached).

a. Twenty-three (23) AP mines, improvised by use of Soviet F-1 Defensive Hand Grenades, were found and removed by "C" Co, 1st Engr Bn on 22 and 23 March 51. There were several others in the vicinity which were exploded by troops walking over them before they were detected.

(1) Construction: The mine was made by pulling safety pin from hand grenade, then placing it, on side, in a small hole in the ground with handle top side. Earth was packed around sides of hand grenade and a small rock placed on top of safety lever to hold it in place. Any movement of rock would release safety lever and cause detonation.

(2) Pattern: The mines were spaced over an area about fifty feet square and in no particular design except that they were in clusters of three or four placed as close together as three feet. The clusters were both in and around a footpath used by friendly troops. Detection was by visual inspection and mine detector.

(3) Camouflage: Spoil was removed from the location and rocks of the size required to hold down hand grenade safety lever were indigenous to the area; therefore, the camouflage was good.

(4) Remarks: There is a distinct click when the safety lever is released from this type of hand grenade and it is cautioned, that if this click be heard, all personnel in area hit the deck because fragments tend to deflect upward.

2. Box type mine with packaged charge (See Sketch # 2 attached).

a. Three (3) wood type box mines were found and removed by "C" Co, 1st Engr Bn on 21 March 1951.

(1) Pattern: The mines were buried in wheel track of 1½ lane road about 3 to 5 inches below the surface. There was an interval of about 50 feet between mines. They were not booby trapped.

(2) Camouflage: Spoil was replaced or removed so that mine would not be noticed. They were found by mine detectors and by probing.

(3) One of the mines had an explosive charge (probably TNT) consisting of two paper and tar covered packages each measuring about 10" x 5" x 3", separated by two wooden spacer blocks, a cap and booster charge as shown in attached sketch. There were no markings on the paper cover to indicate manufacturer but it is believed that it is of Russian origin. This is the first time that explosives packaged in this manner have been found by this unit.

3. Enemy Land Mines

a. Eleven (11) Box Type AT Mines were found and removed by "C" Co, 1st Engr Bn on 19 March 1951.

(1) Pattern: Mines were placed in dry stream bed as indicated in Sketch # 3. Location chosen was natural entrance or exit to flat area that could be used by tanks or trucks. Detection was by probing and mine detector.

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(2) Camouflage: Good. Mine was placed in sandy gravel river bank with about four inch cover and left as though the ground had not been disturbed.

(3) Remarks: One (1) M-6 mine was placed under each of two (2) of the box type mines to increase blasting effect and not as booby traps because the M-6 mines were not fused. However, two others had hand grenades beneath as booby traps, and one other consisted of two box mines placed one above the other to increase strength.

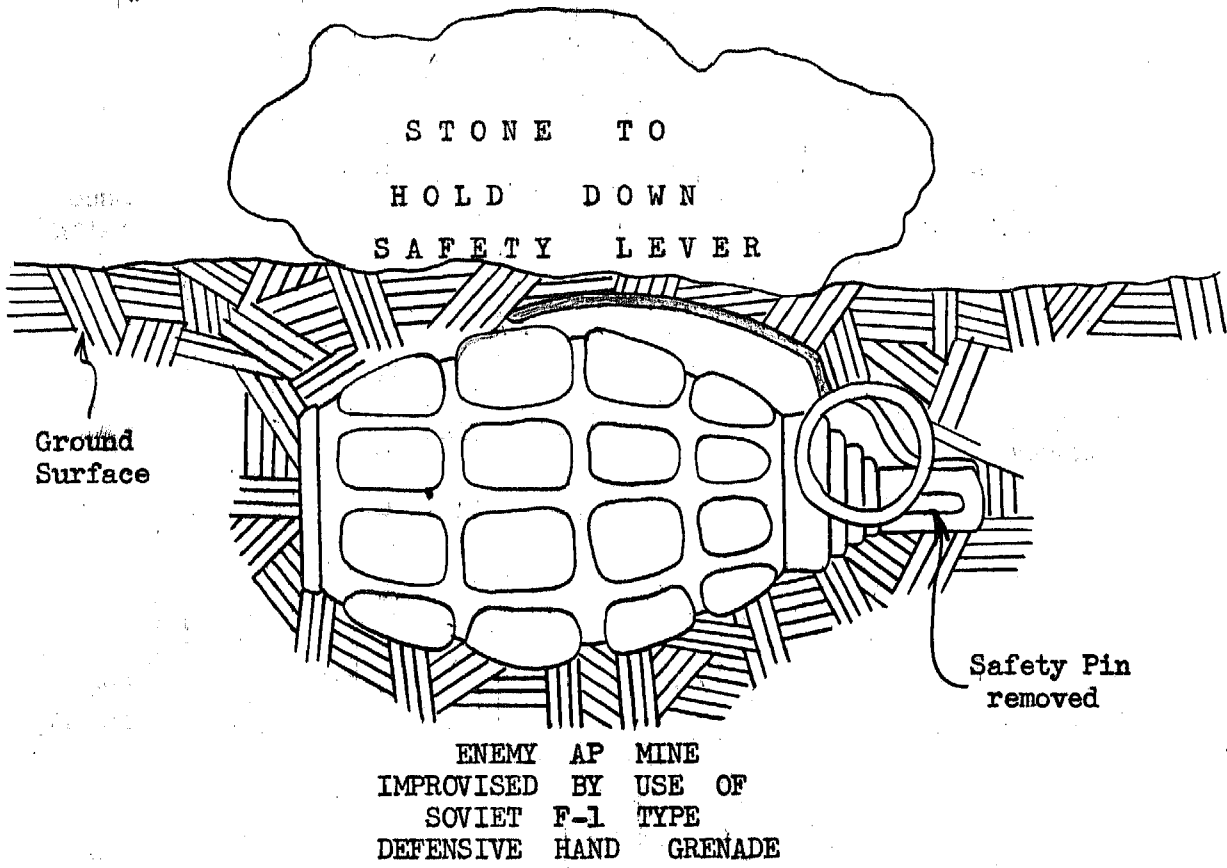
b. Eleven (11) 82mm mortar shells, placed in by-pass after by-pass was constructed, were found and removed by "C" Co, 1st Engr Bn, 18 March 1951.

(1) Pattern: The shells were placed in vehicle tracks with nose up and just flush with the surface.

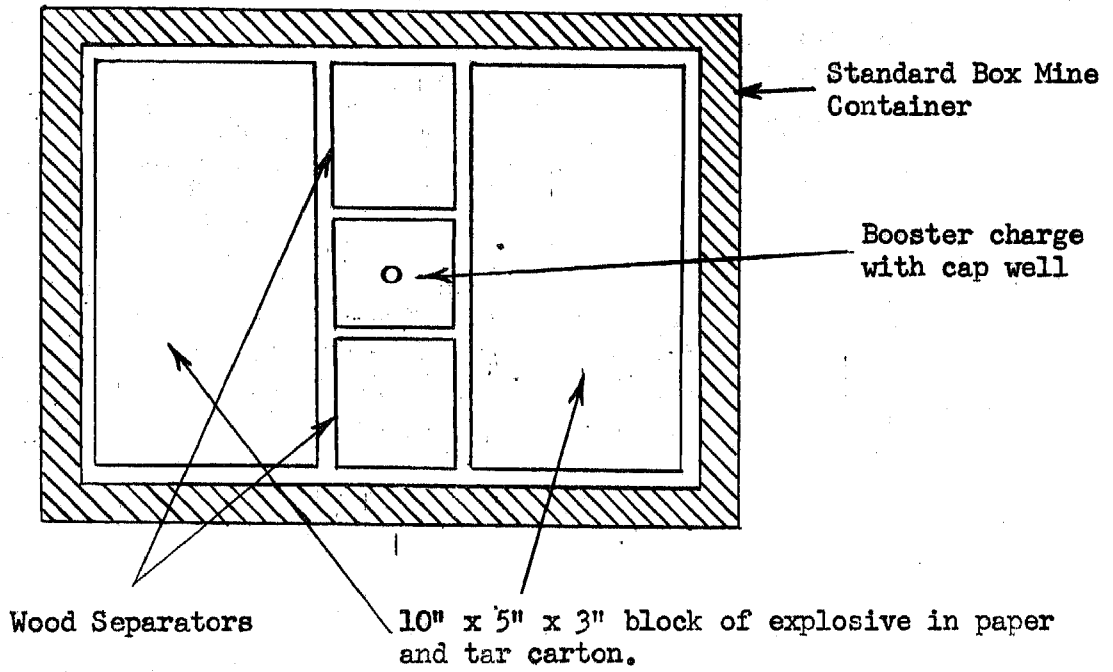
(2) Camouflage: Fair. Installation had been done in haste and detection was not difficult. Detection was by visual inspection and mine detector.

(3) Remarks: The enemy is mining areas used by vehicles, both inside and out of the travelled way. Also, he is infiltrating and placing improvised mines in roads and passes that have been previously swept for mines and used by vehicles.

SKETCH # 1

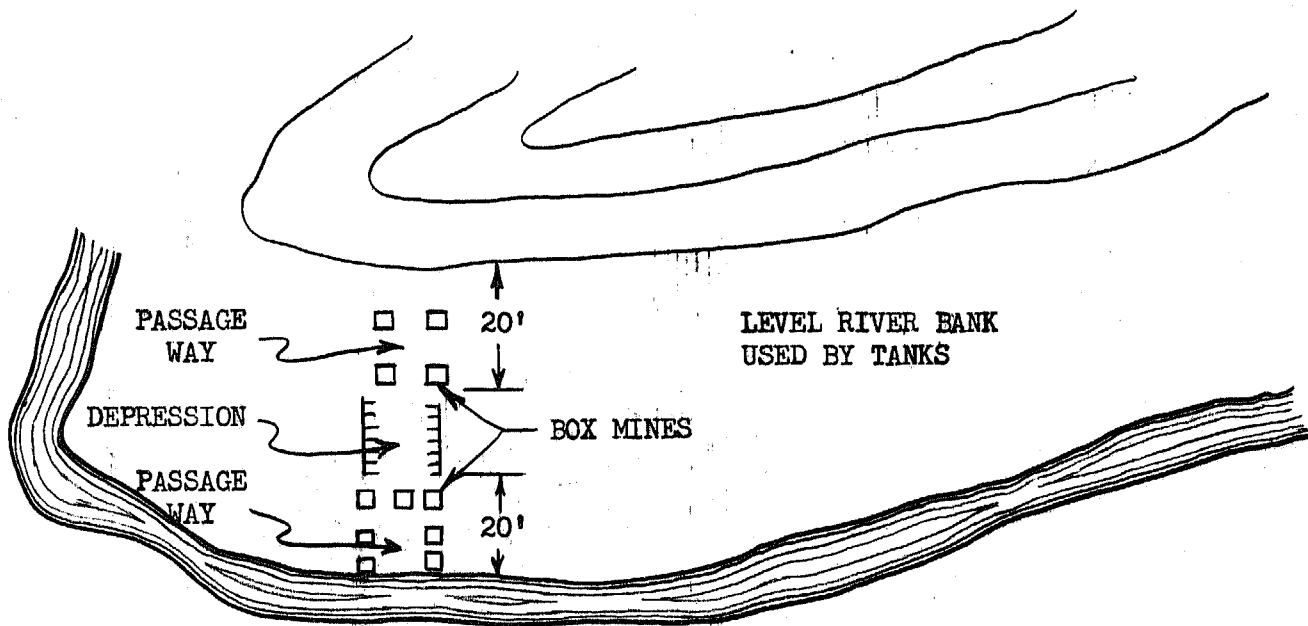


SKETCH # 2



MINE WITH TOP REMOVED

SKETCH # 3



SKETCH SHOWING ENEMY
MINEFIELD AT DS 118832

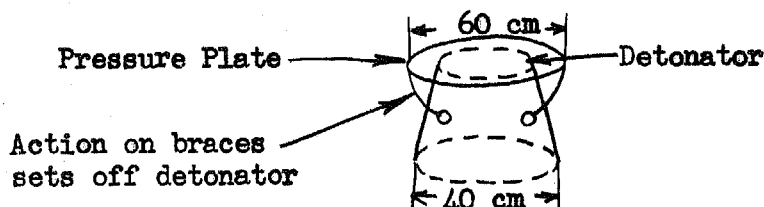
MINES WERE REMOVED.

The following information on enemy mines and mine tactics is quoted from IX Corps PIR No. 155:

"A PW, former captain in the 378th Regt, 126th Div, 42nd CCF Army, surrendered to the 8th Cav Regt, 1st Cav Division on 25 Feb. He made the following statements pertaining to enemy tactics in the use of mines.

'On roads about 4 meters wide, tank mines were planted along tire or tank ruts, and at 10 meters intervals. Mines were also slightly staggered at intervals.'

"PW stated the combination anti-personnel and anti-tank mines that his battalion received on 22 Feb 51, the largest he had seen, weighed about 12-13 pounds each. These mines were of Chinese manufacture.



"The weight of one person was sufficient to explode mine; however, these mines were primarily for use against tanks. The CCF also used Japanese model anti-tank mine. A pressure of 4,400 pounds was necessary to explode the mine. This disc shape mine was approximately 40cm in diameter and 4cm thick containing TNT, weight was 12-13 pounds. A perforated guard was attached over the detonator. In defense positions on level terrain, anti-personnel mines were planted 30m apart. A second line of mines was laid approximately 30m behind the first line. If a position was to be held over a long period of time, or if the enemy in the area was superior in numbers, 4 lines of mines were planted. If the defense position was temporary, or if the enemy was outnumbered, only 2 lines of mines were planted.

"Also in defense positions, anti-personnel mines were planted in locations where the enemy would most likely seek cover while attacking the positions. These were such locations as hills, gullies, knolls, and villages approaching the defense position. Mines were laid by the regimental engineer platoon, and no markings were used to indicate a mined area. In the event friendly forces found it necessary to cross over their own mine fields, the regimental engineer platoon was sent to clear the mines if time permitted, or to mark off safety routes through the mine fields, after which the friendly forces would pass through. Mines were carried at division level, since there was a lack of transportation at Regt, Bn and Co levels. Most of the mines were picked up by the CCF at the 38th parallel where the enemy had laid extensive mine fields. However, due to transportation difficulties, PW stated that any large amount of mines could not be obtained quickly, should the necessity arise. According to the PW, US mines have more explosive powder than those used by the CCF. PW stated he has never seen a box type mine."