



**EOD TEAM** — Sp. C5 James Walters (left) confers with Capt. Rick Hart, commander of the 48th Ordnance Detachment, on the type of artillery shell found in Kings Mountain.

## Live Bomb Found Here

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Gail McDaniel, a city employe, was one of the men assigned to construct the farmer's market stands at the Depot Center.

While digging the trench for a retaining wall about the market structure, McDaniel found an encrusted metal object which had been buried there for years. Obviously the object was a missile, a shell designed to be fired from a large gun. McDaniel took the shell home where he tried polishing the brass nose cone with a wire brush. He even tried to remove the nose cone, but without success.

The next day he took the shell to Chief of Police Earl Lloyd. "What happened to this thing? It looks like someone has beat on it with a hammer," the chief asked. McDaniel told the chief what he had done to it. Chief Lloyd felt the hair prickle on the back of his neck. "I'll check this out with the proper authorities," he told McDaniel, who then said he thought the shell would go nicely in the new city museum once it is opened at the Depot Center.

Chief Lloyd called Fort Jackson at Columbia, S. C. and spoke with Capt. Rick Hart, commander of the 48th Ordnance Detachment, describing the shell in detail.

"Where is the shell?" "Sitting on my desk," the chief answered. "Leave it there. Don't touch it," warned Capt. Hart. "I'll come to Kings Mountain as soon as I can to dispose of the shell." At 2 p. m. Wednesday an Army helicopter swooped over the trees and settled down on a baseball practice field behind Kings Mountain Senior High. Capt. Hart and Sp. C5 James Walters deplaned carrying a foot locker containing equipment.

At the chief's office Capt. Hart and Sp. C5 Walters examined the shell and announced that it was "a 75mm illumination shell. It is the type that is fired maybe 2,000 feet where the nose cone is ejected and explodes to light up a battlefield at night."

The shell was still intact and was live. Capt. Hart said it was "probably early World War Two issue." How it came to be buried near the old Southern Railroad depot in Kings Mountain is anybody's guess.

Chief Lloyd took Capt. Hart and Walters to the police firing range outside the city, where the explosive ordnance disposal team photographed the shell, then implanted it in an embankment with a packet of C4 explosive and two and a half minute timer fuse attached.

When the charge went off it made one heckuva racket and gouged a fair sized hole in the embankment.

Are such relics as this 75 mm illumination shell dangerous? According to Capt. Hart a youngster discovered a live shell and managed to set it off. The youngster had one leg and part of the other blown completely off.

"I wonder if Mr. McDaniel knows just how lucky he is?" the chief asked no one in particular.

Chief Lloyd told The Mirror-Herald, "How about printing a warning in the paper. Anyone finding anything looking remotely like an explosive device or military ordnance should leave the object alone and contact the police. We will contact the Army EOD unit and let them handle disposal."

Photos By Tom McIntyre

**TIMER RINGS** — Police Chief Earl Lloyd shows the timer dials in the nose cone of the 75mm illumination shell unearthed at the Kings Mountain Depot last week by Gail McDaniel. Chief Lloyd called the explosive ordnance demolition team from Fort Jackson to dispose of the shell.

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