

Time-Bomb Tinkers Tackle Ticklish Task

Army Men Have One Of Toughest Jobs In The World

A nimble-fingered group of Army specialists has the toughest job in the world—taking the boom out of bombs and shells!

These men—Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts—are found wherever U. S. soldiers are stationed. All volunteers, they must go looking for trouble, for the dud or delayed-action bomb left intact after an air raid or artillery bombardment is loaded with menace for everything nearby.

The fuse that sets off the explosive is what causes the trouble. The EOD squad must determine what kind of fuse is used on any particular bomb and then undertake to remove it.

Four basic types of delayed-action fuses are used—in infinite combinations with each other. These types are the clock-work, chemical, the electrical, and the anti-disturbance.

Clock-work fuses are the oldest and most common. The impact of the bomb hitting the earth starts a mechanism which has been preset to run for a certain number of minutes, hours, or even days.

Chemical fuses contain an acid to eat away a glass or plastic wedge at a pre-timed rate, releasing the firing pin.

The electrical fuse is the tiger of time bombs—silent and deadly. By

use of a battery and condenser, an inhibiting circuit delays, and then sets off the main charge.

But the base of the EOD man is the anti-disturbance fuse—which is directed right at the would-be disarmer. This fuse—in its many disguises—is designed to explode the bomb when someone tampers with it.

There is the acoustic fuse which goes off at the mere sound of a wrench, the barometric fuse which works on air pressure when the bomb is opened, and a special fuse under the main fuse which sets off the bomb when the main fuse is removed.

To master all of these delicately triggered fuses, EOD men must bring to their tasks a "light touch" that would be the envy of Jimmy Valentine.

Equipment used in disarming bombs consists mainly of non-sparking, non-magnetic, and sound-inhibiting tools.

One tool—the "rocket wrench"—is powered by a tiny rocket motor which clamps on the nose of a bomb or shell and spins it off so fast that the firing pin doesn't have time to set off the main charge.

To thwart the chemical-type fuse there is a special apparatus which applies secret chemicals to "freeze" the fuse and make the bomb harmless.

Sometimes the fuse is of an unfamiliar type—a special headache for the EOD man. In such a situation, a special technique called "trepanning" might be used.

A powerful acid is used to eat through the bomb's steel casing, exposing the main charge. The EOD man then inserts a long thin hose connected to a portable steam generator. The steam melts the TNT, which then can be poured out like molasses.

Television comes in for novel military use in determining techniques to be used on new types of foreign material. In probing for the answer to the puzzle presented by a strange fuse, it is not unusual to use remote control devices with the aid of television.

The Army trains its EOD men in these ticklish techniques at the Ordnance School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal School at Indian Head, Md.

Bride-elect Guest Of Honor At Coffee Hour

Miss Betty Cole Bateman of Ryland, whose marriage to Marvin White of Hobbsville, will take place Sunday, December 14, was honor guest at a coffee hour given by Mrs. T. L. Ward of Ryland, at her home on Thursday, December 4, from 11 to 12 o'clock.

The home was beautifully decorated in bridal colors of green and white. Guests were met at the door by the hostess and introduced to the bride-elect. Mrs. I. A. Ward of Hertford, invited guests into the dining room, where coffee was poured by Mrs. M. history since October 1 when the

L. Bateman, mother of the bride-elect, Mrs. Collins of Hinton, daughter of the hostess, served individual cookies. Other refreshments consisted of sandwiches, cheese dainties and hors-d'oeuvres.

Each guest was asked to write a wish in the bride's book. The guests numbered around 25.

Still Climbing

Following is a record of traffic deaths and injuries for the past ten years on North Carolina highways. It now seems certain that this year will exceed 1951's highway fatality total by a substantial margin.

Year	Traffic Deaths	Injuries	Motor Vehicle Registration
1941	1,286	6,423	737,108
1942	838	3,843	896,140
1943	684	3,136	669,625
1944	658	3,448	671,517
1945	732	4,382	686,436
1946	1,028	6,071	779,930
1947	836	6,534	833,498
1948	734	7,497	958,541
1949	849	9,721	1,030,319
1950	989	12,532	1,171,228
1951	1,071	15,123	1,247,824

Visitations At Colonial Williamsburg Increases

More than 7,000 students—equivalent of a good sized university—have studied history at Williamsburg, "living laboratory" of early American history since October 1 when the

annual winter session began, as announced by Colonial Williamsburg. The totals for the first six months of the winter school season are approximately 20 per cent ahead of same period last year. The 7,100 elementary and high school youngsters touring the historic places of the restored colonial capital city were from a total of 153 schools throughout Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland area.

Advance scheduling of classroom groups for tours indicate a heavy visitation during the remaining months of the special school season which ends March 13. J. Neville McArthur, Director of School Activities for Colonial Williamsburg, reports. During the October 1-March 15 period, reduced rates of admission and special arrangements including classroom materials, films, overnight accommodations, and escorted tours are made for school groups integrating

studies of the American history with visits to the city which took as a did what the British Jefferson, and other parties helped establish the last year more than 30,000 children in groups from 25 states toured the restored capital city.

One of These Silly Ideas "A party platform is a political consideration," statesman. "Yes," replied the other, "platform in politics is a good thing but you show your skill in making it."

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