

1941

## Bridgeport Police Bomb Buster

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## BRIDGEPORT POLICE BOMB BUSTER

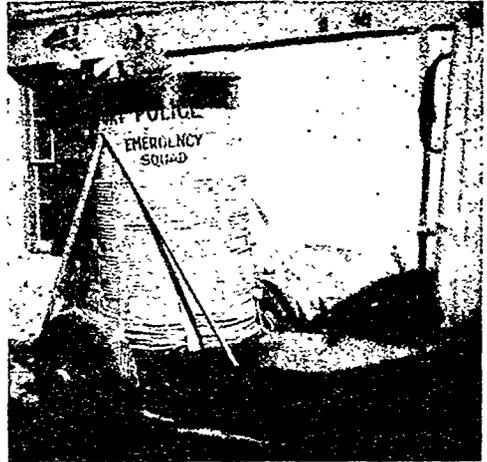
Charles A. Wheeler†

The transportation of a bomb or of a package suspected of containing an explosive is a problem which is likely to become of increasing importance to the police of this country. An effort by the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Police Department toward at least a partial solution of the problem resulted in the construction of a "bomb buster" vehicle, the details of which are as follows:

The "buster" consists essentially of a tank of boiler iron,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " in thickness, and weighing  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton. Every part of the tank is spot welded, and around it are wound 800 pounds of 1" steel cable. The cable itself is welded every few feet around the base of the tank where the greatest pressure would be exerted by an explosion within the tank.

A heavy chassis supports the "buster" and by this means it may be transported to and from the location of a suspected package or bomb. Truck type springs on the chassis act as a cushion for the tank, which is welded to a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " sheet iron platform, which in turn is welded onto the chassis.

In a recent experiment a 2" gas pipe, 10" in length, with screwed caps on each end, and containing 2 pounds of black blasting powder equivalent to 40 per cent of two sticks of dynamite, was enclosed in a suitcase and then placed in the "buster." Upon being exploded by means of a lighted fuse, the noise



"Bomb Buster"

could be heard two miles away, but no damage or harm was done to the tank.

Any bomb or suspected package recovered by the police department is placed in the "buster" and transported to an open lot. If an explosion has not already occurred when such a location is reached, a half stick of dynamite is placed into the tank and the contents are blown up. No chances are ever taken that the package may contain only the "week's wash."

At present it is contemplated that a heavy iron mesh, cone-shaped cover will be placed over the top of the "buster" to prevent the escape in an upward direction of the exploded particles from the bomb or package containing it.

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