

1941

Police Officer Combats the Fifth Columnist, The

Michael F. Morrissey

Carl E. Ashley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Michael F. Morrissey, Carl E. Ashley, Police Officer Combats the Fifth Columnist, The, 32 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 221 (1941-1942)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

THE POLICE OFFICER COMBATS THE FIFTH COLUMNIST

Michael F. Morrissey† and Carl E. Ashley††

Our nation is facing a problem today just as great as it did in 1917 when many men were called upon to defend the rights and liberties of our great country. We are called again to defend those same rights and liberties, only now on our own shores, and against a foe just as deadly, if not more deadly than the enemy faced on a field of battle. That enemy is the Saboteur or so-called Fifth Columnist, who, in this period of preparation for war, is making every effort to break down the moral fortitude of our nation.

To give some idea of the importance of our program of national defense, let us go back to the first World War. There were approximately 30,000 agents of foreign countries in the United States during that war. These agents were making every attempt possible to injure and impair the strength of our country, for the advantage of the foreign country which they represented.

The number of successful operations of these foreign agents is unbelievable, but we will set out a part of the major bombings they committed, from 1915 until the United States entered the World War on April 6th, 1917. During this period there were ten fires in plants, located in various sections of our country, causing major destruction of property in each case. There were fires started on twenty-six ships sailing from our ports, causing considerable damage in each instance. There were

forty explosions, all causing major destruction of life and property. These explosions were in factories, in public utilities, and on ships leaving our ports. There were forty explosions averted by the discovery of explosives, and in each instance the explosives were of great quantity, which, if ignited, would no doubt cause major destruction of life and property.

Today we cannot hope to receive any less ruthless and cruel murders, bombings, and subversive activities at the hands of these foreign agents than we received prior to and during the last World War. In September of last year a terrific explosion occurred at the Hercules Powder Works located in Kemvil, New Jersey in which 51 people were killed and hundreds wounded. On November 12, 1940, explosions, which may easily have been attempts at sabotage, occurred in Edinburg, Pennsylvania; Allentown, Pennsylvania; and Woodbridge, New Jersey. In these explosions 14 people were killed and many injured. No definite decision has been given as to the causes of these explosions, but it is very likely that these were the work of saboteurs.

These individuals are cowards, waging their war against every phase of American life, behind a smoke screen of hundreds of secret societies that outwardly seem innocent enough, but behind that smoke screen lies the most dastardly plans of destruction that can be imagined by clear thinking people.

† Chief of Police, Indianapolis Police Department, Indianapolis, Indiana.

†† Lieutenant of Police, Indianapolis Police Department, Indianapolis, Indiana.

To combat these subversive groups more effectively, a study of the various tactics which espionage agents employ in their efforts to obtain certain information regarding industrial plants should be made. The following are examples of some of these tactics:

1. Infiltration of spies into plants as employees.
2. Purchasing information from employees.
3. Theft or purchase of plans, papers, and other confidential documents.
4. Copying documents.
5. Photographing working models or finished products.
6. Reproduction or theft of working models or finished products.
7. Questioning employees either openly or under pretext.
8. Enticing employees who are particularly familiar with production of confidential materials to enter the services of a foreign power and serve in an advisory capacity for the production of similar war munitions, either in this country or abroad.
9. Personal observation of production operations, test runs, or confidential papers.
10. Foreign espionage rings disguised as commercial concerns, import-export associations, scientific organizations, businessmen's groups, and engineering organizations may attempt to obtain confidential information of benefit to a foreign power.
11. Pressure and threat with reference to an employee's relatives and friends who reside in a foreign country.

Many factories in every city are engaged in the manufacture and storage of government materials and supplies, and we, as police officers of these cities, may be called upon to make investigations of sabotage in these factories. It is necessary, therefore, that we have some knowledge of the methods employed by the saboteur. The techniques listed below are among the more common ones:

1. Damage to machines or equipment by breakage, manipulation, abrasives, chemicals, or foreign bodies.
2. Damage to vital machinery, equipment, or buildings by time bombs, gas explosions, incendiary bombs and devices, or the use of other explosives.
3. Damage to power stations, transmission lines, transfer stations, switchboards, or other key points of the power system.
4. Damage to materials either used or being manufactured at the plant, including raw materials and materials being used for processing.
5. Damage to precision tools or technical mechanisms.
6. Damage to finished products both at the plant and in transit.
7. Damage to, theft of, or interference with blue prints, formulae, working models, or other confidential data.
8. Bacterial infection or other pollution of water and foodstuffs for the consumption of employees, or foodstuffs being manufactured on contract.

9. Injury to personnel, including the introduction of contagious diseases.

10. Damage by arson.

Safeguarding our citizens and the properties of our citizens is the problem of the police, as well as preventing crime and apprehending criminals, and we cannot stand by while our citizens and our industries are invaded by that ruthless army of foreign "ISMS." The local police department is just as important to its city as the army and navy is to our country. Our army and navy is being mobilized and trained for greater strength. We, the police, are mobilized and our strength lies in the will to conquer which every officer should have embedded in his heart.

More than a year ago the Indianapolis Police Department started its part in the national defense program. Several steps have already been taken to forward this movement. These steps are as follows:

1. A card file system was created listing each member of the department as to his former vocation or avocation. For this move there was a reason and that reason was created by Un-American activities. *For example:* Many men in the department were carpenters prior to becoming police officers. There may be a construction job underway at a factory that is engaged in the manufacture of government materials and supplies, and information is received that subversive activities are suspected at that particular place. It is possible to place an officer who is listed in the files as a carpenter on that job and by so doing so obtain the evidence necessary to bring the guilty

2. While working on this file another was created: a card index file showing the location of all main road bridges, railroad bridges and overheads, public utilities and their holdings, and also all factories, plants, and firms engaged in the manufacture, transportation, and storage of government materials and supplies. This file is broken down into Sergeant's Districts, Foot Districts, and Radio Car Districts. The reason for this file was to keep each officer of this department informed of each specific location in his district needing closer observation during the present preparedness program and until further notice.

3. Spot maps were made and on these maps are shown the locations of all road bridges, railroad bridges and overheads, utility holdings, factories, and other business places as above mentioned. The designated places on the maps are marked and listed on the maps by symbols.

4. A mimeographed pamphlet has been prepared and delivered to all officers assigned to field duty, giving the specific location of all utilities, utility holdings, railroad overheads, factories engaged in the manufacture or storage of government material, hospitals, and highway bridges. These locations were broken down into Sergeant's Districts, Foot Districts, and Radio Car Districts.

5. The next step in this defense program was to personally contact the executives of all public utilities, factories, and others engaged in the manufacture, transportation, and storage of government material and supplies. The purpose of these personal interviews was to solicit the cooperation of these par-

that would help in their crusade against subversive activities. We were promised and have received their cooperation in this matter.

6. In several factories and utilities in Indianapolis the executives were contacted, and through their cooperation approximately 5,000 employees from the highest executive to the lowest employee have been fingerprinted. These prints are on file in the office of the utility or factory, in our Identification Division, and in the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington.

7. A twenty-nine page pamphlet was prepared setting out certain suggestions relative to improving existing protection against sabotage and espionage in and around manufacturing plants and public utilities and was distributed to the executives of these concerns.

8. Another file has been completed known as the "Emergency Mobilization File." All members of the department are listed by address as to Sergeant's District, Foot District, and Radio Car District. In the event of an emergency we are now able, by the use of this file, to mobilize the entire department in a comparatively short time.

9. If we are to fight so-called Fifth Columnists we should know something about their weapons. Realizing that fact, a thorough study was made of bombs and explosives. Tests have been made, using actual bombs in the experiments, to ascertain the destructive power of explosives. These tests were invaluable to the department, and the knowledge gained will be presented in this paper.

TYPES OF BOMBS

We, as police officers, may be called upon to investigate sabotage attempts where bombs and explosives are used. Not only should we understand thoroughly the proper procedure to follow in the handling of this type of situation, but we should also understand the various types of explosives and bombs and their mechanism.

The word bomb is used in a wide sense to designate any type of explosive made up in any form of package or otherwise. It may be made up in a perfectly harmless looking package to resemble a bundle of clothing, a pair of shoes, a package of lunch, a thermos bottle, a suit case, and many others. Many types of explosives are used in the construction of bombs—all types of gunpowder, dynamite, gelignite, nitroglycerin, and other liquid explosives. Certain types of explosives are more powerful than others, but all types are to be dealt with in the most cautious manner possible.

In the various types of bombs many methods are employed to cause their ignition. It has been known that a perfectly natural appearing photographic camera was caused to explode by the mere opening of the camera. Other methods employed for the ignition of the bombs are by lifting the package from the floor (this type of bomb is ordinarily connected to an electric circuit and lifting breaks the circuit, causing the ignition of the bomb); the slight tilting of a package which spills acid carried in an open container, thus setting off the ignition mechanism; by a clock mechanism which causes the bomb to explode when the hands of the clock reach a certain hour; the fuse

type bomb which is ignited by a burning fuse; the acid type bomb which explodes when coming in contact with water or other liquids.

Let us now consider the types of bombs from the standpoint of general usage.

OPEN OR UNCONCEALED BOMB

The open or unconcealed bomb is generally placed or thrown at the point of intended destruction. It may be constructed in numerous ways; some of the most common of which will be briefly described.

1. *The Trigger Bomb*—This type of bomb is set to be ignited by some usual act of the person finding the bomb. One type of trigger bomb is known as the weight bomb. Such a bomb is so constructed that by the lifting of the package from the floor it is ignited. The bottom of the package has an opening which allows the weight to remain on the floor when the bomb is lifted. The trigger mechanism is fastened to the weight, and when the weight passes from its original position a contact is made, thus igniting the bomb.

2. *The Chemical Mechanism Bomb*—This type of bomb is set to be ignited by the tilting of the package. It contains ordinary dynamite and is ignited by placing a container of potassium permanganate above the explosive and a smaller container of glycerin above the potassium permanganate. When the bomb is tilted the glycerin will spill into the container below, thus igniting the bomb.

3. *The Electric Circuit Bomb*—This type of bomb is set to be ignited by the opening or closing of an ordinary electric circuit. The package may be

placed in a dark room and plugged into a light socket in the floor or wall. When the person intended to be destroyed enters the room and turns on the light the bomb is set off. This procedure may be reversed and the wire plugged into a light socket with the current on, and by either lifting the bomb from its original position or turning off the lights the bomb will be caused to explode.

4. *The Fuse Bomb*—Such a bomb is set off by a burning fuse. In general, the fuse is a commercial product which consists of a center thread surrounded by a special powder made for fuses and enclosed in wrappings of textiles and waterproof materials protecting the powder from abrasion and water, but occasionally it may consist of a home-made improvisation. A commercial fuse carries the fire uniformly and continuously and burns at a rate of from thirty to forty seconds per foot of fuse. In some cases it is possible to ascertain the position of the burning fuse powder by the external appearance of the fuse; however, with some types of heavily coated fuse it is almost impossible to judge how much unburned fuse remains.

TIME BOMBS

Generally, the time bomb is left at the scene of explosion, but in some cases it is sent through the mail. There are several varieties of time bombs.

1. *The Clock Mechanism Time Bomb*—This type of bomb is constructed in package form and can be detected by a ticking sound coming from the package. The ignition mechanism is connected to the hands of the clock and set for a certain time, or it may be

connected to the alarm set of the clock, and when the specified time arrives the circuit will be closed, causing the ignition of the bomb.

2. *The Sabotage Pencil Time Bomb*

—There can be no ticking sound detected in this type of bomb. The pencil is constructed of an acid resisting material and is about the same size as a regular lead pencil. In the center of the pencil is placed a non-acid resisting metal and in one end of the pencil is placed, most commonly, potassium chlorate and sugar, and in the other sulphuric acid. The acid eats through the non-acid resisting material in the center of the pencil, and when the contents of both ends meet the ignition occurs. The timing of the bomb can be set by the amount of the non-acid resisting material in the center of the pencil.

3. *The Water Weight Time Bomb*—

This type of bomb is not commonly used, but it is well to understand its mechanism. The usual explosives common to other bombs are also used in this type of bomb. The mechanism portion of the bomb is constructed very much the same as a small scale. The scale is balanced by placing a weight on one end of the supporting arm and on the other end is placed a can containing water. A small hole is placed in the bottom of the can causing the can to leak. As the water leaks from the can the weight slowly lowers, forming a contact with the ignition mechanism and thus igniting the bomb. The bomb can be set for a certain time by varying the size of the can or the amount of water placed in it.

4. *The Match Book and Cigarette Time Bomb*—This type of bomb is a

very novel type and also is rarely used. It is placed in the package at the scene and is designed to explode in 15 or 20 minutes. In most cases dynamite is the explosive, and a very short fused blasting cap is set to ignite the dynamite. The fuse is lighted by taking an ordinary package of paper matches, folding the cover on the inside of the matches instead of on the outside. A lighted cigarette is placed with the unlighted end between the matches and the cover. The end of the short fuse is set on the matches. By actual experiment such a bomb was exploded in 18 minutes.

INCENDIARY BOMBS

Although the Fire Department is most concerned with the incendiary bombs, since their function is to set fire, it is well that the members of Police Departments have some knowledge of the mechanism and construction of this type of bomb.

The two most commonly used types of incendiary bombs today are the thermite bomb and the thermite bomb with "electron" jacket. Thermite is a mixture of powdered metallic aluminum and iron oxide (iron rust). The mixture is confined, with the former type of bomb, in a case of either zinc or iron or, with the latter type, in one of electron metal, which is an alloy of magnesium and small amounts of hardening and strengthening material such as aluminum, copper, silicon, etc. The advantage of the latter type of bomb is that the jacket will also burn, adding to the heat generated.

As the iron oxide and the powdered aluminum employed in the thermite have a tendency to separate out if the

bomb is moved about much, causing it to lose its effectiveness, it is common practice to employ some form of binder to keep the materials in the same relative proportion throughout the bomb. One of the most effective agents for this purpose is a heavy grease which solidifies firmly when cooled, but becomes fluid when heated. Upon the ignition of the bomb the grease melts and increases the intensity of the fire appreciably.

The thermite is ignited by means of a fuse set off by the impact of the bomb. The chief product of the combustion is molten iron, and the heat generated is terrific, reaching approximately 4,500 degrees Fahrenheit for about fifteen minutes. The intense heat created by the larger thermite bombs enables them to burn through several floors of a building before their combustible ingredients are finally consumed, thus while a bomb may come to rest on one of the upper floors it may burn through to the floors below before it finally is exhausted.

The ingredients of the thermite bomb produce free oxygen upon burning, and therefore it cannot be smothered. If water is applied, it is dissociated into free hydrogen and oxygen which intensifies the burning of the metal. In a demonstration a two-pound thermite bomb was placed on a half-inch sheet of iron above a bucket of water. It not only burned through the iron, but dropped into the bucket of water, and burned through the floor below. From this it is evident that water is not an effective extinguishing agent for thermite fires. A few cases are known in which a thermite fire was smothered out by the use of a specially constructed

nozzle known as a "Fog Nozzle." The fog supplied by the nozzle does not act in the same manner as water applied directly on the thermite. Sand blasting can also be used.

The electron case, on the other hand, requires oxygen from the air to maintain combustion which makes possible smothering of these fires if a sufficient amount of the right type of material is available. The heat of combustion, however, dissociates water into its elements, thus supplying oxygen and speeding up combustion. The electron bomb has the added danger that in the early stages of combustion minor explosions may occur, throwing pieces of white hot metal as far as fifteen to twenty feet from the burning mass and so spreading the area of the fire. Adding water increases these explosions which endangers men who are attempting to fight the fires at close range. Water is effective only with a great quantity under sufficient pressure to operate from a distance. Then the stream should be concentrated on adjacent materials so as to hold back this portion of the fire while the thermite burns itself out.

HANDLING OF BOMBS

Although there are no specific rules that can be set forth that will guarantee absolute safety while investigating bombs or other explosives, there are certain simple, precautionary measures that can be followed by police officers that will reduce the hazard to a minimum.

No attempt should ever be made to open a bomb, and utmost caution should be used when transporting a

bomb to any place for the purpose of destruction.

If you, as police officers, are called upon to investigate a suspicious looking package which may be an explosive bomb, the following steps should immediately be taken, always keeping foremost in your mind the protection and preservation of human life and, second, the protection and preservation of property.

1. Keep the public a safe distance away from the suspected bomb so as to avoid danger from flying fragments or debris in the event of an explosion. When the bomb is in the open all vehicular and pedestrian traffic should be cleared from the vicinity and all buildings in close proximity thereto should be evacuated.

Where the bomb or suspected bomb is in a building all persons should be ordered to leave, provided their leaving does not require their passage close to the suspected bomb. In this case they should be ordered to go to a remote part of the building and immediate arrangements made for their evacuation through emergency exits. All persons on the outside of the building should be kept a safe distance away and all vehicular traffic detoured so as to afford the greatest amount of safety to the public, as well as to avoid any congestion that may hamper the work of the investigating officers.

2. The entire building should be ventilated by opening all windows, thus lessening the danger of additional explosions and fire caused by the formation of gas after an explosion.

3. If sandbags or cotton mattresses, *without springs*, are available at the

scene, the suspected bomb should be covered. Never use anything to cover the bomb that contains any type of metal. When covering the bomb or suspected bomb extreme caution should be used so that it will not be disturbed in any way, as it is possible that the slight moving or jarring of the bomb may cause it to explode.

If the suspected package is in a building and sand bags or cotton mattresses, *without springs*, are available, after noting the point where the most damage would be caused in the event of an explosion, construct a wall, using the sand bags or cotton mattresses between the bomb and the vulnerable point. For example: there may be a suspected package in a factory, close to a machine or some other power unit. By building a wall of sand bags or cotton mattresses between the suspected package and the machine or power unit, the force of an explosion would be directed away from the point in question to a great degree.

If the suspected package is in the open and sand bags or cotton mattresses, *without springs*, are available, build a wall around the suspected package thus directing the force of the explosion straight up.

4. If upon arrival at the scene of a bomb, it is discovered to be a fuse bomb, there are certain precautionary measures to follow, other than the steps mentioned before.

Considering first the safety of the public, every effort should be made to extinguish the burning fuse. A burning fuse can be easily detected by the white smoke which emerges from it, and also by a discoloration of the burnt

part of the fuse, although this is not true in all cases because certain types of heavily coated fuses will not show any discoloration. Usually the fuse will burn at a rate of from 30 to 40 seconds per foot of fuse, and if *subject to your discretion and good judgment*, you have time, pull the fuse out or preferably cut it off. If you pull it out then *never hold it in your hand*. On the end of the fuse may be a blasting cap which is powerful enough to blow off your hand or cause other serious injury if held until it explodes. (The small blasting cap, by actual experiment, blew a hole through a piece of aluminum $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick.)

If there is not time to grab the fuse, drop to the ground with your head turned away or covered, guard your eyes and lie flat until the bomb explodes.

Except where a crowd of people is in the vicinity and great injury or damage might be expected from an explosion the personal hazard involved in pulling out the burning fuse is unjustified.

All police officers, after considering to the utmost of their ability the safety of the public and the protection of property, should use due care in avoiding unnecessary personal risks.

The Indianapolis Police Department has supplied their emergency car with the following equipment to be used in the event of a call to investigate a bomb or suspected bomb:

1. One felt mattress.
2. One specially prepared felt bomb box.
3. One X-ray machine and X-ray film.
4. One 250-foot extension wire.

5. One AC-DC test set.
6. Complete sound equipment.
7. Extension rod.

An emergency trailer (Figure 1) is loaded with about 15 sandbags and three 5-gallon cans of oil. All the above mentioned equipment is taken to the scene of the suspected bomb.

Upon arrival at the scene the Sergeant in Charge of the Emergency Car is instructed to see that the above mentioned equipment is taken immediately to the location of the suspected bomb and that the following procedure is carried out:

1. Working from behind a barricade, at least 20 feet from the bomb or suspected bomb, the microphone is attached to the end of the extension rod is placed against the suspected package. Care is taken in placing the microphone against the package so that it is not disturbed in any way. If a ticking sound is detected the package is immediately submerged in the drum of oil so as to cause the mechanism of the bomb to become inactive.
2. After submerging the bomb in the oil the drum containing the bomb is transported to an isolated location for further investigation and destruction.
3. If no ticking sound is detected the suspected bomb is to X-rayed and photographed. If the X-ray shows the package to be a bomb it is to be placed in the specially constructed felt bomb box prepared for that purpose and placed in the trailer and transported to an isolated place for further investigation and destruction.

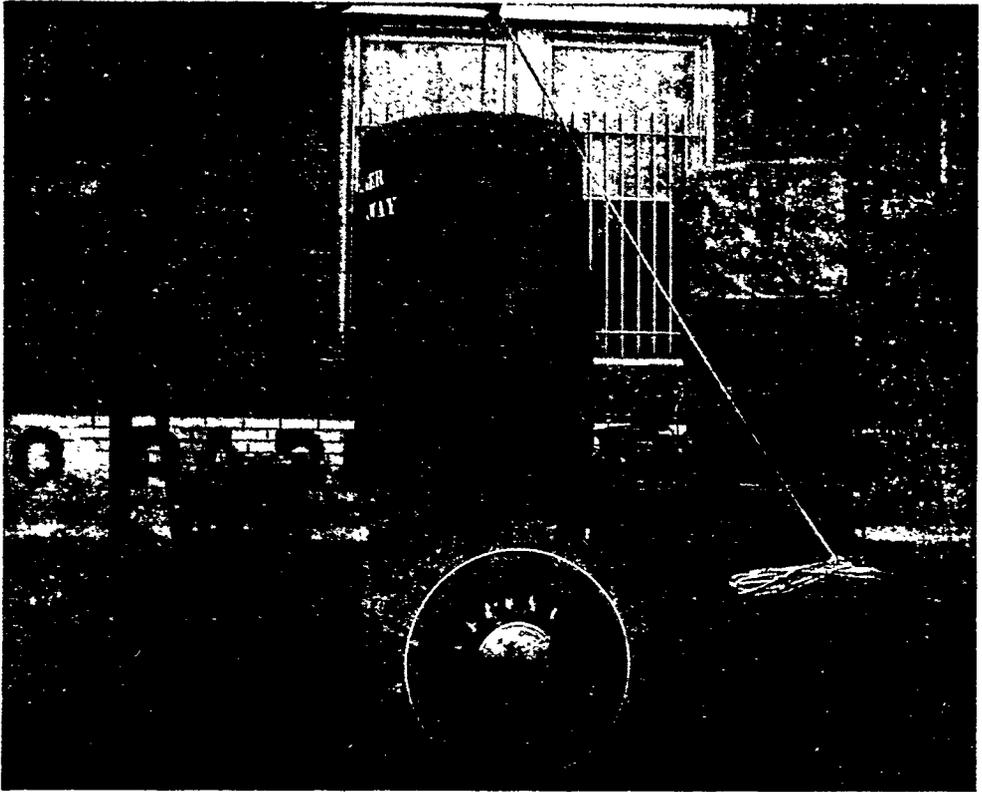


Figure 1

INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY TRAILER

4. After arrival at the isolated place the suspected package is placed in a specially prepared hole 6 feet deep, completely lined with sand bags, with 2 feet of loose sand on the bottom and 2 feet of sand bags above ground level. The package is to be left in this position for 48 hours or until the X-ray photographs have been developed or other orders received.

Commanding officers are charged with the responsibility of arranging for a guard at the location of the package until it has been removed and of instructing the officer on duty to allow no one, other than the officers assigned on the investigation, to get close to the package.

HANDLING AND DESTRUCTION OF
EXPLOSIVES

It is very important, for the safety of our citizens and for our own safety, that we likewise have a thorough knowledge of the proper method of the handling and destruction of certain types of explosives other than bombs. If we know just what to do and do it properly, we may save the lives and property of our citizens as well as our own lives.

We shall now consider the various types of explosives and the methods that may be employed in destroying them, bearing in mind that no method of destruction can be employed in a safe manner.

Gunpowder—Gunpowder is made active by a spark, friction, or flame. Submersion in water will render gunpowder ineffective at once, and it becomes useless as an explosive when thoroughly damp.

Dynamite—The explosion of dynamite is brought about by strong shock, initiated by a blasting cap or detonator, and not by a flame or heating. A high-power rifle bullet will explode dynamite readily. Dynamite will usually stand considerable rough handling, but rough handling certainly is not recommended.

If occasion arises where dynamite must be disposed of, the safest procedure is to burn it under the following conditions. Some suitable place should be chosen, out in the open, with a barricade of earth, timbers, or anything suitable to be used as a protection to the officers who are burning the dynamite, in the event any explosions do occur.

If the dynamite is in boxes, it should be removed from the boxes and spread in a *thin* layer before burning. Never attempt to burn dynamite and boxes together as the nails in the boxes may become heated quickly, and if hot metal comes in contact with dynamite, it will cause it to explode. The box also partially confines the dynamite, which greatly increases the hazard if an explosion occurs.

Dynamite boxes, if nailed shut, should be opened by the use of wooden wedges and a wooden mallet. In opening the cartridges or sticks, care should be used to prevent the dynamite from getting on the bare hands in order to guard against the danger of nitroglycerin poisoning.

In proceeding to burn the dynamite, the cartridges or sticks should be opened and the dynamite spread out thin on the ground. With the dynamite spread out thin, it may then be sprinkled lightly with kerosene (coal oil) and set on fire with a train leading from behind the barricade at a safe distance. The train may be made of rolled up newspaper wet with kerosene. In arranging the train, consideration should be given to the wind direction so that the fire will be carried towards the dynamite and from the person behind the barricade.

The boxes, if any, should be set on fire and burned from behind the barricade in a like manner by themselves. There is a definite hazard of explosion in burning boxes, due to the dynamite having soaked into the wood, and the full protection of the barricade should be used.

Nitroglycerin—Nitroglycerin is a yellowish oily liquid very sensitive to shock. The proper way to dispose of it is to chemically decompose it with an alcoholic solution of sodium sulphide, mixed according to the following proportions:

One-half gallon of water.

One-half gallon of methanol (methyl alcohol).

Two pounds of sodium sulphide.

It has been reported in police cases from other cities that nitroglycerin was dissolved by using a large quantity of alcohol, but this method of dilution should only be used in case of extreme emergency. Nitroglycerin can also be destroyed, if contained in a vial, by exploding it from a safe distance in some isolated location, with a high-powered rifle.

Nitroglycerin should never be poured in a drain because of the fact that it is much heavier than water and will stay in the sink or toilet trap and not be carried through by flushing with water and might be set off at any time by sudden shock or jarring. It should never be poured on the ground as it will not evaporate or disappear entirely. Instead it will seep into the ground and retain its explosive quality and a sharp blow, such as someone striking the ground with his heels, may explode it.

Blasting Caps—Dynamite blasting caps are about the most innocent looking high explosives on the market. Their bright, shiny, copper cartridges, about the size of a .22 long, are particularly fascinating to children, who may try either to shoot them in a sling shot against a brick wall, or pick the white stuff out of them with a pin. *One such cap is sufficient to tear a foot or hand to shreds.*

Fulminate of mercury, the compound with which blasting caps are charged, is very sensitive to *shock* and *friction*. Blasting caps, therefore, should be treated with respect. When found, they should be carefully packed in cotton or excelsior, and never be allowed to remain or be anywhere near dynamite.

The only safe way to dispose of them is to burn them out in the open, from behind a barricade at a safe distance, out of range of flying particles of metal,

using the same general procedure as in burning dynamite, but using even greater precautions.

CONCLUSIONS

The procedures outlined above for handling explosives and bombs are presented in this paper so that you, as police investigators, may have a better understanding as to how to handle such material in the case of emergencies. However, officers who are not familiar with the handling of explosive materials should not attempt the moving or destruction when there is time to secure the services of an explosives expert or someone who has had experience in such problems. However, it may be necessary on many occasions to act immediately in order to insure the public's safety and to prevent property damage or tie-ups in vital defense industries. In such instances familiarity with these procedures may add to the officer's personal safety as well as that of the public.

During this period of national emergency the duties of the police are increased many fold. We, as police officers, must be alert to the problems at hand and must prepare ourselves to combat those subversive groups which are attempting to weaken or destroy our government. To accomplish this successfully will take the combined efforts of all police agencies—federal, state, and municipal.