

NJ. 32-1

NJ. 32



HEADQUARTERS  
LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT  
CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17201

DEC 11 1963

REPLY  
REFER TO

SSMLE

SUBJECT: Statement of Clearance - Decontamination Operations,  
Raritan Arsenal

TO: Commanding General  
U. S. Army Supply and Maintenance Command  
ATTN: AMSSM-SA *Blalock*  
Washington, D. C. 20315

1. Reference: Paragraph 5b, AR 405-90.
2. Forwarded for approval are a Statement of Clearance and supporting documents covering the decontamination of the Ammunition Area at Raritan Arsenal, Metuchen, New Jersey.
3. Transmittal of the Statement of Clearance was deferred pending the removal of the scrap material from the Arsenal, referred to in paragraph 6 of CMT 1 of the supporting documents. This action was completed 5 December 1963.
4. The Statement of Clearance and supporting documents are to be forwarded to District Engineer, New York District, 80 Lafayette Street, New York 13, New York, to whom accountability is being transferred effective 31 December 1963.

1 Incl

1. Statement of Clearance w/supporting documents (trip) (exception - 1 set photos)

*R. B. Graeves*  
R. B. GRAEVES  
Colonel, Ord Corps  
Commanding

*to*

*1 incl 1 to 1 incl 1*

ENCLOSURE 3

RECORDS OF ARMY INVESTIGATION AND RELEASE

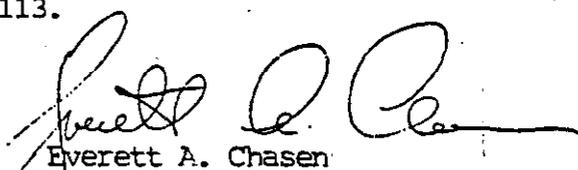
SUBJECT: Decontamination of Raritan Arsenal, NJ

PURPOSE: To provide information in response to possible inquiries on this subject.

FACTS:

1. Raritan Arsenal, located approximately two miles SE of Metuchen, NJ, was reported as excess to GSA in 1961, and has since been substantially disposed of.
2. A statement of clearance for the property was issued on 21 October 1963 by the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pa. While most of the area was found to be decontaminated, the certification limited the use of the property in certain still-contaminated areas, and delineated certain fenced-off areas as unusable. It was suspected that ordnance of various types and containers filled with "mustard gas and various chemicals" were still buried in these areas.
3. On 8 August 1979, Mr. Maurice Lustig, then Chief of the New York District's Real Estate Division, wrote a memorandum for the Chief, Real Estate, OCE. In it, he questioned whether the mustard gas containers at the arsenal posed a safety hazard. "Should the cylinders leak," he wrote, "it could kill thousands of people."
4. In response to Mr. Lustig's concern, the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board explained that the mustard agent was solely in liquid form: therefore, there was no danger of an explosion. In addition, the agent was designed to decompose in water, and had therefore been buried in a swampy area. The Board cited two previous surveys of the area, done in 1961 and 1971. The 1961 survey found only traces of mustard agent in the soil: the 1971 survey supposedly found none, but records of that survey were lost.
5. Because the 1971 survey had been lost, OCE Real Estate requested, on 15 October 79, that "more information be developed" by New York District. The District reported, on 13 February 80, that fencing at the site of the mustard agent burial was in disrepair, and warning signs were obliterated. This was also true of other contaminated areas at the arsenal.
6. On receipt of this report, OCE requested, on 11 April 80, that DARCOM "make a thorough review of the records...to determine the nature, extent and location of any chemical or explosive contamination" at Raritan Arsenal, and to provide "an assessment of risk" for any contamination disclosed. By TELECON of 15 Jan 81 (Maj. Gooding-DARCOM) I was informed that this report had been completed and would be forwarded to OCE very shortly.

POINT OF CONTACT: Everett A. Chasen, PAO, x9113.

  
Everett A. Chasen  
Public Affairs Officer

16 January 1981

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Press Query Concerning Former Raritan Arsenal, NJ

1. Received telephone call at 1120 this date from Everett Chase, PAO for COE, NY District (AUTOVON 796-9113 or area code 212-264-9113) to advise me that the N.Y. Times has requested all files and documents pertaining to decontamination and transfer agreements of former Raritan Arsenal.
2. He wanted to alert us as files showed that this Agency was tasked by HQ DARCOM 11 April 1980 to make records search and that most likely N.Y. Times would contact USATHAMA for copy of our report.
3. I inquired as to status of property. He said that it was turned over to GSA with number of restrictions on use of areas containing explosive or mustard contamination.
4. I told him if we were queried that I would refer to HQDA. However, if we received FOIA request, this Agency, as originator of archives report, would have action to coordinate and release.
5. Mr. Chase said he would keep us advised of future happenings.
6. Received call at 1400 this date from Mr. Ralph Blumenthal, reporter, N.Y. Times, ref above. He wanted copy of our report on Raritan Arsenal. I told him we had made a records search at direction of COE, HQDA via DARCOM and that we had transmitted report to DARCOM 8 January 1981. I told him he would have to contact HQDA (SAPA).
7. DARCOM (DRCIN-Donnelly) was advised of above at 1405 this date.

  
H. GEORGE BAKER  
Environmental & Safety Division

CF:  
COL Spence  
Mr. Baronian  
COL Mason  
✓ Mr. Ricci  
Mr. Breschi  
HQ DARCOM (DRCIN/Penton/Donnelly)  
HQDA (DAPA) (DAEN-REM-C)

## HISTORICAL RESUME

### RARITAN ARSENAL

- WWI Raritan Arsenal built at Metuchen, New Jersey, to serve as a forwarding center for overseas shipments. Combined supply functions with repair work.
- 1919 Ordnance Enlisted Specialist School established. Nine-month course in repair, maintenance, and storage of ordnance material.
- 1921 Mission added: Publication of the standard nomenclature lists.
- 1930 No outdoor range for weapons firing; no cross-country vehicle course.
- 1931 Operated special renovation plant for 75mm shells, to exchange unserviceable powder for flashless, non-hygroscopic powder. Specialist school renamed Ordnance Field Service School.
- 1932 Officers course added to Field Service School.
- 1940-May Shipment of .30 caliber ammunition to Great Britain.
- 1940 Ordnance school relocated, combined with school at Aberdeen Proving Ground.
- 1941-Jan Raritan Unit Training Center (UTC) activated to train ammunition companies per MTPG-3.
- 1942-Spring UTC placed in stand-by status.
- 1943-Apr Became requisitioning point and reservoir for parts and supplies except those of wheeled and semi-wheeled vehicles.
- 1943-late Congestion of stocks of weapons parts, general purpose vehicles, combat vehicle parts, and cleaning and preserving materials.
- 1945-Sep Product Center, responsible for design, procurement, storage, and maintenance of troop equipment and for jurisdiction over all arsenals, plants, and depots dealing with such material was proposed for Raritan during planned post-war reorganization.

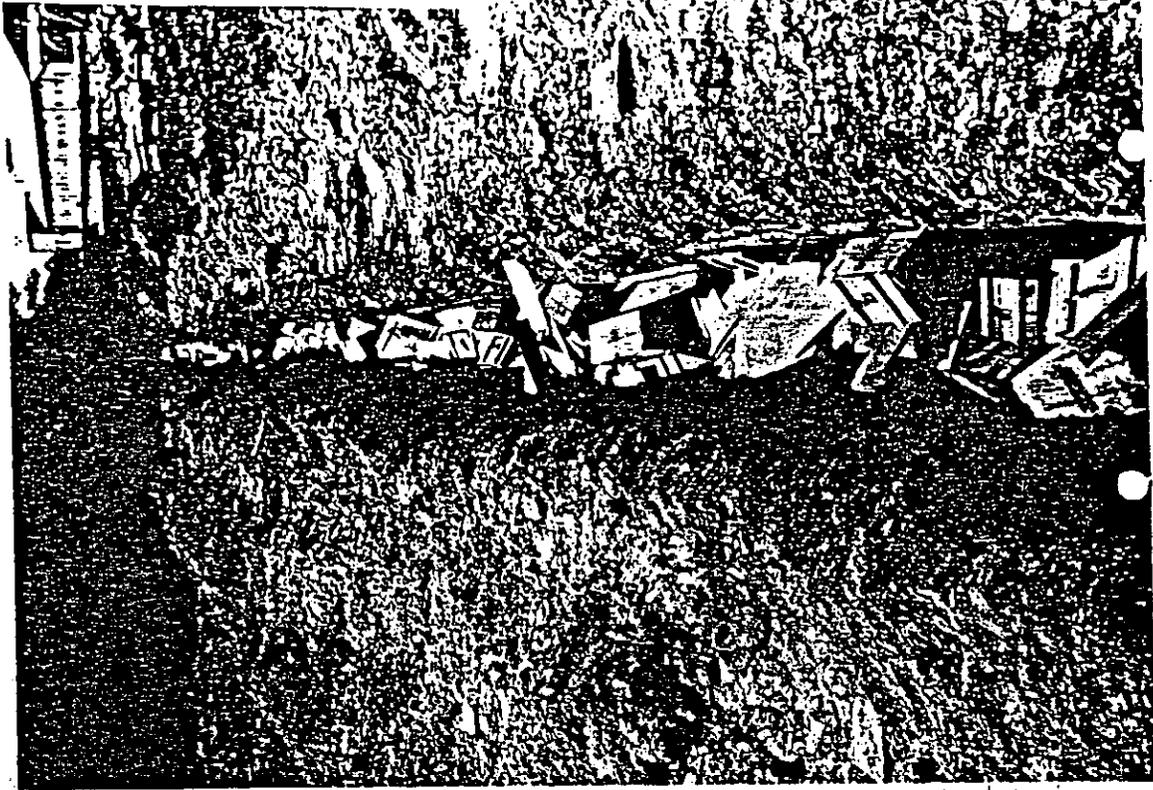
Area #7  
Tile that was utilized in washout operations.



Area #7  
Area heavily contaminated with small arms ammunition that was buried to a depth of 2 feet.



Area #7  
Trench that contained drain line from sump  
that was utilized in washout operations  
being prepared for flashing.



Area #7  
Pipe removed from area adjacent to sump  
contaminated with explosives. This  
pipe was located in Area #7.

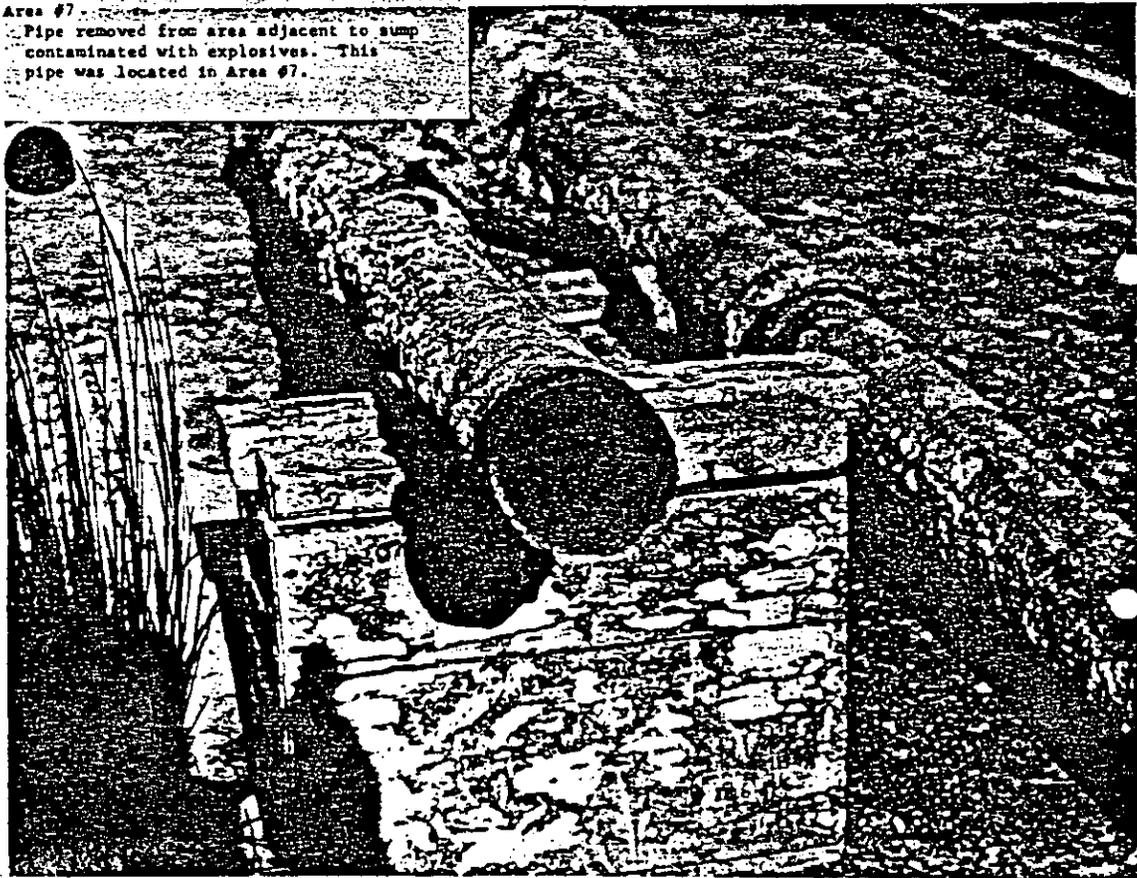
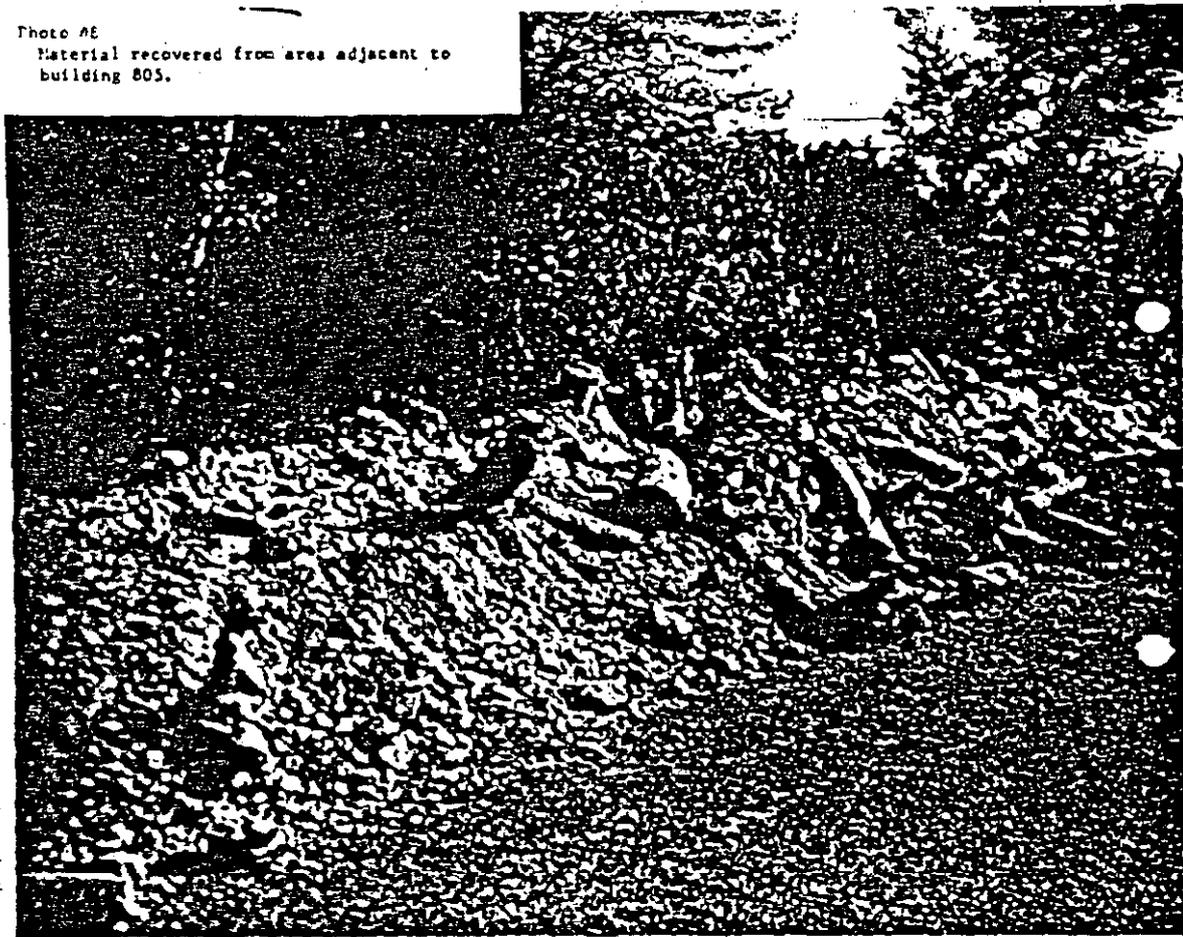
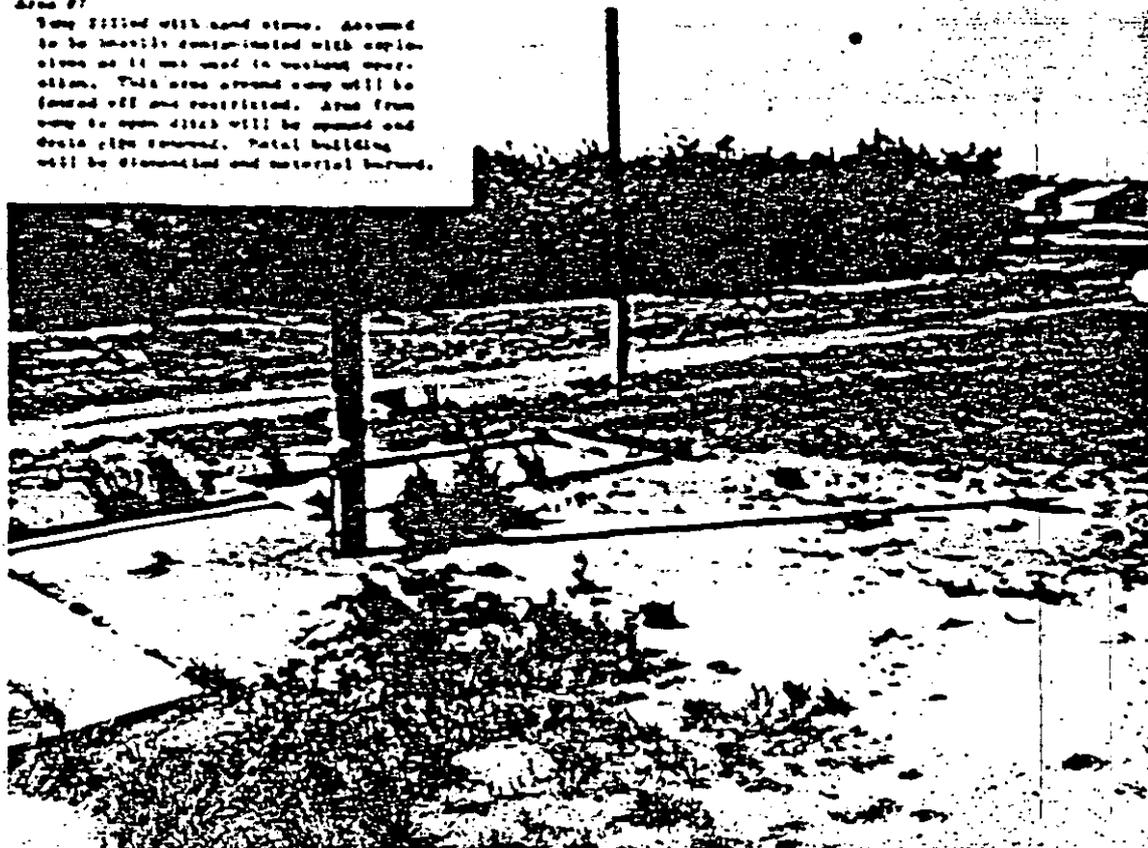


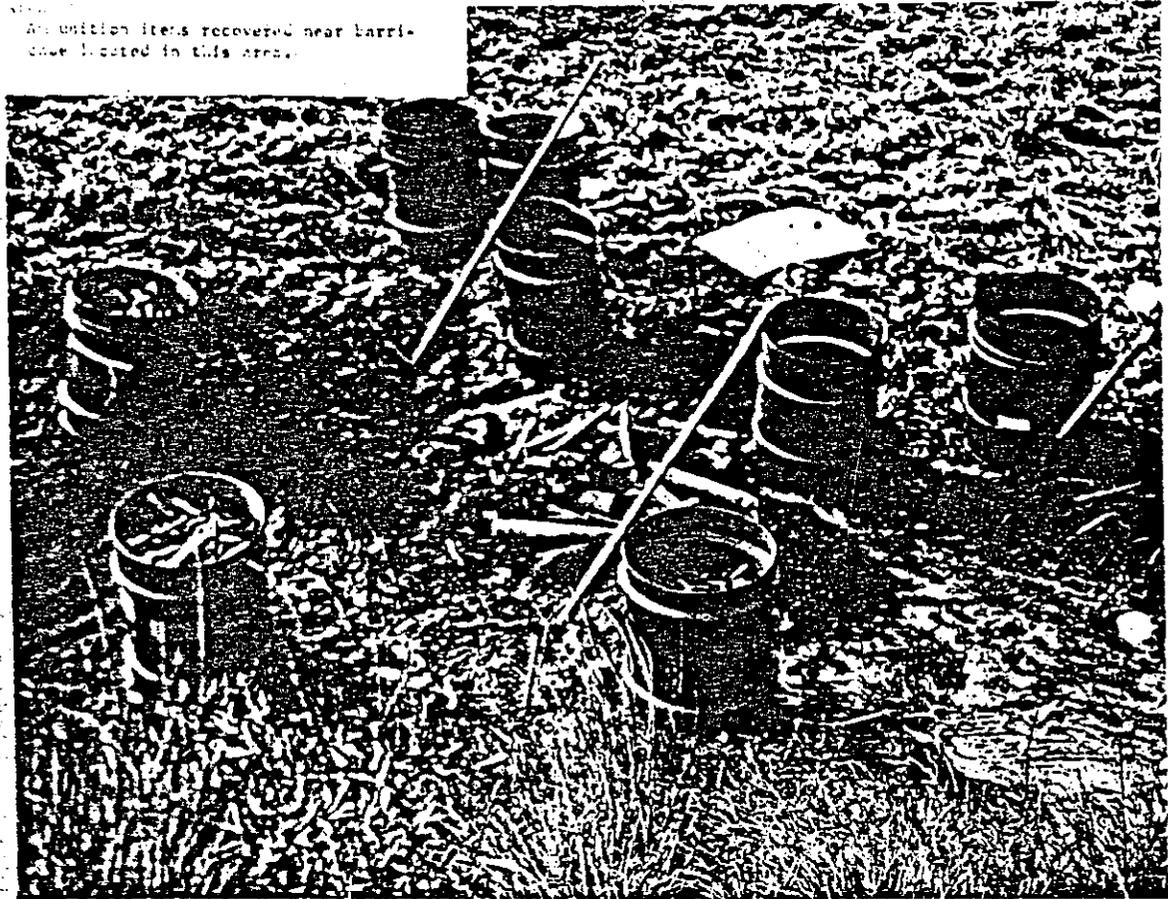
Photo #6  
Material recovered from area adjacent to  
building 805.



Area #7  
Camp filled with sand stone. Assumed  
to be mostly contaminated with explosives  
as it was used in washing operations.  
This area around camp will be  
fenced off and restricted. Area from  
camp to open ditch will be opened and  
drain pipe removed. Patrol building  
will be dismantled and material burned.



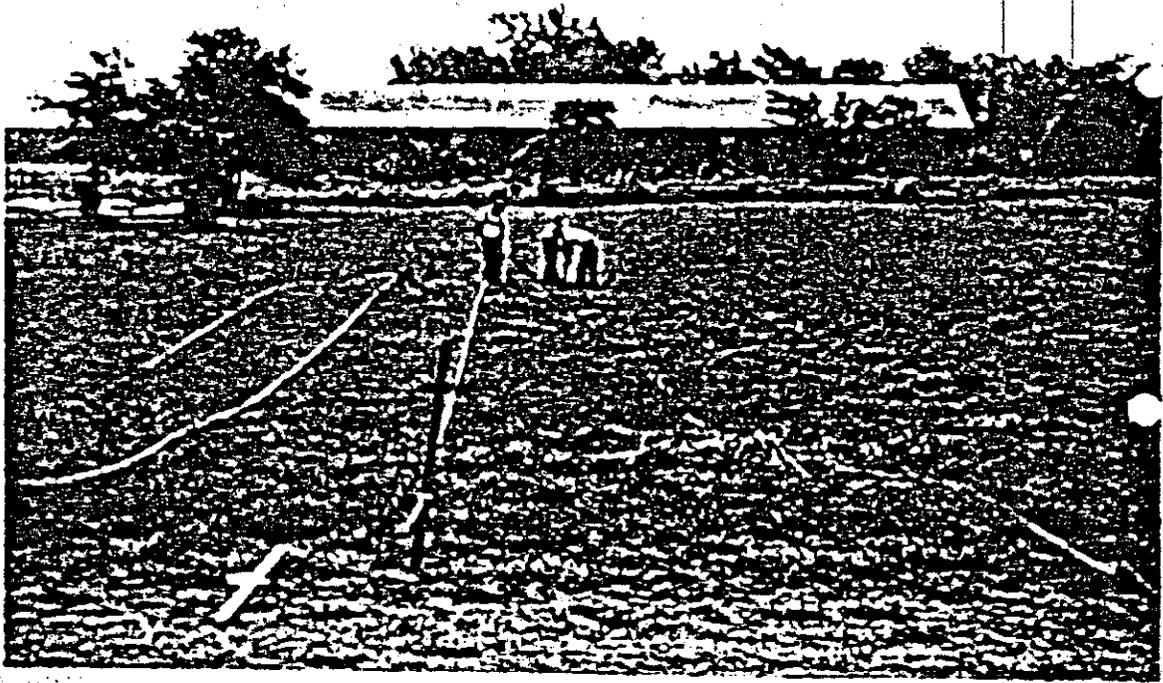
Ammunition items recovered near barricade located in this area.



55-gallon drums packaged for dumping at sea. 3 inches of concrete on bottom. Ammunition packaged with alternate layers of sand and top portion filled with eight inches of concrete. Top edge of drum rimmed to hold top or cap of concrete in place.



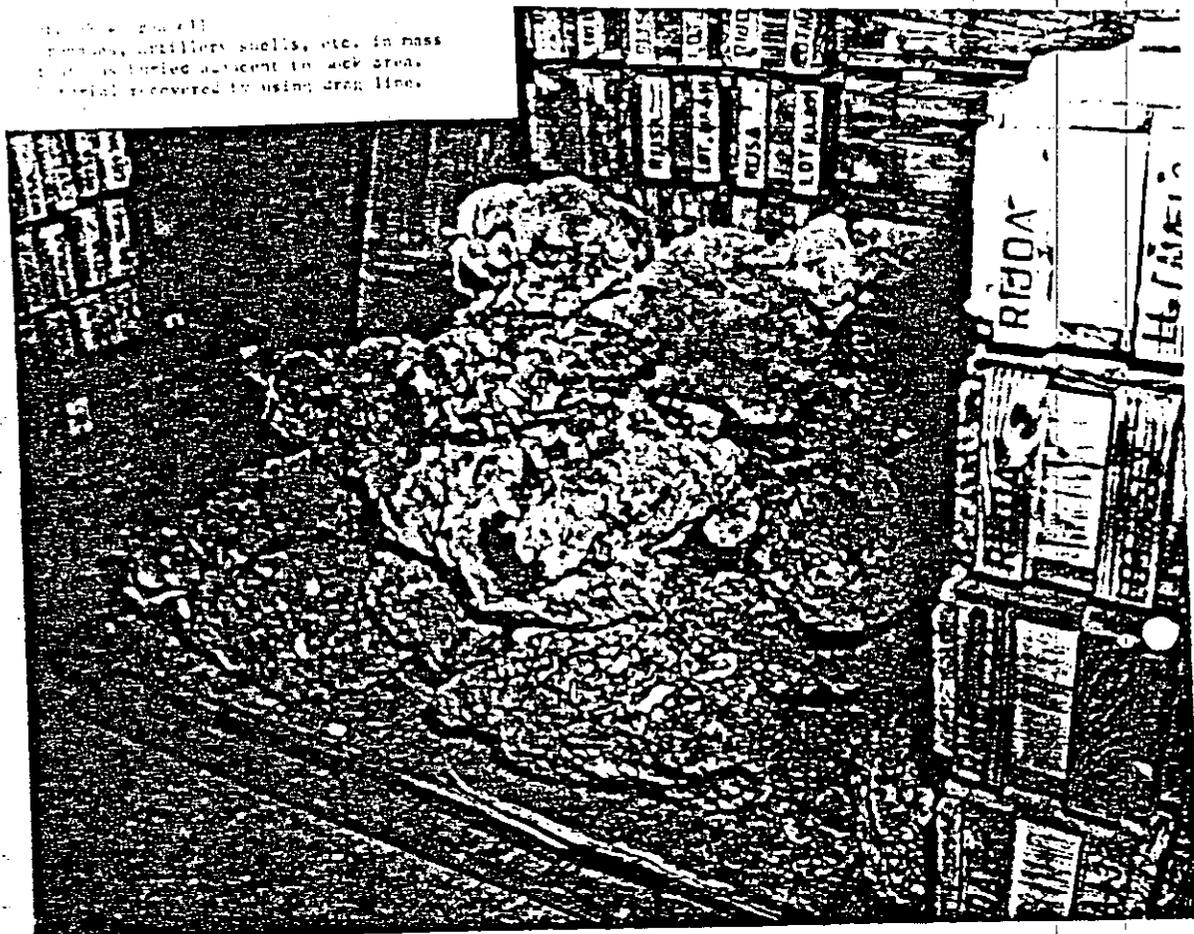
200 and using mine detector search-  
ing for ammunition, mostly grenades,  
in Area 010.



Area 011  
200 and using mine detector search-  
ing for ammunition, mostly grenades,  
in Area 011.



Area 011  
Munitions, artillery shells, etc. in mass  
found adjacent to wreck area.  
Shell recovered by using drag line.



Area 011  
This area is still contaminated and  
will be fenced off. Ammunition  
located in this area was recovered by  
using a drag line. JAT squad searched  
adjacent area and still found  
additional ammunition after area had  
been cleaned.



ENCLOSURE 4

RECORDS OF GOVERNMENT PURCHASES FROM THE FORMER  
MAYWOOD CHEMICAL COMPANY (STEPAN CHEMICAL)



Sold to the U. S. Government 1962

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
U. S. Army	Lithium Chl Tech Sol	2,600 #	2,340.
U. S. Army Air Force	Lithium Hydrox Anhyd	50	187.50
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Hydrox Anhyd	49,298	155,590.74
	" Hydride	70	770.
	Chlorate Candles	50	8,000.
U. S. Veterans Hosp.	Cesium Chloride	453.6 gr.	90.
	Total	52,521.6	\$166,978.24











Sold to the U. S. Government 1955

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
U. S. Atomic Energy	Lithium Hydroxide	240,000 #	264,000.00
U. S. Dept Interior	Lithium Metal Spec	10	125.
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Hydr Anhy	1,748.2	9,143.09
	" Hydride	220	2,990.
	" Metal L S	3	48.
	Cerium Oxide	10	25.30
U. S. Signal Corp	Hydrogen Generators	25,990.1	85,201.62
	<b>Total</b>	<b>267,981.3</b>	<b>\$361,533.01</b>

Sold to the U. S. Government 1954

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
U. S. Army Air Force	Lithium Hyd. Anhy SP	39.9 #	225.00
U. S. Atomic Energy	Lithium Metal	9,000.3	117,000.
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Hydrox Anhy C	13,500	44,550.
	" Hydr. Anhy SP	32,992.3	191,685.26
	" Hydride	440	8,450.
	" Metal	30	600.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>56,002.5</b>	<b>\$362,510.26</b>

Sold to the U. S. Government 1951

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
Picatinny Arsenal	Ceric Ammonium Nitrate	100 #	150.
U. S. Army	Lithium Chloride 95%	750	843.75
U. S. Atomic Energy	Lithium Carb NF	2,250	2,525.
	Thorium Nitrate	20	70.
	Cerium Nitrate CP	5	17.50
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Hydroxide	350	--
	" Metal	44	396.
	" Hydride	865	9,548.75
	Hydrogen Generators	2,930	14,650.
	Lithium Metal Spec Low	1	25.
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		7,315	\$ 28,226.00



Sold to the U. S. Government 1949

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
National Bureau of Standards	Lanthanum Oxide	200 #	1,500.
Picatinny Arsenal	Ceric Ammonium Nitrate	110	165.
U. S. Dept Interior	Thorium Oxide CP	10	70.
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Metal	250	2,212.50
	" "	1,250	11,112.50
	" Hydride	580	5,800.
	" Potassium Eut.	50	800.
	" Magnesium	20	150.
	" Alumin Alloy	20	400.
	" Sodium Alloy	264.5	2,208.58
	Cerium Oxide Sl Dr	10	25.
	Thorium Oxide	20	120.
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		2,784.5	\$24,563.58

Sold to the U. S. Government 1948

<u>Company(Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
U. S. Army	Lithium Chloride	100 #	125.
U. S. Atomic Energy	Thorium Nitrate	6,000	9,000.
	" Oxide	150	1,050.
U. S. Dept Commerce	Thorium Oxide	100	600.
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Metal	759	7,488.
	" Hydride	450	4,750.
	Cesium Sulphate	1,000 gr.	253.
	" Oxide D 2 S	5	12.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		8,564	\$23,278.50



Sold to the U. S. Government 1946

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
U. S. Dept Agricult	Lithium Hydroxide	5 #	7.
U. S. Army	Lithium Stearate	10	6.
U. S. Dept Commerce	Thorium Oxide CP	100	700.
U. S. Navy Dept	Lithium Chloride Tech	100	120.
	" Sulphate Monohy Pw	600	540.
	" Metal	20	360.
	" Hydride	80	1,230.
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		915	\$ 2,963.







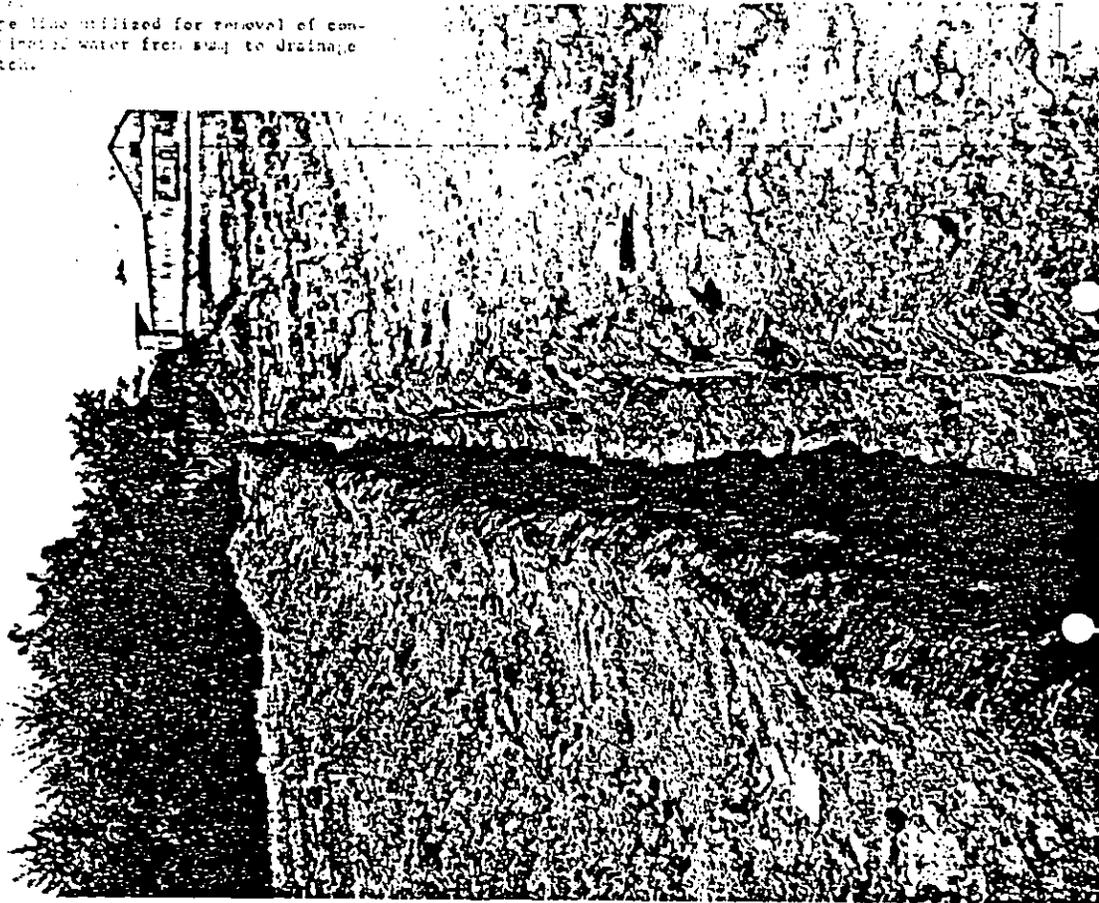
Sold to U. S. Government 1942

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
Picatinny Arsenal	Ceric Ammonium Nitr.	2,800 #	9,800.
U. S. Dept Agricult.	Thorium Oxide C.P.	9 #	45.
U. S. Dept Commerce	Thorium Oxide C.P.	25 #	125.
U. S. Dept Interior	Cesium Chloride	10 #	3.50
	Rubidium Chloride	5 #	1.75
U. S. Navy	Lithium Hydride	200 #	3,000.
	Lithium Hydroxide Anhyd	8,005.1 #	146,920.08
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	11,054.7 #	\$159,895.33

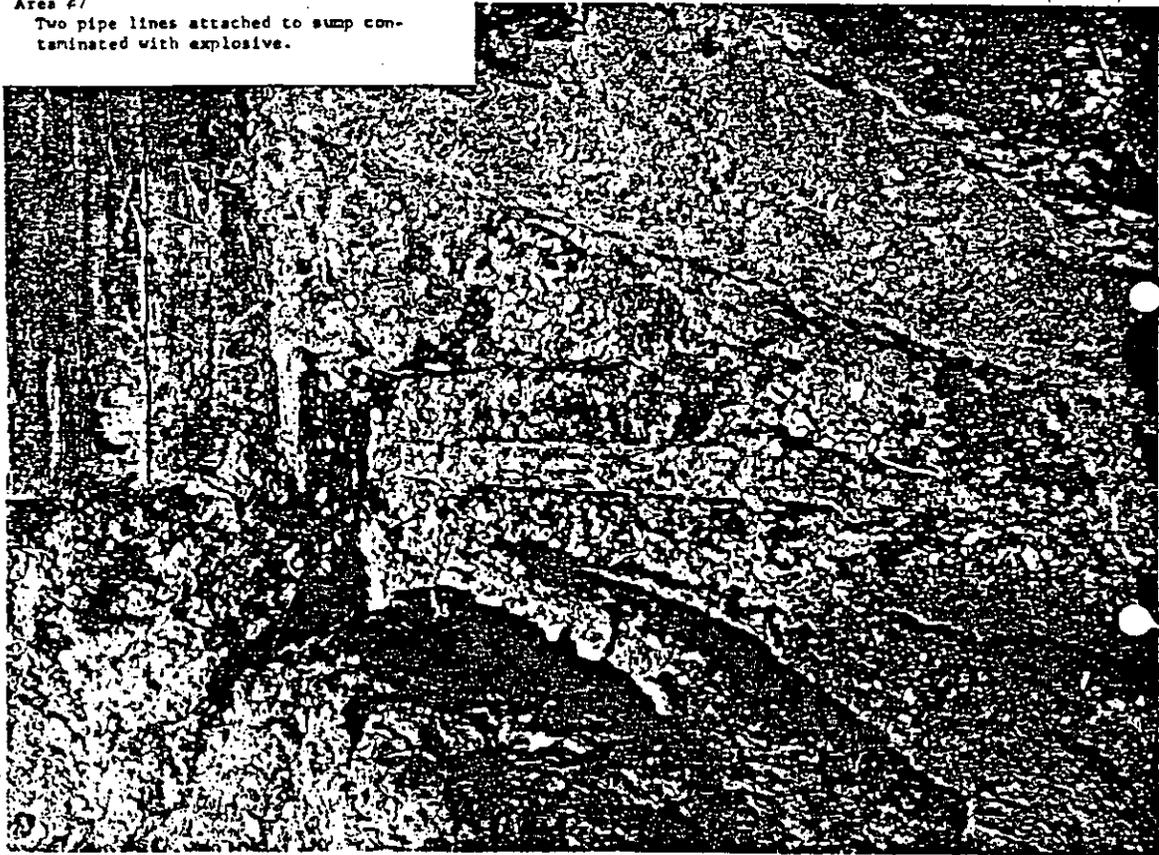
Sold to the U. S. Government 1941

<u>Company (Agency)</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
Picatinny Arsenal	Ceric Ammonium Nitr.	440 #	1,540.
U. S. Dept Agriculture	Lithium Hydroxide	25 #	14.
U. S. Dept Commerce	Thorium Oxide C.P.	1 #	20.
U. S. Navy	Lithium Hydrox. Anhyd	53,322.9 #	115,398.45
U. S. Treasury Dept	Theobromine	50 #	137.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	53,847.9 #	\$117,214.95

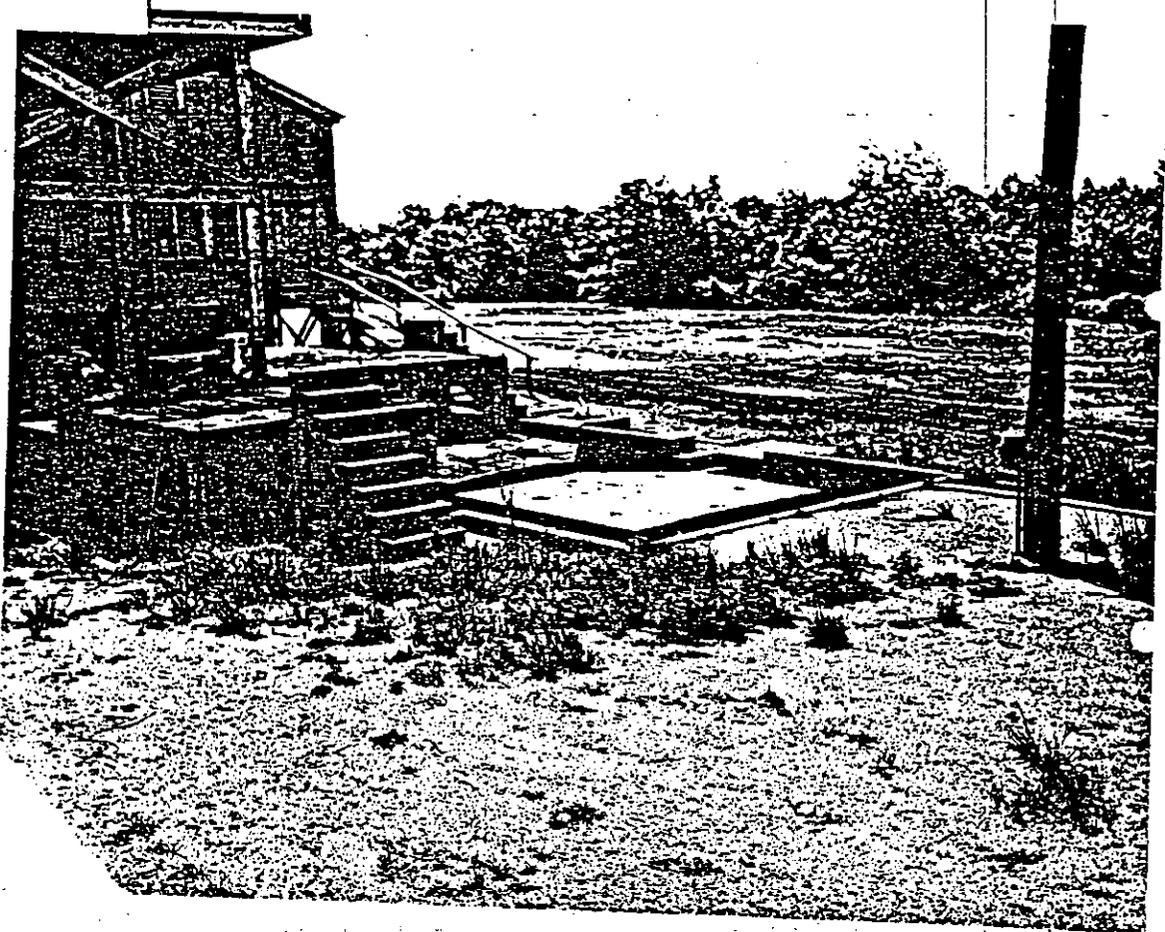
Area 47  
Fire line utilized for removal of con-  
taminated water from sump to drainage  
itch.



Area 47  
Two pipe lines attached to sump con-  
taminated with explosive.



Area #7



Area #7  
Small arms cartridge cases scattered  
in area adjacent to operating building  
where popping furnace was located.

