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RMA 1st Ind. FC:db OJ
Chief, Production Branch, Operations Division. 21 July 1943.

TO: Acting Chief, Operations Division.

1. Since safety shoes as prescribed by the Safety Directive for the IOB Plant will not be available until 1 December 1943, and female labor will be employed in the IOB Plant by 1 September 1943, it is recommended that safety powder shoes be approved for purchase in lieu of the prescribed shoes.

FRANK CHRENCIK
Major, CNS
Chief, Production Branch

2nd Ind.

RMA 0
Operations Division, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colorado. 22 July 1943

TO: Chief, Planning and Procurement Branch, TIRU; Chief, Production Branch.

1. Approved. Take necessary action with regards to changing the safety directive and procurement of the desired items.

HUBERT A. BRANLET
Colonel, C. W. S.
Acting Chief, Operations Division

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL
CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE

OPERATIONS DIVISION OJB

21 July 1943

SUBJECT: Safety Shoes for Women, IOB Plant

TO: Chief, Production Branch

1. The Safety Directive for the IOB Plant, Paragraph B5a states, "The following items of clothing are provided for the use of personnel employed in the Incendiary Oil Bomb Plant:

- (1) "Powder" uniforms.
- (2) Safety shoes with conducting soles."

2. The Procurement Office reports that safety shoes for women having conducting soles are not immediately available, with 1 December 1943 being quoted as the best delivery date for this item. As an alternate, it is possible to obtain a women's Safety Powder Shoes, an oxford type, with steel protective toe cap and non-sparking soles with no exposed nails. This type of shoe is now being used in Ordnance establishments where explosives are being handled.

3. It is considered very essential to provide all employees at the IOB Plant with shoes having safety toes, especially women workers who may report for work in street shoes which afford no protection against falling objects.

4. In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the procurement of women's Safety Powder Shoes with non-sparking soles be authorized as an acceptable substitute for shoes with conducting soles.

5. Permission is requested to change the IOB Plant Safety Directive, Paragraph B5a(2) from "Safety shoes with conducting soles" to read "Safety powder shoes with non-sparking soles."

M. R. Hoffe
M. R. HOFFE
Captain, CMS
Chief, IOB Section

G4300173

Nine Women Injured in Arsenal Fire

By MORTON L. MARGOLIN
Rocky Mountain News Writer

A gasoline bomb fuse set off an explosion and fire at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal shortly before noon yesterday, sending nine women workers to the hospital, four of them with very serious burns.

The explosion occurred on a line where women were removing an obsolete type of fuse from napalm, jellied gasoline bombs, and replacing them with a newer type of fuse.

BOULDERITES SEE SMOKE

The arsenal is located just beyond the Rocky Mountain Kennel Club outside the northeast city limits of Denver. But observers said a column of white smoke could be seen as far away as Boulder.

At least one of the women was so badly burned that she was unrecognizable. All of the victims were rushed to Fitzsimons Army

* * *

Here Is List Of Injured in Arsenal Fire

Here is the list of victims burned in the fire at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal yesterday:

Mrs. Elizabeth Vigil, 28, wife of Rudy Vigil, 620 Pacific ave., Fort Lupton, reported to be seriously burned.

Mrs. Marie Kennedy, 31, wife of Frederick I. Kennedy, Cactus Motel, Aurora, reported seriously burned.

Mrs. Katherine Mack, 49, wife of Frederick J. Mack, 2564 W. Bryson pl., Denver, seriously burned.

Mrs. Eva Underwood, 37, wife of Henry L. Underwood, 807 W. Seventh ave., Denver, seriously burned. Mr. Underwood is a plant guard and helped rescue the victims.

Mrs. Mary Ann Botello, 27, wife of Ben B. Botello, 620 Pacific ave., Fort Lupton, not so seriously burned.

Mrs. Hazel Paulson, 36, wife of Clifford Paulson, 938 McKinley, Fort Lupton, minor burns.

Angellina Daum, 26, wife of Harold Daum, of 3737 W. 26th ave., minor burns.

Julia Trujillo, wife of Joseph D. Trujillo, of 1646 W. 47th ave., minor burns.

Mary Madonna, 46, wife of Philip E. Madonna, of 1805 E. 18th ave., minor burns.

Hospital for blood plasma. Some got surgery.

At the hospital, physicians said the most seriously burned were "in satisfactory condition."

OLD FUSES REPLACED

The napalm bombs are used in warfare against ground troops and to destroy enemy supplies. When they are dropped, they burst and spread flaming jellied gasoline over the area.

Armaments experts said the fuses used previously in such bombs would set the bomb off only if it hit just right. The new fuse, they added, is supposed to set off the bomb whichever way it hits.

The procedure on the renovating line is for one woman to pull the old fuse. The next woman, in an adjoining booth, takes out the bag of black powder and magnesium behind the fuse. The bomb then passes on down the line where subsequent workers install the new fuse mechanism.

DROPPED FUSE SUSPECTED

A fuse that is dropped on the floor will go off like a firecracker.

The Rocky Mountain News learned that procedure calls for quick removal of the old fuses from the building, but that they had been allowed to pile up yesterday.

At 11:45 a. m., one of the workers is believed to have dropped one fuse, setting off a pile of old fuses which had not been carted out of the building.

BLACK POWDER IS TRICKY

Col. C. M. Kellogg, commanding officer of the Arsenal, said there was no damage to the plant.

"When you are working with black powder and magnesium, it's tricky stuff," Colonel Kellogg said.

He added that "a good many other workers suffered from fright and shock, but were given first aid at the Arsenal dispensary."

~~RESTRICTED~~

PYROTECHNIC INCENDIARY (PTI) PLANT

. OPERATING DIRECTIVE

PART IV

SECTION E

UTILITY, SUPPLY, SALVAGE & CLEANUP CREWBUILDING 344A. INTRODUCTORY:

1. This crew is made up of three men and two women.
2. One man will be delegated by the building foreman to act as straw-boss.
3. This man and the two other men will assist in unloading operations, both of railroad cars and trucks.
4. They will assist in stacking operations.
5. They will unpack all items.
6. They will supply all items to the proper stations, in designated types of containers, at proper times, keeping an adequate supply at the line both during the shift and at the end of the shift for the oncoming personnel. Excessive supplies on the line are to be avoided to eliminate crowding.
7. They will dispose of all trash and salvage in the proper containers and carts. Carts, drums, etc. are to be kept in designated spots.
8. They will keep floors swept, and men's toilets cleaned and supplied.
9. One of the women members of the crew will act as lift truck operator. When she is not acting as such, she will assist in anything required by the straw-boss or foreman.