

## UNEXPLODED BOMB REPORT

R9/2/6081

TO REGIONAL/DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

For Official Use  
Serial No. BM/ N.A. 18

## PART I

1. EXACT LOCATION L.M.S. Railway Goods Yard Bowley St.

Time of falling Not Known Date 3-12-40

2. PHASE AFFECTED (Strike out (a) Industrial War Effort  
where not (b) Communications or P.U. Services  
applicable) (c) General Industry  
(d) Civil Population3. STATE (a) Diameter of Hole of Entry (b) Estimated size and depth 50 kg  
(c) Type of Ground (d) Reasons for suspecting U.X.B.  
(e) Proximity of (i) Buildings (ii) Gas Mains  
(iii) Water Mains (iv) Electricity Mains  
(v) Telephone Mains (vi) Sewers4. IF ON RAILWAYS STATE PROXIMITY OF (a) Running Tracks (b) Cuttings  
(c) Embankments (d) Railway over Road Bridges (e) Road over Rly Bridges5. DESCRIBE (a) Any Part of Bomb if exposed  
(b) Any portion of Bomb found anywhere  
(c) Colour & Markings found on any part

6. STATE where any portions of Bomb may be collected

7. ANY SPECIAL REMARKS (Restrictions imposed, etc.)

Submitted for re-arrangement

Signed

Rank

Service

R.O. II  
Home Office Region 9

SUGGESTED BOMB CATEGORY

Signed

Designation

For Group/Burgh or County Controller.



4

To:- Home Office, Explosives Department,  
Whitehall,  
London, S.W. 1.

Ref:- 3.18

Subject:- Final Clearance of UXB Incidents. Date: 31st July 52.

1. Reference Report received from 9 Region  
R9/2/6081 - N.A. 18 dated 15th April 1952  
(old No. 3790)  
reference old abandoned bomb at L.M.S. Goods Yard,  
Lawley Street, Birmingham.

2. This incident is:-

(a) DISCREDITED  
(b) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
(c) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
(See Para 3.)

3. Remarks Authy:- Home Office, Expl. Dept.  
XPC131/9/6 - 122/36/9, dated 15th July 1952.

Broadbridge Heath,  
Nr. Horsham, Sussex.  
Tele. Broadbridge Heath 182, Ext. 8.

Major RE.  
(~~XXXXXX~~),  
HQ ED Unit (UK) RE.

Copy to:-  
Chief Constable,  
City Police Headquarters,  
Birmingham.



Appreciation by Lieut. [redacted] of incident at L.M.S. Railway Goods Yard, Lawley Road, Birmingham.

Object. To determine whether or no this incident could be successfully re-opened.

- Factors.
1. This incident was never excavated for. It passed through the top arch of large culvert under yard into river Rea.
  2. No signs of entry hole now visible. Hole was filled in and new reinforced concrete yard laid.
  3. Mr Alcroft, Rates Clerk, states Culvert was emptied and searched but no further trace could be found of missile. Entry hole approx 12-14" diameter presumably 50 Kg.
  4. Exact position now not known.

Courses open.

Abandon.

23/3/45

[redacted]  
Lieut. R.E.

3790



SW

Tel. No. 60  
Whitehall 8100

Ext.

Our ref.

Your ref.

Room 35,  
HOME OFFICE,

EXPLOSIVES BRANCH,

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W.1

Subject: Final Clearance of UXB Incidents.

Ref: 3.18

Senior Regional Officer,  
Home Office, Civil Defence,  
Midland Regional Office,  
Daimler House,  
Paradise Street,  
Birmingham, 1.

Date: 26th July 52.

15th July, 1952.

Dear

UXB, Lawley Street Goods Station,  
Birmingham.

... I return herewith duly endorsed on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, two copies of the proforma showing record of further work on the above incident which is now to remain abandoned.

One copy has been sent to the Principal Officer, Home Office Civil Defence Region, Birmingham, for transmission to the Corporation of Birmingham, and one copy has been retained in this Department for record purposes.

Yours sincerely,

HEADQUARTERS

22 JUL 1952

BOMB & OSAL UNIT  
(U.K.) R.E.

Major M.B.E.,  
Headquarters, B.D. Unit (U.K.) R.E.,  
Broadbridge Heath Camp,  
near Horsham,  
Sussex.

Herewith Part IV of UXB Report No.

N.A. 18

for your information and retention.

HQ BD Unit (UK) RE  
Broadbridge Heath  
Nr. Horsham, Sussex.

Major RE,  
for Commanders  
( )

Tele. Broadbridge Heath 182. Ext. 8

ENCLOSURE



REGION

9.

RECORD OF FURTHER WORK ON FINALLY ABANDONED UNEXPLODED  
BOMB/SHELL INCIDENTS WHICH ARE TO REMAIN ABANDONED

To be attached to the Final Abandonment Form in respect  
of the following incident:-

1. SERIAL NUMBER- (a) ED Serial No. **R9/2/6081**  
(b) Regional Serial No. **N.A. 18 (Old no. 3790)**

2. LOCATION **L.M.S. Goods Yard, Lawley Street, Birmingham.**

3. LOCAL AUTHORITY HOLDING THE FINAL  
ABANDONMENT FORM:- **Corporation of Birmingham.**

4. RECORD OF FURTHER WORK CARRIED OUT:-

**Reconnaissance carried out in 1949.**

5. REASONS FOR FINAL DECISION TO ALLOW  
MISSILE TO REMAIN ABANDONED:-

**Previous recce reports indicate that no useful purpose  
would be served in trying to find this missile.**

(a) Signature of Field Engineer **Major, RE**  
ED Unit (UK) PE .....  
Date **18 April 1952.**

(b) Signature of Regional  
Authority .....  
Date **22.4.52**

(c) Recommended by Commander  
Disposal Unit (UK) PE **Col. RE**  
Date **28th April 1952.**

6. APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE  
HOME DEPARTMENT

Date **13.6.52**



RECORD OF FURTHER WORK ON FLAKELY PARACHUTE INCORPORATED  
BOMB/SHELL INCIDENTS WHICH ARE TO REMAIN ABANDONED

To be attached to the Final Abandonment Form in respect  
of the following incident:-

1. SERIAL NUMBER- (a) ED Serial No. **R9/2/6081**  
(b) Regional Serial No. **N.A. 18 (old no. 3790)**
2. LOCATION **L.M.S. Goods Yard, Lawley Street, Birmingham.**
3. LOCAL AUTHORITY HOLDING THE FINAL  
ABANDONMENT FORM:- **Corporation of Birmingham.**
4. RECORD OF FURTHER WORK CARRIED OUT:-

**Reconnaissance carried out in 1949.**

5. REASONS FOR FINAL DECISION TO ALLOW  
MISSILE TO REMAIN ABANDONED:-

**Previous recce reports indicate that no useful purpose  
would be served in trying to find this missile.**

- (a) Signature of Field Engineer **Major, RE**  
ED Unit (UK) **11 April 1952.**  
Date .....
- (b) Signature of Regional  
Authority .....  
Date ..... **22.4.52**
- (c) Recommended by **Inspector Bomb**  
Disposal Unit (UK) **RE**  
Date ..... **28th April 1952.**

6. APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE  
HOME DEPARTMENT

Date ..... **13.6.52** .....



**RE - OPENED OLD ABANDONED BOMB.**

Subject: UXB Report.

Ref. 3.5

To: Field Engineer,  
BD Unit (UK) RE.

Date: **15th April 1952.**

The following information regarding a suspected UXB has been received by this Headquarters. Please carry out a Recce of the incident. Your completed Recce Report Proforma should be forwarded to this office when the job is completed.

Location: **L.M.S. Railway Goods Yard, Lawley Street, B'ham.**

Buff Form No. **H.A. 18** Unit No. **R9/2/6081**

Map Reference

Local Contact: **B'ham City Surveyors Dept.**

Tele. No.

Diameter of the hole of entry:

**XXXX**

Any further information:

**Est. Size:- 50kg**

HQ BD Unit (UK) RE,  
Broadbridge Heath Camp,  
Nr. Horsham, Sussex.

**Major, RE**

(**for Commander.**)

Tele. Broadbridge Heath 182, Ext. 5.

Copies to:

**O.C., No. 2 BD Troop, RE.  
Home Office, Civil Defence,  
Midland Region,  
Daimler House,  
Paradise Street,  
Birmingham 1.**

RECCE REPORT.

Incident No. 3790.

at Railway Goods Yard, Lawley Road, Birmingham.  
MR 72/539076.

Object: To investigate the possibilities of reopening this incident.

Local Contacts. Birmingham City Surveyors Department.  
Railway Engineers Department.

Factors.

1. A missile penetrated the roof of the South culvert at a distance of 150 yards from the West entrance, but did not penetrate the culvert invert.
2. Estimated size - 50 Kg.  
Date of falling - 3 December 1949.
3. The culvert has been twice searched by B.D. parties with no result.
4. This culvert takes the flood water of the River Rea, which in the rainy seasons flows through the culvert with considerable force.

Conclusions.

1. That a missile entered the culvert, but did not penetrate the ~~culvert~~ invert.
2. That the missile has been swept downstream by the strong flow of water.

Recommendations.

That the incident remain abandoned.

Date of Recce: 9th August 1949.

(Lieut. R.E.)

Major R.E.  
Officer Commanding 9 Bomb Disposal Squadron R.E.  
( )

Longview Lane,  
HUYTON,  
Liverpool.  
WFD/SK.



INCIDENT No 3790

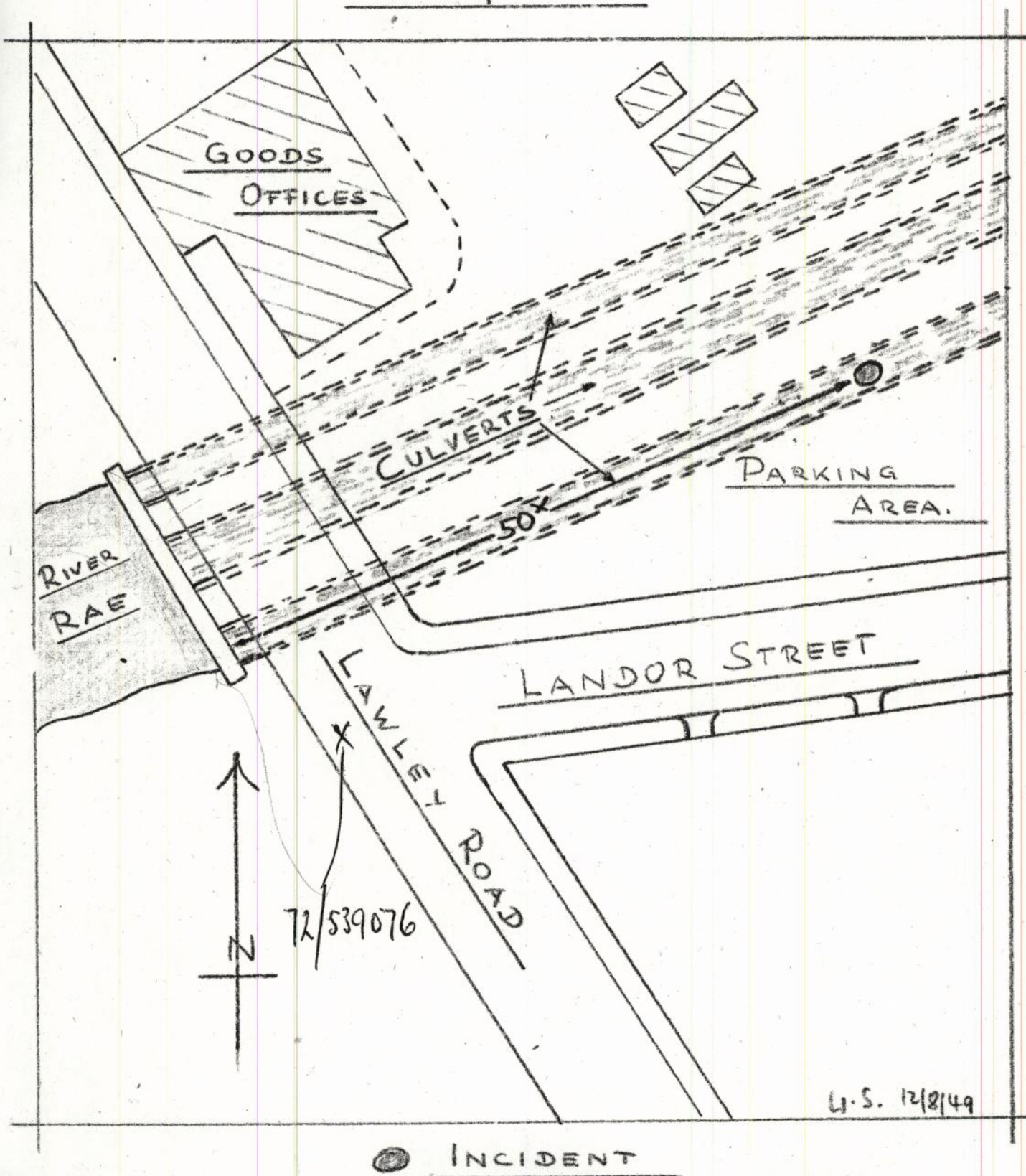
LOCATION:- RAILWAY GOODS YARD,

LAWLEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM.

DISTANCES BY PACING

NOT TO SCALE

M.R. 72/539076





INCIDENT No 3790

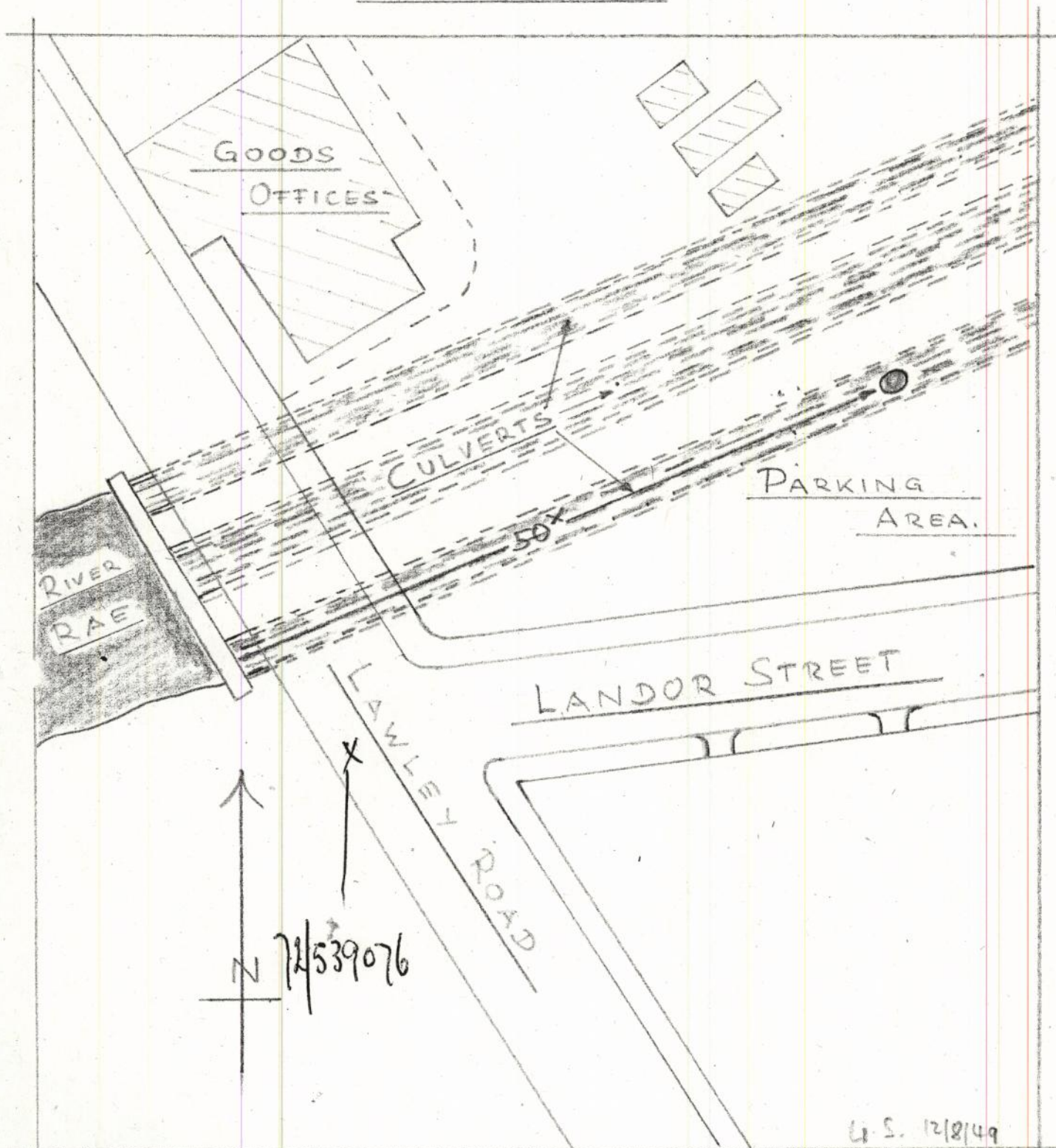
LOCATION:- RAILWAY GOODS YARD,

LAWLEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM.

DISTANCES BY PACING

NOT TO SCALE

M.R. 72/539076



U.S. 12/8/49

CHW



INCIDENT



To:- Officer Commanding,  
9 Bomb Disposal Coy. R.E.

From:- [redacted] R.E.

3790

Subject:- Recce of Previously Abandoned U.X.B. at Lawley Street Goods Station  
In Culvert River Rea.

1. Reference my report dated 23 May 45, a further recce was made this morning.
2. The entry hole was discovered in the right hand culvert (from the Upstream Entrance looking downstream) about 50 yards from the entrance. The entry hole has been shuttered to allow concreting to be done in Railway Yard above.
3. A mark of some object striking the bed of the Culvert, but not penetrating was found immediately below this shuttering. This mark was approximately 10" to 12" across, and it might be suggested that it bore evidence to what might be expected had a 50 Kg U.X.B. struck the bed of the culvert after penetrating the roof and passing through shallow water.
4. A complete search of the culvert was made but there is definitely no U.X.B. present, nor could any marks be found to suggest detonation, shrapnel or ricichet.
5. Enquiring showed that this storm culvert has also been cleaned out twice since the incident occurred.
6. It is suggested that the missile has been carried downstream in flood waters, and as I was assured that the whole length of River has been cleared to the River Mouth at Fort Dunlop very recently, further search would appear impracticable.
7. Final abandonment is suggested.

[redacted]  
Lieut. R. E.  
Recce Officer,  
No. 9 Bomb Disposal Coy. R. E.

25 May 1945.



23 May 1945.

From: Lieut [redacted] R. E.

3790

Subject: Recce of Previously Abandoned U.X.B. at Lawley Street Goods Station  
In culvert, River Rea.

1. As instructed, a Recce of this incident was made on Tuesday 22nd May 1945.
2. I contacted Mr Griffiths of the Birmingham City Surveyors Department, who met me on the site in company with the Rivers Department Overseer, Mr Whitehead, and local River Ranger. The Railway Surveyor and Engineer was contacted later.
3. The River is culverted normally in the centre, with two overflow, or storm culverts, one on each side of the main. At each end of the Culverts which are approximately 450 yards long, there is a dam arrangement to enable N.F.S. to have sufficient depth of water for pumping. Water can be diverted into one or any of the culverts at the entrance upstream. I was informed that in the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms, it is dangerous to be in the culverts and at all times a lookout man must be posted to inform any working parties to leave the culverts on any rise of level.
4. The bomb apparently entered one of the culverts about 60/70 yards from the upstream entrance. I examined the roof of the centre culvert for a distance of 350 yards but no entry hole was apparent. Some difficulty was experienced by deep water and mud with objects drifted down causing obstacles below the water surface. Accordingly I arranged with Mr Griffiths to be present on Friday next at 0930 hrs when the downstream dams will be removed thus making the water in the culverts more shallow.
5. All three culverts will be scrutinised on this occasion, and watch will be kept at the downstream entrance in case the bomb may wash down on the removal of the dam boards. The culverts have not been cleaned or inspected since 1938 and the possibility must be borne in mind of a ricochet inside the curved brick floor of the culvert and the subsequent rolling of the bomb into the mud and obstacles at the downstream end of the culvert.
6. A 6 foot sump is situated in the centre culvert approximately 100 yards from the upstream entrance and the possibility of the bomb rolling into this sump was considered possible by the Railway Engineer. As this sump is understood to be covered over with steel doors, I consider this possibility to be unlikely, but a definite negative cannot be given until the steel doors have been examined, it is hoped that this may be possible on Friday next if the water flow can be diverted from the centre culvert on that day.
7. I was accompanied on this Recce by Corporal [redacted] and I have made arrangements for the same N.C.O. to be with me on Friday next with 2 Sappers.
8. The position would appear as below.
  - (a) If the bomb has entered the roof and not the floor of the culvert, then the silt and mud must be examined downstream.
  - (b) If an entry hole is apparent in the floor of any culvert, then excavation is possible because the water can be diverted, this is more easily achieved if the incident is situated in the side culverts.
  - (c) This work cannot be done in winter or during a heavy rain period owing to the danger of high water.

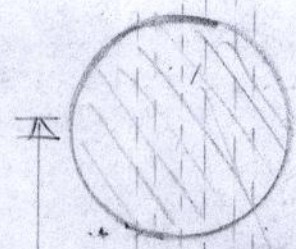


OFFICES

OFFICES

AREA IN WHICH UXB FELL

CENTRE CULVERT



N

65 yds.

GOODS YARD

WEIGH  
BRIDGE  
BUILDING

SKETCH PLAN OF UXB INCIDENT

AT LAWLEY ST. GOODS STATION.

STREET.

LAWLEY



NW  
NE  
SE  
SW

45.



1. Location:- Lawley Street Goods Station, BIRMINGHAM.

2. Local Authority:- Corporation of Birmingham.

3. Serial No.:- 3790

4. Map Reference:- 72/539076

5. Contacts:-  
B'ham City Surveyors Dept.  
Rly Engineers

Bomb Data

6. Estimated size of  
Bomb :- 50 Kg

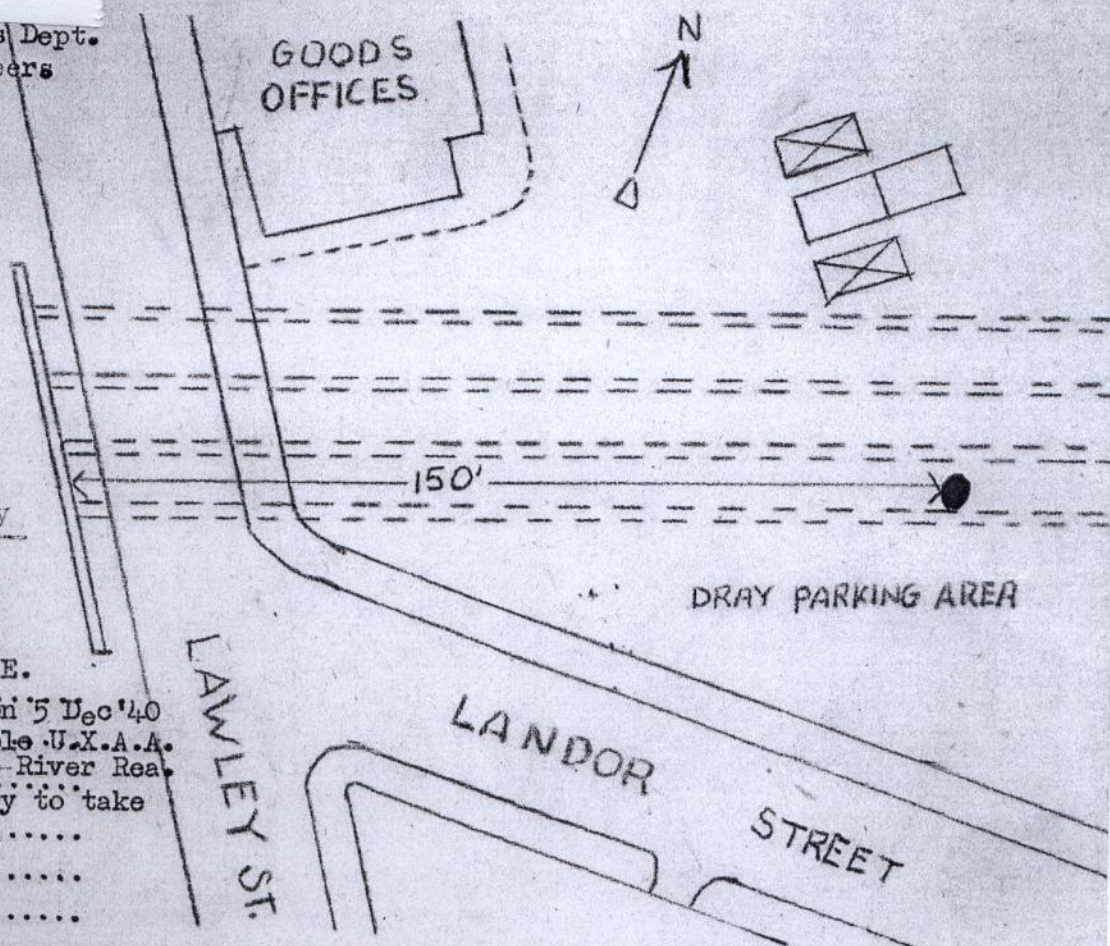
7. Estimated  
Depth :- nil

8. Date & Time of  
fall:- 3 Dec '40

Technical Data

9. Review of Incident by  
B.D. Officer - Date  
23 May '45 & 25 May '45

Officer of 9 B.D. Coy. R.E.  
recce'd this incident on 5 Dec '40  
& reported it as possible U.X.A.A.  
penetrated Culvert into River Rea.  
Decided then unnecessary to take  
any further action.



10. Record of work carried out by B.D. Unit:- Recce made on 25 May '45 disclosed that object penetrating Culvert had struck and slightly damaged invert but not penetrated it. Search of Culvert shewed that no missile was lodged anywhere and it is assumed that storm and flood waters had carried away the bomb or shell.

11. Result of work by B.D.:-

N I L

12. Final Decision:-

To remain abandoned as there is now no missile apparent.

Date:- 18th July 45.

Signed ..... Major. R. E.

O. C. No. 9 Bomb Disposal Coy. R. E.

Signed.....

Regional Authority.

FINAL ABANDONMENT

RECOMMENDED .....

APPROVED .....

DIRECTOR OF BOMB DISPOSAL.

HOME OFFICE.

30.7.45