

11-2-1998

DDASaccident016

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 22/01/2004	Accident number: 16
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 02/11/1998
Where it occurred: Sabie area, Maputo Province	Country: Mozambique
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Vegetation removal accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: none	Name of source: Various/CND/IND
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created: 12/01/2004	Date last modified: 12/01/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale: not recorded	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)
mechanical follow-up (?)
vegetation clearance problem (?)
inadequate investigation (?)

Accident report

The researcher made a field visit to the commercial company's base camp (32°15.60E, 25°33.93S) on 8th November 1988. Senior staff were absent but a male nurse on site (French) spoke of two recent accidents. The nurse refused to be identified. The researcher arranged to return to speak to a senior officer but found the HQ empty at the appointed time.

The nurse described this accident saying that a deminer was leaning forward to cut vegetation and put his foot on a mine. He suffered "traumatic chest injuries" when the front of his foot was driven into his chest. He died in the field before evacuation. The nurse claimed that an autopsy report was with the Country MAC [no one there knew of it] and that the mine was a Gyata-64 (AP blast, 210g TNT). Apparently the accident occurred when the victim was following a "mine-clearance machine" [unspecified].

The demining group issue short protective aprons [not seen] and the victim should have been wearing one. The nurse did not know whether he was [from the injuries it seems that he was not].

The nurse said that the prodders they used were at least 50cm long.

An Ebinger sign on the demining group's trucks implied that they were using Ebinger detectors (as they were known to have done in other accidents).

Victim Report

Victim number: 28	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Chest

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

FATAL

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Other*" because there is insufficient detail to determine the failings that occurred.

The demining group were recent arrivals in Mozambique. The organisation was poorly thought of in the industry and their accident record in Mozambique was very poor - see also accident records for 14th September and 27th March 1998.

Their knowledge of demining and its risks appeared demonstrably weak. For this reason the researcher accepts the argument of more experienced workers about the identity of the mine involved in this accident (see Related papers).

The demining group's record eventually led to them being expelled from the country by the country MAC.

Related papers

No Country MAC report was made available.

No other documents were made available.

In an interview with professional commercial deminers from two Southern African demining companies which work in the area, both were in no doubt that the mine had been wrongly identified. The Gyata-64 closely resembles the PMN and many people mistake them for each other. Both informants believed that Gyata-64 mines were not used in the area, so the mine was a PMN.