

9-28-1978

DDASaccident072

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 19/04/2006	Accident number: 72
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 28/09/1978
Where it occurred: Border minefield, near Mutare	Country: Zimbabwe
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate equipment (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: none	Name of source: Victim
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: M969 AP blast	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created: 23/01/2004	Date last modified: 23/01/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

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

inadequate investigation (?)

inadequate equipment (?)

no independent investigation available (?)

squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)

Accident report

The following is derived from an interview with the victim in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 27th November 1998.

The minefield consisted of a pattern of Ploughshare fragmentation mines surrounded by three anti-personnel mines. The victim was a sapper, tasked with locating and replacing mines that had been detonated by animals etc. He was using a prodder (approximately 50cm long) to find safe places to stand. His colleagues were about 10m behind him. Having prodded in one

particular area, he placed his foot there and stepped on a mine. The victim believed that rainwater had caused the mine to move from its place in the pattern, and that he missed it whilst prodding. No detectors were available at that time. He was wearing only military dress with no protective clothing or glasses. He did not see his prodder again and so could not comment on how it was damaged.



The victim was bending forward slightly at the time of the accident. (See photograph above.) He lost his right leg below the knee and suffered lacerations to his left leg and both arms.

The victim was treated by a medic who was close by and was then evacuated by road to Mutare General Hospital. He stayed there for one month before being transferred to Harare and two weeks later he was moved to the hospital at Ncomo Barracks.

He visited the physiotherapist at KG6, Harare, over a two year period and was then given a prosthetic.

The victim was awarded a monthly pension of Zimbabwe \$14, starting from the time of the accident, which has since risen to Z\$195. He was not given a lump sum.

From 1979 until 1993 the victim worked in the Zimbabwe National Army as a radio operator and then took a course in carpentry. He has worked intermittently since but his disability prevents him from finding permanent employment.

Victim Report

Victim number: 102	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: pension	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Arms

minor Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because it seems that the victim was prodding in the recommended manner when the accident occurred.

If the method was inappropriate, there was a failure of management for having selected that method. The failure to provide detectors and protective equipment can be seen as another management failing. The secondary cause is listed as "*Inadequate equipment*".