

11-15-1979

## DDASaccident074

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database  
*AID*

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# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 19/04/2006	<b>Accident number:</b> 74
<b>Accident time:</b> not recorded	<b>Accident Date:</b> 15/11/1979
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Honde Valley, Chimoio District	<b>Country:</b> Zimbabwe
<b>Primary cause:</b> Field control inadequacy (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Field control inadequacy (?)
<b>Class:</b> Missed-mine accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> [No date recorded]
<b>ID original source:</b> none	<b>Name of source:</b> Victim
<b>Organisation:</b> [Name removed]	
<b>Mine/device:</b> AP blast (unrecorded)	<b>Ground condition:</b> wet
<b>Date record created:</b> 23/01/2004	<b>Date last modified:</b> 23/01/2004
<b>No of victims:</b> 1	<b>No of documents:</b> 1

## Map details

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

## Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)  
no independent investigation available (?)  
inadequate equipment (?)  
inadequate medical provision (?)  
protective equipment not worn (?)

## Accident report

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

The victim was given the task of organising the demining of a military base that had recently been recaptured. The base had been ring-mined, with further mines and booby traps within

the base itself. On the day of the accident the victim was inspecting one of four demining teams when it started to rain. He was aware that their explosives store was not properly covered, so he looked around for something suitable to serve as a tarpaulin. He saw some material and picked it up, turning as he did so. His foot detonated an unidentified anti-personnel mine that was partially under his left foot. He was not wearing any protective clothing. The photograph below shows him reproducing the position he was in at the time.



The victim suffered blast injuries to his left foot and leg and the back of his right leg. He also severely damaged his left kneecap and fractured his left femur. His only permanent effect was a limp which worsened in cold weather and severe scarring on both legs.

The victim was initially treated by his colleagues and then evacuated to Chimoio Hospital. He stayed there for three months and was then transferred to a clinic in Chimoio until independence was declared, when he was moved to Harare Hospital. He felt that he would have recovered more quickly and more completely if he had had skin-graft operations, but this treatment was not available in Mozambique at the time

The victim was judged to be 5% disabled and was accordingly awarded a monthly pension of Z\$5 in 1981, which had since risen to Z\$85 per month. He had been in work continuously since February 1981, working first for the ZNA and more recently with a commercial demining company.

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 104	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> deminer	<b>Fit for work:</b> yes
<b>Compensation:</b> pension	<b>Time to hospital:</b> not recorded
<b>Protection issued:</b> None	<b>Protection used:</b> none

#### Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Leg

severe Foot

severe Leg

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

### **Analysis**

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the field supervisors failed to carry out an adequate site assessment and so allowed the victim to walk in an area that was mined.

If this was the policy in place, the failure rested higher in the management chain.