

6-30-1977

DDASaccident075

Database of Demining Accidents
DDAS

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 19/04/2006	Accident number: 75
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 30/06/1977
Where it occurred: Nyamapanda , Rhodesian Border Minefield	Country: Zimbabwe
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: none	Name of source: Victim
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: R2M2 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 (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
long handtool may have reduced injury (?)
squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)
inadequate equipment (?)

Accident report

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

The victim was breaching the minefield from the Rhodesian side in order to retrieve sensitive equipment left on the other side by the Rhodesian Airforce. He was crouching down using an 18-inch ".303" bayonet to prod the ground in order to find safe places to put his feet.

When he was 10-15m inside the minefield he prodded onto a R2M2 mine that exploded. The victim believed that rainwater had caused the mine to flip onto its side at right angles to its normal position.

He was wearing a full perspex visor on a headframe that was designed for industrial use. He was not wearing any other protective clothing. The visor shattered and was torn away. His prodder bent but was otherwise undamaged.

The victim suffered gravel lacerations to both arms, chest and face, which also blinded him for a few hours. He also received superficial injuries to the face. He reports having no lung injuries or burns and suffered no permanent injury.

The victim was carried out of the minefield by colleagues who were 15m away at the time, then given first aid consisting of bandaging, painkilling injections and treatment for shock. He was evacuated by helicopter after 20 minutes and taken to Mount Darwin Military Camp Hospital. He discharged himself three days later (against advice) and returned to his home, where he received no further treatment.

The victim resumed his normal duties after 10 days. He did not seek compensation.

The victim was working as a senior supervisor in a commercial demining company in August 1999.

Victim Report

Victim number: 105	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: none	Time to hospital: 40 minutes
Protection issued: Helmet	Protection used: Helmet, Short visor
Short visor	

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Arms

minor Chest

minor Eyes

minor Face

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "*Unavoidable*" because the victim appears to have been working appropriately and prodded onto the face of a tilted mine.

There were management failings in providing inappropriate protective equipment (perspex visor), but the use of a long prodder probably saved the victim's hand or fingers.