

IN REPLY ADDRESS
BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT
AND REFER TO NO.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF ORDNANCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

(rr6a) NP 301A78

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OUTGOING CONFIRMATION OF
TELEPHONE MESSAGE

NOV 28 1942

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SEQUINE (Naval Ordnance
Plant, Macon, Georgia) AND LIEUTENANT CHARLES
H. BROOKS (Bureau of Ordnance).

Subject: Explosives Storage.

Brooks: -- got down there at Macon, and he said that you had promised that you had gotten up a letter for him which he was unable to pick up. I wonder if you can give me a summary of the amount of various explosives that you've got on hand, and your total storage capacity for that type of material.

Sequine: Well now, hold the wire a minute. -- waiting preparation now. The only thing that is really in excess is tetryl. We have a very large quantity of tetryl.

Brooks: How much have you got sir?

Sequine: 298,150 pounds tetryl. We've got 91,500 pounds of TNT, but we're cutting into that very lively with these explosives. However, the Naval Gun Factory has not been able to furnish us with about 60,000 of the plugs that go into those explosives so that will be closed down. I wouldn't worry about the TNT, we can take care of that, the only thing that bothers us is the tetryl.

Brooks: How much of that would you like to get rid of sir?

Sequine: Well --

Brooks: 250,000?

Sequine: -- about 350 pounds a day of tetryl and that's at the rate of 10,000 a month, and that may rise slightly. I would say off hand if we could get rid of, on a start, 150,000 pounds of tetryl that would help us get some more magazines capacity.

Brooks: 150,000 pounds of tetryl.

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TELEPHONE MESSAGE

4-4226

Sequine: Yes.

Brooks: How are you on azide?

Sequine: We've got 22,000 pounds of lead azide.

Brooks: How much of that are you using sir?

Sequine: About 150 pounds a day. Around 5,000 a month and if my recollection serves me correctly we have a contract with Duront for about 5,000, and were it not for the fact we've fallen behind on Mark 26 projector, we would -- that wouldn't be an embarrassment to us see.

Brooks: Well Commander, I've been wondering -- what we're planning to do is to overhaul all our contracts, and provide that the delivery will be designated upon acceptance of the lot, and that would include this azide and everything else. Now, would that be satisfactory to you?

Sequine: Let's see, do I get that correctly, that is they ship in a trial lot of lead azide and test it out and then accept the lot of azide and ship it in?

Brooks: Yes, and if you were behind we'd ship it to Burns City, or somewhere like that, and then ship it to you as you needed it.

Sequine: Yes, well that sounds all right to me.

Brooks: In other words what I'm planning to do with this tetryl and anything else that you want to get rid of is to ship it up to Charleston, South Carolina, and then give you a blanket shipment order to bring it back - shipment to be as designated by you.

Sequine: I see, direct to Charleston.

Brooks: Yes. We'll ship it up to Charleston see, this 150,000 pounds of tetryl we'll ship up to Charleston, we will then issue a blanket shipment order so that you can get that

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back as you want it.

Sequine: That would be all right, that would be grand.

Brooks: Because we're along ways away from your - any place as far as that's concerned, and we're trying to do that as much as we can, because you fellows are on the spot, and know how you want it and when you want it.

Sequine: That would suit us very well indeed.

Brooks: How about black powder sir?

Sequine: Now we've got 99,000 pounds of black powder. Our black powder business is lopsided; we're short of cannon powder, I think we're down around 5,000 pounds of cannon powder.

Brooks: 5,000 of cannon. What's the rest of it?

Sequine: The rest of it is 2F and 3F, possibly 2F of course - 3F, well the 3F is not important, there is not much of that. I would say off hand if we got somewhere like 90,000 pounds, or 89,000 pounds of 2F. Now we can grin and bear that.

Brooks: Well, do you want to get rid of some of it?

Sequine: Well we'll have to let it review this thing, we're in preparation, and we'll let you know, but I think we can take with him. You see what happens is the project orders made out in the Gun Factory, that is the job orders, and we might not be ready to engage in a production of this particular material they have set up, but they go ahead and inform the Bureau of Ordnance they are going to need so many pounds of black powder and then it comes down to us.

Brooks: I'll tell you sir, one thing we're doing now, we're not sending that down to them. They tell us you need so much, you need 5 pounds of azide and 50 pounds of tetryl and so forth and we just forget them.

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4-4228

Sequine: Well, I wish you would.

Brooks: I wonder sir, if it would be satisfactory to you to pull 50,000 pounds of that 2Fg out also?

Sequine: Let us review that, this report is still in preparation, I would suggest this, that you start by moving 150,000 pounds of tetryl, that's taking steps to initiate that, and then on the receipt of this report which will have body recommendation, you can act further.

Brooks: All right sir, we'll get that tetryl away from you, we'll issue the shipment order today and have instructions sent down by teletype.

Sequine: O. K., now we'll try to make it a uniform lot if possible, and not to have a diversion latitude in that.

Brooks: Yes, now one other thing in that report sir, I don't know whether Commander Sawyer asked you to include in that your storage capacity for the various types of explosive or not, Did he?

Sequine: Yes, we've just been debating about that. Now the trouble is that on the original swap plan as is gotten out by Ad3, they don't give those capacities. Dr. Dick has that though. I wish he'd give us the dope. That is the permissible capacity. Now we'll give you the actual storage capacity as we see it, but the permissible capacity were worked out by Dr. Dick and we never got that dope.

Brooks: O. K., we'll try to get it down to you. Now wait a minute, we've got a teletype in here from Macon. Commander, in connection with this teletype which was sent on the 11th, about fulminate being packed in antifreeze, we're wondering if it wouldn't be possible for you, with that that's on hand at the present time to pour some of the water off and put some antifreeze on it.

Sequine: Yes, we're going to do that and we're also going to put some coils in that

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TELEPHONE MESSAGE

4-4226

Beyer: Now one other thing, how much fulminate have you got on hand? Oh, 3600 pounds.

Sequine: 3600 pounds.

Beyer: And we won't ship any more to you until you ask for it.

Sequine: Yes.

Beyer: Do you want to get rid of some?

Sequine: No, we can grin and bear that. place you see.

Beyer: Yes. Well we'll get rid of that 150,000 pounds of tetryl for you right off the bat, and when that report comes up we'll get rid of anything that you want to get rid of, and we'll ship it up to Charleston, and you can get it back when you want it.

Sequine: That will suit us fine.

Charles H. Brooks
Lieutenant, USNR

FA

P26dB

FJB
 Telephoned by: Lt. C. H. Brooks (BuOrd).
 Received by: Lt. Comdr. Sequine (NOF, Macon, Georgia).
 Hour and Date: November 18, 1942.

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