

RESTRICTED

**SECTION 46**

**HEADINGS**

4601. Headings are used to recover bombs known to be only a few feet outside that shaft, where the approximate location of the bomb is known and where the ground is good. A heading must not be used in running sand, gravel, or in made up ground such as a railway embankment. Collapse of a heading would endanger life, threaten the stability of the whole excavation and might cause a sensitive fuze to function. The open face of the heading must be capable of standing unsupported. When the ground is bad it is safer and often much quicker to sink another shaft from the surface.

**Size**

4602. It is quicker to construct a heading with adequate working space than a small one which is cramped. The minimum size recommended is four feet six inches high and four feet wide. Such a heading is large enough for recovering most bombs up to 2000 lb in weight and to allow demolition of bombs of any size.

**Sitting**

4603. Having determined the position of the bomb from the direction of the hole of entry by probing or with a mine detector, decide where to strike out the heading from the shaft. A heading that will lead straight to the bomb is best but if the bomb lies outside the corner of the shaft a heading containing bends must be accepted. The ground sill of the first frame should be positioned so that the heading will not have to slope downwards from the shaft. Should it do so, drainage, the removal of the necessary of the bomb will be made more difficult.

**Standard BD Method**

4604. The method of striking out from a shaft and of constructing a heading and the sizes of timbers used by bomb Disposal units are recommended for use by other Engineer units not skilled in mining. Details are given in Appendix E.

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### **Backfilling**

4605. Unless in short supply, the timber in a heading is usually written off. Where headings have been driven below buildings the timber should always be left in place. The heading may then if it is thought advisable also be bricked in or filled with sandbags.

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