SECTION 16

UNEXPLODED BOMBS ON THE SURFACE

1601. Bombs found on the surface present no unusual reconnaissance problems unless they are in large numbers and are anti-personnel bombs fitted with dangerous fuzes (Chapter VI). Normally it is sufficient to identify the type, estimate the size, apply the appropriate safety precautions and render a report.

1602. Bombs which break up on impact sometimes shed dangerous components such as fuzes or exploder systems. If it is noticed that these are missing, a search must be made until they are found. They should then be marked and reported.

1603. Bombs are found on the surface because:

a. They are fitted with parachutes or drogues to prevent penetration.
b. The target is too resistant for penetration.
c. They were dropped from a very low level.
d. They have ricocheted.
e. They have entered the ground but have been deflected back to the surface.

Ricochets

1604. Bombs dropped by low flying aircraft or bombs which are deflected in flight by an obstacle may fail to penetrate the surface and may ricochet. It is recorded that a bomb hopped across the surface of an airfield like a pebble across water for a distance of over a mile. A ricocheting bomb may bounce over or pass through buildings on its route. A ricochet mark which is quite easily distinguished (Fig 16-1) should, therefore be “followed up” until the bomb itself or proof of eventual detonation is found.

Fig 16-1: Ricochet Mark

Bombs Returning to the Surface

1605. Bombs which enter the ground at only a slight angle sometimes turn back towards the surface and become totally or partially exposed some distance from the original hole of entry (Fig 16-2). Holes running at only a slight angle to the surface should therefore also be "followed up''.

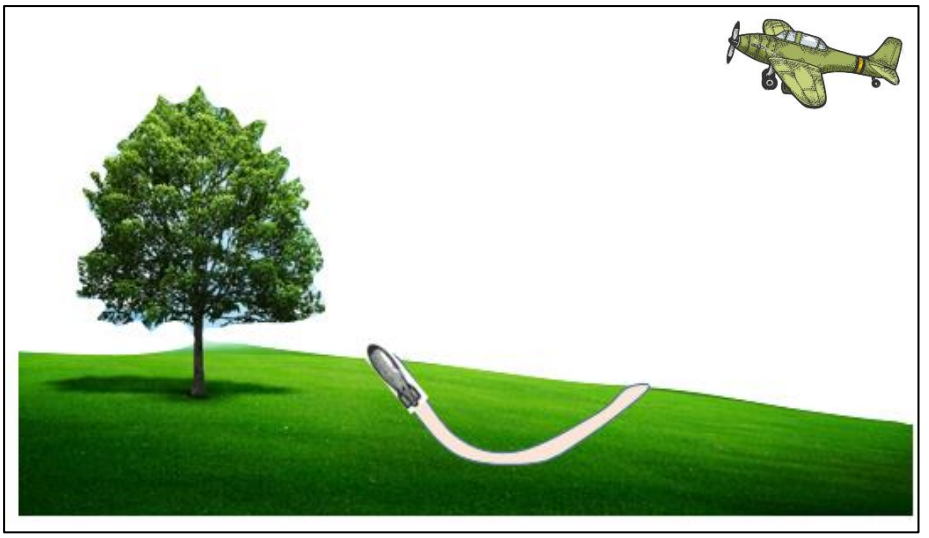

Fig 16-2: A Bomb Dropped from a Low Level Returning to the Surface

1606-1700. Reserved.