

RESTRICTED

SECTION 25 A

PRIORITIES

Definition

25A01. In the 1939-45 War, the four categories in which UXBs were placed for purposes of priority of treatment were designated "A", "B", "C" and "D" and each is defined below they remain operative unit further notice.

a. **Category "A"**. Immediate disposal essential to prevent serious consequence to the war effort. This category is sub-divisible; "A1" indicating that disposal by demolition in situ cannot be accepted under any circumstances, "A2" that demolition in situ is permissible. Priority of "A2" might, for example, be allotted to a bomb beside the runway of an airfield. Although the crater caused by explosion could easily be repaired, the results of cancelling flying or the effects of the bomb exploding at an unpredictable time would be very serious. The Decision whether or not such a bomb may be demolished is made by the civilian authority on advice from the group commander or the liaison officer. Normally when a UXB is Placed in category A it is implied that any additional risk resulting from working on the bomb before the maximum period has elapsed must be accepted. It may be, however, that the majority of time bombs have been exploding within a period considerably less than the maximum delay. It may than be feasible, for certain incidents to allot a priority of category A but to specify that work need not start until this lesser period has elapsed. For example, this course might be adopted when the bomb is buried so deep that it is impossible to reach it before the expiration of the maximum delay period

b. **Category "B"**. UXBs which if they should explode would cause damage possibly serious but not affecting anything irreplaceable or for which there was not an adequate substitute. For example, a UXB adjoining a main railway line should be placed in category "B" and not category "A" if a suitable loop line exists. UXBs requiring large scale evacuation or which otherwise seriously affect morale may also be placed in this category.

c. **Category "C"**. UXBs which cannot be left indefinitely but the disposal of which is not urgent.

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- d. **Category “D”**. UXBs which may be dealt with when convenient. e.g. there is no risk to habitation or communication.

UXBs in categories “B”, “C” and “D” are not usually dealt with until the maximum delay period has elapsed, but where the BD officer is certain that the UXB does not contain a long delay fuse he may start work earlier.

Allocation to Categories

25A02. Authority to allocate to category “A” is vested in regional commissioner’s, who may in certain circumstances delegate authority to sub- regional commissioners but to no one else. Allocation to other categories is within the powers of CD controllers.

25A03. The use of category “A” will be kept to the absolute minimum. If used too freely, incidents of real priority may be held up by others far less vital, while valuable sapper lives will be risked unnecessarily. BD officers will always present this point of view when called upon for advice. During a raid the BD commander for the region will almost invariably attend at the regional. HQ war room, so that as reports of incidents come in he can assess his unit’s probable commitments and tender advice accordingly.

25A04. A category once allotted may be changed. For example, the BD commander may after the technical reconnaissance has been carried out, from the opinion that category “A” is not justified. He will then ask the decision be reconsidered. Again, a UXB near a power station may have been placed in category “B” because an alternative source of power is available should an explosion occur, but if the alternative source is damaged in a subsequent raid the UXB may be upgraded to category “A”.

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