



# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 427

## NAZI GAS BOMB LEAKS, BURNS EIGHT AT AMORY

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Amory, Miss., a city of about 5000 in Monroe County, 125 miles southeast of Memphis, had a taste of what "might have been" if the Nazis had been in a position to bomb the United States.

A leaking Nazi airplane mustard gas bomb in a freight car caused eight casualties and considerable excitement in the community over the week-end.

The bomb was one of a carload of captured bombs, brought into New Orleans by ship and being sent by rail to an Eastern Army proving ground.

The car was shunted onto a railroad siding in the yards at Amory and one of the bombs began leaking Saturday.

Seven railroad men working with the car and a soldier suffered burns, according to Dr. John Murphy, former Army doctor.

Dr. Murphy said if "atmospheric conditions had been right," the mustard gas fumes might have caused considerable suffering in Amory. As it was, only those who approached the leaking gas suffered burns.

Guy Rorie, 48, Amory, Frisco conductor on the train which was to have brought the bomb car from Amory to Memphis, is at St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from burns on the right leg and arm and back. His eyes were inflamed by the fumes.

Mr. Rorie said the train had left Amory for Memphis when the trouble was discovered. The car was taken to Amory, and later moved to an isolated siding at Bigbee, three miles toward Memphis from Amory.

Mr. Rorie said he had climbed on top of the car and apparently did not get any of the liquid gas on him, but was burned by fumes.

Paul Wright, Amory, brakeman on another train, also suffered burns severe enough to send him to a hospital in Columbus, Miss.

Sgt. Abraham Steinberg, who apparently helped guard the car before a detachment of 17 Military Police from Memphis arrived in Amory Saturday night, suffered burns and his eyes were reported affected. He was flown to the Fourth Ferrying Group hospital at Municipal Airport.

It was reported at the hospital that Sgt. Steinberg will "have a hard time for a couple of weeks"

in the hospital, but that he will not lose his sight.

Dr. Murphy said the other five casualties, all railroad men, were painfully but not severely burned by fumes, and were treated in Amory by an Army doctor who is a specialist in gas burns and was flown to Amory from Washington. He said a secret Army treatment was administered the victims.

"The gas scare caused quite a bit of disturbance in Amory, tho most of the population didn't know what it was all about," Dr. Murphy said.

Capt Ralph Saenz of the Memphis Military Police detachment dispatched 17 MPs, with Lt. William Koon in charge, to Amory. Their job is to keep the curious from becoming casualties.

"Six men from Edgewood Arsenal flew in Saturday night," Lt. Koon said. "They decontaminated the place in Amory where gas dripped."

Commercial Appeal, Tuesday 16 July 1946



TEST FOR GAS — Two soldiers of Army Chemical Warfare Service test for vaporized gas on German poison gas containers in a freighter hold at Theodore, Ala. Naval Ammunition Depot, after other containers began

leaking in a freight car near Amory, Miss. Jobs of unloading gas are going begging—at \$40.95 a night—after many workers suffered burns.

—Associated Press Photo

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