



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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GERMAN GAS ESCAPES HERE

In Missouri Pacific And Frisco
Railroad Yards

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Memphis General Depot Chemical Warfare officers were performing their third day of emergency gas duty today combatting liquid German mustard gas which leaked from 500 pound bombs in the Frisco and Missouri Pacific yards Saturday.

The bombs, loaded in eight freight cars, were en route to the Pine Bluff, Ark., arsenal from New Orleans, where they had arrived from Europe.

The Depot was notified that three of the cars were leaking on Saturday morning, Col. H. S. Evans, Depot commander, said.

All eight cars were moved to the Depot, where train crews wearing gas masks switched them to an isolated area.

The cars were moved under guard. Maj. Otto J. Spahn, depot chemical warfare officer, and his assistant, 1st Lt. E. C. Pittenger, decontaminated the Missouri Pacific yards, where the gas leak was heaviest, both Saturday and Sunday with hand decontaminators. They have been working night and day.

This afternoon three depot decontamination trucks were spraying all tracks over which the cars had passed.

Capt James Whittenberger, medical officer who flew from Edgewood Arsenal, Md., last night, and Major Spahn were checking Memphis hospitals today for possible casualties.

So far, the only reported gas casualty in Memphis is Sgt. Abraham Steinberg, who was overcome in Amory, Miss., Saturday in a mustard gas leakage from another train. He is in Fourth Ferrying Group Hospital.

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