

WASC 825

~~WASC 825~~

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 825

Killer chemical made safe to beat the bombers

A WALTHAM ABBEY company are selling the weed killer sodium chlorate to Northern Ireland . . . and they are the only company allowed to do so. For their formula makes it impossible to use the weed killer for making bombs.

The company, Pan Britannica Industries, devised the formula at their factory in Sewardstone Road—in conjunction with the Home Office and the Government's Explosive Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey.

Unlike conventional sodium chlorate, it is sold in liquid form and is called Liquisafened Chlorate.

In its concentrate form it cannot be used as an explosive and is difficult to ignite.

A spokesman for the company, Mr. Roger DuBern, said the weed killer was sold in plastic buckets and was safer to store.

He explained that ordinary sodium chlorate was sold in a powdered form and was highly inflammable.

Said Mr. DuBern: "In its concentrated state, ordinary sodium chlorate can be used for the making of bombs, but this was only one of the reasons we devised Liquisafened.

"Ordinary sodium chlorate is mixed with water and then sprayed on to weeds.

INFLAMMABLE

"But when the weeds dry out, they become highly inflammable and just a spark could set the weeds alight or even cause an explosion."

He also said that a person could easily set himself alight if he splashed his clothing with the liquid.

Liquisafened is much safer, however. "Even if the plastic container leaked it would still be very difficult to ignite the new formula weed killer," said Mr. DuBern.

Chestnut and Waltham Weekly Telegraph, 7.6.74

Killer chemical made safe to beat the bombers

A WALTHAM ABBEY company are selling the weed killer sodium chlorate to Northern Ireland . . . and they are the only company allowed to do so. For their formula makes it impossible to use the weed killer for making bombs.

The company, Pan Britannica Industries, devised the formula at their factory in Sewardstone Road—in conjunction with the Home Office and the Government's Explosive Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey.

Unlike conventional sodium chlorate, it is sold in liquid form and is called Liquisafened Chlorate.

In its concentrate form it cannot be used as an explosive and is difficult to ignite.

A spokesman for the company, Mr. Roger DuBern, said the weed killer was sold in plastic buckets and was safer to store.

He explained that ordinary sodium chlorate was sold in a powdered form and was highly inflammable.

Said Mr. DuBern: "In its concentrated state, ordinary sodium chlorate can be used for the making of bombs, but this was only one of the reasons we devised Liquisafened.

"Ordinary sodium chlorate is mixed with water and then sprayed on to weeds.

INFLAMMABLE

"But when the weeds dry out, they become highly inflammable and just a spark could set the weeds alight or even cause an explosion."

He also said that a person could easily set himself alight if he splashed his clothing with the liquid.

Liquisafened is much safer, however. "Even if the plastic container leaked it would still be very difficult to ignite the new formula weed killer," said Mr. DuBern.

Chesham & Waltham Weekly Telegraph ~~7/6/74~~ 7/6/74