

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 1022-

WASC 1022
WAI 232



Photo

Photo of bedding
balances

WASC 1022

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Mr M McLaren
Head of Library Services
Propellants, Explosives & Rocket Motor
Establishment
Powdermill Lane
Waltham Abbey Essex
EN9 1BP

Ref ENGS 2994

1 March 1978

Dear Mr McLaren,

Thank you very much for your letter and the excellent photograph. It was most kind of you to go to so much trouble.

I have located the papers you referred to in your previous letter, SUPP/47/811. These are now at Kew and were most interesting. Most of the weighing machines in use were for large loads, but some smaller Oertlings are mentioned by name. It is obvious reading between the lines that the weighing of cordite with any degree of accuracy was a recurrent problem.

I enclose a copy of a photograph which you may find of interest. It is from the vast collection assembled at Oertlings over the years, of all their products and those of their associates. I think there is no doubt that your cordite balance was one of those in the picture. It is catalogued under a heading De Graves, but there is alas no date. It would be nice to think that the size of the original order inspired someone to assemble this impressive group.

You mention that your balance was in use until a year ago, and this leads me to enquire tentatively where its future home is likely to be? Perhaps when it is no longer required the Science Museum might be considered as a recipient.

Thank you again for your help.

Yours sincerely,

P Buchanan (Miss)

To

Mr Chapman

From

HdLS

Date

21. 2. 80

Tel

Your ref

ENQ 2994

Our ref

Subject

Credit Balances

I have just come across this item which I thought was on the ENQ file.

Pl. file - no

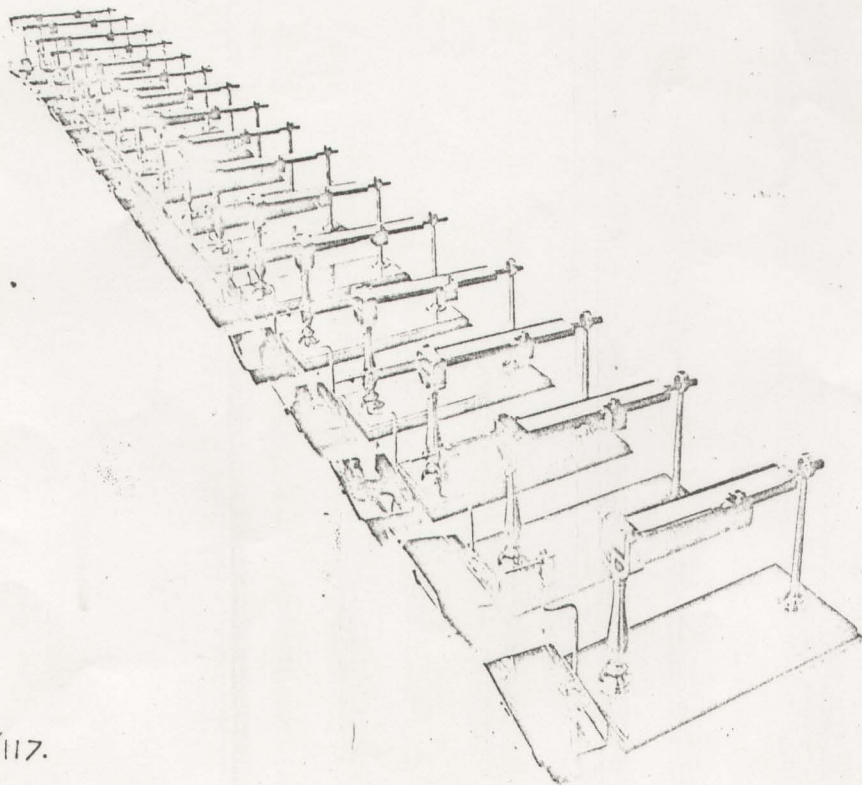
further action to be

taken

by way of reply but bring it to the attention of Mr Fryer for WASC action. 24.2.80

← PL. SEE ABOVE + (RPS ATT'D)

Photograph - Oerlikon collection



132/117.

Box II

4000 q.s. balance

for Ministry of
Supply.

Reverse of
photograph

132/117.





Old Cordite Balance

Non-sparking Safety Implements