



James Madison University  
Mine Action Information Center  
Harrisburg, VA

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From: "Dennis Barlow" <barlowdc@jmu.edu>  
To: <drewarmstrong@bellsouth.net>  
Cc: "Suzanne Fiederlein" <fiedersl@jmu.edu>  
Subject: FW: Unknown object? Civil War era Land Mine? Smudge Pot?  
Date: Fri, 30 Nov 2007 14:15:40 +0000

Drew,

My deepest apologies for the lateness of this reply. We have been swamped!

This is not a Civil War landmine. They only experimented with IED's in the Peninsular Campaign (1862) and quickly discarded the concept - inhumane.

It is either of two things: a mortar round (which were very large and had handles on them and often triggers such as wooden spikes), or is a sea mine which were much more developed than landmines. In coastal areas, the Confederates especially rigged up things like this and pushed them next to Federal boats, or strung them along waterways to impede access.

- Dennis

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From: slfieder95@gmail.com [mailto:slfieder95@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Suzanne Fiederlein  
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 11:34 AM  
To: Dennis Barlow  
Subject: Fwd: Unknown object? Civil War era Land Mine? Smudge Pot?

Dennis:

Did you by chance respond to this message? I didn't.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Drew Armstrong** <drewarmstrong@bellsouth.net>  
Date: Oct 20, 2007 11:25 AM  
Subject: Unknown object? Civil War era Land Mine? Smudge Pot?  
To: [barlowdc@jmu.edu](mailto:barlowdc@jmu.edu)  
Cc: [fiedersl@jmu.edu](mailto:fiedersl@jmu.edu)

Gentlemen:

Our construction crew unearthed this object in Palatka, Florida, an area with quite a bit of Civil War activity very near the St Johns River. The St. Johns County Bomb Squad dismissed it "as an empty old jug."

I have not been able to find any photos of a Civil War era land mine, however, I did find a photo of a replica that looked very similar to this. I also understand they may have been used as early as the 1840's against the Indians in Northeast Florida as well.

Would the holes at the top and around the top be where the sticks would be placed that would activate the device when hit or stepped on?

Thank you in advance for your response to this mystery.

Drew Armstrong  
[drewarmstrong@bellsouth.net](mailto:drewarmstrong@bellsouth.net)

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**Attachment 1:** Unknown.object.one.9.18.07.JPG (image/jpeg)  
**Attachment 2:** unknown.object.two.9.18.07.JPG (image/jpeg)  
**Attachment 3:** unknown.object.three.9.18.07.JPG (image/jpeg)