

copy for Dr. Kehoe

A. C. Fully

Atlanta

W. R. Barnes

New York

American Liberty Oil Co.
Avondale Terminal
Avondale, La.
No. 1 - Tank Cleaning
(25,000 Barrel Vertical Bolted
Cone-Top Tank.)

January 9, 1946

Dear Alant:

Listed below are samples submitted under separate cover to Dr. Kehoe on sludge and side wall scale from the subject oil company's Tank No. 1, Avondale, Louisiana.

SAMPLE A - Bottom sludge removed from tank after the following attempt for cleaning:

The tank was steamed and flushed with fire hose, and partial removal of sludge was effected. At the time the sample of sludge was taken, there was approximately 3 or 4 wheel barrow loads of this sludge remaining in the tank. The tank formerly had approximately 1/2 to 3/4 inches of soft sludge over the surface of the bottom of the tank.

This tank had been in crude oil storage for some number of years, then cleaned for naphtha service and finally reported to have been in 100 Octane Aviation Gasoline service for approximately six months.

The contractor will use protective clothing and airline equipment while working in this tank. Also the material knocked off the steel plates by burning, will be removed and properly disposed of.

I might mention this tank had two manholes. The contractor had an additional opening 36" x 52" cut in the side plate to aid in ventilation and also to make the tank easier to enter for the burning process.

SAMPLE I - Side wall scale about 16 inches from bottom. This scale is characteristic of the lever side wall p before burning with the oxy-acetylene gadget.

Note: Contractor intended to scrap most of this material from the wall with a hand scraper prior to burning.

SAMPLE II - Same type of scale as sample No. I, that knocked off by the heat of the oxy-acetylene gadget.

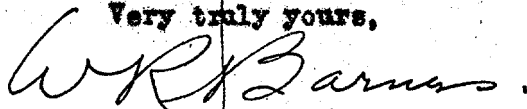
SAMPLE III - A sample of side wall scale after burning with gadget. This material was scraped from a plate that did not have a heavy deposit of scale.

The reason for cleaning this tank is to attempt to make it thoroughly free from lead and to place it into edible oil service.

After cleaning the tank, this company has contracted to have the side walls and bottom burned with a special gadget manufactured by Linde Air Products Co. This gadget consists of about a six inch flame of oxy-acetylene producing a flame of approximately 6000° F. which is supposed to oxidize all of the remaining material on the side of the tank. The gadget is moved quite rapidly across the plates to prevent cutting a hole in the steel plates. Also the intense heat causes such a rise in temperature on the corrosion, the scale falls off due to expansion and contraction.

This method of using the oxy-acetylene flame was developed by Linde Air Products Co. to prime tanks for painting. The oil company and contractor are experimenting on this method of burning the inside plates of the subject tank in an effort to make the tank suitable for edible oil service.

Very truly yours,



W. R. BARNES

WRB:mhj

cc: Dr. Robert A. Kehoe

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