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On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 667

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10.4.1970

Cheshunt & Waltham Weekly Telegraph - Newspaper Article "Scientists may beat sky pirates" re ERDE development of an instrument that can detect nitroglycerine. Photo b/w of G S Welby and Dr R J J Simkins with instrument. /2 Also newspaper article re development of a combustible cartridge case.

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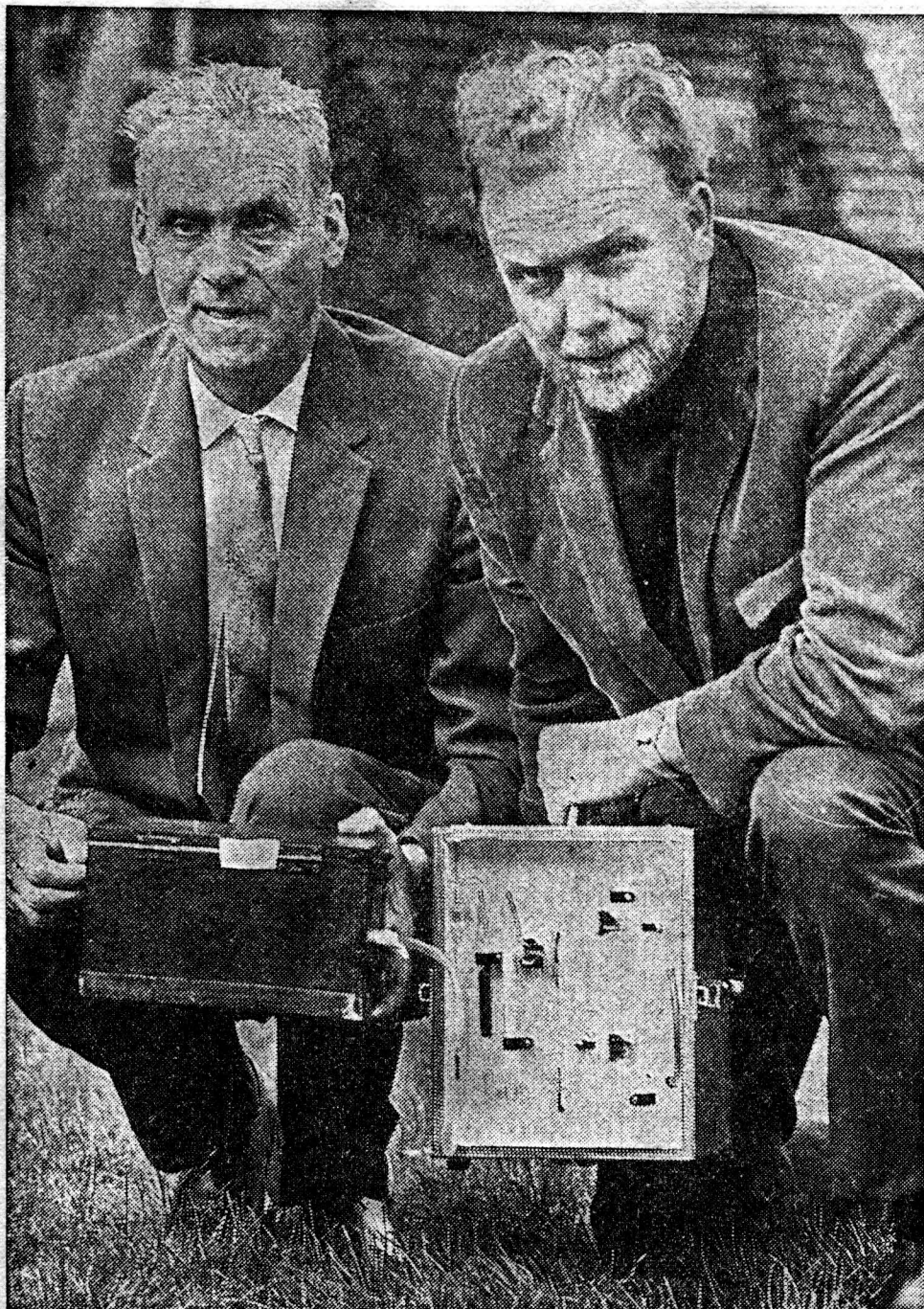
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1/ Scientists may beat sky
pirates

2/ Combustible Cartridge case item.

Cheerunt and Wertham
Weekly Telegraph

10 April 1970.



SCIENTISTS MAY BEAT SKY PIRATES

AN instrument has been developed at the Ministry of Technology's Explosives Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey which could provide the world with the much-sought answer to the problem of sky pirates and aerial saboteurs.

This was revealed in an article by Dr. Anthony Michaelis, the science correspondent of the Daily Telegraph.

This instrument can detect one part of nitroglycerine, the explosive constituent of dynamite, in 20 million parts.

TURNS PINK

It consists of a small white disc which turns pink within 15 seconds if dynamite is present in a container. The instrument itself, inside a wooden box measuring about 12in. x 12in. x 12in., will cost about £10.

It could be installed in great numbers to safeguard valuable property or be carried by bomb disposal units and police to distinguish a hoax from a real bomb.

A probe which is attached to the dynamite detector can quite easily be pushed into a suitcase, car boot, ships' holds or the baggage hold of an aircraft. Wrapping up the dynamite or otherwise attempting to disguise it does not have the slightest effect on the detector.

300 YEARS

Dr. Michaelis recognises that the Waltham Abbey establishment have been practising the art and science of explosives for more than 300 years, longer continuous service than anywhere else in the world.

The director, Dr. L. J. Bellamy, told Dr. Michaelis that 80 per cent. of his annual budget of £1½ million was spent on the wages and salaries of the 900 people employed there, including 175 professionally qualified.

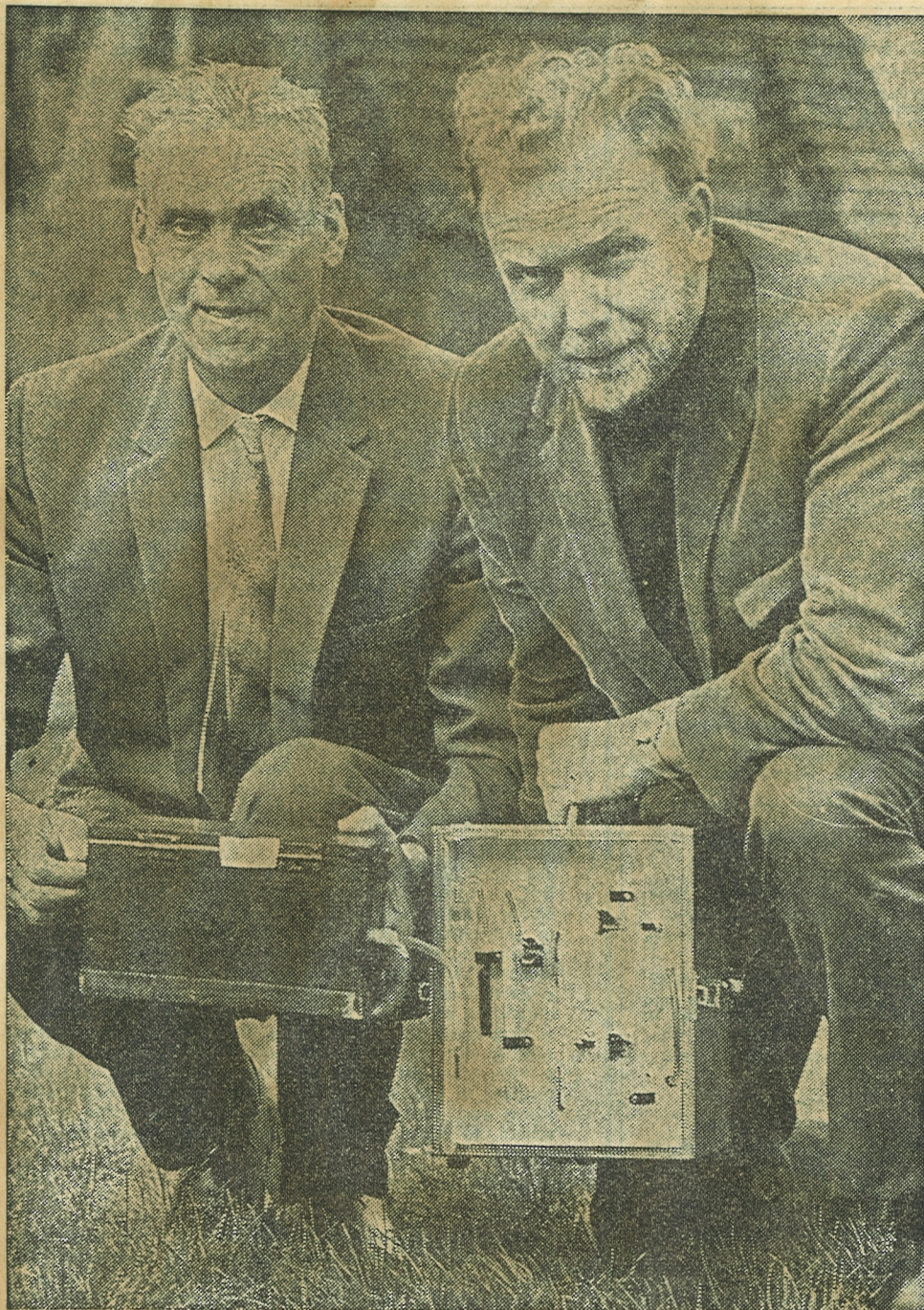
TWO E.R.D.E. scientists, Mr. G. S. Welby and Dr. R. J. Simkins, are pictured holding the new device which they have been concerned in developing—an instrument that detects nitroglycerine, the explosive constituent of dynamite, and which may help to foil sky pirates and bomb hoaxers.

COMBUSTIBLE CASE

Dr. Bellamy also revealed that amongst the establishment's latest developments was a combustible cartridge case which is being sold to one of the N.A.T.O. countries.

There is also an American version available but Dr. Bellamy declares that the British type is better and cheaper because it does not require expensive resins and does not absorb water or nitro-glycerine like the American type.

The new cartridge leaves no trace after the shell has been fired.



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