

Letter from Lord Rothschild to Laurence Fish

Chocolate played several roles during World War II. In one case, Nazis attempted to kill England's prime minister, Winston Churchill, with an exploding chocolate bar. They intended to hide a chocolate bar bomb among other chocolates in Churchill's dining room. Luckily, British spies uncovered the plot before any damage could be done. This letter describes the chocolate bomb:



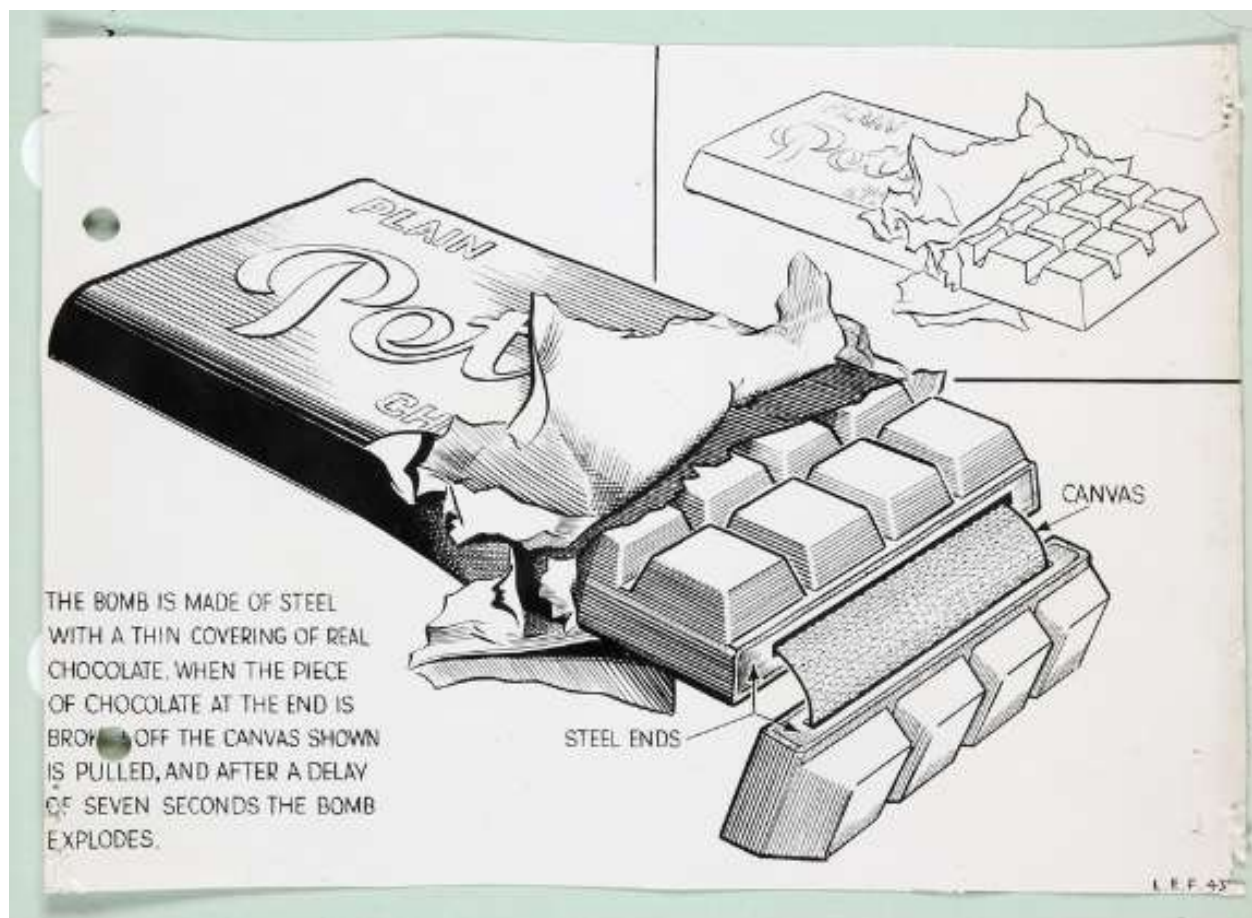
May 4, 1943

Dear Fish,

I wonder if you could do a drawing for me of an explosive slab of chocolate. We have received information that the enemy are using pound slabs of chocolate which are made of steel with a very thin covering of real chocolate. Inside there is high explosive and some form of delay mechanism, but we do not know what, so it could not be put in the drawing. When you break off a piece of chocolate at one end in the normal way, instead of it falling away, a piece of canvas is revealed stuck into the middle of the piece which has been broken off and sticking into the middle of the remainder of the slab. When the piece of chocolate is pulled sharply, the canvas is also pulled and this initiates the mechanism. I enclose a very poor sketch done by somebody who has seen one of these. It is wrapped in the usual sort of black paper with gold lettering, the variety being PETERS. Would it be possible for you to do a drawing of this, one possibly with the paper half taken off revealing one end and another with the piece broken off showing the canvas. The text should indicate that this piece together with the attached canvas is pulled out sharply and that after a delay of seven seconds the bomb goes off.

Please return the enclosed drawing.

Yours sincerely,
Lord Rothschild



The bomb is made of steel with a thin covering of real chocolate. When the piece of chocolate at the end is broken off, the canvas shown is pulled, and after a delay of seven seconds the bomb explodes.