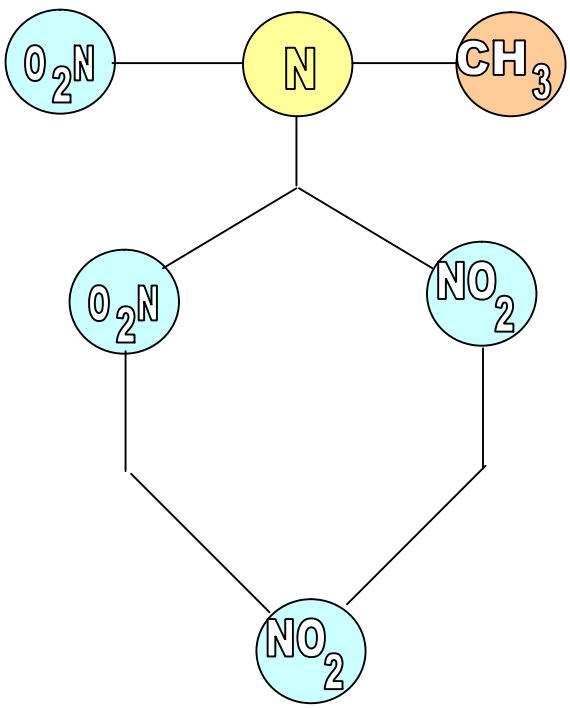
TETRYL

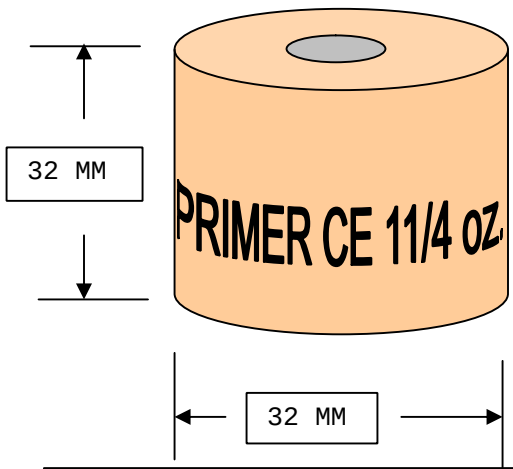
This is the trade name for CE. CE is the wartime name applied to the explosive which has stuck to it ever since. Mr. Mertens discovered CE in 1877. The difficulty in getting Picric Acid to detonate prompted a search for its replacement. The Research Department of Woolwich Arsenal knowing of the existence of this explosive put some effort into the production of CE and by about 1910 they had the material in full production. Just in time for the Great War. The problem from a military point of view is that the material is far too sensitive to be used as a shell filling. Consequently it has been used only as a booster explosive and a prepared demolition charge. The scientific name for the explosive is **Trinitrophenylmethylnitramine**. It is manufactured by the action of Nitric and Sulphuric acids on dimethylaniline. Dimethylaniline is derived from benzole and methyl alcohol. This explosive has been used for many years as a filling for magazines and Gaines and as the filling for prepared demolition charges. CE primer 1.25oz is a very common demolition store. Every Charge demolition 1.25lb has one in the middle as a booster. The explosive is more sensitive to shock and friction than is TNT. It is poisonous if taken internally and for some individuals exposure to it will cause dermatitis.

The physical properties of CE.

FORMULA	MP	IP	Power	F of I	V of D	Density
$C_6H_2(NO_2)_3(NCH_3NO_2)$	129/30°C	257°	120	70	7850 m/sec	1.45



MOLECULAR ARRANGEMENT OF CE



A standard 11/4 oz CE primer much used by demolition crews for minor explosive jobs.