NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS REPORT

7744
Quarterly Report
on
EVALUATION OF REFRACTORY QUALITIES OF CONCRETES FOR JET AIRCRAFT WARM-UP, POWER CHECK MAINTENANCE APRONS, AND RUNWAYS

by
J. V. Ryan, E. C. Tuma and D. K. Ward

NBS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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A complete listing of the Bureau's publications can be found in National Bureau of Standards Circular 460, Publications of the National Bureau of Standards, 1901 to June 1947 ($1.25), and the Supplement to National Bureau of Standards Circular 460, July 1947 to June 1957 ($1.50), and Miscellaneous Publication 240, July 1957 to June 1960 (Includes Titles of Papers Published in Outside Journals 1950 to 1959) ($2.25); available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.
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BY
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Fire Research Section
Building Research Division

Sponsored by:
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Bureau of Yards and Docks

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this project is the development of criteria for the fabrication of jet exhaust resistant concretes. Concretes under development are evaluated by exposure to hot gases from a combustion chamber. The combustion chamber delivers these gases at velocities and temperatures approaching field conditions.

2. Activities

Measurements and tests were made on twelve concrete specimens during the quarter. Of these, ten were fabricated at the National Bureau of Standards from blast-furnace slag aggregate concrete (designated BF-1) or diabase aggregate concrete (designated Di-1) described in NBS Report No. 7578 for the preceding quarter. The other two specimens were of blast-furnace slag aggregate concrete and were received from Memphis, Tennessee. Various specimens were subjected to jet impingement, a simulation thereof, flexural, shear, or compressive tests. Observations were made of the weight and dimensional changes of other specimens during conditioning.

A new order of diabase aggregate, from the Fairfax Quarries, Manassas, Virginia, was received, sieved and placed in storage. The specific gravity and absorption of the aggregate were found to be 2.97 and 0.48 percent, respectively, for one sample in the coarse gradation.

Thermal expansion measurements of six specimens were started late in the quarter.
2.1 Temperature Gradients

Five cylindrical specimens were subjected to a simulation of the jet impingement, and the temperatures at various depths were observed. The dimensions and instrumentation of these specimens are shown in Fig. 1. The specimens were exposed over the central area of one face, to hot gases at temperatures intended to result in surface temperatures equal to those of a specimen exposed to jet impingement. However, the gases were not moving at high velocities. Three of the specimens were of BF-1 concrete and two of Di-1 concrete. Each specimen spalled, to depths up to about 1 in., thereby breaking some or all of the thermal gradient thermocouples before the end of the 5-min exposure. Typical time-temperature data are shown in Fig. 2; temperatures as function of depth are shown in Fig. 3.

2.2 Pressure Measurements

Pressure measurements, by the instrumentation shown in Fig. 1, also were made during the tests mentioned in 2.1. Very low pressures, compared to the probable tensile strength of the concretes, were observed in all the tests. A modification of the instrumentation in the last of the fire tests lead to indicated pressures shown in Fig. 2, somewhat higher than those observed in the first four tests, but still comparatively low. A detailed examination of the pressure instrumentation is under way in an attempt to further improve the results obtained.

2.3 Spalling Behavior

Each of the five specimens spalled during the simulated jet impingement. As bases for rough comparisons, the back surface of each was exposed to the actual jet impingement. Again, each of the specimens spalled. The volumes of concrete displaced are given in Table 1. With one exception, the volumes for longer drying periods were less than for the shorter periods. Also, with only one exception, the volume for the simulated jet impingement exposure was significantly greater than that for the actual jet impingement to the back surface of the same specimen. This is despite the fact that the specimens were dried with only the front surface directly exposed to the atmosphere of the drying room. Therefore, it appears that the simulated test is somewhat more severe than the actual jet impingement.
2.4 Strength Measurements

Strengths in flexure and shear were measured by tests of 3- by 4- by 16-in. specimens; compressive strengths were measured by tests on ends of the same specimens broken in shear or flexure. The results are given in Table 1. The flexural tests were conducted by putting the specimen on a 9-in. span, positioned so the depth was 3 in., and load applied equally 1 1/2 in. on each side of midspan, thereby complying with the procedures given in ASTM C-78 [1]. The compressive strength tests on the broken beam ends were made in compliance with the procedures given in ASTM C116 [2]. In the absence of a standard test for shear, the specimens were tested as shown in Fig. 4. The ends were clamped between bearing plates, to prevent rotation over the supports, with the clearance between the loading and bearing plates held to very low values--1/8 to 1/64 in.

2.5 Tests on Non-NBS Specimens

Three 6- by 18- by 18-in. concrete specimens were received from a contractor pouring concrete at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tennessee. They were well packed in damp sawdust and were put in the fog room for a total of 28 days of damp curing after which they were removed to the drying room. Two specimens were subjected to jet impingement, after different drying periods, and the third will be tested early in the next quarter. Each of the two specimens spalled. The spalled volumes, and other data, are given in Table 1. The two tested specimens are being sawed into 6- by 6- by 18- in. beams which will be tested in flexure when available.

The data provided by the contractor indicated that both the fine and coarse aggregates were of blast furnace slag. Visual examination of the two spalled areas indicated roughly equal amounts of cellular granules (typical slag), glass, and gravel. More detailed examination will be possible after the sawing mentioned in the preceding paragraph is completed.
3. References


[2] Tentative Method of Test for Compressive Strength of Concrete using Portions of Beams Broken in Flexure (Modified Cube Method), ASTM Designation C116-60T
<table>
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<th></th>
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a/ Modulus of Rupture, \( R = \frac{P\ell}{bh^2} \), determined from test in flexure
FIG. 1 – DETAILS OF SPECIMENS

A – CENTER THERMOCOUPLES AT SURFACE, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, AND $\frac{1}{2}$ DEPTHS
B – THERMOCOUPLES SUPPORTED IN GLASS TUBES
C – PRESSURE PROBE TUBES
D – PRESSURE TRANSUDERS
FIG. 2—TYPICAL TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE CURVES
SIMULATED JET, 13 1/2 SPECIMEN
FIG. 3—TYPICAL TEMPERATURE VERSUS DEPTH CURVES DURING FIRST MINUTE OF SIMULATED JET BLAST
FIG. 4 - SPECIMEN ARRANGEMENT FOR SHEAR TEST

- **C** CLAMPS (8) (2 SHOWN)
- 1"x4"x4" STEEL PRESSURE PLATE
- TESTING MACHINE LOAD
- CLAMPING LOCATIONS (8)
- 1"x4"x6" STEEL RESTRAINING PLATES (4)
- 3"x4"x16" CONCRETE SPECIMEN
- 6" I BEAM RESTS ON TESTING MACHINE PLATEN
THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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