Seventh

PROGRESS REPORT

(Project SR-110)

on

EFFECT OF ACCELERATED COOLING AFTER HOT ROLLING ON THE NOTCHED-BAR PROPERTIES OF SHIP PLATE STEEL

by

R. H. FRAZIER, F. W. BOULGER and C. H. LORIG Battelle Memorial Institute

Transmitted through

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON SHIP STEEL

Advisory to

SHIP STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Division of Engineering and Industrial Research National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council Washington, D. C.

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July 1, 1955

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July 1, 1955

Dear Sir:

As part of its research program related to the improvement of hull structures of ships, the Ship Structure Committee is sponsoring an investigation of the influence of deoxidation and composition on properties of semikilled steel ship plate at the Battelle Memorial Institute. Herewith is a copy of the Seventh Progress Report, SSC-89, of the investigation entitled "Effect of Accelerated Cooling after Hot-Rolling on the Notched-Bar Properties of Ship-Plate Steel" by R. H. Frazier, F. W. Boulger and C. H. Lorig.

The project is being conducted with the advisory assistance of the Committee on Ship Steel of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.

Any questions, comments, criticism or other matters pertaining to the report should be addressed to the Secretary, Ship Structure Committee.

This report is being distributed to those individuals and agencies associated with and interested in the work of the Ship Structure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

K Coevarh

K. K. COWART Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard Chairman, Ship Structure Committee

SEVENTH Progress Report (Project SR-110)

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R. H. Frazier, F. W. Boulger, C. H. Lorig Battelle Memorial Institute

under

Department of the Navy Bureau of Ships NObs-53239 BuShips Project No. NS-011-078

for

SHIP STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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EFFECT OF ACCELERATED COOLING AFTER HOT-ROLLING ON THE NOTCHED-BAR PROPERTIES OF SHIP PLATE STEEL*

INFRODUCTION

The notched-bar properties of ship plate steels reheated to temperatures above 1500 F are affected by the rate at which they cool to room temperature. Previous work at Bettelle⁽¹⁾ showed that cooling in an air blast produced better properties than slower cooling rates. This suggested that faster cooling from the hot-rolling operation might improve the properties of ship plate steels. Work at Inland Steel Company(2) indicated that changing the rate of cooling between 1100 and 125 F does not significantly affect the properties of semikilled steels. It appeared, therefore, that cooling rates at temperatures above 1100 F were of greatest interest.

With this background the effect of accelerated cooling from the final rolling pass was investigated. Two open-hearth steels of conventional ship plate composition were used for the experiments. The plates were time-quenched as they left the rolling mill at 1850 F. The quenching periods were kept short in order to develop a microstructure of ferrite and pearlite in the final plate. The plates were cooled to room temperature in air after the time-quenching treatment. Keyhole Charpy and tear tests were made on samples from plates cooled from the final rolling pass at four different rates.

*Ed. Note: Attention is directed to the fact that the Bethlehem Steel Company may have filed an application for patents on a process for improving the notch toughness of ship plate steel by accelerated cooling from the finishing pass in the hot-rolling operation.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

<u>Cooling Rates</u>. Before planning the experimental work, it seemed desirable to estimate the cooling rates produced by quenching and air cooling 3/4-in. plates. For this purpose a thermocouple was welded in the bottom of a hole drilled to the center of a 6- by 12-by 3/4-in. plate, as shown in Fig. 1. Temperature measurements by this method gave the cooling curves shown in Fig. 2. Water quenching gave an average rate of 20 F per second, compared with 0.7 F per second for air cooling in the range from 1850 to 1300 F.

The broken lines in Fig. 2 show cooling rates estimated for three interrupted quenches. Subsequently, stock for the investigation was produced by immersing hot-rolled plates for 6, 10, and 25 seconds in water and then cooling in still air.

<u>Materials and Heat Treatments</u>. Two semikilled steels were used in the study. These steels were made in a commercial openhearth furnace and cast into large commercial sized molds. The ingots were rolled to 1 3/4-in. thick plate in a commercial rolling mill. Sections of the plate from one ingot were received at Battelle. The chemical compositions of the steels are shown in Table 1. Steel W-1 would meet the ABS Class A specification had it been rolled to plates 1/2 in. thick and lighter. The other steel could have been rolled to plates over 1/2 in. to 1 in. thick, inclusive, to meet the ABS Class B specification.

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FIGURE I. TEST PLATE FOR COOLING-RATE DETERMINATION



Heat	Battelle- Assigned Heat	Composition, per cent								
Number	Number	Carbon	Manganese	Silicon	Phosphorus	Sulfur				
64C623 67C658	W-1 W-5	0.23 0.23	0.52 0.78	0.09 0.09	0.013 0.012	0.037 0.025				

TABLE 1. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF EXPERIMENTAL OPEN-HEARTH STEELS

Note: No aluminum was added to either steel.

The sections of 1 3/4-in. plate were heated to 2250 F and rolled to 0.9-in. gage, using reduction of approximately 1/6 in. per pass. In order to insure a uniform finishing temperature, the 0.9-in. sections were immediately recharged in a furnace held at 1850 F. After 30 minutes in the furnace at 1850 F, the plates were reduced to 3/4 in. in one pass. Following this final pass, one plate from each steel was placed on edge on a brick floor, with a brick separating each plate, and allowed to air cool. Another plate from each steel was immersed immediately in a water bath. After six seconds the plate was removed from the water bath and air cooled to room temperature. A third plate from each steel was quenched for 10 seconds, and a fourth plate was quenched for 25 seconds. The estimated cooling curves for each plate are given in Fig. 2.

<u>Microstructure</u>. Fig. 3 shows photomicrographs of the structures of air-cooled steel plates used in this study. The



Steel W-1



Steel W-5

FIGURE 3 PHOTOMICROGRAPHS OF LONGITUDINAL CROSS SECTIONS OF AIR-COOLED 3/4-IN. PLATES FROM STEELS W-1 AND W-5 air-cooled material had a ferrite-pearlite microstructure closely resembling that of a hot-rolled mild carbon steel plate. Steel W-5 shows somewhat more banding of the pearlitic areas due probably to its higher manganese content.

The microstructure of the quenched plates was different at the surface than at the center. Typical microstructures from near the surface and at the center of the plate from both steels quenched for various times are shown in Fig. 4 and 5.

The microstructure in the surface layer of the W-l steel plate quenched for six seconds consists of unresolved finely divided carbides in a matrix of ferrite. Some patches of pearlite were also observed. After longer times in the quenching bath, the microstructure in the surface layer consisted of bainite with some tempered martensite. The longer quenching time produced more tempered martensite. The microstructure at the center of the W-l. steel plate quenched for six seconds is very similar to that for the air-cooled plate. Longer quenching times produced bainite in the center of what were the original austenitic grains. The bainite is outlined by free ferrite.

Plates of Steel W-5, quenched for six seconds, had a ferritepearlite microstructure throughout the plate thickness. The ferrite grains and the pearlite patches were much smaller near the surface than at the center of the plate. The microstructure of the W-5 steel plates quenched for 10 and 25 seconds was bainite

-6-



Picral Etch 180X Picral Etch Water Quenched for 10 Seconds



Picral Etch



Picral Etch

Water Quenched for 25 Seconds

FIGURE 4 MICROSTRUCTURE OF THE LOW-MANGANESE W-1 STEEL PLATE WATER-QUENCHED FOR VARIOUS TIME INTERVALS AND THEN AIR-COOLED TO ROOM TEMPERATURE



FIGURE 5 MICROSTRUCTURE OF THE HIGHER MANGANESE W-5 STEEL PLATE WATER-QUENCHED FOR VARIOUS TIME INTERVALS AND THEN AIR-COOLED TO ROOM TEMPERATURE

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surrounded by free ferrite, with the ferrite outlining what were originally the austenitic grains. More free ferrite grains existed in the center of these plates than near the surface.

<u>Hardness</u>. The average hardnesses of the air-cooled plates were 69 and 71 Rockwell B for Steels W-1 and W-5, respectively. These plates had uniform hardnesses from one surface to the other and from edge to edge, whereas the water-quenched plates were not of uniform hardness. In the latter the surfaces and edges showed a higher hardness than the center. The average hardnesses at the center and surfaces of the various plates from the two steels are shown in Table 2. The hardness of the water-quenched plates

Type of Cooling From	Hard	ness, Rockwell B
Last Hot-Rolling Pass	Center	Édges and Surfaces
γ	<u>Steel W-1</u>	
As rolled Quenched for 6 seconds Quenched for 10 seconds Quenched for 25 seconds	69 70 88 88	69 95 105 105
	<u>Steel W-5</u>	
As rolled Quenched for 6 seconds Quenched for 10 seconds Quenched for 25 seconds	71 67 78 88	71 90 95 100

TABLE 2. AVERAGE HARDNESS OF EXPERIMENTAL 3/4-IN. STEEL PLATE

decreased gradually from the surface toward the center, with the hardness gradient extending inward about 3/16 in. from both surfaces. The edge hardening, on the other hand, extended somewhat more than one inch before the hardness reached that of the center. The tear tests were taken so that the notches cut through this hardened edge. The harder surfaces were present in all specimens of the water-quenched steel, since they represent the full thickness of the plate.

The Charpy specimens were taken from the center of the plate so that some of the hardened surface area of the water-quenched steel specimens was removed. However, the surface hardness of some thirty specimens from these steels averaged 96 Rockwell B, while six of the thirty had surface hardnesses over 100 Rockwell B. This higher hardness of the six specimens probably influenced their Charpy values but not the shape of the average Charpy value curves of the steels. The Charpy specimens with hard surfaces represented only about one-fifth of the bars tested.

<u>Keyhole Charpy Tests</u>. Four keyhole Charpy specimens from each plate were broken at each 10 F interval throughout the ductile-brittle transition range. Smooth curves were drawn through the averages of the results at each temperature. From these curves the temperatures at the 12 and 20 ft-1b energy levels were determined as criteria for the transition. All specimens were parallel to the rolling direction and notched perpendicular to plate surface.

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The keyhole Charpy transition curves and individual test values for the two air-cooled steels are shown in Fig. 6. The temperatures at the 12 ft-1b level for Steels W-1 and W-5 are -10 and -23 F, respectively. When the 20 ft-1b criterion is used, the transition temperatures are +6 and -11 F for aircooled plates from the Steels W-1 and W-5, respectively. The transition temperatures measured by the same criteria for the water-quenched plates are given in Table 3. The average energy values of duplicate specimens tested at +80 F are also shown for comparison. The transition temperature at the 12 ft-1b level was lowered by increasing the quenching time. In the case of Steel W-1, the transition temperature at the 20 ft-1b energy level did not change in a consistent manner with the time at quench. This seemed to result from the fact that quenching for different lengths of time profoundly altered the character of the keyhole Charpy transition curve as shown in Fig. 7.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF KEYHOLE CHARPY DATA FOR PLATES TIME-QUENCHED FROM THE LAST HOT-ROLLING PASS

Stee	1	<u>Transition</u> 12 Ft-1b	<u>Temperature, F</u> 20 Ft-1b	Impact Value at 80 F Ft-1b
W-1	Air_cooled	-10	+6	34.5
	Quenched for 6 seconds	-30	-25	42.0
	Quenched for 10 seconds	-36	-15	44.0
	Quenched for 25 seconds	-45	-6	25.5
₩-5	Air-cooled	-23	-11	37.0
	Quenched for 6 seconds	-26	-14	31.5
	Quenched for 10 seconds	-31	-20	31.5
	Quenched for 25 seconds	-35	-26	37.0

-11-





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One important observation was that the transition temperatures for the quenched plates were always lower than those for the air-cooled plates.

The keyhole notch Charpy properties of 3/4-in. semikilled steel plate were, therefore, improved by time-quenching in water for time intervals of 25 seconds or less.

Influence of Quenching on Tear Test Properties. Sixteen tear tests were also made on stock from plates representing each condition. These specimens were broken at various temperatures to determine the transition temperatures. For this purpose the transition temperature was defined as the highest temperature where at least one specimen was brittle. No more than four specimens were tested at one temperature. Brittle specimens were those with fractures indicating that more than half of the cross section failed by cleavage rather than shear. This criterion for defining the transition temperature has been used by many investigators and was used in this investigation in order to conserve stock. The information obtained in each test is shown in Table A-4 of the Appendix. The tear test data are summarized in Table 4.

In most cases time-quenching the hot-rolled plates in water lowered the transition temperature determined by tear tests. The maximum improvements amounted to 30 F for Steel W-1 and 40 F for Steel W-5. In general, increasing the length of the quenching time lowered the transition temperature. The exception to this statement

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Treatment Load*, pounds ft-1b Steel W-1 (0.52 Per Cent Air-cooled 38,490	ft-1b (0.52 Per Cent Mange 879 875 477	f°-1b nese) 1021	Temperature ^k F	
Air-cooled 28,490 38,490 708	(0.52 Per Cent Manga 708 879 477	mese) 667 1021		
Air-cooled 38,490 708	2008 8779 8779 8779 8779 8779 8779 8779 8	1.021		
quenched for 10 seconds 56,480 417		250	0000 0000 0000 0000	
Steel W-5 (0.78 Per Cent	(0.78 Per Cent Manga	<u>meşe</u>)		
Aîr-cooled 39,940 825 Quenched for 5 seconds 38.790 650	825 650	638 642		-14
Quenched for 10 seconds 51,690 Quenched for 25 seconds 51,030 666	666 666	716 708	20	-

SUMMARY OF TRAR TEST DATA TABLE 4.

*Average of all tests made. **Average of tests made 10 F above transition temperature. {Transition temperature is defined as the highest temperature where one or more specimens out of four showed more than 50 per cent cleavage type of fracture.

is the plate of W-1 which was quenched in water for 25 seconds before air-cooling. This plate had a higher transition temperature than the plates which had been quenched for shorter times or air-cooled from the last hot-rolling pass. The transition temperature for the plate of W-5 which had been quenched for 6 seconds could not be determined because of a shortage of material.

SUMMARY

The results of this work may be summarized as follows:

- (1) Water quenching 3/4-in. plates for six seconds did not raise the hardness in the center of the plate. Longer quenching times increased the center hardness, an indication that the ultimate strength of the plate was increased. The hardness at the edge of all plates quenched was approximately 95 R_B, with the higher carbon steel having the highest surface hardness.
- (2) The microstructure of the center of plates, quenched for periods longer than six seconds, was no longer typical of as-rolled steel but, instead, tended to show ferrite outlining the original austenite grain areas. The centers of the quenched plates also showed some Widmanstätten structures.

- (3) The transition temperature, when the 12 ft-1b keyhole notch Charpy criterion was used, was lowered by quenching the plates from the last hot-rolling pass. Longer quenching times gave lower transition temperatures. The higher manganese Steel W-5 appeared to be more adaptable to quenching than Steel W-1, since the shape of the keyhole Charpy transition curves for Steel W-5 was not altered by quenching.
- (4) In general, increasing the length of the quenching time lowered the tear test transition temperature. An exception was the plate of Steel W-1 which was quenched in water for 25 seconds before being air-cooled. This plate had a higher transition temperature than the plates which had been quenched for shorter times or air-cooled from the last hot-rolling pass.

REFERENCES

- Frazier, R. H., Boulger, F. W., and Lorig, C. H. "The Influence of Heat Treatment on the Notched-Bar Properties of Semikilled Steel Plate," Third Progress Report, Ship Structure Committee Report, Serial No. SSC-71, March 15, 1954.
- 2. Mair, L. "Effect of Cooling Rate on Transition Temperature," Inland Steel Company's Final Report to Subcommittee on Project SR-110, June 11, 1952.

APPENDIX

Steel Number	Testing Temperature, F	Test 1	Char Test 2	<u>py Value</u> Test 3	<u>ft-1b</u> Test 4	Average
8W l	-30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 80	4 18 18 19 22 27 35	546 19 24 26 34	4 3 17 25 21 28	8 6 20 18 20 13 30	5.3 4.3 11.5 18.0 22.0 20.8 27.8 34.5
8w 5	-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 80	3 7 19 22 40	555 554 264 3	3 4 18 29 24	3 4 5 13 23 27	3.5 5.0 4.8 13.8 20.5 24.8 37.0

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TABLE A-1. KEYHOLE CHARPY TEST DATA FOR AIR-COOLED STEELS

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		Energ	y, ft-1b		
Testing Temperature,	Maximum Load, F Pounds	To Start Fracture	To Propagate Fracture	Per Cent Shear : Fracture	in
		<u>Steel 8W</u>]		
50	41,650	961	334	30	
50	41,150	950	117	3	
50	41,200	961	142	5	
50	41,900	961	508	60	
60	37,350	790	125	5	
60	38,050	833	167	16	
60	37,700	842	492	55	
60	37,950	750	75	5	
70	40,700	875	700	90	
70	39,850	790	750	100	
70	38,700	891	450	53	
70	38,650	775	83	18	
80	37,500	808	508	68	
80	37,500	700	665	89	
80	37,150	790	665	88	
80	38,100	750	100	30	
90	39,750	824	725	100	
90	40,350	891	665	95	
90	36,200	734	675	83	
90	3?,500	725	200	33	
100	36,400	757	700	98	
100	37,150	725	633	83	
100	35,200	707	650	90	
100	36,000	642	684	95	
		<u>Steel 8w</u>	ž		
40 40 40 40	41,200 41,150 41,150 41,150 40,850	833 876 833 833	590 675 665 500	68 90 91 52	

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TABLE A-2. TEAR TEST DATA FOR AIR-COOLED STEELS

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Maximum Testing Load, Temperature, F Pounds		<u>Energy</u> To Start Fracture	r, ft <u>-lb</u> To Propagate Fracture	Per Cent Shear in Fracture		
		<u>Steel 8W</u>	5	<u>,, ^, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,</u>		
50 50 50 50	35,550 36,200 37,700 41,350	715 750 790 860	616 600 625 725	99 95 90 92		
60 60 60 60	40,250 40,900 40,850 42,050	833 860 885 925	700 658 690 316	83 83 90 30		
70 70 70 70	39,200 39,800 39,600 41,200	784 790 900	715 675 675	86 88 96 87		

TABLE A-2. (Continued)

Steel	Testing Temperature,		Char	py Value,	ît-lb	
Number	F	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Average
	Qu	enched fo	o <u>r Six Se</u> d	cond s		
A8W1	-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 80	395 27 29 39	3480995 23295	3 10 25 25	5 4 6 21 26	3.5 6.8 11.0 25.8 26.8 29.0 42.0
a8w 5	-40 -30 -20 -10 0 80	6 8 19 12 21 28 30	4 5 12 20 15 26 33	5 14 21 27	6 22 8 26 27	5.3 13.3 11.8 20.8 27.0 31.5
	<u>Qu</u>	enched fo	<u>r Ten Sec</u>	ond s		
38w1	-60 -50 -40 -20 -10 0 10 80	57 286 39 245 245	10 216 264 288 288 288 243	3534-69 292 32	34 55 29 35 35	57.4000 14000 14000 100 100 100 100 100 100
38W 5	-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 80	4 54 26 93 32 32	3 14 31 30 32 32 31	5 6 5 31 33	3 28 32 31 30	3.8 7.3 16.5 18.0 25.8 31.3 31.5

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TABLE A-3. KEYHOLE CHARPY DATA FOR STEELS QUENCHED IN WATER AND THEN AIR-COOLED

Steel Number	Testing Temperature, F	Magt 1	Charr	v Value, :	ft-1b	
		rest r				
C 8W1	-60 -50 -40 -20 -10 0 10 20 80	9 22 6 15 10 18 13 17 24	4 11 14 20 29 30 14 14 27	5 6 9 11 27 26 20 18	0110 <u>8</u> 20 11 27 20 8 25	5.3 14.8 10.0 18.3 21.5 20.5 18.0 16.0 25.5
C8W 5	-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 80	4 56 12 30 32 36	4 7 23 24 29 36 38	5 4 14 33 33	4 26 6 27 32	4.3 10.5 12.3 24.0 31.0 34.0 37.0

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TABLE A-3. (Continued)

Steel Number	Testing Temperature, F	Maximum Load, Pounds	To To Start Fracture	<u>v, ft-1b</u> To Propagate Fracture	Per Cent Shear in Fracture
	G	uenched fo	r <u>Six Seco</u>	nd s	- <u></u>
A8W 1	40	44,600	900	133	3
	50	45,200	918 833	768 768	75
	60	40,200	800 766	500 533	55
	70	41,800	961 935	133 734	18
	80	40,700 43,600 45,300	875 958 885	734 92 885	100 23 100
	90	41,290 42,000 41,550 41,450 40,800	919 824 915 815 961	800 800 891 860 1533	82 97 98 99 97
A8W 5	-30 -20	39,350 38,000 37,150 37,400	808 584 600 665	117 590 690 633	7 59 63 73
	-10	42,000 39,200 42,000 38,550 38,200	766 842 725 750	133 383 600 725	5 30 83 80
	0 10 20 30 40 50	39,450 37,350 40,600 36,500 38,700 37,450	650 684 633 665 600 534	642 642 766 658 642 633	80 80 90 94 85 93
	Q	uenched for	<u>r Ten Secor</u>	nd s	
B8W1	30	64,200 65,000 69,400	866 800 1100	67 100 133	5 6 1

TABLE A-4. TEAR TEST DATA FOR STEELS QUENCHED IN WATER AND THEN AIR-COOLED

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			Energy, ft-1b		Per Cent			
Steel Number	Testing Temperature, F	Maximum Load, Pounds	To Start Fracture	To Propagate Fracture	Shear in Fracture			
	G	<u>Quenched for Ten Seconds (Continued)</u>						
B8w1	40	61,600 61,800	1000 665	534 133	63			
	50	49,500 61,600	707 900	750 167	95 11			
	60	58,400 60,200 67,000	900 800 800	67 700 133 231	15 93 8			
	70	51,400 50,000 57,800 58,200	700 766 766 866	700 766 800 800	90 97 88 100			
B8W 5	30	44,800 54,400 59,600 54,400	800 633 665 565	734 400 67 33	100 45 3			
	¹ +0	57,200 54,200 50,400 57,200	565 500 734 600	100 633 367 133	15 97 13 4			
	50	51,600 47,500 51,000 53,400	766 1020 600 466	665 775 734 433	100 100 100 44			
	60	49,000 46,600 50,800 46,000	665 665 433 665	665 800 665 734	99 100 100 100			
	ç	wenched f	or <u>Twenty-F</u> :	<u>ive Seconds</u>				
C8W1	50 60 70 80 100 110	59,200 63,800 69,200 53,800 56,400 53,600 59,800	600 565 534 400 433 633 900	300 67 133 67 133 67 700	15 0 1 0 2 100			

TABLE A-4. (Continued)

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TABLE	£-4.	(Continued)
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Steel Number	Testing Temperature, F	Maximum Load, Pounds	<u>Energy</u> To Start Fracture	7 <u>, ft-1b</u> To Propagate Fracture	Per Cent Shear in Fracture
		Quenched	for Twenty-Fi	ve Seconds	(Continued)
C8W 1	120	60,600 54,800	93 <i>5</i> 400	300	88 7 8
	130	58,400	600	133	1
	140	51,000 54,000 52,200 50,600	400 367 534 367 400	534 534 534 534 466 565	100 100 100 100
C8W 5	0	54,000	665	266	12
	10	50,600 53,400 52,400	700 565 734	665 800 300	90 95 100 27
	20	52,200 48,400 51,400 48,800	665 665 565 766	334 935 766 734	21 100 98 99
	30	52,400 49,600 48,200 51,800	565 665 665 633	466 700 766 734	39 100 100 83
	50 60	52,000 51,000 47,200	700 334 658	633 633 707	100 100 100

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