

ACC

10000 | 120 | 2080

Q 131

May

10000/120/2080

Q 131A

Ammunition Defects + Trials

May 1946 - JAN. 1947

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War.

REF: 4/120/Serv.

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 20 January 1947.

SUBJECT:- Piat bombs - Defective fuzes.

1. - Bolzano Military Territorial Command has informed us that, during the training of recruits called-up in August of last year, 60% of the Piat bombs assigned did not explode. The bombs used were primed with fuzes belonging to lot 89/43.
2. - Palermo Military Territorial Command has informed us of a similar incident both at 11 C.A.R., where 45% of the bombs did not explode, and at 10 Coy 6th Inf Regt of "Aosta" Bde where out of 6 bombs fired none exploded.
3. - Palermo Military Territorial Command arranged for a technical officer who has compiled the report attached in copy, to inspect the bombs on issue to units under its command.
4. - Since ^{we have} there is no possibility of substituting the defective fuzes which amount approximately to 2000, we beg your Mission to kindly arrange for their substitution and ^{we} would be obliged for any information and suggestions regarding the incidents mentioned.

sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

R.A.G.

To See	
A/Q	
"Q"	
Q 14/100	
Q 200	
Q 100	P

BP
30 Jan

Q 131/A/LF
4
1471
20/1/47
A Q.131A

COPY

FROM: Detached Arty Section Palermo. REF: 3/2758/Main.

TO: Arty H.Q. Palermo Military Territorial Command. DATE: 12.11.1946

SUBJECT:- Inspection British ammunition.

Reference signal 6597/03/A of 10 inst of Palermo Military Territorial Command - Services Office.

From technical visual inspection carried out on the Piat bombs it appears that:

- the ammunition is in an excellent state of storage;
- the bombs are stored in their original packings, in a dry and airy place and do not show any trace of oxidisation, either externally, or in the cavities for the storing of the fuzes, or the tube carrying the propelling charge;
- the fuzes, well sealed in the special containers, are preserved from deteriorating causes.

The incidents complained of during firing refer to non-explosion on impact of a considerable percentage of the bombs.

Taking account of the excellent state of storage of the bombs and relative accessories, presuming, as it is logical to presume, the excellent state of storage of also the explosive forming the internal charge; the non-explosion must be attributed to the failure of the fuze to function on land or target due to percussion defect.

In fact two types of percussion fuzes are laid down for use with the bombs, one of which ensures regular functioning due to the greater protrusion of the so called thimble, and the different internal construction.

The non-explosion complained of can be checked by using the other type of fuze.

From information received personally from the senior British officer attached for training purposes, the above facts are confirmed; in particular, s/m officer has confirmed that approximately 30% of non-explosions are due to this type of fuze being defective.

sgd. CUTTITA
Capt.

R.A.G.

Subject : Ammunitions

6 British Liaison Unit
Tel : 28032
Ref : Q/7/1
16 Jan. 1947

To: LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, A.C.
M.M.I.A.

Extract of letter received from 5 C.A.R. is forwarded for information and such action as you may consider necessary.

QUOTE "

Ref. Letter 28032 - G/7/7 of 21.12.46.

1. During PIAT bomb throwing by PIAT Inf. during month of November '46, in Rubiera area, (H.E. bombs being used), 305, out of 497 bombs thrown, did not explode. (about 61%).
2. The fuses used are of aluminium mod.925 and belong to lot.443/43.

" UNQUOTE.

D. A. Prior

Major DAA & CMG
6 BLU

WHW/av.

To See	
A/Q	
"Q"	AGE
Q Liaison	
Q	
ORD	
RESME	
S&T	

1/1/47
90/T/H2
RD

Q131A

A.Q.139

TRANSLATION

23A1

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 5100/822

TO : M.M.I.A.

DATE: 15/1/47

SUBJECT: Pist bombs.

The chemist of the Detached Section of Art. of Palermo, who has recently inspected the British ammo stored in depots of the aforesaid section, has stated in his report to have examined the pist bombs manufactured during 1942 and 1943.

At present, as the bursting charge of said bombs has a period of stability limited to two years, because of the gradual decomposition of the high percentage of nitroglycerine of the explosive, we ask you if said bombs can be used without prejudice by the units and what security instructions can be adopted.-

In case the bombs in question can no longer be used, we ask you to inform us on the necessary arrangements to be taken on the matter.

To See	
A/Q	
"Q"	
Q Liaison	
Q Maint	
Q (AE)	

(Sgd) PROFERZI
Gen.

R 28/1/47 1468

A R. 131A

Telephone:
Rome 489081 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AG (ISIA) CMP

Q 131 A

13 Jan 47

G.H.Q. (for 21).

Subject: Ammunition - Italian Army

Further to this H.Q. letter 139 Q of 8 Jan 47.

1. It is reported that at the 4 C.A.R. (Training Depot) VERONA a number of misfires have been obtained with PIAT Mortar Bombs. The War Ministry have requested that this ammunition be examined for technical faults.
2. As the Depot at Verona is within easy reach from Padua may one visit, if possible, be included in the programme of a British A.E. under G.H.Q. control.

RAC/ra

Copy to: 6 B.L.U.

Internal: C(Prg).

RAC
Major-General
GOC.

1457

See 9/10/47/A/LF
folio 2

Subject: Ammunition.

Headquarters
4 B.L.U.
BOLZANO/CMP
Tel/ Bolzano 3662
Ref: Q5-14

30 Dec. 46

to : Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.
M.M.I.A.
R O M E.

- 1.- The attached copies of 4 BLU letter Q5 of 26 Nov. and H.Q. 4 Territorial Command letter 01/1219/ADD.A.3 of 14 December are forwarded for information.
- 2.- Would you please inform this Office if the ammunition could be inspected by a British Ammunition Examiner at an early date.

D.Lyon
S/CDR R.A.O.C.
O.W.O. 4 B.L.U.

COPY TO: Direzione Artiglieria
4 Territorial Command

1466

- 1.- The attached copies of 4 HLU Letter Q5 of 26 Nov. and H.Q. 4 Territorial Command letter 01/1219/ADD.A.3 of 14 December are forwarded for information.
- 2.- Would you please inform this Office if the ammunition could be inspected by a British Ammunition Examiner at an early date.

D. Lyon
S/CDR R.A.O.C.
O.W.O. 4 B.L.U.

1466

COPY TO: Direzione Artiglieria
4 Territorial Command

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COPY

IV COMANDO MILITARE TERRITORIALE DI BOLZANO

Stato Maggiore

Sez. Operazioni ed Addestramento

N° 01/7219/ Add. A.3

Bolzano, 14/12/46

Subject: Misfiring Ammunitions.

TO : 4 B.L.U.

Reference to the letter Q/5 of the 26th November.

We re-write the text of the answer sent by the 4 C.A.R. to the above-mentioned letter.

The fuze is to excess hard and insensible so that the contact of the tank or of the ground the mobile part of the fuze breaks or get deformed but don't strike the detonator and don't burst the bomb.

The fuzes are of the LOT/89/43

Verifications have been made on the bombs and on the corresponding packings stored in the C.A.R. powder house (Forte Preara) and which are of the lot which supplied the bombs employed.

The lot consists of two types of boxes which details and details of the bombs contained are given :

1°) One type of box with the following data stencilled in

yellow: Lot 763 / Fuze 356 FHE 4/43 lot

INF Proj. H.E. A.T.I. CONT. 483

The bombs are stencilled with two yellow bands and one black band and have the following black stencillings:

lot 7/9 3/43 I.C.I. /C/F/.H.E.

on the black band is stencilled in white the number 1009
The bombs wear also a circle of read small crosses.

2°) One type of box with the following data stencilled in white lot 217 lot 175

INF. PROJ. H.E. A.T.I.

The fuze is to excess hard and insensible so that the contact of the tank or of the ground the mobile part of the fuze breaks or get deformed but don't strike the detonator and don't burst the bomb.

The fuzes are of the LOT/89/43

Verifications have been made on the bombs and on the corresponding packings stored in the C.A.R. powder house (Forte Preara) and which are of the lot which supplied the bombs employed.

The lot consists of two types of boxes which details and details of the bombs contained are given :

1°) One type of box with the following data stencilled in yellow: Lot 763 Fuze 356 FHE 4/43 lot
INF Prod. H.E. A.T.I. CONT. 483

The bombs are stencilled with two yellow bands and one black band and have the following black stencillings:

lot 7/9 3/43 I.C.I. /C/F/H.E.

on the black band is stencilled in white the number 108
The bombs wear also a circle of read small crosses.

2°) One type of box with the following data stencilled in white
white lot 217 lot 175

INF. PROJ. H.E. A.T.I.

14 Bad F.H.E.

S/D I/43

The bombs are stencilled with two yellow bands and one black band and have the following black stencillings:

" 6/43 lot 1203
I.C.I. /C F.H.E.

on the black band is stencilled in white the number 808
the bombs wear also a circle of small red crosses.

d'ordine

IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Col. Enrico Durante)

COPY

Subject: Ammunition Failures.

Headquarters

4 B.I.U.

BOLZANO/CMF

Tel/ Bolzano 356:

Ref: Q5

26 Nov. 46

To : IV Comando Militare
Territoriale Bolzano

- 1.- At a recent demonstration at the Centro Addetramento Reclute, VERONA, it was observed, that a high proportion of PIAT bombs failed to explode on striking the target.
- 2.- Could you please supply this Unit with information as to the lot numbers of the ammunition used at this demonstration and also of any other PIAT ammunition which has given trouble in the same way.
- 3.- The lot number is normally painted on the box which holds the ammunition in yellow paint. If by any chance the fuze numbers and the lot numbers are different, both should be quoted.
- 4.- This information is required in order to ~~ascertain~~ ascertain whether ammunition of those particular lot numbers has ever been condemned or had any special rules ^{laid} down for its use.

- 1.- At a recent demonstration at the Centro Addestramento Reclute, VERONA, it was observed, that a high proportion of PIAT bombs failed to explode on striking the target.
- 2.- Could you please supply this Unit with information as to the lot numbers of the ammunition used at this demonstration and also of any other PIAT ammunition which has given trouble in the same way.
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- 4.- This information is required in order to ~~ascertain~~ ascertain whether ammunition of those particular lot numbers has ever been condemned or had any special rules ^{laid} down for its use.

E.W. BRADLEY
MAJOR INNISKES
for Lt.Col. GS.

Subject : Technical Information on 105 U.S. Ammunition

Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.

Q 131A ^{15th} Aug. '46.

To : Ministry of War

1. Ref. your 11930 of 13 June 46 and our Q 131A of 7th Aug. 46 and copy of letter AG 471 from PBS of 2 Aug. 1946.
2. Attached are the two manuals which did not go forward on the 7th of Aug. 1946 as indicated. Since then we have received the additional attached information which it is hoped will assist the Director of Artillery in the future handling of the ammunition in question.
3. Suggest that all this information is restricted and should only be divulged to persons whose work requires such knowledge.

RCV
R.O. VAN KIEK, Major,
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Incls. 3

RCV/aa

16

Subject : Technical Information on 105, U.S. AmmunitionLend Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R.O.M.Z.

Q 134 A

7th Aug. 1946.To : Ministry of War

35

1. Ref your 11930 of 13 ^{June} ~~July~~ 1946.

2. Your report on the explosion of the 105 US ammunition, not British as you indicated, is appreciated and has been transmitted to the War Department in Washington.

3. Available in this theatre at the present time are the two inclosed manuals which may assist the Director of Artillery in his future handling of the ammunition described. By referring to the indices of the two manuals the desired information may be located.

17

1461

ZCV
R.O. Major,
For Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Encls. 2

RGV/na

HEADQUARTERS
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
APO 782

AG 471 RECORD

2 AUG

1946 TO SEE

SUBJECT: Information on American Ammunition

RECEIVED

3 AUG 1946

TO: Commanding General, Military Mission, Italian Army,

FOR: Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.

TO SEE	
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Reference your letter, subject: Use of U S Ammunition, file No. Q131A, dated 12 July 1946, it is requested that the following be passed on to the Italian Ministry of War:

1. Reference your letter to MEIA dated 13 June 1946, reference No. 11930, subject: 105 U S Shell Explosion, inclosed herewith is an extract copy of an article published in Ordnance Technical Letter No. 38 which explains a hazard inherent with the original design of the M57 artillery fuze. It is believed that the accident at Nettuno described in your letter involved this fuze. Although attached technical letter mentions an accident with a gas-filled projectile, all chemical shell, whether gas-filled or smoke-filled, use the M57 fuze. It is not believed that any gas-filled American shell will be encountered in this theater.

2. For your information, all chemical ammunition of American origin is painted gray. To further identify chemical ammunition, those types containing phosphorous or other smoke producing material have one more yellow bands encircling the gray projectile; also, the nomenclature is applied with yellow paint. Gas-filled shell, on the other hand, employ green bands and markings on the gray background.

3. In the event that projectiles, due to long exposure to the weather, are completely devoid of paint it is still possible to differentiate between chemical and HE shell, by external inspection, since all American artillery shell of 75mm or higher caliber, containing HE, fitted with or adapted for a nose fuze will be found to have a welded base plate. Chemical shell have no base plate.

4. The foregoing and other useful information is to be found in the following War Department Technical Manuals, one copy each of which is being forwarded under separate cover:

A Q 131 A

6/8/46


Information on American Ammunition (Cont'd)

TM 9-1901 Artillery Ammunition
TM 9-1900 Bombs for Aircraft

A drawing of the M57 fuze is to be found on page 264 of TM 9-1901.
It is requested that each individual given access to these books be advised that information contained therein is restricted and may be divulged only to persons whose work requires such knowledge.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Incl: Extract from Ord Tech
Info Ltr. No. 38


J. D. VENSEL
Major, AGD
Assistant Adjutant General

1459

addressed to

121

"THE ESSENTIAL OFFICIAL AIR MAIL"
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

WAFalsch/vch
74643

To insure prompt attention in replying refer to:

00 No. 350.05/3735

Attention of

2

31 May 1946

SUBJECT: Technical Information Letter No. 38

TO: Ordnance Officer
Ho. Penbase Section
AFQ 782, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

E X T R A C T

Par 2. "Our Technical Information Letter No. 34, dated 31 January 1946, called attention to a report received whereby two serious accidents occurred while men were handling 105mm Howitzer Gas Shell fused with M57 fuze and M22 booster. The shell were dropped on the fuze and a portion of the flash from the upper detonator by-passed the interrupter functioning the booster. This office, in conjunction with Picatinny Arsenal, has investigated the malfunctions and finds that an aluminum disc .02 inch thick inserted in the booster cavity between the fuze and the booster will prevent premature functioning of the booster but will not impair the normal functioning on impact. Printed instructions are being prepared and will be furnished your Headquarters. It is requested that theaters submit requisitions to this office, AFTH: SGTFA-Technical, for sufficient discs to modify all 105mm Howitzer shell fused with M57 fuzes and M22 boosters. This requisitions is to cover only shell required for theater stock levels as discs will not be inserted in any shell declared surplus."

FOR THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE:

/s/ Signature King 11/15/8
/t/ JAMES L. GUN 11/15/8
Col, Ord Dept
Assistant

"WD ESSENTIAL OFFICIAL AIR MAIL"
RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

C O P Y

Encl 1

Information Copy

HEADQUARTERS
PENTAGONAL BASE SECTION
APO 732

BPCRB

TO SEE	
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SUBJECT: Information on American Ammunition

TO: Commanding General, Military Mission, Italian Army, APO 374

FOR: Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.G.

FOR: ITALIAN MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Reference your letter to MHA dated 13 June 1946, reference No. 11930, subject: 105 U S Shell Explosion, inclosed herewith is an extract copy of an article published in Ordnance Technical Letter No. 38 which explains a hazard inherent with the original design of the M57 artillery fuse. It is believed that the accident at Nettuno described in your letter involved this fuse. Although attached technical letter mentions an accident with a gas-filled projectile, all chemical shell, whether gas-filled or smoke-filled, use the M57 fuse. It is not believed that any gas-filled American shell will be encountered in this theater.

2. For your information, all chemical ammunition of American origin is painted gray. To further identify chemical ammunition, those types containing phosphorous or other smoke producing material have one more yellow bands encircling the gray projectile; also, the nomenclature is applied with yellow paint. Gas-filled shell, on the other hand, employ green bands and markings on the gray background.

3. In the event that projectiles, due to long exposure to the weather, are completely devoid of paint it is still possible to differentiate between chemical and HE shell, by external inspection, since all American artillery shell of 75mm or higher caliber, containing HE, fitted with or adapted for a nose fuse will be found to have a valued base plate. Chemical shell have no base plate.

4. The foregoing and other useful information is to be found in the following War Department Technical Manuals, one copy each of which is being forwarded under separate cover:

TM 9-1901 Artillery Ammunition
TM 9-1900 Bombs for Aircraft

A drawing of the M57 fuse is to be found on page 264 of TM 9-1901.

3/8/46

Q131A

Information on American Ammunition (Cont'd)

It is requested that each individual given access to these books be advised that information contained therein is restricted and may be divulged only to persons whose work requires such knowledge.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Incl: Extract from Ord Tech
Info Ltr. No. 38

1436

HEADQUARTERS
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
APO 782

AG 171 BPORD

25 JUL 1946

RECEIVED I - AUG 1946

SUBJECT: Technical Information on U.S. Ammunition.

TO : Commanding General,
Military Mission,
Italian Army,
APO 794.

FOR : Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.

Request that the following be transmitted to the Italian Ministry
of War:

Your interest in reporting the details of an explosion which occurred at Nettuno on 13 March 1946 involving an American 105mm phosphorous shell is appreciated.

This incident has been reported by cablegram to Commanding General, MFCUSA. In the same message a request was made for permission to furnish technical information for your use. You will of course understand that approval of the War Department is necessary before this headquarters can disseminate military information to another government.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. D. VENSEL
J. D. VENSEL

Major, AGD

Assistant Adjutant General

1 Inclosure:
Copy of letter, MITA.

See 3T
see 10

27/46
20

1455

A Q-131-A

Subject: Use of US Ammunition

Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME

Q 131A

12th. Jul. '46.

To : CO PBS
APO 784 U.S. Army

1. Ref. copy of attached letter from Ministry of War.
2. Request that if any information or manuals are available on the functioning of the fuses of the 105 American ammunition that such be forwarded to us so that we may furnish it to the Italian Ministry of War.

R.C. VAN HUNK, MAJOR,
for Major-General,
M.M.I.A.

1404

COPY

COPY TRANSLATION

From: Ministry of War
TO : M.M.I.A.

Ref. 11930
Date 13/6/46

Subject: 105 US Shell Explosion.

Whilst some American phosphorous shells were being stacked in one of the 1st Art. Experimental Dumps at Nettuno on the 13/3/46 one of these, with instantaneous fuse, was accidentally dropped from a height of about 6', exploding, causing serious wounds, followed by the death of two workmen who were stacking the shells.

The fuse from the exploded shell was recovered, an investigation was carried out and it was discovered that the explosion had occurred despite the fact that the fuse was equipped with the proper safety, by centrifugal force.

In order to obtain information as to the sensitivity of this fuse and the efficiency of the relative safety device, we stripped a fuse, chosen at random from the a/m phosphorous shells and applied it to an Italian inert shell; this shell was then dropped from a height of 1,40 m., with the ogive downwards, the fuse was then stripped and it was discovered that the striker device had worked and that the flame had crossed the vent.

Therefore the safety device of said fuse has also proved to be inefficient. The test repeated with another 9 fuses the result was always the same.

Due to the inefficiency and danger of the a/m fuse, the writer ordered that the phosphorous shells equipped with this fuse have the fuse removed if possible or otherwise have them destroyed.

We would like to know whether, in the past, any trouble of this kind has occurred with said fuses.

1453

F.G. Properzj.

C O P Y

SUBJECT: 3" Mortar Bombs.

LAND FORGESS SUB COMMISSION H.Q.

H.M.I.A.

H.O.H.B.

✓ Q.131 A

30 July 1946

TO : War Ministry.

Ref your 37389 13 June 46 and further to this letter H.Q.
Q.131 A dated 5 July 1946.

1. The following technical advice has now been received from G.H.Q. and is passed to you for information and guidance. Attention is particularly directed to 2 (d).
2.
 - (a) Provided excessive augmented charges (see M.I.A. letter Q.139 30 May 46) are not used no shearing of tail fins should occur. This defect is rarely met with on British 3in Mortar Practice ranges.
 - (b) The number of welding points on tail units is no indication of strength, as different processes, such as spot, arc and projection welding are employed during manufacture.
 - (c) If the bombs were recovered from the River Aene, their condition must be considered doubtful, as corrosion will weaken tail-units.
 - (d) It should be noted that different sizes of charges often appear similar, and the salvaged bombs may have been irregularly charged during operations for special ranging purposes where the risk of tail fracture was acceptable. The charges of all salvaged bombs should therefore be checked before use.

Rao

R.A. CURTIS, Lt.Col.
for Major General,
H.M.I.A.

1452

Copy to: G (Trg)
GHD.

RAC/ra

SUBJECT: 3" Mortar Bombs

G.H.Q., C.M.F.

4309/01

15 Jul 46

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission, AC (LMA)

Reference your Q 131A dated 5 Jul 46.

1. Provided that instructions contained in this GHQ Ord Directive DOS/26/8(4) dated 22 May 46, are observed, no shearing of tail-fins should occur in amm issued by British Depots. This defect is rarely met with on British 3-in Mor Practice Ranges.

2. Tail-fin shearing can occur where the above quoted are not complied with, but since no bombs charged 3 x 100+ 3 x 280 grn cartridges were issued until 12 Jun 46 (for charging 6 x 100 grn by Italians) there should be no possibility of over-charged bombs having been used.

3. The number of welding points on tail units is no indication of strength, as different processes, such as spot, arc and projection welding are employed during manufacture.

4. If the bombs were recovered from the River ARNO, their condition must be considered doubtful, as corrosion will weaken tail-units.

5. It should be noted that different sizes of charges often appear similar, and the salvaged bombs may have been irregularly charged during operations for special ranging purposes where the risk of tail fracture was acceptable. The charges of all salvaged bombs should therefore be checked before use.

JC/AG

Copy to: G(Trg)
Ord

TO SEE	
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REME	

E.C. COLVILLE, Major,
for Major-General,
MGA.

RECEIVED
JUL 18 1946

18 JUL 1946

A Q131A
ant

(10)

Subject: Loss of 105 American PrisonersLand Forces Sub-Comm. A.G.
(M.M.I.A.) R.C.M.T.Q 1344
15th Jul. '46.To : CO FSB
AFB 74 U.S. Army

37

1. Ref. copy of attached letter from Ministry of War.
2. Request that if any information or material are available on the location of the graves of the 105 American prisoners that such be forwarded to us so that we may furnish it to the Italian Ministry of War.

See 37.
See 15.R.C.V.
R.C.V. Unit, Major,
For Major-General,
M.M.I.A.

1400

Subject: 5" Mortar Bomb

LAND FORCE'S SUB COMMISSION AG
(M.H.I.A.)

✓ Q.131A

3 July 1946

TO : WAR MINISTRY

Your 37389 of 13 June 1946.

1. The question has been referred to GHS for technical advice and you will be informed as soon as a reply has been received.
2. There is no objection to your instituting experimental work at BETHUNO with a view to reducing to a minimum failures and accidents resulting from the use of "war surplus" British ammunition. It is regretted no British technical officer is available to assist but any data obtained or advice required should be communicated to MHA in order that your research may produce the best possible results.
3. Your attention is drawn to the danger of using excessive augmented charges as explained in MHA letter Q.139 of 30 May 46.

See 12

Rao

R.A. CURTIS Lt Col
For Major General
M.H.I.A.

Copy to : War Min.
Ord.

1449

And

(8)

1. WALSH : 3" Rocket Bomb

LAWYER'S HUB CINCINNATI A.C.

H.M.I.A.

R O M R

✓.131 A.

5 July 1946

TO

1. G.H.Q. (War 1.1)

1. It has been reported by the War Ministry that during practice firing 12 of 3" Rocket bombs proved defective one of the three direction fins becoming detached on discharge.

2. The technical instructions contained in G.H.Q. War Directorate 1005/25/1 (1) 22 May 46 relating to care in using suggested charges have already been communicated to the War Ministry and in the cases reported this cause can be discounted.

3. It appears that the bombs in question were recovered from the R.A.M.B. and that exposure to water may have weakened the welded joint of the fins. As however the attachment of the fins varies from 4 to 10 welding points it is thought that practice proved it necessary to strengthen the fin attachment. In this case special precautions would appear necessary and advice will be given as required.

4. My instructions and advice be given on this matter.

Rac

R.A. CURRIE, Lt. Col.
For Major General,
H.M.I.A.

Copy to: G (War)
G.H.Q.

RAC/ra

1148

Ant

Translation

From M.of W.
To M.M.I.A.

Ref. 37389
Date 13/6/46.

47

Subject 3" Mortar Practice.

Further to telephone message to Maj. Byatt's office, we would point out that there has occurred, during 3" mortar practice carried out by the "Folgore" division "Nembo Regt., numerous cases (about 12%) of one of the three direction fins coming away within the weapon: fins which as known, are attached to the tail of the bomb by means of electric spot welding.

It seems that the bombs used were part of a consignment recovered from the river Arno where this consignment had fallen when the truck in which they were being transported overturned and therefore the electric welded spots may have become weakened by rust.

The cause could thus be established if it were not for the fact that the welded spots on the a/m bomb vary from a minimum of four to a maximum of ten, therefore it is right to suppose that the detachment of the fins is in relation to the number of welded joints, besides to its efficiency.

Further to the above, this Gen. Dir. would like to know:

- 1)) - whether your mission has ever had inconveniences of this kind occur with the u/m bomb whilst being used by allied units;
- 2) - whether your mission has any knowledge of the action taken on the matter in the past, and whether you can suggest what action should be taken in the a/m case;
- 3) - whether you object to experimental practices being carried out, at our Nettuno Experimental Centre, in order to establish the cause of the inconvenience so that we may ~~take~~ decide what action to take in order to avoid the occurrence of the inconvenience which may cause the weapon to jam with notable deviation of trajectory, prejudicing the safety of personnel and the training value of the practices.

DAK

TO SIGN	
A/Q	
O	<i>rac</i>
Q. 1	
Q. 2	
Q. 3	
REME	

P.G. Properzj.

1457

See 9

A 2125

Translation

From *W.*
T *M.M.I.A.*Ref. II930
Date 13/6/46.*US*
Subject IO5 British Shell Explosion.

Whilst some American phosphorous shells were being stacked in one of the I° Art. Experimental Dumps at Nettuno on the 13/3/46 one of these, with instantaneous fuse, was accidentally dropped from a height of about 6', exploding, causing serious wounds, followed by the death of two workmen who were stacking the shells.

The fuse from the exploded shell was recovered, an investigation was carried out and it was discovered that the explosion had occurred despite the fact that the fuse was equipped with the proper safety device, by centrifugal force.

In order to obtain information as to the sensitivity of this fuse and the efficiency of the relative safety ~~xxxx~~ device, we stripped a fuse, chosen at random from the a/m phosphorous shells and applied it to an Italian inert shell; this shell was then dropped from a height of 1.40 m, with the ogive downwards, the fuse was then stripped and it was discovered that the striker device had worked and that the flame had crossed the vent.

Therefore the safety device of said fuse has also proved to be inefficient. The test repeated with another 9 fuses the result was always the same.

Due to the inefficiency and danger of the a/m fuse, the writer ordered that the phosphorous shells equipped with this fuse ~~be~~ have the fuse removed if possible or otherwise have them destroyed.

We would like to know whether, in the past, any trouble of this kind has occurred with said fuses.

DAK

TO	
A/Q	
Q	<i>Rac</i>
Q. 1	
Q. 2	<i>—</i>
ORD	<i>—</i>
REMR	<i>—</i>

P.G. Properzj.

1446

See 10
See 13
See 14
See 16. 21/6/46
See 17

A-Q 126

Subject : 3 in. Mortar bombs.

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
Tel. 478103
ROME.

1/Q . 139

30 May 46

TO : Ministry of War.

1. In view to heavy commitments, modification of bombs from long to short range for Italian forces cannot be undertaken in British ordnance depots.

2. Where long range bombs are issued to the Italian forces sufficient 100 grain augmenting charges will be issued in bulk with them to enable the Italians to carry out necessary modification.

3. It is important that the maximum charges used on each bomb is 5 x 100 grains augmenting charges. If more than this charge is used the base plates of the mortars are liable to crack and/or the tails will be liable to drop off in flight giving short rounds.

CEK/lm

C.E. KING, Major
For Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to : List "B"

INTERNAL : G
: ORD

1445


TO : Ministry of Defense

1. In view of heavy commitments, modification of bombs from long to short range for Italian forces cannot be undertaken in British ordnance depots.

2. Where long range bombs are issued to the Italian forces sufficient 100 grain augmenting charges will be issued in bulk with them to enable the Italians to carry out necessary modification.

3. It is important that the maximum charges used on each bomb is 5 x 100 grains augmenting charges. If more than this charge is used the base plates of the mortars are liable to crack and/or the tails will be liable to drop off in flight giving short rounds.

CEK/11


C.E. KING, Major
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to : List "B"

INTERNAL : G
: ORD
: RENE

1445

Q 131A



ORDINANCE DEMONSTRATE
CHD, CHD.

SUBJECT : 3 in. Mortar bombs for Italian forces.

Tele : Freedom 801

TO : H.Q. M.M.I.A. (For A.D.O.S.)

Ref: DOR/26/2(h)

Copy to : 'D' CHD.
C.O.O., 501 D.A.D.

22 May 1946.

23 MAY 1946

Reference issue of 3 in. mortar bombs to the Italian forces.

1. Owing to heavy commitments, modification of bombs from long to short range for Italian forces cannot be undertaken in British ordnance depots.
2. Where long range bombs are issued to the Italian forces sufficient 100 grain augmenting charges will be issued in bulk with them to enable the Italians to carry out the necessary modification.
3. It is important that the maximum charges used on each bomb is 6 x 100 grains augmenting charges. If more than this charge is used the base plates of the mortars/black and the tails will be liable to drop off in flight giving short rounds.

7. find or make

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
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H. Martin Major
for Brigadier
DOR, CHD, CHD.

1644

Repeat
Was this (1/40)

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Original &
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RENE

see 11 168 23/5

AQ139

Q13/A

