

# TYPE 1 1KG AIRCRAFT MISSILE

This has to be one of the smallest bombs that any air force has used in an offensive role. It was recovered from crashed aircraft and had been reported as used in an air-to-air combat. Considering the fact that it was a hand-thrown bomb the Japanese designers would seem to have been a bit optimistic in expecting the pilot to fly the aircraft and throw bombs accurately at the same time.

The bomb consists of a spherical container of compressed paper from which a tubular neck of compressed cardboard projects approximately 75mm. A wooden plug at the base of this tube houses the friction pull igniter.

Overall length: 139.7mm (spherical). Thickness of wall: 3mm.

A central burster charge consists of granular black powder in a silk bag. Surrounding the burster charge are 32 cylindrical sheet-metal pellets containing a low explosive charge. Each pellet has a 12mm safety fuse which is in contact with the silk bag containing the central burster charge.

Colour and markings:

Black over all (probably coated with a waterproofing liquid).

Dimensions of pellets:

Diameter: 28.5mm.

Height: 20.6mm.

Composition of explosive pellets:

Potassium nitrate: 55.7 %
Sulphur: 16.7 %
Aluminium Powder: 14.6 %
Antimony Sulphide: 13.0 %

Cottonseed hulls were used as packing to fill up the interior of the bomb.

Weight of filling: Burster charge: 127 grammes.

Explosive pellets: 187grammes.

Total weight of bomb: 1.4kg.

## ACTION.

The cord of the igniter is pulled and the missile is thrown from the plane. After a short delay the black powder burster charge explodes rupturing the paper body scattering the explosive pellets and simultaneously igniting the safety fuse of the pellets. After a short delay the pellets are detonated.

This all takes place in aircraft with closing speeds of 400 to 500 miles per hour, what were they thinking?

