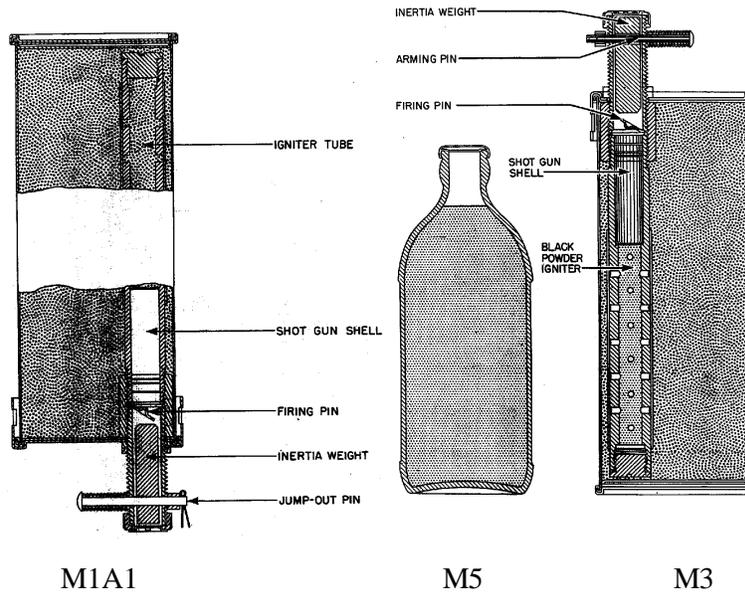


SPOTTING CHARGES, M1A1, M3, M5



M1A1 Spotting Charge. This type of spotting charge fits in the after end of the 100-pound Practice Bomb M38A2. It produces a flash of flame and white smoke for observation of bombing accuracy. It is made from a large tin can, 11.18-inches long, 3.43-inches diameter, weighing 4.25-pounds. At the top of the can is a cover, which has a hole in it for the insertion of a 28-gage blank shotgun shell and firing mechanism. Upon impact, the inertia weight drives the firing pin into the shotgun-type primer, igniting the 3-pounds of black powder.

M3 Spotting Charge. The spotting charge has a 2 1/3-pound dark smoke filling and a black-powder igniter. It is 5/8 of an inch longer than the Spotting Charge M1A1, but otherwise similar. The M3, with its dark smoke filler, is well adapted for bombing practice over snow-covered terrain. The black-powder igniter charge contains approximately 425 grains. It is used in the M38A2 Practice bomb.

M5 Spotting Charge. The spotting charge consists of a glass bottle filled with FS smoke mixture. An ordinary bottle cap seals the mixture. The bottle is held to the Practice Bomb M38A2 by a wire twisted around the neck of the bottle and attached to the tail vanes. The charge assembly weighs 2.54 pounds.

Reference: TM 9-1904, *Ammunition Inspection Guide*, March 1944; NAVSEA OP 1664 Volume 2, *U.S. Explosive Ordnance*, February 1954