

RDD WP GRENADE M₁

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MAINTAINING national security with the aid of another country is a dependence that should not be allowed forever if we expect to survive, deserve the respect of other people and enjoy the blessings of liberty with dignity. It is for this reason that the Research and Development Division, AFP, exists. Despite its very limited appropriation for supplies and equipment, the personnel of this Division are striving hard to create, develop and produce weapons, among other things of value, that could contribute to the security of our country.

As officer-in-charge of some special projects, this writer was granted clearance and authority by the Chief, RDD to present in this article one of the finished projects of this office. This finished weapon is ready for field use and its manufacture in quantity for field units could be done upon request through proper channels.

The weapon is a grenade, a smoke, incendiary and casualty-producing weapon. On exploding, the solid pieces of WP are scattered over an area of about 25 yards radius and burn for approximately one minute, producing thick white smoke. The weapon is used at close range against enemy personnel, especially weapon crews or other small groups so located that they are protected from rifle fire but are within the mini-

imum range of high-angle rifle grenade fire. The weapon is also employed to produce smoke for covering tactical movements of small field units; to burn enemy material in their hideouts, and to serve as identification signal for targets of the Air Force and other friendly supporting units.

All the parts that compose this grenade are locally made except the primer and the WP filler. It is similar to the U.S. Army WP grenade in outside appearance and dimension but the powder train is entirely different. The burster charge is prepared by the RDD based on the chemical formula of Col. Florencio A. Medina, Chief of the RDD. The delay fuse, design of the casing and burster are the products of creative researches of the project officers. Manufacture of the sample models is done with the help of the personnel of the RDD machine shop. Mr. Vicente Zamora, Jr. made the aluminum casings free of charge.

The grenade weighs one pound. It has a detonating fuse of 4 to 5 seconds delay. It could easily be hurled by an average soldier to a distance of 30 to 40 yards.

The accomplishment of this project was hastened by the grouping of the RDD personnel into research and support groups by Lt. Col. Mariano T. Hidalgo when he was Acting Chief, RDD.