

# Belcher Bits BB-21: Italian WWII bombs 1/48

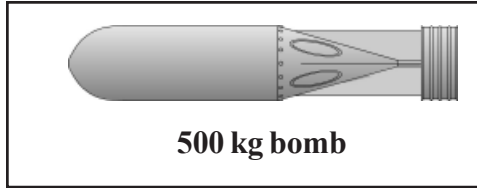
## Background

The Regia Aeronautica was blooded in the Spanish Civil War and the Ethiopian Campaign in the late thirties; the lack of suitable high performance engines hindered both fighter and bomber development in the war. However, the RA bomber squadrons pressed home their attacks with their older designs, using a range of bombs, many in the 40-100 kg range as seen on many aircraft of that vintage. Larger sizes were available as well, but the lack of heavy bomber aircraft limited the use of these.

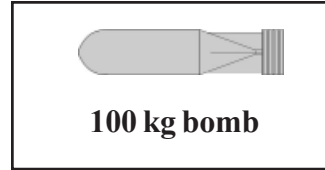
References indicate the existence of an 800 kg high explosive (HE) bomb, but probably more common was the 500 kg version, 18" in diameter and 102" long. Even more common was the 250 kg HE bomb, which was 80" long. The 250 kg bombs sometimes were seen with a ring around the mid-section at the attachment point. This might have been a modification; early bombers often used nose suspension, hanging the bombs vertically. In order to carry these bombs horizontally, it would have been necessary to locally strengthen the body for the attachment of the bomb lug.

Both types used the same tapered tail section, bolted to the bomb body and with elliptical access plates to allow access to tail fuze attachments. One unique feature of Italian bombs was the use of a corrugated ring tail, the corrugations providing additional stiffening to the thin metal material.

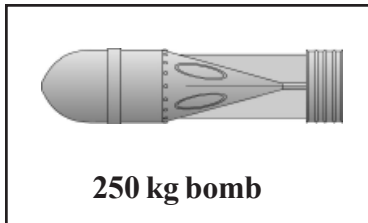
The next smaller size of HE bombs was 100 kg, 11" in diameter and 50" long. This size could be carried either vertically or horizontally. The tail section was similar in appearance to the larger bombs (again with the corrugated ring tail) but without the access



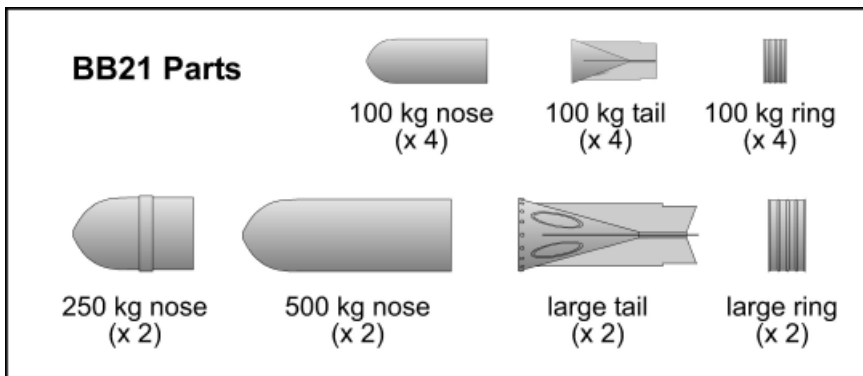
500 kg bomb



100 kg bomb



250 kg bomb



## Belcher Bits

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hatches in the tapered section. There were smaller sizes available as well (not provided in this set). The 50 kg HE bomb was 10" in diameter and 36" long and there was also a 24 kg HE bomb, 6" in diameter and 30" long.

The bombs all appear to have been tail fuze. No fuzes are supplied with this kit, but a representation of the propeller for the tail fuze can be made up from thin plastic strip. The smaller bombs will require that the tail fins be trimmed slightly to fit this vane inside.

Colours are unknown but you can't go wrong with weathered dark green

## References

1. Aircraft Armament, L. Bruchiss, Aerosphere Inc, 1945
2. Various photos mined from the internet (few and far between; at left, some 100 kg bombs, below, a 250 kg)

