Belcher Bits BB-53: RAF 1000 lb bomb 1/32

Background

Nothing says admiration like imitation. The RAF started WWII with a range of general purpose (GP) aircraft bombs which turned out to be not very reliable in use as well as lacking in explosive power, but the Battle of Britain showed the efficiency of the German bombs. As a result, the RAF issued a series of medium capacity (MC) bombs which somewhat resembled the Luftwaffe bombs. The body was parallel sided for much of its length instead of the egg-shaped early RAF bombs. Tail fins of early versions of these MC bombs used a long cylindrical ring, very similar to that used on GP bombs, but later in the war, a shortened version of the tail was developed to reduce the overall length of the bomb. In fact, the use of the long tal with 1000 lb GP bombs was probably very limited. Almost all photos of RAF a/c being bombed up with 1000 lb bombs show the short tail MC variant.

Assembly

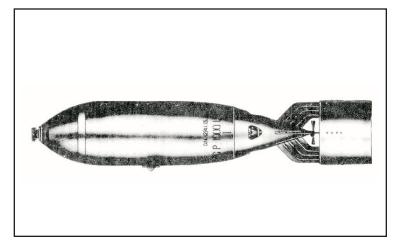
This set provides four 1000 lb MC bomb noses and four of the later short tail. RAF aircraft used a single point suspension, but US aircraft used 2 suspension points 14" apart. Both are provided on the bomb body; remove the ones not required. Bombs at the time were generally fitted with both nose and tail fuzes; the nose arming vanes are printed with the bodies, but 3D printing can be a bit fragile and if any are damaged, you can remove the vane, slice off a replacement vane and glue in place. The tail arming vanes are also supplied separately. Use a sharp knife and carefully slice these vanes from the backing and glue them to the tail of the bomb.



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SUSPENSION LUGI

Typical shape of early war 1000 lb GP bombs. Overall length was 86.5".

Later war MC bomb, note shorter ring tail.

Painting

Bomb bodies were dark green and generally quite dirty from being stored in bomb dumps. The tail units were applied before loading and were cleaner in appearance. There was a pale green 2" band around the nose and a red 1" band just below the nose pistol. Arming vanes were bronze or natural metal colour.

References

- 1. **Bombs Cone** by J. MacBean and A. Hogden, 1990 (excellent reference on RAF bombs of all sorts)
- Air Publication AP1661B Bombs, Jan 1944

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