

NS/fk

U. S. NAVAL TECHNICAL MISSION TO JAPAN  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

29 November 1945

RESTRICTED

From: Chief, Naval Technical Mission to Japan.  
To : Chief of Naval Operations.  
Subject: Target Report - Japanese Propellants.  
Reference: (a)"Intelligence Targets Japan" (DNI) of 4 September  
1945.

1. Article 2 of the report on Target O-10 (including Target O-28) of Fascicle O-1 of reference (a), covering general aspects of Japanese rocket and gun propellants, is submitted herewith.

2. The investigation of the target and the target report were accomplished by Lt. Comdr. R.A. Cooley, USNR, and Lieut. H.L. Blackwell, USNR.



C. G. GRIMES  
Captain, USN

**RESTRICTED**

**O-10-2**

**JAPANESE PROPELLANTS - ARTICLE 2  
ROCKET AND GUN PROPELLANTS - GENERAL**

**"INTELLIGENCE TARGETS JAPAN" (DNI) OF 4 SEPT. 1945  
FASCICLE O-1, TARGET O-10, ARTICLE 2, AND TARGET O-28**

**NOVEMBER 1945**

**U.S. NAVAL TECHNICAL MISSION TO JAPAN**

# SUMMARY

## ORDNANCE TARGETS

### JAPANESE NAVAL PROPELLANTS - ARTICLE 2 ROCKET AND GUN PROPELLANTS - GENERAL

Aside from the excellent Japanese-developed stabilizer, ortho tolyl urethane (see article 1 of this report), there appears to be little that is unique in Japanese naval rocket and gun propellants or in their manufacture.

In the field of liquid propellants, the manufacture of 80% hydrogen peroxide was well started on a commercial scale.

NTJ-L-0-10-2

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary .....	Page 1
List of Enclosures .....	Page 3
Reference .....	Page 4
The Report	
1. Historical Background of Japanese Naval Propellant Powder ...	Page 5
2. Chemical Compositions and Properties of Japanese Naval Pro- pellants .....	Page 5
3. Nitrocellulose Used in Naval Propellant .....	Page 5
4. Explosive Oils Used in Propellants .....	Page 6
5. Stabilizers and Gelatinizers .....	Page 6
6. Flash Reduction .....	Page 6
7. Manufacture of Propellant Powder .....	Page 6
8. Liquid Propellants for Rockets .....	Page 6

# LIST OF ENCLOSURES

- (A) Rocket and Gun Propellants Used by Japanese Navy ..... Page 7
- (B) "G" Smokeless Powder (Japanese Army) ..... Page 9
- (C) "C" Smokeless Powder (Japanese Army) ..... Page 11

# REFERENCES

## A. Sources of Information:

Rear Admiral Michizo SENDO, Professor of Explosives and Propellants, Tokyo Imperial University, former Director of Research, Hiratsuka Naval Powder Factory, Naval Technical Department.

Captain M. NIIMI, Naval Technical Department, First Division, Third Section.

Commander T. MURATA, Chief Engineer, Hiratsuka Naval Powder Factory.

Mr. S. MIYAIRI, Research Chemist, Hiratsuka Naval Powder Factory.

## B. Request for Information:

BuOrd ltr. (R37g) EF 37/A8-3, dated 13 Sept. 1945.

# THE REPORT

## 1. Historical Background of Japanese Naval Propellant Powder

Prior to 1896 the Japanese Navy used brown prismatic powder purchased from England, Holland or Belgium. About the year 1896 it became the Japanese Army's responsibility to supply the powder used by the Navy. Since the Army had been using single-base French "Poudre B", this was introduced into Japanese naval use.

In 1907 the Sir William Armstrong Co., of England, erected a smokeless powder factory at HIRATSUKA for the manufacture of double-base British MD cordite to supply the Japanese Navy. Twelve years later, in 1919, the Japanese Navy purchased the Armstrong factory at HIRATSUKA.

About 1912 K. KUSUOSE introduced a new stabilizer, jara jara (beta naphthol methyl ether) and a new smokeless powder known as composition C<sub>2</sub> was developed using this stabilizer. This powder represents the first powder manufactured purely as the result of independent Japanese research and development. The chemical composition of C<sub>2</sub>, which is a nitroglycerine gun cotton powder using acetone as a solvent, is shown in Table I.

In 1920, centralite, as a gelatinizer, was introduced from Germany. By 1924 solventless DC (Deutsche Cordite) powder was adopted as the service powder of the Japanese Navy.

About 1933 ortho tolyl urethane was introduced into powder, and was said to give a composition which could be handled with greater ease and safety during kneading and rolling. These advantages were attributed to the low melting temperature of ortho tolyl urethane.

Fairly satisfactory flashless powder (FD), containing potassium sulfate and hydrocellulose, was developed about 1938.

## 2. Chemical Compositions and Properties of Japanese Naval Propellants

Table I summarizes the chemical compositions as well as the calorific values, force values and stability values of powders used by the Japanese Navy.

The composition of Japanese Army propellants are shown for comparison in the "C" and "G" smokeless powder charts at the end of this report.

## 3. Nitrocellulose Used in Naval Propellants

The Japanese Navy has used the following kinds of nitrocellulose:

NC<sub>1</sub> or guncotton,  $13.15 \pm 0.15\%$  N

NC<sub>2</sub> or collodion cotton,  $10.90 \pm 0.20\%$  N

NC<sub>3</sub> or pyrocollodion,  $12.50 \pm 0.20\%$  N

NC<sub>1</sub> and NC<sub>2</sub> are blended to make a mixed cotton MC<sub>1</sub> ( $11.85 \pm .05\%$  N) which is used in such solventless powders as DC<sub>1</sub>, DC<sub>2</sub>, DC<sub>3</sub> and FDT<sub>6</sub>. Blending is necessary to obtain a nitrocellulose which is sufficiently soluble in nitroglycerin to mix without solvent. NC<sub>1</sub> is relatively insoluble in nitroglycerin, but NC<sub>2</sub> is relatively soluble, so that a satisfactory mixture is obtained. NC<sub>1</sub> and NC<sub>3</sub> are blended to make another mixed cotton MC<sub>2</sub> ( $13.00 \pm .05\%$  N) which is used in single base powder. NC<sub>3</sub> is the highest nitrogen content nitrocellulose of sufficient solubility in ethereal alcohol.

Normally the Japanese would prefer to use cotton as the source of cellulose,

but due to shortages it was necessary to use wood pulp during the war. The purification of nitrocellulose is achieved by a total boiling time of about 50 hours with ten decantations. Selwig or Lange nitration methods are used, and blending is achieved by stirring in the presence of excess water.

#### 4. Explosive Oils Used in Propellants

The Japanese had considered the substitution of diethylene glycol dinitrate for nitro-glycerin, since Germany had found the substitution so profitable. Diglycol was rather scarce in Japan however, and aside from experiments, diethylene glycol dinitrate was not used by the Japanese.

Nitroglycerin was manufactured from glycerin obtained from fish and animal fats. Nitration was carried out in a Nathan nitrator at 17.5°C, followed by treatment with a sodium carbonate solution and at least four washings.

#### 5. Stabilizers and Gelatinizers

The Japanese Navy was responsible for the development of one outstanding stabilizer and gelatinizer, namely orthotolyl urethane. Since this stabilizer represents the only point of possible superiority of a Japanese propellant over those of other countries, a special report (Article 1 of this series - "Use and Manufacture of Ortho Toly Urethane for Stabilizing Rocket and Gun Propellants" - Index No. O-10-1) has been prepared on the subject.

Other stabilizers used by the Japanese Navy were: beta naphthal methyl ether, symmetrical diethyldiphenylurea, diphenylamine, mononitronaphthalene, and dimethyl phenyl ortho tolylurea. The last stabilizer, though not yet tested by time, was considered to be a very promising stabilizer, because it is a liquid at room temperature and makes a powder easy to manufacture.

#### 6. Flash Reduction

Flash was said to be fairly reliably eliminated in guns up to 14 cm (5.6 inches), but not in larger guns. The elimination or suppression of flash was attained by use of 8 or 4 per cent of potassium sulfate as shown in Encl. (A) for composition FD and FD<sub>1</sub>.

#### 7. Manufacture of Propellant Powder

The manufacture of Japanese solventless powder consists of three steps: mixing, rolling and extrusion. The last two steps are at elevated temperatures. The stabilizer is first added to the nitroglycerin, which is then added to wet nitrocellulose; the resulting paste is agitated mechanically. The water content of the paste is then reduced to 4% by centrifuging. The paste is next rolled at 82°C. for about 6 minutes. The resulting sheets are then carpet-rolled and extruded from a press at 80°C.

#### 8. Liquid Propellants for Rockets

The Japanese had received information on the German hydrogen peroxide-hydrazine hydrate liquid propellant, and were producing 80% hydrogen peroxide on an industrial scale (See NavTechJap Report - "Japanese Fuels and Lubricants, Article 5 - Research on Rocket Fuels of the Hydrogen Peroxide - Hydrazine Type", Index No. X-38(N)-5.). None of the devices using liquid propellant had reached the operational stage, however, and no new ideas could be found in anticipated developments. The well-known nitric acid-alcohol combination had been experimented with, but the hydrogen peroxide-hydrazine system was thought more promising.

but due to shortages it was necessary to use wood pulp during the war. The purification of nitrocellulose is achieved by a total boiling time of about 50 hours with ten decantations. Selwig or Lange nitration methods are used, and blending is achieved by stirring in the presence of excess water.

#### 4. Explosive Oils Used in Propellants

The Japanese had considered the substitution of diethylene glycol dinitrate for nitro-glycerin, since Germany had found the substitution so profitable. Diglycol was rather scarce in Japan however, and aside from experiments, diethylene glycol dinitrate was not used by the Japanese.

Nitroglycerin was manufactured from glycerin obtained from fish and animal fats. Nitration was carried out in a Nathan nitrator at 17.5°C, followed by treatment with a sodium carbonate solution and at least four washings.

#### 5. Stabilizers and Gelatinizers

The Japanese Navy was responsible for the development of one outstanding stabilizer and gelatinizer, namely orthotolyl urethane. Since this stabilizer represents the only point of possible superiority of a Japanese propellant over those of other countries, a special report (Article 1 of this series - "Use and Manufacture of Ortho Tolly Urethane for Stabilizing Rocket and Gun Propellants" - Index No. O-10-1) has been prepared on the subject.

Other stabilizers used by the Japanese Navy were: beta naphthal methyl ether, symmetrical diethyldiphenylurea, diphenylamine, mononitronaphthalene, and dimethyl phenyl ortho tolylurea. The last stabilizer, though not yet tested by time, was considered to be a very promising stabilizer, because it is a liquid at room temperature and makes a powder easy to manufacture.

#### 6. Flash Reduction

Flash was said to be fairly reliably eliminated in guns up to 14 cm (5.6 inches), but not in larger guns. The elimination or suppression of flash was attained by use of 8 or 4 per cent of potassium sulfate as shown in Encl. (A) for composition FD and FD<sub>1</sub>.

#### 7. Manufacture of Propellant Powder

The manufacture of Japanese solventless powder consists of three steps: mixing, rolling and extrusion. The last two steps are at elevated temperatures. The stabilizer is first added to the nitroglycerin, which is then added to wet nitrocellulose; the resulting paste is agitated mechanically. The water content of the paste is then reduced to 45% by centrifuging. The paste is next rolled at 82°C. for about 6 minutes. The resulting sheets are then carpet-rolled and extruded from a press at 800°C.

#### 8. Liquid Propellants for Rockets

The Japanese had received information on the German hydrogen peroxide-hydrazine hydrate liquid propellant, and were producing 80% hydrogen peroxide on an industrial scale (See NavTechJap Report - "Japanese Fuels and Lubricants, Article 5 - Research on Rocket Fuels of the Hydrogen Peroxide - Hydrazine Type", Index No. X-38(N)-5.). None of the devices using liquid propellant had reached the operational stage, however, and no new ideas could be found in anticipated developments. The well-known nitric acid-alcohol combination had been experimented with, but the hydrogen peroxide-hydrazine system was thought more promising.

**ROCKET AND GUN PROPELLANTS USED BY JAPANESE NAVY**

Symbol and Name	Composition										Characteristics																	
	N/G	G/C	M/C	C/C	C/L	OTU	M/J	J/J	MNN	H/C	GP	M/M	K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Sn	Na/B	Colorific Value (Q) (KCal)	Explosion Temperature (°C)	Specific Volume (cc)	Force of Explosion (kg-dm)	Abel's Heat Test (min)	Silvered Vessel Test (hr)	Volatile Matter (%)	Color					
C Common Cordite	58	37					5									1212.9	(gas) 3731	881.5	12450	30.0	200	0.3	Light brown					
C <sub>2</sub> Type 2 Cordite	30	65					3	2								1012.7	3250	917.5	11290	20.0	1200	1.65	Light brown					
T <sub>2</sub> Type 2 Tubite	30	65					3	2								1012.7	3250	917.5	11290	20.0	1200	1.65	Light brown					
DC Type 13 Cordite	30		64.8				4.5									931.8	3033	928.7	10660	14.48	800	1.0	Grayish black					
DT Type 13 Thelite	30		64.8				4.5									931.8	3033	928.7	10660	14.48	800	1.0	Grayish black					
DB Type 13 Lameller	30		64.8				4.5									931.8	3033	928.7	10660	14.48	800	1.0	Grayish black					
C <sub>3</sub> Type 89 Cordite	26.5	68.5														1015.4	3305	898.3	2800	6.0	1800	1.5	Light brown					
T <sub>3</sub> Type 89 Tubite	26.5	68.5														1015.4	3305	898.3	2800	6.0	1800	1.5	Light brown					
F <sub>2</sub> Type 90 mk 2 Cordite	15						68									1	465.8	1680	1071.5	6810	27.4	6006	1.7	Light yellow				
C <sub>4</sub> Type 92 Cordite	40	55					3	2								1128.4	3590	972.7	11850	20.0	1200	0.3	Light yellow-brown					
T <sub>4</sub> Type 92 Tubite	40	55					3	2								1128.4	3590	972.7	11850	20.0	1200	0.3	Light yellow-brown					
DC <sub>1</sub> Type 93 mk 1 Cordite	41		51.8				4.5	2								964.2	3137	922.5	10950		800	0.6	Greyish black					
DC <sub>2</sub> Type 93 mk 1 Cordite	27		64.3				5	3												900	1.0	Greyish black						
DC <sub>3</sub> Type 3 Cordite	33		60.0													0.1	0.4				1060	0.89	Greyish black					
DT Type 93 mk 1 Tubite	41		51.8				4.5	2								0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7		800	0.6	Greyish black					
DT <sub>2</sub> Type 93 mk 2 Tubite	27		64.3				5	3								0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7		900	1.0	Greyish black					
T <sub>5</sub> Toku																				1135	3.1	Greyish black						
FD Toku	26.4		53.4				7.2 <sup>#</sup>									6.0	0.09				984.2	3137	922.5	10950		3642	1.0	Greyish black
FD <sub>1</sub> Toku	27.5		55.6				7.6 <sup>#</sup>													3529	1.0	Greyish black						
T <sub>6</sub> Toku	30		60				3.0*									7.0					652.9	2260	938.8	8288		963	2.88	Yellow-brown
FD <sub>6</sub> Toku	27		60				3.0*									7.0						863	2.39	Yellow-brown				
FD Type 2 mk 1	30		61.3				5	3								8	0.7	0.7	0.7		652.9	2260	938.8	8288		Flameless		
FD <sub>1</sub> Type 2 mk 2	30		65.3				5	3								8	0.7	0.7	0.7		652.9	2260	938.8	8288		Flameless		

\* Used in rockets.

# This value denotes total per cent of C/L and OTU combined.

Editor's note: Information in the lower right quarter of above table is possibly in error due to misalignment of original.

N/G Nitroglycerin  
G/C Gun Cotton  
M/C Mixed Nitrocellulose  
C/C Colloidion cotton

C/L Centralite  
OTU Orthotoluylurethane  
M/J Mineral Jelly  
J/J Jalajala or jara jara

MNN Mononitropthalic acid  
H/C Hydrocellulose  
M/M Mineral Matter  
Na/B Sodium Bromide

LEGEND

**KYD-1S** BEING MANUFACTURED BY CONTRACT.  
**A-1S** IN EXPERIMENTAL MANUFACTURE.

X—IS NOT BEING MANUFACTURED AT PRESENT.

- 3 -

Translated & Redrawn in Tokyo, Japan.  
Nov. 1943

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

PRESS  
HEAT...  
PAGENO(?)

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三

卷之三





