

(U) Recovery action consisted of separating the weapon and the parachute assemblies and using a helicopter to lift the parts onto a truck. (See, Shipping of Weapons, this chapter.)

Weapon Number 2

(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ MK28 Y1 Mod 2, serial number 330448, had occupied the upper right position in the bomb rack, and was the farthest down the projected flight path. It was two miles inland, in a hilly, uninhabited area, one mile west of the village of Palomares. There had been a low order detonation upon impact which created a crater of 20 feet diameter, and six feet in depth.

The condition was: ⁵³

1. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ Secondary was in the crater.
2. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ DOF
b(3)
3. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ The tritium bottle had been blown into the potting material of the fire set. Recovered about 25 feet from the crater. Venting could not be ascertained.
4. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ MB-3A rack missing and not found.
5. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ Afterbody bent and mangled, parapack blown about 100 yards away. The MDF had functioned; 16 1/2 feet of ribbon drague chute had spilled out; main chute was out of case but still in chute cover.
6. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ Weapon case fragments were found within 100 yards of the crater in all directions.
7. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ Approximately 10 pounds of high explosive recovered in small pieces and slivers.
8. ^(U) ~~(S/RD/NF)~~ Radioactive contamination present.

(U) ~~(S)~~ About six weeks later the Atomic Energy Commission was questioned as to the parts of this weapon, as well as of Number 3, that were found, and ordnance personnel replied:

(U) ~~(S)~~ (1) High voltage thermal battery into which the T-bottle was imbedded; (2) two differential pressure switches; (3) part of the arm/safe switch; (4) a piece of the warhead pressure cover; (5) pieces of fuse connecting ring; (6) many small fragments of potting material and wiring from fire set.

This information was supplied to AEC at their request, and was evidently in connection with the shape drop tests that were done at White Sands Missile Range, as described in the section of the next chapter, Craters, Mine Shafts, Wells.

(U) ~~(S)~~ Recovery of this weapon could not be by helicopter since radioactive dust would be an instrument of spreading contamination. It was necessary to maneuver a truck near to the area. The days of 19 and 20 January were spent in collecting and packaging the pieces. 34

Weapon Number 3

(U) ~~(S/RD/AF)~~ MK28 Y1 Mod 2, serial number 434379, was found about 1030Z, approximately a half hour after Number 2, on the morning of 18 January, and was considered to be the second in the flight path. It had been loaded in the lower right position of the bomb rack. Impact point was one mile inland in a vegetable garden within the limits of the village of Palenares, and a low order detonation had resulted in a crater approximately four feet in diameter and three feet deep.

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