SECTION 5

THE MAIN FILLING AND THE EXPLODER SYSTEM

The Main Filling

0501. A powerful but comparatively insensitive explosive such as TNT is used for the main filling of high explosive bombs. It may be in the form of a solid, a powder, or the two in combination. A bomb containing only a main filling is not dangerous if handled with reasonable care and may be moved without expert supervision.

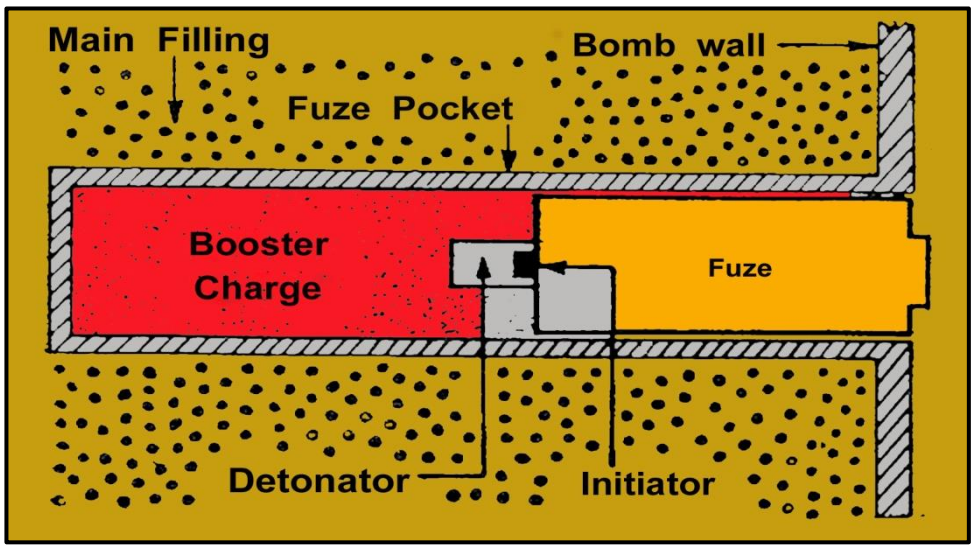

Fig 5-1: The Exploder System

The Exploder System

0502. To detonate the main fillings, a bomb is fitted with one or more exploder system (Fig 5-1). Each completed system is usually housed in a metal pocket and consists of a fuze initiator, detonator and booster charge. The fuze contains a means of igniting or detonating the initiator which provides a flash sufficiently powerful to fire the detonator. The detonator fires the sensitive explosive of the booster charge, which in turn detonates the main filling.

0503. Exploder systems may run either lengthwise or across a bomb and fuzes may be in the bomb's nose, tail or side (compare Figs 7-1, 2, 3 and 4).

Warning

0504. Thin walled bombs may break up on impact if they fail to explode and the exploder pockets and their contents may become separated from the main charge. These inconspicuous objects must then be located. They are likely to be dangerous and should be treated in the same manner as anti-personnel bombs (sec 40). They may contain time or anti-disturbance fuzes.

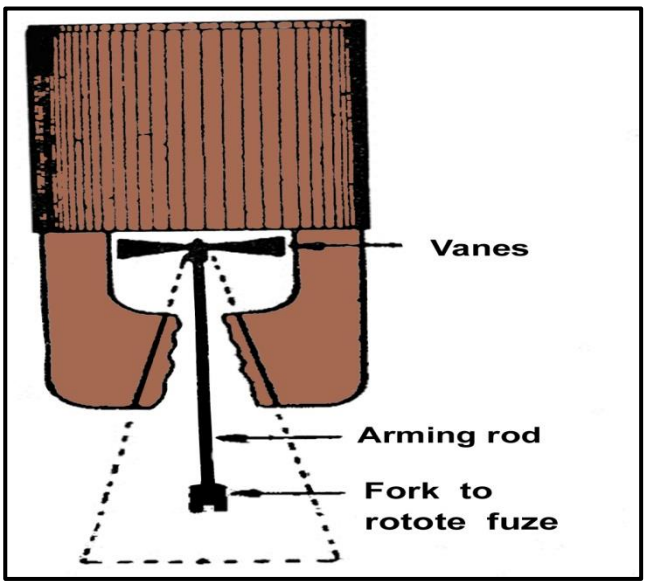

Fig 5-2: Tail Unit Fitted with Arming Rod for Arming a Tail Fuze

0505. When a fuze is used in the base of a bomb an arming rod fitted with vanes may be incorporated in the tail unit. When separated from the fuze this is quite harmless (Fig 5-2).

0506-0600. Reserved.