

Napalm Bombs and Flame Throwers

Both were used in WWII in the S. Pacific, in Korea and in Vietnam. Napalm bombs still used by the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is a jelly-like material that is designed to stick to whatever it hits until it burns itself out.

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/munitions/napalm.htm>



“As well as explosive bombs the United States Air Force dropped a considerable number of incendiary devices. The most infamous of these was napalm, a mixture of petrol and a chemical thickener which produces a tough sticky gel that attaches itself to the skin. The igniting agent, white phosphorus, continues

burning for a considerable amount of time. A reported three quarters of all napalm victims in Vietnam were burned through to the muscle and bone (fifth degree burns). The pain caused by the burning is so traumatic that it often causes death.”

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/VNchemical.htm>

“When used as a part of an incendiary weapon, napalm can cause severe burns (ranging from superficial to subdermal) to the skin and body, asphyxiation, unconsciousness, and death. In this implementation, explosions can create an atmosphere of greater than 20% carbon monoxide[2] and firestorms with self-perpetuating windstorms of up to 70 miles per hour (110 km/h).[8]

“One of the main features of napalm is that it sticks well to the naked skin, and hence it leaves no real chance for removing the burning napalm from the skin of the victim.

"Napalm is the most terrible pain you can imagine," said Kim Phúc, a napalm bombing survivor known from a famous Vietnam War photograph. "Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius (212F). Napalm generates temperatures of 800 (1,500°F) to 1,200 degrees Celsius (2,200F).

“Napalm is suitable for use against dug-in enemy personnel. The burning incendiary composition flows into foxholes, trenches and bunkers, and drainage and irrigation ditches and other improvised troop shelters. People even in undamaged shelters can be killed by hyperthermia/heat stroke, radiant heat, dehydration, suffocation, smoke exposure, or carbon monoxide poisoning. The firebombing raids on German cities, e.g. Dresden and Hamburg, frequently caused death by this mechanism; the resulting deformation to the baked corpses was referred to as Bombenbrandschrumpfleichen (incendiary-bomb-shrunken bodies).

Who can forget the infamous “Napalm Girl” photo ... the horror on the faces of the children whose village, house and family had been napalmed in Vietnam?



“One firebomb released from a low-flying plane can damage an area of 2,500 square yards.

“Use against civilian populations was banned by the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in 1980. Protocol III of the CCW restricts the use of all incendiary weapons, but a number of states have not acceded to all of the protocols of

the CCW. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), states are considered a party to the convention, which entered into force as international law in December 1983, if they ratify at least two of the five protocols. The United States, for example, is a party to the CCW but did not sign protocol III.”

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napalm>



In other words, the U.S. takes exceptions to certain portions of the CCW to potentially enable a wide latitude in interpretation, even while using such inhumane weapons against even mixed military/civilian

populations.

Two personal testimonies from

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/VNchemical.htm>:

(1) In 1967, the journalist Martha Gellhorn visited Vietnam. Her reports were published in the Ladies' Home Journal.

“In the children's ward of the Qui Nhon province hospital I saw for the first time what Napalm does. A child of seven, the size of our four-year-olds, lay in the cot by the door. Napalm had burned his face and back and one hand. The burned skin looked like swollen red meat; the fingers on his hand were stretched out, burned rigid. A scrap of cheesecloth covered him, for weight is intolerable, but so too is air.”

(2) A housewife from New Jersey, the mother of six, decided to go to Vietnam and adopt three Vietnamese children. While she was there she visited several hospitals.

“I had heard and read that napalm melts the flesh, and I thought that's nonsense, because I can put a roast in the oven and the fat will melt but the meat stays there. Well, I went and saw these children burned by napalm, and it's absolutely true. The chemical

reaction of this napalm does melt the flesh, and the flesh runs right down their faces onto their chests and it sits there and grows there... These children can't turn their heads, they were so thick with flesh... And when gangrene sets in, they cut off their hands or fingers or their feet.”

Consider the prevalent use of bamboo throughout the Orient then think about the fear of fire in that part of the world. Firebombing worked against Germany in WWII, but in the Orient, that tactic was considerably more successful... (or it was until “we” (Monsanto) had developed Agent Orange to defoliate the vegetation, instead of flame throwers and napalm).

While in America, we use milled wood for domestic housing, in the Orient bamboo is abundant and cheap, but FAR more susceptible to fire. That was why General LeMay’s fire-bombing of Tokyo in WWII was so devastating to the Japanese... what LeMay or anyone else knew at the time, however, was that the TOKYO fire-bombing also wiped out half of the Japanese nuclear weapons development ...the Army’s version... the Japanese Navy version carried on, however, to the extent that it is rumored that a Japanese Navy nuclear device was denoted off the east coast of Korea on the very day the surrender was being signed on board the battleship Missouri.

We would use external construction scaffolding of bolted-together steel or aluminum, but in the Orient, it’s bamboo, lashed together with vines or rope to form a framework... an amazing process to watch, to me, at least. ☺

In the respective wars, the U.S. used firebombing extensively against N. Korea and N. Vietnam. While N. Vietnam appears to have put that behind them (as I observed in 2008 when I visited there), the N. Korean government has “fanned the flames” of hatred toward the U.S. ever since.
