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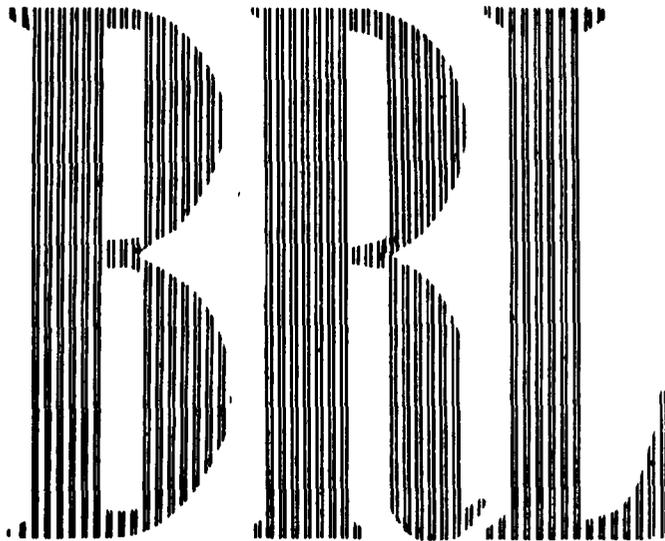
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MEMORANDUM REPORT NO. 1284  
JUNE 1960

THE EFFECTS OF ANNULAR RINGS AND GROOVES, AND OF BODY UNDERCUTS  
ON THE AERODYNAMIC PROPERTIES  
OF A CONE-CYLINDER PROJECTILE AT  $M = 1.72$

Elizabeth R. Dickinson

Department of the Army Project No. 5B03-03-001  
Ordnance Management Structure Code No. 5010.11.814  
**BALLISTIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES**



**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND**

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A B E R D E E N   P R O V I N G   G R O U N D ,   M A R Y L A N D

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ERDickinson/ks  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.  
June 1960

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the effects, on drag, overturning moment, lift, and center of pressure, of annular rings and grooves on the nose of a cone-cylinder projectile. Also shown are the effects, on the same parameters, of undercuts on the body of the projectile. There is, in addition, a discussion of the four types of flow which developed over the undercut bodies.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Often, in a projectile's progress from the designer's drafting board to the assembly line, there are many changes made in the details of the projectile's contour. As a result, the actual aerodynamic performance of the projectile may differ from that of the designer's prediction.

Almost all of the basic design on projectiles concerns itself with smooth contours and simple geometric shapes. When practical considerations enter the picture and fuzes have to be attached, reliefs have to be machined, rotating bands have to be added, a projectile which may have been, originally, an optimum one, often falls short of expectations.

The engineer, who translates the ballisticians' design data into a practical piece of ammunition, should be cognizant of the differential corrections that have to be made to the predicted behavior of the projectile. The purpose of this report is to show the effect, on some of the aerodynamic characteristics, of depressions and protrusions on the surface of a body of revolution. Unfortunately, there were insufficient data to determine effects on the damping and Magnus moments and forces.

During the course of the experiments, a multi-flow phenomenon developed, which was then investigated more fully.

## II. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. Nose Modifications

The basic projectile used for this program was a 20-mm cone-cylinder. The first part of the experiment consisted in putting first rings and then grooves on the nose (Fig. 1). All of the models were fired in the Aerodynamics Range<sup>(1)</sup> of the Ballistic Research Laboratories, at Mach number 1.72. The data obtained were reduced in the conventional manner.<sup>(2)</sup> Many rounds of the basic cone-cylinder model had been fired at a previous time\*, and served as the basis for comparison.

\*Reference 3, and unpublished drag data.

A.1 Rings. Three thicknesses of rings were used: 0.005, 0.010, and 0.020 caliber; all were 0.075 caliber wide. The ringed rounds were few in number, and fired at a time when the only interest was in drag. Consequently, none of the other aerodynamic coefficients could be obtained from the meager data. The effect of the rings on drag, however, was well determined. Up to the ring thickness tested (0.02 caliber) the drag coefficient,  $C_D$ , is a linear function of the ring thickness. For the model tested, at a Mach number of 1.72, the relationship is:

$$C_D = .3214 + 1.35t, \text{ where } t \text{ is ring thickness in calibers (Figs. 2 \& 3).}$$

This part of the experiment indicates clearly that protrusions on fuzes or other portions of the nose of a projectile must be taken into account in estimating drag, hence range, of the projectile.

A.2 Grooves. Two depths of grooves were used: 0.020 and 0.041 caliber; and two widths of grooves were used: 0.076 and 0.153 caliber. Data obtained from the firings of these models indicated no discernible effect of the grooves on the drag coefficient (Fig. 2). The spark photographs (Fig. 4) clearly show that shock waves originate at the nose grooves. Any resultant increase in drag, however, is so small that it cannot be measured by the present methods. There was no discernible effect of the grooves on the other aerodynamic coefficients. The only apparent effect was a slight thickening of the boundary layer, hence a slightly larger "effective" body diameter.

There is a possibility, however, that a groove could indirectly cause a significant flow change along a more complex contour. In the case of a shell with a rounded base, significant differences in the aerodynamic properties were observed when the shell was fired with a smooth, and then with a punched, fuze cover.<sup>(4)</sup>

It should be noted that both rings and grooves are effective in causing transition from laminar to turbulent flow.

## B. Body Modifications

The second part of the experiment consisted in putting a driving band on the basic projectile, and in making undercuts on the body (Fig. 5). The resulting models thus more nearly represented actual ammunition. Two depths of body undercuts were machined: 0.1 and 0.2 caliber. Again, all rounds were fired at or near Mach 1.72.

B.1 Rotating Band. The model, shown at the top of figure 5, differed from that of the smooth cone-cylinder shown at the top of figure 1, only by the addition of a rotating band. Hence it was possible to obtain the drag coefficient of the band:  $C_{D(\text{band})} = .3275 - .3214 = .0061$ . It must be emphasized, however, that this value applies only to this specific band (Fig. 5, bottom) at a Mach number of 1.72. A different band, at a different location on this same basic contour, had a drag coefficient of .0084 at Mach 2.3. (5, pg. 9) There was no measurable effect of the band on: the overturning moment coefficient, the normal force coefficient or the center of pressure. There were insufficient data to determine differences in damping and Magnus moments and forces.

B.2 Undercuts. All artillery shell have forward bourrelets (many have rear bourrelets, also), hence have slightly sub-caliber bodies. In the case of conventional artillery shell, this relief or "undercut" is only about .005 caliber deep. Recently, however, there have been received at the Ballistic Research Laboratories several projectiles in the development stage whose bodies have been undercut as deeply as .050 caliber. In addition, there have been high-velocity, armor-piercing projectiles developed from time to time whose body diameters were deeply undercut in order to reduce the weight of the projectile. The undercuts on this type of projectile range in depth from just over 0.1 caliber to just over 0.2 caliber.\* Because abnormal aerodynamic behavior has been observed in the testing of models with appreciable undercuts, a limited

\*Many projectiles of this type can be seen in the Ordnance Museum, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

experiment was conducted to determine the effects of undercuts on the various aerodynamic coefficients.

B.2.1 Flow and Drag. Originally, twelve undercut models were fired in the Aerodynamics Range: six with 0.1-caliber undercut (three with forward centers of mass and three, rearward) and six with 0.2-caliber undercut (again, three each forward and rearward centers of mass). Of these twelve rounds fired, six developed large swerve almost immediately and traveled only forty to fifty yards. (A possible explanation of this large swerve will be discussed later in section B.2.2.) Of the remaining six rounds, two had a 0.2-caliber undercut and four had a 0.1-caliber undercut. The four rounds having body undercuts of 0.1-caliber showed markedly different behavior.

There appeared to be two basic types of flow (Fig. 6): attached (associated with high drag) and separated (associated with low drag). Each type of flow appears to be stable; that is, it persists throughout the observed flight of the projectile. In both wind tunnel and free flight tests, a similar phenomenon has been observed to occur on long, blunt nose spikes. (6, 7, 8) Although this phenomenon is not new, the details of the mechanism, by which one or the other type of flow is established, are still not clear.

Present observations indicate that with attached flow there are variations in the flow pattern, resulting in differences in drag. For example, higher drag occurs with a steeper convergence of the wake behind the undercut. As the angle diminishes, the drag decreases. With separated flow, the lowest drag occurs with a divergent wake behind the undercut. As this divergence diminishes, the drag increases (Figs. 6, 7, 8).

Thus, within each type of stable flow, there appear to be slightly different flow patterns, which lead to different drags. These variations, however, are relatively small compared with the variation between the two fundamental types of flow. In the present experiment, no continuous variation of flow (that is, no continuous variation of wake angle behind the corner) was observed.

In the initial experiment, it was found that the highest drag, with attached flow, occurred in conjunction with a laminar boundary layer on the nose, extending all the way to the undercut. The lowest drag, with separated flow, occurred with a well-developed turbulent boundary layer on the nose, extending all the way to the undercut (Fig. 6). Intermediate cases (attached and separated flow) with mixed boundary layers, partially turbulent and partially laminar, led to intermediate drag results. To explore these results further, eight additional rounds were tested: four had highly polished noses to assure a laminar boundary layer; and four had trip-rings on the nose, to assure a well-developed turbulent boundary layer (Fig. 5).\*

Two of the polished rounds had completely laminar boundary layers back to the undercut, and developed high-drag flow. Although the other polished round had a laminar boundary layer back to the undercut, there was, on one portion of the projectile just ahead of the undercut, the type of disturbance in the boundary layer that is indicative of the beginning of transition to turbulence. This round developed intermediate-high-drag flow.

The trip-ring on the nose produced a thick, turbulent boundary layer, and low-drag flow on all four rounds (Fig. 9). Each of the low-drag rounds, including the two with a 0.2-caliber undercut, had a turbulent boundary layer ahead of the corner, and a divergent wake behind the corner (Figs. 6, 8 and 9). Only one round developed intermediate-low-drag, with a mixed boundary layer ahead of the corner, and a slightly convergent wake behind the corner (Figs. 7 and 8). Indications are, that if the angle of the wake behind the corner tends to become steeper than about  $1^{\circ}$ , the wake will converge all the way into intermediate-high-drag flow, or still further into high-drag flow.

These experimental results show that, for the geometry of this projectile at a Mach number of 1.7 and a Reynolds number at the corner of

\*One of the highly polished rounds developed yaw too large to be used in this analysis.

$2.4 \times 10^6$ , a laminar boundary layer back to the undercut favors the establishment of attached flow; whereas, a well-developed turbulent boundary layer back to the undercut favors the establishment of separated flow.

The significance of relatively small differences in flow patterns, associated with small differences in drag, was not initially recognized. These small differences in flow pattern, however, led to significant differences in other aerodynamic coefficients.

Because the added drag of the trip-ring had already been determined (II.A.1), the drag coefficients of the four ringed rounds could be corrected to a no-ring condition. All rounds were then corrected to zero yaw and Mach number 1.72 by means of the following relationships:

$$C_D = C_{D0} + C_{D0} \overline{\delta^2}$$

$$C_{D0} = \frac{Q^2 - 8/\pi}{M^2}, \text{ where } Q = a + b M$$

The plot of  $C_{D0}$  versus depth of undercut is shown in figure 10. It should be noted that, depending on the type of flow which develops, a 0.1-caliber body-undercut can increase the drag coefficient from about 20% to nearly 100% of that for an unmodified cone-cylinder.

B.2.2. Overturning Moment, Lift and Center of Pressure. The overturning moment and lift coefficients, and the center of pressure of the normal force are plotted in figures 11 and 12. Provided that low-drag flow has been established, these parameters appear to be relatively unaffected by an increase of body undercut from 0.1 to 0.2 caliber. The type of flow, however, has a marked effect on all three parameters.

It has been stated previously that some of the first group of undercut rounds developed large swerve, and traveled only forty or fifty yards. These rounds, with forward centers of mass (approximately two calibers from the base), developed low-drag flow, with its associated rearward shift of the center of pressure (Fig. 12). This resulted in a very small overturning moment coefficient,  $C_{M\alpha}$ , (it may even have been slightly negative) and a large gyroscopic stability factor.

This condition has two consequences. First, the initial jump due to yaw, which is inversely proportional to  $C_{M\alpha}$ , becomes large. Thus the original direction of the trajectory cannot be adequately controlled. Second, because of high gyroscopic stability with its slow precessional motion, the lift vector changes direction very slowly, resulting in a large amplitude of the helical motion of the center of mass of the shell. Thus the trajectories of these rounds could not be continued within the limited area of the instrumented range. Had the rounds developed high-drag flow, their centers of pressure would have been far enough forward to have assured lower gyroscopic stability and more normal flight.

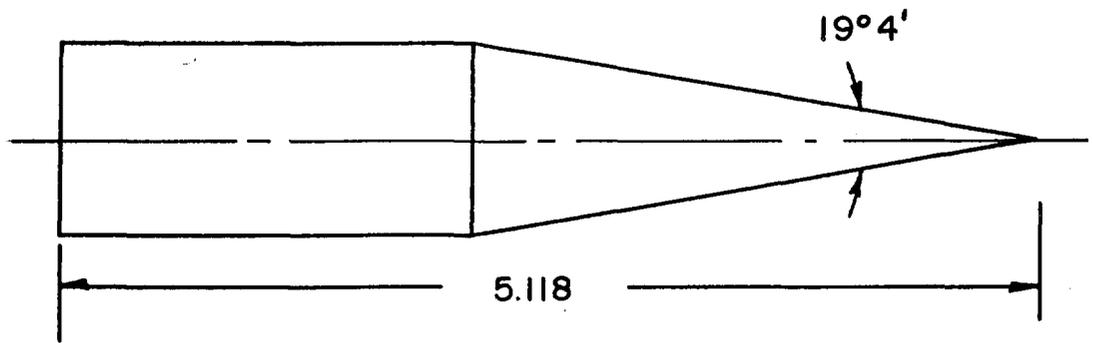
Thus the abnormal behavior of projectiles with appreciable undercuts can be at least partially explained by this rearward shift of the center of pressure.

  
ELIZABETH R. DICKINSON

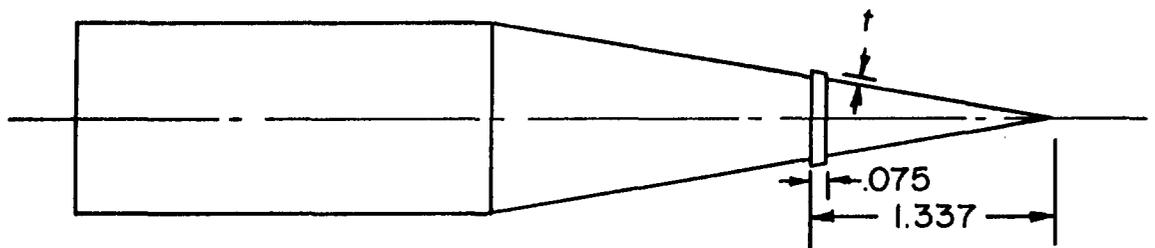
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# NOSE MODIFICATIONS

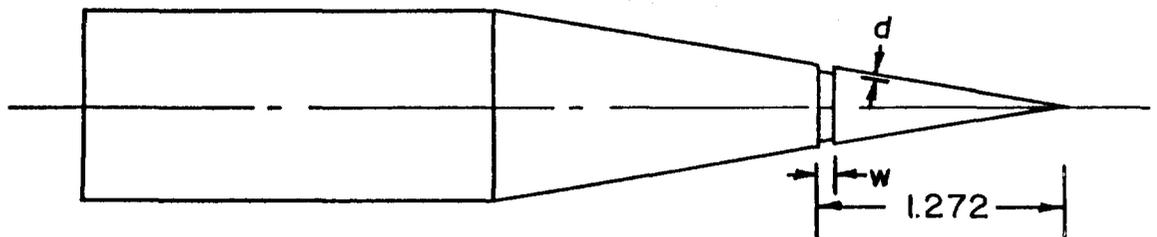


BASIC CONE-CYLINDER



RING MODIFICATION

RING THICKNESS (t) VARIED UP TO 0.02 CAL.



GROOVE MODIFICATION

GROOVE DEPTH (d) VARIED UP TO 0.041 CAL.

GROOVE WIDTH (w) VARIED UP TO 0.153 CAL.

NOTE: ALL DIMENSIONS IN CALIBERS

FIG. 1

# DRAG COEFFICIENT vs NOSE-MODIFICATION PARAMETERS M=1.72

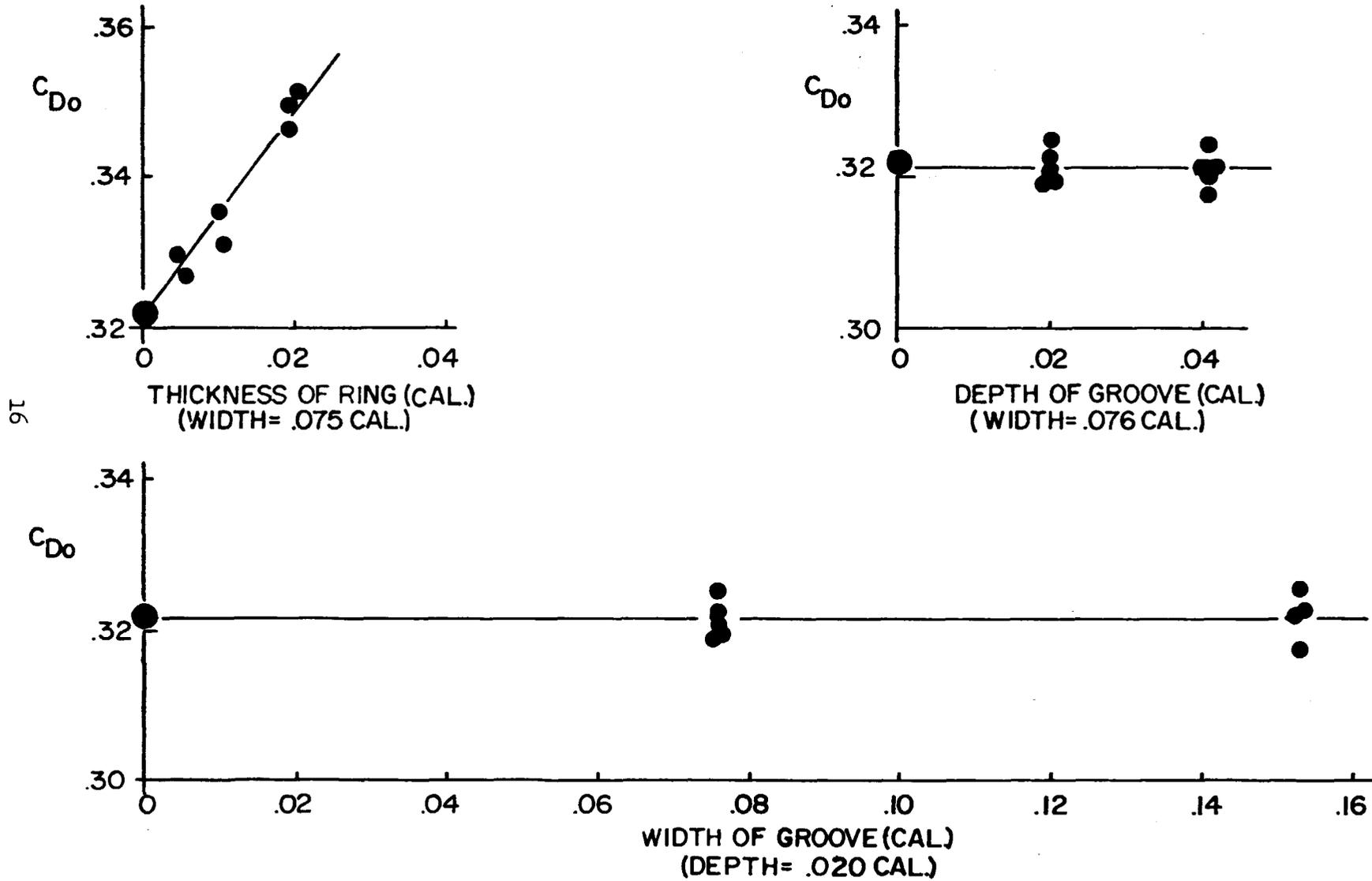
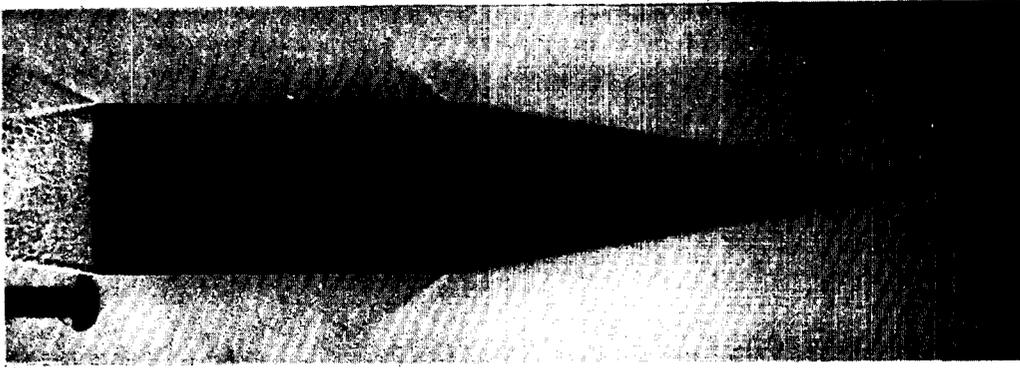
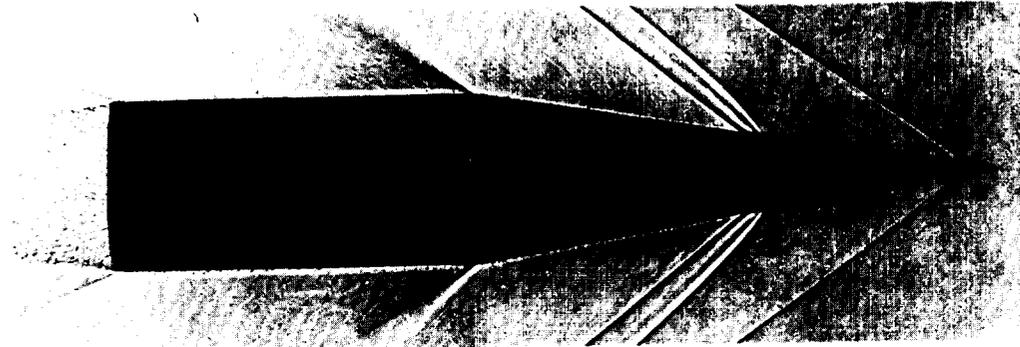


FIG. 2

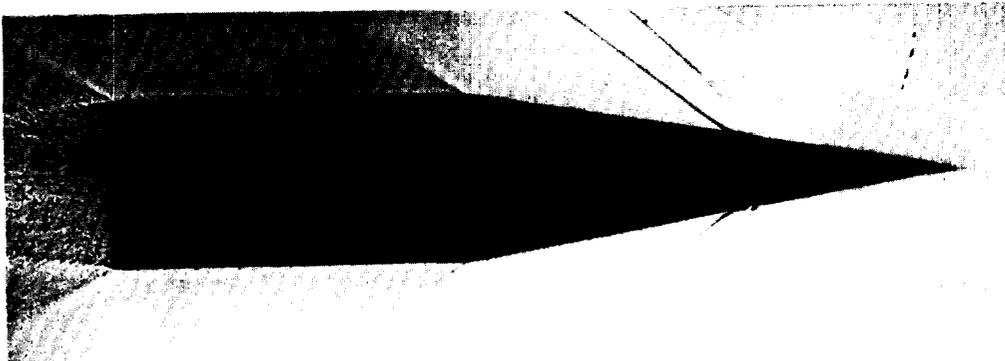
NOSE MODIFICATIONS: RINGS



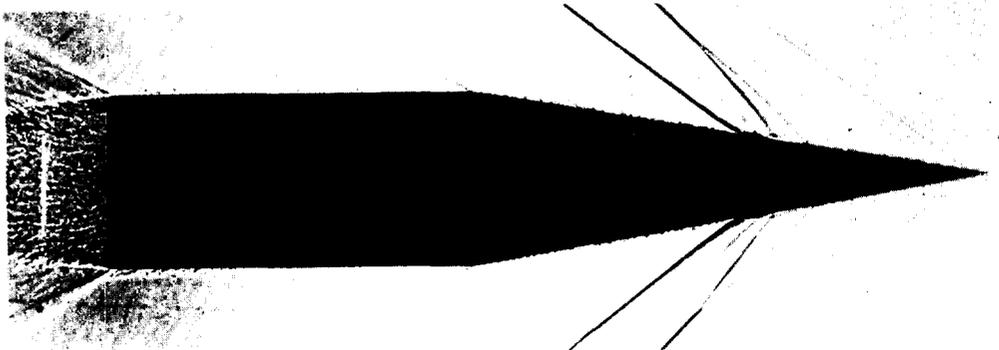
Rd. 1730  
Basic  
Cone-Cylinder



Rd. 1744  
 $t = .005$  cal.



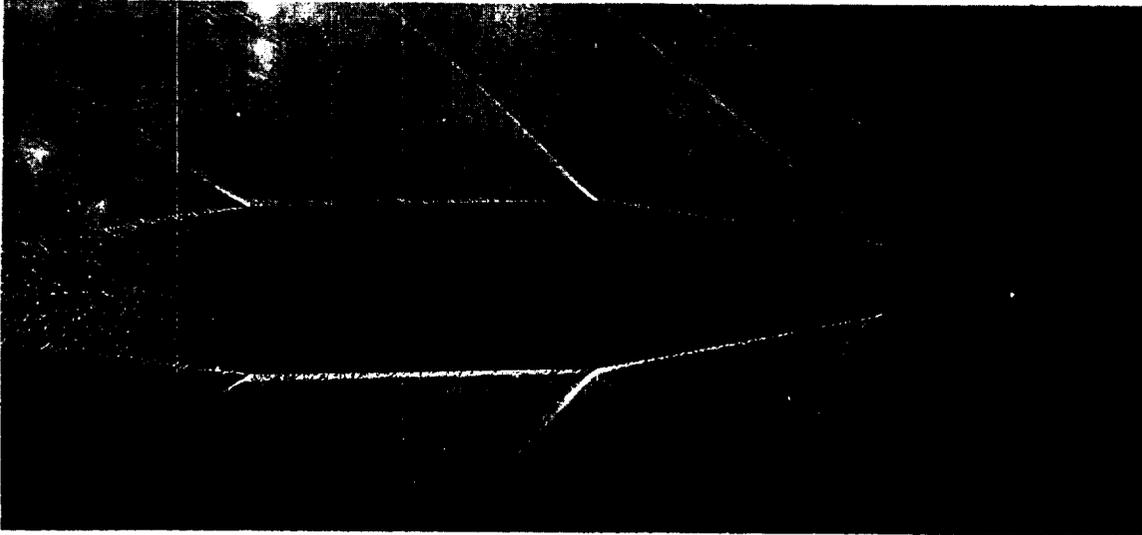
Rd. 1742  
 $t = .010$  cal.



Rd. 1745  
 $t = .020$  cal.

FIG. 3

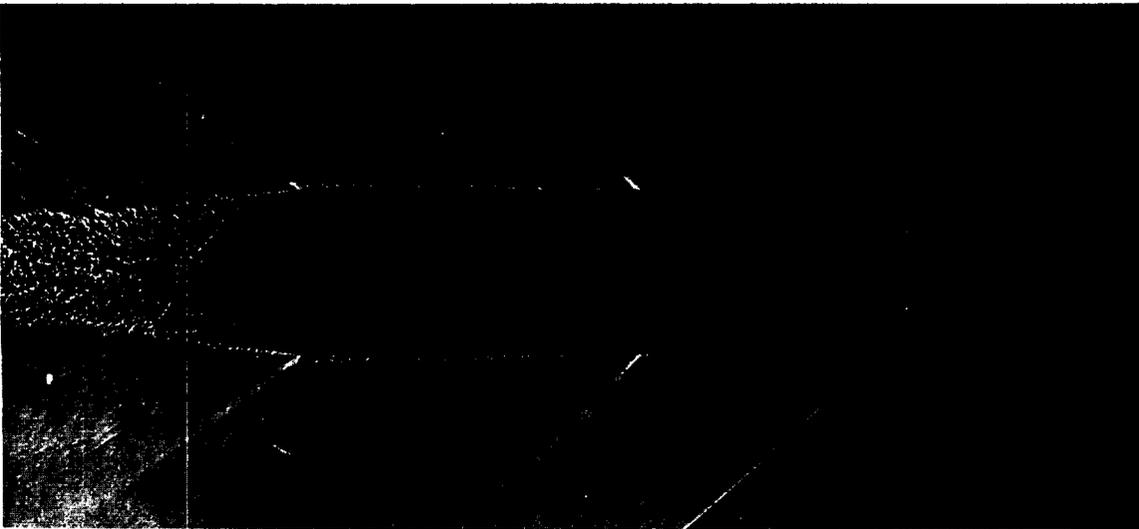
NOSE MODIFICATIONS: GROOVES



Rd. 4650-30V  
d: .020 cal.  
w: .153 cal.



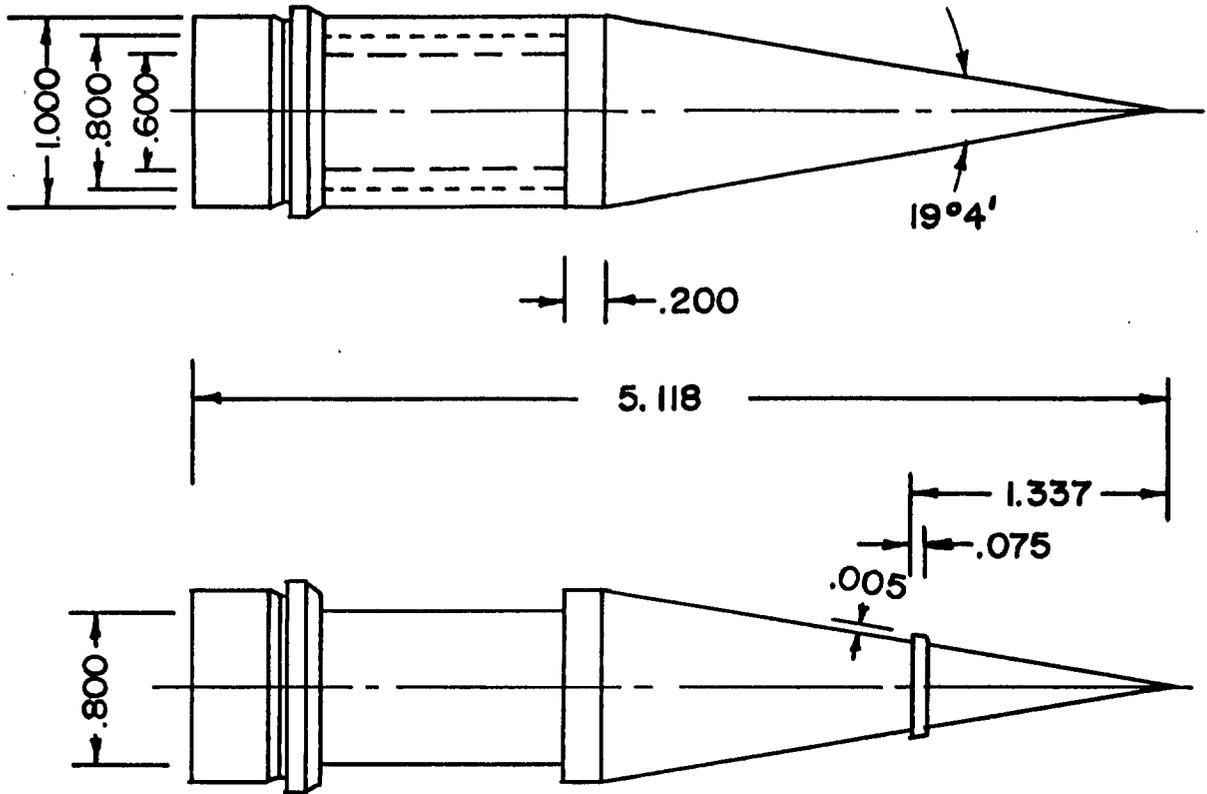
Rd. 4656-4V  
d: .040 cal.  
w: .076 cal.



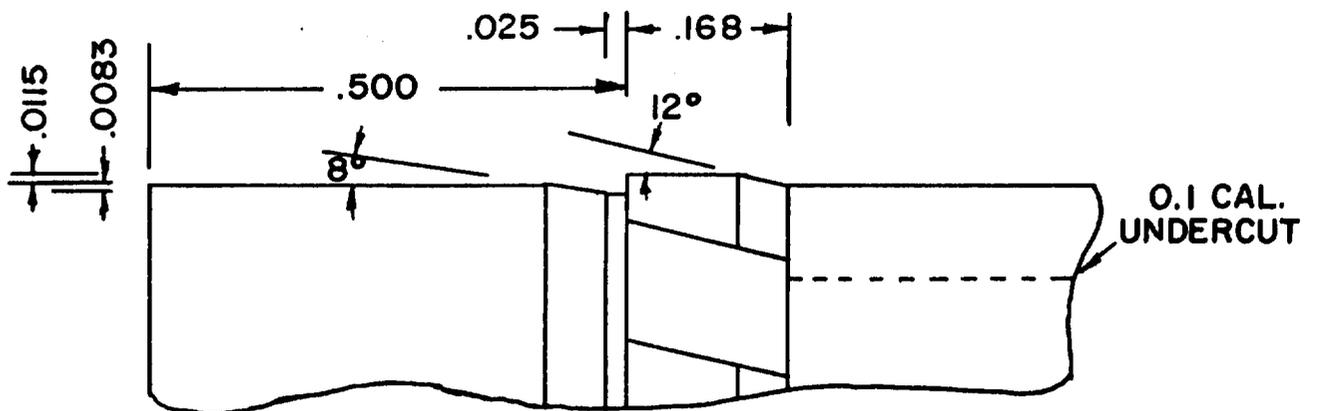
Rd. 4651-3V  
d: .020 cal.  
w: .076 cal.

FIG. 4

## BODY MODIFICATIONS

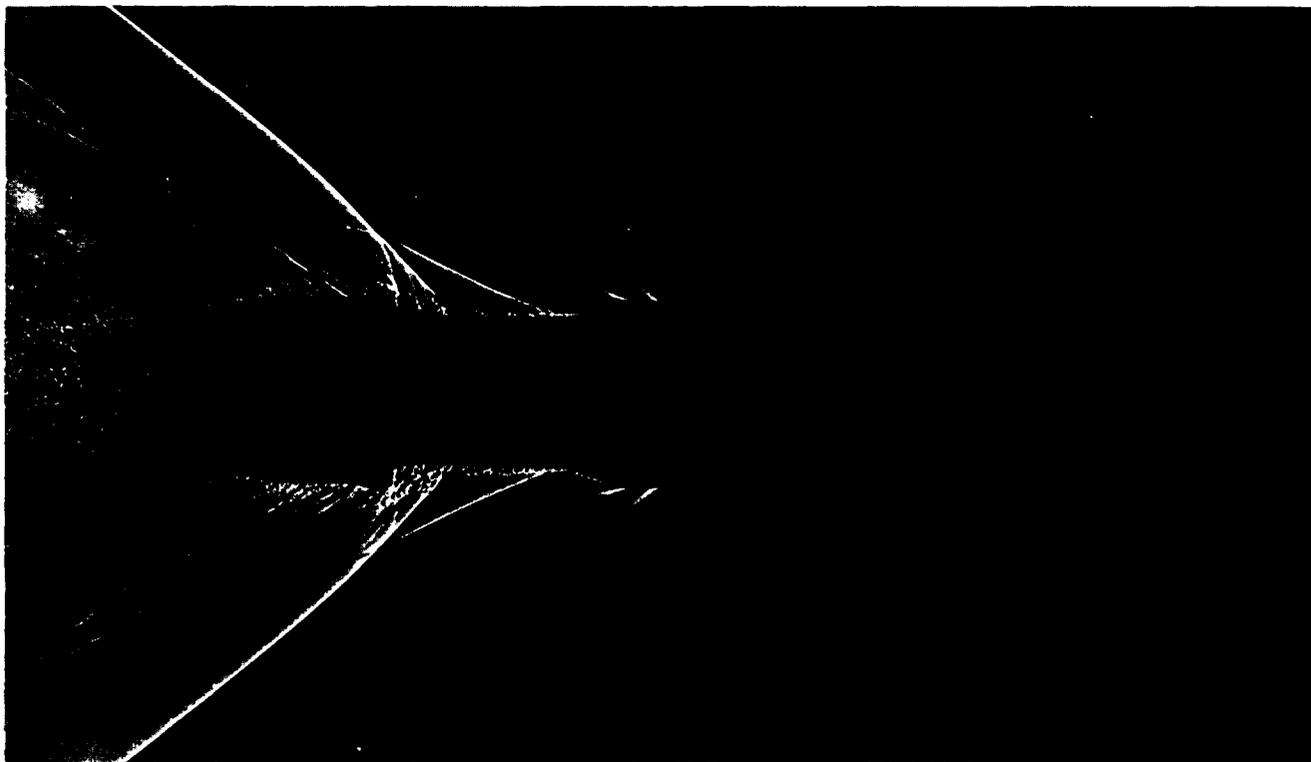


## BAND DETAILS



BAND PRE-ENGRAVED: 1/25 TWIST  
(9 GROOVES 0.1193 CAL. WIDE)

NOTE: ALL DIMENSIONS IN CALIBERS

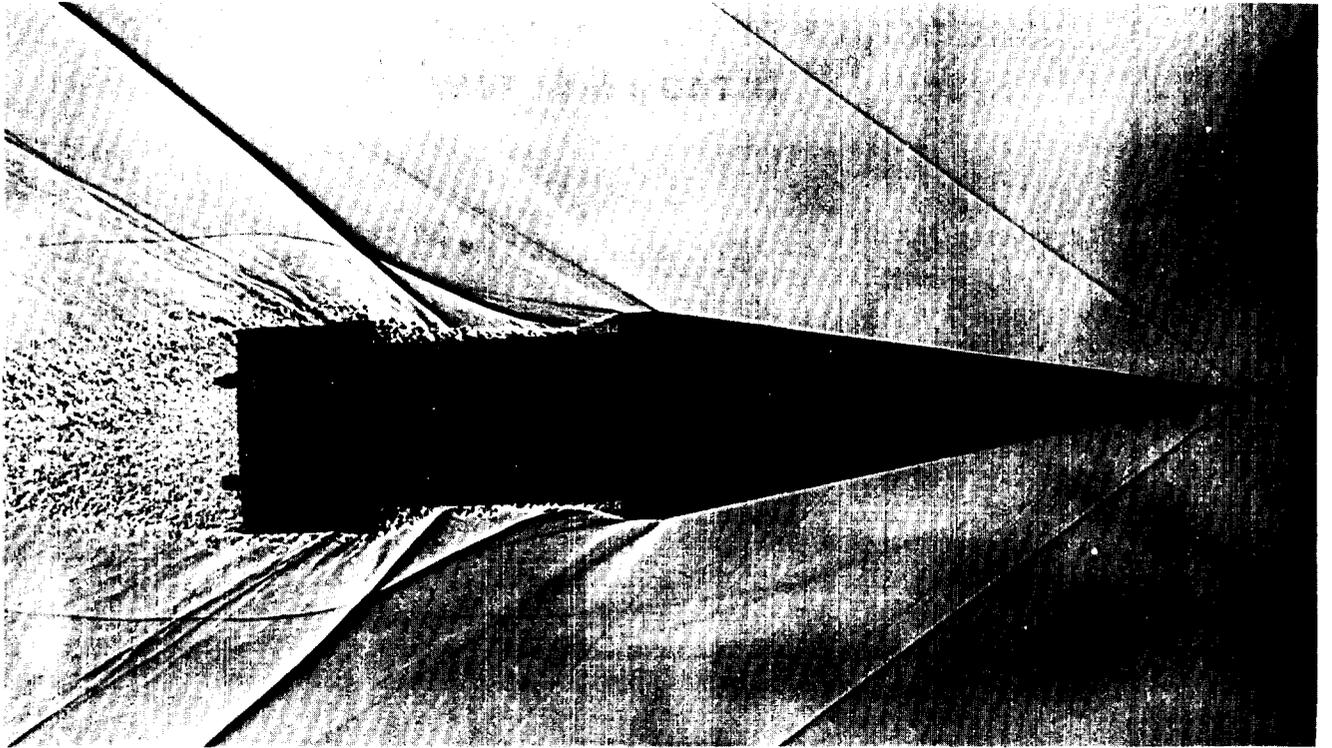


High-drag Flow, 0.1-cal. undercut Plate 26V Rd. 4674 Local  $M=1.740$

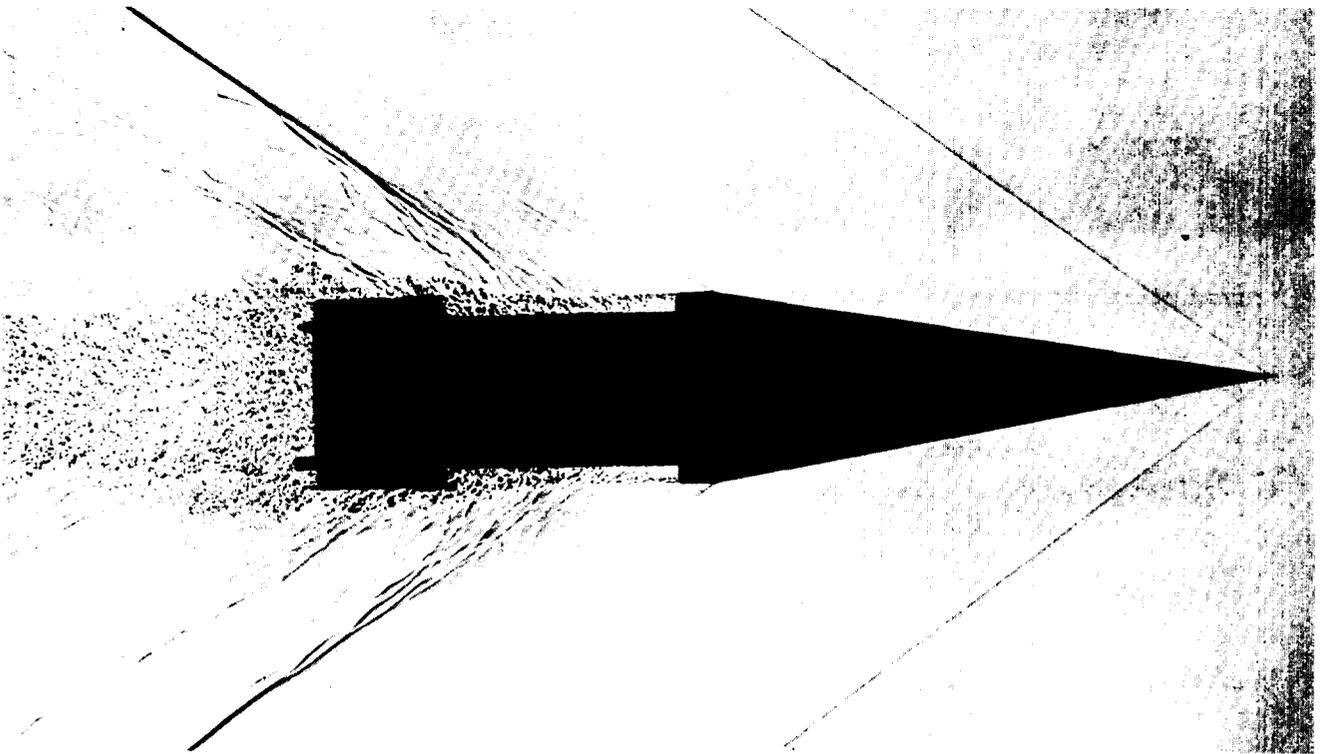


Low-drag Flow, 0.1-cal. undercut Plate 28V Rd. 4667 Local  $M=1.744$

FIG. 6



Intermediate-high-drag Flow, 0.1-cal. undercut Plate 30V Rd. 4669 Local  $M = 1.745$

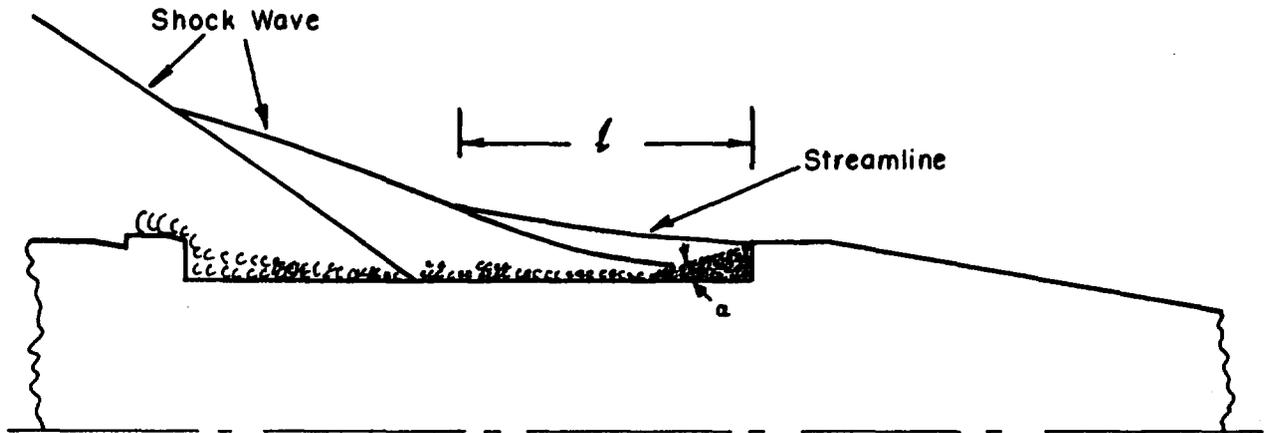


Intermediate-low-drag Flow, 0.1-cal. undercut Plate 42V Rd. 4675 Local  $M = 1.744$

**SOME DETAILS OF FLOW PATTERNS BEHIND CORNER**  
**(1.740 ≤ M ≤ 1.745)**

$C_{D_0}$  (no undercut) = .328

$R_e$  (at corner) =  $2.4 \times 10^6$  ( $M_\infty = 1.74$ )



	$\alpha$ (av.)	$l$ (av.)	$C_{D_0}$
Plate 26V Rd. 4674 High-drag flow	$-18.75^\circ$	.665 cal.	.646
Plate 30V Rd. 4669 Intermediate-high-drag flow	$-17.50^\circ$	.810 cal.	.639

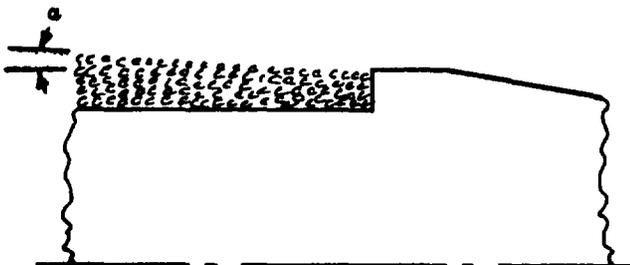


Plate 28V Rd. 4667  
Low-drag flow

$\alpha$  (av.) =  $+2.0^\circ$   
 $C_{D_0} = .403$

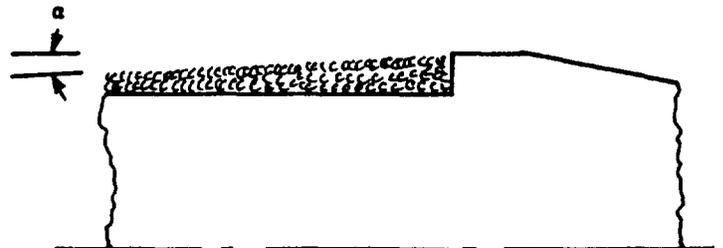
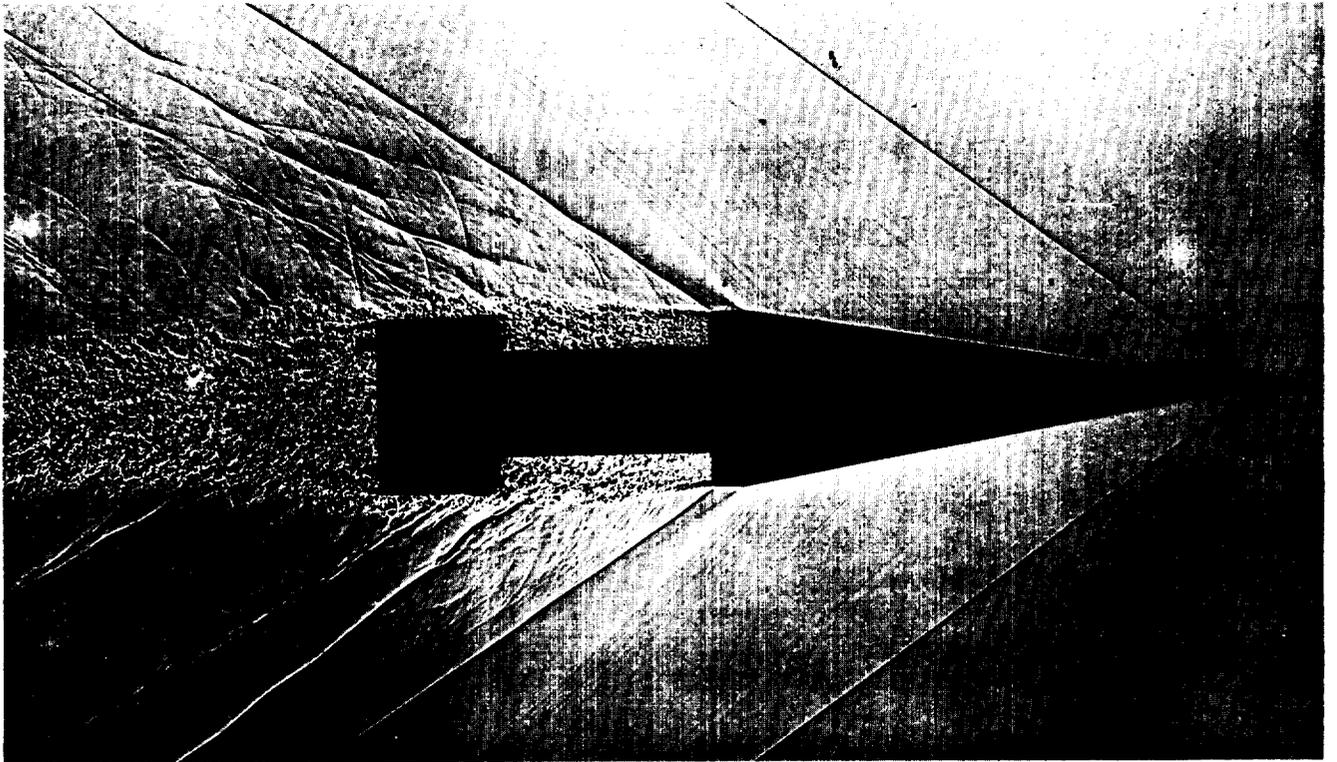
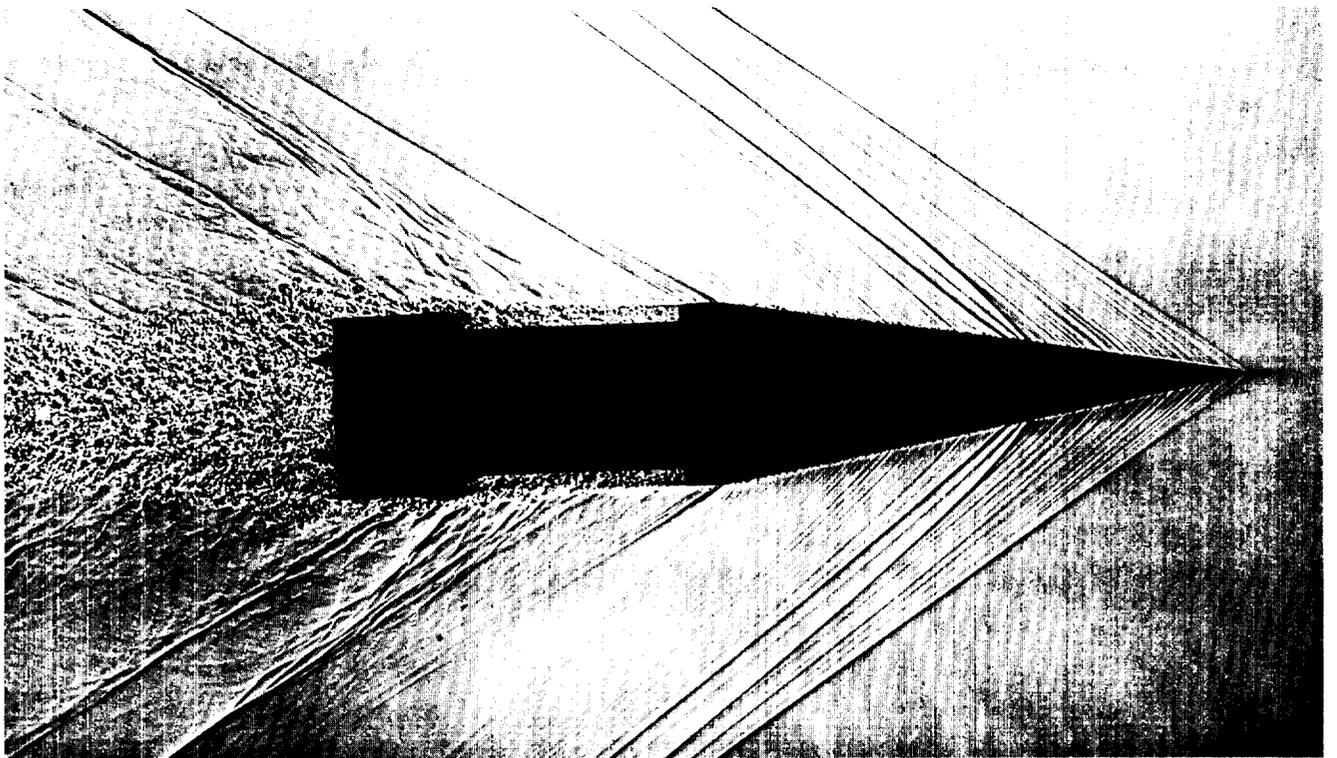


Plate 42V Rd. 4675  
Intermediate-low-drag flow

$\alpha$  (av.) =  $-1.0^\circ$   
 $C_{D_0} = .431$



Low-drag Flow, 0.2-cal. undercut Plate 4V Rd. 4666 Local  $M = 1.750$



Low-drag Flow, 0.1-cal. undercut, with Trip-Ring Plate 4V Rd. 5405 Local  $M = 1.810$



# OVERTURNING MOMENT COEFFICIENT

vs

## DEPTH OF BODY UNDERCUT

$M = 1.72$

c.m. = 1.25 cal. from base

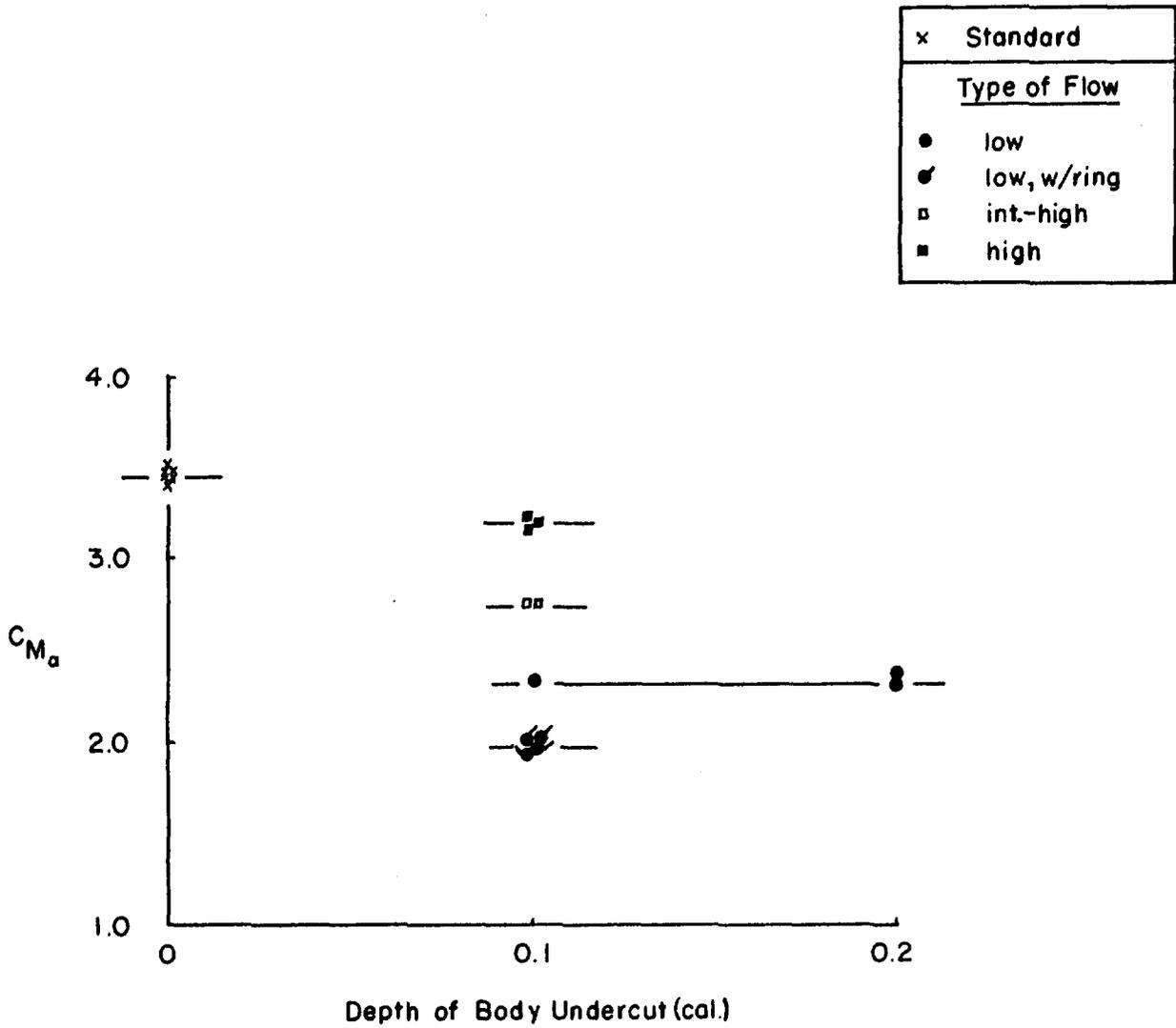


FIG. 11

# LIFT COEFFICIENT AND CENTER OF PRESSURE

vs

## DEPTH OF BODY UNDERCUT

M= 1.72

x	Standard
Type of Flow	
●	low
◐	low, w/ring
◑	int.-high
■	high

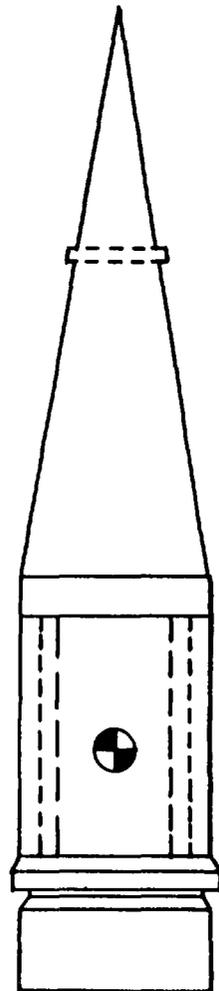
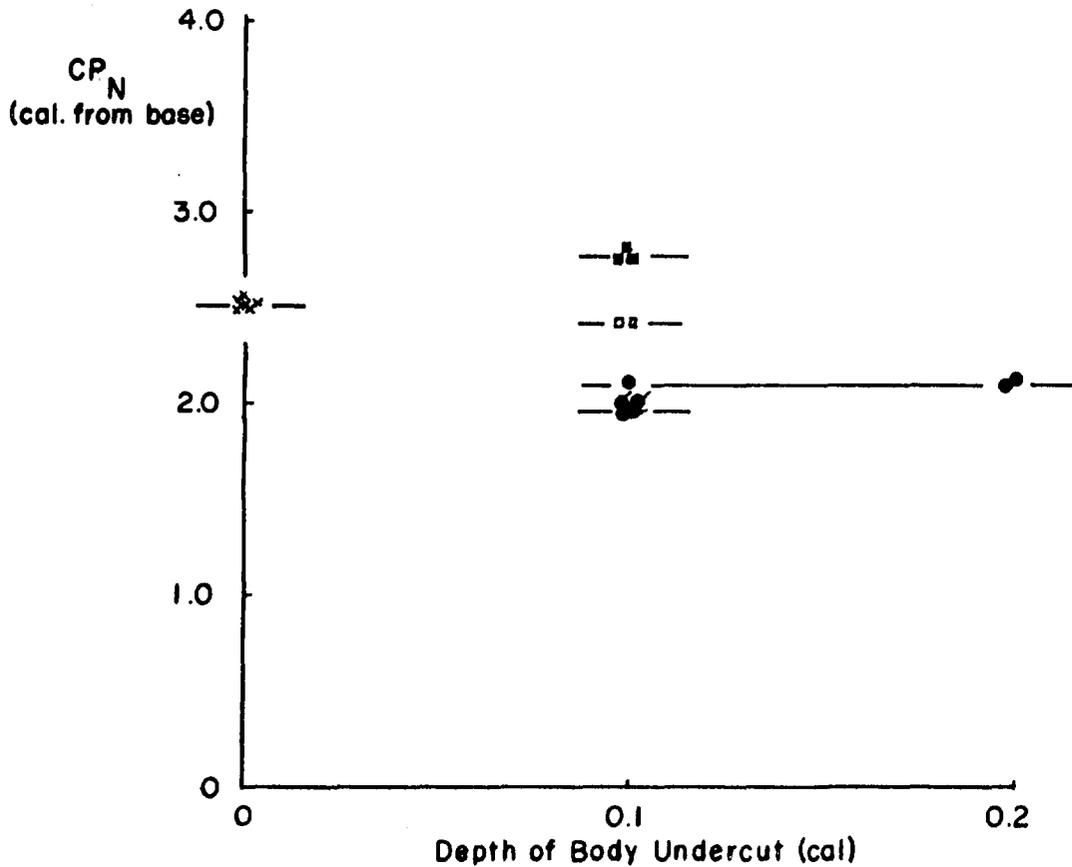
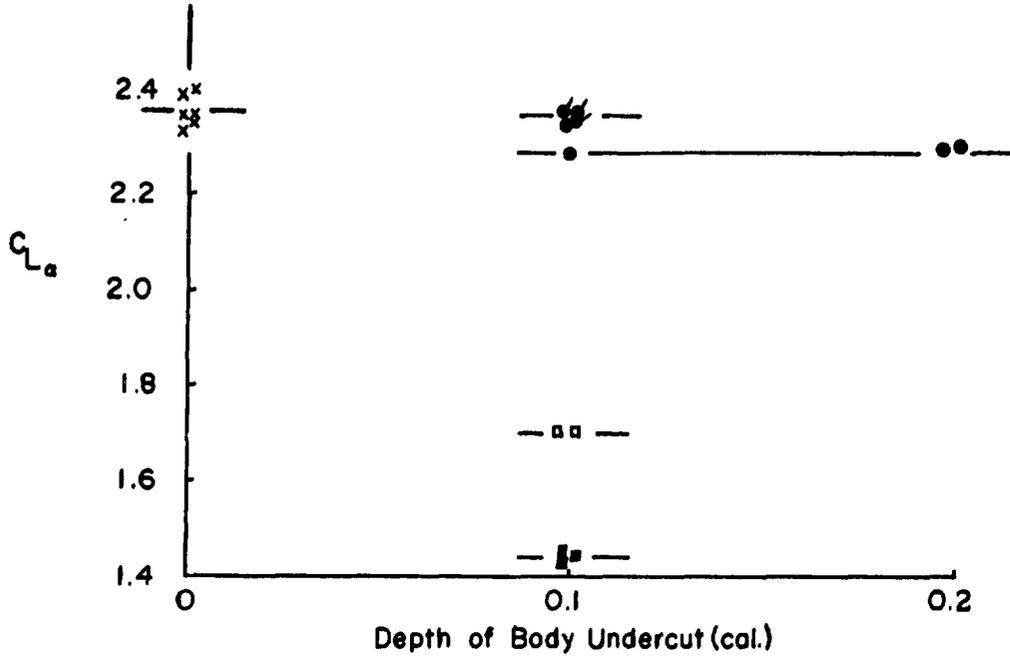


FIG. 12

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<p>AD <u>Accession No.</u> Ballistic Research Laboratories, APG THE EFFECTS OF ANNULAR RINGS AND GROOVES, AND OF BODY UNDERCUTS ON THE AERODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF A CONE-CYLINDER PROJECTILE AT M = 1.72 Elizabeth R. Dickinson BRLM Report No. 1284 June 1960 DA Proj. No. 5B03-03-001, OMSC No. 5010.11.814, ORD Proj. No. TB3-0108 UNCLASSIFIED Report</p> <p>Bodies of revolution - Aerodynamics characteristics Projectiles - Exterior ballistics Aerodynamic properties - Projectiles</p> <p>This report presents the effects, on drag, overturning moment, lift, and center of pressure, of annular rings and grooves on the nose of a cone-cylinder projectile. Also shown are the effects, on the same parameters, of undercuts on the body of the projectile. There is, in addition, a discussion of the four types of flow which developed over the undercut bodies.</p>	<p>AD <u>Accession No.</u> Ballistic Research Laboratories, APG THE EFFECTS OF ANNULAR RINGS AND GROOVES, AND OF BODY UNDERCUTS ON THE AERODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF A CONE-CYLINDER PROJECTILE AT M = 1.72 Elizabeth R. Dickinson BRLM Report No. 1284 June 1960 DA Proj. No. 5B03-03-001, OMSC No. 5010.11.814, ORD Proj. No. TB3-0108 UNCLASSIFIED Report</p> <p>Bodies of revolution - Aerodynamics characteristics Projectiles - Exterior ballistics Aerodynamic properties - Projectiles</p> <p>This report presents the effects, on drag, overturning moment, lift, and center of pressure, of annular rings and grooves on the nose of a cone-cylinder projectile. Also shown are the effects, on the same parameters, of undercuts on the body of the projectile. There is, in addition, a discussion of the four types of flow which developed over the undercut bodies.</p>
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