

8mm Repacks Part 2

by
Dale Crabtree

In Japanese Military Cartridge Handguns 1893-1945 by Harry Derby and James Brown there is a good article on these occasionally found brown waxed paper repacks of 8mm ammunition. This article is intended to provide a bit more detail on one such repack than those previously observed.

It is wrapped in brown waxed paper and is hand-marked in black ink reading “Ichi yon shiki kenjū jippō” and translates to Type 14 pistol ball cartridges. There are two blue ink stamps, one which reads “ryo” meaning good and the other stamp reading “sabi shō” meaning minor rust. Along the bottom of the package is “fumei” meaning unknown, then in different ink the numbers “15” followed by “Hatsu” in this case meaning 15 rounds. On the back is the same blue circle stamp that is referenced in Japanese Military Cartridge Handguns 1893-1945 with the “sa” mark and than is dated 16.4 (April 1941). The remaining characters appear unreadable as they are smudged.

An item of interest with this package is the use of “Ichi yon” (1 and 4) rather the more common markings of “Jyu yon” (10 and 4) for the markings of 14. The use of “fumei” indicates the production data and lot numbers of this ammunition were unknown to the person(s) doing the packaging and inspection of the ammunition. This is a common practice found when repacking ammunition and ammunition components and continues today by many countries during ammunition repacking efforts.

I have not opened the package, but from the couple of rounds that I can just barely see, they appear to be in relatively good shape.

Again, I would like to hear from other collectors who may have ammunition packed in this manner and would like to know how their examples read. What I am interested in is if anyone has a repack that has the stamp on the back which is clear and readable.

Thanks to our fellow Banzai member Edokko and my friend Mayumi Mendez for the help with the translation and keeping me from doing the Japanese language a total injustice.



Front of 8mm repack



Back of 8mm repack