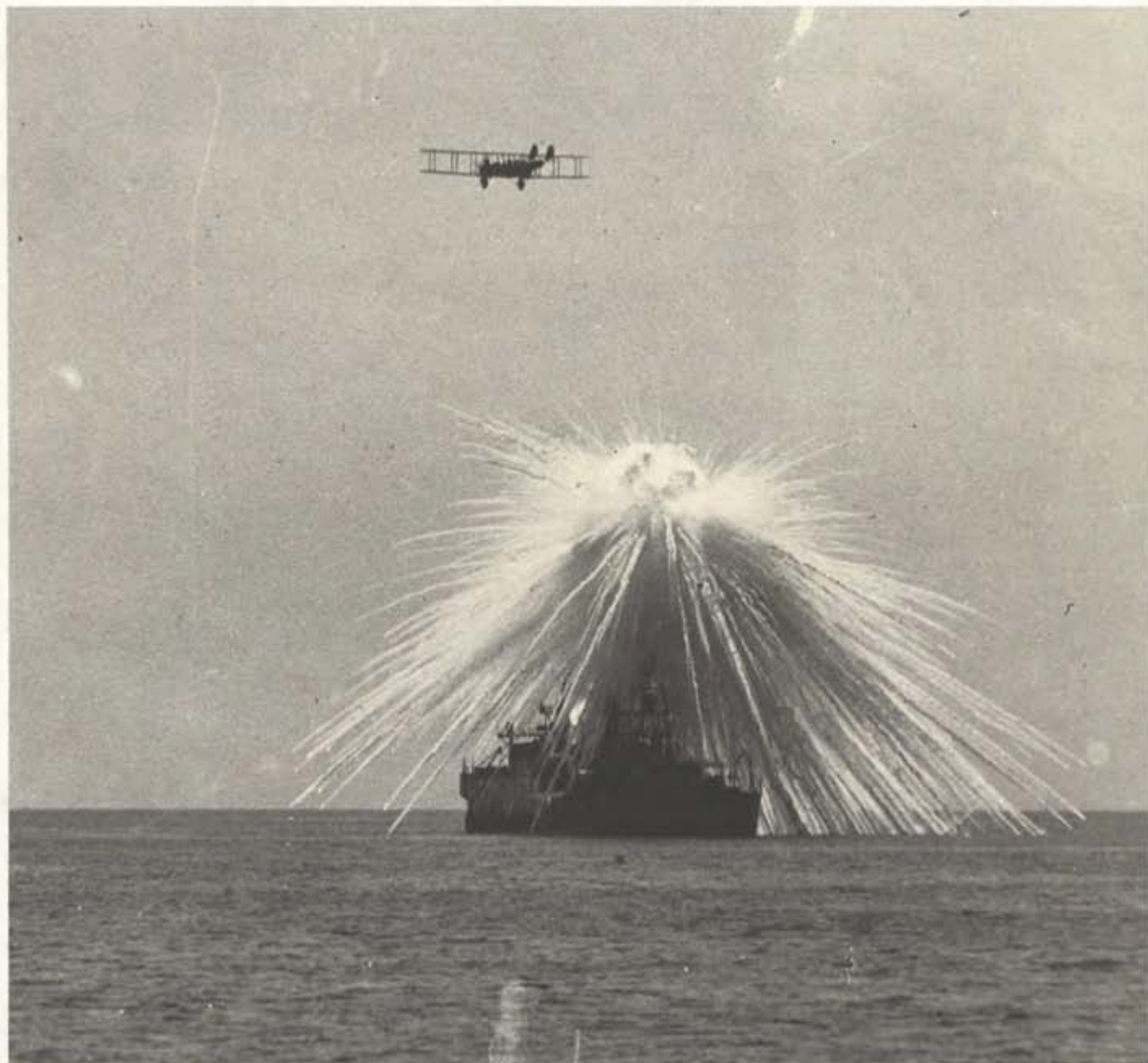


## A Bombing in Chesapeake Bay



*In a series of tests that would have far-reaching consequences (intended and unintended), Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell set out to prove the potential of military aircraft as a weapon against battleships. Here, a Martin MB-2 brackets USS Alabama with a 100-pound phosphorous bomb. Other bombers followed with 2,000-pound*

*bombs that sent the ship to the bottom. General Mitchell's aircraft sank six capital ships in Atlantic coastal waters between 1921 and 1923, but his superiors and the US Navy never acknowledged the decisiveness of the tests, and he was eventually transferred and court-martialed for zealously championing his views.*