



DEFENCE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE WEBSITE ORDNANCE INFORMATION SHEET

**ALL UXO MAY BE HAZARDOUS IF DISTURBED
DO NOT TOUCH – TAKE A PHOTO – MARK THE LOCATION – CALL THE POLICE**

PROJECTILE – 40MM (BOFORS)

Description

- The 40mm Bofors is an automatic anti-aircraft (AA) gun first manufactured by the Swedish company Bofors in 1930 (40mm L/60) and is the most prolific anti-aircraft weapon ever made. In the 1950's it was improved to the L/70 model with an increased rate of fire. 290 guns were manufactured in Australia during WWII and the last Australian Bofors was decommissioned from the RAN in 2007.
- The Australian Army used both carriage-mounted (towed) and vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft guns and also occasionally used the Bofors in an anti-tank (direct fire) role during WWII. The Australian Navy used the Bofors 40mm guns aboard almost every ship in the period 1940s-1990s and it was the main weapon aboard the *Fremantle-class* patrol boats into the 2000's.
- Many variants of the 40mm projectile have been developed - the more common types of projectile used in Australia included the following:
 - **High Explosive (HE)** and **High Explosive, Incendiary (HE/I)** – normally contained a nose fuse, explosive bursting charge and, for HE/I, an incendiary composition.
 - **High Explosive, Tracer, Self Destruct (HE/T/SD)** and **High Explosive, Incendiary, Tracer, Self Destruct (HE/I/T/SD)** – normally contained a nose fuse, bursting charge, incendiary and/or tracer composition and a Self Destruct (SD) feature which destroyed the projectile after a specified time (modern times are approx 17 seconds).
 - **Armour Piercing (AP), Semi Armour Piercing (SAP)** and **Armour Piercing, Capped, Tracer (APC/T)** - solid shot; normally no explosive content or fuse.
 - **Target Practice, Tracer (TP/T or Prac/T)** - normally contained a nose fuse and low explosive (gun powder) and/or smoke composition.
- Widespread and frequent usage by US and Australian armies and navies (Regular, Reserve/Militia & VDC) at many locations within Australia – both onshore and offshore. Most often deployed near air bases and on the coast. UXO are usually found on the surface or shallow-buried (<300mm).

Technical Data

- Mmunition length : approx. 400-500 mm (depending on type & fuze)
- Projectile length : approx 130-185 mm (depending on type & fuze)
- Projectile Diameter : approx maximum 40 mm
- Projectile weight : approx 0.62-1.1 kg (depending on type); (complete munition 2.4-2.6 kg)
- Fuse/Burster : Nose/base fuse and bursting charge which may be easily detonated
- Filling : approx 90-100 g high explosive (e.g. TNT, CompB, etc)
- Identification : Hazardous variants of the projectile are often painted olive drab, yellow or green with bands of yellow, green or red/red crosses. Practice variants were often painted white, blue or black. **Caution: This munition has been widely used by various countries and over a long period of time - other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images

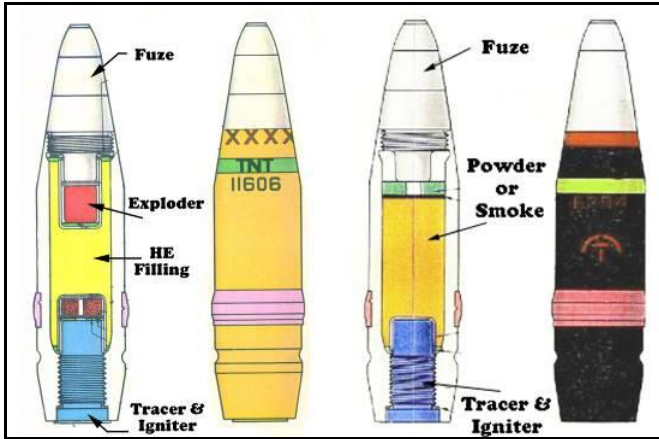


Figure 1 - 40mm Bofors projectiles c. 1944 (LtoR): HE/T (cutaway), HE/T, Prac/T (cutaway), Prac/T (colours & markings may vary)



Figure 2 - Unexploded 40mm projectile



Figure 3 - Australian Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) live-firing 40mm Bofors - North Head, Sydney, NSW, 1944 (AWM ID 150479)



Figure 4 - Australian 40mm Bofors mounted on 3-ton truck (AWM ID number 127874)



Figure 5 - 40mm Bofors UXO



Figure 6 - Modern 40mm x 365 L/70 ammunition