



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

PRACTICE BOMB – 8 POUND

Description

- ☛ The UK/Commonwealth 8 pound Practice Bomb was used in Australia primarily during WWII to train air crews in bombing. On impact the body and glass flask breakup, releasing the titanium tetrachloride to form a smoke cloud so that the aircrews could observe where their bombs had fallen.
- ☛ The bomb was designed for low-level training purposes against airfield targets, and is of such construction that it leaves no debris injurious to aircraft tyres.
- ☛ The bomb usually consists of an asbestos cement cylinder, in the nose of which is cemented a glass flask containing approx. 300 ml of titanium tetrachloride (contains no explosive).
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by air forces for bombing practice or air force bases however may occasionally be found in other areas that were used for military training. UXO are typically found on the surface or shallow-buried (<0.5m).

Technical Data

- ☛ Overall length : 405mm (16 inches)
- ☛ Body diameter : Maximum diameter 100mm (4 inches)
- ☛ Total weight : 3.6 kg (8 pounds)
- ☛ Fuse : None
- ☛ Filling : 300 ml of titanium tetrachloride (contains no fuze or explosive).
- ☛ Identification :
 - The body of the bomb is made of asbestos cement.
 - The bomb is usually white overall with two 13mm (½ inch) green bands around after body.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images



Figure 1 - A RAAF Observer fitting 8 pound Practice Bombs to the bomb rack under a Beaufort Bomber Sale, Vic. 1942. (Photographer Herald Newspaper, AWM ID number 136838)



Figure 2 - RAAF trainees carrying sets of 8 pound Practice Bombs out to their aircraft - Sale, Vic. 1942 (Photographer Herald Newspaper, AWM ID number 136845)



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PRACTICE BOMB – 8.5 POUND

Description

- The UK/Commonwealth 8½ pound Practice Bomb was used in Australia primarily during WWII to train air crews in bombing. When the bomb hit the ground, a small bursting charge would rupture the case and cause the contents to be ignited so that the aircrews could observe where bombs had fallen.
 - This bomb usually had a moulded plastic body (or Bakelite – a hard plastic-like material) and was provided in three different types ('Marks'/Mk):
 - **Bomb Mk I** - with its smoke filling (Titanium Tetrachloride) was used for daytime bombing practices.
 - **Bomb Mk II** - was almost identical to the Mk I but fitted with an extension rod.
 - **Bomb Mk III** - with its flash filling was used at night; the flash filling was usually a mixture of gunpowder and magnesium turnings which causes a brilliant white flash.
- All of these bombs contained a fuse and explosive bursting charge which can produce dangerous fragments or cause injuries.
- Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by air forces for bombing practice or air force bases however may occasionally be found in other areas that were used for military training.

Technical Data

- Overall length : 405mm
- Body diameter : Maximum diameter 75mm
- Total weight : approx 3.85 kg (8.5 pounds)
- Fuse/Burster : Contains an explosive fuse and bursting charge
- Filling : Mk I & II (Smoke filling) – approx 0.45 kg Titanium Tetrachloride
Mk III (Flash filling) – approx 0.45 kg mixture of gunpowder and magnesium turnings
- Identification :
 - Usually white overall, with two 13mm (½ inch) green bands around the tail cone.
 - Practice bombs containing an exploder may also have a red band painted around the rear portion of the body.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images

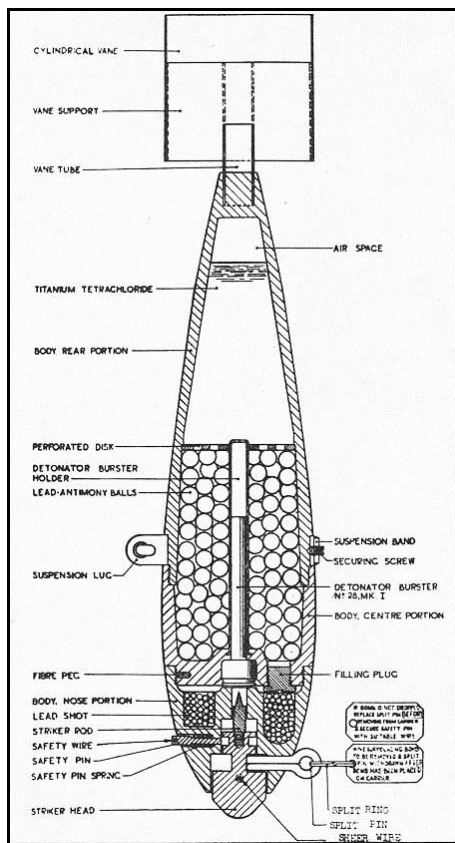


Figure 1 - Internal construction of 8 1/2 lb practice bomb

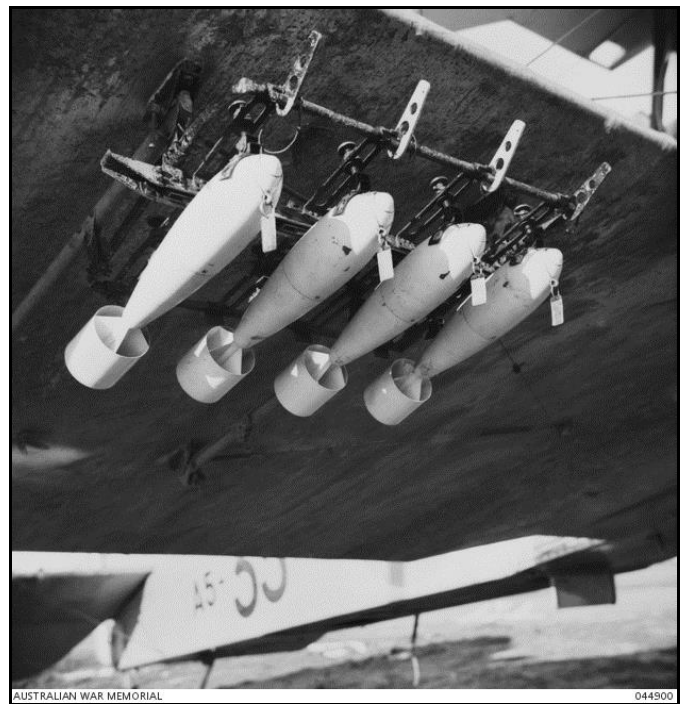


Figure 2 - 8 1/2 pound practice bombs fitted to a Hawker Demon aircraft RAAF Richmond, New South Wales, in 1939 (AWM ID number 044900)



Figure 3 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb

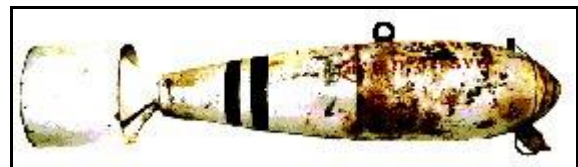


Figure 4 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb



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PRACTICE BOMB – 10 POUND

Description

- The UK/Commonwealth 10 Pound Practice Bomb was used in Australia primarily during WWII to train air crews in bombing. When the bomb hit the ground, a small bursting charge would rupture the case and cause the contents to be ignited so that the aircrews could observe where their bombs had fallen.
- The 10 Pound Practice Bomb has a solid cast-iron nose – three different types ('Marks'/Mk) were produced:
 - **Bomb Mk I** - smoke filling used for daytime bombing practices.
 - **Bomb Mk II** - had a plastic tail, but was not satisfactory so all were reportedly scrapped.
 - **Bomb Mk III** - flash filling used at night.
- Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by air forces for bombing practice or air force bases however may occasionally be found in other areas that were used for military training. UXO are typically found on the surface or shallow-buried (<0.5m).

Technical Data

- Overall length : 460mm (18 inches)
- Body diameter : Maximum diameter 76mm (3 inches)
- Total weight : approx 4.5 kg (10 pounds)
- Fuse/Burster : Contains an explosive fuse and bursting charge.
- Filling : Mk I & II - Smoke filling – 0.45 kg (1 lb) Titanium Tetrachloride.
Mk III - Flash filling - 0.45 kg (1 lb) mixture of gunpowder and magnesium turnings which causes a brilliant white flash.
- Identification :
 - Usually white overall, with two 13mm (½ inch) green bands around the tail cone.
 - Practice bombs containing an exploder may also have a red band painted around the rear portion of the body.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images

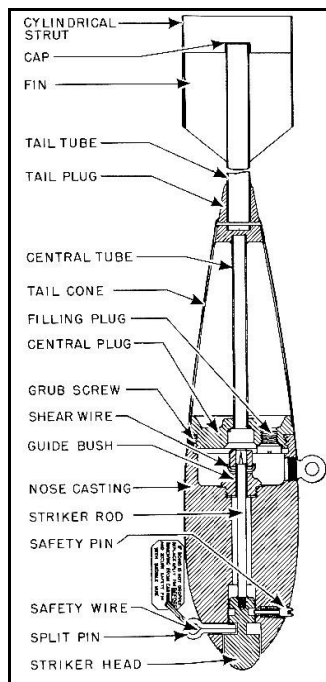


Figure 1 - Construction of 10lb Practice Bomb

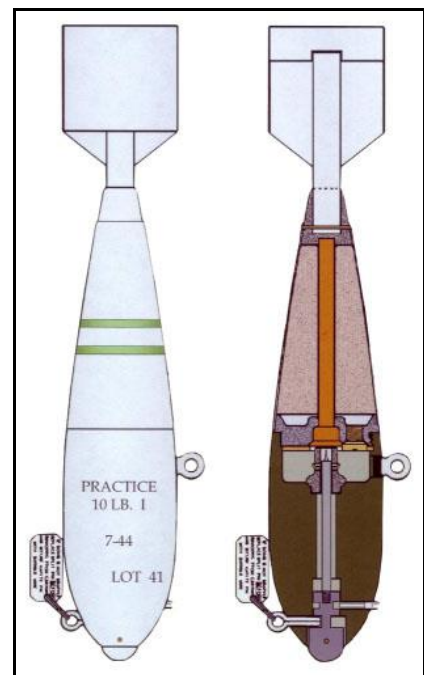


Figure 2 - UK/Commonwealth 10lb Practice Bomb

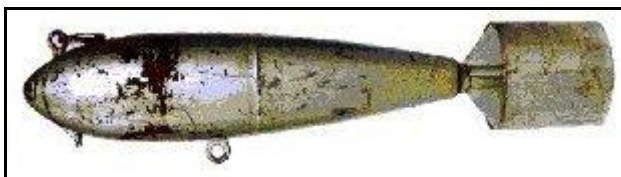


Figure 3 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb

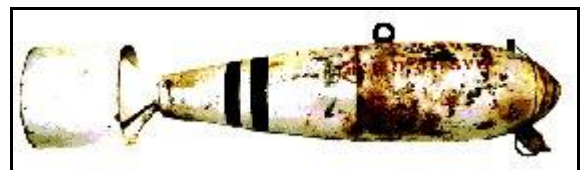


Figure 4 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb



Figure 5 - Inspecting RAAF practice bombs before removal to an explosives filling factory in South Australia in 1943 (Photographer: Smith, D. Darian)

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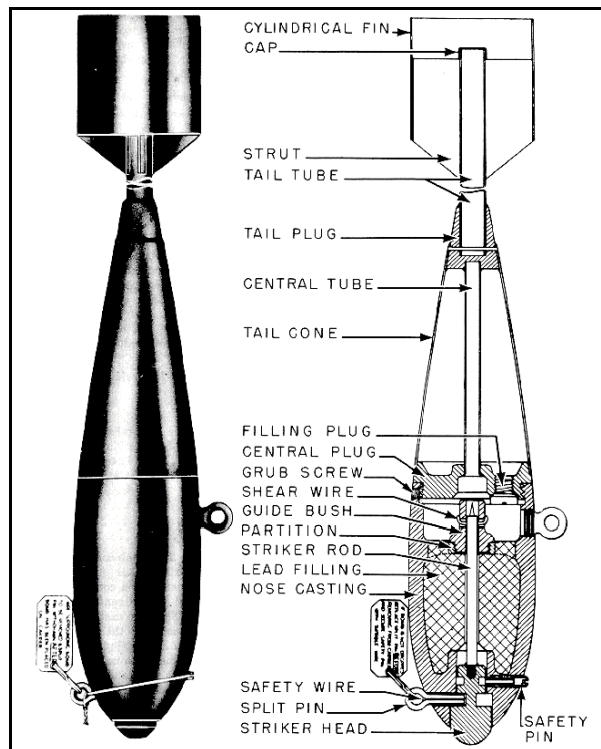
PRACTICE BOMB – 11.5 POUND

Description

- ☛ The 11 ½ Pound Practice Bomb was used in Australia primarily during WWII to train air crews in bombing. When the bomb hit the ground, a small bursting charge would rupture the case and cause the contents to be ignited so that the aircrews could observe where their bombs had fallen.
- ☛ This bomb had a cast iron nose and a sheet metal tail. Three different types ('Marks'/Mk):
 - **Bomb Mk I** - smoke filling was used for daytime bombing practices.
 - **Bomb Mk I** - flash filling was used at night.
 - **Bomb Mk II** - made in the US of Bakelite (a hard plastic-like material) but was eventually scrapped.
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by air forces for bombing practice or air force bases however may occasionally be found in other areas that were used for military training. UXO are typically found on the surface or shallow-buried (<0.5m).

Technical Data

- ☛ Overall length : 460mm (18 inches)
- ☛ Body diameter : Maximum diameter 76mm (3 inches)
- ☛ Total weight : approx 5.0 to 5.3 kg (11.5 pounds)
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : Contains an explosive fuse and bursting charge
- ☛ Filling : Mk I - Smoke filling – 0.45 kg (1 lb) Titanium Tetrachloride
Mk I - Flash filling - 0.45 kg (1 lb) mixture of gunpowder and magnesium turnings which causes a brilliant white flash
- ☛ Identification :
 - Usually white overall, with two 13mm (½ inch) green bands around the tail.
 - Practice bombs containing an exploder may also have a red band painted around the rear portion of the body.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**



**Figure 1 - Internal construction of the
11 1/2 Practice Bomb**



Figure 2 - Example 11 1/2 Practice Bomb (no markings)



**Figure 3 - Inspecting RAAF practice bombs before removal to an
explosives filling factory in South Australia in 1943 (Photographer: Smith, D. Darian)**
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PRACTICE BOMB – 25 POUND (WWII ERA)

Description

- ☛ The UK/Commonwealth 25 Pound Practice Bomb was used in Australia primarily during WWII to train air crews in bombing. When the bomb hit the ground, a small bursting charge would rupture the case and cause the contents to be ignited so that the aircrews could observe where their bombs had fallen.
- ☛ The 25 pound Practice Bombs have a cast iron nose. Four types ('Marks'/Mk) were produced:
 - **Bomb Mk I & IV** - smoke filling used for daytime bombing practices.
 - **Bomb Mk III & V** - flash filling used at night.
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by air forces for bombing practice or air force bases however may occasionally be found in other areas that were used for military training. UXO are typically found on the surface or shallow-buried (<1.0m).

Technical Data

- ☛ Overall length : approx 550-560mm (22 inches)
- ☛ Body diameter : Maximum diameter 100mm (4 inches)
- ☛ Total weight : approx 11.0-11.5 kg (approx 25 pounds)
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : Contains an explosive fuse and bursting charge.
- ☛ Filling : Mk I & Mk IV - Smoke filling – Titanium Tetrachloride.
Mk III & Mk IV - Flash filling which causes a white flash - mixture of gunpowder and magnesium shavings, or calcium silicide and gunpowder.
- ☛ Identification :
 - Cast iron nose; usually white overall.
 - Mk I has two 13mm green bands on the body; Mk III has two 13mm black bands on the body and one red band on nose.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

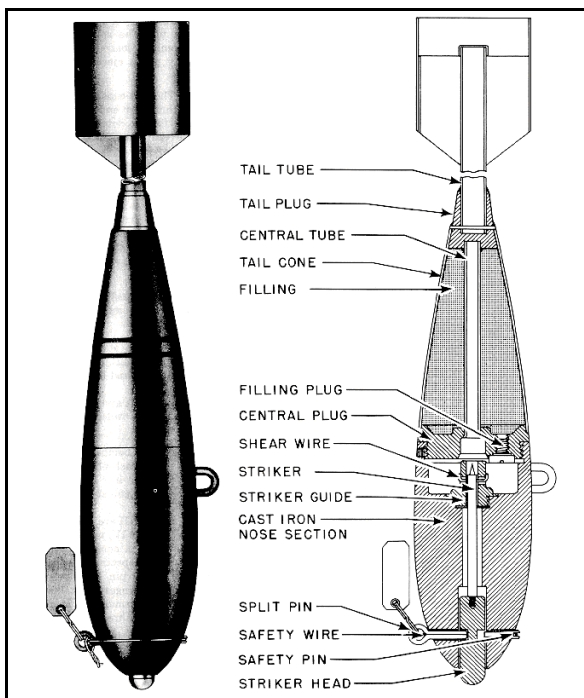


Figure 1 - Construction of 25lb Practice Bomb



Figure 2 - RAAF armourers load a 25lb practice bomb onto an Australian Vampire aircraft 1954 (AWM ID number MALTA0979)



Figure 3 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb



Figure 4 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb



**Figure 5 - Modern 25lb Practice Bomb
(included for comparison purposes only)**