



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**

GRENADE - NO. 69

Description

- The No. 69 Grenade was a WWII-era hand-thrown grenade. The No. 69 was introduced into Australian service during WWII and used primarily by Australian infantry units. In 1944 cast iron jackets were fitted to improve lethality, but proved to be less effective than other fragmentation grenades. Due to its low lethality (Bakelite/plastic case), the munition was not as widely used as other grenades and eventually withdrawn from service.
- Unlike many other WWII-era grenades that used a time fuse, the No. 69 was a percussion-type grenade (explodes on impact). Once armed, the sensitivity of the 'All Ways' fuse makes unexploded No. 69 grenades potentially very dangerous and liable to explode with any sudden knock.
- This munition was used by numerous military units and was also occasionally used to simulate artillery during training. As such, unexploded items of this type may be found in many areas throughout Australia – typically on or just below the ground surface.

Technical Data

- Mmunition length : approx. 115-140 mm
- Diameter : maximum diameter 60-61mm
- Total weight : 310-385 grams
- Fuse/Burster : Contains a simple percussion fuse which can be easily detonated
- Filling : approx 90-95 g high explosive (e.g. Baratol, Amatol or Lyddite)
- Identification :
 - The body of the munition is usually made of Bakelite (a hard plastic-like material).
 - The body of the High Explosive variant is usually black or reddish with either a band coloured green, red and/or red crosses around the top - the green band indicated that the grenade was filled with Amatol or Baratol; no coloured band (or "LYD") indicated Lyddite-filled and red crosses indicated that the explosive filling was suitable for use in hot climates.
 - Practice variants were usually painted white.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**
 - The No. 69's small size, light weight and rather innocuous shape could result in this munition being easily mistaken for a harmless household item. The sensitivity of the 'All Ways' fuse makes unexploded No. 69 grenades potentially very dangerous and liable to explode with any sudden knock.
 - Lyddite (Picric Acid)-filled grenades may deteriorate over time and become increasingly sensitive to shock.

Images

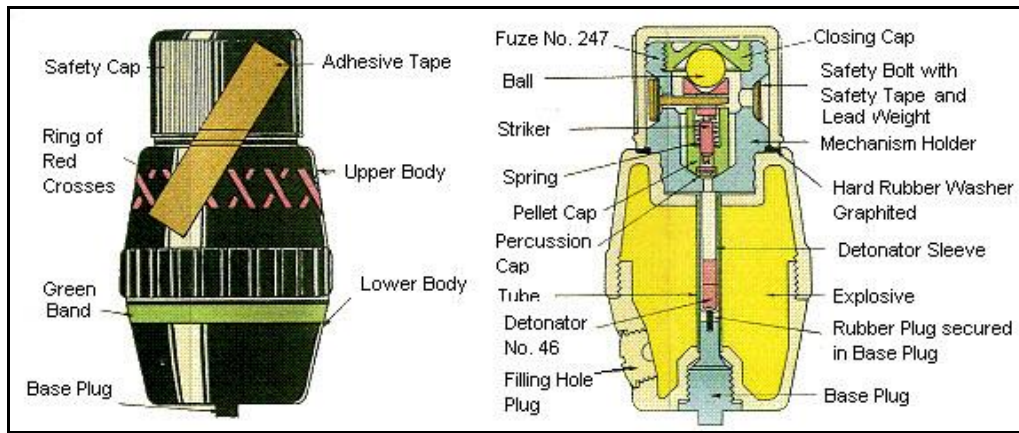


Figure 1 - No 69 Grenade - appearance and construction

(Note: The ring of red crosses on HE grenades indicated that the filling was suitable for use in hot climates)

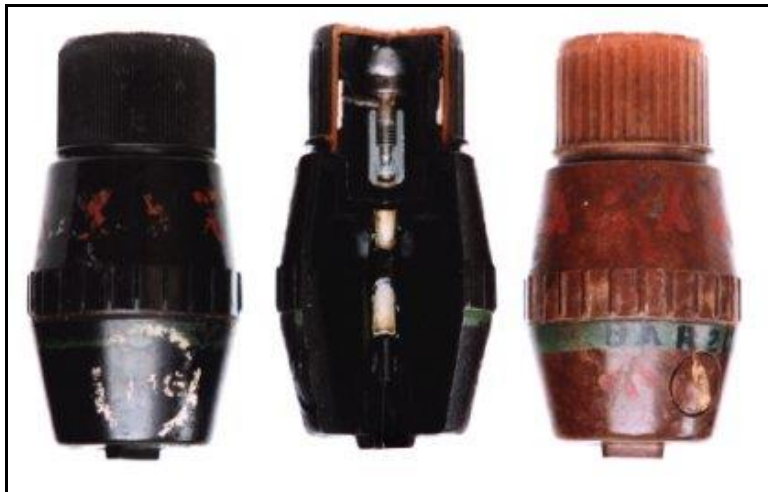


Figure 2 - Various No 69 grenades



Figure 3 – Australian No 69 HE grenade



Figure 4 - An Australian Volunteer Defence Corps soldier throwing a No 69 grenade during training - Victoria, 1943 (AWM ID number 138077)