



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**

MORTAR – 60 MM

Description

- ☛ The 60mm mortar is a smooth bore, muzzle-loading, high-angle-of-fire weapon used for close-in support of ground troops. Designed in the 1930's after the French Brandt mortar, it came into service with the US forces in 1940 (M2). The 60mm was used in WWII, Korea and Vietnam before being replaced by the M224 in 1979 - it remains in use with the US today. Australian forces used the M2 during Korea and Vietnam.
- ☛ The main types of projectiles used with the 60mm mortars included the following:
 - **High Explosive (HE)** – filled with high explosive and fitted with a Point Detonated (PD) fuze.
 - **Smoke (Smk-WP)** – M302A1-2, M722-A1 - filled with White/Red Phosphorus, fitted with a Point detonated (PD) fuze and contains an explosive burster charge.
 - **Illuminating (Illum)** – M83 - filled with an illumination incendiary; base ejected, parachute-suspended charge.
 - **Training (Trg)** – M69 - teardrop shaped, contains no explosive elements except ignition charge.
 - **Practice (Prac, TP)** - M50A2-3 - contains black powder as a spotting charge; modern M769 (TP) round has a flash/bang charge.
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by the Army for infantry live firing practices. UXO are typically being found on or just below the ground surface (to approx 0.5m).

Technical Data

- ☛ Projectile length : approx. 196 - 427 mm
- ☛ Projectile diameter : approx. 60 mm
- ☛ Total weight : Projectile – approx 1430-2010 grams
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : Various fuzes used (point detonated, time, etc); Smk has a burster charge.
- ☛ Filling : Approx 150-400g of high explosive or 350 grams of White/Red Phosphorus.
- ☛ Identification :
 - Projectiles are typically steel with aluminium fins.
 - HE munitions are usually painted olive drab with yellow markings, Smk & Illum painted grey with black markings and Prac painted blue with white markings.
 - Colours are markings vary across nations and may have faded over time. It can be difficult to distinguish between dangerous and safe items - **treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images

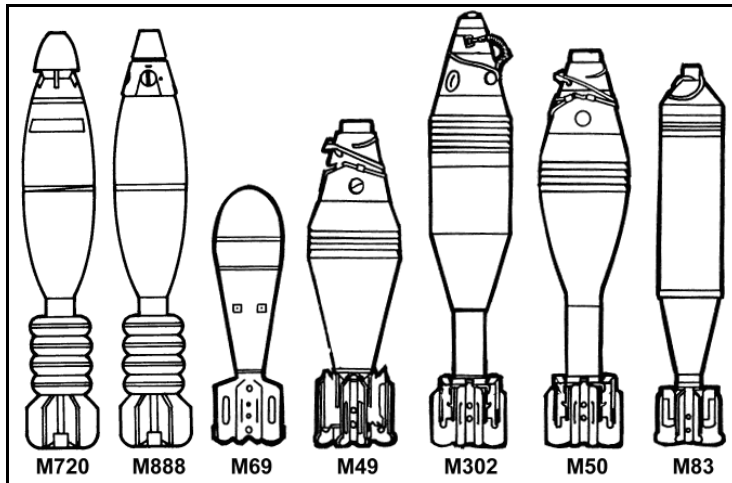


Figure 1 - US 60mm mortar ammunition



Figure 2 - 60mm HE



Figure 3 - US M2 60 mm Mortar Barrel c. 1940 (AWM ID RELAWM15576.001)



Figure 4 - 60mm Illum



Figure 5 - 60mm Prac



Figure 6 - Range practice for the 60 mm mortar men of the 1RAR - Korea, 1955 (Photographer - Meldrum, Donald Albert (Tim); AWM ID MELJ0613 - Image copyright: © Australian War Memorial, licensed under CC BY-NC)



Figure 7 - Unexploded M49A4 HE 60mm (later variant of the M49)



Figure 8 - Unexploded M83A1 60mm Illum