



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 – 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.**

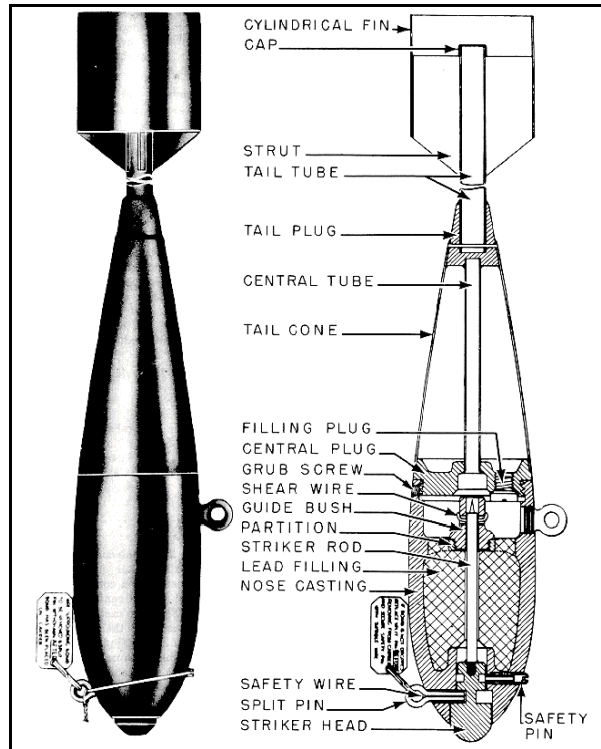


Figure 1 - Internal construction of the 11 1/2 Practice Bomb



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)
Sourced from State Library of South Australia (unmodified) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>