



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 – 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.**

Images

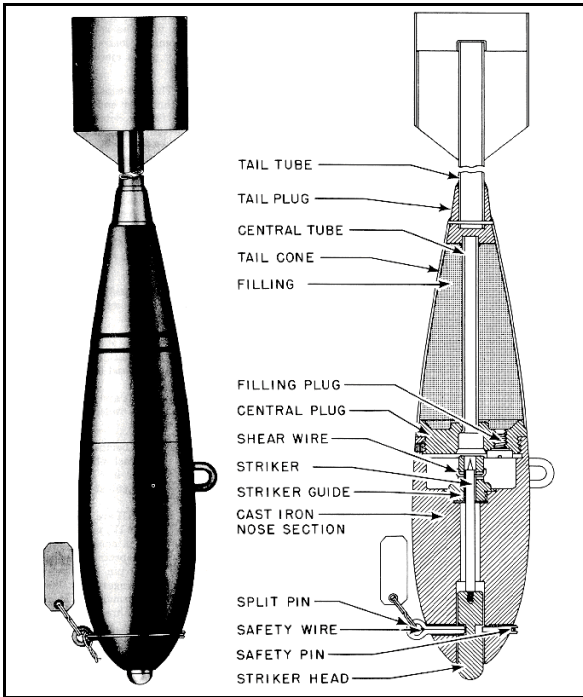


Figure 1 - Construction of 25lb Practice Bomb



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)