



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 – 8.5 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

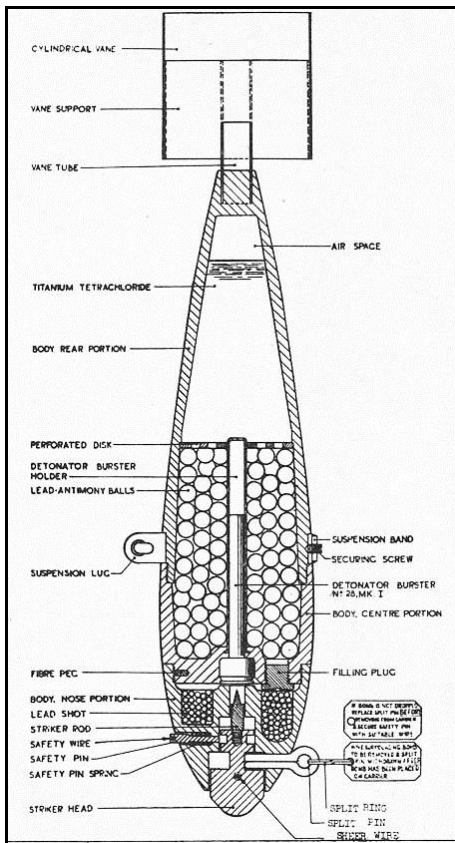


Figure 1 - Internal construction of 8 1/2 lb practice bomb



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

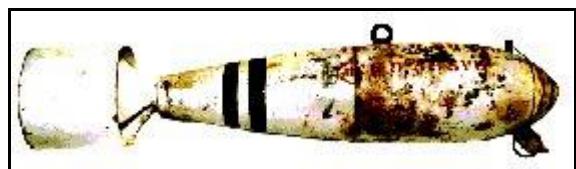


Figure 4 - Recovered UK/Commonwealth Practice Bomb