



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 POUND

Description

- ☠ The UK/Commonwealth 8 pound Practice Bomb was used in Australia primarily during WWII to train air crews in bombing. On impact the body and glass flask breakup, releasing the titanium tetrachloride to form a smoke cloud so that the aircrews could observe where their bombs had fallen.
- ☠ The bomb was designed for low-level training purposes against airfield targets, and is of such construction that it leaves no debris injurious to aircraft tyres.
- ☠ The bomb usually consists of an asbestos cement cylinder, in the nose of which is cemented a glass flask containing approx. 300 ml of titanium tetrachloride (contains no explosive).
- ☠ 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 : 405mm (16 inches)
- ☠ Body diameter : Maximum diameter 100mm (4 inches)
- ☠ Total weight : 3.6 kg (8 pounds)
- ☠ Fuse : None
- ☠ Filling : 300 ml of titanium tetrachloride (contains no fuze or explosive).
- ☠ Identification :
 - The body of the bomb is made of asbestos cement.
 - The bomb is usually white overall with two 13mm (½ inch) green bands around after body.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images



Figure 1 - A RAAF Observer fitting 8 pound Practice Bombs to the bomb rack under a Beaufort Bomber Sale, Vic. 1942. (Photographer Herald Newspaper, AWM ID number 136838)



Figure 2 - RAAF trainees carrying sets of 8 pound Practice Bombs out to their aircraft - Sale, Vic. 1942 (Photographer Herald Newspaper, AWM ID number 136845)