



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**

PROJECTILE – 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLE

Description

- The 106mm Recoilless Rifle (RCL) is a breech-loaded, single-shot, man-portable, crew-served recoilless rifle. It can be used in both anti-tank and anti-personnel roles. Developed in the 1950s from the M27 105 RCL, it was adopted as a medium range anti-tank gun by the Australian Army 1961 to replace the 6 pr being used. Recoilless rifles were used in Vietnam and were installed on Landrovers as a mobile, medium range anti-tank weapon called a “Gunbuggy” - some were still in service into the mid-1990s.
- The following projectiles were used with the 106mm RCL (not all in Australia):
 - **High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT)** – Piezo-electric, Point Initiating Base Detonated (PIBD) fuze; some rounds may contain a tracer element. Steel shell contains 1.0-1.3 kg of high explosive.
 - **High Explosive Plastic – Tracer (HEP-T)** – Base detonated fuze with tracer. Steel shell contains 3.5 kg of high explosive.
 - **Anti-Personnel – Tracer (APERS-T)** - Filled with Flechettes, Tracer. Piezo-electric, Point Initiating Base Detonated (PIBD) fuze, Aluminium shell contains 41 g of HE.
 - **Practice (Prac)** – May be fitted with a tracer; contains paraffin as filler.
- Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by the Army for live firing practices – typically on or just below the ground surface. The piezo-electric fuze is highly sensitive – even to sudden changes of temperature.

Technical Data

- Mmunition length : approx. 936-1090 mm.
- Projectile length : approx. 400-510 mm.
- Projectile diameter : 105 mm (described as 106mm to prevent using incompatible ammunition).
- Total weight : Mmunition – approx 10-16 kg; projectile – approx 5-10 kg.
- Fuse/Burster : Piezoelectric, Point Initiating and/or Base Detonated fuze.
- Filling : approx 0.75-3.5 kg of high explosive depending on projectile.
- Identification :
 - The cartridge is of perforated steel. The projectile is normally steel.
 - The projectile may be painted olive drab or black with yellow lettering. APERS projectiles may have white diamonds painted around the projectile.
 - It can be difficult to distinguish between dangerous and safe items - **treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images

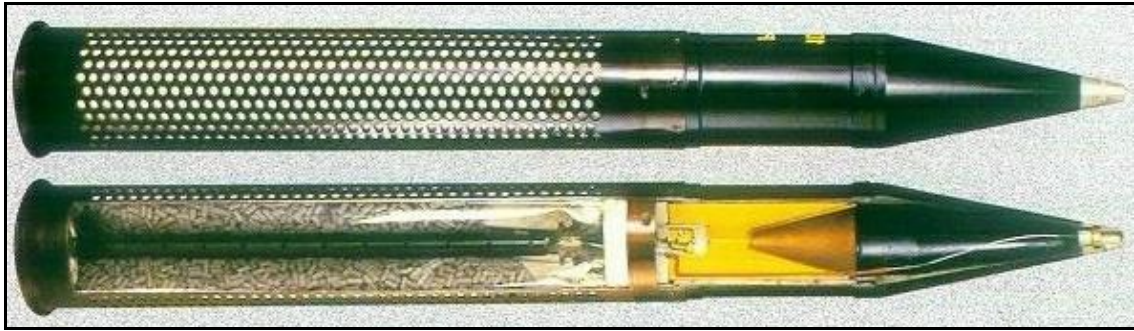


Figure 1 - HEAT complete munition and cutaway



Figure 2 - Unexploded 106mm HEAT projectile



Figure 3 - Unexploded 106mm APERS-T projectile



Figure 4 - Australian soldiers from 3 RAR load a HEAT munition into an M40A1 106mm Recoilless rifle mounted on a Land Rover 1/4 ton 4x4 truck (AWM ID P04546.009)