



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 – 17 POUNDER

Description

- The Quick Firing 17 Pounder (QF 17 pr) was developed in WWII to improve the tank-destroying capability of Allied forces. The 17 pr was of British design but manufactured in Australia from 1943 until the end of the war. It was primarily used an anti-tank gun - the Australian *Sentinel* (AC4) and *Cruiser* (AC3) tanks also trialled the gun however these did not make it into service. Australian forces used the 17 pr during WWII and the Korean War until they were withdrawn from service in 1962.
- Various projectiles were used including the following (not all may have been used in Australia):
 - **High Explosive, Tracer** (HE/T or HE/HC/T) – contains a nose fuze and high explosive filling.
 - **Armour Piercing, Tracer** (AP/T) & **Armour Piercing, Capped, Tracer** (APC/T) – various models ('Marks'/Mk); usually solid shot. No fuze but tracer is explosive.
 - **Armour Piercing, Capped, Ballistic Cap, Tracer** (APCBC/T) – usually solid shot (no explosive content or fuze however tracer is explosive).
 - **Armour Piercing, Discarding Sabot** (APDS) - solid shot (Tungsten core); no explosive content or fuse.
 - **Smoke** - both screening and coloured, base ejection; contains a fuze and explosive burster.
 - **Practice, Tracer** (Prac/T) – cast iron or steel solid shot; 'reduced charge' variants were "Flat Head"; no explosive content or fuze but tracer is explosive.
- The 17 pr was used in Australia primarily by specialist anti-tank units. The weapon's relatively flat firing trajectory usually results in 17 pr projectiles being found on the surface or shallow-buried (<0.5m).

Technical Data

- Mmunition length : approx 760-850mm
- Projectile length : approx 230-320mm
- Diameter : approx maximum 76-77 mm
- Projectile weight : 5.8 to 8.4 kg (~ 17lb); APDS approx 3.5 kg
- Fuse/Burster : May contain a fuse and bursting charge which can be easily detonated
- Filling : HE – approx 0.9 kg high explosive (e.g. TNT)
Smk - TBC
- Identification : The body of the munition is usually made of brass and some may have painted black bands (e.g. APDS). The colour and markings on the projectile varied according to the contents – often painted black or buff with bands coloured white, blue, green, red and/or red crosses (red crosses indicated that the explosive filling was suitable for use in hot climates). Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images

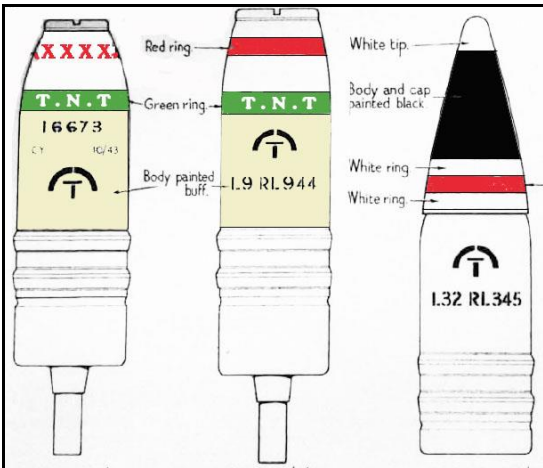


Figure 1 – Markings of 17 pr projectile (without fuzes) - L to R: HE/T, HE//HC, APCBC/T (examples only - colours may vary)



Figure 2 - New 17 pr undergoing proving tests - Fort Gellibrand, Vic, 1943 (AWM ID number 029418)



Figure 3 - Example 17 pr complete munitions (LtoR): APDS, APC, APCBC

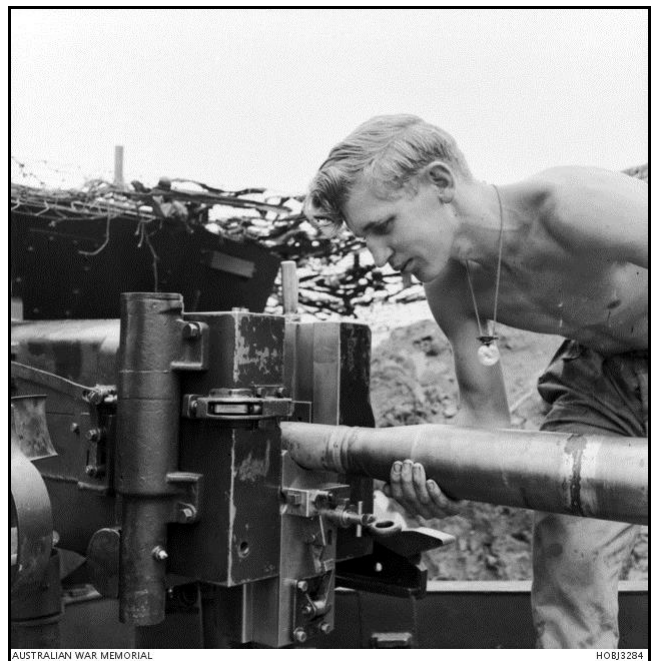


Figure 4 – Member of 3RAR anti-tank platoon loading a shell into a 17 pr anti-tank gun – Korea, 1952 (Photographer - Hobson, Phillip Oliver; AWM ID HOB3284)