



## 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 - 18 POUNDER

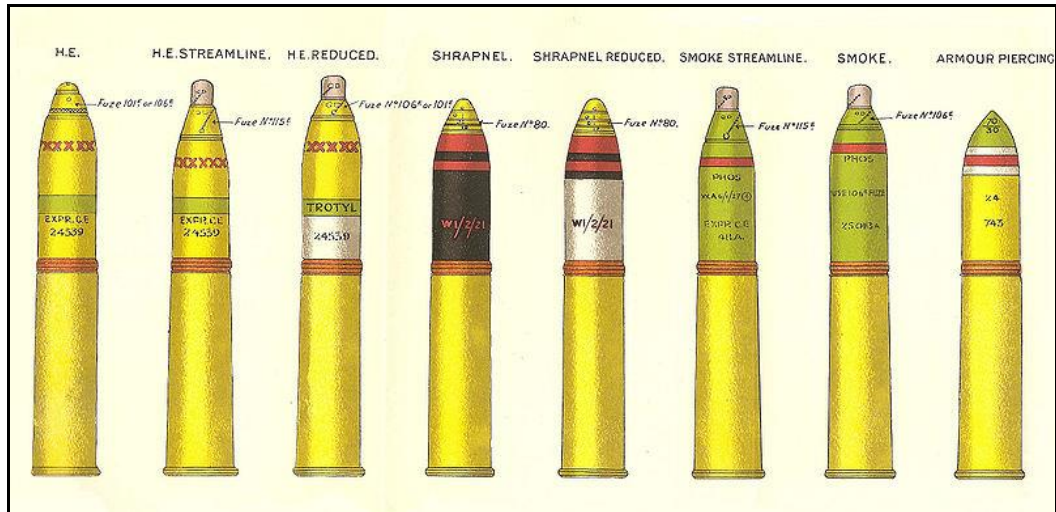
#### Description

- The Quick Firing 18 Pounder (QF 18 pr) was a field artillery gun introduced into Australian service in 1906. It was the standard field artillery gun during WWI into WWII when it was progressively replaced by the QF 25 pr and finally withdrawn from service c. 1945. During WWII it was primarily used in Australia for coastal defence and training.
- Several types of projectile were produced – the most common included:
  - **Shrapnel** (Shrap) – these were the only shell available prior to 1914/5 and were fitted with a time and percussion fuse together with a bursting charge of high explosive to throw out the shrapnel.
  - **High Explosive** (HE) - a High Explosive (HE) shell was introduced in 1914 that contained Lyddite (a picric acid based explosive) which was later replaced by TNT. A 'streamlined' version was also later introduced.
  - **Smoke** (Smk) - White Phosphorus (WP) projectiles first became available after 1916; fitted with a time and percussion fuse together with a bursting charge of high explosive.
  - **Chemical** (Chem) – introduced 1918 into British Army (unknown if used in Australia).
  - **Incendiary** (Incend) – these were shrapnel shells with thermite pellets; introduced 1918.
  - **Armour Piercing** (AP) – contained a base fuse and explosive.
  - **Star** – similar to shrapnel except that reduced charges were used; fitted with a time and percussion fuse together with a bursting charge of high explosive.
- Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by the Army for artillery practices and on coastlines – they may be found on or just below the ground surface or buried up to 2.0m deep. Dumped items may occasionally be found offshore.

#### Technical Data

- Projectile length : approx. 250-265mm
- Projectile diameter : approx. maximum 84mm
- Total weight : Munition – approx 9.5-10.7 kg; Projectile – approx 8.0-8.6 kg (approx 18lb)
- Fuse/Burster : May contain an explosive fuse & burster which can be easily detonated
- Filling : HE - approx 0.5 kg explosive (Gunpowder, Lyddite, Trotyl/TNT, Amatol)  
Smoke – White Phosphorus (weight TBC)
- Identification :
  - The projectile may have one or more coloured bands to denote the different type of filling - red, yellow, green or black bands/stripes were most often used however other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time.
  - It can be difficult to distinguish between dangerous and safe items - **treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

**Images**



**Figure 1 - 18 pr munitions showing markings for various types of projectile ('Incendiary' not shown)  
(Note: Colours/markings may vary)**



**Figure 2 - Australian troops live-firing an 18-pounder at Caloundra, Qld in 1939 (AWM ID number P01485.012)**



**Figure 3 - 18 pr UXO found on the surface near Logan, SE QLD**



**Figure 4 - 18 pr HE/Shrapnel UXO recovered from the field**

The information in this document is provided for interest only, it is not to be used or relied on for any other purpose. Further information on UXO can be found at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/uxo>