



## 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 - 2 POUNDER

#### Description

- The Quick Firing 2 Pounder (QF 2 pr) was first introduced in 1937 as a light tank gun, however it was soon utilised as an anti-tank gun. Australian production of 2 pr anti-tank guns and munitions commenced in Melbourne and by Holden SA in 1941 and continued until 1945. These were widely used by Australian infantry and anti-tank units at firing ranges and on shorelines around Australia.
- The 2 pr declined in use as a tank gun in Europe however saw continued use in the Pacific. The 2 pr was the standard gun on armoured cars - the Daimler armoured car (used by Allied forces throughout WW2 and in Malaya) utilised the 2 pr as its main armament until it was retired from Service during the 1950's. The *Matilda II* and *Sentinel* tanks also utilised the 2 pr as their main armament.
- Several types of projectile were produced including the following:
  - **Practice** (Prac) "Flat Head" & **Practice, Tracer** (Prac/T) – solid projectile (no fuse however may contain a tracer element).
  - **Armour Piercing, Tracer** (AP/T, APHV/T, APCBC/T) – some models contained a small explosive charge; may contain a tracer element.
  - **Armour-Piercing, Composite Non-Rigid** (AP/CNR) - used with the Littlejohn adaptor; no explosive content or fuse.
  - **High Explosive** (HE), Point Detonated & Base Detonated – contained a fuse and explosive; base-detonated models were manufactured for the Australian Army by fitting Bofors HE shells to anti-tank cartridges and using a base fuse.
- Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by the Army for artillery practices – typically on or just below the ground surface. Dumped items may occasionally also be found offshore.

#### Technical Data

- Mmunition length : approx. 390mm (flat head) to 475mm (APCBC)
- Projectile length : approx. 110mm (flat head) to 140mm (solid shot & HE)
- Projectile diameter : approx. maximum 40mm
- Total weight : Mmunition – approx 1.8-2.2 kg, projectile – 0.6-1.3 kg (depending on type)
- Fuse/Burster : May contain a simple explosive fuse which can be easily detonated
- Filling : Up to 85 grams of high explosive (AP/T - Lyddite/Picric acid; HE - TNT/RDX)
- Identification :
  - The projectile may have one or more bands of colour. Red, yellow or green bands/stripes were most often used to denote hazardous munitions 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 - Australian troops firing a 2 pr anti-tank gun at Mount Samson, Qld (AWM ID number 068227)**



**Figure 2 - Australian Matilda Tanks fitted with 2 pr guns in New Guinea, 1944 (AWM ID number 075960)**



**Figure 3 - Various 2 pr complete munitions (L to R): Prac Flat Head, AP/T, APCNR/T, HE Mk I, HE, HE/T Mk XI, HE/T Mk VII  
(Note: Colours/markings of projectiles may vary)**



**Figure 4 - Unexploded 2 pr & 6 pr projectiles**



**Figure 5 - Recovered 2 pr projectiles (including 'flat heads')**