



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 – 3 POUNDER (NAVAL)

Description

- ☛ 3 pounder (3 pr) guns were used by British, US and Australian navies from the late 1800s into the 1950s. Originally supplied by 'Hotchkiss', these were used as light naval guns, coast defence guns and occasionally as anti-aircraft guns. During WWI, the Hotchkiss gun was progressively replaced by the more powerful QF 3 pounder Vickers gun. Both the Hotchkiss and Vickers 3 pr guns continued to be used during WWII on smaller vessels, merchant vessels, some auxiliaries, as coast defence guns and in some early Australian armoured vehicles. During and after WWII, the 3 pr was retained as a saluting gun on larger warships and was also used for gunnery practice until the 1950s.
- ☛ The gun salute originates from a warship's approach to a foreign port or allied ship when it took some time to reload a muzzle-loaded cannon. Discharging its guns showed the ship posed no threat, and the port or other ship would reciprocate by discharging its guns in reply. The 3 pr saluting gun is still used today by modern navies (including Australia) for purely ceremonial purposes.
- ☛ Limited types of projectile were developed for the 3 pr guns – the most common being the following:
 - **High Explosive (HE)** – 'Common' (gunpowder), 'Common Lyddite' or 'High Explosive' (HE) - all normally contained a nose or base fuze and explosive main charge. Fuzes typically included Point Detonating and/or Base Detonating. Some also contained a tracer.
 - **"Steel Shell"** (AP) - the British term for the Hotchkiss 3 Common Pointed (CP) shells – typically filled with gunpowder, had base percussion fuzes and a heavy pointed nose.
 - **Blank Cartridges** – current use; contains no projectile (cartridge case only).
- ☛ Mostly used by the Australian Navy, Merchant Navy and coast defence units in Australian maritime areas but possibly also fired onto shorelines for practices or exercise. Quantities of 3 pr munitions were also disposed after WWII. UXO may be encountered offshore (e.g. during fishing or dredging activities), onshore near naval ammunition depots or at onshore naval live firing ranges (on the surface or buried up to 0.5m).

Technical Data

- ☛ Projectile length : approx. 170-180 mm (depending on type)
- ☛ Projectile Diameter : approx maximum 47 mm
- ☛ Projectile weight : approx 1.5-1.6 kg
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : nose or base fuze and bursting charges which may be easily detonated.
- ☛ Filling : HE types - approx 100-120 grams of explosive
- ☛ Identification :
 - The projectile is usually steel and often painted black.
 - Some projectile may have bands of colour (red, yellow, green) however colours have changed over time and between countries.
 - **Caution – this munition has been widely used over a long period of time by numerous nations - other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

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>

Images



Figure 1 - HMA Harbour Defence Motor Launch (HDML) ML1327 with 3 pr gun mounted forward - Hobart, 1944 (AWM ID 301824)



Figure 2 - QF 3 pr Hotchkiss coast defence gun - Sydney, 1942 (AWM ID 069593)

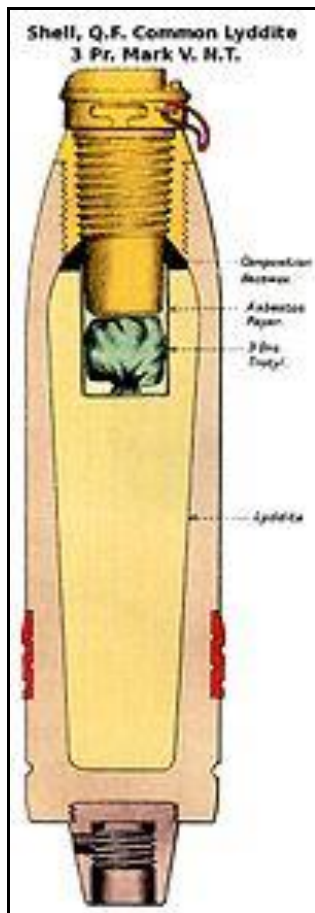


Figure 3 - 3 pr Mk V N.T. Common Lyddite projectile, 1914



Figure 4 - A Model 1886 3 pr Hotchkiss gun and mount with which motor boats were armed - c 1915 (AWM ID A00911)



Figure 5 - A ceremonial 21 gun salute from HMAS Sydney as she passes Bradley's Head is responded by the Garden Island Saluting Battery (Published on 06 October 2013 SGT Dave Morley - author, WOIS Shane Cameron photographer)