Australian Government
Department of Defence

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 – 4.7 INCH (NAVAL)

Description

- The 4.7 inch naval gun was widely used by Australia and UK from the late 1800s throughout WWI, WWII, Korean War and into the 1950s-60s - primarily on smaller warships (e.g. N & Q class destroyers), Armed Merchant Cruisers and troopships. In earlier years, some 4.7 inch naval guns were also mounted on wheeled carriages to provide the British Army with a long range gun – these saw service in the Boer War and at least one served with Australians at Gallipoli. During WWII, 4.7" naval guns were manufactured in Australia and, in addition to being armament for the ships, were deployed at some coastal defense batteries along the Australian coast.
- Many variants of the 4.7 inch projectile have been developed – both '*Breech Loading*' (BL) but more often '*Quick Firing*' (QF). The more common types of projectiles likely used by or in Australia included the following:
  - **High Explosive** (HE) – '*Common*' (gunpowder), '*Common Lyddite*', '*Common Pointed*' (CP) and '*Shrapnel*'; all normally contained a nose or base fuse and explosive main charge.
  - **Armour Piercing** (AP), **Semi Armour Piercing** (SAP) – naval AP and SAP projectiles were often base-fuzed and contained explosive or a shaped charge.
  - **Illumination** (Illum), **Signal** (Star) and **Smoke** (Smk) - usually contain a fuze, burster or expelling charge and potentially hazardous chemicals or incendiary compositions.
  - **Practice or Target Practice** (Prac or TP) - normally contained a nose fuse and low explosive (gun powder) and/or smoke composition.
- Frequently used by Australian and UK naval and coastal defence forces in maritime areas but also occasionally fired onto Australian shorelines for practices. Quantities of 4.7 inch munitions were disposed onshore and offshore after WWII. UXO are more likely to be encountered offshore (e.g. during fishing or dredging activities) but may also occasionally be found onshore near naval ammunition depots or at onshore naval live firing ranges (on the surface or buried up to 1.5m).

Technical Data

- Munition length : approx. 750-1200 mm (depending on type)
- Projectile length : approx 360-450 mm (depending on type)
- Projectile Diameter : approx maximum 120 mm (approx 4.7 in)
- Projectile weight : approx 13.5-22.7 kg (many variations in earlier Marks)
- Fuse/Burster : Nose or base fuse and bursting charge which may be easily detonated
- Filling : approx 500-3100 g explosive (e.g. Lyddite, Amatol, TNT)
  Others – various incendiary, smoke or chemical compositions
- Identification : Hazardous variants of the projectile are often painted yellow, green, black or grey with bands of yellow, red, green or blue. **Caution – this munition has been widely used over a long period of time - other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. Treat all found munitions as dangerous**.

Images

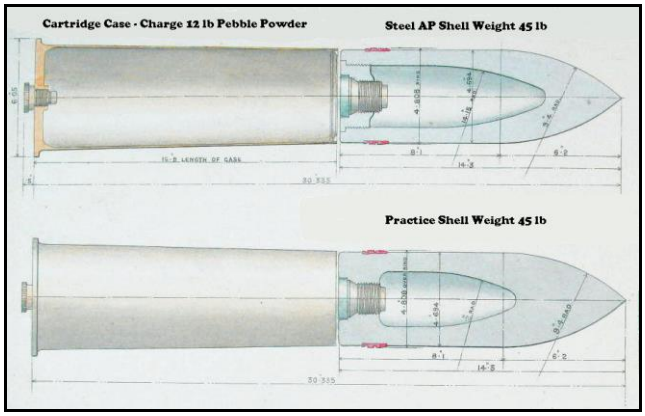

Figure 1 - 4.7" complete munitions. Top - AP, Bottom – Practice

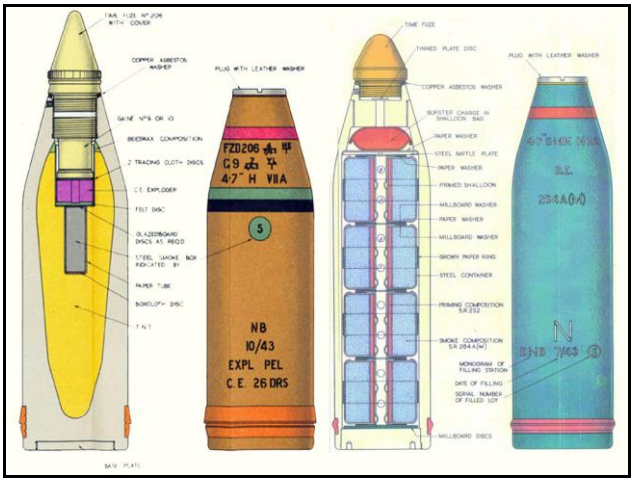

Figure 2 – 4.7" projectiles – HE and Smoke Base Ejection

Figure 3 - Australian navy crew at drill on a 4.7 inch MK XIX gun on the destroyer HMAS Bataan – Korea, 1952
(AWM ID number P00444.206; cropped from original)

Figure 4 - Australian Coast Gun crew standing by their 4.7 inch QF Mark IV* naval gun at Fort Lytton, Qld – 1943 (AWM ID number 060050)

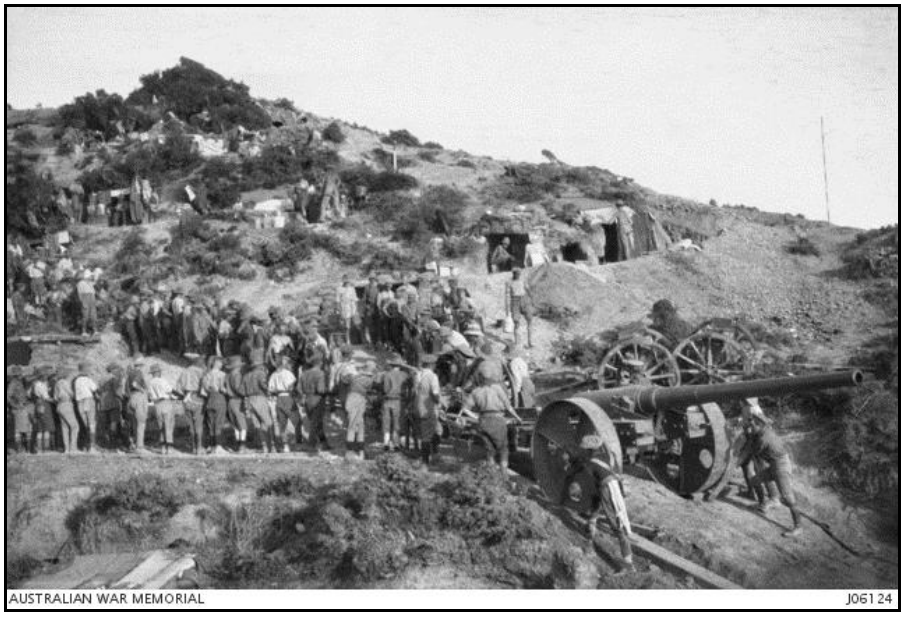

Figure 5 - Australian infantrymen hauling the 4.7 naval gun up the slope at Anzac
(AWM ID number J06124)

