



## 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 – 6 INCH/152MM (NAVAL)

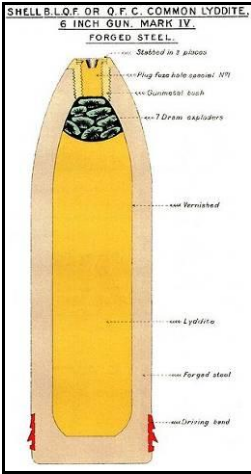
#### Description

- The Breech Loading and Quick Firing 6 inch (QF 6 in & BL 6 in/US 152mm) naval guns were widely used by Australia, NZ, UK and US from the late 1800s, through WWI, WWII, Korean & Vietnam Wars and into the 1970s on many warships, auxiliaries, gunboats, Armed Merchant Cruisers, landing ships and as coast defence guns. In the late 1800s/early 1900s, many ships' guns were converted to QF to use the same munitions as the QF 6 inch guns (designated QFC for "QF Converted").
- Australian ships which used the 6" gun included *HMAS Paluma*, *HMAS Protector*, *HMAS Gayundah*, *HMVS Victoria*, (all late 1800s/WWI era); *HMAS Encounter*, *HMAS Sydney I*, *HMAS Melbourne I*, *HMAS Brisbane I* (all WWI-mid-1930s era); *HMAS Adelaide I* (1915-1945), *HMAS Sydney II*, *HMAS Hobart I*, *HMAS Perth I* (all WWII era) along with others. 6" guns were widely used as static coast defence guns around Australia from the 1800s onwards. During WWII, 6" munitions were also manufactured in Australia.
- Many variants of the 6 inch projectile have been developed. The more common types of projectiles likely used by or in Australia include 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.
  - **'Shot' Armour Piercing (AP), Semi Armour Piercing (SAP)** – naval AP and SAP projectiles were often base-fuzed and may contain explosive or a shaped charge.
  - **Shrapnel (Shrap)** – used in early periods; contains a small high explosive charge and pellets.
  - **Illumination (Illum) and Smoke (Smk)** - usually contain a fuze, burster or expelling charge and potentially hazardous chemicals or incendiary compositions.
- Frequently used by Australian, UK and US naval and coastal defence forces in maritime areas but also occasionally fired onto Australian shorelines for practices. Quantities of 6 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 be found onshore near naval ammunition depots or at onshore naval live firing ranges (on the surface or buried up to 2.0m).

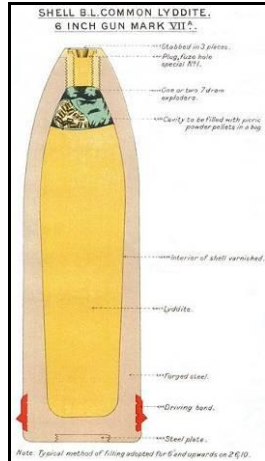
#### Technical Data

- Projectile length : approx. 420-765 mm (depending on type)
- Projectile Diameter : approx maximum 152 mm (approx 6 in)
- Projectile weight : approx 36 kg (80lb); 43-59 kg (100lb - many variations)
- Fuse/Burster : Nose or base fuse and bursting charge which may be easily detonated
- Filling : HE - approx 0.9-6.5 kg explosive (e.g. Lyddite, Amatol, TNT, etc)  
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 by numerous nations - other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time. Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

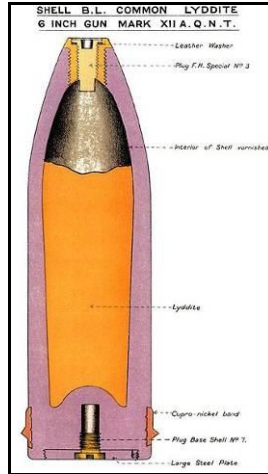
**Images**



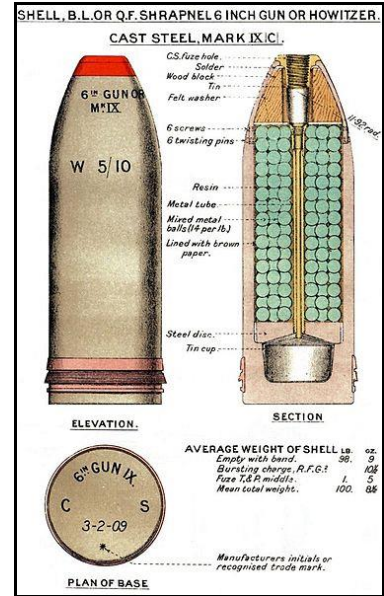
**Figure 1 - 6" Mk IV Common Lyddite projectile**



**Figure 2 - 6" Mk VIIA Common Lyddite projectile**



**Figure 3 - 6" Mk XIII QNT Common Lyddite projectile with tracer**



**Figure 4 - 6" Mk IX Shrapnel projectile**



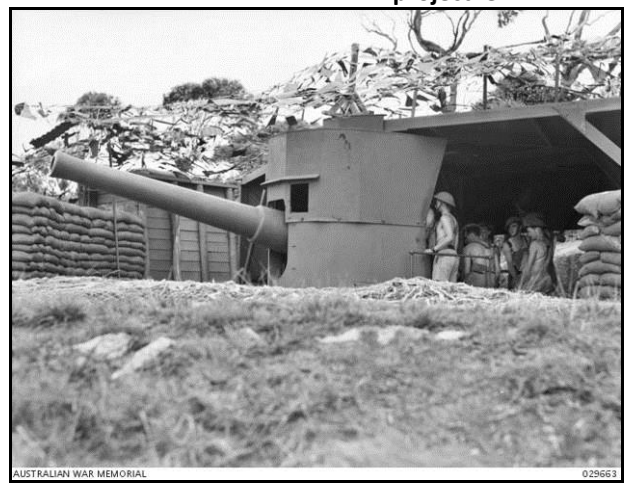
**Figure 5 - 6" Armour Piercing projectiles stacked before being filled - 1942 (AWM ID number 013182)**



**Figure 6 - Unexploded 6" projectile**



**Figure 7 - Twin 6 inch guns on the modified Leander class cruiser HMAS Perth - 1940 (AWM ID number 005237/09)**



**Figure 8 - 6" fixed coastal defence gun - Albany, WA, 1943 (AWM ID number 029663)**

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>