



## 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 POUNDER/57MM

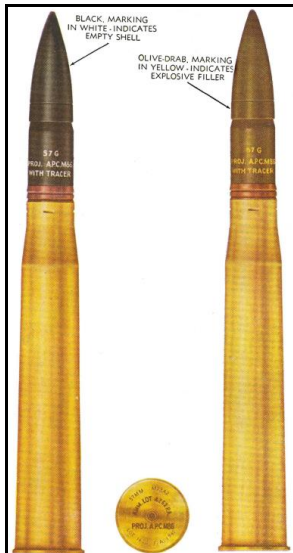
#### Description

- The Quick Firing 6 Pounder 7 cwt (QF 6 pr) was an anti-tank gun introduced to replace the QF 2-pounder and as a main armament for tanks. It was introduced in 1942 and discontinued in the 1960's. 6 pr anti-tank guns were manufactured in Australia from 1941 to 1945 by General Motors Holden in South Australia. They were widely used by Australian anti-tank units throughout Australia and were still in service being used for training until the 1950's. The 6 pr gun was also installed as the main armament in the *Churchill* (Mark IV) and *Valentine* tanks (Mk VIII to X).
- The British 6 pr was adopted by the US forces and designated the 57mm for use in the 57mm Gun M1 as their main anti-tank weapon. Ammunition was interchangeable between the British and US guns. US forces in Australia during WWII undertook live firing practices using US manufactured guns.
- Several types of projectile were produced including the following:
  - **High Explosive** (HE & APCBC/HE) – contained a nose or base fuse and high explosive.
  - **Armour Piercing, Tracer** (AP/T, APC/T, APCBC/T, US M70) – most were solid projectiles (no explosive or fuse) however some variants contained a nose or base fuse and explosive.
  - **Armour Piercing, Composite Rigid** (APCR) Mk I - solid shot (no explosive content or fuse).
  - **Armour Piercing, Discarding Sabot** (APDS) Mk I - solid shot (no explosive content or fuse).
  - **Practice** (Prac) – may be 'flat head' or tapered; usually no explosive content or 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

- Munition length : approx. 585-610mm
- Projectile length : approx. 155-265mm
- Projectile diameter : approx. 57mm
- Total weight : Munition – approx 5.1-6.3 kg; projectile – approx 1.4-3.3 kg (approx 6lb)
- Fuse/Burster : May contain an explosive fuse & burster which may be easily detonated
- Filling : Varied - 30-400 grams of high explosive (TNT, Dunnite, Explosive D)
- Identification : The cartridge is usually plain brass however the projectile may have one or more bands of colour. Red, yellow or green bands/stripes were most often used to denote HE 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 – Complete US 57mm Armour-Piercing Capped (APC) ammunition**



**Figure 2 – UK/Aust complete 6 pr munitions showing colours of various types of projectiles (colours & markings may vary)**



**Figure 3 - Australian-made 6 pr anti-tank gun and ammunition (AWM ID number 012983)**



**Figure 4 - Churchill IV tanks fitted with a 6 pr gun – Egypt, 1942 (AWM ID number 025250)**



**Figure 5 - Unexploded 2 pr & 6 pr Armour Piercing (AP) projectiles**



**Figure 6 - US 57mm projectile found in the field by munitions experts (only experts should handle munitions)**