



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 (NAVAL)

Description

- A variety of 6 pounder (6 pr) guns were used by Commonwealth navies from the late 1800s into WWII – primarily the '6 pr Nordenfelt', '6 pr 8 cwt Hotchkiss' and '6 pr 10 cwt'. During WWI, these were used on early cruisers, a few British submarines and some Australian Merchant Navy vessels (e.g. 'City of Sydney'). Many were subsequently used as saluting guns but converted back to shooting guns during WWII for smaller ships (Minesweepers, Sloops, Corvettes, Frigates and Destroyers) and for coastal defences. The US Navy also used the 6 pr in the late 1800s-early 1900s but these were progressively replaced by 12 pr guns.
- Australian usage was limited to a few vessels and coast defence guns around Australia including defences at Sydney, Fremantle and Brisbane (Lytton). Some Navy 6 pr ammunition was also transferred to the Army early in WWII (presumably for use with the land-based 6 pr anti-tank gun).
- Limited types of projectile were developed for the 6 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 fuse and explosive main charge. Fuzes typically included Point Detonating and/or Base Detonating.
 - **"Steel Shell"** (AP)- was the British term for the Hotchkiss 3 and 6 pounder Common Pointed (CP) shells (and some others such as the QF 1 pr base-fuzed projectile) – typically filled with gunpowder, had base percussion fuzes and a heavy pointed nose.
- Mostly used by the Australian Navy and coast defence units in Australian maritime areas but also fired onto shorelines for practices or exercises. 6 pr munitions were also disposed onshore and offshore 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 1.0m).

Technical Data

- Projectile length : approx. 170-220 mm (depending on type)
- Projectile Diameter : approx maximum 57 mm
- Projectile weight : approx 2.5-3.0 kg
- Fuse/Burster : nose or base fuse 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 projectiles may have bands of colour (red, yellow, green) however colours varied between countries and have changed over time.
 - **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.**

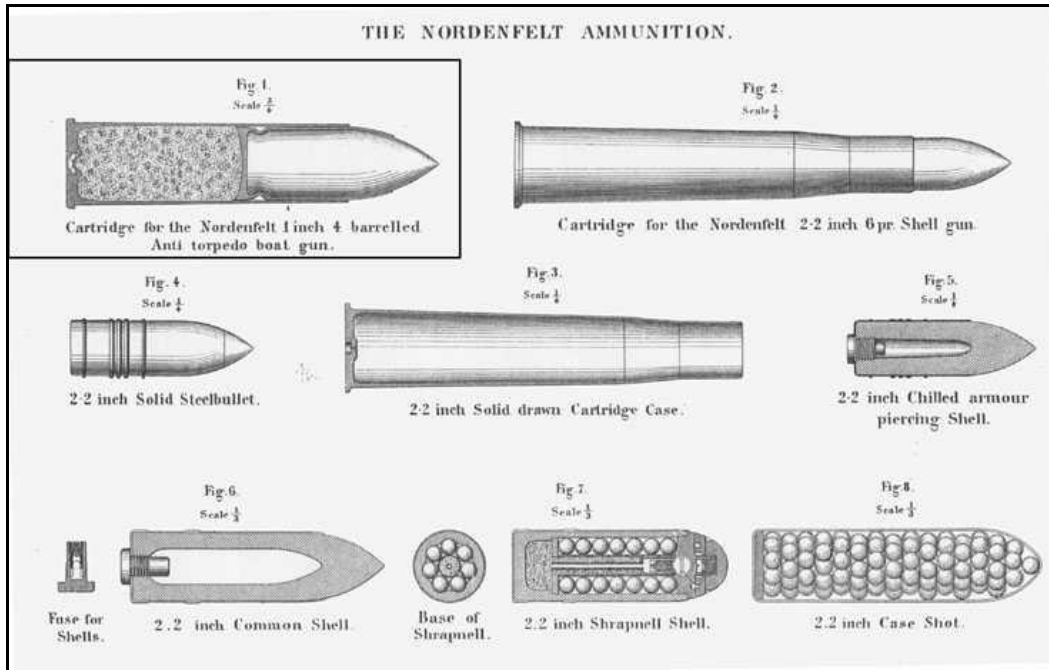


Figure 1 - Top: specialised 6 pr Nordenfelt ammunition; Other 2.2 in ammunition shown was used with other 6 pr guns (such as the Hotchkiss)

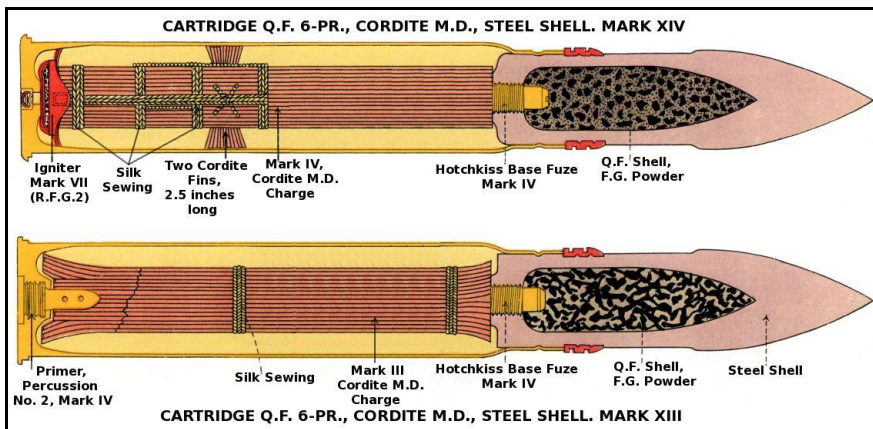


Figure 2 - 6 pr 'Steel Shell' ammunition for QF 6 pounder Hotchkiss gun c. 1914



Figure 3 – 6 pr loading drill on British destroyer HMS Mackay (IWM photograph A 20313)

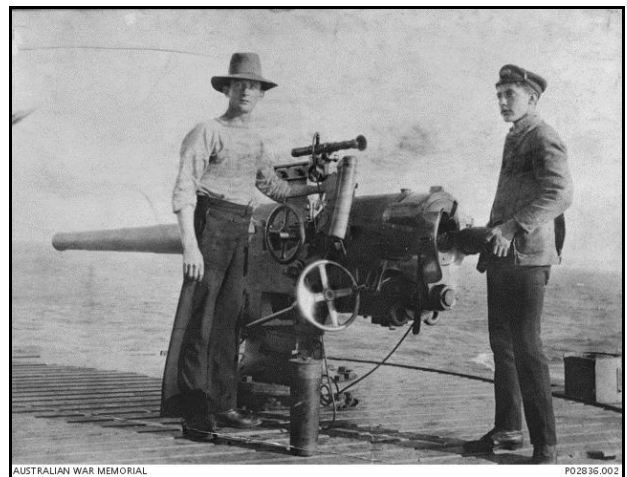


Figure 4 - Members of the Merchant Navy crew with a 6 pr gun on the stern of the City of Sydney – 1916 (AWM ID P02836.002)