



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 - 75MM

Description

- The US 75mm gun saw service in WWI, WWII and the Korean War. It was used as an anti-tank gun, in Lee and Sherman tanks and also mounted in aircraft. A 75mm pack howitzer was developed in the 1920's for ease of movement through rugged terrain; in 1942, it was further developed for airborne deployment. Variations of the pack howitzer were also used in self propelled gun mounts.
- The British adopted the round but bored out a QF 6 pounder to accept the US 75mm ammunition (known as the QF 75mm) which was mounted in early Churchill and Matilda tanks.
- During WWII, 75mm Pack Howitzers were issued to at least two Australian Mountain Batteries and were used to supplement some anti-tank units. US forces also practiced with these in Australia prior to deployment in the Pacific.
- Numerous types of 75mm projectile were produced including the following:
 - **High Explosive (HE)** – MkI, M48; contained a nose or base fuse and high explosive.
 - **High Explosive - Anti-Tank (HEAT)** - used only in pack howitzers; filler is Pentolite.
 - **Armour Piercing, Tracer (AP/T, APC/T)** - mostly solid projectiles (M72) however some variants contained a nose or base fuse and explosive (e.g. M61).
 - **Smoke (Smk)** - MkII, M64 & M89; filled with titanium tetrachloride (FM), chlorosulfonic acid-sulphur trioxide mixture (FS) or white phosphorus (WP).
 - **Chemical (Gas)** - MkII and M64; filled with various toxic chemicals.
 - **Shrapnel/Canister (Shrap/Can)** – Mk1 consists of 270 lead balls; T30 Canister used quite widely in the Pacific Theatre during WWII.
- 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 also be found offshore.

Technical Data

- Projectile length : approx. 330-350 mm
- Projectile diameter : approx. 75 mm
- Projectile weight : projectile – approx 3.0-7.2 kg
- Fuse/Burster : super-quick or delay nose or base fuzes; some contain a burster charge.
- Filling : 65-750 grams of high explosive depending on munition.
- Identification : The cartridge is usually plain brass although a steel cartridge was also. Munitions for the howitzer are painted with 75mm H; for use in the M2-M6 guns they are painted 75mm G. 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

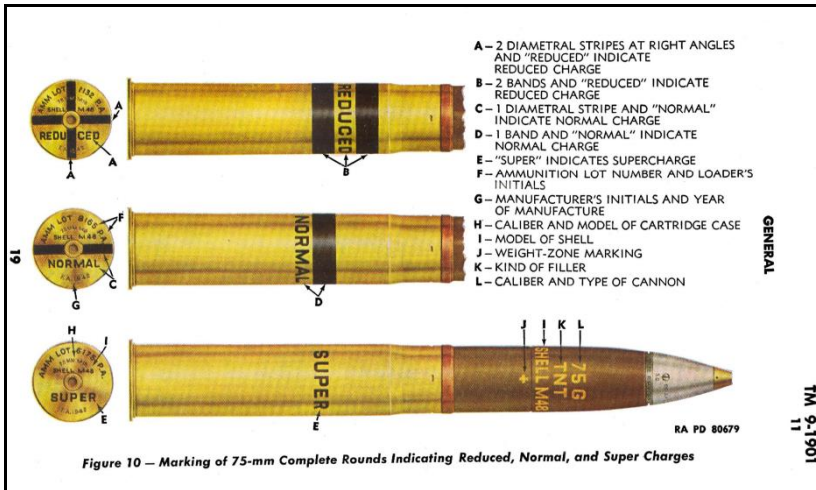


Figure 1 – US 75mm HE ammunition – WWII era



Figure 2 - A lieutenant adjusts the fuse of a 75mm HE tank munition – 1942 (AWM ID 012775)

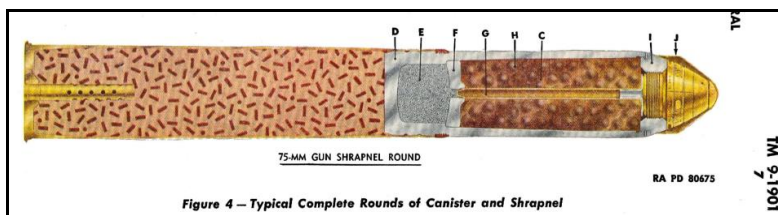


Figure 3 - US 75mm HE ammunition – WWII era



Figure 4 - 75mm WP projectile found on the Atherton Tablelands, Nth QLD



Figure 5 - 75mm HE projectile found in the Coomera area, SE QLD



Figure 6 - Australian tank crew firing the 75mm gun of a General Grant M3 tank - Moorebank, NSW, 1944 (AWM ID number 082369)



Figure 7 - US soldiers firing a 75mm Pack Howitzer - Eastern Australia, 1943 (AWM ID 015650)