



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**

ROCKET – 3.5 INCH (SUPER BAZOOKA)

Description

- The US 3.5 inch Rocket Launcher, designated the M20 or “Super Bazooka”, was a variant on the original WWII US M1 rocket launcher (‘Bazooka’). It is a man-portable, shoulder-fired, recoilless, anti-tank, rocket launcher that electrically fired a 3.5” rocket propelled warhead.
- Developed near the end of WWII, it saw service with Allied forces (including Australia) in Korea and in Vietnam before the 66mm M72 LAW and 106mm RCL became more prevalent.
- Three types of projectile were typically available for the 3.5” Bazooka:
 - **High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT)** - (M28A2) Point Initiating Base Detonated (PIBD) fuze. Contains a shaped copper cone and high explosive filler.
 - **Smoke/White Phosphorus** - (Smk/WP) - (M30) Point Initiating Base Detonated (PIBD) fuze; contains White Phosphorus (1060 g) and an explosive bursting charge.
 - **Target Practice** - (TP) - (M29A2) Inert - filled with plaster of paris (or similar) as an inert filler; no explosive content apart from rocket motor.
- Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used by the Army for infantry live firing practices. The relatively shallow firing angle usually results in UXO typically being found on or just below the ground surface.

Technical Data

- Projectile length : approx. 598 mm
- Projectile diameter : approx. 89 mm
- Total weight : Projectile – approx 4.0-4.1 kg
- Fuse/Burster : Point Initiating Base Detonated (PIBD) fuze
- Filling : approx 0.85-1.0 kg of high explosive or smoke chemical
- Identification :
 - The launcher is an aluminium/metal alloy tube, open at both ends and painted olive drab or dark green.
 - The projectile consists of a rocket motor (painted olive) and a steel or cast iron warhead usually painted black/green/olive drab (HE), grey (Smk) or blue (Prac) – other colours may have been used.
 - Writing on the launcher is typically white and on the projectile yellow (HE) or white (Prac).
 - It can be difficult to distinguish between dangerous and safe items - **treat all found munitions as dangerous.**

Images



Figure 1 - Australian infantry soldiers from 3 RAR firing 3.5 inch Bazooka during manoeuvres – Japan, 1950 (AWM ID 146733)

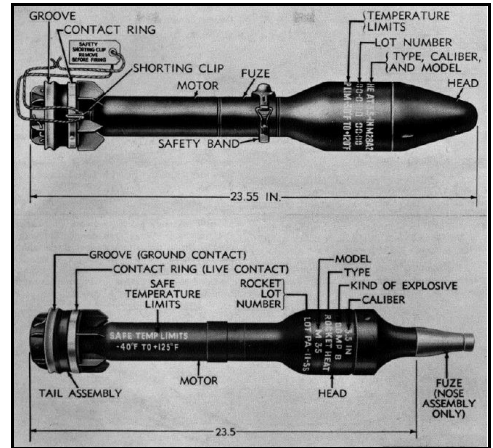


Figure 2 - Typical 3.5" rockets



Figure 3 - M20 3.5 inch Mk 2 Rocket Launcher c. 1959 (AWM ID REL37101)



Figure 4 – 3.5" HEAT Rocket, M28A2



Figure 5 – Unexploded 3.5" Smoke/WP Rocket, M30



Figure 6 - Display item - 3.5" Practice/TP Rocket, M29A2



Figure 7 - Remnants of a 3.5" Practice/TP Rocket, M29A2