



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**

AIR-LAUNCHED ROCKET - 3 INCH/60 POUND

Description

- ☛ The UK 3 inch rocket with 60 pound warhead was designed primarily for use by aircraft against submarines and merchant shipping although it was also widely used against armoured or lightly armoured land targets.
- ☛ A ground- or ship-fired 3"/60lb No. 6 HE Assault Rocket ('LILO') was also used by foreign armies and navies. This is not covered in this sheet however is very similar in size, appearance and operation.
- ☛ The air-launched rocket was in service during and after WWII and used in Australia by various RAAF and RAN aircraft including the Bristol Beaufighter (1940s-early 50s), P51 Mustang (1940s-early 50s), De Havilland Vampire (1950s-60s; 8 x rockets), Gloster Meteor (1940s-early 1960s), Fairey Firefly (1940s-50s, 16 x 60 lb rockets), Fairey Gannet (1950s-60s), Sea Fury Mark 11 (1950s-60s) and De Havilland Sea Venom (1950s-70s) however other aircraft may have also used this rocket.
- ☛ The complete munition consists of a 3 inch rocket motor and one or more of the following warheads:
 - **High Explosive (HE)**, 60 lb F, No. 1 Mk I – contains a fuse and explosive warhead (a modified 4.5 inch artillery shell).
 - **High Explosive, Semi Armour Piercing (HE SAP)**, 60 lb, No. 2 Mk I – contains a fuse and explosive warhead.
 - **Practice (Prac)** 60 lb (Concrete), Mk I – has an inert concrete head (no fuse or explosive) however the rocket contains potentially dangerous propellant.
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type are most often found in/near areas used for bombing or Air-to-Ground practices, on air force bases or occasionally found in the maritime environment.

Technical Data

- ☛ Overall length : Rocket approx 1400mm; warhead approx 500-560mm
- ☛ Body diameter : Rocket – 75-85mm (approx 3 inches); warhead approx 115-155mm
- ☛ Total weight : Rocket – approx 16 kg; warhead approx 20-27 kg (approx 45-60lbs)
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : Has an explosive fuse and bursting charge (except the Concrete Head)
- ☛ Filling : Warhead contains 1.3-5.5 kg high explosive (Concrete Head – nil)
Rocket contains 5.0-5.7 kg of propellant (Cordite)
- ☛ Identification :
 - Munitions containing explosive are often painted dark green overall with yellow letters, a light green band around the shell body and/or white or red bands near the nose.
 - Other colours may have been used or colours may have faded over time - **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**
 - The Cordite propellant (and other forms of propellant) can cause serious burns.

Images

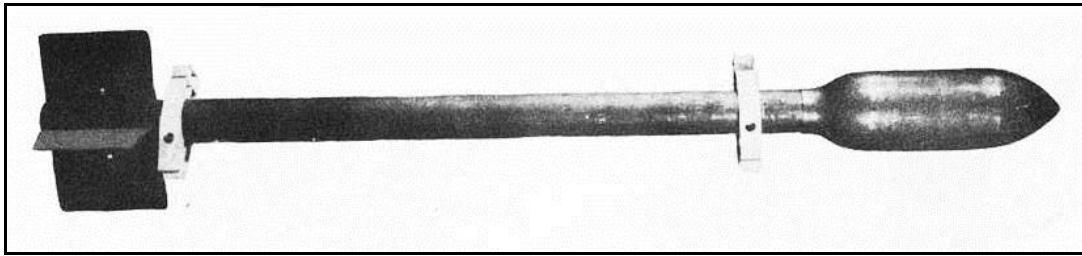


Figure 1 - Complete 3 inch 60lb SAP (rocket motor and warhead)



Figure 2 – RAAF personnel examine 3 inch 60lb HE or SAP warheads about to be fitted to rockets and loaded on the Beaufighter bomber aircraft - Coomalie Creek, NT, 1944 (AWM ID NWA0676)



Figure 3 - RAAF personnel loading 60lb practice rocket bombs onto a P.51 Mustang fighter aircraft (AWM ID number 132950)



Figure 4 - 60lb concrete head practice rocket being loaded onto a RAAF Beaufighter aircraft at Coomalie Creek, NT in 1944 (AWM ID number NWA0672)