



## 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 - 37MM

#### Description

- The 37mm was the first dedicated anti-tank gun used by the US Army in large numbers. It was introduced in 1940 and continued service in the Pacific Theatre for the duration of the war, being removed from service in 1945. The 37mm gun was also used in a variety of tanks, armoured cars and aircraft as well as provided as sub-calibre ammunition for some guns (75-155mm).
- 37mm ammunition was used by in Australia during WWII by both US and Australian forces equipped with the M3 Stuart Light Tank and the M3 Lee/Grant Medium Tank. The 37mm towed anti-tank gun was also regularly fired by US forces undergoing training in Australia during WWII.
- Australian usage after WWII was limited to weapons such as the Staghound Armoured Car (1943/4 to 1970; equipped with a 37mm M6 gun) and some aircraft.
- Several types of projectile were used including:
  - **Armour Piercing, Tracer (AP/T)** - for aircraft, generally no explosive content or fuze.
  - **Armour Piercing, Capped, Tracer (APC/T)** - generally no explosive content or fuze.
  - **High Explosive, Base Detonated, Tracer (HEBD/T)** – for land guns/tanks, contains fuze and explosive.
  - **High Explosive, Tracer (HE/T)** – for aircraft, contains a fuze and explosive.
  - **Canister (Can)** - for land guns/tanks; not strictly a projectile - contains 122 steel balls.
  - **Sub-Calibre (Sub-cal)** - for land guns/tanks, contains a fuze and explosive.
  - **Target Practice, Tracer (TP/T)** - for land guns/tanks, no explosive content or fuze.
  - **Drill (Drill)** – no explosive content or fuze.
  - **Blank (Blk)** - no projectile.

#### Technical Data

- Mmunition length : approx. 315-370 mm (176 mm sub-cal)
- Projectile length : approx. 105-165 mm
- Projectile diameter : approx. maximum 37 mm
- Total weight : Mmunition – approx 1.2-1.6 kg, Projectile – approx 0.8-0.9 kg
- Fuse/Burster : May contain a sensitive fuze and explosive which can be easily detonated
- Filling : approx 38-50 g high explosive (TNT, Tetryl, etc)
- Identification : The projectile may have one or more bands of colour - red, yellow or green bands/stripes were most often used to denote hazardous 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 - Various US 37mm munitions**



**Figure 2 - Relative size of 37mm ammunition**



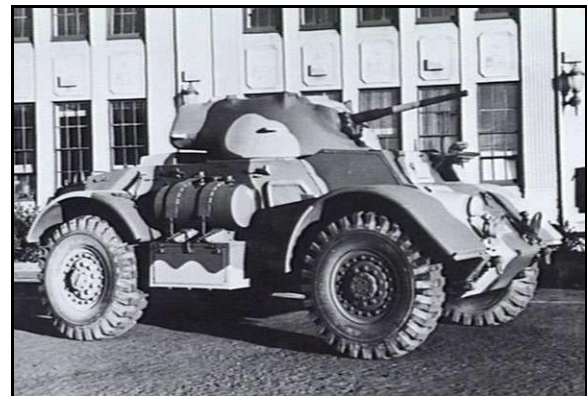
**Figure 3 - 37MM HEBD artillery projectile  
 - in good condition**



**Figure 4 - 37MM HEBD artillery projectile - found  
 on the Sunshine Coast, QLD**



**Figure 5 - US troops with 37mm antitank gun - Townsville,  
 1942 (AWM ID 150479)**



**Figure 6 - Staghound Armoured car with 37mm gun  
 (Australia) (AWM ID 127724)**