

FELLOWS

The UXO risk management experts

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LAND SERVICE ORDNANCE



No.80 Smoke Grenade



No 76 SIP Grenade



GS MK V Mine



Approximate Scale

Small Arms Ammunition



British .303 Ammunition

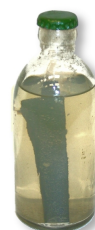
Grenades



British No.36 Mills Grenade



British No.80 Smoke Grenade



British No 76 SIP Grenade



Land Mines



British GS MK V Mine



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Approximate Scale

Mortar Bombs

British 3 inch mortar bomb



British 2 inch mortar bomb



Artillery Projectiles



British 25pdr High Explosive Shell



British 2pdr - solid shot anti-tank

12. Land Service Ordnance

Small Arms Ammunition

The most common type of ordnance encountered on land formerly used by the military are items of Small Arms Ammunition (SAA). SAA refers to the complete round or cartridge designed to be used with hand-held infantry weapons such as rifles, machine guns and pistols. SAA can include bullets, cartridge cases and primers/caps. Items of SAA can be accidentally initiated by striking the casing or coming into contact with fire. SAA presents only minimal risk although it must be disposed of correctly if found on-site.

Hand Grenades

There are a number of different types of hand grenade. They were used in very large number. Some contain explosive and were used for defensive and offensive purposes. Some were designed to emit or burst smoke to provide a smokescreen to cover troop movements or to indicate troop positions. The No.76 SIP (Self Igniting Phosphorus) smoke grenade resembled a milk bottle and was issued in large numbers to Home Guard units. Caches of these grenades were often buried and are sometimes found during shallow excavations or building demolition.

Mortar Bombs

Mortars are used by infantry as organic support weapons. There are many different types but most evidence tail fins used to stabilise the bomb in flight. Many types were used. The most common being high explosive, smoke, illuminating (ejects a parachute with a flare attached and is used for illumination at night) types.

Land Mines

Mines are laid for defensive purposes. They can be laid in minefields or individually. Anti-personal and anti-tank mines were laid in large numbers on UK beaches during WW2. Clearance operations after the war removed many, but some still continue to be found today.

Artillery Projectiles

Artillery projectiles are fired from both small and large artillery guns. They comprise of many different types and are used for both offensive and defensive purposes.

Areas where anti-aircraft guns were located can be at risk from shallow buried unexploded Anti-Aircraft projectiles fired during WW2.

At the onset of WW2 two types of Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) guns were deployed:

- Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery (HAA), using large calibre weapons, such as the 3.7" QF [Quick Firing] gun. Normally fixed batteries.
- Light Anti-Aircraft Artillery (LAA) using smaller calibre weapons, such as 40mm Bofors gun. Often mobile, vehicle mounted batteries.

LAA batteries were intended to engage fast, low flying aircraft and were typically deployed around military bases, RAF airfields or important installations. These batteries were mobile and could be moved to new positions with relative ease when required. The most numerous of these were the 40mm Bofors gun, which could fire up to 120 x 40mm HE shells per minute to over 1,800m.

HAA projectiles were high explosive shells, usually fitted with a time delay or a barometric pressure fuze to make them explode at a pre-determined height. If they failed to explode or strike an aircraft, they would eventually descend back to earth.

Dependent upon site conditions, larger AAA projectiles can be encountered beyond a depth of 2m.

The smaller 40mm projectiles are similar in appearance and effect to SAA and, although still dangerous, present a lower hazard due to its decreased explosive content.

Numerous unexploded AAA shells were recovered during and following WW2 and are still occasionally encountered on sites today.

13. References

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