

8 INCH GUN M1

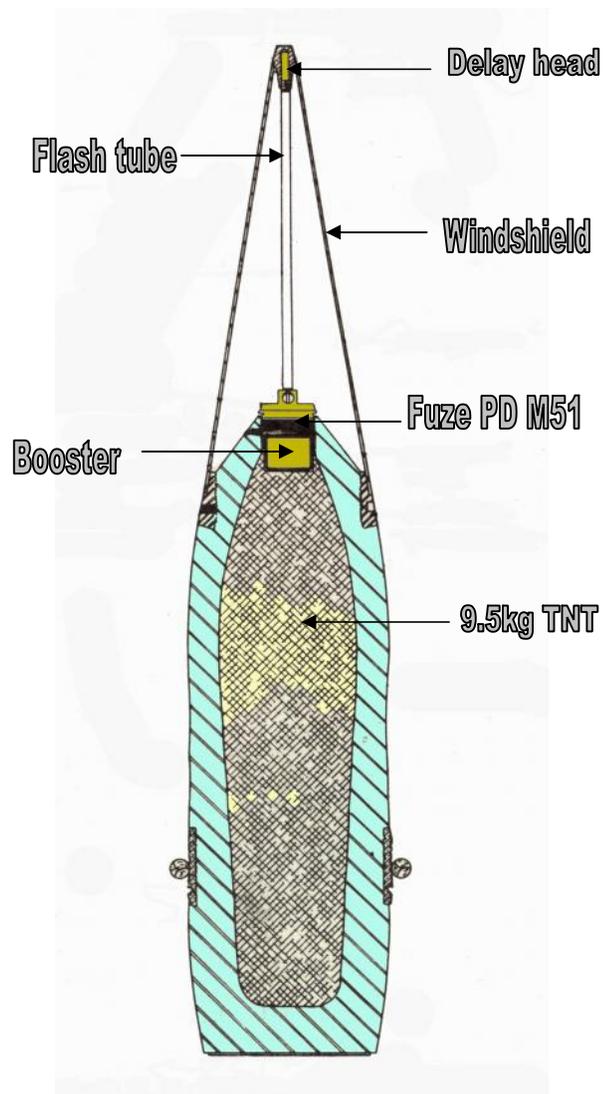
The origins of this calibre date back to the First World War when the artillery requirements of the American Expeditionary Force were met by British equipments. The UK supplied them with the 203mm Howitzer, which the Americans used and then modified to fit on their 155mm carriage.

The gun had a great reputation for accuracy.

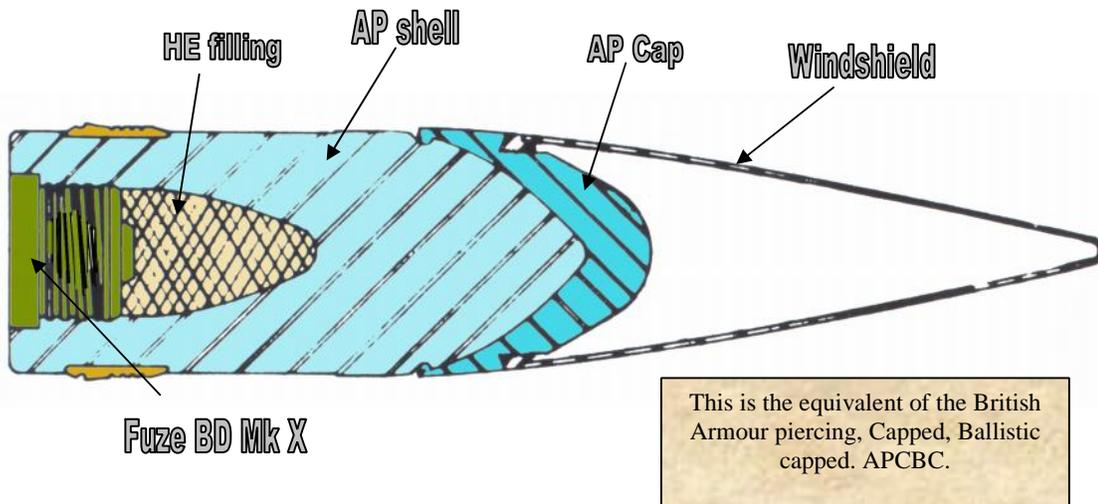
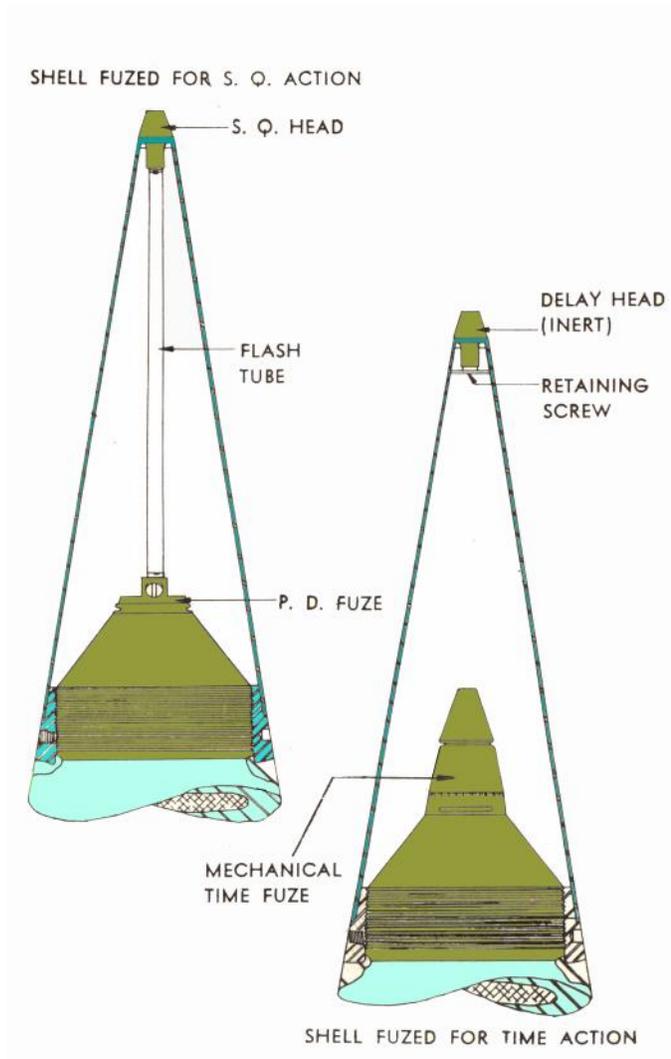
The ammunition provided for this howitzer was of the separate loading type and the projectiles HE M103 and the AP MK XX Mod 1 were the only service ones issued.

PROJECTILES.

The projectile M103 is an odd type for US origin as it has a ballistic cap to improve the ballistic coefficient. As the projectile is nose fuzeed this necessitates a special arrangement for operating the fuze.



Because the projectile is fitted with a windshield and is designed to function with a point detonating fuze a special fuze is required. This is achieved by seating the body of a M51 type fuze in the nose of the projectile and placing the superquick element in the top of the windshield. The two are connected by a flash tube. This arrangement was known as the "Fuse PD M51 mod series" It was used only with this projectile. To achieve superquick action the delay head is removed and the superquick head put in its place. The projectile comes fitted with the delay head. To achieve airbursts the fuze is replaced by a mechanical time fuze that is set prior to the windshield being put back on.



The AP projectile weighed 119kg and was filled with 1.5kg of explosive "D".

PROPELLING CHARGES

The propelling charge for the HE M103 consisted of four pieces and these were:

Charge propelling M9 (Green bag), which consisted of a base charge of 54lbs of NH powder and an increment of 21lbs of NH. The igniter was filled with 8oz of Gunpowder.

Charge propelling M10 (White bag), which consists of a base charge of 92lbs of NH and an increment of 13lbs of NH. The igniter consisted of a base pad and a core running the length of the charge. The weight of the igniter was 1.06lbs.

The propellant grains in the M9 had a web size of .0695 inches.
The propellant grains in the M10 had a web size of .1 inch.

The charges could be arranged in the following manner:

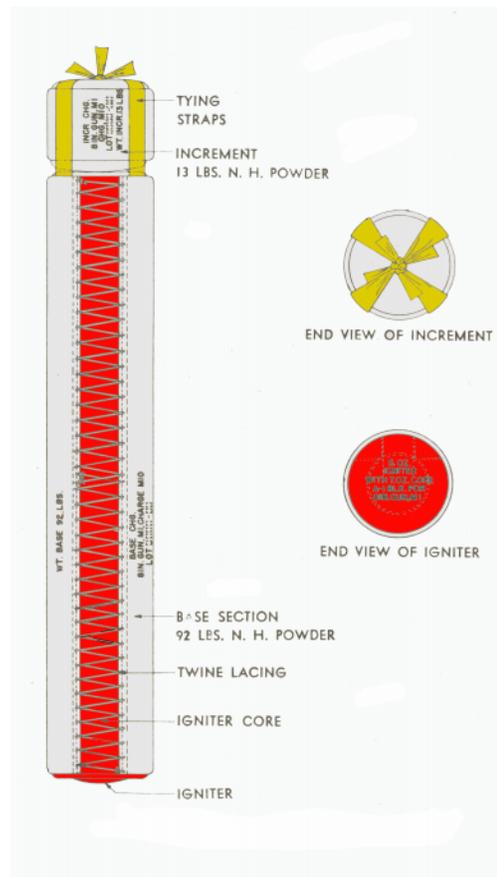
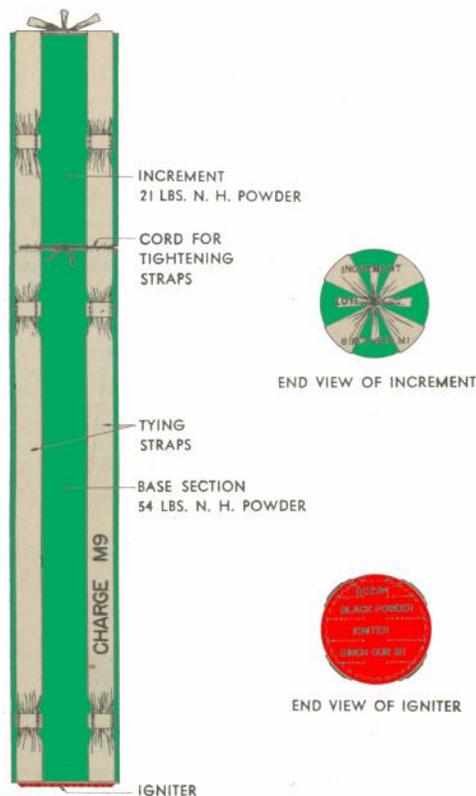
Reduced charge = M9 base section only

Normal charge = M9 base and increment or, M10 base section only

Supercharge = M10 base and increment.

The propelling charge for the AP projectile consisted of two pieces and these were:

Normal charge 33.75kg of NH and the supercharge that was 49kg of NH that was loaded into a base charge and an increment.



PRIMERS

The primers associated with this ammunition were the following:

Primer percussion 18 grain MK. IIA3, IIA4 or,
Primer percussion 21 grain MK II or IIA.
Primer electric M30

