

UNITED STATES 240mm AMMUNITION

The United States had two 240mm Howitzers in service during WWII and these were:

The M1918 that was developed during WWI

The M1 that was developed between the wars and brought into service in 1940.

The original M1918 was transported on separate carriages with an accompanying bulldozer cum crane that was used to set up at the gun site.

The M1 howitzer is of the more modern type with a mobile carriage thus is more quickly brought into action.

Despite the fact that they were of the same calibre the two types of ammunition weren't interchangeable although both are of the separate loading type.

M1918 ammunition.

PROJECTILES.

345lb HE projectile with a muzzle velocity of 1700 fps and a theoretical maximum range of 16400 yds. The base cover for the shell is made from copper. The base was streamlined at 7°

The weight zone markings were as follows:

1 = over 337 lbs up to 342 lbs

2 = over 342 lbs up to 347 lbs

3 = over 347 lbs up to 352 lbs.

The weight zone markings on the projectile were also given a punch stab in the centre of the yellow square.

The MK III AI shell was filled with 49.79 lbs of TNT or Amatol 50/50

PROPELLING CHARGES.

The propelling charge consisted of 6 bags of NH powder with a total weight of 35.81 lbs. The charges were divided in the following manner:

4 bags each weighed 7.162 lbs (3.25kg)

2 bags each weighed 3.581 lbs (1.62kg)

These could be arranged so that ten different charges made up charges from 615 fps to 1700 fps.

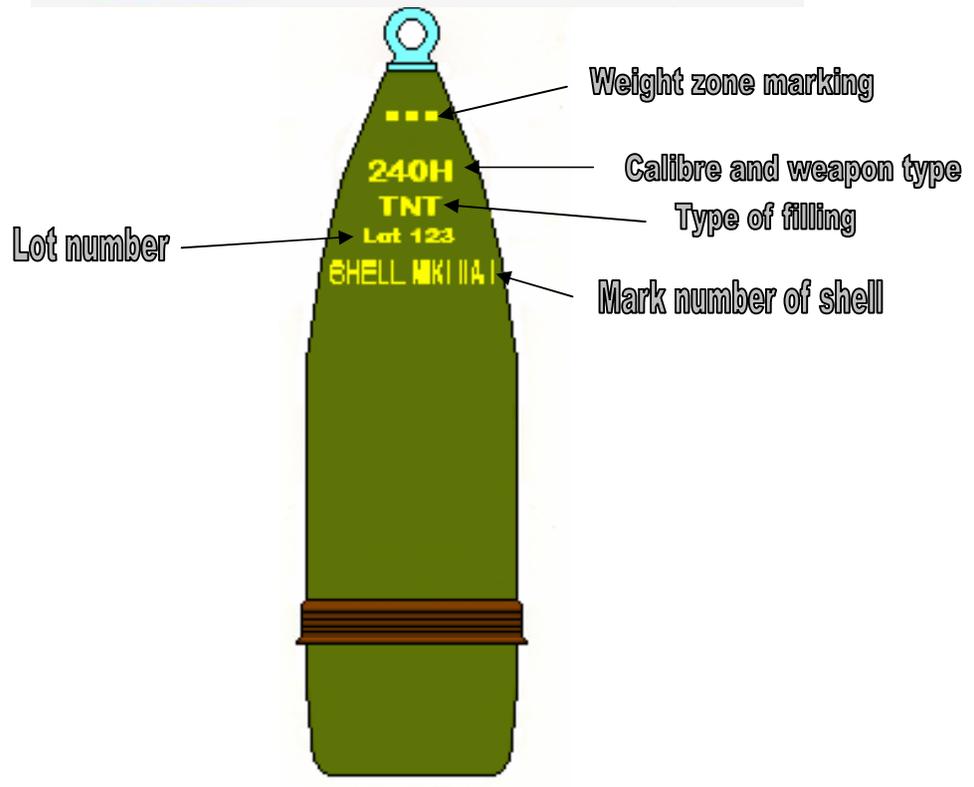
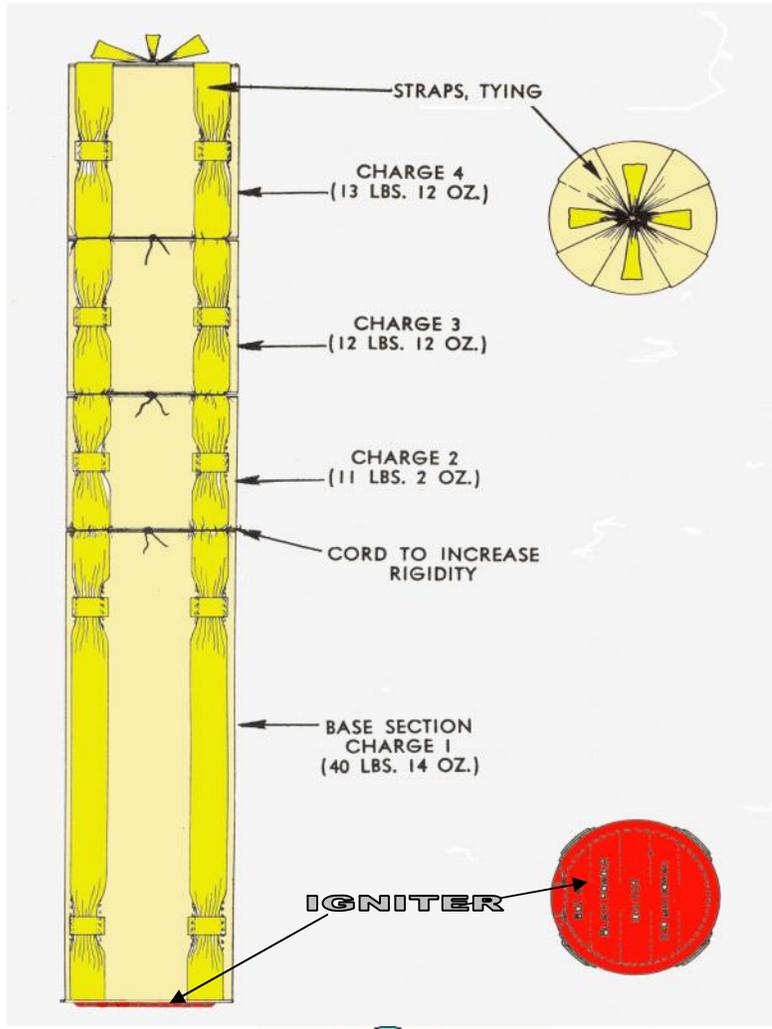
PRIMERS.

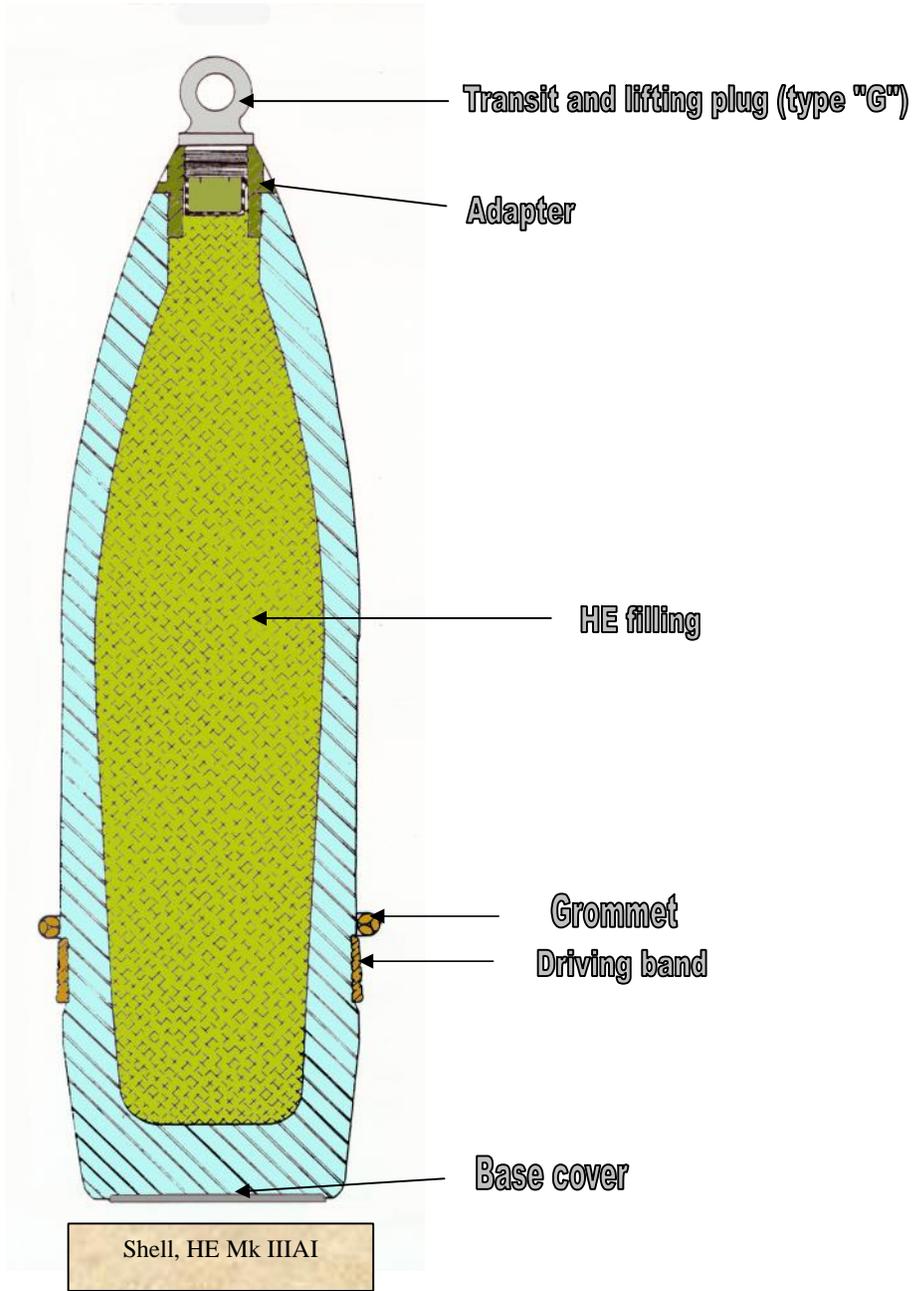
The charges were ignited by percussion primers of the following types:

21 grain MK II, MKIIA or MK IIAI

18 grain MK IIA3

17 grain MK IIA4





Ammunition for the M1 Howitzer.

PROJECTILES.

The HE M114 was the only service projectile authorized for use in the M1 Howitzer. It differs from the M1918 in that it has an 8⁰ boat tail, it was longer and has a greater CRH. The base cover plate is made from steel.

The projectile was filled with 54.06 lbs of TNT and had a total weight of 360 lbs.

It was also filled with:

Trimonite 56.15 lbs

Amatol 50/50 51.12 lbs

Amatol 80/20 48.57 lbs.

With both the Amatol fillings a TNT surround in the top of the filling was necessary to achieve a good detonation.

The weight zone markings were as follows:

2 = 345.5 lbs up to 350.5 lbs

3 = 350.5 lbs up to 355.5 lbs

4 = 355.5 lbs up to 360.5 lbs

5 = 360.5 lbs up to 365.5 lbs.

FUZES.

The projectiles were fuzed with either PD M51 or TM M67 series. Both the fuzes were fitted with either booster M21 or M24.