

Artillery Shells



18-pdr

18-pdr

25-pdr HE & Smoke

25-pdr

Selection of artillery shells

105mm HE

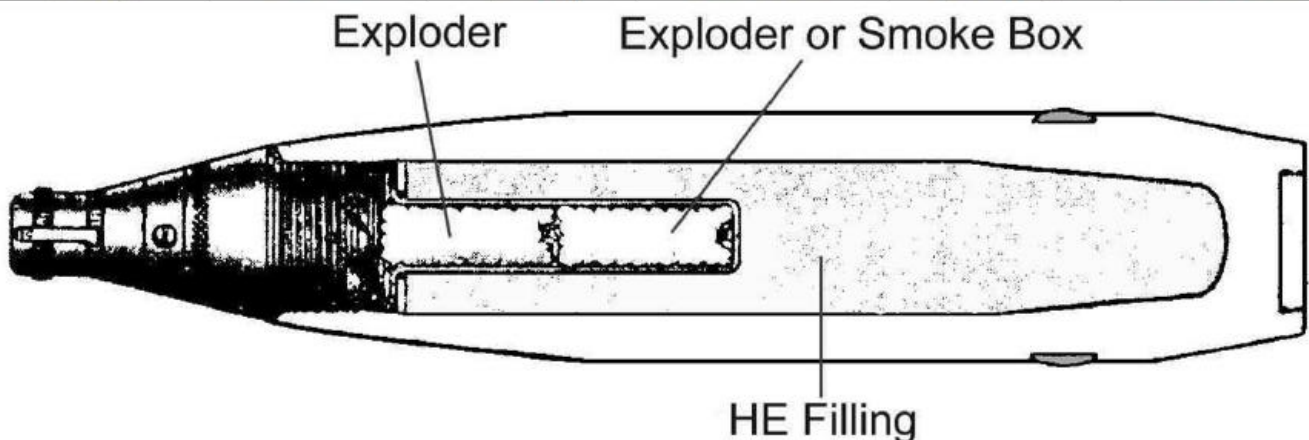
Artillery pieces are large calibre weapons that fulfil a range of battlefield roles. Their projectiles are typically steel and feature streamlined or rounded noses and one or more driving bands. They may also have a tapered base for aerodynamic performance.

Common functions include High Explosive (HE), Fragmentation, Anti-Tank (AT), Smoke, Incendiary, and Illumination. Chemical and sub-munition fillings are also possible. Activation methods vary, but Impact, Time, and Proximity fuzes are most common. These are typically found in the nose or base of the shell.

Because of the range of calibres, fillings, and fuzes that exist, the design and appearance of a shell can vary considerably. Indicative specifications for common 20th century British shells are given below.

Specifications

Shell	Dimensions	Shell	Dimensions	Shell	Dimensions
18-pdr <i>(c. WWI)</i>	300mm x 84mm (11.8" x 3.3")	8" Howitzer <i>(c. WWI)</i>	720mm x 203mm (28.3" x 8")	7.2" Howitzer <i>(c. WWII)</i>	908mm x 189mm (35.7" x 7.2")
4.5" Howitzer <i>(c. WWI)</i>	408mm x 114mm (16.1" x 4.5")	25-pdr <i>(c. WWII)</i>	437mm x 88mm (17.2" x 3.5")	105mm <i>(Post-WWII)</i>	550mm x 105mm (21.6" x 4.1")
6" Howitzer <i>(c. WWI)</i>	597mm x 152mm (23.5" x 6")	5.5" <i>(c. WWII)</i>	728mm x 140mm (28.7" x 5.5")	155mm <i>(Post-WWII)</i>	873mm x 155mm (34.4" x 6.1")



Indicative cross-section of a 25-pdr HE shell

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