

SUMMARY OF MUNITIONS PRODUCTION 1940-45  
(Extract from "MUNITIONS DIGEST" as at 30/9/1945)

When the Director-General of Munitions was given the task of organising munitions in Australia, he was handed a statement of requirements for the Army which exceeded anything which had been contemplated up to that time. Navy and Air requirements were substantial but not revolutionary as was the case with America. Later, demands were received from both Navy and Air for important new developments in types of munitions and manufacture of those was undertaken also.

The following is a statement of production from June 1, 1940 to August 31, 1945 - i.e. during the period between the appointment of the Director-General of Munitions in 1940 and the termination of the War-in-the-Pacific in August 1945 - of the principal types of weapons and ammunition. In view of the fact that there has been a great decrease in the demands from the Services since February, 1943, there has been a corresponding substantial decline in the rate of production since June 1943. The figures quoted do not include deliveries between the outbreak of the War in Europe in September, 1939, and May 31, 1940.

<u>MUNITION</u> ∅	Produced	Produced	
	<u>1.6.40 to 30.6.45</u>	<u>1.7.45 to 31.8.45</u>	
Small-Arms	1,845,000,000 +	24,000,000 +	1,869,000,000 +
Light Anti-Aircraft	3,784,695 +	287,597 +	4,072,292 +
Heavy Anti-Aircraft	575,222 +	838 +	576,060 +
Light Artillery	1,521,411	10,576	1,531,987
Medium Artillery	8,021,850	38,008	8,059,858
Heavy Artillery	131,725	1,075	132,800
Porter Bombs	3,993,011	136,030	4,129,041
Grenades	5,521,594	75,135	5,596,729
Aircraft Bombs - Practice	1,840,719	48,952	1,889,671
" " Service	147,718	-	147,718
Miner Mines - Naval	12,336	-	12,336
Land	750,098	-	750,098

WEAPONS:

Sub-Machine Guns - Austen	19,914	-	19,914
Owen	45,433	-	45,433
Machine Guns and Mountings	17,336	99	17,435
Light Machine Guns and Mountings	11,316	27	11,343
Rifles	408,650	2,400	411,050
Signal Pistols	25,392	-	25,392
Mortars, 2", 3" & 4.2"	5,306	-	5,306

Spano and Polsten Cannon,

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT:

Projectors and Searchlights	1,490	3
Generating and Charging Sets	10,973	572
Signalling Lamps	34,710	433
Cable Layers	29,919	-
Field Cable	199,612 miles	6,285 miles

ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT:

Winches	3,574	551
Pumps	3,989	147
Air Compressors	2,176	127
Portable Filters	1,369	94
Cookers	1,747	85
Box Girder Bridges	143	-
Engines	35,906	3,545
"Barblock" Wire (concertinas)	511,621	-
Fabric Mesh	3,975,600 sq.yds.	6,025 sq.yds.
Trailers	11,387	1,600

ARMoured FIGHTING VEHICLES:

Carriers, Machine Gun etc.	5,583	-
Armoured Cars - Light	237	-
Tanks 30-ton	65	-

REFRIGERATION:

Field (up to 10-c. ft.)	10,146 units	229 units
Medium (up to 30-c.ft.)	987 "	96 "
Heavy (up to 20,000 c.Ft.)	8,216 "	3 "

RADIO EQUIPMENT:

Radio Transmitters	12,280 units	576 units
Radio Receivers	9,204 "	258 "
Transmitter Receivers	18,469 "	231 "

RADAR EQUIPMENT:

RAAF Land bases air-warning Equipment	201 units	7 units
RAAF Air-borne Equipment for location of surface vessels and homing purposes	1,126 "	3 "
RAAF Radar Beacons for use on Aerodromes	224 "	-
Naval Sea-borne ship-warning and		