

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 far exceeded anything which had been contemplated up to that time. Navy and Air requirements were substantial but not revolutionary as was the case with Army. 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 in May 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 had been a great decrease in the demands from the Services since February, 1943, there was 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>AMMUNITION</u> ∅	<u>Produced</u> <u>1.6.40 to 30.6.45</u>	<u>Produced</u> <u>1.7.45 to 31.8.45</u>	<u>Total</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 +	576,110 +
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
Mortar Bombs	3,993,011	136,030	4,179,091
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
Mines - Naval	12,336	-	12,336
Land	750,098	-	750,098
<u>WEAPONS:</u>			
Sub-Machine Guns - Austen	19,914	-	19,914
Owen	45,433	-	45,433
Bren Guns and Mountings	17,336	99	17,435
Vickers 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
Hispano and Polsten Cannon, 20 mm	1,864	-	1,864
Bofors Guns, 40mm	290	-	290
Anti-Aircraft Guns, 3" and 2.7"	512	-	512
Tank Attack Guns, 2-Pdr.	1,580	-	1,580
6-Pdr.	900	-	900
17-Pdr.	326	-	326
25-Pdr. Guns	1,912	6	1,918
4" Naval Guns	266	-	266
<u>OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS:</u>			
Telescopes	1,172	-	1,172
Directors	639	61	700
Glinometers	9,078	-	9,078
Compasses	55,756	339	56,095

+ rounds

∅ With the exception of Small-Arms ammunition, all items in this group were loaded with explosives made and filled by the Explosives & Filling Factory

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT:

Projectors and Searchlights	1,490	3	1,493
Generating and Charging Sets	10,973	572	11,545
Signalling Lamps	34,710	433	35,143
Cable Layers	29,919	-	29,919
Field Cable	199,612 miles	6,285 miles	205,897 miles

ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT:

Winches	3,574	551	4,125
Pumps	3,989	147	4,136
Air Compressors	2,176	127	2,303
Portable Filters	1,369	94	1,463
Cookers	1,747	85	1,832
Box Girder Bridges	143	-	143
Engines	35,906	3,545	39,451
"Barblock" Wire (concertinas)	511,621	-	511,621
Fabric Mesh	3,975,600 sq.yds.	6,025 sq.yds.	3,981,625 sq.yds.
Trailers	11,387	1,600	12,987

ARMOURED FIGHTING VEHICLES:

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

REFRIGERATION:

Field (up to 10-c. ft.)	10,146 units	229 units	10,375 units
Medium (up to 30-c.ft.)	987 "	96 "	1,083 "
Heavy (up to 20,000 c.Ft.)	8,216 "	3 "	8,219 "

RADIO EQUIPMENT:

Radio Transmitters	12,280 units	576 units	12,856 "
Radio Receivers	9,204 "	258 "	9,462 "
Transmitter Receivers	18,469 "	231 "	18,700 "

RADAR EQUIPMENT:

RAAF Land bases air-warning Equipment	201 units	7 units	208 "
RAAF Air-borne Equipment for location of surface vessels and homing purposes	1,126 "	3 "	1,129 "
RAAF Radar Beacons for use on Aerodromes	224 "	-	224 "
Naval Sea-borne ship-warning and aircraft-warning equipments	374 "	24 "	398 "
Army Radar Controller Searchlights	65 "	-	65 "
Army Radar Portable Beach Watching and Coastal Defence Sets	49 "	-	49 "
Army Coastal Artillery and Shore Defence Equipment	37 "	-	37 "
General Radar Test Equipment	9,085 items	353 items	9,438 items

SIGNAL EQUIPMENT:

Telephones	100,000 units	1,514 units	101,514 units
Switchboards	9,000 "	82 "	9,082 "
Steel Poles	150,000 "	12,615 "	162,615 "
Test equipments	16,200 "	938 "	17,138 "

SMALL CRAFT:

Powered Craft	1,600 units	150 units	1,750 "
Non-powered Craft	4,000 "	120 "	4,120 "
Pontoons, Life Rafts etc.	18,000 "	1,500 "	19,500 "