

L16 81mm mortar

The United Kingdom's **L16 81mm mortar** is the standard mortar used by the British armed forces. It originated as a joint design by the UK and Canada. The version produced and used by Australia is named the **F2 81mm Mortar**, whilst the version used by the U.S. armed forces is known as the **M252**.

It was introduced in 1965–66, replacing the **Ordnance ML 3 inch Mortar** in UK service, where it is used by the **British Army**, the **Royal Marines** and the **RAF Regiment**.

In UK armoured/mechanised infantry battalions, the L16 mortar is mounted in an **FV 432 AFV** (six^[1] per battalion mortar platoon). British army light role infantry battalions and the **Royal Marines** may transport their mortars in **BvS 10** vehicles (the replacement for the **Bv 206**). Otherwise, it is carried disassembled in three loads, (barrel, baseplate and bipod with sights, each approximately 11 kg), normally carried by a vehicle or helicopter and assembled for firing from the ground.

The weapon can be man-packed by the mortar detachment, in which case the ammunition would be carried by other soldiers of the battalion. In addition to their normal equipment, each soldier would carry four bombs in a pair of two-bomb plastic containers (known as *greenies* in the British Army).

The mortar has been used by many countries' armed forces.

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Operators

Current operators

- Australia: known as *F2 81mm mortar*^[2]
- Austria^[3]

L16 81mm mortar




81mm mortar L16

Type	Mortar
Place of origin	United Kingdom <p>Canada</p>
Service history	
Used by	See Users
Wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nepalese civil war Borneo, South Arabia, Oman Vietnam War Falklands War Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 Balkans, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan
Production history	

-  [Belize](#)^[3]
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Former operators

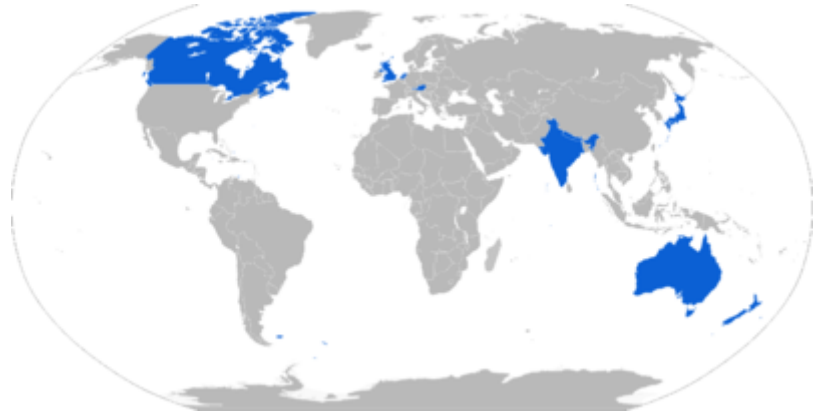
-  [Rhodesia – Rhodesian Army](#)

Gallery

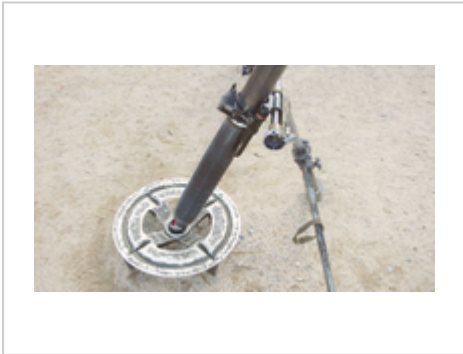
Designer	Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, Fort Halstead (barrel and bipod)
Designed	1956
Manufacturer	Royal Ordnance (barrel and bipod)
Produced	1965
Specifications	
Mass	combat 35.3 kg (78 lb)
Barrel length	1,280 millimetres (50 in)
Crew	3
<hr/>	
Caliber	81 millimetres (3.2 in)
Action	muzzle loading
Breech	none
Recoil	baseplate and spring buffered mounting clamp
Rate of fire	15 rpm, 1–12 rpm sustained, 20 rpm for short periods
Muzzle velocity	225 m/s (740 ft/s)
Effective firing range	HE: 100–5,675 m (109–6,206 yd) Smoke: 100–5,675 m (109–6,206 yd) Flare: 400–4,800 m (437–5,249 yd)
Maximum firing range	5,650 m (6,180 yd)
Feed system	Manual
Sights	Optical (C2) with Trilux illumination



View down the smoothbore barrel of the L16 mortar.



Map with L16 operators in blue.



L16 baseplate.



L16 C2 sight.



Video of L16 81mm mortar fired by JGSDF soldiers during Orient Shield 2012

References

1. Rinaldi, Richard A. (August 2002). "Modern British TOE's" (https://web.archive.org/web/20121202173359/http://www.orbat.com/site/toe/toe/uk/uk_toe.pdf) (PDF). *Orbat.com*. Archived from the original (http://orbat.com/site/toe/toe/uk/uk_toe.pdf) (PDF) on 2 December 2012. Retrieved 27 February 2013.
2. "Mortar – 81 mm" (http://www.defence.gov.au/UXO/_Master/docs/Types/Mortar81mmRev01.pdf) (PDF). *defence.gov.au*. Defence unexploded ordnance website: ordnance information sheet. March 2015.
3. Berrigan, Frida; Ciarrocca, Michelle (November 2000). "Report: Profiling the Small Arms Industry - World Policy Institute - Research Project" (<https://worldpolicy.org/2009/11/13/report-profiling-the-small-arms-industry-world-policy-institute-research-project>). World Policy Institute. Retrieved 29 August 2018.

4. "Mortieren (60-, 81- en 120mm)" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180316185619/https://www.defensie.nl/onderwerpen/materieel/bewapening/mortieren>). *Defensie.nl*. Ministerie van Defensie. Archived from [the original \(https://www.defensie.nl/onderwerpen/materieel/bewapening/mortieren\)](https://www.defensie.nl/onderwerpen/materieel/bewapening/mortieren) on 16 March 2018. Retrieved 16 March 2018.
5. Rottman, Gordon L. (1993). *Armies of the Gulf War*. Elite 45. Osprey Publishing. p. 30. ISBN 9781855322776.

External links

- "81 mm mortar" (<http://www.army.mod.uk/equipment/23224.aspx>). *British Army*.
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