

Polsten Anti-Aircraft Gun

Written by David Boyd

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The Polsten Anti-Aircraft Gun

The British Army never held 20mm calibre weapons with much regard, feeling that they were not powerful enough to deal with the modern aircraft. The standard anti-aircraft gun of the British army had been the Bofors 40mm and while this was a powerful and reliable weapon something lighter and more mobile was required. The result was the Polsten 20mm anti-aircraft gun and the first guns were completed in November 1943. The Polsten was design to be as quick and cheap to produce as possible, which enabled it to be produced in large numbers with ease. Single and triple mountings were produced and a large number of the weapons were placed on the back of trucks. The Polsten added the needed light anti-aircraft capacity to the British army but by the time it entered service the threat of enemy aircraft had been greatly reduced.

Polsten Anti-Aircraft Gun Data

Rate of fire	450 rpm
Muzzle velocity	2725 ft/s
Weight	126 lb
Weight of 60 round magazine	312 lb
Weight of 30 round magazine	161 lb
Overall length of gun	7'0"
Range	9000 yds

Production of Polsten Anti-Aircraft guns by year

Polsten	1944	12,500
versal	1945	15,600
borne	1946	300
iple mo	1947	38
velling	1948	1,187
en guns	1949	7,105
versal	1950	2,007

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guns (Eastern Group)

Sources - Polsten Handbook, AVIA 22 456 - 514