

7.2" Howitzer

Written by David Boyd
Thursday, 01 January 2009 14:38 -

The 7.2" Howitzer



After Dunkirk there was a great shortage of heavy artillery so requests for a weapon of around 8" in calibre with greater range than the current 8" Howitzer were made. Firing trails were conducted to see how much stress the 8" Howitzer carriage could take and so it was decided to develop a 7.2" weapon that fired a 200lb shell at 1,700fps. Barrel liners of existing 8" weapons were replaced by a 7.2" liner

7.2" Howitzer Data

Mk	Mk VI
Weight	7,511 lb and breech
Total	17,241 lb
Length	16 ft 3 in
Rifle	40 grooves 1/20
Elevation	45 degrees
Traverse	60 degrees left/right
Weight	7,511 lb

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7.2" Ammunition data

	Mk I	Mk IV
Weight	200lb	200lb
Muzzle velocity	1700 ft/s	1700 ft/s
Maximum range	16,000 yds	16,000 yds

Production of 7.2" Howitzers and ammunition by year (UK only)

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
7.2" Howitzers (I-IV)	1	1	1	1	1
7.2" Equipments (VI)	1	1	1	1	1
HE	283,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000

Sources - British & American Artillery of WWII,
AVIA 22 456 - 514