# Commonwealth Production during the Second World War

The story of wartime production in the United States and Lend Lease is well known but that of the Commonwealth had been largely forgotten, even the United Kingdoms efforts are largely unknown. The importance of production in Commonwealth countries, in particular that of Canada and Australia cannot be stressed enough, it was vital to the success of the Allied war effort and was especially important to the United Kingdom during the dark days of 1940 and 1941. The amount of material for war produced by the Commonwealth is staggering, from humble beginnings in 1940 to huge proportions in 1943/44. To underline the point of just how large and important the Commonwealths war production was, Canada alone produced more than double the number of trucks/lorries during the war than Germany.

As most of my research so far has dealt with British wartime production I have not yet been able to piece together a full picture of Commonwealth production for the entire war, for example I have not yet been able to find a source of aircraft production in Commonwealth countries, explosives and other raw materials but as more information becomes available to me I shall update this article and as always, if you have any data I would be very happy to see it!

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

The following data has been compiled from various documents from the Ministry of Supply, unfortunately I have not come across complete data for Canada before May 1942 or that of the other Commonwealth countries before April 1942. Also data from Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa has been grouped together into an "Eastern Group" and separation of the data for each country would not be possible from these sources. These figures deal purely with production and do not tell of how much of it was shipped to the UK (this information will follow in a separate article).

As stated above data for Canada pre May 1942 and the Eastern group pre April 1942 is not available so the incomplete figures for 1942 are given in the tables below but also an estimation for the entire year using the May/April figures have been given, in some cases this will exceed and in others be below actual figures but it should give a good impression of the entire years production.

# **Anti-Tank Weapons**

**Anti-Tank Weapons** 

Canada 1942

## Canada 1942 (EST)

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

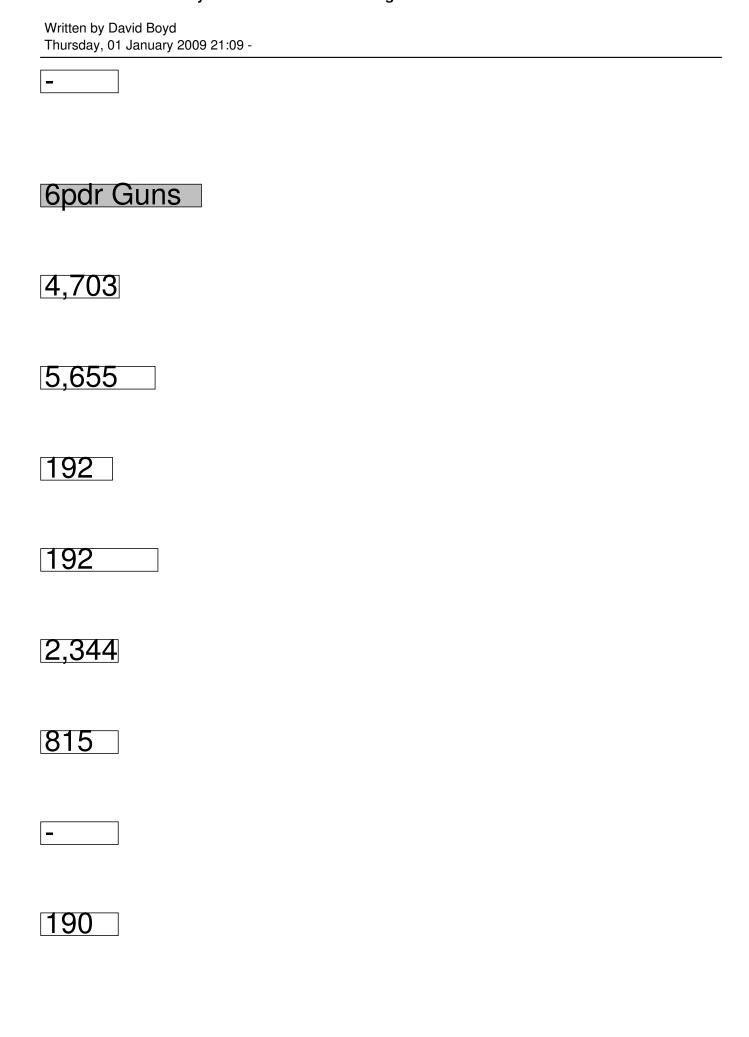
2pdr Guns

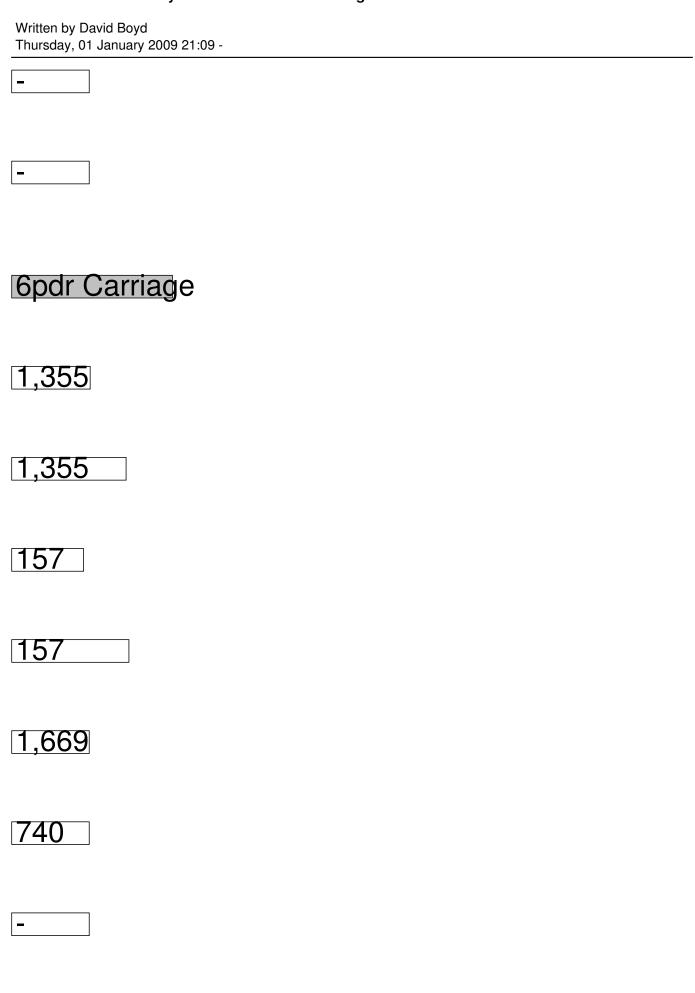
Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -		
780		
1,892		
618		
1,059		
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136		
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-		
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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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204			
340			
256			
568			
-			
-			
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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -
235
-
23
17pdr Guns
_
_
6
6
-
206

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-
100
_
_
17pdr Carriage
_
-
1

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -24 95 26 **Anti-Tank Ammunition (in** thousands)

**Anti-Tank Ammunition** 

Canada 1942

**Canada 1942 (EST)** 

## Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

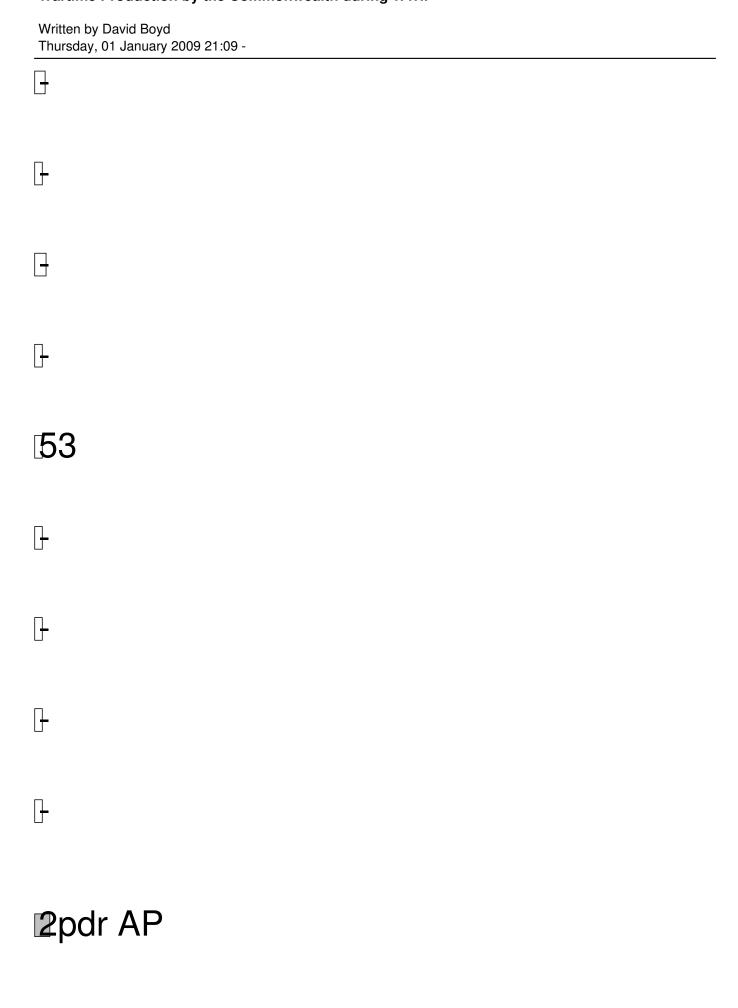
Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

2pdr HE

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**1,427** 

2,331

255

409

673

**3**1

<u></u>

23

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

# 6pdr AP

**1,487** 

**1**,927

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4,694

45

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**1100** 

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

23

# 6pdr APCBC

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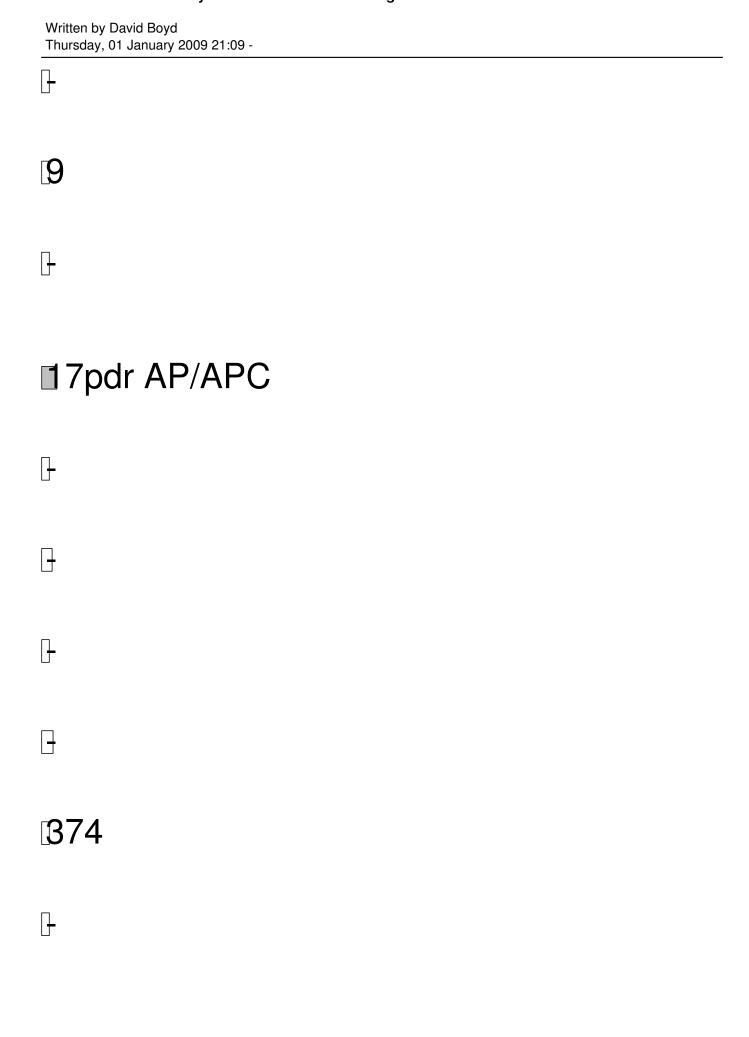
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256

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[1,983

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -<u></u> 6pdr APDS <u></u> <u></u> <u></u> <u></u>



Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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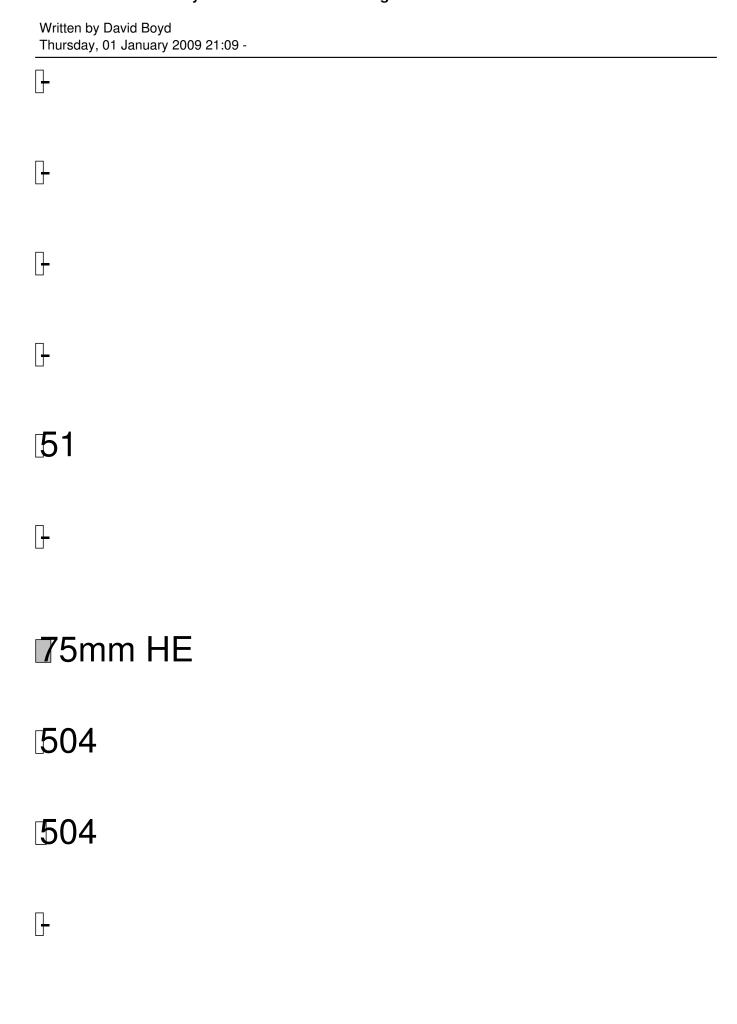
# ☐ 7pdr APCBC

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -204 <u></u> 84 ☐ 7pdr APDS <u></u> 



# Wartime Production by the Commonwealth during WWII Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -<u></u> <u>\_</u> **Artillery / Anti-Aircraft Guns**

# **Artillery/AA**

## Canada 1942

# **Canada 1942 (EST)**

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

**2**5pdr Equipments

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

717

d,073

640

**8**77

921

**B**17

**1,236** 

9

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# 25pdr Equipments (Short)

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G-			
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[ <del>]</del>			
<u> </u>			
64			
<b>64</b>			
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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -



# 3.7" How Pack

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**176** 

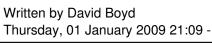
97

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**1146** 

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Wartime Production by the Commonwealth during WWII Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -1112 3.7" How Mech <u></u> 24 60 <u></u> 23





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# **4**0mm Bofors Equipments

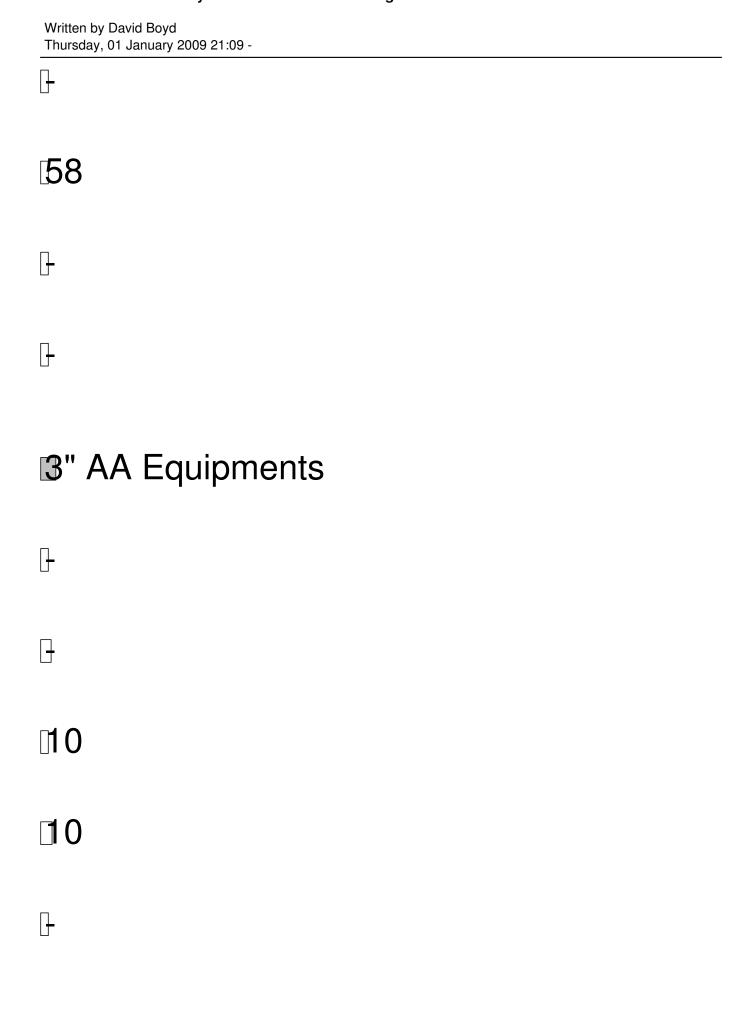
**1,311** 

**1,671** 

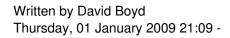
8

8

[1,427



Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -2 <u></u> <u></u> **3.7**" AA Equipments **445** 489 **150** 198



[1,115

122

**173** 

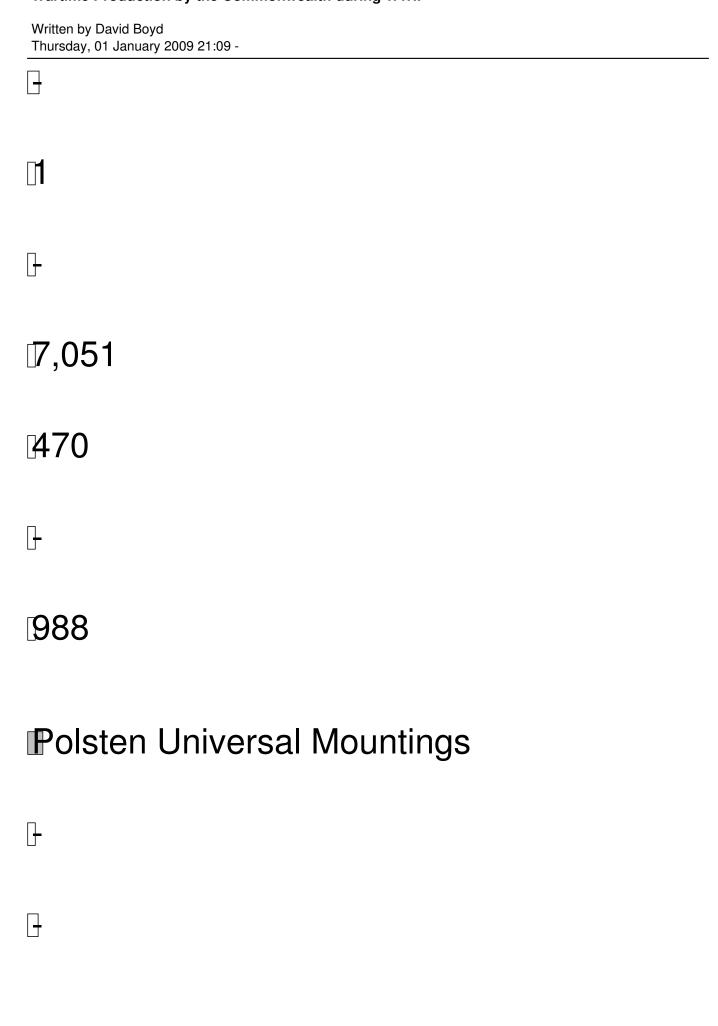
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# Polsten Guns

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**Artillery/AA Ammunition** 

Written by David Boyd

Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -243 9,497 **Artillery / Anti-Aircraft Ammunition (in thousands)** 

### **Canada** 1942

Canada 1942 (EST)

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

# 25pdr HE

**3,402** 

**5**,438

2,657

3,029

1,861

5,242

2,892

**1,666** 

2,450

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

880

# ■8pdr HE

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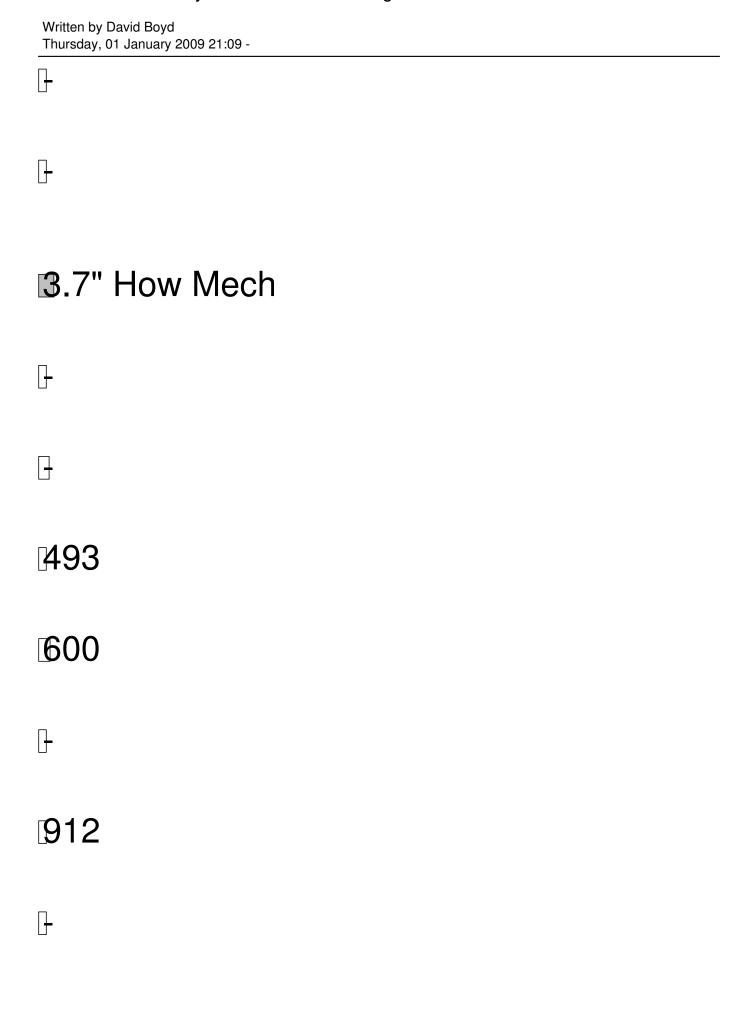
**312** 

389

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[1,373

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547

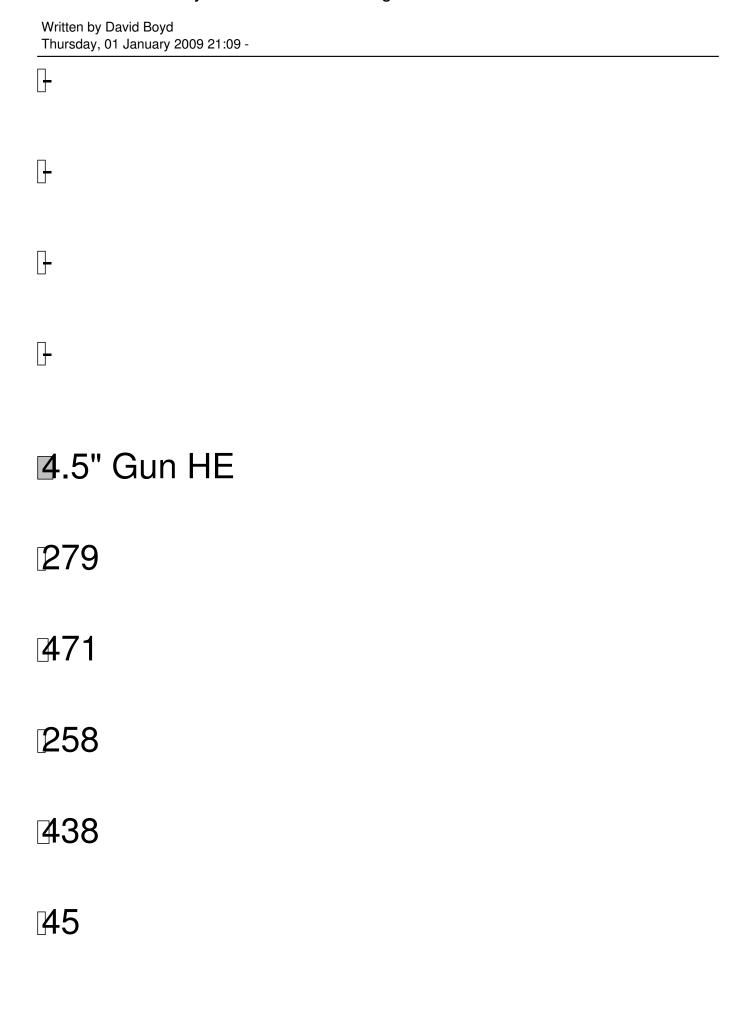
75mm HE

785

1,393

<u></u>

106



Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -**15** [119] <u></u> 278 -5.5" Gun/How HE 467 647 <u>\_</u> 

Wartime Production by the Commonwealth during WWII Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -459 <u></u> 890 24 466 6 6" How HE <u></u>

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -**6**0 <u></u> **10** <u></u> <u>\_</u> 60pdr HE <u></u>

Written by David Boyd

Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -5 **11** <u></u> <u></u> -7.2" How HE 270

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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**182** 

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# 25pdr Smoke

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

681

1,037

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686

<u></u>

486

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**478** 

### **75mm** Smoke

**487** 

**1,163** 

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**1,071** 

**B**11

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**27** 

## 40mm HE

**3,342** 

5,306

5,024

284

5,232

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634

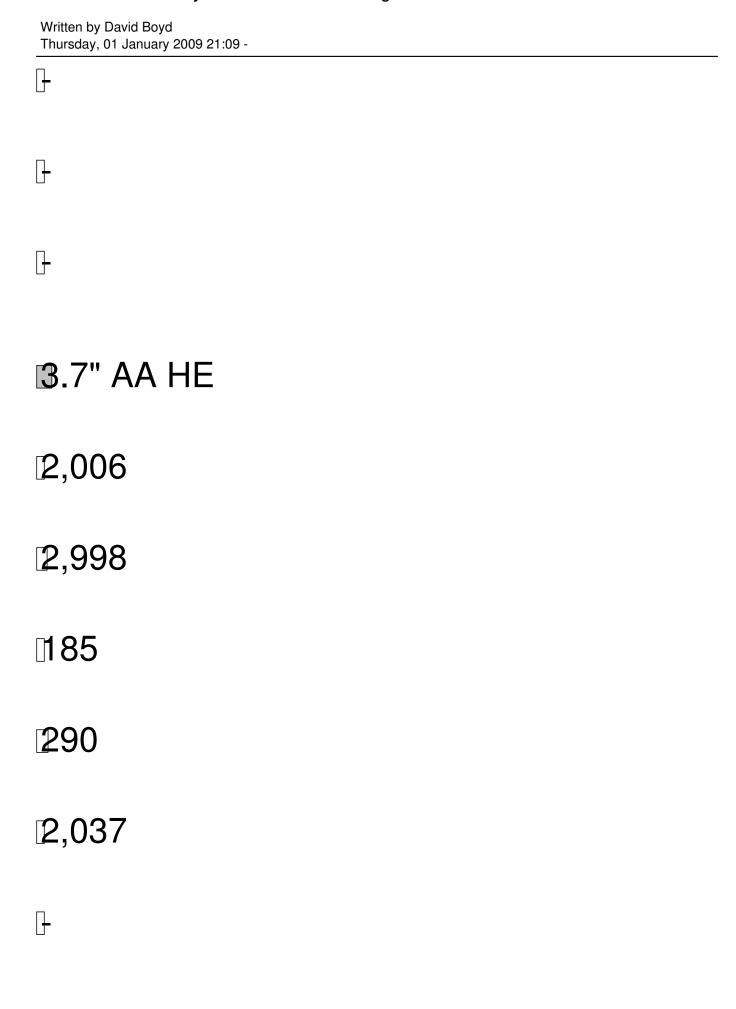
### 3" AA HE

**10** 

**10** 

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Wartime Production by the Commonwealth during WWII Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -[1,481 **3**1 **327** 8 3.7" AA Sharp <u></u>

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Sources - AVIA 22 456- 514