

FACES OF WAR

GAME INFORMATION: WEAPONS

TOWED GUNS AND ARTILLERY

QQF 25-pdr

Allied
Howitzer

25-pounder was designed on the basis of the existing 18-pounder, which was modified using new liners and pneumatic road wheels to allow towing. The result was a 3.45" (88mm) weapon firing a 25-pound (11kg) HE shell. The gun was capable of firing at a maximum range of 12,250km. The gun was fitted with a telescopic sight to involve armoured vehicles and other targets in the direct fire role as well as the standard sight for indirect fire. The large gun-shield gave cover for gunners and could include a periscope.

Pak-40

German
Anti-tank gun

75mm Pak-40 was in many counts the bigger brother of the 50mm Pak-38, to which it is visually very similar (only the size makes possible to tell them apart). The development grew to be emergent, when the Russian tanks T-34 and KV-1 rendered the existing German antitank weapons irrelevant in the summer of 1941. The first specimens arrived to the frontline in November 1941 and proved to be formidable tank killers. It could pierce 120mm armour at a distance of one kilometre!

s. FH. 18M

German
Howitzer

The s. FH. 18 German 150mm howitzer, produced in 1943, was not too successful: it was too heavy to be horse-drawn and its range was shorter than the one of its Soviets counterpart. Although it remained the standard German heavy howitzer (and operated beside the 105mm le. FH 18) for the war time, due to the lack of an appropriate replacement. The s. FH. 18M variant had a muzzle brake that allowed increasing the propelling charge, the muzzle velocity and the range too.

ZiS-3

Soviet

Anti-tank gun

ZIS-3 – anti-tank gun was developed in 1941. In 1942 it was officially passed into service. ZIS-3 was based on its predecessor ZIS-2. The shell caliber of ZIS-3 was classical for anti-tank guns – 76,2 mm (3 inch). The essential novelty was the recoil compensator, which allowed to lighten the framework of ZIS-3 and of its carriage. Later having installed ZIS-3 on the light tank T-70, the engineers developed the self-propelled vehicle SU-76.

M45 Quadmount (“Maxson”)

Allied

AA gun

This gun mount was developed by the W. L. Maxon Company at the request of the U.S. Army for light antiaircraft weapons for antiaircraft applications with a capability of a high rate of concentrated fire. Four 200-round ammunition chests were mounted next to each 50-caliber Browning machine gun. When fighting against infantry in forests, its high projectile concentration (450-550 rpm each gun!) would literally mow down the trees. It was affectionately nicknamed “meat chopper”.

Flak-38 20mm (towable)

German

AA gun

A modification of Flak-30 (Flugabwehrkanone) anti-aircraft cannon, the 20mm Flak-38 featured a higher rate of fire that was required taking into account the increasing speed of aircraft. Although designed as an anti-aircraft weapon, it provided truly devastating effect on infantry. Later, in order to increase firepower, a four-barreled model, the Flakvierling 38, was also developed.

Flakvierling-38 (4-barreled)

German

AA gun

4-barreled model of Flak-38 anti-aircraft cannon. Even more destructive than the single-barreled one, Flakvierling was successfully used as anti-tank weapon, especially against light T-70 and BT-7 Soviet tanks. This gun was capable of firing $4 \times 450 = 1800$ rounds per minute, although average practical was around 750 rpm. Each of the four guns fired from a 20 round magazine, and the guns could be fired either in pairs (diagonally opposite) or four at once, in either a semi-automatic or fully automatic mode.

PKP heavy machine gun

Soviet
Anti-tank machine gun

The PKP is the KPV heavy machine gun modification for infantry use. It was mounted on wheeled carriage and weighted 161.5kg. By 1941 this large and extremely powerful machinegun has been developed for PTR antitank rifles, which use the 14.5x115 anti-tank cartridge. This cartridge, firing heavy AP bullet, can penetrate 30mm armor at the distance of 500 meters.

Flak-41

German
AA gun

The anti-aircraft gun Flak-41 was developed by “Rheinmetall” in response to the Luftwaffe request for newer AA weapons with better performance. The Flak-41 design with improved muzzle velocity allowed it to reach altitudes of 15,000m. its advanced reloading system was capable of firing 20-25 rounds per minute. The standard armament of the Königstiger tank was taken from this gun however it was slightly modified. Both versions were able to penetrate about 200 mm of armor at 1000 m, destroying any tank in the world.

Granatenwerfer sGrW 42

German
Mortar

After Germans made certain of the effectiveness of Soviet 120mm mortars, they developed an own 120mm mortar, based on technical documentation captured on a Soviet munition factory. From 1942 it was mass-produced, but it was of less use by the airborne troops it was initially intended for. Instead of it, it became a replacement for the light 80mm leGrW 36. The range of the Granatenwerfer 42 was two times smaller as the one of the sGrW 34 – just less than 1200m.

Raketenwerfer 56

German
Heavy mortar

The 300mm Raketenwerfer 56, appeared in June 1944, was an attempt to unify all the launchers of the Nebelwerfer as well as of a heavier Wurfgerät in a single device. Barrels of a 300mm Nebelwerfer 42 were fitted on a 50mm Pak 38 carriage. With internal rails, it was possible to adapt the launcher to different missile calibers it was to launch. All 6 charges of the Raketenwerfer were launched in a mere 10 seconds to the distance up to 4,500 meters.