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The Ordnance Society has compiled a comprehensive list of all artillery used during WW1, with the 37mm calibre being the smallest artillery piece included. The list provides technical details for various types of artillery, including ammunition columns, which will be updated as more information becomes available. The society invites comments, corrections, and additions to this project via email (ordnance.society@btinternet.com). Additionally, they request copyright-free photographs of WW1 artillery to be added to their Flickr albums, with the goal of linking gun types to actual photos on their site. The list is divided into two sections: Allies and Central Powers. The Allies include countries such as Australia, Canada, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, all of which were affiliated with the British Empire. In contrast, the Central Powers consisted of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire. The list organizes artillery into various sub-groupings, including mountain guns, field artillery, howitzers, medium and heavy artillery, railway guns, coast artillery, anti-aircraft guns, aircraft guns, tank guns, and miscellaneous. Note that some countries within the British Empire are not listed separately due to their assignment to various batteries or receipt of British-supplied artillery. For more information on each country's artillery, please visit the respective links provided below: ALLIES: - WW1 BELGIAN ARTILLERY - WW1 FRENCH ARTILLERY - WW1 GREEK ARTILLERY - WW1 ITALIAN ARTILLERY - WW1 JAPANESE ARTILLERY - WW1 ROMANIAN ARTILLERY - WW1 RUSSIAN ARTILLERY - WW1 SERBIAN ARTILLERY - WW1 UNITED KINGDOM ARTILLERY - WW1 USA ARTILLERY CENTRAL POWERS: - WW1 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ARTILLERY - WW1 BULGARIAN ARTILLERY - WW1 GERMAN ARTILLERY - WW1 OTTOMAN EMPIRE ARTILLERY shell types are divided into those fired from field artillery systems, such as guns and howitzers, and those fired from mortars. The shells fired from guns were breech loading, rifled light field guns with a unitized ammunition consisting of a shell, smokeless powder or cordite propellant, and primer loaded in a fixed metallic case. Field howitzers fired a lower velocity shell, generally from 150mm to 280mm in diameter, which were loaded separately from bagged or cased propellant. Mortar shells were smoothbore, muzzle loaded Allied trench mortars that used a fixed firing pin to ignite propellant in the base of a finned shell. The German army fielded the Minenwerfer, a muzzle loaded trench mortar with a rifled barrel and recoiling system like a field gun. Regardless of type, mortars used a less powerful propellant charge, which allowed for a thinner walled shell with a proportionally larger payload than artillery shells. Before 1914, the most common type of shell fielded by prewar Allied armies was shrapnel, a hollow steel projectile filled with metallic shot and a gunpowder bursting charge, exploded by a time fuse. The picric acid high explosive (HE) shell, employed principally for reducing fortifications through blast effect, was triggered by a time or impact fuse. The German army produced unitary shells filled with a matrix of high explosives and shot. For their super-heavy siege artillery, over 280mm in diameter, the Germans and Austrians employed concrete piercing shells with a time-delay fuse, designed to penetrate and explode inside hostile reinforced concrete fortresses. Despite having sent observers to the Russo-Japanese War, the European armies were surprised to find their prewar shells were insufficient to destroy earthworks and cut wire obstacles. Attempts to use long bombardments to overcome shell limitations proved counterproductive, as the resulting craters and debris hindered the maneuvers of the infantry. In time, technical hurdles were overcome and gunners began receiving new generation HE rounds incorporating trinitrotoluene (TNT) fillers, better engineered shell casings, and instantaneous fuses - all greatly improving the blast and fragmentation effects on enemy fortifications and wire obstacles. The improvements in shell performance were matched with improvements in propellants and gun design that increased the range of guns and howitzers. In mid-1916, France produced the first gas shells by filling explosive shell casings with irritant and chlorine payloads. Specialized gas shells were soon developed and sealed for safer handling. They incorporated thinner walls and a bursting charge for better dispersion. Advances in respirator technology led in turn to the development of deadlier phosgene derivatives. A German artillery innovation featured a sulfur mustard gas shell suitable for suppressing and denying areas of operation. Later, Germans created a unitary shell containing a high-explosive and shrapnel matrix paired with a secondary payload of mustard gas. By spring 1918, combined barrages of gas and explosive shells became common to suppress hostile positions and observers. Two other types of chemical artillery were developed: smoke and star shells. Smoke shells released chemicals that produced smoke after detonation, often used in conjunction with gas and HE shells to intensify their effects on enemy spotters and machine gunners. Star or illumination shells deployed a magnesium flare suspended from a parachute, lighting up the nighttime battlefield. Before World War One began, artillery was seen as an auxiliary arm supporting infantry and cavalry. However, after hostilities commenced, artillery established its dominance on the battlefield, forcing a shift in tactics. Artillery technology improved significantly during this period, cementing its position of power throughout the war. Data revealed that artillery shells caused the most injuries and deaths on World War One battlefields. In World War Two, the widespread use of armored vehicles, air support, and mechanization reduced the impact of enemy artillery by restoring mobility to the battlefield. The Great War saw millions of shells fired, generating massive dumps of discarded casings. These were often reused for trench art, offering a unique glimpse into wartime culture. During World War One, artillery warfare saw significant advancements as armies sought a decisive edge over their enemies. For more details on specific weapons, check out our list of the top 12 artillery pieces from WW1. 1. The heaviest shell used in combat weighed an astonishing 3,130 pounds and was employed by the massive French Schneider Howitzer (pictured above). 2. German "Paris guns" boasted extraordinary range, with shells fired up to 80 miles. Initially, Parisians mistook these long-range shots for high-altitude zeppelin attacks due to their inability to see or hear the gun's presence. 3. Most artillery was transported via horse-drawn carriages since motorized transport was still in its infancy during this period. 4. Standard field guns typically consisted of a 6-member crew: an NCO leader, a layer for alignment and elevation, a gunner for breech operation, and three others responsible for shell handling and fuse setting. 5. The British achieved the highest rate of fire at 48 rounds per 75 seconds; however, this pace rarely occurred in real combat situations. 6. Streamlined shells revolutionized artillery capabilities by increasing range up to 95%. For instance, the German 7.7cm gun's initial range of 6,000 yards expanded to 11,700 yards as a result. 7. By March 1918, the German Army had deployed an impressive 92 field guns per mile of their extensive trench network, complemented by other artillery pieces like howitzers and heavy guns. 8. During the pre-Battle of Messines bombardment in May 1917, the British unleashed a staggering 3.5 million shells on the enemy. 9. Pneumatic artillery emerged as a novel innovation during this period, relying on compressed air cylinders as propellant; though practical challenges hindered their widespread adoption, except for short-range applications like the French Brandt mortar. 10. Germany's massive 24cm Flugelminenwerfer mortar required firing from 50 feet away to safeguard its crew due to the risks involved.

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