

THE 75/27 MOD. 1911_CANNON , was a weapon used by the Royal Army in the first and second world war. The predominant use was as field artillery weapon, although occasionally it was also used in counter-tank operation, using specially designed projectiles and anti-aircraft : initially (early stages of the First World War) the cannon was used as anti-aircraft with emergency arrangements (at first the aiming system was the same as for field artillery), adopted to increase the angle of fire.

THE ORIGINS

In 1906 the 75 mm Krupp rapid-fire gun was introduced into service with the Royal Army, The operational results of the cannon were unsatisfactory, due to the poor mobility on varied terrain and excessively restricted firing range. Whereas the army’s arsenals were delaying the deliveries of Mod pieces. 1906, the question of field artillery was reconsidered, by conducting tests on Schneider, Déport and Krupp supplies. Following these trials, the 75 mm Déport fast-shot model was adopted. The actual production of the gun was entrusted to a consortium of 27 companies chaired by Vickers-Terni and the Società Acciaierie Terni. The 75/27 Mod. 1911 should join the Mod. 1906 in the field artillery regiments, but the program had significant delays and the Mod. 1906 and Mod. 1911 pieces were only available at World War I ‘s eve.

THE TECHNIQUE

The cannon was on a carriage, with wooden wheels with spokes, which severely limited its possibility of mechanical towing. This, for the whole operational life of the gun, remained the major flaw of a weapon that, otherwise, could have represented an acceptable solution for infantry’s accompanying artillery. The barrel was connected to the cradle by two rails as guides during recoil. The shutter was screw-in, with seal ensured by the expansion of the brass cartridge. The percussion mechanism was in a case applied to the bolt’s screw , and it was composed by a striking mass, percussor, trigger and arming lever. The most remarkable difference compared to the 1906 model was the double-tailed carriage, which allowed four points of support to the ground. This ensured lateral stability of the gun even with the barrel at maximum swing values. The recoil system was combined, to allow the piece to rise high without risks of the breech hitting the ground during the recoil. The combined recoil system was obtained by equipping the carriage of two independent organizations of elastic systems , to divide the recoil into two components, one parallel to the ground and the other parallel to the barrel. This way the recoil speed of the barrel was about a quarter of the 1906 model’ s one. The carriage was composed by the housing resting on the wheels, the two tails connected to the housing, the cradle and the sled (with its own elastic systems) and the cradle of the muzzle (with its own recoil brake and reclaimer). The carriage cradle, which was hinged to the frame in the centre of the housing, could rotate horizontally, while the housing could rotate vertically to an angle of -15 to +15° (independently from the elevation mechanism of the piece). The elevation device acted on the cradle of the muzzle , so the elevation of the muzzle could be obtained either by acting on the housing or by acting on the cradle. The tails were made of sheet metal and ended with a revolving case in which they housed knife-plowshares , fixed to the ground. A 4 mm thick shield and the brake for manual wheel locking were attached to the housing. The aiming mechanism was a panoramic telescope equipped with deflecting and shunting correction devices. The animal towing was carried out joining the cannon to a forecarriage with a 32 ammunition boxes caisson , on which three servants could sit. For the mechanical towing (typically with a Fiat-SPA TL37 artillery tractor) the piece was loaded on a damped trolley inserted inside its wheels, under the housing. On broken ground the trolley could turn into a forecarriage.

PRODUCTION

Designer	Vickers-Terni	Introduction into service	1911
Design Date	1911	Retirement from service	1950
Manufacturer	Vickers-Terni Armstrong-Pozzuoli	Cost	from 200,000 to 240,000

DESCRIPTION

Mass	1,076 kg	Bullet mass	5.6/ 6.5 kg
Length	4.16 m	Shooting cadence	5/6 hits/min
Barrel Lenght	2.132 m	Flying speed	500 m/s
Striation	left constant 28 lines	Maximum range	8350 m
Barrel Mass	309 kg	Elevation	-15°/+65°
Height	851 mm	Traverse	52°9'
Caliber	75 mm	Recoil run	1.36 m

CAMPAIGN
CANNON

VICKERS TERNI 75/27
MOD. 1911
ITALIAN MANUFACTURE - 1915

