

GERMAN 80cm



The author with the projectile in the IWM London

I believe this to be the largest projectile ever used with a cartridge case but not the largest projectile ever made. It is currently on display in the IWM in London. It was used with the German long-range gun mounted on a heavily modified railway mounting. It will be noted that the projectile is incorrectly assembled as the cap is not full screwed home.

Its proper title was:

80cm Kanone in Eisenbahnlafette "Gustav Gerat" and it was designed in 1935 or thereabouts under the Krupp head at the time (Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach) the whole assembly being ready for final testing around 1942. The first operational use was at the siege of Sevastopol on the fifth of June '42. The service life of some 300 rounds per barrel gives some indication of the severity of the conditions inside the weapon at firing. A second weapon ("Dora" named after the designers wife) was used at Stalingrad. It is believed that no further operational use was ever carried out with this weapon. Most of the parts were destroyed before the end of the war before the allies could examine the complete equipment.

The ammunition for the weapon was of two types.

1. HE projectile (Sprgr fuzed Hbgr Z 40K)
4800kg 820mps
2. Concrete piercing projectile.
7100kg 710mps



If anyone knows the dimensions for the projectile could you please supply them and I will add them to the drawing.

The propelling charges for this cartridge were:

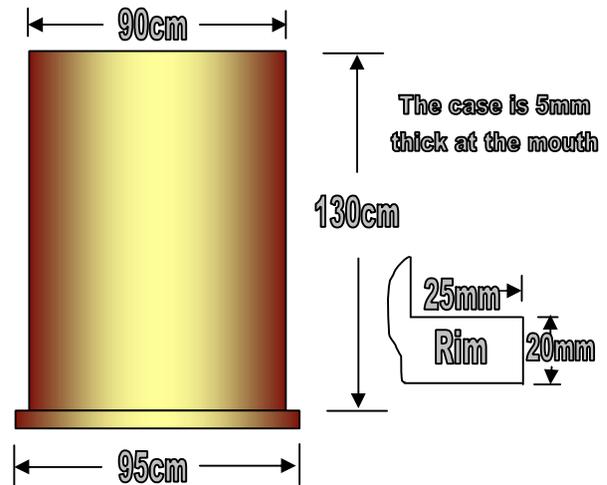
A. for the HE projectile:

1. The Hauptkart of 1050kg of Gudol Rp.
2. The Vorkart 1 of 535kg of Gudol Rp.
3. The Vorkart 2 of 655kg of Gudol Rp.

B. for the Concrete piercing projectile:

1. The Hauptkart of 1050kg of Gudol Rp.
2. The Vorkart 1 of 465kg of Gudol Rp.
3. The Vorkart 2 of 585kg of Gudol Rp.
- 4.

Rp = Rohrenpulver (tubular propellant)



The charges were loaded in three pieces. The Vorkarten were loaded first in front of the cartridge case. Both these charges were loaded in cloth bags. The Hauptkart was contained in the cartridge case and was loaded in one movement. The Hauptkart was common to both the propellant charges. The bags were marked in accordance with the intended use.

Fur Sprgr = For HE

Fur Gr Be = For concrete piercing

Hauptkart = Main cartridge

Vorkart = Leading cartridge

The primer used with this case was the C/12nA percussion primer.

This cartridge case is a very rare specimen today but there is a rarer specimen in steel that I believe is in existence.

This particular specimen is in the IWM Duxford storage area due to space restrictions in the display in London.

