

The "Blacker Bombard"



The Bombard was spigot gun - the projectile fitted on to a steel rod (or spigot) instead of into a barrel and was designed to be primarily an anti-tank weapon but could also be used in an anti-infantry role. It was intended to be a cheap anti-tank weapon and but also advantages over a standard anti-tank gun, it was much easier to conceal, required less manpower to operate and was much lighter.

The Bombard weighed around 407lb but could be broken up into around 13 pieces which allowed it to be transported much more easily than a standard anti-tank gun. Production began in August 1941 and continued until around May 1942 and was

replaced by the PIAT a few months later. The majority of the weapons were sent to the home guard but it appears some weapons were used to some success in North Africa.

I have yet to see any penetration figures for the anti-tank bomb but considering its weight I find it unlikely that it would have trouble dealing with any German tank when it was introduced.

Blacker Bombard ammunition data

An Anti-Tank Explosive	
Total Weight	19.4kg
HE Weight	8.75kg
Propellant Charge	0.64kg
Length	26"
Diameter	6"
Rate of fire (Max)	12 or 15
Rate of fire (Normal)	6 or 8
Max range	450 yards
Muzzle velocity	245 ft/s

Blacker Bombard production by year (UK only, Filled only)

1942	
Bdr	31,600
Mobile Counting	31,600
Static Counting	31,600
AT	31,600
HE	229,000

Sources - Bombard Handbook, AVIA 22 502 - 514