Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

Commonwealth Production during the Second World War

The story of wartime production in the United States and Lend Lease is well known but that of the Commonwealth had been largely forgotten, even the United Kingdoms efforts are largely unknown. The importance of production in Commonwealth countries, in particular that of Canada and Australia cannot be stressed enough, it was vital to the success of the Allied war effort and was especially important to the United Kingdom during the dark days of 1940 and 1941. The amount of material for war produced by the Commonwealth is staggering, from humble beginnings in 1940 to huge proportions in 1943/44. To underline the point of just how large and important the Commonwealths war production was, Canada alone produced more than double the number of trucks/lorries during the war than Germany.

As most of my research so far has dealt with British wartime production I have not yet been able to piece together a full picture of Commonwealth production for the entire war, for example I have not yet been able to find a source of aircraft production in Commonwealth countries, explosives and other raw materials but as more information becomes available to me I shall update this article and as always, if you have any data I would be very happy to see it! Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

The following data has been compiled from various documents from the Ministry of Supply, unfortunately I have not come across complete data for Canada before May 1942 or that of the other Commonwealth countries before April 1942. Also data from Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa has been grouped together into an "Eastern Group" and separation of the data for each country would not be possible from these sources. These figures deal purely with production and do not tell of how much of it was shipped to the UK (this information will follow in a separate article).

As stated above data for Canada pre May 1942 and the Eastern group pre April 1942 is not available so the incomplete figures for 1942 are given in the tables below but also an estimation for the entire year using the May/April figures have been given, in some cases this will exceed and in others be below actual figures but it should give a good impression of the entire years production.

Anti-Tank Weapons

Anti-Tank Weapons

Canada 1942

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

Canada 1942 (EST)

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

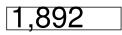
Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

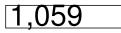
2pdr Guns

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

780







136

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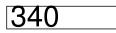




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2pdr Carriage

204





568

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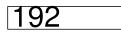
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4,703

5,655

192



2,344







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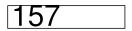
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6pdr Carriage

1,355

1,355

157









Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

235

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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100



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17pdr Carriage

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

24			
-			
95			
-			
26			

Anti-Tank Ammunition (in thousands)

Anti-Tank Ammunition

Canada 1942

Canada 1942 (EST)

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

2pdr HE

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

-		
-		
-		
-		
53		
-		
2pdr AP		

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

[1,427

2,331

255

409

673

31

-

23

-

6

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6pdr AP

[1,487

[1,927

-

-

4,694

45

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[100]

┣━

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 $\boxed{23}$

6pdr APCBC

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- **-**

- 256
- ┣━
- [1,983
- **-**

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6pdr APDS

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9

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17pdr AP/APC

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374

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293

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I 7pdr APCBC

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204

84

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Tpdr APDS

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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[-
[-
51
<u>-</u>
75mm HE
504
504
[-

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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Artillery / Anti-Aircraft Guns

Artillery/AA

Canada 1942

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

Canada 1942 (EST)

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

25pdr Equipments

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

717

[1,073

640

877

921

B17

[1,236

9

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-

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25pdr Equipments (Short)

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G			
[-			
64			
[64 ⊡			
[-			

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3.7" How Pack

- -
- -
- 76
- 97
- **-**

[146

-

287

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-

112

3.7" How Mech

-

-

24

60

-

23

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40mm Bofors Equipments

1,311

[1,671

8

8

[1,427

155

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58
-
]-
B" AA Equipments
[-
-
1 0
1 0
[-

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

2		
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3.7 " AA Equipr	ments	
3 .7" AA Equipr 445	ments	
	ments	
445	ments	
445 489	ments	

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

□1,115

122

- [173
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- **-**
- **-**

Polsten Guns

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- **[-**

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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7,051

470

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988

Polsten Universal Mountings

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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243	
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[9,497	
[-	
] -	

Artillery / Anti-Aircraft Ammunition (in thousands)

Artillery/AA Ammunition

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

Canada 1942

Canada 1942 (EST)

Eastern 1942

Eastern 1942 (EST)

Canada 1943

Eastern 1943

Canada 1944

Eastern 1944

Canada 1945

Eastern 1945

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25pdr HE

3,402

- 5,438
- 2,657

3,029

1,861

5,242

2,892

01,666

2,450

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880

■8pdr HE

- **-**
- 312

389

- **-**
- **[-**
- **-**
- **-**

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3.7" How Mech

-

-

493

600

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912

┣━

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[1,373

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547

75mm HE

785

₫,393

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106

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4 .5" Gun HE
279
471
258
438
45

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15

[119

-

278

5.5" Gun/How HE

467

647

-

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

459

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890

24

466

6

6" How HE

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

60	
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60pdr HE

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- ┣━

7.2" How HE

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

434

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182

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25pdr Smoke

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

681

[1,037

- ┏

686

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486

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478

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

75mm Smoke

487

₫,163

-

071,071

-

811

-

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27

40mm HE

3,342

5,306

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5,024

284

5,232

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634

3" AA HE

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[10

[10

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3 .7" AA HE
2,006
2,998
lī 1 85
290
2,037
-

Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

[1,481

31

327

8

3.7" AA Sharp

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Written by David Boyd Thursday, 01 January 2009 21:09 -

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8			
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Sources - AVIA 22 456- 514