

NZAR ID 109, ARM TYPE: Artillery. Draft date (V2) 12 March 2012, Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,

Pattern: 25 Pounder Field Gun. Introduced: 1942. Withdrawn: From 1970s

This Gun belongs to the National Army Museum on loan to the Taradale District RSA Inc. 1942 25 Pounder Field Gun MKII Gun fitted on a MKI Carriage which was the standard NZ Field Gun in WWII

Fire from the 25-pounder (caliber 3.45-inch) field gun, the basic field piece of the British and New Zealand Armies in WWII, was extremely effective and an excellent field gun. German tanks when struck by a 25-pounder armour-piercing shell at ranges less than 1,000 yards were sometimes knocked out; some had turrets completely blown off, and others were set afire.

The 25pdr MKII was used by RNZA during WWII and the Korean War where several were lost. With the introduction of the L5 105mm Pack Howitzers in the mid 1960s the 25pdrs were transferred to the Territorial Force until finally retired in the 1970s.

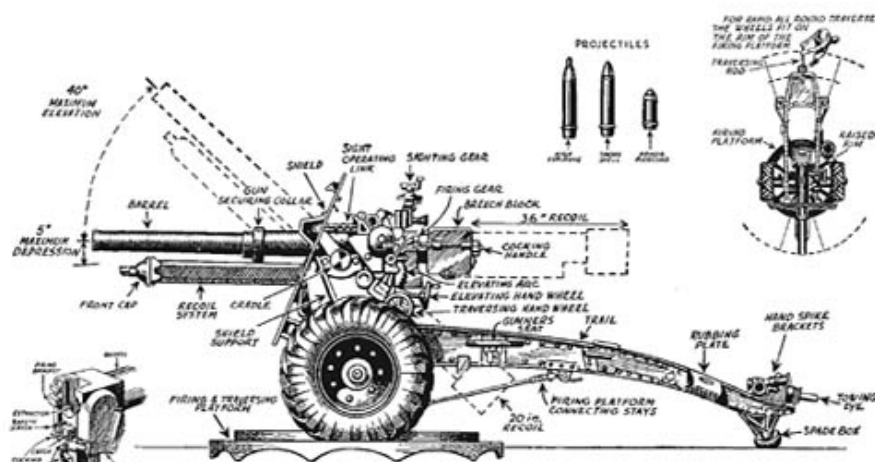
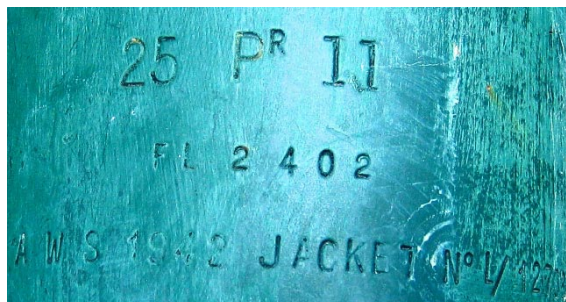


The 25-pounder replaced both the 18-pounder and the 4.5-inch howitzer from WWI. The gun could be placed in firing order on its platform in 1 minute. The firing platform is in the form of a wheel which is carried either under the trail or on the back of the prime mover. To place the piece in action, the platform is lowered to the ground and the carriage is then manhandled or tractor-drawn over it and coupled to its center. To permit easy maneuvering of the trail, the spade was imbedded in a "box" commonly called a "banana," which functioned very effectively and prevented the trail from digging in. The muzzle velocities with its three normal charges were 650, 975, and 1,470 feet per second, and with supercharge 1,700 feet per second. Nature: field gun-howitzer. Weight: 3,968 pounds. Length: 25 feet 11 inches, including trailer (barrel, 92.5 inches). Traverse: 360° on firing platform, 8° without platform. Elevation: -5° to +40°. Maximum range: 12,500 yards. Ammunition: projectiles: armor-piercing (20 pounds), HE (25 pounds), and smoke (base-ejection type, 21.8 pounds); charges: three and a supercharge for HE. Rate of fire: 8 rounds per minute (rapid) and 3 rounds per minute for prolonged firing.



Sight calculator

25-pounder Field Gun, showing the method by which it is transported



25 pdr MKII was manufactured in Australia, Canada but mostly in UK where production started at the beginning of 1940.

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Korean War. The New Zealand Government raised "Kayforce", a total of 1,044 men selected from among volunteers followed by an artillery regiment and support elements. The NZ infantry force arrived at Pusan on 31 December 1950 (New Year's Eve) and on 21 January joined the British 27th Infantry Brigade. The New Zealanders immediately saw combat & spent the next two and a half years taking part in the operations which led the United Nations forces back to and over the 38th Parallel (with the NZ naval vessels being especially active in the inner Han River estuary), later recapturing Seoul in the process. The majority of Kayforce had returned to New Zealand by 1955, though it was not until 1957 that the last New Zealand soldiers had left Korea.



Charlie 3 Gun a 25pdr with a muzzle brake. Photograph taken in Korea, 1 April 1952, courtesy Ian Mackley. A total of 3,794 New Zealand soldiers served in Kayforce and 1,300 in the Royal New Zealand Navy deployment. 33 were killed in action, 79 wounded and 1 soldier was taken prisoner who was held in North Korea for eighteen months and repatriated after the armistices. A New Zealander flying with the Royal Air Force was also captured when he was shot down near P'yongyang, and was repatriated after the armistices.