

USAMHI
HistServices
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Artillery-Weapons/Systems/Gear

NOTE: EARLIEST EXPLOSIVE ARTILLERY PROJECTILES

The first recorded use of explosive projectiles was by the Venetians in the 14th century, well over 100 years before Columbus discovered America. However, explosive shells - referred to as bombs or grenades - were not generally employed in Europe until the 1600s, at which time they were fired from mortars or howitzers. Not until the 19th century were explosive shells fired routinely from flat-trajectory guns. See:

Carman, W.Y. A History of Firearms from Earliest Times to 1914. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1955. pp. 169-71. UF520C3.

Farrow, Edward S. Farrow's Military Encyclopedia. Vol. III. Military-Naval Pub, 1895. pp. 61-62. U24F24Ref.

Hogg, O.F.G. Artillery: Its Origin, Heyday, and Decline. Hamden, CT: Archon, 1970. pp. 163-71. UF15H59.

Manucy, Albert. Artillery Through the Ages. Wash, DC: GPO, 1949 reprint of 1962 ed. pp. 65-66. UF15M42.

O'Connell, Robert L. Of Arms and Men: A History of War, Weapons, and Aggression. NY: Oxford, 1989. 367 p. U27O26.
See p. 150 & index.

Smith, George. An Universal Military Dictionary... Ottawa, Canada: Museum Restoration Svce, 1969 reprint of 1779 ed, pp. 31 & 229. U24S64Ref.

See also:

- MHI Vignette No 245 on shrapnel shells.