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Artillery-Weapons/Systems/Gear

## **SHRAPNEL**

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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(terminology)

### **GENERAL SOURCES**

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Farrow's Military Encyclopedia. Vol. III. NY: Farrow, 1895. pp. 68-69. U24F24.

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Handbook Office, Duke, 1 Jun 1959. pp. 261. UL150G56.

Hill, H. W. The Conditions Necessary to Produce Shrapnel Effect and Report on Grouping Trials.  
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1975. 16 p. Z6724A8M6no35.

Oxford English Dictionary.... Vol. IX. Oxford: Clarendon, 1933. p. 771.

Rohne, Heinrich. "New Study on Shrapnel Fire." n.p., 1914? 162 p. UL400.3R6.  
From issues of Artilleristische Monatshefte

## WORLD WAR I

Benfield, K. V. B. "Shrapnel and H. E." Journal of the Royal Artillery (1927/28): pp. 530-35. Per.

Conless, Basil. "The Adjustment of Shrapnel Fire." Field Artillery Journal (Jul/Sep 1915): pp. 515-27. Per.

"The 8 cm. Ehrhardt-Van Essen High Explosive Shrapnel." Field Artillery Journal (Apr/Jun 1913): pp. 270-74. Per.

France. Army. Saumur Artillery School. Artillery Materiel and Ammunition. Vol. 3 of School of Battery Commander. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, Sep 1918. pp. 128-30. UF157S32v3.

\_\_\_\_\_. The School of the Battery Commander, 75 mm Gun and 155 Howitzer. Fort Sill, OK: School, Nov 1918. pp. 30-38. UF157S33.

Fry, W. H. "Time Shrapnel in a Nutshell." Journal of the Royal Artillery (1936/37): pp. 284-85. Per.

G. S. C. "Shrapnel and H. E." Journal of the Royal Artillery (1927/28): pp. 35-52. Per.  
Review of the major powers' mix between shrapnel and high explosive, which concludes that Britain should continue to stress shrapnel.

Hill, H. W. "The Conditions Necessary to Produce Shrapnel Effect." Journal of the Royal Artillery (1913/14): pp. 1-26. Per.

Wilson, Arthur R. Field Artillery Manual. 2 vols. Menasha, WI: Banta, 1928. ca. 500 p. UF403W54.  
See Vol. 1, pp. 282-85 & Vol. 2, pp. 291-302.

## SHRAPNEL VS FRAGMENT: A SEMANTIC VIEW

Current common use of the term "shrapnel" has strayed from its original and more precise meaning. Most standard dictionaries now acquiesce to the popular usage of shrapnel to mean shell fragments, although that meaning differs from its original "shrapnel shell" invented by a British artillery officer, Henry Shrapnel. He designed his spherical case shot in 1784 and for long afterwards such projectiles bore his name, as did the deadly metal balls tightly packed inside it. By the World War II era, however, the shrapnel shell had become obsolete, being superseded by more efficient high-explosive fragmentation shells. Even though nonexistent on the modern battlefield, shrapnel has survived as a term for any exploded shell fragment.

Military medical terminology mirrored this artillery ordnance evolution. For example, Civil War surgeons probed patients for "shot", "case shot" and "shrapnel." During World War I, wounds were inflicted by bonafide "shrapnel", but also by "fragments" and "splinters" from high explosive shells. By World War II, use of "shell fragments" and "flak" predominated. In the Vietnam War, use of "shrapnel" seemed to have disappeared entirely. See:

Beebe, Gilbert W., & DeBakey, Michael E. Battle Casualties: Incidence, Mortality, and Logistic Considerations. Springfield, IL: Thomas, 1952. pp. 128-29. UM24.1941-1945.B4.

Notes that there were fragments from shrapnel balls, too.

Neel, Spurgeon. Medical Support of the U.S. Army in Vietnam, 1965-70. In Vietnam Studies series. Wash, DC: Dept of Army, 1973. p. 54. DS556.2N44.

U.S. War Department. Dictionary of Army Terms: Technical Manual 20-205, dated Jan 1944.p. 253. MilPub-TM.

Succeeding editions continued to include the term until the mid-1960s, after which it disappeared.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War. Vol. XI: Surgery. Part I. Wash, DC: GPO, 1927. pp. 14-24. UM241917-18A45v.11pt.1.

Discussion of fragments and shrapnel, with photographs. For statistics, see same series, Vol. XV, Part 2, p. 1019.

\_\_\_\_\_. Wound Ballistics. Wash, DC: GPO, 1962. pp. 98-99. D807U6A56v.5.

For statistics, see same general series, Medical Statistics World War II, Vol. 7D807U6A5v.7, pp. 202-03.

\_\_\_\_\_. Surgeon General's Office. Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion. Part III. Vol. II: Surgical History. Wash, DC: GPO, 1962. pp. 98-99. D807U6A56v.5.

To trace the historical transition from Shrapnel's ball-filled shell of the late-18th century to the dart-filled, beehive projectile used in Vietnam, see these accounts:

Green, Constance M., et al. The Ordnance Department: Planning Munitions for War. Wash, DC: Office, Chief of Military History, 1955. pp. 370-71. D769A533v.6pt.3v.1.

Hogg, O. F. G. Artillery: Its Origin, Heyday and Decline. London: Archon, 1970. pp. 179-83. UFI5H59.

Marshall, A. "The Invention and Development of the Shrapnel Shell." Field Artillery Journal (Jan 1920): pp. 12-181. Per.

Ott, David E. Field Artillery, 1954-73. In series Vietnam Studies. Wash, DC: Dept of Army, 1975. pp. 61 & 108-10. DS554.55087.

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U.S. Dept of Army. Ammunition, General: TM 9-1300-200, dated Oct 1969. Chap 4, pp. 4 & 13.  
MilPub-TM.

\_\_\_\_\_. Artillery Ammunition: TM 9-1300-203, dated Apr 1967. Chap 2, p. 5. MilPub-TM.

Whether "shrapnel" or "shell fragment" is currently correct or historically accurate is debatable. A linguistic parallel worth noting is the distinction--if any--between a surgeon's "sutures" and a patient's "stitches."