

## Italian Light & Medium Artillery Guns

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(with additional information from Wayne Turner)

The Italians used a variety of artillery pieces during WWII, many of which were designs dating from WWI. Italian gun designation is determined by the calibre, barrel length in calibres and year of design. In our example, 47/32 modello 35, it is 47mm calibre, has a barrel 32 x 47mm Long (1504mm) and was accepted as an Italian gun in 1935.

### Cannone da 47/32

One of the most versatile weapons was the 47mm Cannone da 47/32 Modello 35. This weighed 277 kg and fired a 2.4 kg shell to 4300 meters at a muzzle velocity of 250 m/sec. It was used in the anti-tank and field artillery role, as well as equipping the troops of the Alpine Division.



### Cannone da 65/17

In addition, divisions had other light weapons available. These included the Cannone da 65/17, a 65mm gun initially designed as a light mountain gun from before World War One. Sometimes a large shield was mounted on the 65/17.

### Obice da 75/13

The Alpini used the 75/13 as their main mountain gun, it was another outdated designed from World War One, and was to be replaced by the Obice da 75/18 modello 34 (Obice means howitzer), but only a few units recieved the excellent new guns because of production difficulties.



### Obice de 75/18 modello 34 and modello 35

The Obice da 75/18 modello 34, an altogether more up-to-date mountain howitzer of 75mm which fired a 6.3 kg shell 9560 meters, weighed 780 kg and was capable of 65° elevation. It was to be introduced to replace the 75/13.

A field gun was produced by mounting an Obice da 75/18 on a split-trail carriage and this bore the Modello 35 designation. It was an effective and compact weapon.

DATA	
CALIBRE	75 mm 2.95 in
LENGTH OF PIECE (L/20.75)	1557 mm 61.3 in
LENGTH OF BARREL (L/18.27)	1370 mm 53.93 in
LENGTH OF RIFLING (L/15.1)	1133.5 mm 44.626 in
WEIGHT TRAVELLING	1850 kg 4079 lb
WEIGHT IN ACTION	1050 kg 2315 lb
ELEVATION	-10° to 45°
TRAVERSE	50°
M.V.	425 m/s 1394 ft/sec
MAXIMUM RANGE	9560 m 10459 yards
SHELL WEIGHT	6.4 kg 14.11 lb

The Obice da 75/18 modello was the barrel of the Obice da 75/18 modello 34 mountain howitzer placed on a split-trail field carriage. Produced by Ansaldo it was never built in substantial numbers for by September 1942 only 68 were in service. The modello 35 was a very successful weapon and was fitted to some Italian tracked self-propelled mounts (semoventi). The Germans took over as many as they could as the 7.5 cm leFH 255(i).

## Cannone da 75/27 modello 06

The Italians made use of several guns in the field artillery role. The oldest was a design of Krupps known as the Cannone da 75/27 Modello 06.

The original spoked-wheel versions were still in service in 1940 and the gun saw service throughout the war.

It weighed 1015 kg and fired a 6.3 kg shell.

Some modernised guns also had guards attached to the shield like the 100/17 (see photograph above).



### DATA

CALIBRE 75 mm 2.95 in  
LENGTH OF PIECE (L/30) 2250 mm 88.6 in  
LENGTH OF RIFLING (L/23.3) 1744.5 m  
68.68 in  
WEIGHT IN ACTION (horse) 1015 kg  
2238 lb  
WEIGHT IN ACTION (tractor) 1080 kg  
2381 lb  
ELEVATION  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $16^{\circ}$   
TRAVERSE  $7^{\circ}$   
M.V. 502 m/s 1647 ft/sec  
MAXIMUM RANGE 10240 m 11202 yards  
SHELL WEIGHT 6.35 kg 14 lb

The Cannone da 75/27 started life as a licence-built Krupp product, the M.06. It was built originally with wooden spoked wheels, but by 1940 many of these had been changed to metal wheels with rubber rims suitable for vehicle towing. Despite its age the modello 06 was still in use in large numbers in 1940 and equipped many batteries of the arma dell'artiglieria. When the Germans took over any of these guns they became the 7.5 cm FK 257(i). Two special fortress variants were the Cannone da 75/27 modello 06 in Caverna and in Casamatta.



## Cannone da 75/27 modello 11

The Cannone da 75/27 modello 11 was a French split-trail design with a performance similar to the Modello 06, but was somewhat heavier. Like the 06, some eventually had their wooden spoked wheels replaced with steel rims with tires.

### DATA

CALIBRE 75 mm 2.95 in  
LENGTH OF PIECE (L/28.43) 2132 mm  
83.93 in  
LENGTH OF RIFLING (L/23.3) 1748 mm  
68.8 in  
WEIGHT TRAVELLING 1900 kg 4190 lb  
WEIGHT IN ACTION 1076 kg 2372.6 lb  
ELEVATION  $-15^{\circ}$  to  $65^{\circ}$   
TRAVERSE  $52^{\circ}9'$   
M.V. 502 m/s 1647 ft/sec  
MAXIMUM RANGE 10240 m 11202 yards  
SHELL WEIGHT 6.35 kg 14 lb

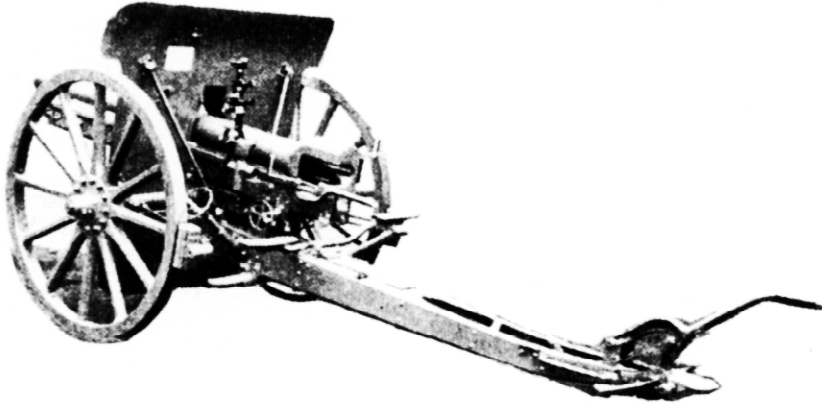
For its time the Cannone da 75/27 modello 11 was an advanced design imported from France where its designer was Deport. The modello 11 featured split trails with spade plates which at that time were a new idea, and the recoil mechanism remained fixed when the barrel was elevated. It was intended as a cavalry gun but also appears to have been issued to field batteries. In 1940 the type was still in service (records quote a total of 1800 of all types of 75/27 guns still in use) and some remained in service in 1943 to pass into German service as the 7.5 cm FK 244(i).

## Cannone da 75/27 modello 12

The Cannone da 75/27 modello 12 was a slightly revised version of the modello 06 which was built in 1912, probably by Vickers-Terni. The only real change was to the carriage which allowed a little more elevation but the barrel remained the same as that on the modello 06. Only horse-drawn versions of this piece were in use in 1940 and the type appears to have been produced in small numbers only. Any taken over by the Germans became the 7.5 cm leFK 245(i).

### DATA

CALIBRE	75 mm	2295 mm	WEIGHT IN ACTION	900 kg	1985 lb
LENGTH OF PIECE (L/30)	2250 mm	88.6 in	ELEVATION	-12° to 18°30'	
LENGTH OF RIFLING (L/23.3)	1744.5 mm	68.68 in	TRAVERSE	7°	
WEIGHT TRAVELLING	1700 kg	3748 lb	M.V.	502 m/s	1747 ft/sec
			MAXIMUM RANGE	10240 m	11202 yards
			SHELL WEIGHT	6.35 kg	14 lb



## Cannone da 75/32 modello 37

The previous field guns were really somewhat obsolete by the time Italy went to war, and the most up-to-date weapon in the inventory was the Cannone da 75/32 modello 37. This was an Ansaldo designed gun, which didn't see widespread use because of other manufacturing demands. It weighed 1200 kg in action and fired a 6.3 kg shell to 12500 meters. With a 640m/sec muzzle velocity it was used as a successful anti-tank weapon.

Several of the above mentioned guns were mounted in self-propelled carriages as, for example, the 75/18 was mounted in the Semovente 75/18. Taken overall, Italian artillery units were reasonably equipped and fought well.



During the late 1920s the Italian Army ordered a review of their artillery requirements and one of the main points that emerged was that the field artillery needed a drastic modernisation plan. Italian industry was asked to submit designs but only Ansaldo submitted a satisfactory design which became, in time, the Cannone da 75/32 modello 37. The modello 37 was a satisfactory gun which gave satisfactory service and was even pressed into use as an anti-tank weapon. Its main drawback was that there were never enough of them for Italian industry could not produce sufficient numbers mainly because of a lack of industrial capacity. This led to large numbers of elderly guns remaining in service when they should have been replaced. Relatively few modello 37s were built but any that were taken over by the Germans became the 7.5 cm FK 248(i).

### DATA

CALIBRE	75 mm	2.95 in	WEIGHT IN ACTION	1200 kg	2646 lb
LENGTH OF PIECE (M.B.) (L/34)	2574 mm	101.34 in	ELEVATION	-10° to 45°	
LENGTH OF BARREL	2207 mm	86.89 in	TRAVERSE	50°	
LENGTH OF RIFLING	1862.5 mm	73.32 in	M.V.	624 m/s	2047 ft/sec
WEIGHT TRAVELLING	1250 kg	2756 lb	MAXIMUM RANGE	12500 m	13675 yards
			SHELL WEIGHT	6.3 kg	13.89 lb



### Obice da 100/17 modello 14

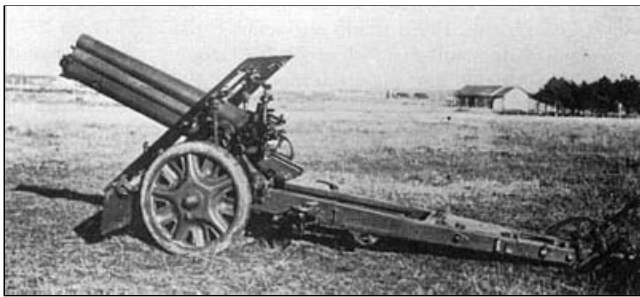
This gun was started life in the Austro-Hungarian army of World War One; the Italians gained a great many of these howitzers in 1918 with the break-up of the Hapsburg Empire.

With the out break of war in 1940 the Italians still had huge numbers of the Obice da 100/17 modello 14 in service and were producing their own spare parts and ammunition for the weapons.

The 100/17 modello 14 also saw service with the Poles and Romanians.

Later improved L24 100mm guns were produced by the Czechs and sold to Greece, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia and a few conversion kits were sold to the Italians. The converted Italian howitzers were designated Obice da 100/24.

The 100/17 modello 14 weighed 1505 kg in action and fired a 14kg shell to 9970 meters.



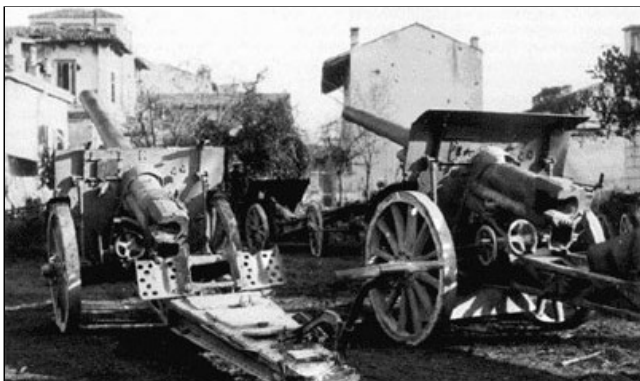
### Obice da 100/17 modello 16

The Obice da 100/17 modello 16 was another Skoda design received as war reparations after World War One. It was designed as a mountain gun as was mounted on a lighter carriage.

### Cannone da 105/28

The 105/28 was a World War One vintage gun of French design (Canon de 105mle 1913 Schneider or L13 S) originally starting life as a design on the drafting board of the Russian Putilov Armaments factory. It proved a popular design and was exported to various countries, Italy among them. It remained a common weapon during WWII and continued in Italian service until 1943 seeing action on both the African and Russian fronts.

The 105/28 weighed 2300 kg in action and fired a 16.24kg shell to 12000 meters



### Cannone da 105/32

The Cannone da 105/32 was another Austrian Skoda (10,4cm M15) that found its way into Italian service after World War One. They saw action in Africa, Sicily and Russia.