

New British Tank-Buster Smashes Nazi Armor

Ottawa, Jan. 30 (CP).—Defense Headquarters tonight announced that the newest "tank buster" of the Canadian and British armies has been in action in Italy for some time, and that Canadian soldiers have already knocked out several tanks with it in close fighting, and have found it "devastating" against pillboxes and machine-gun nests.

The weapon, known as the Piat Projector, came off the secret list tonight. It is not to be confused with the American Army's famed "Bazooka," although its role is primarily the same as that of the "Bazooka."

Devastating Weapon.

As its name implies, the Piat projects a 2½-pound bomb filled with high-explosive which explodes on impact with the target, the propellant force being derived from the explosion of a cartridge in the tail assembly. The weapon is said to be highly accurate at effective ranges.

It weighs only 33 pounds, against 35 pounds for the anti-tank rifle previously used by the infantry; is easily carried by one man, and can be brought into action in a few seconds.

An assistant carries the bombs, and, in practice, reloads as soon as the weapon is fired. The headquarters statement said the projector has been found to be a match for most types of enemy tanks.

The exploding bomb will penetrate four inches of the finest armor plate, damaging the tank's interior and killing the crew. Its effect is comparable to that of the



Soldier demonstrates new "Piat" tank-buster, used by Canadians in Italy.

75-millimetre field gun at similar ranges.

The projector consists of a light-steel tube enclosing a spring developing 200 pounds' pressure. When released the spring carries forward a steel rod which fires the cartridge in the tail of the bomb.

The resultant explosion not only propels the bomb, but also recompresses the spring, automatically re-

cocking the weapon. There is little or no recoil or "kick"—rather a steady thrust—and the projector can be fired just as readily from the shoulder as from the ground.

With the butt placed on the ground to give elevation, German transport, machine-gun nests and similar targets have been knocked out at ranges up to 350 yards.

The Ministry of Supply in Great

Britain is producing the new "tank buster" in quantity, and the Munitions Department here has announced that at least one type of bomb will be manufactured in Canada.

The Piat has already been introduced into Canadian training camps in the Dominion, and soldiers will be expert in its operation when they arrive overseas.

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