



MADE IN RUSSIA
СДЕЛАНО В РОССИИ

Tsar Pushka (Tsar-cannon) is one of well-deserved symbols of Russia. Since the times of Moscow state artillery was very popular in army. But to say the truth because of its slowness and complete absence of any standardisation they had been used generally for siege or defence of towns. It was no unified school for training of artillerymen. Central military authority of that time was headed by clerks and however, which were not competent in gunnery.

Peter I met all these problems during his very first campaigns: when seizing of Azov and in the beginning of the Great Northern War. During assault of Azov more than 250 artillery guns of the Russian army were able to ruin the town and destroy up to one third of garrison. However, during battle of Narva it was situation when each artillery gun had not more than 100 shells and even part of them was not suitable for guns. In the result of swift attack of Swedes the Russian army was defeated. More than one hundred and fifty guns

were captured by the Swedish army.

In order to reduce power on artillery young Russian king ordered to small calibre balls. Also, in order to implement uniformly unified designs for guns, howitzers and mortars were set. Further, very strict control during manufacturing was set. For example, accordance with the 1716 law, the production of gunpowder was concentrated in the hands of gunpowder king set a state monopoly for its production as well as strictly regulated methods of storage and transportation of the same. Serious changes were implemented in technical sphere. I.e. design of gun-carriages was improved in order to increase gun mobility, and a system of cannon-ball storage along with gunpowder charge for thickening of loading was set.

Young artillerymen had been sent abroad for training. King had been testing personally their skills after returning back. Artillery batteries were to be not only accurate and quick when firing, but also had to have proper co-operation with infantry and cavalry.



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