

WASC 1477

WAI 381

Congress Rockets
Photos from The
Rotunda at Woolwich

Please do not bend

Body of 300 lb rocket is $8\frac{3}{4}$ in diameter + 5 ft $8\frac{1}{4}$ long
 Total length = 5 ft $8\frac{1}{4}$ + 8 ft

Dr. W.R. Maxwell,
 Superintendent 'S'.

Reference.....
 Range = 5800 yds at 37°
 elevation

Congreve Rockets

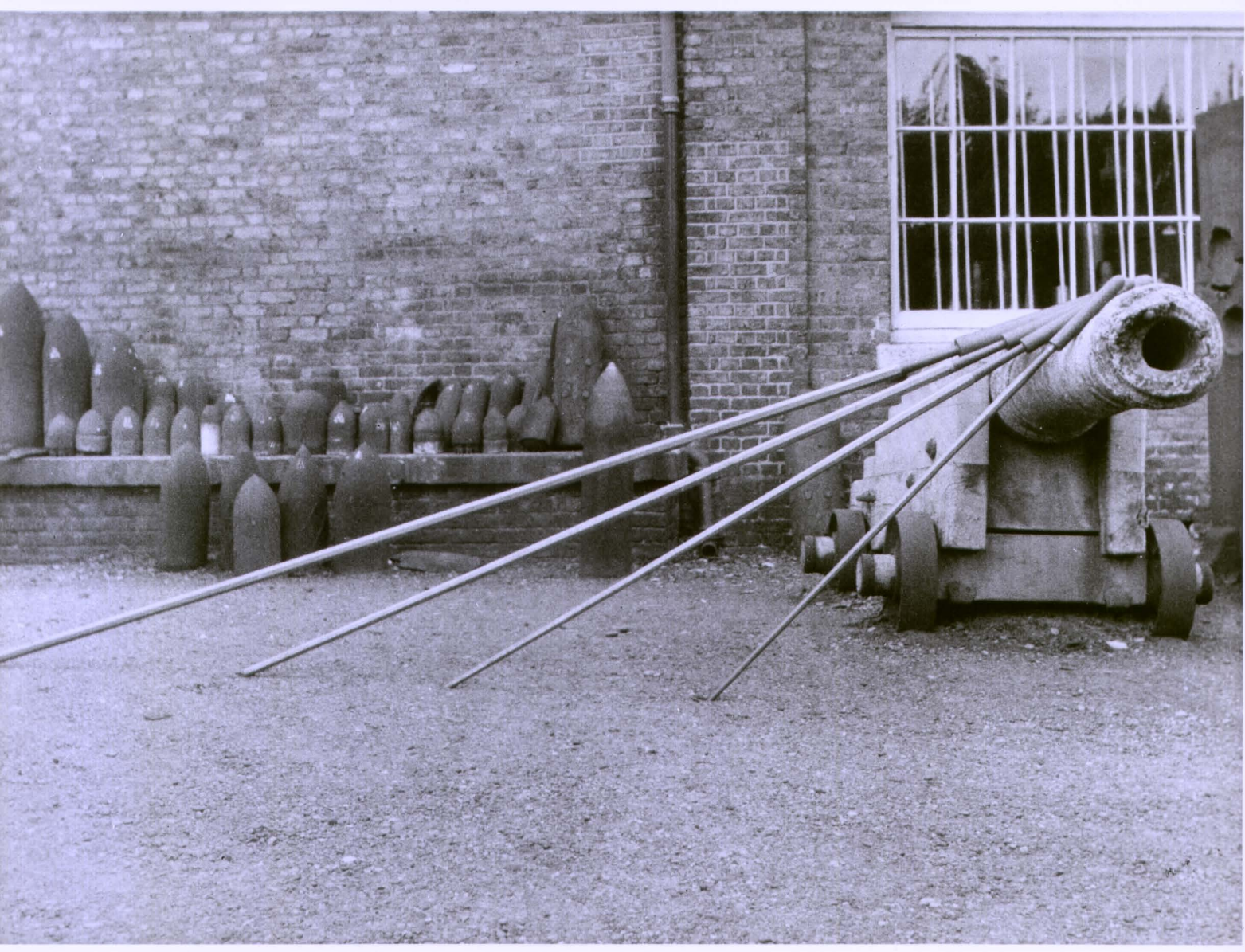
Congreve rockets were used from about 1805 to 1830 A.D. They varied in both shape and size from 12 lb to 300 lb. (See photographs).

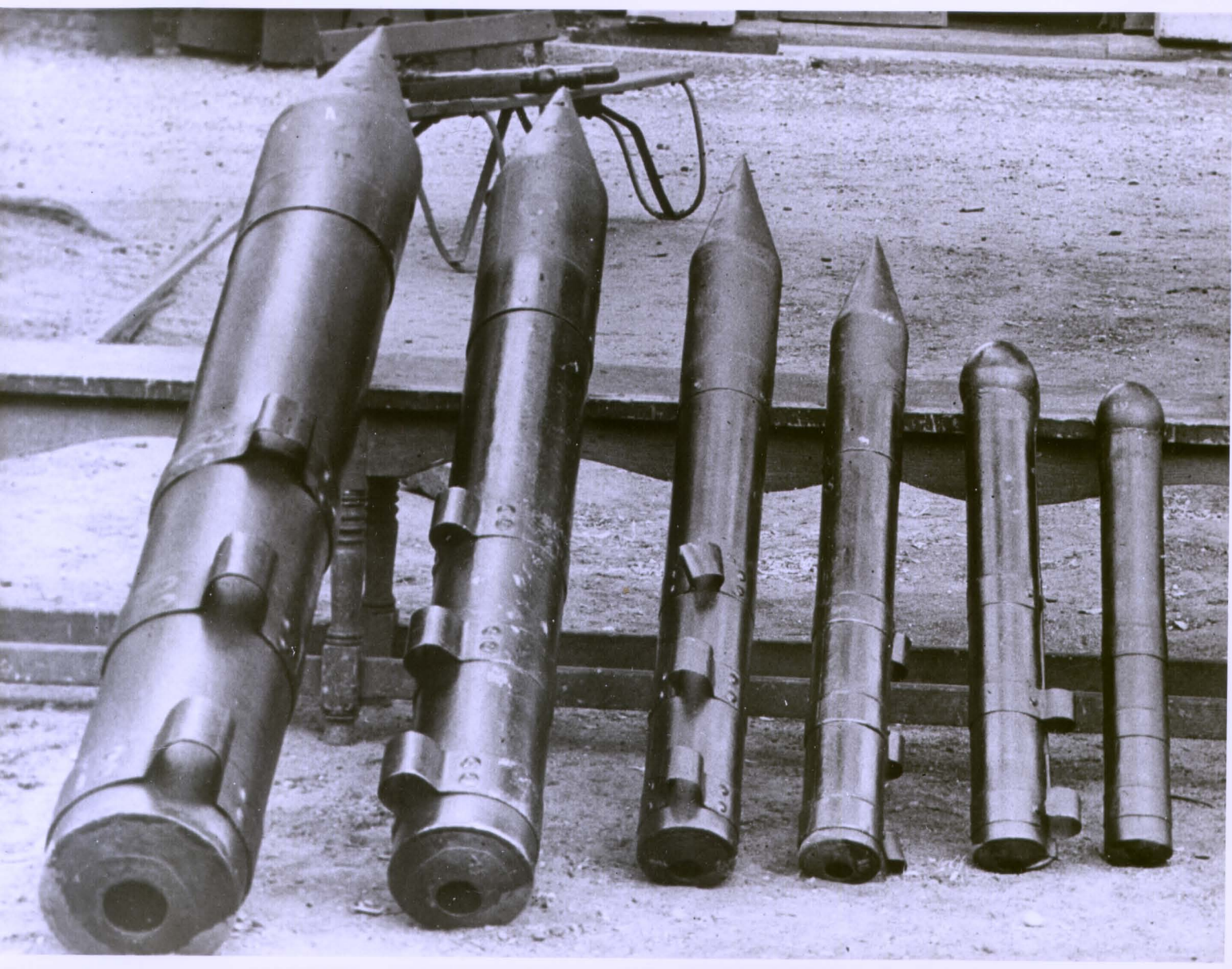
William Congreve was not scientifically trained but he lived at a time when educated men understood certain mechanical principles which had been entirely unknown during the rocket weapons first period of popularity. The most important of these principles had been formulated by Isaac Newton who had been a student at Cambridge about a century and a quarter before Congreve's day. Newton had explained to the world for the first time the nature of the power that had made a rocket soar into the air and the nature of the forces that controlled its flight and brought it down again. Early rocketeers had built their weapons without understanding the theories behind them. Congreve therefore had an advantage over them.

Congreve rockets were used in a number of campaigns notably against Copenhagen in 1807 when the city was destroyed by fire caused by the 20,000 rockets used. They were used against the French at Boulogne in 1806, and they also played an important part at the Battle of Leipzig, (see print taken from the book "William Congreve and his War Rocket"). They were also used against the Americans at the Battle of Baltimore in 1814.

Like ourselves, Congreve was worried with "costing" and from his own figures we find that 13,109 rockets cost £25,930. 10s $6\frac{1}{2}$ d - about £2. each, a little cheaper than we produce them to-day.

/Congreve







In 1813 the newly-formed Rocket Brigade of the Royal Artillery was sent to Germany and played an important part at the battle of Leipzig. The illustrations show the Brigade in action and a horse loaded with Congreve rockets. (*Picture Post Library.*)

