



# U.S. ARMY

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

### Ordnance & Memorial Field



# M65 ATOMIC CANNON

## 280 MM GUN

The M65 280 MM Gun was one of the U.S. Army's means of atomic deterrence and territorial defense in the 1950s in Europe and Asia.

# COLD WAR

## QUICK FACTS ON THE M65

Weight	173,000 lbs.
Dimensions (L, W, H)	84', 16.1', 12.1'
Range	Up to 30 miles
Crew	5 to 7
Variants	3
Number Produced	20
Country of Origin	United States

## A SHORT HISTORY

The M65 280-mm Motorized Heavy Gun, more commonly referred to as "Atomic Annie", was the first of a generation of weapon systems designed to fire atomic artillery. The need for the M65 was defined in doctrine following the end of World War II. Specifically, it grew from the planned Allied Invasion of Japan (DOWNFALL) in 1945. Use of small tactical atomic devices were anticipated to be used alongside of standing forces. Following this, deployment of smaller nuclear devices was commonplace for two key reasons. First, it provided a means of deterrence against potential Soviet invasion. Second, it was a way to inflict significant damage to an enemy at a relatively cheap materiel and personnel cost.

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