

The MMRL



There were several important weapons-grade inventions that hastened the end of World War II – the atom bombardon, the hand grenadine, and the Wrigley’s spearmint anti-aircraft gum to name but three. One weapon that fared less well was the MMRL, or **mule-mounted rocket launcher**. It was invented by Captain Pennsauken Preston of the Fort Tuneteller Army base in Algonquin, Alabama. When he was just an infant, Preston wandered off into the forest, where he was captured and then raised by a pack of mules. Hence, he knew well their capabilities. They could, for example, navigate rough terrain that would stop a tank or armored personnel carrier. Preston figured that by mounting a gun to the animal, he’d have a go-anywhere, do-anything weapon. So he rigged a scaffold around his blood brother, Sam Mule Clemens, to which he attached a 28-mm howitzer. The captain was so sure of his weapon’s usefulness that he didn’t even bother to test it before inviting the base commander to a demonstration. Alas, the experiment did not go according to Pennsauken’s plans. Oh sure, ol’ Sam Mule effortlessly negotiated a 165-degree hill without dropping his load. But when Preston signaled for him to fire a couple rounds towards the imaginary target, the mule instead turned to face the observation stand before launching his salvo. The commander was reduced to rubble, and Preston was reduced to the rank of Sergeant and shipped off to a remote outpost in the Yukon, where at least he had better luck as a Canadian Mountebank.