Production of all marks of Boys ceased in the Autumn of 1943 with the introduction of the new infantry anti-tank projector. The P.I.A.T (Projector, Infantry, Anti-Tank) was only a few pounds lighter than the Boys, which weighed in at close on 39 lbs. with a full 5 round magazine, but nearly two feet shorter at 39 inches. The shaped charge projectiles, whilst bulky and heavy compared with the .55 calibre ammunition for the Boys, were dramatically more effective, particularly on heavy armour. Compare the PIAT's near 100 mm maximum penetration against the Boys' 23 mm, both at 100 yards. The figures for the Boys can be found in the manual - linked below.

It has been commented upon in an unidentified article that the Boys ATR was considered obsolete by 1943, and, at a time when morale was deemed to be at an ebb within the Home Guard, 100,000 of these rifles were issued to these units for use in the event of an invasion; although any such threat had by now much receded. In his fine reference book " *The Lee-Enfield Story*", Ian Skennerton quotes the British total figure of Boys units manufactured in the U.K. between 1941 and 1945 as 50,611. For the Home Guard issue figure to be correct there would have needed to be well in excess of 50,000 manufactured between 1937 and 1940, unless Canadian production was included in that issue. It also should not be forgotten that considerable numbers of these rifles remained in Northern France and on the beaches around Dunkirk, along with huge quantities of other materiél, after the mid 1940 evacuation.

Links to the BOYS ATR - MANUAL SAT PAMPHLET No.5 RANGE COURSE

The pull-out colour sheet below was included with the Gale and Polden Manual for the Mk.I rifle.

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