ACTIVITY SEVEN: MACHINE GUNS

Learning objective:
To be able to multiply numbers mentally drawing upon known facts
(Year 5 – Number)

Prior learning:
Students should be familiar with using mental strategies to multiply HTU by U numbers.

MAIN TASKS:
1. Show the students images of musket, rifle, MG08 and Lewis gun. Ask them what they notice.

2. Look at the table and ask students what they notice? Ascertain that the more modern guns had greater numbers of rounds per minute. Ask why they think it took 4 people to operate a machine gun.

3. Students use information from the table to answer a selection of questions:
   e.g.
   How many rounds could 4 soldiers fire in 5 minutes with each of these guns?
   How many rounds could 4 soldiers fire in an hour with each of these guns?
   How many more rounds could a solider fire in an hour with a Lewis gun than with a musket?

Gun	Rounds per minute	Number of people to operate gun
Musket (18th and 19th centuries)	4	1
Rifle (early 20th century)	15	1
MG 08 (1908)	500	4
Lewis gun (1911)	600	4

Ideas for differentiation
Lower attainers: ask 'how many rounds could be fired in 5 minutes and 10 minutes?' Use this information to compare Lewis gun firepower with that of a musket.

Higher attainers: assuming that the soldiers need to sleep and take breaks, how many rounds do you think could be fired in a day with a Lewis gun? How does this compare to a rifle or a musket?

Review
This modern machine gun can fire up to 1.62 million rounds per minute: How many Lewis guns would it take to generate the same firepower? Use a calculator to work it out.
Answer: 2,700