

# William Congreve Encyclopedia Article

## William Congreve

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# Contents

<a href="#">William Congreve Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">William Congreve.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# William Congreve

**1772-1828**

English artillery officer and scientist who invented the Congreve rocket, which saw its first action in the Napoleonic Wars. This rocket was one of the first to be fired from a ship at shore targets and was used during attacks against the French in Boulogne and in the siege of Copenhagen. Unlike a cannon, the rocket carried its own propellant with it, causing less stress on the launcher while permitting it to reach higher speeds.