**William Congreve Encyclopedia Article**

**William Congreve**

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**Contents**

**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.