WHAT ARE THE PARTS OF THE CANNON CARRIAGES USED DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES?

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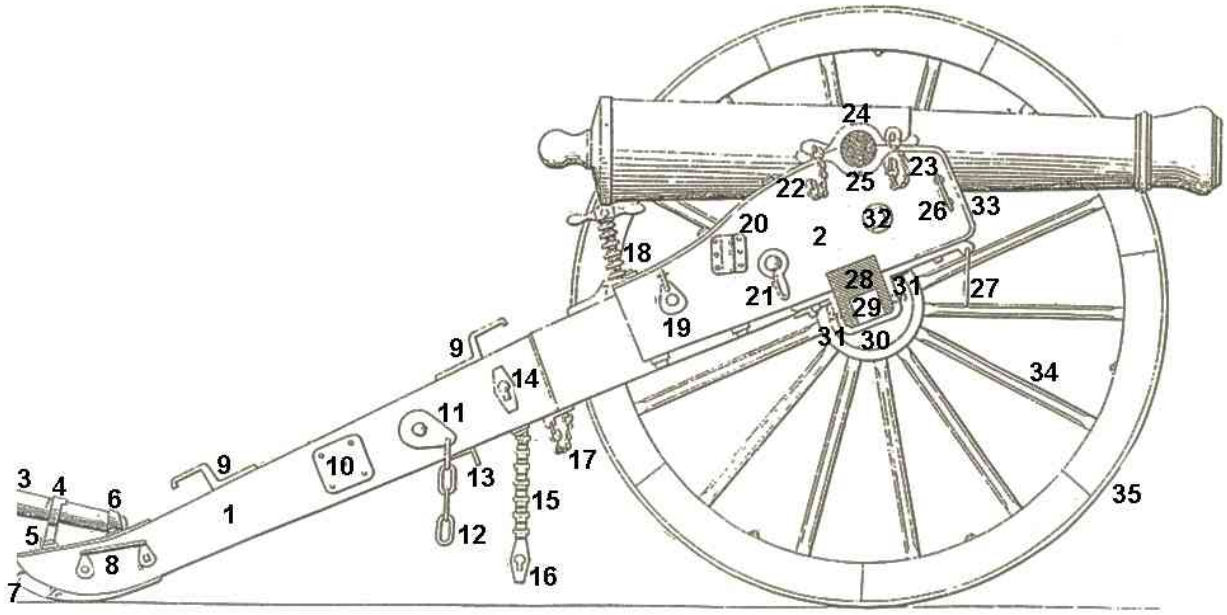
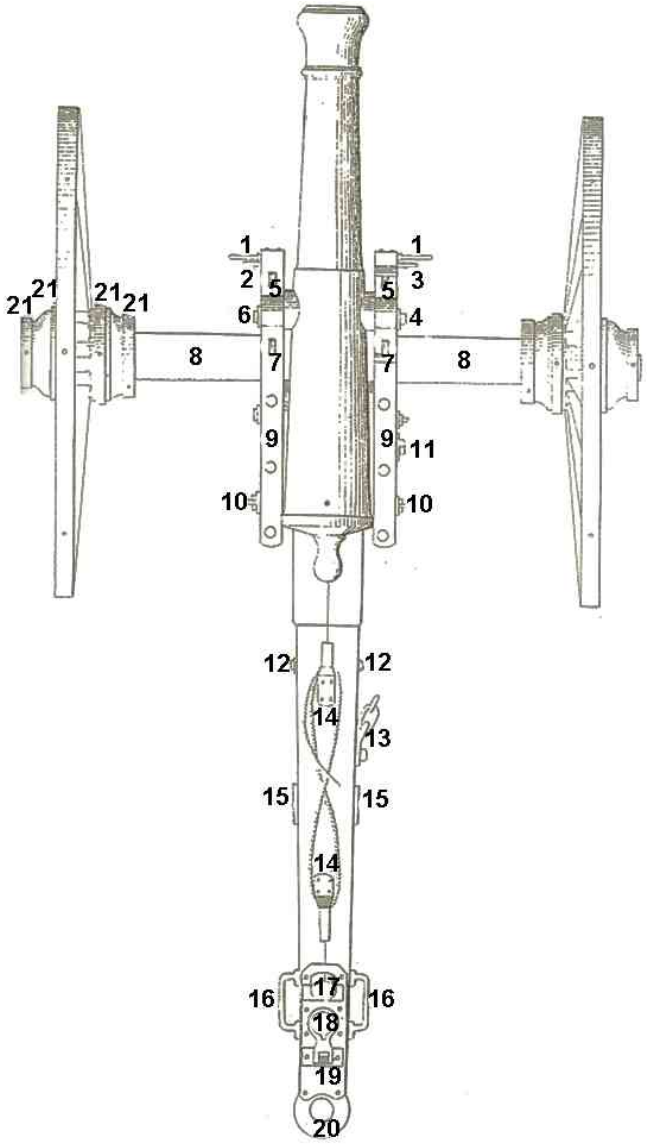
This is the U.S. Model No. 1 Field Carriage, which was most commonly used for smooth-bore cannons and some rifled cannons (although many of the rifled guns produced a recoil that the No. 1 could not handle, forcing the creation of additional field carriages that were stronger).

Carriage Profile.



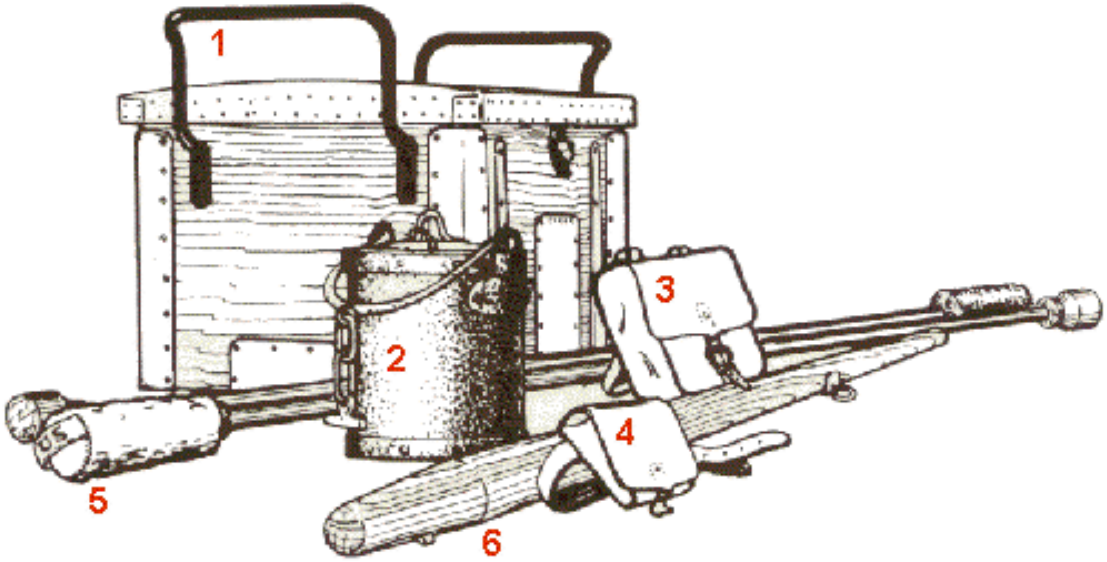
1. Stock
2. Cheek
3. Handspike
4. Large Pointing Ring
5. Trail Plate
6. Small Pointing Ring
7. Lunelle
8. Trail Handles
9. Prolonge Hooks
10. Wheel Guard Plate
11. Lock Chain Bolt and Eye Plate
12. Part of the Lock Chain
13. Sponge and Rammer Stop
14. Ear Plate for Sponge Chain Hasp
15. Sponge Chain
16. Sponge Chain Hasp
17. Ear Plate to Support Worm. Key Chain and Key.
18. Elevating Screw (Head and Handles)
19. Washer Hook for Handspike
20. Linstock Socket
21. Washer Hook for Lock Chain
22. Cap-Square Chain
23. Cap-Square Key Chain and Key
24. Cap-Square
25. Trunnion Plate
26. Handspike Ring
27. Sponge Hook
28. Axle Body (wood)
29. Axle Tree (Iron)
30. Nave
31. Under Strap
32. Assembling Bolt
33. Trunnion Plate
34. Spoke
35. Fellie Tire

Carriage Top.



1. Hand Spike Rings
2. Sponge and Worm Hooks
3. Right Sponge Hook
4. Cap-Square
5. Head of Key Bolt
6. Trunnion (Cap-Square Removed)
7. Head of Chin Bolt
8. Axle Body
9. Trunnion Plates
10. Washer Hook for Handspike
11. Linstock Socket
12. Eye plates and Hasps to Support Sponge
13. Lock Chain. Eye Plate and Bolt
14. Prolonge Hooks and Prolonge
15. Wheel Guard Plates
16. Trail Handles
17. Small Pointing Ring
18. Large Pointing Ring
19. Trail Plate
20. Lunelle
21. Nave Bands

The limber for field service is basically a two-wheeled cart, an axle, with its wheels, surmounted by a framework for holding an ammunition chest and receiving the tongue. At the back of the axle is the pintle hook, on which the lunette on the trail of the gun carriage was keyed into place. The result is a four-wheeled cart that pivots on the pintle hook.



- The large box with the handles is called a Limber Box (1). It was used to store all the powder and shot for a gun.
- The black bucket is a Water Bucket (2). This was used to clean the sponges and the gun during and after use.
- The large leather bag is a Gunners Haversack (3).
- The small leather pouch on the belt is the Primer Tube Pouch (4). Friction Primers and Fuses were kept here.
- The two thin long polls are Rammers and Sponges (5). These tools cleaned the gun and pushed the ammunition down the barrel into the breach of the weapon. An additional long pole, is for the Worm, which is also sometimes located at one end of the sponge. The worm is 2-3 iron wires set in a spiral pattern and is used to remove the remains of the cartridge after firing, or used to remove a charge that has misfired.
- The shorter wooden poll is called the Handspike (6). This tool was used to move the trail and aim the gun. Each of the cannoneers is equipped with specialized implements.
- The large pad that is attached to the left thumb of the cannoneer is called the thumb stall. The thumb stall is made of toughened leather (sometimes buckskin with horse hair stuffed under the thumb pad). A buckskin string or leather strap secures the thumb stall to the wrist of the gunner. The gunner uses the thumb stall to protect against heat

while stopping the vent (places his thumb over the vent) during the sponging and loading procedure.

- The wire that is used to break open the powder charge is called the vent prick or priming wire. The vent prick is an iron wire pointed at one end with a circular loop at the other. It is inserted through the vent in order to pierce the cartridge bag seated in the bore. This allows the flame from the primer to reach the propellant charge.

Many implements were stored on the field carriages, caissons and limbers. The prolonge, a heavy tow rope, was wound onto two hooks on the upper surface of the trail of the gun carriage, and the sponge-rammers and worms were hung from implement hooks under the carriage. The two handspikes hung from each cheek of the field carriage. The caisson had slots for holding an axe and a pick. The tarbucket (left) hung under the limber and contained the grease for the wheels. The water bucket (right) hung off the axle of the field carriage and held water for keeping the sponge moist.

There were other carriages used during the war. The Prairie Carriage was used with Mountain Howitzers, and Siege cannons also had their own carriages. Generally speaking, there is a different drill for each different carriage used during the War Between the States.

Ready to learn more about operating muzzle-loading artillery? The LTAC-USFAA teaches the safe operation of canons from the War Between the States to all students who attend the Artillery Schools, and the manuals can be purchased online at http://artillerypublications.com/.