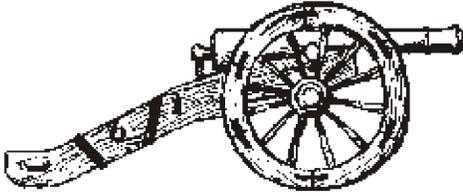
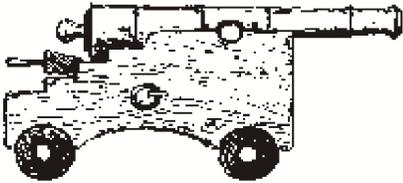


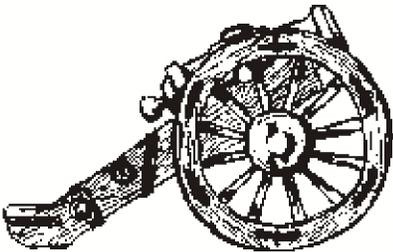
Varieties of Cannon



Field Cannon : The field cannon was the primary battlefield artillery piece. It fired its shot on a relatively flat trajectory to 'bounce' the ball across the battlefield and plow through enemy troop formations. The casualty rate of field artillery was quite heavy. There were several types and sizes of field artillery. Cannon are categorized by the size solid shot they fire. 1½, 3, and 6 pound shot were some of the most common. Their wheels were large to permit the easy movement over irregular terrain. Larger sizes (12, 16, 18, 24, 32 pound shot) were used primarily against fortifications during siege warfare, as these pieces were too large to move around the battlefield.



Garrison Cannon : The barrel of the garrison cannon was very similar to the field cannon, although the carriage had smaller wheels, as it was usually employed in forts and on ships where the cannon rested on fort walls or ships decks. The shot sizes also ranged into the larger weights to be employed against other ships and forts. This cannon was also designed to fire with a relatively flat trajectory.



Howitzers : The howitzer was designed to have a much higher trajectory, for the purpose of lobbing shot over obstacles. A popular projectile was the shell, a hollow ball filled with powder and lit by a fuse from the igniting cannon charge. If the timing of the fuse was calculated correctly, it would explode in the air over the troops, sending a shower of fiery debris down onto them.



Mortars : The Coehorn Mortar was a useful weapon because of its small size and ease of movement. It usually had a fixed trajectory (around 45 degrees), and the distance the shot traveled was adjusted by varying the powder charge. Just like the howitzer, the use of the exploding shell was popular to reach troops inside fortifications.