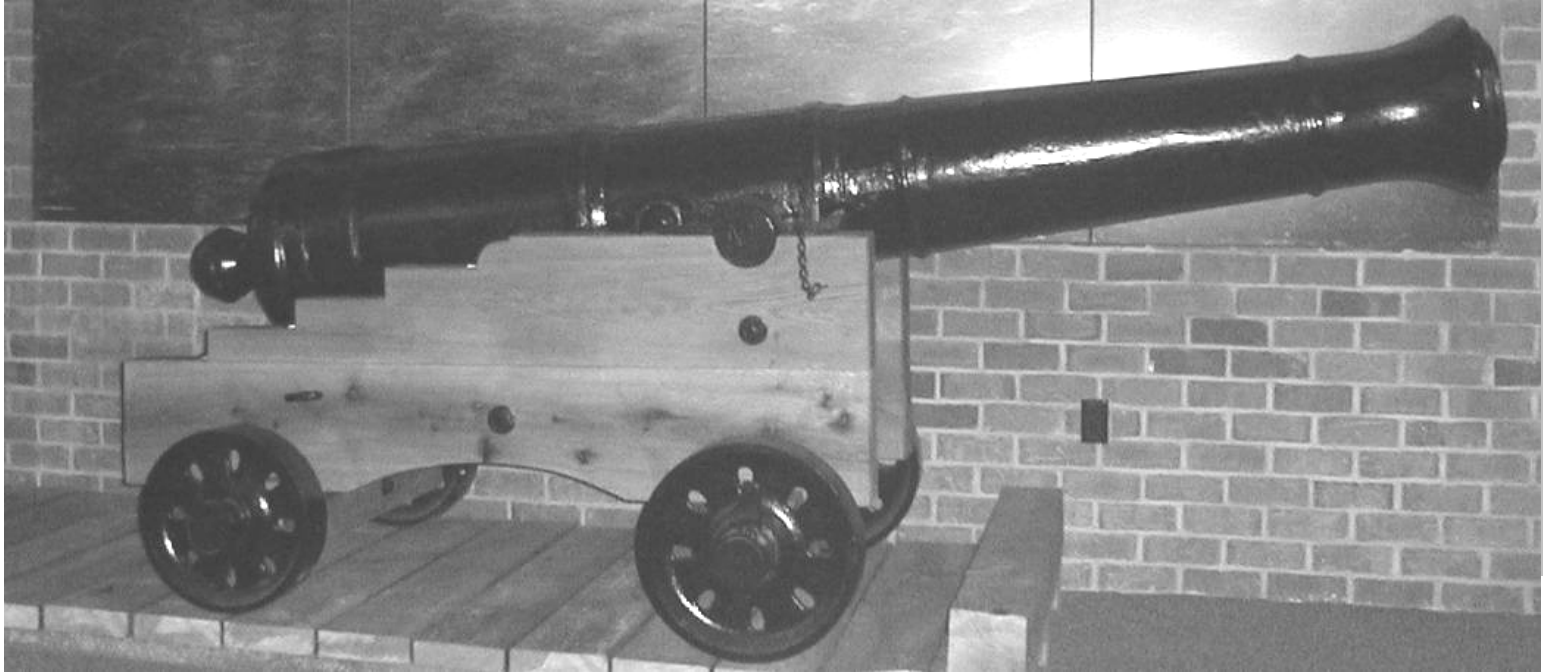




18-pounder Revolutionary War Cannon



Introduction

Both Fort Moultrie and Colonial National Historical Park (Yorktown Battlefield) requested reproduction Revolutionary War cannon for the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. Twelve of these reproduction cannon were made for the United States Bicentennial celebration, with Fort Moultrie receiving three of the guns. The cannon on display here in the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center is Number 1 as evidenced by the serial number printed on its right trunnion.

To assure historical accuracy, the iron guns were produced using 18th century guidelines. The heavy 18-pounders were primarily used at permanent fortifications or aboard ships. A crew of up to 16 men served each piece, which could be loaded and fired in approximately six minutes. These cannon had a maximum range of 4,000 yards (2.25 miles), but were most accurate up to a distance of 1,800 yards (1.02 miles).

On the top rear of the gun, the tube (barrel) is marked "41-2-12." These numbers indicate the weight of the tube: 41 hundredweight (112 pounds), 2 quarter-hundred (28 pounds) and 12 pounds; or $(41 \times 112) + (2 \times 28) + 12 = 4,660$ pounds. This method was a common way of marking the weight on British guns.

The standard cannonball was an 18-pound solid shot, hence the cannon's designation as an 18-pounder. Other kinds of projectiles that could be used included exploding shells, spherical case shot, canister, grapeshot and others.

Specifications

Length of Barrel:	9 feet
Weight of Barrel:	4,660 pounds
Powder Charge:	4 ½ pounds
Projectile:	18-pound solid shot
Range:	1,800 yards (accurate)
Average Rate of Fire:	6-10 minutes
Crew:	Up to 16 artillerists



A crew of employees and volunteers from Colonial National Historical Park demonstrate cannon firing at Fort Moultrie.

For more information

Write to:
Superintendent
Fort Sumter National Monument
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Telephone:
(843) 883-3123

Internet:
<http://www.nps.gov/fomo>