

NOTE: U.S. ARTILLERY CARRIAGES, 1809-1850

The U.S. Army adopted French Gribeauval carriages for its iron 6-pounders in 1809 and kept them into the 1830s. Those carriages had split trails and were painted blue. (Manucy, p. 12, & Peterson, pp. 74 & 81).

A brief list of artillery pieces used in the Mexican War also appears on page 12 of Manucy. The single or stock trail officially replaced the split trail in 1840, and bronze replaced iron tubes in 1841. (Peterson, pp. 88 and 91). For illustrations of the 6-pound bronze and other tubes, carriage, caisson, and limber, see Plates 1 through 4 of Ordnance Manual for the Use of the Officers of the United States Army (Wash, DC: Gideon, 1841; UF523A15RareBk). Instructions for painting the carriage appear on p. 273: "A priming of lead color and two coats of olive color are applied to new wood work, and one coat of lead color and one of black, to the iron work." The formulae of lead, black, and olive paints are provided on pp. 272-73 of that book. More detailed drawings of the tubes and carriages appear in Plates 1 through 6 of Instruction for Field Artillery, Horse and Foot (Baltimore: Robinson, 1845; UF407A2RareBk).

References:

Birkhimer, William E. Historical Sketch of the Organization, Administration, Materiel and Tactics of the Artillery, United States Army. Wash, DC: Chapman, 1884. 406 p. UA30B57.

See esp Chap IX on the history of carriages.

Dillon, Lester R., Jr. American Artillery in the Mexican War, 1846-47. Austin, TX: Presidial, 1975. 120 p. UF23D5.

Downey, Fairfax. Sound of the Guns. NY: McKay, 1956. 337 p. UF23D68.

Jones, Willard L. "History of the Organization of United States Field Artillery." Draft study, Office, Chief of Military History, n.d. 211 p. Ref.

Manucy, Albert. Artillery Through the Ages. Wash, DC: GPO, 1962 reprint. 92 p. UF15M42.

Peterson, Harold L. Round Shot and Rammers. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1969. 128 p. UF15P47.