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AnXI modified M1808 System

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In 1807, Gassendi order that the metalwork, axles and wheels of the withdrawn Gribeauval 8-pdrs were reused to make M1808 carriages for the AnXI guns. Napoleon instructed the withdrawal from service the Gribeauval 4- and 8-pdr. The remaining few Gribeauval 6.4in howitzers were finally withdrawn from service and replaced by AnXI 24-pdr Howitzer. The M1795 Long Porte Howitzer was retained by the 12-pdr batteries especially in the Imperial Guard.

This was a blend of the Gribeauval System principles with AnXI System.

M1808 Modifications to the AnXI System

On **7 February 1807,** Gassendi's report and recommendations accepted.[350]

- Gassendi order that the metalwork, axles and wheels of the withdrawn Gribeauval 8-pdrs were reused to make M1808 carriages for the AnXI guns.
- Napoleon instructed the withdrawal from service the Gribeauval 4- and 8-pdr.
- The remaining few Gribeauval 6.4in howitzers were finally withdrawn from service and replaced by AnXI 24-pdr Howitzer.
- The M1795 Long Porte Howitzer was retained by the 12-pdr batteries especially in the Imperial Guard.

NOTE: The designation of M1808 is given to make it clear that almost none of the equipment was ready for the 1807 campaign in Poland. The so-called M1808 system did not replace the AnXI equipment already in use but supplemented it and gradually replaced the foreign ordnance and equipment used by the French.

M1808 Field Artillery

AnXI 12-pdr on M1808 carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber
M1765 12-pdr on M1808 carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber

- The M1765 12-pdr named *VOLTAIRE* was cast on 19 November 1794 at Douai [Royal Armouries XIX-54] and is on a M1808 Carriage captured at Waterloo. Calibre of 122mm, 210.8cm long and weighs 884.9kg.[351]

AnXI 6-pdr on M1808 carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber

- AnXI 6-pdr on M1807 carriage at the Borodino Museum.[352]

AnXI 24-pdr Howitzer M1808 carriage, and M1792 8-pdr Limber

Unchanged operating with 12-pdr batteries.

M1795 6.4in *Longue Portée* howitzer on Dorsener carriage or modified M1808 carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber

M1808 Siege Artillery

AnXI Long 24-pdr on M1773 24-pdr carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber
AnXI Short 24-pdr short on M1773 16-pdr carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber
M1773 16-pdr on M1773 16-pdr carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber

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350 Gassendi J B (1819) Vol II pp1220-1.
351 Blackmore (1976) pp123-4.
352 Photographed by Steven Smith.

AnXI Long 24-pdr named "Le Formidable" cast by Bouquero, Turin in 1808
with 15.5cm calibre and 323cm long. [HGM, Vienna]

M1808 Garrison Artillery

M1773 Long 24-pdr on M1786 garrison carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber
M1773 Long 16-pdr on M1786 garrison carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber

1809 Regimental Artillery

The Decree of 9 June 1809[353] was not enacted until 23 August 1809 where Austrian M1753 3-pdrs and M1792 4-pdrs introduced as Regimental Artillery.[354]

Austrian M1753 3-pdr on Austrian M1780 and Austrian M1770 limber.
Gribeauval 4-pdr on M1792 carriage and M1792 4pdr limber.

Austrian M1774 3-pdr was cast in 1780.
Calibre of 75mm and 127cm long. Notice the plain dolphins, no raised decorations and vent in the vent field. [HGM, Vienna]

[353] Pelet (1825: Vol III, 429-30)
[354] Decree of 9 June 1809 Pelet (1825: Vol III, 429-30) was not enacted until 23 August 1809.

1810 Proposed new 6-pdr

Proposed longer and heavier M1810 6-pdrwith a 150:1 weight ration rather than 130:1 but not adopted due to cost.[355]

1811 Regimental Artillery

The French outside Spain were equipped exclusively with AnXI guns on the modified M1808 carriages. Re-introduction of Regimental Artillery. French line infantry received Austrian M1753 3-pdrs and the Young Guard had M1792 4-pdrs.

Austrian M1753 3-pdr on Austrian M1780 carriages and Austrian M1770 limber
Gribeauval 4-pdr on M1792 carriage and M1792 4pdr limber

In **1812, t**he only Gribeauval guns used in the invasion of Russia were some 12-pdrs in the reserve artillery and forty 4-pdrs used as Regimental guns by the Young Guard for the invasion of Russia. The huge collection of guns that are still on display in Moscow show the huge loss of material in the retreat from Russia.

1813-14 Wars of Liberation

The French Ordnance practically lost all its AnXI ordnance and equipment in the disastrous retreat from

On **1 January 1814,** modifications made out of necessity that probably only lasted until the April 18114 with the AnXI 6-pdr and AnXI 24-pdr howitzer mounted on the 8-pdr carriage. It is unclear whether this was in fact carried out.[356]

AnXI 6-pdr on M1792 8-pdr carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber
AnXI 24-pdr Howitzer on M1792 8-pdr carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber

On **6 April 1814,** Napoleon Abdicates

1814-15 – The First Restoration (1814-15)

On **3 May 1814,** Louis XVIII (1755-1824) enters Paris and Napoleon retired to Elba.

On **December 1814** Ruty Report was made for the new King and it is likely that the bias of the report can be attributed to this.[357]

30 January 1815 "Official" re-introduction. Louis XVI ordered that any change to ordnance since 1789 would be abolished. This never occurred as shown by the *Manuel 1824* that still referred to AnXI 6-pdrs and AnXI 24-pdr howitzers.

1815 The Hundred Days

The French Army was almost exclusively equipped with AnXI ordnance mounted on M1808 carriages. Only a few Gribeauval 12-pdrs in service and only with the Imperial Guard.

1 March: Napoleon returned to France
20 March returns to Paris and Louis XVIII flees for Ghent.
22 June: Napoleon abdicated
17 July: Napoleon surrendered to HMS Bellephon
17 October: Napoleon lands in St Helena

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[355] Pernety (1827) *Journal des Science Militaires* VII (25), 392
[356] Gassendi J B (1819) Volume 1 p24
[357] Ruty (1814) SHAT 2w 84.

1815-1824 Second Restoration

In **1821**, the consolidation of the equipment started. The Horse Artillery had M1792 8-pdrs and AnXI 24-pdr Howitzers. The Foots artillery had M1792 4-pdrs or AnXI 6-pdrs and AnXI 24-pdr howitzers. The Position batteries had either Gribeauval 12-pdr or AnXI 12-pdrs and M1795 6.4in *Longue Portée* howitzers.[358]

AnXI 12-pdr on M1808 carriage and M1792 8-pdr Limber
AnXI 6-pdr on M1808 carriage and modified AnXI limber.
AnXI 24-pdr Howitzer on M1808 carriage and AnXI Limber (modified)

New Gribeauval guns were cast

Gribeauval 12-pdr on M1792 carriage and M1792 8-pdr limber
Gribeauval 8-pdr on M1792 carriage and M1792 8-pdr limber
Gribeauval 4-pdr on M1792 carriage and M1792 4-pdr Limber.
M1795 6.4in *Longue Portée* Howitzer on Dorsener carriage and M1792 8-pdr limber

In **1824,** Louis XVIII died and succeeded by Louise Philippe. The publication of the *Manuel 1824* showed the French Ordnance was still using a mixture of Gribeauval and AnXI equipment.

[358] Ministre de Guerre (1824) *Projet de Règlement*…., p 111 Refers to the three different limbers and guns in service. This was still the case until 1828