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French Guns in the Revolutionary Wars (1790-1802)

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1791 First Inspector of Artillery Abolished

The post of First Inspector of Artillery was abolished. The French had 7,746 fortress pieces including 2,000 mortars and howitzers; 1,800 pieces of coastal artillery; 1,300 field pieces. The National Guard were issued with M1757 1-pdr Rostaing Guns. Withdrawn in 1797.[320]

1792 Manson Tables of Construction

On **18 March 1792,** the National Assembly took the emergency measures to use captured foreign guns including the Austrian M1753 3-, 6-, 12-pdr, 7-pdr howitzer and the Prussian M1768 10-pdr howitzers.[321] In addition, the National Assembly ordered that the M1740/M1773 *a la Suédois* 4-pdrs would be rebored to 6-pdr calibre so that it could use captured ammunition.[322]
M1792 6-pdr on Brocard carriage and the M1732 single draft limber

The Manson (1792) *Tables of Construction*[323] codified the changes to the Gribeauval system made by ***Phillip Comte de Rostaing*** and ***Jakob (Jacques) Manson*** (1724-1809).

- Codification of the simplification of the M1773 siege and garrison guns.
- These included the M1765 6.4in howitzer receiving a vertical elevating screw instead of the Richtmaschine.
- Number of different wheels reduced from 26 to 13.
- Removal of the fixed tool box from the 4-pdr limber.
- Removal of the bolster from the 8-pdr limber.[324]

M1773 Long 24-pdr named "Le Marroquin" cast in 1795-96 by Berenger of Douai had 155mm calibre and 323cm long. [HGM, Vienna]

M1765 Gribeauval 12-pdr on Gribeauval M1792 Carriage and Gribeauval M1792 8-pdr limber.
M1765 Gribeauval 4-pdr on Gribeauval M1792 carriage and Gribeauval M1792 4pdr limber
M1765 Gribeauval 6 pouce howitzer on Gribeauval M1792 carriage and M1792 8-pdr limber

- M1765 6.4in howitzer on M1792 carriage at Brussels Army Museum

In **September** 1792 Louis XVI was deposed in September. The National Assembly sanctioned the use of captured guns (mainly Austrian M1753 ordnance) and re-bored the 4-pdrs *a la Suédois* to 6-pdr to use

[320] Decker (1989) p56
[321] *Arrête* (Law) of 18 March 1792
[322] *Arrête* (Law) of 18 March 1792
[323] Manson (1792) *Tables of Construction*….., Paris
[324] Compare the plan of 8-pdr limbers in Jakobowski (1786) and Manson (1792)

captured ammunition.[325] The addition of captured and foreign equipment so increasing the logistic nightmare of the French Army. Out of necessity batteries were deployed with mixed calibre guns often with howitzers attached. In **Late 1792**, Jakob Manson joined the *Armée de Condé* to fight against the Revolutionaries. On **21 Jan 1793** Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed.

1794 Piedmont Mountain Guns

Captured **Piedmont 4-pdr Regimental Guns** that were based upon the Saxon *Geschwindstuck* and **Piedmont 3-pdr mountain guns** were pressed into service for the Italian Campaign.

Piedmont M1786 3-pdr on chevrette carriage that was the basis for the later AnXI 3-pdr Mountain was transport on pack mules

Piedmont M1764 3-pdr Regimental Gun on bracket carriage.

Piedmont M1756 4-pdr Mountain Gun named "Villa" cast in 1759 vt G.B. Cebrano of Turin.
Calibre 77mm and 144cm long. This was a version of the Saxon 3-pdr quick fire gun. [HGM, Vienna]

1795-1798 The Directory

The **M1795 Short 24-pdr of 11 calibres** was designed to fire exploding common shell, and was used both as a field gun and more mobile siege gun. M1795 Short 24-pdr used the Gribeauval M1792 8-pdr limber. The pair of Gribeauval style 1-pdrs in the HGM may be as they are labelled as battalion guns or more likely mountain guns captured during the Italian Campaign.

Two French 1-pdr "Battalion gun" cast in 1795 in the Gribeauval style. [HGM, Vienna]

In **1797,** Jakob Manson joined the Russian Army with the rank of General.

1799-1801 The Consulate

In 1801, General Allix was instructed by Napoleon to cast new guns for the Army of Italy[326]. The M1801 Allix 6-pdrs were mounted on Gribeauval 4-pdr carriages. The design of these guns was later used as a basis of the M1809 Westphalian that was later used by Hessen-Kassel from 1814.

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[325] DDS (2007) 68

[326] Griois (1909) Vol 1 pp128-130, see also Allix (July 1832), *Journal Science Militaire*, XXVIII, 173