



WDA01 Eighteen Pounder QF Field Gun MkI

The Ordnance Quick Firing (QF) 18 pounder was known as the '18 Pounder Gun' and was the standard field gun of the British Army throughout World War I. First built in 1904, by 1914 some 1225 guns had been produced and the gun remained in production throughout the Great War with a total of 9908 guns and 6926 carriages being made. The 18 Pounder formed the backbone of the Royal Artillery throughout the War and over 100 million shells were fired from these guns in all theatres. The 18 Pounder remained in production between the Wars and was still in service up until 1942.

Notes on Optional parts

Battlefield experience in the first half of the Great War showed up the weakness of the recuperator springs under intense firing. A temporary solution was found by fitting a box shaped reservoir - part 11 - to replace the original cap - part 14 - and this was later still replaced with a cylindrical hydro pneumatic recuperator extension - part 9. A dial sight is provided with the kit as part of the main shield but this was often removed. Later versions of the 18-pounder show an upper shield - part 3 - but not all guns were fitted with this.

Before you begin

This kit is produced using two materials – whitemetal and resin. Both are potentially harmful if not handled or used as intended. Do not feel tempted to place any parts in your mouth! Please wash your hands after a building session. The dust caused whilst filing or sanding should be cleaned away as soon as possible and must not be breathed in and we recommend the use of a face mask when sanding resin.

The detail parts are cast in a high quality whitemetal to provide as much detail as possible. Casting marks and 'flash' should be minimal but can be removed carefully with a knife blade, fine file or fine sandpaper. Some of the smaller parts are cast on to a sprue which also needs removing. Hold the sprue carefully using a pair of fine pliers and carefully cut the parts away.

The resin parts should feature minimal casting marks but again these can be removed with a fine file, knife blade or fine sanding paper. Take extra care as the resin is softer than the whitemetal and material will be removed quicker. The resin should be carefully washed and dried to remove any mould release. Warm water is best for this. Don't use washing-up liquid – it may prevent glue from sticking to the resin. Should any of the resin parts become distorted they can be immersed in hot water – TAKE CARE! – and gently tweaked back into place. Do not leave the parts in the water for too long as this may have an adverse effect, making them too soft. Under no circumstances, use a naked flame to heat the parts.

We recommend that the parts are glued together using either 'super glue' – ACC - or a quick setting epoxy resin such as 'Araldite'. Don't be tempted to use the 'instant' versions of these products. A little time to adjust the fit is always wise! Always follow the adhesive manufacturers' instructions and take care not to stick yourself to the kit!

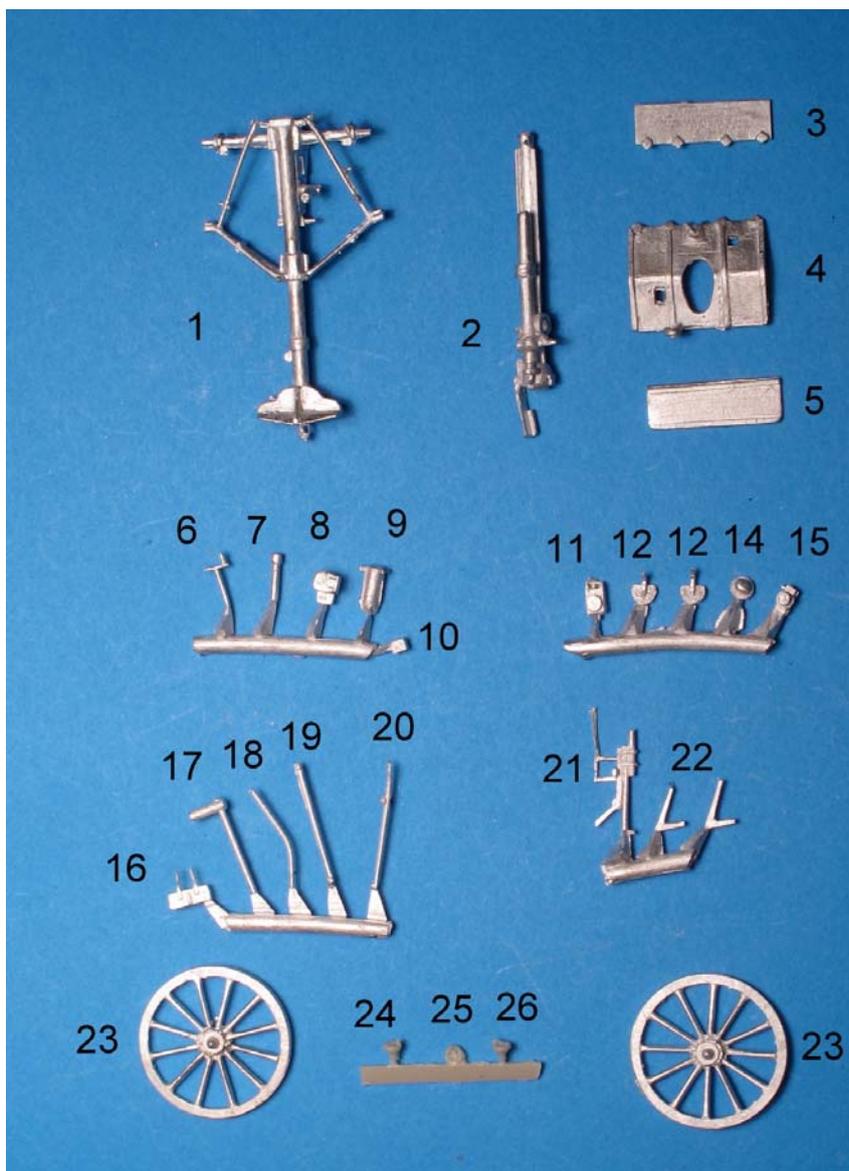
Please do take note of the various photographs. This will help you identify the parts and their location.

General Construction Notes

The kit consists of 26 parts and the following list and photograph will help to identify these. Please refer to the model photographs and the pictures of preserved 18 Pounders in these instructions. The gallery pages on our website – www.wdmodels.com – will feature more pictures of the gun. It is recommended that the model is built as three separate assemblies - carriage assembly, barrel assembly and shield assembly. These are then fitted together to make the complete model. A dry run assembly of pieces is recommended before gluing parts in place.

Parts List and Identification

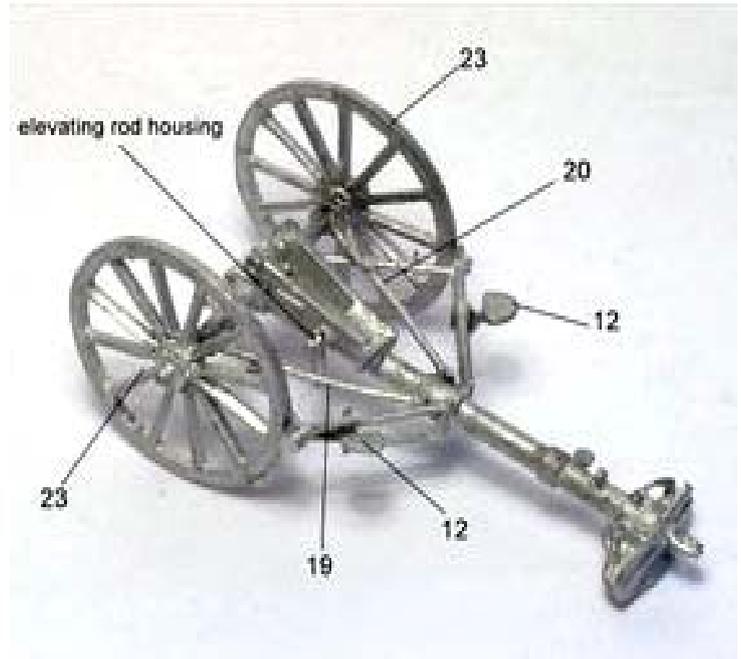
- 1 Pole Trail
- 2 Barrel
- 3 Upper Shield (optional)
- 4 Shield
- 5 Lower Shield
- 6 Brake Handle
- 7 Stowage box-tubular (LHS)
- 8 Stowage Box (RHS)
- 9 Spring Case (Optional)
- 10 Stowage box-Shield (LHS)
- 11 Buffer Tank (Optional)
- 12 Seat
- 12 Seat
- 14 Spring Case (Optional)
- 15 Breech Block
- 16 Stowage Box axle (RHS)
- 17 Elevating Screw
- 18 Traversing lever
- 19 Pole to axle stay(LHS)
- 20 Pole to axle stay (RHS)
- 21 Sight/Inclinometer
- 22 Shield Stay x 2
- 23 Wheel x 2
- 24 Hand wheel (resin)
- 25 Hand wheel (resin)
- 26 Hand wheel (resin)



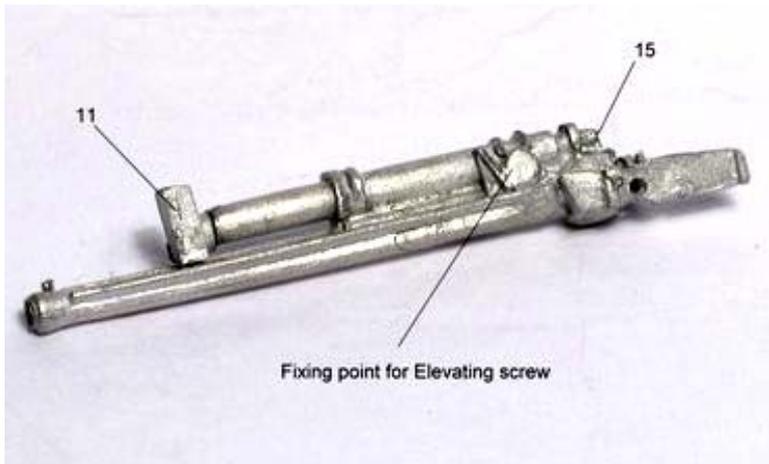
Construction

Carriage Assembly

- 1) Take the Pole to Axle stays (19 LHS) and (20 RHS) and cement to the Pole Trail (1).
- 2) Glue the seats (12) to the locating points on brake arms.
- 3) Drill out the wheel hubs with a 1.2mm drill if required to ensure that they fit on the axle and glue in place ensuring that they are square.
- 4) Carefully drill out the elevating rod housing – as indicated on the photograph – with a 1mm drill.



Barrel Assembly



6) Drill out the front of the barrel (2) with a 1.2 mm drill. Drill out the rear with a 1.8 mm drill.

7) Fit the breech block (15) in an open or closed position, depending on whether you want to show the gun working or at rest

8) Some guns had rope wrapped around the end of their barrel to allow them to be kept cool when firing – see the photograph of the preserved example.

This can be replicated using fine copper wire or cotton

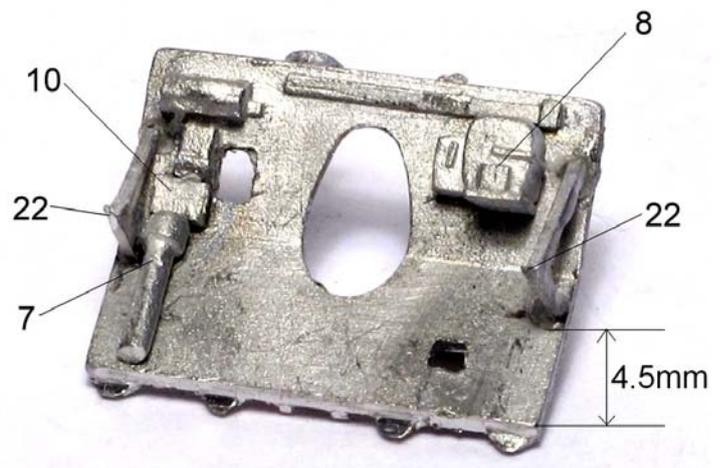
Shield Assembly

9) Glue the three shield-mounted stowage boxes (7 LHS tubular, 8 RHS and 10 LHS) in place.

10) Fit the shield stays (22) in place. Note that the LHS stay fits below the unit in the top LHS corner. The bottom of the stays should be 4.5mm from the bottom of the shield.

11) If required, fit the lower shield (5).

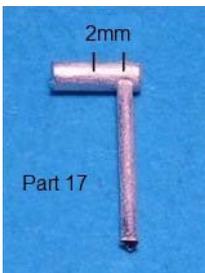
12) Set the completed assembly to one side to dry.



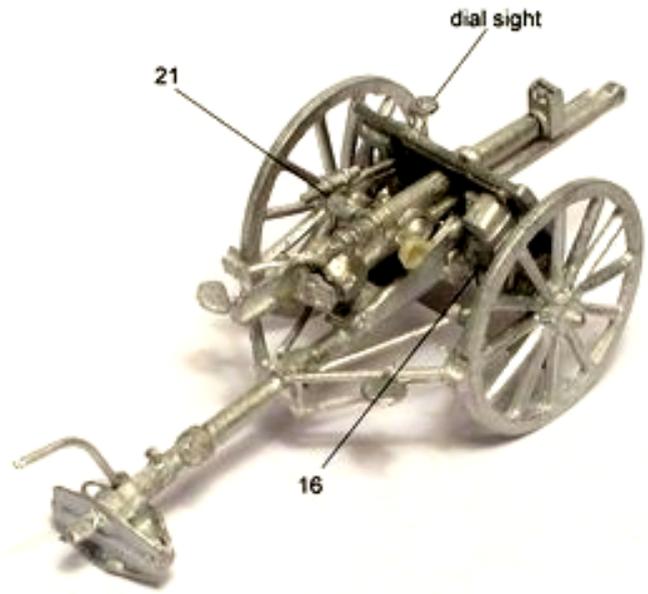
Completion

13) Using Bluetack - or similar - place the barrel on to the carriage, making sure that the fixing point of the elevating screw on the barrel is at right angles to the locating hole on the carriage.

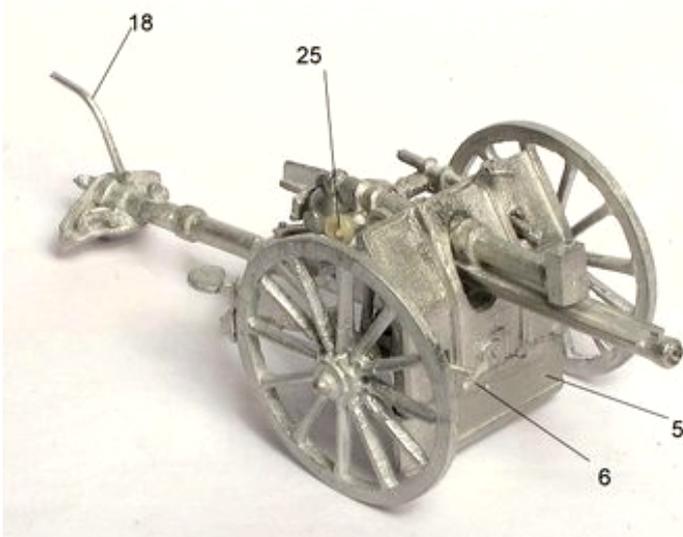
14) Fit the shield assembly onto the carriage, making sure that there is enough space to adjust the elevation of the barrel. Then glue the shield in place. We strongly recommend using a quick setting epoxy resin such as Araldite for this task. Slight adjustments can then be made before the glue sets.



15) Remove the barrel. The barrel is fixed to the carriage by the elevating screw (17). The shorter part of this needs to be trimmed to 2mm (see photo). The length of the elevating screw will determine the elevation of the gun. When you have chosen the desired elevation, cut the longer part to size. Glue to the fixing point of the barrel and then into the housing. Now fit and glue the Sight/inclinometer (21).



Finishing off



16) Optional parts – the Spring Case (9), Buffer Tank (11) and Spring Case (14) can be fitted to the end of the spring housing.

17) Glue on the traversing lever (18) and bend to shape. See the box label for the correct shape.

18) Glue the brake handle (6) notice it is angled from the shield.

19) Take the Stowage Box axle (16 RHS) and file the ends equally for a good fit on the axle and glue in place. When the glue has set, bend the straps around the axle.

20) Fit the hand wheels (24, 25 and 26). Part 25 fits onto the RHS of the barrel. The location of the other two can be seen in the prototype photograph.

The hand wheels are small. To make things easier for you, take a cocktail stick and knead a small piece of Bluetack onto the end. Gently press the hand wheel onto the Bluetack at an angle best suited for easy fixing. Put a spot of superglue on the mounting piece of the hand wheel – being careful not to get any on the Bluetack and glue in place. Wait till the glue has set and gently twist the cocktail stick. The hand wheel should remain glued in place!

21) If you wish to fit the optional upper shield (3), remove the dial sight and fit in place.

Painting.

Ensure that all surfaces are grease and dust free by cleaning in warm soapy water if required. Allow to dry and then spray with a suitable primer. We use Halfords Grey Primer, direct from the aerosol.

The following painting scheme is suggested, as featured in the photographs of the preserved example:

Overall: W^D green, Stowage bags: canvas brown, Hubs and hand wheels: bronze/brass, Details: black, silver or grey.

For details of the camouflage painted 18 Pounder, please refer to the Osprey book mentioned below.

References

Landships - www.landships.freemove.net - dedicated to modelling WWI hardware.

Allied Artillery of World War One by Ian V Hogg

British Artillery 1914-1919 by Dale Clarke, published by Osprey New Vanguard

Extras

We have a number of additional items in our range which complement this kit. WD26 is a set of figures suitable for populating your model / diorama. WDACR06 Eighteen Pounder ammunition boxes and WDE01 Etched hand wheels will add extra detail. WDACM24 are parts for building the later Martin Parry type.



Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Elin Saran, to Ian Taylor for the masters, Tom Cole for his construction advice and help, Phil Radley for putting the whole thing together, to Chris Musgrave for allowing us to use his late father's scale drawing for the box label and to David Gander for his support and the instructions.

Photographs of a preserved 18 Pounder at the Imperial War Museum, London.

