

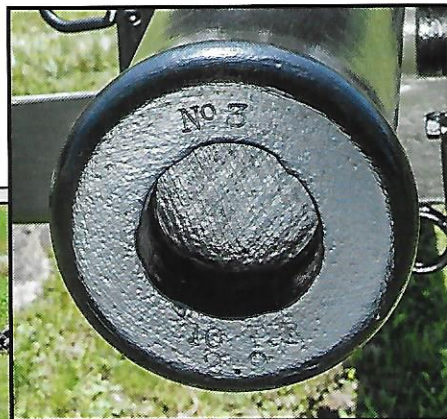
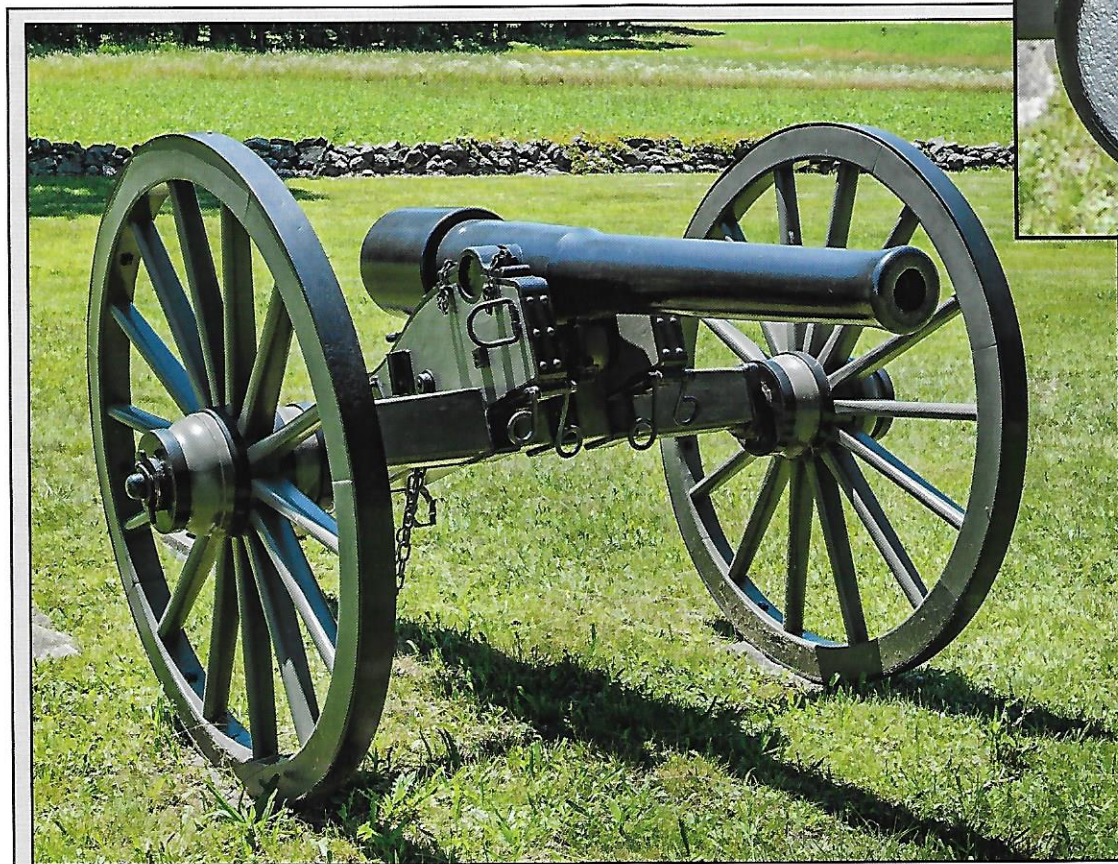
to Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks at Frederick, Md., where it was issued two new 10-pounder (2.9-inch bore) Parrott rifled guns, on loan from another battery. When Banks moved to Harper's Ferry on Feb. 24, Thompson's unit was posted in defensive positions on Maryland Heights overlooking the town. Banks moved south to Winchester, where the battery received two smoothbore Napoleon guns in addition to the Parrotts by March 13.⁹ Thompson trained the men aggressively, using his experience from the Royal Artillery. In April, Thompson's battery remained with Banks' V Corps as Maj. Gen. McClellan moved the remainder of the Army of the Potomac to the James River peninsula for an advance on Richmond. The I and V Corps remained in northern Virginia in the outer defensive line of Washington, D.C.

By 1863, the artillery was coming into its own as the "long arm" of the Union Army. The North entered the

war with an advantage in factories and foundries. By mid-war, the North also had developed a professional and experienced officer corps dedicated to artillery tactics and employment. In the Army of the Potomac, Brig. Gen. Henry J. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, oversaw all administrative and logistic support to the regular and volunteer batteries. In 1856, Hunt had been a member of a three-man board that revised field artillery drill and tactics for the army. *Instructions for Field Artillery* was published by the War Department in 1861 and became the "bible" of Northern field artillerists. Hunt's organizational doctrine, fully implemented by July 1863, allowed infantry corps commanders to retain some artillery for close-in support, but maintained an Artillery Reserve at the army level for more strategic control and reinforcement. This was a departure from Napoleonic practice, which spread artillery across all command levels down to brigades. Experience taught Hunt and the Union army



Col. Henry J. Hunt, officer of the Federal Army (Maj. Gen. from July 6, 1863). (Library of Congress)



U.S. 10-Pdr., 2.9-inch Parrott rifle, no. 3, located on the Gettysburg Battlefield. The Parrott projectile pictured has a wrought iron sabot and a zinc Parrott time fuse adapter for a paper time fuse. (Jack Melton)