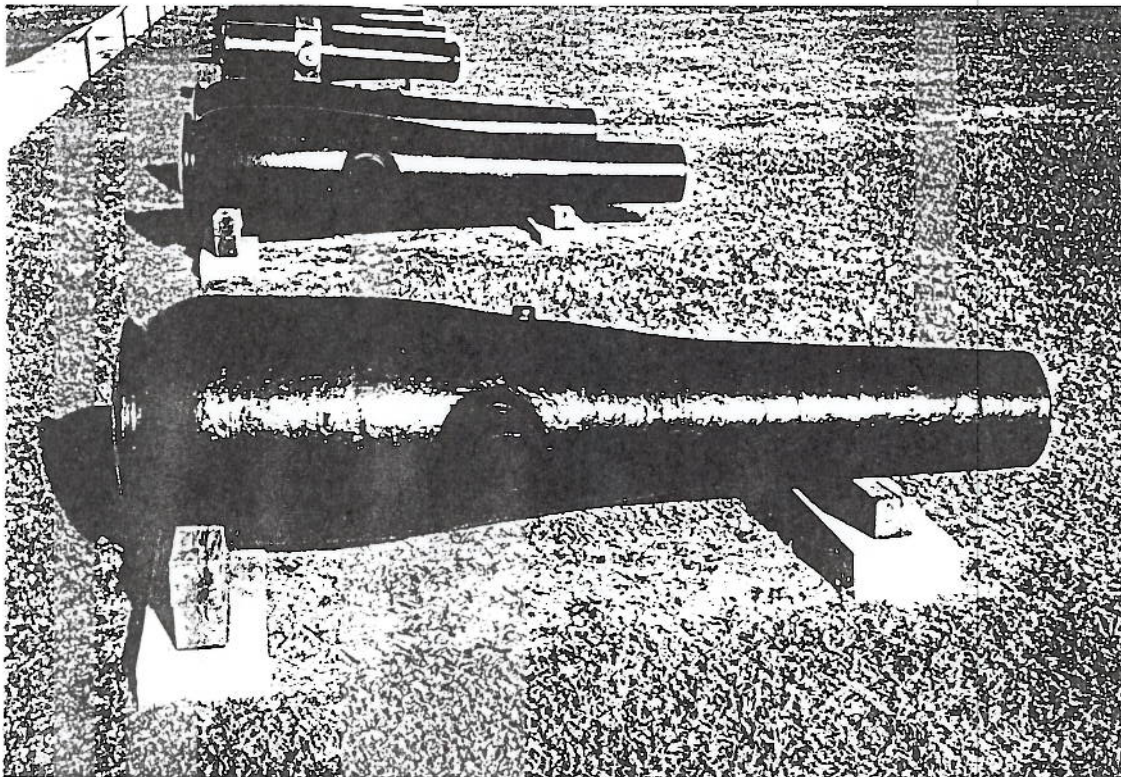


10-inch Confederate Columbiad

M-7

at Fort Moultrie



Common name: 10-inch Confederate Columbiad

Identification: Columbiad, 10-inch, smoothbore, seacoast, Model 1861, Confederate

Other names used: 10-inch Columbiad, Model 1862; 10-inch "Confederate Rodman"

Place of manufacture: Joseph Reid Anderson & Co. (Tredegar Foundry), Richmond

Material: cast iron

Number produced: at least 135 **Known survivors:** 18

PRINCIPLE DIMENSIONS

Length: 123.5 inches **Weight:** 13,290 pounds

Bore diameter: 10 inches **Bore length:** 107.75 inches **Caliber of gun:** 10.8

Weight of gun to shot: 103.8

Trunnion diameter: 10 inches **Trunnion length:** 9 inches

MARKINGS

Muzzle:	1656	<i>foundry number</i>
Left trunnion:	1862	<i>year of manufacture</i>
Right trunnion:	J.R.A. & Co. T.F.	<i>Joseph Reid Anderson & Co. Tredegar Foundry</i>
Breech, upper center:	13290	<i>weight in pounds</i>

Since the Confederate-made columbiads were essentially rough copies of the Rodmans manufactured in the North, their appearance and characteristics were quite similar. On closer examination, though, some differences become obvious. Compared to the smooth external finish of the Rodmans, the Confederate columbiads typically had a rough appearance. Confederate manufacturers correctly reasoned that the effort to turn the gun off in a lathe was an unnecessary step which did nothing to enhance the performance of the weapon. Another identifying feature was their longer trunnions, 9 inches on the Confederate columbiads compared to only 3.25 inches for the Rodmans. Unwilling to waste their dangerously short supply of iron for the production of carriages, wood was used instead which was far more abundant in the South than iron and under the circumstances served reasonably well. But these wooden carriages were not as strong as the sturdy wrought iron carriages produced in the North, and consequently they required thicker cheeks and longer trunnions for the guns. As part of another effort to conserve pig iron in the South, the Confederate columbiad was designed with a shorter overall length, typically 13 inches shorter than the 10-inch Rodman. The resulting savings in iron was considerable, with the gun being approximately 1,700 pounds lighter than the Rodman. The thickness of metal over the breech was still maintained (the maximum diameter was approximately 31.5 inches compared to 32 inches in the Rodman) and performance was probably similar, especially at close ranges where by design these smoothbores would see their greatest use. Being lighter, the Confederate gun was also easier to ship and move into position. So despite the steps taken to make the columbiad easier and cheaper to produce in the South, it was still a formidable weapon and just as strong as the Northern-manufactured Rodman. . . with one *critical* exception. The Confederate columbiad was inherently weaker since it was not manufactured using the Rodman process of hollow casting (*see M-9 & M-10*).

Understandably, large columbiads were in great demand throughout the South, particularly in those areas where Federal ironclads were active. And other than the heavy rifles, no smoothbore smaller than the 10-inch was considered to be effective against ironclad targets. Richmond's Tredegar Foundry cast about 128 such guns while the Bellona Foundry produced an unknown quantity (there are at least 9 Bellona survivors). Of the 18 known surviving 10-inch Confederate columbiads, 11 are in the Charleston area: two at Fort Moultrie, two on Sullivan's Island, two at the Battery, two at Magnolia Cemetery, two at Belle Isle Gardens, and one (perhaps two) at Castle Pinckney.