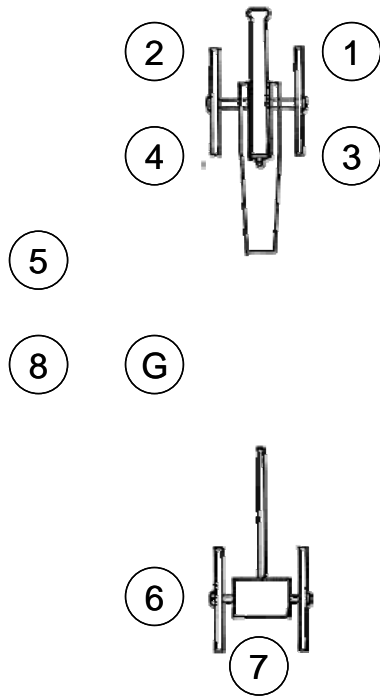


# Artillery Posts and Duties



## Basic Gun Crew

- **Number 1** uses a sponge/rammer, a large ash staff with a wool-covered sponge head at one end, to be wet for cleaning and cooling the bore, and a rammer head at the other for ramming and seating the charge.
- **Number 2** uses a worm, a large ash staff with a two twisted metal hooks at one end, to be used to remove the remains of fired ammunition, or mis-fired ammunition. Number 2 also inserts the charge into the bore to be rammed.
- **Number 3** has a pouch with the priming wire or vent pick, which is a pointed iron rod with a loop at the opposite end, and a vent brush, used to clean the vent and avoid fouling. Number 3 also carries a Thumb Stall which is used to seal the vent during cleaning and loading.
- **Number 4** wears a leather primer pouch attached to a belt, and holds the lanyard, a length of cord tied to a wooden handle, with a hook at the free end. Number 4 inserts the primer into the vent and fires the cannon.
- **Number 5** (also sometimes called the “Powder Monkey” in naval artillery) wears a leather haversack for carrying the ammunition between Number 6 and Number 2.
- **Numbers 6 and 7**, who work together at the chest, have tools for preparing the ammunition.
- **Number 8** carries either binoculars or a field telescope and is the spotter, standing wherever they can have the best view of the artillery’s effect and relay that information back to the Gunner.
- The **Gunner** carries the sight. The gunner gives the commands to the gun crew.

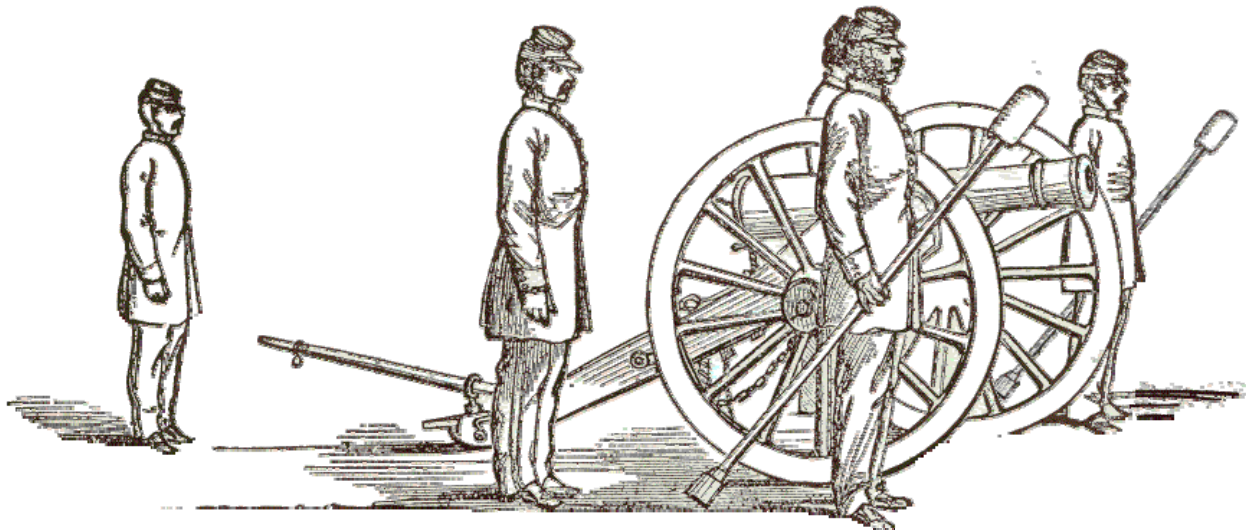
When preparing to take their positions, the gun crew lines up behind the limber, facing the cannon, in the following formation:

8	6	4	2	G
7	5	3	1	

or

6	4	2	G
7	5	3	1

When the Gunner gives the order: CANNONEERS, TAKE IMPLEMENTS!, the gun crew (except for Number 1 & 2) retrieves their implements from the limber and returns to formation behind the limber. CANNONEERS, POST!, the gun crew moves forward to the positions in the diagram and stands at attention. Number 1 & 2 will pick up their implements before coming to attention in their proper position.



When the Gunner gives the order: **CANNONEERS, SECURE THE PIECE!**, the Number 1 & 2 return their implements to the carrying hooks on the bottom of the carriage and the rest of the cannon crew returns their implements to the limber. The gun crew then returns to their previous positions (posts or limber formations). When the Gunner gives the order: **CANNONEERS, FALL BACK ON THE LIMBER!**, the gun crew returns to their formation behind the limber. If no order has been given to Secure The Piece, Number 1 & 2 will bring their implements with them to the limber.