

1861 13-inch Seacoast Mortar “The Dictator”



Resin Assembly kit - paint and glue not included



It was logical and inevitable that the battle for control of the railroads would lead to the development and deployment of what we know today as armored railroad cars and railroad guns. Credit is given to General Lee for requesting in 1862 a “big” gun to be mounted on a rolling car with adequate protection, thus making a heavy artillery or naval gun easily transportable and deployed. This land “monitor” is the subject of another story and model.

The Dictator

The 1861 13-inch Seacoast Mortar, weighing 17,000 pounds and firing a 200-pound projectile was installed on purpose built shortened railroad flat car. An accompanying box car provided the crew, ordinance, and provisions transportation.

The mortar was originally designed to be fired from the railcar. After a few rounds, the first flatcar that it was fired from was destroyed by the recoil. Its reinforced successor would be thrust down the tracks with each firing, while the mortar itself would surge back on the car. The mortar was finally placed in a “permanent” installation consisting of wooden beams placed directly on the railroad tracks and its flatcar relegated to serve as a shuttle to the rail box car to transports powder and ammunition.



