

Use of Wall Guns

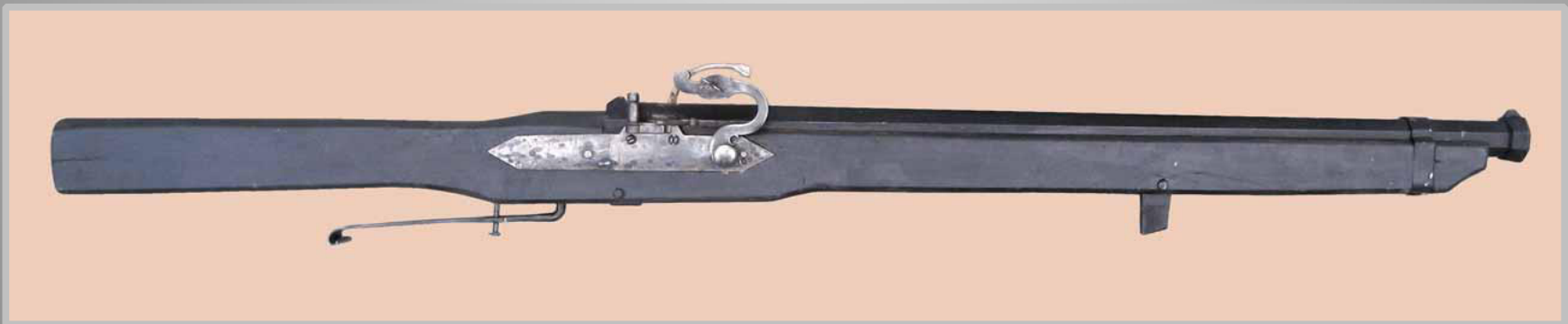
1400 - 1750

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What is a Wall Gun?

A wall gun is a firearm too heavy to be carried and operated by one person. In general the front with hook was supported by a mount in the field or by a bounce beam in an embrasure of a fortress.

Early wall guns were ignited by a fuse, later versions by a match lock or a wheel lock.

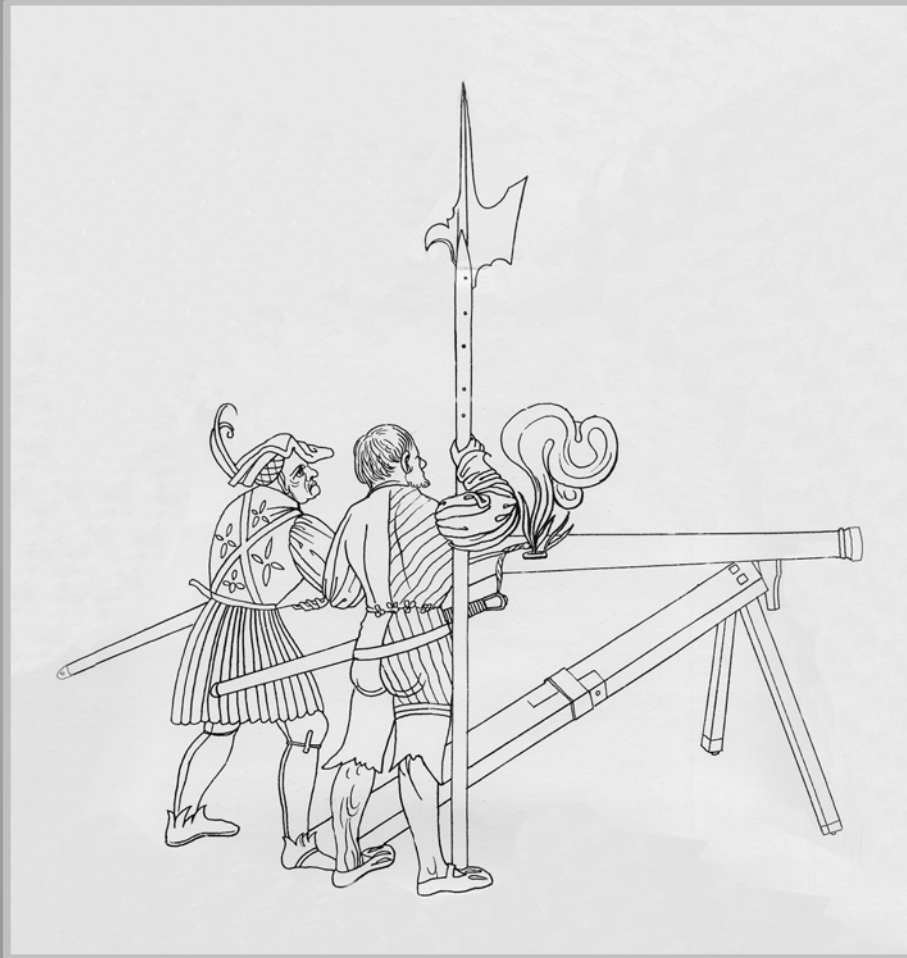


Ca. 1440: Shooter holding a Stoked Gun on Portable Carriage



A common method to use a heavy handheld gun in the field was to support it on a portable shield carriage. With a wall gun, the carriage absorbs the recoil. In this way, the shooter had a fairly stable support and at the same time, some protection against arrows and small caliber bullets. Ignition is done by hand. At the rear of the carriage, hangs the spare match for the shooter.

Ca. 1500: Double Wall Gun on Wooden Mount

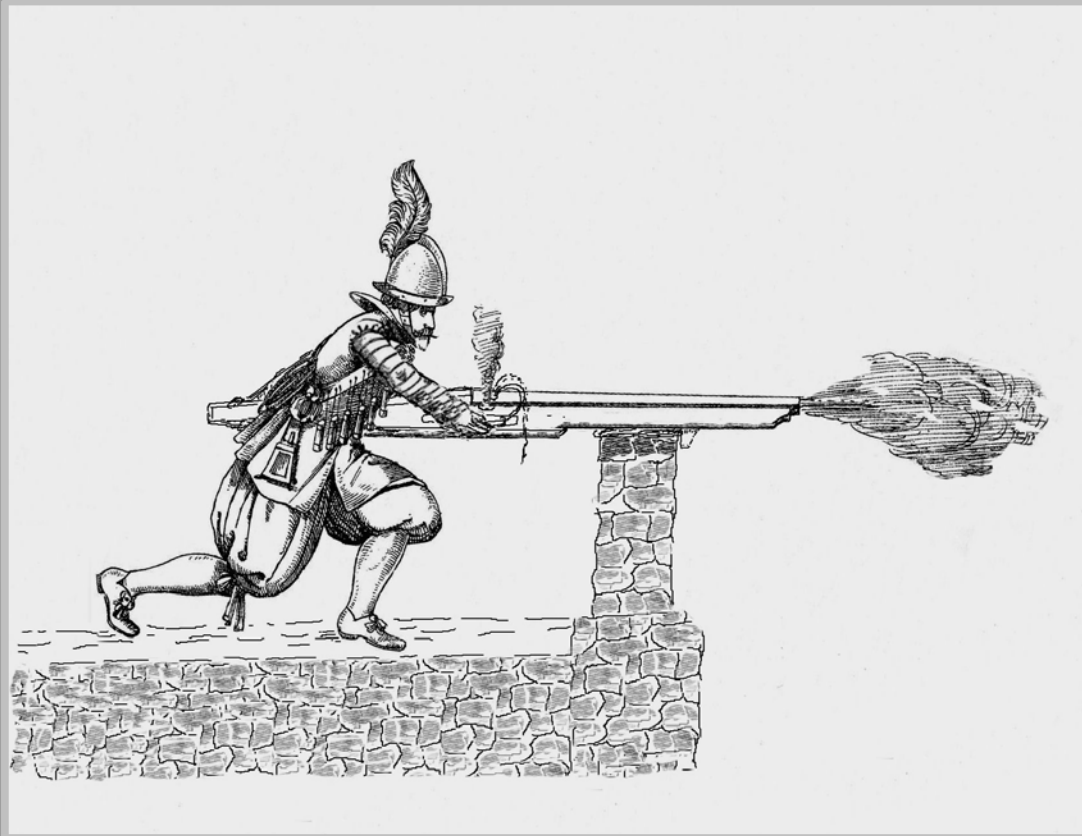


Heavy wall guns were often called double wall guns.

The shooter in the rear aims at the target. The person in the front makes the ignition with a glowing match.

A. Essenwein, Quelle zur Geschichte der Feuerwaffen, 1872

Ca. 1500: Double Wall Gun in a Fortress

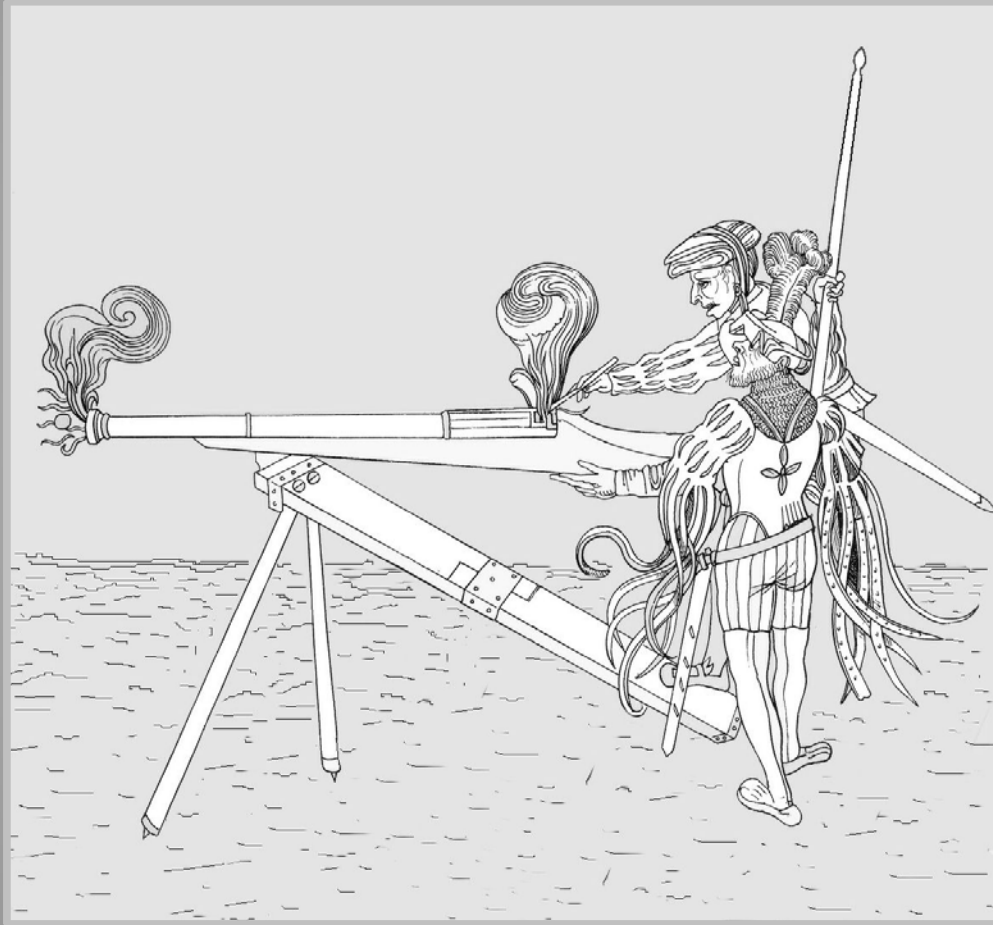


The double wall gun is already equipped with a snaphance match lock.

The shooter could operate the firearm without any help of an other person.

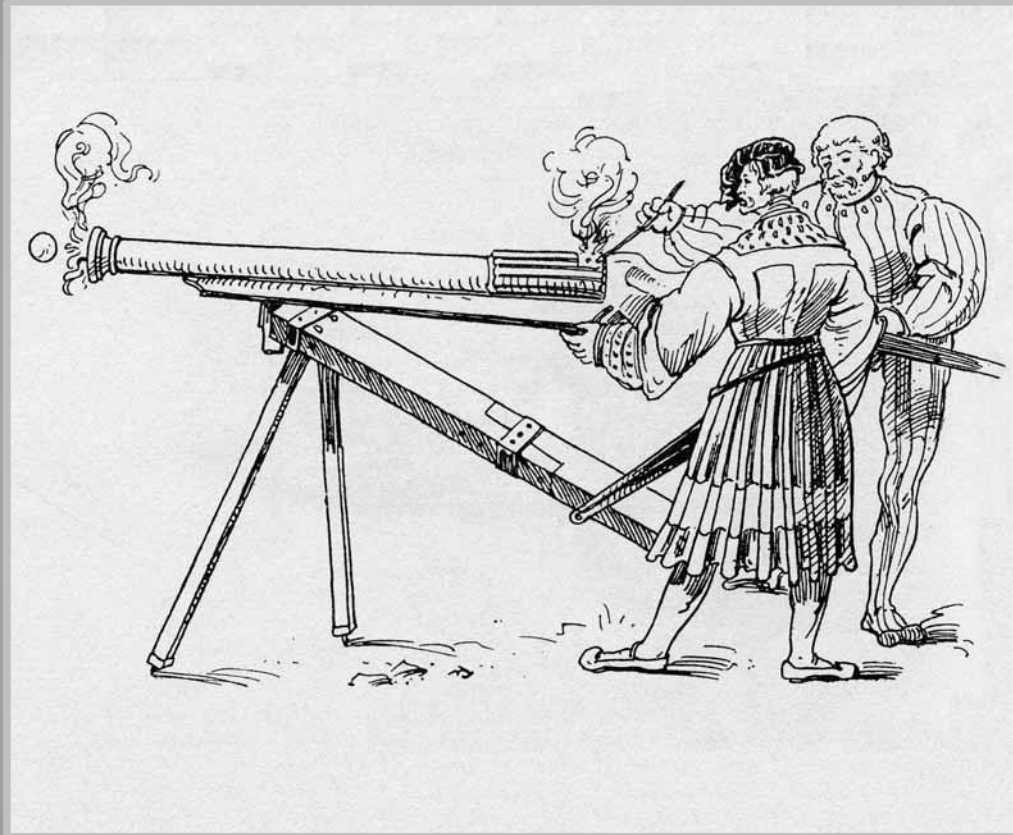
Unknown artist

Ca. 1505: Wall Gun with Carriage, Emperor Maximilian I.



Some carriages from the time of Maximilian I, around 1505, consisted of a board with one end wedged into the ground and two leg supports that could be folded away. The board served to support the gun and directed the recoil into the ground. For added stability, the helper or the shooter pressed the board into the ground with his foot. The helper ignited the gun with a match.

Ca. 1514: Mercenaries with Double Wall Gun



A heavy double wall gun of Maximilian I, operated by two mercenaries, is shown

A. Essenwein, Quelle zur Geschichte der Feuerwaffen, 1872

Ca. 1550: Wall Gun in Fortress



The wall gun rests on a embrasure of a fortress.

The firearm is being ignited by a glowing match wound around a ignition pole.

End