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ABSTRACT

Improvements in or relating to field howitzers

A lightweight field howitzer includes a barrel (101) which is supported by a cradle constructed from hollow members (119, 119A) and which is pivotally mounted about a trunnion bearing (113) secured to a chassis (117). The trunnion bearing (113) lies on the barrel axis and is positioned beyond the limit of maximum recoil of the barrel. Front stabilisers and rear trail support legs are provided to spread the load of the howitzer and spades are rigidly secured to the chassis (117). The howitzer includes a single hydraulic accumulator arrangement (136, 177, 185, 130, 189, 119) constituting a combined recoil buffer and recuperator system. A barrel elevating means is provided comprising a geared manual means (115, 116, 153, 149, 139) assisted by a precompressed gas system (114, 119A).

(Figure 2)