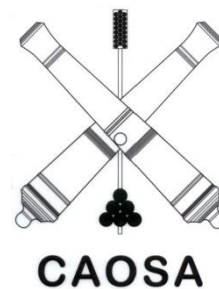


CANNON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Gunners Room, The Castle of Good Hope Cape Town

SAPS Registration number: 28/1/3/8/2/1 23704



NEWSLETTER No. 58 August 2015

An informative service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

BL GUN REFURBISHMENT

Martin Venter was appointed the contractor by Overberg Municipality to refurbish the two 12 pdr Hotchkiss breech loader guns standing above the old harbour in Hermanus. After 18 months of completing documents and nearly giving up, the final approval came through, and the guns were picked up on the 05th May 2015. Martin, with the help of another company, worked under tremendous pressure to complete the task before the 30th June 2015.

The two guns were returned to their original position the morning of 30th June 2015 watched by approximately 100 local residents and the local newspaper who all approved of the end result. Not only are they looking operational, but were made safe for the little hands normally climbing all over them waiting for the parents to take that special photo.

Although BL guns are not a normal concern of CAOSA, Martin's action has shown that our association is sympathetic to the needs of distant relatives in the world of artillery and that CAOSA helped when nobody else would.

Well done Martin !



Refurbished guns back at their original place

A CALL TO ACTION

We have received an interesting message from “Tannie Mossie” of SADF forces radio fame. She has pointed out that the 2 minute pause, which is now recognised world wide as a solemn and respectful pause, was started in 1918 by Cape Town’s famous Noon Gun. (see page 45 of my book).

Tannie Mossie has suggested that this offers several opportunities to defend the Noon Gun and to promote its continuation, to promote Cape Town tourism and to publicise CAOSA with dignified events tied to this anniversary.

Admittedly, 2018 seems to be far in the future, but several build-up events between now and then would help to focus minds and resources on ideas that should result in a grand finale and be beneficial to all.

This is what we exist for - not so ?

BLOEMENDAL CANNON STATION DEVELOPMENTS

Erick Kellerman has been developing the cannon theme at Bloemendal Cannon Station. He has had me repair some oak wine barrels, paint various cannon related motifs on them and then oil them in defence against the weather. These wine barrels add to the character and atmosphere of the area.



9 pdr British MLC – 4 pdr Swedish MLC aiming at Table Mountain – VOC Logo

CANNONS & CARRIAGES NEEDING FIRST AID

Jurg Zimmermann and I went to survey the two cannons (Durr 74 and 75) outside the museum in the Gardens in Cape Town. The guns are in fair condition but the carriages, which were made about 40 years ago, are showing signs of rot and some pieces are missing. We are examining the options and possibilities for repair.



While in the Gardens we took the opportunity to locate, examine and measure the 300 year old cannon (Durr 980) that was unearthed in Orange Street about two years ago. After all the press coverage and bluster that followed the location of the gun, nothing has been done to or for it in the two years that have passed. Jurg has fixed a bayonet to his pen and is going to cause a stir somewhere.



THE DURR RECORD

The Durr Record of cannon in SA now has 1019 guns listed. The latest being what appears to be an English ¼ pdr on a makeshift field carriage which came from a farm in the Mossel Bay area. Should any member require an updated list by e-mail please contact me at noongun@mweb.co.za .

CANNONS NEXT TO SIGNAL HILL KRAMAT

Jurg Zimmermann received a call from the Friends of Lionshead regarding the condition of the above 2 cannons. He went to survey the two cannons (Durr 17 and 18) at the bottom of Lions head near the Kramat in Cape Town. The guns are in fair condition but the concrete carriages, are showing signs of old age with some pieces of concrete missing. We are examining the options and possibilities for a repair sponsored by the Friends of Lionshead.



SOUTH AFRICAN PAWN STARS TV SERIES

CAOSA have been approached by the director of a TV show called "PAWN STARS SA". He advised CAOSA, that the series is shown on the DSTV History channel and that they are in pre production for the 2nd season.

He advised us, that they are looking for someone that can bring in a interesting cannon or cannon model to sell or exchange, preferably a cannon that has South Africa historical links.

The committee has been in contact with the director and we are awaiting further information.

CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE IN CAPE TOWN

Firings have resumed on Saturdays at The Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town at 10h00, 11h00, 12h00 and 13h00.

Please check our website www.caosa.org.za for other firings and news items.

UBIQUE

Gerry de Vries - Researcher