



NEWSLETTER No. 51 May 2014

An informative service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

It has been several months since the last newsletter and I have racked my brain to find an excuse for this. If I ever invent a good one I will let you know !

In the interim you can choose from the following :-

- a. I had to bath the dog,
- b. I was busy watching the weeds grow in the lawn,
- c. I had a heart attack while chasing a tortoise, or,
- d. The ink in my computer mouse dried up .

COMMITTEE POINTS

- The Committee, in conjunction with the Gunners Board have been working on ideas that make provision for the Hout Bay contingent and their unique situation. Hout Bay have produced their own documentation based on the CAOSA documentation but which makes provision for their unique circumstances. Hout Bay gunners remain full members of CAOSA.
- Jurg has made good progress with the register of cannon proof firings and Martin has continued along the same lines and this is now almost up to date.
- Attempts by the Chairman to form a bond between CAOSA and SAHRA have yet to produce any results.
- Erick's negotiations with the SAPS Explosives HQ is looking very promising for CAOSA. Certain elements have already been implemented but not promulgated as the SAPS first want to ensure that non-CAOSA members do not jump on the bandwagon.
- The Committee were pleased to note that a 'Transvaal' chapter of CAOSA has been formed and is centred on the Voortrekker Monument.

RECENT EVENTS

- The Military Tattoo at the Castle was once again successfully supported by CAOSA.
- Erick Kellerman conceived, planned and organised a big shoot at the Bloemendal Restaurant in the Durbanville District. There were several guns arranged in an arc overlooking the valley below, a 9 pdr SBML, two 9 pdr RMLs, two 7 pdr RMLs plus half and quarter pdrs. With great effort, negotiations and ingenuity Erick arranged the delivery of 25kg of FFG powder, this was the best planned and prepared shoot ever.

As fate would have it Erick and his wife Sanria were robbed at gunpoint in their home on the evening before the shoot and he could not attend the big event. On top of the loss of the chief organiser it rained on and off throughout the whole event. It was a credit to Erick's planning and preparation that other senior members like Jacobus, Jurg,

Martin, John and Gavin could step up to the plate and see the event through without so much as a hitch or a misfire. Brings tears to me eyes!

- There have been several other firings at the Bloemendal Restaurant, in Hout Bay, at the Taal Monument in Paarl, at Newlands Swimming Pool, at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria and elsewhere, all in support of sporting or cultural events.

MUZZLE SHAPE

The shape of the muzzle and swell on a cannon is often an indicator of its age and, in some cases its designed utilisation. Muzzle faces were originally large and flat and were intended to reduce back blast, much as is seen on Lantakas. Later muzzles on siege and bombardment land guns were more ornamental with large sections of added metal in the belief that this steadied the gun. Eventually when artillery warfare went to sea these siege type guns were used on the upper decks of ships without major problems. Later after the introduction of gun ports on the lower decks the large angular protrusions on the muzzle swell would hook on the gun port and damage the ship during recoil, the muzzle swells on seagoing guns were then sloped from the muzzle astragal to the muzzle face to prevent them from hooking on gun ports. Later the swell was done away with completely and there was no swell at all.

ADDITIONS TO THE DURR RECORD

The Durr Record now stands at 1,007 muzzle loading cannon in SA and new entries are still occurring from time to time.

CAOSA WEBSITE

Readers are advised that upcoming events are publicised on our website at **caosa.org.za**

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

I have already started with the next newsletter !

UBIQUE

Gerry de Vries Chairman / Researcher