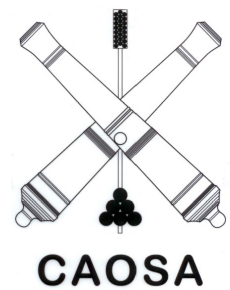


CANNON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Cannon Association of South Africa c/o
Chavonnes Battery Museum, Nedbank Building,
Clock Tower Precinct,
V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, 8000



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

NEWSLETTER No. 60 May 2018

An informative service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

CAOSA IS ALIVE AND WELL

At the 2018 AGM held at Ke-Monate the new Committee was elected and now consists of Martin Venter (Chairman), James Page McDonald (Treasurer), Peter Underwood, (Webmaster) Erika Foot (Member) and some guy by the name of Gerry de Vries (Researcher) who was instructed to resurrect the CAOSA Newsletter by mid May.

Although communication has been slow and scarce for about two years, CAOSA has plodded ever onwards and much has been done. Our home address is no longer at the Castle of Good Hope but at Chavonne's Battery at the V&A Waterfront where CAOSA is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Battery which ensures that the actions of the two parties are mutually beneficial.

THE DURR RECORD OF CANNON

South Africa's unique record of the muzzle loading cannon in the country now lists 1,040 cannon, howitzers, mortars, carronades and gunades. It is unlikely that this record will ever be completed as, although slowed to a trickle, more guns are still being located and recorded from time to time.

NEW CAOSA CANNON

The Association has invested in a ½ pounder iron cannon (Durr No.435) on a wheeled carriage from a deceased estate. This is a gun that I recorded in Sir Lowrey Village in 2001 before the owner moved to Pretoria. The owner stated that this gun was used to regulate wagon traffic traversing the old Gantouw Pass, the forerunner to Sir Lowrey's Pass. This plausible story has had me intrigued for years but I have never located any official or historic document that made mention of such a signal system. Who knows? Do you?

NEW CARRIAGES

Several new gun carriages have been made and now the guns are on display with a modicum of dignity. Two carriages against Lion's Head, one at Parow High School, one at Kanonkop Wine Estate, one at Leeuenhof and one at the Post Huis in Muizenberg. A platform for mounting John Ferelo's 36 pdr Carronade is now complete and a carriage has been made for the gun off Kanonkop near Atlantis.

TIME LINE FOR CHAVONNE

Jurg and James have been assisting me in the creation of a cannon time-line, a sequential series of events starting with the invention of gunpowder and ending with WW I. The display has photographs,

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Committee: Martin Venter (Chairman), James Page Macdonald (Treasurer),
Erika Foot (Secretary), Peter Underwood (Member), Gerry de Vries (Member)

drawings, stories, inventions and significant battles which give one a perspective on the long and slow evolution of artillery. The formal outcome will form a new display at Chavonne's Battery.

REACH FOR A DREAM

A young lad from Gauteng who is suffering from Lymphoma had a wish to visit the Castle of Good Hope and to fire the cannon as one of his friends had done in the past. The Castle obliged with a free tour of the facility and a lunch for him and his family. We set up a special firing for him at 11h30 to avoid the crowding that occurs at the normal firings. The charge was generous, the wad was an old woollen sock, the report loud, the smoke impressive and his broad smile gave us all a feel-good moment. We presented him with a CAOSA cap and a small cannon badge and the smile was so persistent that I doubt that he slept that night.

MOU WITH SAHRA

CAOSA has at last signed a Memorandum of understanding between the association and South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). The CEO of SAHRA, accompanied by several of his staff made a short but meaningful speech, the CEO of The Castle of Good Hope did likewise and the CEO of SAHRA fired the Castle's half pounder cannon after which all adjourned to the conference room where the memorandum was signed.

The MOU defines and re-enforces CAOSA's commitment to the preservation of antique ML cannon as heritage items.

I understand that the MOU will appear on our website shortly.

CANNON RECOVERED

The cannon registered as Durr No. 9 which stood on the corner of Grey Street in Woodstock was removed by a contractor doing pavement repairs. I pass that corner every morning on my way to the Castle and I noticed its absence. I passed a few clues on to Riaan Conradie who investigated. He eventually located the gun where it was concealed under a bridge and recovered it. Riaan is busy restoring the gun and he will remain the custodian until a new home is found for it.

A CENTENARY CELEBRATED

On Monday 14 May Martin invited several CAOSA gunners to bring their half and quarter pounder cannon to Lion Battery to mark the occasion when, on 14 May 1918, the Noon Gun began the tradition of a moment of silence in remembrance of the departed. The gunners fired ten shots, one for every ten years.

UBIQUE,

Gerry de Vries : Researcher to CAOSA