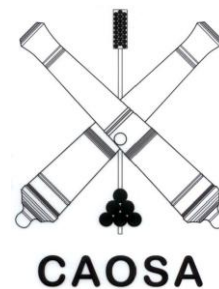


CANNON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
Gunners Room, The Castle of Good Hope Cape Town
SAPS Registration number: 28/1/3/8/2/1 23704



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An informative service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

HAPPENINGS IN THE FREE STATE.

(From MC Heunis)

The Oranje Vrijstaat Artillerie Corps Historical Study and Re-enactment Group are currently busy restoring their 87mm Krupp gun to form a new exhibit at the War Museum of the Boer Republics in Bloemfontein. They were also fortunate enough to find a Krupp limber box, which they hope to restore and use with their gun in the near future. In the mean time full Prussian style artillery uniforms are being made up for their gun crew. Now they only have to find six trained horses that don't flinch when the gun fires!

HAPPENINGS IN THE CAPE

Frikkie Conradie responded to a request from Col Conradie (no relation) of the Castle for a demonstration of a cannon firing for the visiting RSMs. In late September MWO Ntuli fired the shot and the RSMs were given a short explanation of the aims and achievements of CAOSA.

Riaan performed a night firing for both the Castle and for Phillips in their quest to publicise their brand of LED lighting. Lights were sequentially switched on to illuminate the pyramids in Egypt and then at various venues down the length of Africa ending with the illumination of The Castle of Good Hope. I note that Riaan's muzzle flash also illuminated half of Cape Town.

Frikkie and Riaan were also busy with firings at the Taal Monument in Paarl, in the Brackenfell Reserve and at the Huntex Expo in Wellington, all of which publicised CAOSA and served the public well.

HAPPENINGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF HOUT BAY

On 15 September 1795 the British sloop HMS ECHO (16 six pdr guns) under the command of Captain Todd was sent to probe and alarm the defenders of Hout Bay such that they would fire their guns and reveal their positions. Echo sailed slowly into the bay and drew fire from both

East and West Batteries. Having noted the gun positions and the effectiveness of their fire Echo turned about slowly, fired a few greeting shots and went off to pass on the intelligence gained to Admiral Elphinstone.

On Heritage Day the Hout Bay engagement of 1795 was re-enacted with a private yacht acting as HMS ECHO armed with small cannon manned by Jurg and other members of CAOSA. The Hout Bay Gunners fired several of the original 18 and 24 pounder cannon and "ECHO" returned fire before retreating from the bay. I have been assured that no CAOSA member became sea sick and that none of the present Hout Bay gunners had participated in the original engagement in 1795.

The TV coverage was quite a "scoop" which was "skewered" by some terminology.

THE SAILING SEASON

On Saturday 11 October Martin Venter and Gavin Meier started the sailing season at the Royal Cape Yacht Club by firing two 7 pdr cannons, they then moved over to Chavonne Battery where they fired eleven 1/4 pd shots to celebrate 112 years of existence of the Royal Cape Yacht Club.

CANNON DAY FIRING AT BLOEMENDAL

25th October was the date, Bloemendal Restaurant was the venue, Erick Kellerman was the driving force, Martin and Gavin were the labourers and Jurg was the administrator, at my count 17 gunners reported for duty. Everybody else had a ball!

The day began with a safety briefing followed by a sumptuous breakfast and a nine gun broadside with a 9 pdr, three 7 pdr RMLs, three 4 pdrs, a ½ Pdr and a ¼ pdr. Happy smiling faces emerged from the massive cloud of smoke.

There followed a whole day of ripple firings, individual firings and another broadside. Members of the public had the opportunity to fire a cannon in a safe environment under the supervision of one of the senior gunners.

My in-coming e-mail has been full of praise for Erick's organisation of the event, for Martin and Gavin's exertions in moving the guns and for Jurg and helpers who manned the "office".

But – where were the non-gunner members of CAOSA ???

IN GENERAL FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

This is a very pertinent question, where were the non-gunner members of CAOSA, and a question I've been asking after every Navy Festival. To be a member of CAOSA does not mean you bought a gym membership card and don't attend classes, it means you are a member of an Association where people interact with each other to make this Association a success. This Association does not consist just out of gunners, they are just a handful of members who are trying their utmost best to promote this Association and make it a success. Bravo Zulu to them.

At this moment we have proofed to the Authorities that we can fire cannons at any given time, condition, place and event safely with the professional manner required by them, and got their support all the way.

CAOSA is accepted as the only registered Association in South Africa as far as muzzle loading cannon firing is concerned, and we will be the first to be contacted where muzzle loading cannons are related.

CAOSA is a non-racial organisation which means it is open to all to join this Association. If it was not for CAOSA, South Africa wouldn't know anything about muzzle loading cannons except for using it as ornaments or scrap metal. With CAOSA's intervention we saved over a thousand cannons which are registered in the Durr records.

We are still on track as far as the preservation and appropriately utilisation of the historical muzzle loading cannons in South Africa is concerned. While just standing outside a building I consider it as dead history. When CAOSA gets involved, and fire that cannon, it becomes live history. Do not allow this beautiful organisation to become history by not being active.

This Association consist of two controlling bodies, the National Committee and the Gunner's Board, sadly both are manned by gunners and it has been this way for many years. The Gunner's Board understandably so, and I would like non-gunner members to put their hands up for nomination to serve on the National Committee. We are all members and it is not fair to rely on a handful of members to do all the work. Many hands makes lots of work easy, get involved it is your Association, so be proud of it and proof it.

We can only survive and earn the respect of the public if all members take part. We need members to assist with the planning, promoting, lecturing, general helping and fund raising at events. The gunners cannot do it everything. THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF "UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU" IT IS A MATTER OF WE NEED YOU, you are a member already.

UBIQUE

Gerry de Vries - Researcher