

THE DUTCH CALL-UP CANNON SIGNAL SYSTEM - C1800



In 1734 the VOC authorities (Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie / Dutch East India Company) at The Castle, located at the Cape of Good Hope introduced the Dutch Call-Up Cannon Signal System. The system, which eventually consisted of 54 cannon was designed to help the Burgers form a communication link between The Castle and Citrusdal in the North, Worcester to the North East and Swellendam to the South East.

In 1757 the signal system was trialled for the first time. Each cannon within the signal system had a dedicated gunner who lived within hearing distance of the signal cannon being fired and was responsible for saddling up and firing the next cannon in the chain. The signal could not be heard from one signal gun to another. The gunner also lit stacked wet bushes at the signal cannon.

A threat to Cape Town activated the signal system and the Burgers would be called to saddle up their horses, gather their muskets and hurry to The Castle to defend against enemy fire.

Cannon number four, situated on top of Hoozeberg Hill formed part of the cannon signal system.

The signal system was used for the 5th and last time during January 1806, when the English landed at Blaauwberg (just before the Battle of Blaauwberg). Thereafter the Dutch Call-Up Cannon Signal System was abandoned.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION / ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE, PLEASE CONTACT US



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