



36 pounder Carronade placed at Nitida Cannon Station



History of Kloof Neck and Camps Bay Batteries- 1804/1805

Research indicates that the French assisted the Dutch at the Cape during the Batavian period before 1806. The French built a battery and tower in Camps Bay and in Kloof Neck and the French supplied two 36 pounder carronades for each position. These pieces were meant to fire grape or canister shot to prevent the landing of boats and to guard against soldiers occupying Kloof Neck.

Only four of these 36 pounder carronades were shipped to South Africa during the period 1805.

The four 36 pounder carronades are now placed at:
Durr number 259 Nitida Cannon Station – Durbanville
Durr number 23 Kloof Neck – Cape Town
Durr numbers 596 and 597 Naval HQ – Pretoria

Restoration of the 36 pdr carronade

Prior to drilling the vent hole, the exact angle and distance from the end chamber had to be determined which required some “cannon” skills and years of experience.

After thorough measuring and calculations, the approximate vent angle was drawn on the barrel.



Gerry de Vries drilling the vent hole.



After careful examination, the Carronade was declared ready for firing.

Proof firing (First firing since 1803)



Loading the proof charge.



Charge being rammed.

Successfully proof fired 20 March 2019



Recognition to Researcher Gerry de Vries, assisting with rebuild and proof firing.

Should you be interested in firing a cannon, or would like more information regarding the displayed cannon, then please contact either:

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News Flash:

Nitida Cannon Station website is at this stage still under construction and will be launched approx end of April 2019.