



Army Museum of Tasmania

Anglesea Barracks
HOBART

Information Sheet No 7

32 Pounder Naval Karronade

LOCATION Front entrance to Anglesea Barracks



HISTORY

The gun was manufactured in 1847 at the Alexandrovsky Plant in Petrozavodsk, then and now, a significant city 300km north of St. Petersburg not too far from the modern Russian-Finnish border. Peter the Great established the plant and named it after Alexander Nevskiy, a famous Russian Count (Knyaz) who defeated the German knights on 5 April 1242 and who is locally regarded as a Patron Saint. The city was founded in 1703 for the purpose of producing cannon and anchors for the Baltic Fleet. Production ceased in 1734 but resumed in 1773 at the new foundry where this gun was cast.

The Directors of the new foundry up until the appointment of Boutenev were from the United Kingdom or France. Indeed the Karrnade at Launceston was cast during the Directorship of John Armstrong, a Scotsman. Initially the Carron Company in Scotland exported guns to Russia but financial difficulties led to its director Charles Gascoigne moving to the Alexandrovsky Plant in 1779 and setting up the factory at a salary of 4,500 pounds per annum.^{1, 2}.

The Director in 1843 was Nikolay Fedorovich Boutenev, initially a mining engineer; he took over the plant around 1820 and remained as director until the late 1840ies. He was the creator of the Mineralogy Office and Mining museum at the plant. He was also a collector of Masonic manuscripts and other book rarities. He established a library for literate workers.

The gun is a KARRONAD. They were lighter and shorter than 36-pound POUISHKA (cannon). The latter were set up at lower decks and they could shoot for longer distances. The Carronade as designed in the Carron Company could fire a large shot over a shorter range with great effect on wooden hulled ships. The gun in Hobart is of the type assigned for close combat and set up on 2nd and 3rd decks of battleships in the Russian Navy.

The Russians placed the naval cannon on Garrison Carriages for use in the Crimean War. On these carriages the Karronades had the ability to be used as howitzers or mortars.

Having examined the vent field it is certain that the means of ignition was a flintlock. This method of ignition was adopted by the Royal Navy as early as 1755. Flint Lock ignition became the norm in naval guns but was uncommon in field artillery.³

In 1858 The British government gave Australian Colonies captured Russian Guns from the Crimean War in recognition of their contribution to the Royal Patriotic Fund. The amounts raised by each of the States was,

New South Wales	64 916 pounds
South Australia	6 297
Tasmania	28 375
Victoria	47 711
Western Australia	818 ⁴

Royal Warrant created the charitable Royal Patriotic Fund on 13 October 1854 for providing assistance for the widows, orphans and dependents of members of the Armed Services. It still exists today. Both in Australia and in England newspapers printed lists of names of those people who donated and the amounts given.

¹ Sabretache Vol XLII, March 2001, Journal and Proceedings of the Military Historical Society of Australia, John(Ivan) Armstrong – Russian Cannon Maker, Major R S Billet MA.

² The Gun Founders of England, Charles Ffoulkes 1937

³ British Smoothbore Artillery; A Technological Study David McConnell, Ministry of Supply and Services Canada 1988

⁴ www.argo.net.au/andre/tropheysCWENFIN ,Russian - Australia Military Connections , Vladimir Kroupnik and Elena Govor

Many guns were captured and within England Cities and Towns vied to have a gun given to them. They are still evident in many English Cities and Towns and one can also be found at the Tower of London.

The guns allocated to the Australian Colonies are located,
Melbourne 2 (outside Victoria Barracks, St Kilda Road. Both 36 pounders)
Sydney 2 (In Centennial Park, Both 36 pounders)
Adelaide 2 (Entrance to Torrens Barracks. Both 24 pounders)
Hobart 1 (Anglesea Barracks)
Launceston 1 (City Park. 36 pounder)⁵

What is significant is that given Tasmania's small population compared with both New South Wales and Victoria a substantial amount of money was raised by comparison.⁶

The Hobart Trophy was located in Franklin Square at least until World War 2 and for a time it was lost to public view prior to being relocated to its present site at Anglesea Barracks presumably after it was restored at Tasmania Command Workshops in 1951.



Franklin Square 1885 (Archives Tasmania PH5/1/22)

⁵ War Trophies, From the First World War 1914 – 1918, Major R.S. Billett

⁶ www.populstat.info/oceana/australc.htm 1856 NSW population 266,200; Victoria 548,900; Tasmania 90,000

“In 1917 these guns were nearly returned to Russia. On 18 January 1917, the Prime Minister Mr. WM. Hughes, wrote to the governor-general requesting him to telegraph the following message to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

Representations have been made that Russia would very highly appreciate the return of cannon captured during the Crimean War and now held by Commonwealth of Sate Governments throughout Australia. It is thought that this would be regarded as an outward and visible sign of the inward spirit of the entente with Russia, which the Russian Government and people would value very greatly. Shall be glad to learn if there is any objection to proposed action.

The Secretary of State raised no objection, but pointed out that due to a shortage of shipping tonnage, it might be difficult or undesirable to return the guns. To which the prime Minister replied that there was no problem as Japanese tonnage was available to Vladivostok. It would appear that the October Revolution of 1917 intervened, as the Crimean trophies remained in Australia.”⁷

RIGHT TRUNNION



36 (pounder)

Poushka-Karronad (cannon – karronade)

142.5 (poud is a Russian unit of measure equal to 16kg. Gun weight 2,280kg)

1847 (year made)

⁷ www. argo.net.au/andre/tropheysCWENFIN ,Russian - Australia Military Connections , Vladimir Kroupnik and Elena Govor

LEFT TRUNNION



N 30139 (gun number)

АЛЕКСАНДРОВСКИЙ ЗАВОД (the six letters are an abbreviation for
ALEXANDROVSKIY ZAVOD means plant or works)

НАЧ. (abbreviation for НАЧАЛЬНИК which means DIRECTOR, the final word is
the name BOUTENEV)

CASCABLE



M A (Morskaya Artilleria means Naval Artillery)⁸

⁸ Translations provided by Vladimir Kroupnik, personal communication.

