



Army Museum of Tasmania

Anglesea Barracks
HOBART

Information Sheet No 8

21 cm Der Morser Gun

LOCATION: Outside gates of Anglesea Barracks in front of the Recruiting Centre



HISTORY

The 21 cm Der Morser dated from 1902 and was the smaller of several large calibre guns used by the German Army during World War I. The Der Morser came in two-barrel lengths at the commencement of the war (L 10 and L16) but towards the end of the war other barrel lengths appeared (L14.5 and L12) and the L12 is that which is on display at Anglesea Barracks.

These guns were used in the opening phase of the war to reduce the Belgian Forts along with the larger calibre guns.

Movement of these large guns was achieved by separating the tube from the carriage and at times on the muddy Western Front wooden tracks were affixed to the wheels to assist deployment.

Germany retained many Der Morser's and they were still in use during World War II.



Der Morser's dismantled for transport



Wooden tracks affixed to a L10¹

At the end of the War France ended up with substantial quantities of war material as reparations from Germany. In recognition of Australia's contribution to the defence of France the French Government gave pieces of artillery to each State. Tasmania's allocation was this Der Morser.

The Tube was made by Krupp at Essen in 1917 and is numbered at 1001; the carriage was made in 1916 and is numbered 382.

The Der Morser sat for many years at the Hobart Cenotaph before being relocated to Brighton Camp. From there it moved to the Gun Park at Anglesea Barracks before it was moved to its current situation.

¹ Both pictures from, www.landships.freesevers.com/21cm_howitzzer.htm