

## Army Museum of Tasmania

Anglesea Barracks  
HOBART

Information Sheet No 9

### Iron 8 Inch Land Service Mortars

**LOCATION:** Main Entrance to Anglesea Barracks



#### HISTORY

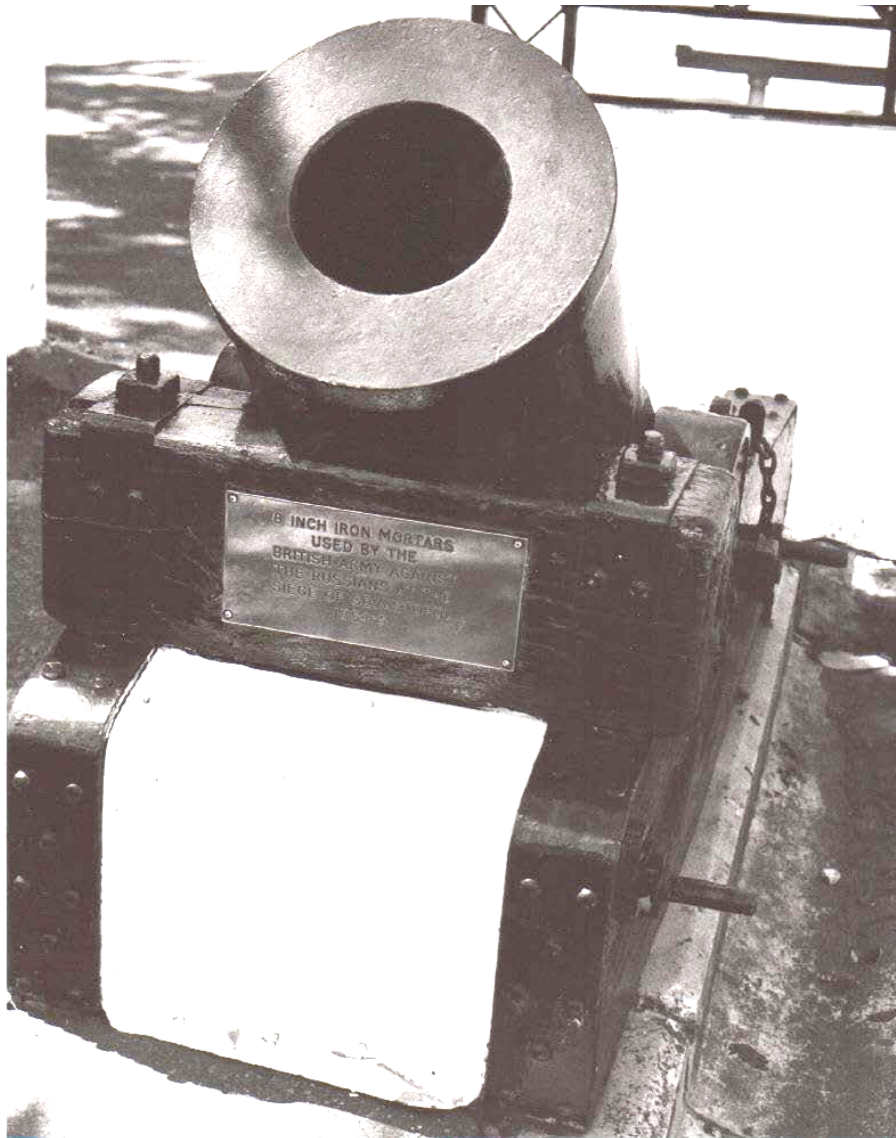
This mortar was introduced into service in the 1840's. It was slightly heavier than its predecessor at 9 hundredweight (earlier weighed 7  $\frac{3}{4}$  hundredweight). It remained in service until as late as 1881<sup>1</sup>. It is bored with a Gomer Chamber.

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<sup>1</sup> British Smoothbore Artillery: a Technological Study, David Mc Connell, Minister of the Environment, Ottawa 1988

Two pounds of powder could throw an 8-inch projectile 2400 yards at 45 degrees elevation.<sup>2</sup>

The two mortars bear a plaque, which indicates they were used at the siege of Sevastopol during the Crimean War. The original wooden carriages were removed in the mid 1980's and discarded and replaced with a reproduction concrete carriage. Unfortunately in the process some of the carriage iron hardware was discarded as well.



Photograph of Mortar and Carriage taken in 1970

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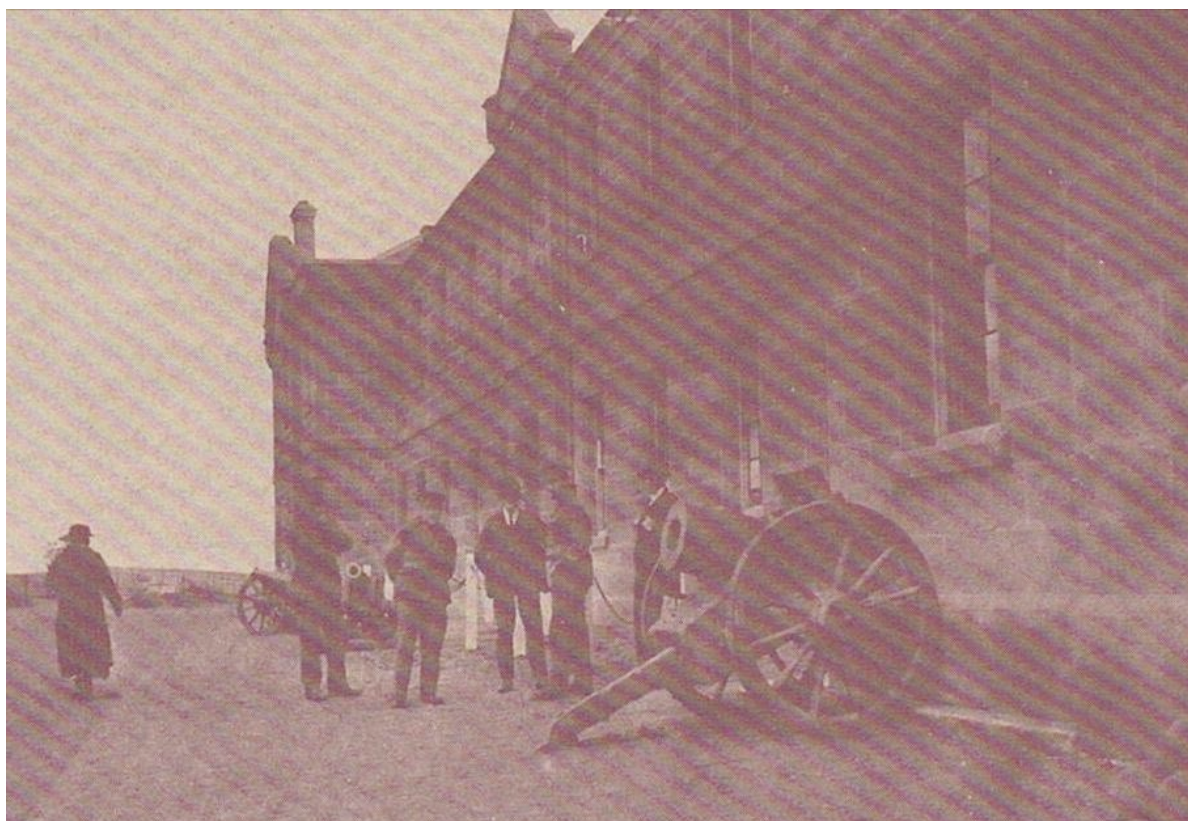
<sup>2</sup> Handbook for Field Service 1867, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Brigadier General Lefroy, RA, F.R.S.

Given that this Pattern of mortar remained in service until about 1880 it is possible that they may have been used at Sevastopol however this is not able to be confirmed. Certainly, the British Army used mortars of all calibres during the siege.

What can be said, with some supporting evidence, is that both these mortars were issued to the Artillery Volunteers in Tasmania along with two bronze Coehorn mortars.

Both types are shown on the Table of Ordnance in Tasmania along with accompanying range tables and diagrams of the various types of projectiles that could be used<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>.

These mortars were last fired on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1929 at the North Hobart Oval at the Start and finish of Tasmania's first Military Tattoo



This newspaper photo shows the Mortar on its original carriage at the Barracks

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<sup>3</sup> Handbook for the Tasmanian Artillery Volunteers, compiled by R. H. Eccleston, Staff Sergeant Instructor in Gunnery RA 1868 published by James Barnard Government Printer, Tasmania

<sup>4</sup> This would explain the number of carcass frames in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston

<sup>5</sup> See Table 3

