FIREARM

Unique ID: MAS-6105BA

Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Published

This gun is a QF (quick firing) 6-pounder Hotchkiss, a light 2.25 inch (57 mm) naval and coastal defence gun from the late 19th century. The design appears to be pre-1890 as it does not have the recoil system that was introduced at that time. The original 1885 Mk I was a built-up gun with a vertical sliding-block breech. The name comes from the French manufacturing company, Hotchkiss, who were the major supplier of light QF guns in the world. This type of gun became a standard torpedo defence weapon; many navies bought this same type of gun (Friedman 2011).

Notes:

This gun was ship mounted and from the location given *may* have come from the French merchant vessel, SS *Saint Andre*, a 2457 tons French, screw-driven cargo steamer. In France in 1915, it was decided to arm merchant ships with guns against U-boats. Initially, small naval guns were used, with French steamers of more than 500 tons being issued with two guns with a calibre of 90 mm or more in three stages. First, all ships were armed with at least one gun. These small-calibre guns (47 mm, 57 mm, 65 mm) were then replaced with one more powerful gun. Finally, all steamers were armed with a gun more powerful than 90 mm. In a two-year period between 1916 and 1918, over 1600 merchant ships received one gun and another 400 received a second (Friedman 2011).

SS *Saint Andre* was built by Ateliers & Chantiers de France, a company founded in 1880, in Dunkerque in 1907 as Yard No. 46. On 19 December 1917, SS *Saint Andre* was on a voyage from Rouen, France, to Algiers, Algeria, with a cargo of empty casks and barrels, when it was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UB-58, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Werner Fürbringer, nine miles southwest of the Eddystone Lighthouse, Devon. At the time of sinking the vessel was owned by Société Navale de l'Ouest, Le Havre. *Saint Andre* now lies in approximately 70 m of water. NRHE and Cornwall HER reference numbers cited within this record refer to the wreck of SS *Saint Andre*. Due to the ambiguity of the gun having come from the wreck of SS *Saint Andre*, the chronology of the find is broader.

Class: Armour and weapons **Sub class:** Projectile weapon

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: With finder
Subsequent action after recording: Submitted as wreck to the Receiver of Wreck

Wreck details

Droit number: 150/16

Chronology

Broad period: NINETEENTH CENTURY

Period from: NINETEENTH CENTURY
Period to: MODERN
Date from: Circa AD 1885
Date to: Circa AD 1950

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Friday 1st July 2016

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.
Recorded by: M F
Identified by: V L

Other reference numbers

NRHE monument number: 1257850
Other reference: Cornwall HER Number: SX 33 SE 77
Droit ID: 150/16

Materials and construction

Primary material: Steel
Secondary material: Iron
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

County or Unitary authority: Cornwall (Unitary Authority)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SX1707
Four figure Latitude: 49.93511828
Four figure longitude: -4.55145117
1:25K map: SX1707
1:10K map: SX19NE
Display four figure position on What3Words
Grid reference source: From finder
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Fishing
Discovery circumstances: Fishing
Current location: With finder

marinefinds.org.uk

General landuse: Coastland
Specific landuse: Marine

Friedman, N, 2011 *Naval Weapons of World War One* S Yorkshire : Seaforth, ,

marinefinds.org.uk