



M.O.T.H. Museums & Memorials Committee

Old Fort Field Gun – Recovery for Preservation

In January 2026 a MM&M committee member noted a derelict artifact left to decay within the Old Fort Historic grounds in Durban. This artifact turned out to be a **RML 9-pounder 8-cwt British rifled muzzle loading field gun**, that was horse drawn as well as utilised and mounted on early naval shipping expeditions. These guns were manufactured in England UK in the early 19th century. They fired a projectile weighing approximately 4.1 kg.

The 9-pounder remained in front-line service with the Royal Artillery until 1878 when the RML 13-pounder 8-cwt gun was introduced. It remained in use with colonial forces until 1895 and saw action in the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, and the First Boer War of 1881.

The MM&M committee working within the confines of Warriors Gate also situated on the Old Fort property, then committed and motivated, to preserve this ordinance as an intended future static display at the museum. The Durban Light Infantry (DLI) and SA Gunners associations were approached in order for a donation be made to Warriors Gate of the field gun. This was granted in March 2026.

The kind donation of a rigging crew and outrigger by *RENWOODS CARRIERS* once again, in June/July 2026, ensured we were able to rig the field gun out of its 100 year slumber inside the Old Fort area, and dense undergrowth it was located in, over a series of facilities used for veteran housing, and into the Warriors Gate secured grounds, after a short trip around the property to the front.

The works to reinstitute the gun to its display condition has already begun, this is an ongoing preservation chronicle by the MM&M committee, one which I am sure when completed, will enhance and realise the intrinsic historical value of this preservation effort, to the benefit of all visitors to the 'Gate'.



Gun in its densely overgrown former placement



Rigger lifting out of the undergrowth



Prepping to rig out & over



Up & Over it goes



Final over the top



Into Warriors Gate



Final placement before renovations begin



Potential - final display scenarios