

16 maart 2011

Strandvondst Terschelling

Melder: Nico Brinck



Op het strand van Terschelling zijn in maart 2011 een stuk of twintig oude granaten gevonden. Vermoedelijk gaat het om de totale inhoud van een kist. In dezelfde omgeving is enkele jaren geleden een Engelse musket uit 1800 gevonden. Op de Boschplaat moeten ergens nog de restanten van het Engelse fregat HMS Flora liggen, dat in 1806 is vergaan. De granaten zijn exact van het formaat dat in de Royal Navy werd gebruikt.



Vinder: Onno Dijkshoorn (duikteam Ecuador)
Foto's: Oep de Breed (duikteam Ecuador)

Hand Grenades

Some mention has to be made of the hand grenade. The service grenade was a small hollow sphere of iron, with a single hole in it into which was fitted a beechwood fuse. The sea service hand grenade was 3 1/2 inches diameter (actually 3.49 inches), and weighed 3 lb 11 1/2 oz. The land service hand grenade was smaller: 2 3/4 inches diameter weighing 1 lb 13 1/2 oz. These sizes were standard from at least 1755 (*Glegg, op. cit.*), to 1790 (*Congreve, op. cit.*). The fuse had a burning time of 9 seconds (*Glegg*), and was filled with a mixture of equal parts of mealed powder, saltpetre, and sulphur (*ibid.*). The hand grenade contained 4 oz of powder (*ibid.*). No record has been found of how useful or efficient they were, but the mere fact that 200 of them were carried in a 74-gun ship in 1765 suggests that plenty of employment was found for them. They were supplied in boxes, 20 grenades to a box; some degree of deterioration in the fuses was anticipated, as 20 were carried, fully fixed, as spares, which assumes a 10% unserviceability rate. As an aside, it is worth mentioning that the French Navy issued practice grenades, made of papier-mâché, but there is no trace of any such device in the Board of Ordnance papers for the British Navy. There was however a hand grenade made of glass, of which examples are in the Rotunda Museum, Woolwich, but when, where and by whom they were used is uncertain.

Tekst gedeelte uit: *The History of English Sea Ordnance 1532-1875, The Age of the System 1715-1815*, door Adrian B. Caruana 1997.