



□ **TREASURE TEAM:** The archaeological salvage team examine the dolphin handles of the cannon. From left, Bruno Werz, skipper Douglas Campbell, Graham Raynor, Christopher Byrnes, Michael Borchard and Keith Martin.

Cannon shines on — 300 years later

JENNY VIALI

Weekend Argus Reporter

8/12/1995

AFTER nearly 300 years under the sea, the bronze cannon from the Dutch ship, the Waddingsveen, still shines.

And markings, indicating it belonged to the Amsterdam-based Dutch East India Company, are visible after the many years of corrosion by sea and sand.

Yesterday the cannon, which sank with the ship during a storm on May 24, 1697, was lifted from its sandy grave off Paarden Island.

It was smiles all round from the team working on the archaeological project when the mission, helped out by Court helicopters, went off without a hitch.

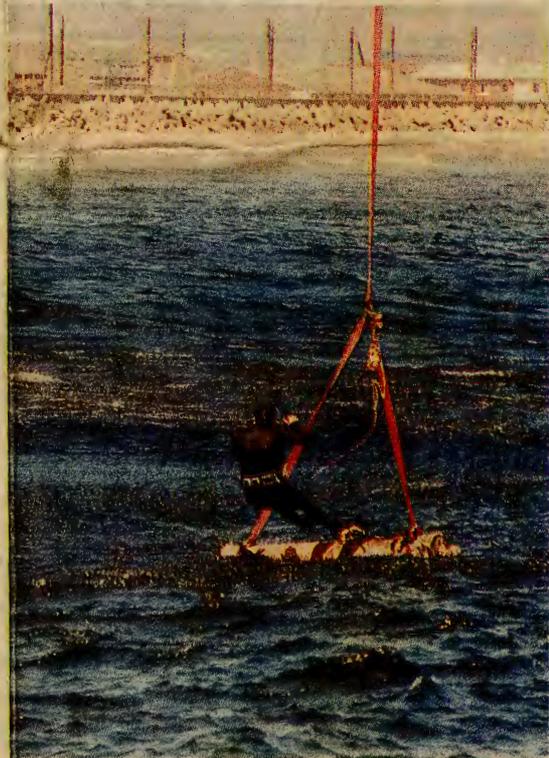
Divers Michael Borchard, Christopher Byrnes and UCT maritime archaeologist Bruno Werz secured the cannon with straps, working in poor visibility and heavy swells.

It was no easy task, said Mr Werz. "The water was murky, and it was only when we came very close to the cannon that we could see it because of its shine. And just as we got into position, a swell would wash us to the other side of the cannon."

The cannon, weighing about 1 000kg, was about six metres underwater and covered by two metres of sand which had to be blasted away.

The helicopter carried the cannon to the Royal Yacht Club, where its find was celebrated with champagne.

The next step is for the cannon to be cleaned in water for a few months to remove any salt crystals. It will then be dried, and, depending on its condition, be lacquered and go on display.



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, Weekend Argus.

□ **CANNON MISSION:** Bruno Werz connects the straps supporting the cannon to the helicopter.

The cannon, which measures 2,48m, was discovered on November 26 last year. An underwater archaeological project is being carried out on the wreck of the Waddingsveen, which was discovered by divers Michael Borchard, Christopher Byrnes and Graham Raynor.