

NIALL DONOGHUE



Niall Donoghue in front of his tower.

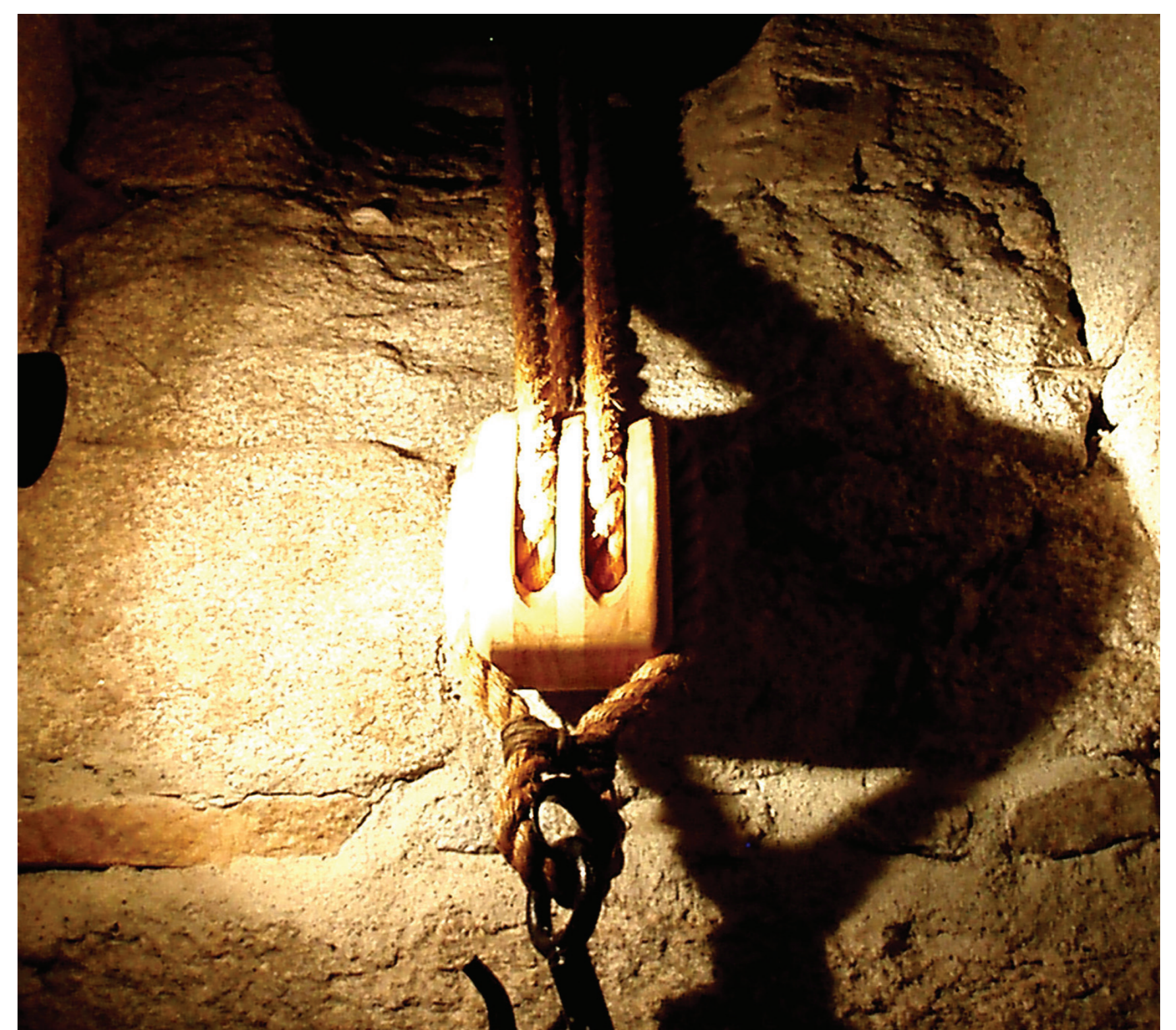
South No. 7 Tara Hill is not only a Martello with a working cannon on the crown but it also comprises a Gunners' Cottage, an Artillery store, two gunpowder stores, a three cannon walled battery area surrounded by a protective military glacis bank (an artificial earth slope) and dry moat all on 3/4 acre of walled grounds. The site is 1/4 mile from the sea and 250 feet above sea level with commanding views of Killiney Bay.

I bought the property in 1996 when it was in a completely ruinous state. I was unprepared for the long challenge ahead, which took thoughtful research from 1997 to date and restoration and rebuilding works from 2003 to 2008. The restoration work required forensic attention to detail including any bits of wood and stone lying around or buried beneath rubble dumped there by the owners of the Tower from 1910 to 1987. That was in addition to their demolition of the Gunners cottage and several other buildings. What a mess to resurrect the story from!



Interior scene at Tower 7.

I needed time and patience and €1.95 million! It was a huge drain on my personal finances and throughout the 5 years of restoration I suffered 'Tower fatigue'. But as the great military fort began to emerge I could but only admire the engineers' skills in the year 1804 in creating an amazing fortification of superb quality that was completely unique in world terms.



Block and tackle used to hoist cannon to the crown of the tower.

When the early morning sun shines across Killiney Bay onto the fortification I often think it was a miracle to have achieved such a wonderful restoration.

The tower is open to visitors and was inaugurated by me on the 12th July 2008 with the ceremonial firing of the 2.5 ton cannon (after it was cast and proofed for firing). I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to all of those who helped in the research and restoration of the tower.

The Fortification is a museum and not a dwelling. It is located on Tara Hill at the junction of Killiney Hill Road and Killiney Avenue, 1/2 mile south of Killiney village. All are welcome so call 087 2885522 or email Niall.tower@gmail.com or Google, niall's tower 7 to view the inauguration ceremony.



Cannon firing from the top of Tower No. 7 in July 2008.