



## STORIES FROM THE SEA

## SHIPWRECK OBJECTS



## MORTAR

### Date made

1794

### Object ref.

GRYEH : 1967.82

### Credit

Great Yarmouth  
Museums

### Artist/maker

George W. Manby  
(deviser)

### Description

Captain George Manby was a great inventor who lived from 1765 to 1854. In 1807 he was in charge of the Royal Artillery Barracks in Great Yarmouth, when he saw HM brig *Snipe* run aground during a storm. She was very close to the beach, but because the sea was so rough nothing could be done to save the ship and at least 67 people died. Using his knowledge of artillery, Manby invented a new kind of mortar: it fired a light line over the top of a ship, so that a stronger rope could be taken out to it for people to slide down and reach the shore. Before Manby died in 1854, over 1000 people had already been saved by this invention.

### Questions

1. Captain Manby invented many things to save people's lives, including the fire extinguisher! Why not design your own invention to rescue people in danger.
2. How would you advertise your invention? Remember, when Manby invented the mortar there was no TV or internet!