

Categorization of Sinhalese Fire Arms

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According to common literary sources, the history of firearm usage in Sri Lanka started with the intervention of Portuguese in 16th century. Nevertheless, some undeclared *Sannas*, which was belonging to 1302, 1389 and 1466 AD and *Dambadeni Asna* also reveal that the firearm usage was available in Sri Lanka since 13th century. However, the arrival of Portuguese was a significant phase in diversification of Sinhalese firearms and its usage. In Kandyan period, there were different types of firearms such as *Kai Tuvakku*, *Dik Tuvakku*, *Gingals* alias *Gini Tuvakku*, *At Tuvakku*, *Kodi Tuvakku*, *Kāla Tuvakku*, *Kara Tuvakku*, *Maha Tuvakku* and *Pedaranēru Tuvakku*. Each type of firearms had inherent firing/lock systems and characteristics and they have effectively influenced on the later evolution of modern guns. During the Kandyan period, there were mass production of firearms and used serial numbers. In the Kandyan period most of the wars took place in forts, established in jungles and the Kandyan army used weapons, which was highly mobilized and had a higher rate of firing and working with limited resources. *Gini Tuvakku* was the finest and most effective weapon made by the Kandyan army even the Dutch was so impressed with this gun they called it as grasshopper gun. The gun was easy to manufacture since it did not have complicated components. The most important feature of *Gini Tuvakku* was the octagonal or hexagonal barrel, which made the barrel get cool faster and did not fire single projectiles but fired several small projectiles like shorting from number 4 or number 6 carriages from a short gun. Several firing systems used with gun powder like *Vāla Vedi*, *Maha Vedi*, *Dum Vedi*, *Sāra Vedi*, *Yaturu Vedi*, *Gal Vedi*, *Gini Vedi* and *Vāli Vedi* since Dambadeni Period. Further, Grenades (bombs alias *Pat Ottu*), Rockets (*Ilakka Eli*), Toxic Gas (*Visaduli*) and Telescopes (*Anjanam*) also used for wars in Kandyan period, according to some undeclared literary sources. This research paper pays attention to categorize all firearms, which were used in Sri Lanka.

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