

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

February 2005

www.nzaaawgtn.org.nz

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Committee.

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Tony
John
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- A copy of Carved Stocks books by Dave C. George along with a .303 Long Tom with a carved stock.
- Helmets, including a Czech M1934, Chinese GK 80/A, Cuban 5gh/68 (Soviet M40), Canadian MK2 from WW2 Victoria Rifles.
- Cartridges. A display of various examples manufactured by CAC.
- Canadian Bayonets, 1867 Peabody socket type, 1893 Martini Metford, 1905 Ross, 1905 Boy Scout Ross, 1907 Ross, 1910 Ross, 1910 Ross sharpened, M99 Savage, 1913 ?, No 4 Spike, FNFAL, C1 SLR, C1 SLR Dress, C7 M16.
- Colt Model 1895 Revolver made in 1905 with anti-clockwise rotating cylinder. A commercial version of the model made predominantly for the Army and Navy.
- Crosman Hahn .22 cal 10shot CO2 gas powered pellet pistol.
- A selection of Cigarette cases.
- Communist Party Tee shirt.
- A display of Pentax brand 35mm cameras.
- Books of various English Castles with photos of cannon balls and a congrieve rocket.
- Recent acquisition. Winchester Model 1894 .38-55 cal Lever action rifle Circa 1927 3rd generation owned together with a hand made deer skin cartridge case.
- Colt Lightning Large Frame model in .50-95 cal circa 1893. One of only 6496 manufactured.
- English Civil War/Cromwell period iron Breastplate,
- Cutlass British Naval Issue 1795
- Cavalry Sabre Pattern 1805 as issued to British Hussars.
- Cavalry Carbine. Pagets Pattern as issued to Light Dragoons 1808.

February Meeting Displays included,

- A trio of Isaac Hollis & Sons Carbines consisting of a .577cal Snider Yeomanry Carbine, a 30 bore Terry 30 carbine and a 25 bore Sporter with a Snider type action.
- A selection of "Closing type pocket knives"
- Steel case marked Charles Mansfield Clarke, 57th Regiment Taranaki, Com Ensign 1st March 1856, Lieutenant 18th November 1859.
- Model 64th Regiment of Foot – British Infantryman
- Selection of British Colt Revolvers and books including 1. Wooden grips .450 Boxer Cal revolver 7.5inch barrel. Part of first consignment sent to Britain in 1874. 2. Cal .455 1882 model revolver with wooden grips and 5.5inch barrel. 3. Cal .45 Long revolver with 7.5" barrel.
- Cut-aways. A selection including; Mortar bomb, Artillery Fuses 1942 and 1943. A Mills Grenade. An Ivor Johnson .38cal revolver, A Smith & Wesson Model 1905 .38 cal revolver with London Proofhouse check to explode barrel. Barrel has been cut away to expose a stack of 8 bullets lodged in barrel.
- A selection of early cartridge boxes and cartridge belts in both leather and canvas.



A very impressive Colt Lightning displayed at the February meeting

The Rigby Reminiscence (A Cautionary Tale)

Once upon a time, there was a purveyor of fine firearms. Late last year, this fine chap placed a few bids in the October 3rd Australian Antique Arms Auction in Melbourne. On the 5th of October a fax duly arrived, bearing the good news of a successful bid on a flintlock pistol. Keen to see his new acquisition and speed up the delivery, he rushed down to the bank and transferred the funds directly into the auction house bank account and after payment of the A\$25 export fee the item was dispatched. On the 28th of October, a letter was received from NZ Customs, his pistol had arrived and not only was there an amount of GST to pay, (equivalent to the gdp of a small African country) but a Police Permit was also required.

A Permit for a flintlock pistol, I hear you ask !! What rubbish ! So off to the local Constabulary our hero goes, where he is told that a mere Arms Officer cannot issue a permit for such a dangerous weapon, and he is informed that he has to apply to the Commissioner of Police for a permit. He is also advised he must include a letter explaining who he is and what he needs this dangerous weapon for. Biting his tongue our Hero duly writes the requisite letter outlining that this is a genuine 200 year old antique, of his life dedicated to collecting antiques, including firearms and his vast knowledge of things military. Alas, the wheels of that Holy institution turn rather slowly and over a month is to pass before the mailman arrives, fortunately with the long awaited permit. With eager haste, the permit, consignment note, and of course the obligatory cheque are sent to Auckland Customs and before you could sayRigbywell actually about a week, on the 5th of December, the long awaited pistol arrives, precisely two months after the whole affair began .

Sum Yung Gai

Footnote

Although this has been written “tongue –in –cheek” I think it’s frustrating that legitimate collectors are having their time wasted because “Experts” cannot or will not differentiate between genuine Antiques and Collectables (including bayonets) and restricted weapons. Perhaps our Police Liaison person and Colfo should be looking into this .



A selection of closing knives displayed.



One of the older items displayed at our Meetings, an English Iron Breastplate from the Civil War period Circa 1645.



A very desirable recent acquisition, a Winchester saddle ring carbine in Cal 38-55



An impressive trio of Carabines



Leather Cartridge boxes, Bandoliers and a carved stock Lee Enfield from the Boer War period.



A collection of antique Pentax 35mm cameras, sadly mostly outdated now.



A variety of sectionalised items displayed. The revolver with 8 bullets stuck in the barrel is in the lower right hand corner.



Canadian bayonets.



A Pagets Pattern Carbine, Naval Cutlass and a Cavalry Carbine.

Wings Over Wairarapa 22/23rd January 2005

Abridged report by Cpl Rae, J 22nd Battalion Historical Re-Enactment Society (Inc)

Friday 21st Jan

Several of us arrived in the early afternoon at the Masterton Aerodrome to attend a short briefing about the airshow, set up camp on the airstrip and to do a practice run on the 25 pounder in preparation for the weekend's events. With most of us still on the way to the airshow, we scraped together some volunteers (a crew of six) and did a dummy run with truck, limber and gun until we were reasonably satisfied with the result. That evening we retired to the Carterton Camping Grounds where most of the military vehicle people were also staying.

Saturday 22nd Jan/Sunday 23rd Jan

Reveille at 6.30 am, dawned fine and hot. Donned our rather warm WWI woollen attire and were at the airstrip by 8am to do some more practice on the 25 pdr. Several briefings followed from 9am. By 10.30 we were at the rallying point in preparation for the WWI scenario starting 11am. By this stage the temperatures were already into the early/mid-twenties.

Our job was to pull two carts along the crowd line, equipped with blank-firing Bren guns on AA mounts, and engage the Germans on both the ground (infantry supported by a Krupp gun) and in the air (Fokker Triplanes). Peter Jackson's WWI British Mk5 tank was also there in support, however it experienced some mechanical problems and didn't arrive till late in the battle. It didn't take us long to start running out of steam as the heat built up inside our woollen tunics, and we were greatly relieved to change into our khaki drill WW2 outfits after the battle. During the battle I fired five magazines or approximately 150 rounds through my Bren, while about 100 rounds went through the other Bren and the rifles. Much of the ammunition was kindly provided by WETA studios, who also provided the WWI German outfits, weapons and Krupp gun.

Several of our re-enactment group also served as enemy party, or helped man the WWI tank.

On the Sunday when we repeated the WWI scenario (in similar warm conditions) we ensured we were better hydrated and had a rest in the shade under the trees near the airstrip, and wondered how we could get WWI tropical outfits for future events.

There was another briefing at 1pm to discuss the WW2 (Pacific) scenario. As this scenario was mostly vehicle based, those of us not serving on the 25 pdr crew (five in total) either rode in Axis vehicles or became enemy party.

The WW2 scenario consisted of allied vehicles attacking a small Japanese group equipped with a rocket launcher and some vehicles. Also some Harvards posed as Zeros for the event. This was the 'main event' of the day and featured a lot of spectacular pyros and a lot of vehicles and aircraft. For our part, the unlimbering, loading and firing of the 25 pdr all went pretty smoothly. In fact, it was remarked we were TOO fast! As the firer I had the least amount of work to do, although of course I was nearest to the blast when it went off! I think the shells had at least a good pound of black powder in them. We fired 4 rounds in total, the final round destroying the enemy position. The second day we fired six shells in total. Ear plugs were mandatory. Other than a slight problem with a 25 pdr shell that wouldn't eject on the second day, all the events went off without a hitch, and we hope to return in 2007.



A Colt Model 1895 manufactured in 1905 now 100 years old and in remarkable condition.



Two Colt Single Action Army Revolvers



The replic WW1 British Tank on display at the Wings Over Wairarapa Airshow



An anti-aircraft gun and a replic Fokker Triplane of WW1 period complete with a pair of machine guns timed to fire through the rotating propeller



Masters Games.

Well, two years have rolled by, and the Masters Games have happened again in Wanganui. The Games are held every year, and alternate between Dunedin and Wanganui. The games are geared towards encouraging people to keep on with sport after the age when they are normally competitive. ie: the minimum age for most sports is 35 years. Each event has classes for different age groups, so a 50 year old does not have to compete against a 35 year old. This year they had over 8000 competitors taking part in 67 sports. Everything from darts to cards to golf and motorcross.

The games last 9 days, and the venues were nearly all round Wanganui. I think the only exception was the go-karting which was in Palmerston North. Wanganui really throws itself behind the games and the organisers are amazingly well organised, it combines the activity with your sport, but also they encourage you to take part in the social activities at the massive marquee at the games centre.

There were 4 Shooting disciplines covered including Smallbore, Pistol, Shotgun and Black Powder. The Pistol and BP shooting was held on the Sat 5th and Sun 6th Feb, and we had 4 of our clubs members taking part. I think that was to get us out of the way and not corrupt the other competitors. The Black Powder was held on the Sat which was hot and fine, and was a full day shooting, offering an aggregate event, and classes for flintlock, percussion round ball, military and free rifles. There was a 50m offhand event then a series of 6 x 25m precision targets. This is an event for those of you who love smoke, sparks and the smell of sulphur.

The interesting thing was that at the close range, there was very little difference between the 4 classes of rifle, with the top 4 shooters getting within 10 points of each other.

The pistol shooting was held on the Sat and Sun, and included 7 different disciplines, including air-pistol, isu, nra, std pistol etc. Both days were clear, still and very hot (round 32 degrees). Both BP and pistol were held at the Wanganui Pistol Club range, and the facilities were excellent.

Club Member Results:

Brian J	Bronze	Military Musket
	Silver	10m Air Pistol
	Gold	BP Single shot
Margaret B	Bronze	IPSC pistol
	Gold	NRA pistol
Ray B	Silver	IPSC pistol
	Gold	NRA pistol
Tony B	Bronze	BP Rifle aggregate
	Gold	BP free rifle, BPSingle shot, BP revolver, 10m Air pistol

In 2006 the Masters games will be in Dunedin, and in Wanganui again in 2007

Tony B.



Do you remember this item displayed at our April 2004 Meeting? Yes it's like a great big brass shotgun shell but about 10" in diameter. This example which is standing upside down has had the top lip turned over. Have you ever thought what sort of a gun must have fired this cartridge? I think the answer is below.



Spotted this gun displayed in Hahndorf which is one of the more popular towns in the Adelaide hills that was settled by German immigrants in 1839. The town retains much of its European heritage and attracts large numbers of tourists. A plaque next to the gun states that it is a Heavy Minenwerfer of 25cm (9.84 inch) calibre and was captured from the Germans in the First World War by the 8th Battalion (Australian) on the Western Front. It is a rifled trench mortar that hurled projectiles weighing from 139lbs to 210lbs at ranges varying from 260 to 900 yards.



Items displayed at our December meeting



A very nice looking Bren gun complete with transit box, spare barrel and other accoutrements.



A display of Belgium sword bayonets.



British Sporting Rifles, including a Cape gun, a double rifle, a Kangaroo rifle etc.



Above. A pair of Scottish Baskethilt Broadsword and Left, a pair of old Brass fireman's helmets with rescue axes and a collection of Fire Service badges.

President's Report

Well there is not much to report this month earlier in the month I spent 9 days riding around the North Island so I missed the last meeting but from all accounts it went very well.

The next important thing on the agenda is our AGM. This year our AGM will be held on Sunday the 6th of March at the usual venue, the Petone Workingmens Club in Udy Street.

The program for the day is :-

9am start for setting up the room.

9.30am until 12.30 pm items will be accepted for the "Mickey Mouse" auction.

Viewing of the lots will be available as they are placed on the tables.

1pm the AGM commences.

The auction will start at the conclusion of the AGM.

No remits have been received for the AGM. We will be taking seconded nominations off the floor for all Committee positions. Most Committee members have indicated that they will be happy to stand again, however if you would like to become a Committee member don't hesitate to put up your hand, this is your chance to help your club .

Help will also be needed on the day to set up the room and record the auction items and as well as holding up items while the auction is in progress.

I look forward to seeing you all there on the day.

Steve



A Colt Burgess lever action repeating rifle circ 1883-85 displayed at our December meeting

REMINDERS.

Subscriptions \$25 are now due, if you have not already paid, please attend to payment at your earliest convenience.

Next Meeting.

Sunday 6th March 2005 – at the usual venue. Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street Petone. As in Steve's write up this is our Annual General Meeting and we will incorporate our usual Mickey Mouse auction after proceedings. Please note the details and earlier set-up times in the President's Report.

Other events of interest.

12th March Hawkes Bay Arms & Militaria auction at Taradale. Napier.

3rd April Wellington Branch meeting at usual venue. Petone
16th & 17th April Wellington Firearms & Militaria show Lower Hutt.

22nd & 23rd April NZAAA AGM Northland at Whangarei.