

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

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www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

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used by the Germans to copy fake secret documents planted by the British to fool the Germans about the invasion of Europe. A great copying system of the time but technology has moved on since then and almost any digital camera can now produce better results with ease. Leica 35mm cameras were made from 1925 and although expensive some German troops, probably mostly Officers, were known to have them in WW2 and like the Luger pistol were prized items for souvenir hunters.

- Let Loose. A large selection of badges from around the World.
- Luger Pistol 08. Two of the standards model pistols, probably from WW1 era. A pair of nice looking specimens with a leather holster and a book opened at "How the Luger Works"
- Japanese Rifles and Carbines, including a takedown rifle. Including bayonets, leather cartridge boxes and books on the subject. My scribe says "Where do you guys find this stuff ?"
- A very fine display of French Militaria including a Lebel Model 1916 Light Machine Gun, Lebel rifle models 1906-1915 complete with bayonets, a St Etienne 1892 Model revolver and a colourful display of French hats and badges. There were five examples of the coveted Croix De Guerre plus another five attractive medals
- L1A1 Self Loading Rifle. Display of books, plans, operations manuals, tee shirts and model soldiers.
- A L1A1 Self Loading Rifle and a Light machine gun. Unfortunately I did not get information on the make of this machine gun but I note from the photograph the calibre is 7.62.
- German Helmet and a MG34 General Purpose light machine gun in 7.92mm cal. This was probably the most common Axis air cooled machine gun of WW2. It was very cunningly designed and was used in almost any role.
- Latest acquisition. A brass 18 pounder shell case with shrapnel projectile and a brass adjustable nose fuse.
- Another Latest acquisition. A wooden canteen dated 1862, and Broad Arrow marked, possibly with an early New Zealand connection.
- Locks. A selection of some 5 shotguns illustrating various different locking systems that were used for shotguns.
- Little Beauty. A 6.35mm or 25cal Walther Semi Auto vest pocket pistol and a .22 cal Shultz and Larsen target rifle with a selection of .22cal ammo packets. If you look in old catalogues you will often see numerous makes of small pistols under the heading of Vest Pocket pistols. These must have been quite commonly carried, particularly in Europe in the early part of last century as personal protection against muggers, dogs etc. Might need

February Meeting.

Our 5th February meeting saw a very good attendance and included two visitors who have expressed an interest in joining. Displays included.

- Lee Enfield Pattern 1914 Training rifle in .22cal, complete with accessories, including original packet of ammunition, a specially adapted magazine and even a specimen of the targets used at the time.
- Laos. The Secret War. In interesting display of photos taken by one of our members on a recent trip to Laos with much detailed information of the old battlefields and the use the locals have made of used war materials and abandoned equipment.
- LongSpur. Two early models of Webley Longspur percussion revolvers together with information on the manufacture of these revolvers.
- Leica. A Leica 35mm camera. One of the early cameras produced in about 1950 after Leica rebuilt their factory and recommenced production after the war. The display also included a Leica copying attachment of the type that was known to have been

something with a bit more whallop now-a-days, especially against Pit Bull terriers.

- Lovely SAS Display. With banners badges, uniforms, gas mask and a 50year commemorative plate.
 - Large calibre ammunition rounds. A Winchester-Hotchkiss One Pounder cannon shell made by Winchester Repeating Arms Co from 1890-99. The other shell was much larger but regrettably I am uncertain of its details.
 - Leather holsters, including a nicely tooled holster for a pistol shooter.
 - Laminated glass. A specimen of four layer bulletproof glass.
 - A lovey old measuring tape, possibly for a surveyor, of brass construction.
 - Long bayonets. Of British origin, 5 in total and a fine display of early British edged weapons.
 - A most unusual item, said to be a combination fuel tank, hotwater bottle and bike seat. An unlikely combination of unknown origin and made from sheet metal.
- SAT Mauser rifles
- We also had a copy of The Antipodean Serenader's music CD produced by one of our well known musical members playing away quietly on a laptop computer. Check out Slow Boat Records – Cuba Street Wellington on the Internet for details of how you can acquire a copy.



Five Long Bayonets



Two early long spur model Webley percussion revolvers



Part of an extensive display of French militaria



An early NZ ? waterbottle. Broad Arrow marked and dated 1862



Japanese WW2 rifles, bayonets and other militaria items



A German MG34 light machine gun

Review by Tim Ryan of Vincent Ward's Film *River Queen* 2006.

This film is Vincent Ward's take on the book *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad a work which was also the basis of director Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 film *Apocalypse Now*. Coppola's movie was also dogged by disasters and cost over-runs like the ones that plagued Ward's production, it was touch and go that both movies ever ended up on screen. With minor reservations the film is really worth seeing and is much superior to Geoff Murphy's Maori western *Utu* [1983]. The cinematography by Alun Bollinger is truly superb and utilises a beautiful palette of multi-hued greens blues and occasionally blood red. The film's excellent opening titles of Sarah's diary in the water lead into a wonderful bird's eye shot of the Wanganui River winding into the primeval bush until it reaches the last bastions of Maori resistance. Vincent Ward does not succumb to the political correctness of such Hollywood films as *Dances with Wolves*. The director correctly portrays the New Zealand Wars as a series of civil wars with Maori Warriors fighting each other on both sides of the conflict. Cliff Curtis gives excellent, shades of grey performance as a warrior who fights for both Pakeha and Maori, kills his cousin and sees his own son killed by his allies the Kupapa Maori.

Samantha Morton gives a strong performance as Sarah the daughter of an Irish Soldier [Stephen Rea] growing up in a frontier garrison. Abandoned by her father, her life becomes a quest to recover her part-Maori son named Boy [Rawiri Pene] who is stolen by his Maori grandfather [Wi Kuki Kaa]. Kiefer Sutherland plays Sarah's only friend an Irish soldier-settler who falls in love with her but is without means to help in her quest to find her son. Sarah has received medical training from her Pakeha father and is lured upriver with the prospect of seeing her son if she can cure the ailing rebel Chief Te Kai Po [based broadly on Titokowaru] played by a charismatic Temuera Morrison. She heals the Chief, is accepted into village life and is reunited with her son. She falls in love with Boy's uncle [Cliff Curtis] but this idyll is soon shattered when the rebel Chief declares war on the settler militia and their Kupapa allies. Sarah must choose where she belongs, will she return to the European way of life or follow her son into the Maori world. The upper river is invaded by the Militia lead by Major Bain who is well played by the English actor Anton Lesser. However the Bain character is a one dimensional colonial villain who is obsessed with wiping out the insurgents. He is obviously based on the soldier Colonel Thomas McDonnell who was a fluent Maori speaker who had grown up amongst Maori and whose motivations were much more complex than that of the villain of *River Queen*. Vincent Ward does not purport the film to be an accurate version of incidents in the New Zealand Wars but rather he weaves some genuine story lines into a fictional movie which becomes a contemporary deeply thought analysis of Conrad and which captures the bloody conflict of a period, the effects of which remain with us today. As a people we seem to have little interest in our past and the lessons of history are quickly forgotten. It is hoped that this film will stimulate an interest in that history with a new generation of the youth of this country.

Much has been made of Vincent Ward's decision to film in the central North Island in the middle of winter. However he disclosed in an interview with Kim Hill that the production was scheduled to start in late summer 2004 but Samantha Morton, [who had previously committed to *River Queen*] delayed starting

on the movie because she wanted to make a film with Johnny Depp. Ward immediately flew to London for discussions but Morton was adamant. The script for the film had been jointly written by Toa Fraser and Vincent Ward and the project has been a labour of love for Ward who battled for years to secure funding for the movie. Filming commenced in June 2004 and was scheduled to last for 12 weeks, from the beginning the film was plagued by conflicts between Morton and Ward who are both perfectionists. The appalling weather conditions of mid-winter filming on the upper Wanganui caused sickness to both the cast and crew. In July 2004 the production stalled when Morton was admitted to Wanganui Hospital suffering from severe flu and complications. Samantha Morton flew back to England to recover and filming did not resume until 4th October 2004. The insurers of the film had to pay out for the 2 month delay which escalated the projected production costs from 13 to 25 million dollars. On the 19th October 2004 actor Cliff Curtis crashed his four wheeled drive into a house after being distracted by a text message and was off the movie for 3 weeks.

The relationship between Ward and his leading lady continued to deteriorate culminating in Wards dismissal by *River Queen* productions on the 25th October 2004. Sources involved in the production have stated that it was Morton that caused Vincent Ward to become the victim of star power as the actress was in a strong position because filming could not continue without her. The cinematographer Alun Bollinger resigned because of ill health but returned as director to finish the film. Soon after Samantha Morton completed her part in the production, Vincent Ward was reinstated as director and the film went into post production in England. It is very rare for a director to be fired from any movie; in Wards case, it was only one month from completing shooting, which is almost unheard of. Much of the dialog in the film is voice over by the Sarah character and it is understood that Morton was unavailable for this vital task and another actress had to be drafted in to complete it. Ward must be congratulated for his determination to complete such an impressive film against all odds. In interviews, he stated that he felt a great sense of relief that his film has been finally released and that he considers *River Queen* is his best film to date.

Vincent Ward consulted the writer during the early stages of the production some of the aspects of the production design are far from accurate to the period. Of course the vast majority of cinema goers would never notice, know or even care about such anomalies.

A few inaccuracies that the writer noticed are as follows.

There were no bridges of the type shown in film in the whole of the Taranaki/Wanganui area in 1868.

Major Bain does not wear a forage cap throughout the film something that no officer of the period would have been without as it indicted the officer's rank. Bain's hair is worn far too long, even Von Tempsky, an officer given to flamboyance, had hair only to his shoulders.

The cavalry are equipped with WW1 Lee Enfield rifle buckets.

The artillery shown are supposedly breech-loading Armstrongs but the guns have no breech blocks and their wheels are completely inaccurate.

No regimental colours or flags were carried into battle by either British or Colonial Forces during the New Zealand Wars, carrying such colours in the New Zealand bush would be suicidal.

Dreadlocks were a hair style unknown to Maori Warriors of the 1860's.

Almost no Maori or Europeans are shown loading their weapons.

When Kiefer Sutherland loads his Terry carbine his ammunition is inaccurate.

The Pa at the end of the film is unlike any Maori fortification of the time and the colonial besiegers are impulsively on the other side of a deep chasm.

The garrison village on the river is situated in an indefensible position dominated by cliffs that no soldier in his right mind would have chosen.

The Colonial camp at the mouth of the river flies some very eccentric flags including the Royal Standard which would have only been flown if the Sovereign was present. Likewise the Maori and Kupapa flags have a modern look totally unlike the designs of the period which bore a strong European influence.

Because of budget restrictions some of the bayonets and Mauser rifles from the *Last Samurai* film are lurking in background shots.



Mauser rifles displayed at our Club meeting including two marked SAT



Two light machine guns displayed at our Feb meeting

Gunshow 17th, 18th & 19th Feb

By 4.30 on the Friday the tables were set out and the displays taking shape. The Club had booked two sales tables but it soon became clear that these were not sufficient and more space was soon acquired

The sales items and members displays were quickly set out and the sales team were into action even before it was all unpacked. They got busier as time went by and were soon working overtime with offers and counter offers producing serious negotiations. Pity they weren't wearing the Fez otherwise they could have been passed off as traders from you know where.

The quality of displays was quite outstanding and we received many favourable comments.

Items on display included,

Brass lanterns, carbide lamps, primus soldering irons and blowlamps.

Webley Revolvers

Another cabinet of .22cal Webley revolvers and target pistols. A magnificent display of Japanese War material including flags and banners, swords, rifles and bayonets, hats, a helmet, machine gun, medals, eating bowls and occupation money. (There was no Japanese occupation money displayed for New Zealand but I was assured they did in fact print occupation money for NZ. Ed)

Air Force display including pilots headgear, medals, brass trench art, maps and info on two RNZAF pilots.

Turkish World War 1 including a flag, belts, photos, swords, books and medals.

SLR Rifles. A large selection of rifles, information magazine, bayonets, sights and array of parts and accessories.

A large and astonishing display of reloading tools, mainly for 12g shotshells but also including a number of pocket knives mostly with shell case extractors.

Relics from the US Marine Camp at Paekakariki including knives, forks, razors, ammo, coins, belt buckles and an ID tag to M.Johnson with his service history.

Silk post cards and framed prints off NZ Navy ships with Cap Talley and relevant information.

An Oerlikon 20mm anti aircraft gun on a stand together with relevant information.

A big thanks must go to the members who displayed, helped with security and particularly those who manned the sales tables. Without these people supporting these shows we would struggle to have our side of firearm ownership seen by the general public. Thanks to all those who had an active role in the planning helping and running of this event.

Alwyn.



The display of Japanese Militaria at the Gunshow



Another excellent exhibit at the Gun Show, well worth seeing, was the above display by a Central Branch member of Sniper rifles from around the world. More than the odd one of our members was seen drooling over these rifles. Ed



WW1 18pdr Shrapnel shell with timer fuse



Winner of the Shotgun shooting prize at the Christmas shoot



SLR display at the Gun Show



Ammunition packets displayed at the Gunshow



WW2 Rifle and revolver displayed at the Feb meeting.



Lee Enfield Training rifle in .22 cal



Lamps, blowlamps, soldering irons etc at the Gunshow



Part of the display of French Militaria displayed at our Feb meeting

Fort Balance

A public opening day at Fort Balance took place on Sunday 19th Feb on one of the best summer days Wellington ever sees but this was also one of the busiest with the departure of the Volvo ocean race fleet, the Run around the Bays and for our guys, the Wellington Gun Show. Not that we saw many of our members at the Fort or a great number at the Gunshow so I suppose they were all doing the run around the Bays.

Well the fort is on a magnificent site above Mahanga Bay (just past Scorching Bay) but is sadly neglected and well vandalised. Regeetably a valuable piece of early New Zealand history is not being preserved but simply left to the ravages of time. The fort dates back to 1885 and although little more than a shell of its former self is still more or less intact and is a rather interesting site with a looped wall and rifle slots for defending the position from a land based rear attack as well as overlooking the entrance to Wellington harbour. Fortunately the NZ Historic Places Trust and Department of Conservation seem to have taken an interest in the place and hopefully an effort will be made to preserve and restore this site to something of its former glory. After all the disappearing guns at Devonport and Port Chalmers attract a lot of visitors and the same could happen here if the site was tidied up. Ed



One of the old gun pits at Fort Balance



The rear of the barracks at Fort Balance



The problem - neglect and vandalism at Fort Balance

February Club Shoot

About 20 people turned up for the February club range day including some new faces. The day went well with Mark helping to coach some people on the finer points of successful clay target shooting. Mark's shooting and coaching skills were very apparent as even beginners got consistent hits. The iron chickens got plenty of lead sent in their direction and proved to be very popular with the junior members.

March Range Day Sunday 12th March.

Kaitoke Deerstalkers Range from 9.30am.

Things to bring,

Any rifles and shotguns you might want to use.

Interested friends, workmates and family members.

Warm clothing, lunch and a drink,

Eye and ear protection.

Plenty of ammunition.

Reminders. Subscriptions invoices have been dispatched and should be paid by 28th February to qualify for the discount of \$5. Maybe Margaret will stretch a point if you pay by the next meeting but don't expect any favours after that.

Presidents Report

Well once again its time again for the AGM , when you all have to get together and decide who you want running your Branch. All financial members are eligible to be on the Committee, so if you feel that you can contribute in some way to the running of the Branch, then don't hesitate to come forward at our next meeting.

The Branch was involved in the Lower Hutt Gun Show held last weekend, we had displays on the stage plus a sales table which members could use to sell their surplus items. The show was a great success with some very nice items for sale. I even managed to pick up a couple of pieces for my own collection but it would have been nice to see a few more Wellington members there. These shows are a great place to meet other collectors and also to look at items, you may be surprised at what you can learn.

They are also a great PR exercise, letting the public see what we are about and attracting new members, thanks to John and Jerry for all their hard work.

Alwyn is currently away at the Firearms safety seminar in Christchurch hopefully we will hear all about this at the next meeting

See you all at the AGM

Steve

Next Meeting.

Sunday 5th March at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 10am.

This meeting is our AGM and will feature a change from the usual Mickey Mouse Auction with a Tender Table sale instead. **Start time will be 10am to give time to record sales items.** Please be early if you wish to sell items.

Coming events

12th March Range day.

25th March Hawkes Bay Arms & Militaria Auction

1st & 2nd April. 18th Auckland Arms Fair. At the Big Top Recreational Centre Henderson Auckalnd