

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of the New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington
Branch Inc.
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April Meeting and Displays.

Members responded magnificently to the theme for the April meeting, the only pity being that no one from the Ministry for Culture & Heritage turned up to see the huge range of important heritage items gathered for all to see. Regardless, we were treated to a number of beautifully presented New Zealand collections covering a wide range of periods and we took the opportunity to enjoy the exhibits. A brief list includes;

- New Zealand Colonial period uniforms featuring Artillery Volunteers/Engineers and Regular forces, complete with period caps, belts etc. and supported by a fully carved Snider rifle;
- Boer War badges & certificates, belts and trophy rifles as well as personal effects from the time of the member's father's service in Italy during WWII;
- Selection of bayonets and swords with a N.Z. theme, some being the N.Z. patterns and some with their N.Z. markings;
- Calisher & Terry rifle named to the Maori Chief - Ngatiapa Chief Aperahama Tipai, his photo and documentation of both the rifle and why he was able to keep it;

- Westley Richards rifle in .577-450 made especially for the South African Republic and marked Z.A.R. – showing it to be a trophy rifle brought back by a New Zealander;
- Display of military china featuring condiment sets and field artillery pieces together with a flag for identification;
- Cased 54 bore Tranter revolver with documentation of its original owner Mr. C.A. Vallance (a prominent early Wellington area resident) together with two other revolvers, one from the Boer War and one from W.W.II. with documentation showing details of their N.Z. war service and owners information;
- 9mm Luger pistol dated 1918 complete with holster and documentation of it being taken by a N.Z. soldier in France; double barrelled muzzle loading hammer gun as commonly used by Maori warriors during the Land Wars;
- Family memorabilia from W.W.I. including photos, badges and medals;
- Zolo- an unusual toy with unique shapes and paint finish;
- Coloured drawings of 40mm Bofors action together training notes, handbooks and a N.Z. Forces Officer's jacket from a member's grandfather;
- Medals, badges and personal effects of W.W.II. veteran together with a pencil sketch of him drawn while he was on Crete;
- German Model 08 heavy machine gun in 7.92 cal. captured by the 2nd. Battalion, Wellington Infantry Regiment and presented to the Mayor and City of Wellington on 5 April 1919;
- W.W.I. veteran's certificates and personal photographs, with medals and pay book – showing two periods of service – Samoa/Egypt & Western Europe;
- Selection of books from the turn of the 20th century, including a copy of the Daily Mirror dated 1915;
- N.Z. Mounted Rifles Officers sword made prior to 1912 and stamped with N.Z. and broad arrow;
- Selection of swords all with N.Z. interest – some presentation pieces and others used by early N.Z. Forces;
- Large collection of photos and medals – mainly from the 1914-1918 period with some being the personal effects of the member's family.

As is obvious from the list, some very impressive New Zealand items were on show and our thanks go to all members who displayed. I believe it is to our members credit that so many historical pieces have

been saved, documented and preserved over the years and that these items are able to be seen and enjoyed by so many people. Ron.

Gladstone - Action Cowboy Shoot.

Over the past year or two I have heard quite a lot about the Pistol Club's Action Cowboy shoot at Gladstone but not being a pistol shooter myself I had not seen what goes on, so this time I made the effort to visit the range and have a look for myself. A big shoot was scheduled for 16th and 17th March so I called at the range on the Saturday and I must say I was surprised at what I saw. There was a large contingent of dedicated fans present including about six of our members.

Most participants were dressed in period clothing and from what I could see had entered various competitions under the names of Wild West characters complete with gun belts, revolvers, double barrel shotguns and long arms of the time. The shooting I saw consisted of a multi gun discipline where the contestant fired about 8 shots out of a double barrelled shotgun from a sitting position, (that would suit Craig D), then standing with five shots from a hefty calibre revolver, about eight from a large bore lever action rifle and finally two shots at clay bird targets from a shotgun. Apart from the latter these were all at steel targets which with both the report from the gun and the clang of the projectile made a deafening racket, all amplified by the site which was against a cliff face. With three or four ranges operating simultaneously the place sounded like a war zone.

The whole operation was extremely well run with very good emphasis on safety. The Club was well set up with good facilities and there was a large crowd present many of whom were camping on site. One of the marquees had trade tables with a selection of requisites and supplies on display and these were attracting a lot of attention. Unfortunately I was unable to stay for very long but from what I saw it was evident that in spite of all the restrictions on the ownership of firearms, Cowboy shooting is alive and well in this country. Ed

Photos from the Gladstone Cowboy Shoot.

Lower Left. Frank in true western rig enjoys the occasion and watches over a display of Winchester Lever Action Rifles.



A scene of the spectators at one of the shoots, Ray is on the left hand side wearing a pistol holster.



Our esteemed Secretary, Margaret entered in a two gun shoot and is seen here with her double barrel shotgun and lever action rifle. Interestingly all the competitors entered under the names of famous and infamous Gunslingers from the Wild West but Margaret had taken the name of a woman who achieved fame in other ways.



Some of the displays from our last meeting set out for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, whose representative failed to appear.



A large selection of photos, diaries, memorabilia, medals etc from the First World War



More historic items from the Boer War as well as family items from service in the Italian Campaign of World War II



Photos, medals, badges and documentation of a soldier in the Wellington Mounted Rifles, East Coast Regiment who fought in Gallipoli and Palestine in the First World War.



Medals, personal effects etc from service in WWII



The display of NZ Colonial Period Uniforms



Badges, medals and NZ marked bayonets



The carved Snider Carbine



A selection of Swords—all with a NZ connection

An Unfortunate Experience

Rex has asked me to write this article, in fact he has been after me for several months. Up until now I have been reluctant but I now think this may serve as a big wake up call to a lot of our members. It certainly has to me and I have to admit to some major failings on my part. No one really likes to own up to ones own mistakes so it is with some trepidation that I will continue.

Following a visit from the police some of my firearms were seen in the house to be in an insecure situation and with bolts etc. intact and as a result these were promptly seized by the officer. Naughty, naughty I hear you say. We have all been guilty of leaving firearms about at some time or other and over the years I must admit my habits have got a little slack. I was absent at the time of the visit and arrived home to be told the Police would be in touch with me, which didn't sound too serious. The next morning I was going to a ballet recital with my wife so I thought I would go into the Station and see the Arms Officer myself, quite convinced I would get a good tune up, which I had to admit I did deserve. This was somewhat naïve of me as I also took the car thinking I would be able to bring my firearms home.

"Well Hello Trev" I greet the Arms Officer. He is clearly in no mood for pleasantries and the first thing he says is that my licence is to be revoked. "What the C and E" I say, "No the lot" was his reply. By now I am dumb-founded, then the next thing I know is he is reading me my rights just like something out of TV and I'm informed that I am under arrest. I sit there thinking what have I actually done. Next I am having my fingerprints taken. By this time I am in a state of shock but there is still more as mug shot photos are taken.

I then ring my wife and tell her I am under arrest and like myself she is finding this hard to believe, so much for going to the ballet.

Next I was asked to return home with the Police as they were required to collect the remainder of my firearms. I had been collecting since 1965 and everything had to go. All the C collection was handed over and I was thinking I may never ever see these again, then the rest were gathered up. They gave me a receipt for what was taken but I can assure you that as a keen collector this was one of the most difficult situations you could imagine. After the Police left I discovered they had left a rifle behind. I rang the Arms Officer and he was in a flat spin thinking they had lost one. Then here's me without a firearms licence now required to take the rifle in to him, I thought that was bit ironic. It later transpired that the C and E could be held by a very good friend who held those categories of licence and my brother who had an A licence was able to hold the A licence rifles, so that was something of a relief.

The next day was our July auction and I had to front up to all you guys, that was hard. Then I received a letter from the Police which was a real shocker. It stated I was not allowed to handle a firearm even if there was a licenced person with me. This is all perfectly true. By now I am almost distraught not knowing which way to turn.

Later came the Court appearance. I had by now engaged what I thought was good solicitor but I was wrong, he was outstanding. Court was a new experience to me, I put on a collar and tie and sat and waited with the rif raf until I was called. Can you believe that because of my dress they all thought I was a lawyer? There didn't seem to be any respect for the legal system at all, bare feet and jeans were the norm. Fortunately the Judge accepted me as a good citizen and gave me diversion which meant no conviction. My lawyer then made application for me to get my licence back and this involved an interview with one of the Police chiefs in town. The bottom line is a security check at our new house and I will finally have my licence re-issued.

I have been extremely lucky to say the least, the whole episode was really my own fault. You may consider I would think they were all a pack of b...s, but no, strangely enough I have the greatest respect for all of them - the arresting officer who recommended diversion, the Judge in Court who appeared to be a decent and fair person and the District Police Chief who had the final say. Our local Arms Officer who has had a difficult job has also been very supportive and my lawyer who knew all the right people and most importantly believed in me. To all my friends at Antique Arms my heartfelt thanks. I am very grateful to be allowed to continue a lifelong hobby.

Hopefully this will serve as a big wake up call to everyone. I have been extremely lucky, I don't think I can stress this enough. In normal circumstances it was going to be years before there would be any chance of getting my licence returned, if at all.

Ash

National Black Powder Musket Champs

Calling all members who are pure of heart, and sure of shot.

Have you ever dreamed of representing NZ, and wearing the black blazer but been put off by the top competitors using space age technology that is horrifically expensive, and is being superceded on a daily basis?

Let me introduce you to the noble sport of competitive musket shooting. A sport where the technology stopped advancing 150 years ago, and which shooting ability is tested more than in many of the other forms of shooting. Although the techniques used in these other shooting sports are definitely used.

There are opportunities for a keen shot who knows how to use a good rifle, to make the team in the future. However be aware that greasy hands, perseverance and strange incantations are an essential part of getting a musket to shoot.

Black powder musket shooting is a very small sport in NZ, however it is strongly supported overseas. The shooters in the Black Powder scene have often come through the ranks of other shooting sports, and the best NZ shooters are very good....and difficult to beat, but something to aspire to. NZ has traditionally had its fair share of international success in this sport, and it is a credit to NZ that such a small shooter base has had so many wins.

The first step in making the NZ Team each year is to attend the NZ Black Powder Nationals. These were run last weekend (20 and 21 April) in Tokoroa, and 2 of the Wellington Branch members (Alan Colville and myself) competed. There are 14 events which cater for each of the rifle types used in the past 400 years. Everything from Match-Locks to Target Rifles with peep sights. (The rules state that all rifles must be using sights and accessories that were used in the period of the gun. So you can't use a click adjustable peep sight off an Omark target rifle on a .451 Volunteer rifle. You have to use a period peep with a threaded adjustment only.) The weather was fine and warm with almost no wind, and no-one had the excuse of the weather to say why they didn't shoot well. As it can be seen, Alan has put in the practice and his results show it.

Placings

Whitworth Free Rifle (100m Prone) ----1st Alan
 Open Muzzle Loader (100m 3 position)-1st Alan--3rd Tony
 200m Free Rifle (prone) -----1st Alan
 Flintlock Rifle (100m prone) ----- 2nd Alan
 Military Rifle (100m prone)-----3rd Alan
 Open Breech Loader (100m prone)-----3rd Alan
 Vetterli Free Rifle (50m Offhand)-----3rd Tony

Perhaps we can get a larger group to come up with us next year. (The complex is a well run amenity, and a credit to Tokoroa....well worth the trip to shoot in a competition if you get the chance.)

The next stage in getting into the NZ Team is to be asked to attend the BP Training camps held in Rotorua, each month after the Nationals. These are to check your progress and that your standard is being maintained. As well as this, you must continue with your regular practice at home and on your regular range. Normally there would be a 6 month lead to a major event (Worlds, Trans Tasman Champs or Asia Pacific Champs). You must attend 4 of 6 of these camps, and the selectors (who have very high standard) will choose those with a good chance of doing well at that event. And off they go....the Black Blazer worn by shooters who will represent NZ with distinction. It is neither cheap nor easy to get a Black Blazer, however if you have the skills and the determination it is achievable. In October 2001 the Australians came to NZ for

the Trans Tasman Champs and were blitzed. NZ won something like 12 of the 14 events. But alas the event and results were never advertised. In the near future the NZ BP Team will be going to: 2002 Italy for the World Champs. 2003 Australia for the Trans Tasman Championships.

The other shooting disciplines all follow a similar format for selection for their representative teams. As you can see, there is a significant amount of work that goes into representing NZ, and to get into a national team is no accident. So the next time you see a result on the news where a NZ shooter has placed at an international event, salute them because:

- they are not doing it for the riches nor publicity,
- they have paid for everything from their own pocket,
- and have succeeded in spite of coming from a country with a population a fraction the size of almost everywhere else in the world.

Tony Bruce.

More displays from our April Meeting



A 30 bore Calisher & Terry Carbine owned by a Maori Chief and the documentation to record the Colonial Govt's authority for a native to hold a breech loading rifle.



The German Machine Gun captured in WW1



More historic items from WWII



Another well researched display with a Tranter revolver originally owned by a prominent Wairarapa early settler.



A sword, belt , cartridge pouch and whistle from the Taranaki Land Wars



A well documented Luger pistol captured in WW1

Subscription reminder.

Subscription accounts were sent out last month and there has been a good response to renewals, however there are still quite a few outstanding so if you have not already paid please forward your cheque as soon as possible or arrange to pay at the next meeting. Remember this work is done voluntarily and we have more to do than be chasing unpaid subs . Ed

Auction.

Members may be interested to know that our auction scheduled for 6th and 7th July is all on track and entries closed at the end of March. Cataloguing has been completed and we are now engaged in photographing entries and preparing the catalogue for printing. The catalogue should be out in good time for the auction. Ed



Military China and condiment sets

Next Meeting.

Sunday 5th May at the usual venue, Petone Working-men's Club, Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm
 Theme for displays will be letter A. Some suggestions, ACP, Adams, Ammunition, Anschutz, Antique, Auto