

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029
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WELLINGTON.

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Terry
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and manufacture of these carbines. The display also included a Jap Arisaka 6.5mm cal rifle and bayonet and two US steel helmets.

- Magazines for the L1A1 rifle with numerous different manufacturers some and variation in cartridge capacity.
- Mine and Melva's – Their latest purchase, a two band Snider and a leather rifle bucket.
- Marlins. Two magnificent lever action sporting rifles with literature and a lovely pocket revolver.
- My latest acquisition SAS Challenge coins.
- SAS Desert DPM smock
- SAS wool lined heavy jacket as used in Iraq
- Map of Afghanistan on fabric material only issued to SAS and pilots.
- Memorial badges. A nice set of 3 Machine Gun Battalion with a set of photos.
- Mannlicher Model 1901 self loading pistol. One of the early successful self loading pistols developed that was unusually simple and well constructed. This example was made in 1905.
- Marshall badges. Two US Marshall and two Deputy US Marshall badges with a single action Army Model Colt .450 revolver and holster together with a Remington 100th Anniversary pocket knife.
- Martini action and cut a way barrel segment
- Mauser cannon rounds, 15mm, 20mm and 27mm. A nice selection with information.

Thanks to all who displayed items

Alwyn.

April Meeting – Letter M

A magnificent multitude of medals from many different countries. A lovely selection of about 200 including many German Imperial medals.

- Militaria – a selection of handguns, manuals and a Sten gun. About 20 items in all.
- Muzzle loading shotgun and nine bullet moulds and a MT MkI Fuse container.
- Maori rat (Kiore) cast in bronze.
- Maritime books and information with literature. This display included a copy of J.H.Moores - The New Practical Navigator. These were used by the British Navy to train Officers from the mid 18th Century and Cpt James Cook was know to have carried a copy on his voyage to the South Seas.
- Miniature medals. Approx 80 different examples from all over the world.
- Medals NZMR with a photo of the recipient Lt Col B.W.H. Smart.
- Medals Capt H.C. Ingles.
- More medals. Service medals from NZ and Germany, NZ Campaign medals.
- M1 30cal Carbine with spare 30shot magazine, magazine pouches, cartridge boxes and bayonet together with documentation on the specifications



Medals and Badges issued to a NZ Soldier

The Old West.

My interest in the "Old West" stemmed from the "B" grade movies of the 40's and 50's followed by later more authentic films. Over the years I have built up a library of historic books and magazines such as Old West, True West and Frontier Times so collecting firearms from this era became a natural progression. From the start over 30 years ago, Winchester and Colt dominated my collection, many have come and gone and in more recent times makes such as Smith & Wesson, Remington, Marlin and Savage have been added.

The outlaws, gunfighters and lawmen that used these weapons have always fascinated me and sorting fact from fiction from this turbulent era has always been a major problem.

The participants in the saga of the old west such as the Earps, Doc Holliday, the James and Younger gang and the Daltons have been done to death but there are many lesser known characters whose exploits may be of interest to fellow members.

Richard M (Dick) Brewer falls into this category and April 4th (two days after our last meeting) 1878 was the anniversary of his death. Brewer was firstly a farmer but became a ranch foreman, gunfighter and lawman.

As foreman of John Tunstalls New Mexico ranch and the subsequent murder of Tunstall, he soon became involved in the infamous Lincoln County war. In the roll of Deputy Sheriff he led a posse of regulators, hard cases such as Billy the Kid, Charlie Bowdre, Henry Brown and others in search of Tunstall's assassins.

In the ensuing battle at Blazers Mill, a notorious character, Buckshot Roberts was shot dead centre by Charlie Bowdre but continued firing and wounding two other posse members. He then crawled into the building, found an old 50cal Sharps buffalo rifle, made himself comfortable on a mattress by a window and waited his opportunity. Brewer worked his way into position behind a pile of logs and sent several shots in Roberts direction then ducked for cover. The next time he raised up for another shot Roberts took the top of his head off with the big .50cal Sharps. Roberts himself died shortly after and Dr J.H. Blazer, the owner of the mill knocked up a couple of coffins and the two combatants were buried side by side.

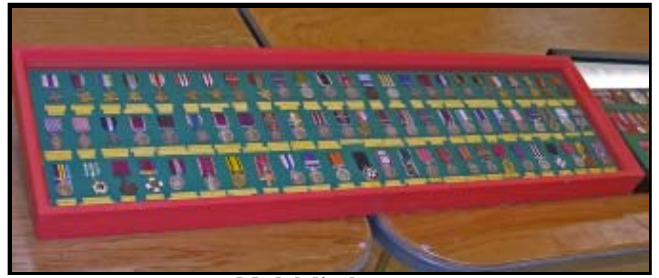
Des Perado.

Speaking of coffins, did you see the item on TV's Antiques Road Show this last week of a guy who brought along a collection of miniature coffins. The commentator thought it was a rather odd thing to collect and I can't remember whether he placed a value on them or not, but by the look of them they were all about 150mm long. It was suggested they were made by apprentices. A weird thing to collect to my way of thinking, I hope we don't get any at our displays next time we have the letter C theme.

Ed



Muzzle Loading shotgun and selection of bullet moulds



Medal display



Japanese Arisaka and US M1 Carbine with bayonet, magazines etc



Militaria display with a Sten gun and numerous handguns ets



My medals - a pair issued to our Committee member John K. The left hand one from the Slovakian Republic in recognition of his Service as the NZ Representative for Slovakia and the right hand one from the Czech Republic for his Military Service.



A 206 year old copy of J.H.Moore's - The Practical Navigator along with other nautical items of historic interest.



A really marvellous display of medals at our April meeting. Top view showing the extent of the set-up and the two below showing a close up selection of parts of the display. Note that the medals are all identified with typed labels



Well our last meeting certainly brought out a wonderful selection of medals and it is interesting and timely to read that since then the descendants of our only double Victoria Cross holder and the descendant of another New Zealand Victoria Cross holder have created a media storm by expressing a wish to sell their medals. While it has been suggested that the Capt Charles Upham medals have been offered to the Government for a rumoured \$3.3million it is hardly surprising that a sale has not been concluded. I personally do not think it is the place of the Government to buy such items and if they did where would they display them, perhaps Te Papa, in the basement stored with all the rest of the not so Politically Correct firearms that used to be displayed in the old Dominion Museum, or what about the Waiouru Museum. The latter is a money making operation and while the suggested price might be a stumbling block Waiouru certainly has a cash flow which presumably can be used for purchases of this nature, let them buy the medals if they can afford them.

While it is rather sad that the descendants of our highest awards for valour now find it necessary to dispose of these rare medals I fail to see why they should be criticised for doing so. After all how many of our members have medals that were purchased from someone at some stage and alternatively why should we, or they be prevented from selling overseas to the highest bidder. The extensive displays of medals at our last meeting showed that collectors are not limited to New Zealand issue medals and clearly other countries do not prohibit the export of their medals to collectors world wide so why should we. After all there have been quite a number of NZ medals sold overseas already.

It is also disappointing to read that one of our Victoria Cross recipients is now being vilified in the press for what is claimed to be a breach of the rules of engagement, all because he camouflaged himself as a German soldier and shot up their troops from behind enemy lines. Was this really a War Crime ? Come on now, this is nothing to what happened elsewhere, to my mind he was not a war criminal but a very gallant soldier who was engaging armed soldiers not defenceless civilians. What about the old expression. All's fair in love, war and politics.

Ed



A pair of Marlin rifles with a pocket revolver



A Snider carbine and leather saddle bucket

Important Notice

The following is an idea to add a bit more interest to our monthly club days and provide a possible reward for those who make the effort to bring along display items. The basic idea is this - at each meeting those who bring along a display will be given a number as they set up their display. During the meeting numbers are drawn at random with the winners given a prize. Being a random draw means that anyone who brings a display along can win.

The overall intention is to get members to bring their items of interest for all to enjoy. This reflects one of the issues that came from the survey of members undertaken last year, which was a desire to see more items on display. As with anything like this there will need to be a few rules but they are intended to be kept to a minimum. The main thing being that members partake in the spirit of things by bringing along genuine displays. Here are what I thought would be the initial guide lines;

- A display would not necessarily need to be related to the "letter" set for the monthly meeting.
- Each display needs to be labelled as to what it is. This can be fairly basic but you are encouraged to provide some form of information about what you are displaying. (Or for that matter if you don't know just what it is and are seeking information yourself).
- A number is issued to a member and not for the number of displays they have brought along.
- Displays of items for sale are precluded.
- In case of any dispute the Committee's decision is final.

I have volunteered to run this on a trial basis over the next few months just to see how it goes. And what's the prize you say - to start things off there will be three draws each to receive a \$20 petrol voucher.

The best Club days are usually those that have the most items on display, so no excuses I (and others) want to see your stuff. Doesn't matter if you haven't brought anything along before or if you think everyone seen it all in the past. Now's the time to start thinking about what you can bring along to the next meeting.

So see you there.

Terry A



Another fine display of an RNZAF Pilot from 67 Squadron together with his Wings and medals

Subscriptions. A few people have neglected to renew their 2006 subs. If you are one of these persons please attend to this matter promptly. Reminders have been dispatched.

Presidents Report

On the afternoon of Thursday the 20th of April, Margaret and I flew down to Invercargill for the AGM and auction of the NZAHAA. Most of Friday was spent in the Management Committee meeting, where policy, budgets and branch issues were discussed.

On Saturday morning it was back for the AGM where all members are invited to participate in discussion and the election of officers. This year a new President (Russell Wood) from South Canterbury and a new Vice President (Peter Crow) from Taranaki were elected. There was also the presentation of a Perham Medallion to Cath Arnold of the Central Branch. Once the formal part of the meeting was over it was into the auction where there was some spirited bidding for the items on offer.

On Sunday morning at 8.30am it was back for yet another meeting, this was a new addition to the agenda and a move by the new President to have some forward planning instead of dealing with problems retrospectively. This was quite a positive meeting with 8 of the 12 branch representatives agreeing to form 4 sub-committees.

These groups will be responsible for dealing with the Gazette, Police, Finance and Promoting the Association, and I think this is a very positive step in the right direction.

The Sub-committee meeting finished at 11.30 then it was back to the airport arriving home at 4.30 pm Sunday for a well earned rest. Southland Branch must be congratulated for a very well organized and well run weekend, and I even managed to try a few of those legendary Bluff oysters.

Steve



Mannlicher Model 1901 Semi Auto pistol displayed

Next Meeting.

Sunday 7th May at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 1.30pm.

Display theme for the meeting will be letter "N"
Suggestions, Nagant, Nambu, Napoleonic, National Arms, Nitro, Nobel, Needle Fire, North American.

Coming Events

21st May Carvells auction Auckland

1st July Auckland branch gun show

8th and 9th July Wellington Branch auction

15th and 16th July Mainland Militaria show Christchurch

16th september Canterbury Branch auction

30th september 1st Oct Auckland Arms Fair

13th and 14th Oct NZAHAA General Meeting Hastings.