

# Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique  
and Historical Arms

Association Wellington Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

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*Check the Web to see this newsletter in full  
colour*

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- \* U.S. Army badges and an unusual French Navy cap.
- \* Unique edged weapons, a pair of presentation swords with relevant information including the owner pointing out the difference between the two scabbards.
- \* Uniforms, a large selection of British uniforms with many accessories, including belts, pouches, bandoliers and an assortment of webbing.
- \* U.S.A. shot shell reloading tools with a very unusual cleaning rod.
- \* Under & Over shotguns, Spanish, Chinese & Russian manufacture.
- \* USSR campaign medals & bravery awards.
- \* U-Boat. A magnificent selection of medals, photos, badges, plus award documents relating to German submarine service in WWII.
- \* U.S.A. Garand .30 cal. M.1 rifle as issued in box with bayonet and accessories.
- \* Vickers. A Vickers machine gun with an amazing array of accessories and fittings, including oil bottles, ammo belts & ammo boxes and cleaning gear.

## Meeting 2nd April; Letters "U and V"

Another good turnout at our April meeting with quality items being displayed. One member's display in particular deserves a special mention; this display was of "unique" berets, belts, holsters, helmets, flags, badges and pouches. This display was put on by one of our younger members and you should have seen the look of astonishment on his face when his display number was drawn out for a spot prize. I believe he will in the club for a number of years to come. Well-done young man!!!!

### Among items on display were:

- \* Unusual tools, a selection of vice grips and wrenches
  - "Victories" last Martini. A nice example with brass sight covers with sling.
- \* Unique and VZOR auto pistols.
- \* Unusual, a copper plate with Lord Nelson's Victory, inscribed October 21<sup>st</sup> 1805 – October 21<sup>st</sup> 1905.

### Topics discussed at April's meeting.

- \* Possibility of holding Gun Show in 2008.
- \* Bus trip to Palmerston North. Get your name in quick for this one.
- \* July auction is now closed off.
- \* Possibility of NZAHAA half yearly AGM in October 2007 due to issues in Christchurch.
- \* Possible Club display at Culture & Heritage Buildings.



**Having a good day**



**A pair of presentation swords**



**Under and Over Shotguns**



**A magnificent display of German U-Boat memorabilia**



**Pistols with consecutive serial numbers**



**German naval officer & assorted medals**



**British WW1 uniform & accessories**



**Iron cross 1st & 2nd class with U-Boat service badge**

# Historical Highlights:

## The Guillotine

Designed by Frenchman Dr Joseph Guillotine, a man described as kindly and who wanted to make execution more humane, the guillotine quickly became a symbol of tyranny during the French Revolution.

Victims were placed on a bench, face down, and their necks positioned between the uprights.

The actual beheading was very quick - often to the gathered crowd's disgust - taking less than half a second from blade drop to the victim's head rolling into the waiting basket.

However, debate rages over whether the quickness of the execution was humane or not, as many doctors put forward the notion that it could take up to 30 seconds before the victim lost consciousness.

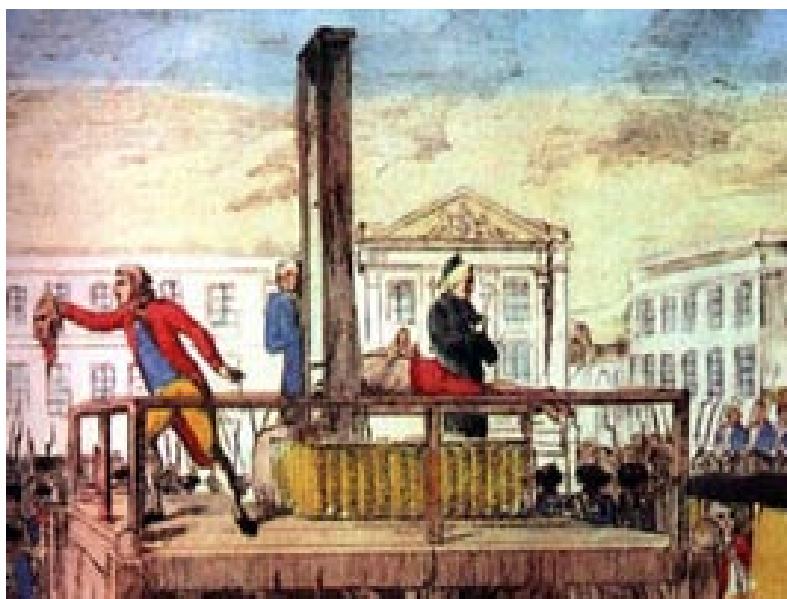
That piece of gruesome news would not have worried the crowd, which continually called for aristocratic and royalist blood to be spilt.

An estimated 40,000 people travelled on the tumbrils through Paris to die under Madame Guillotine. Guillotine himself died, not on his invention as myth would have it, but of natural causes in May 1814. The descendants of Dr. Guillotine have since changed their surname because of the association with a method of execution.

### Facts and Figures

- Total weight of a Guillotine was about 580 kgs.
- The blade weighed over 40 kgs.
- Height of side posts was just over 4m.
- The blade drop was 2.3m.
- Power at impact was 400 kgs. Per square inch.
- The use of the Guillotine continued from 1792 until the abolition of the death penalty in 1981.

### The execution of Louis XVI in 1793.



**From the President's pen**

**Otorahanga half yearly AGM: 14<sup>th</sup> April.**

A small number of Wellington branch members went to Otorahanga for the half yearly AGM. Items of interest that were discussed were a \$10.00 increase in national subscriptions; the reason given for this increase was to meet escalating costs associated with running the national association and the intention to try to build up the financial reserves. Members at the meeting were asked if they agreed and the motion was passed. At this stage the increase will most likely take effect in 2008.

Wellington branch will hold the 2007 half yearly meeting in October. This event was to be held by the Christchurch branch, but due to unforeseen circumstances they have reluctantly offered it to other branches. This is the first national meeting that we have been involved with during my time in the club. Let's make it a memorable event for the visitors coming to Wellington from other parts of the country.

Robin Back, from Hawkes Bay has been elected Vice President of the National Association. Robin is well known to us from being a member for many years and I believe he has much to offer the association.

Police Searches, this topic was discussed in great depth as a result of the pre Christmas searches that took place on a national level. A number of people spoke and talked of their own personal experiences. Ted Rogers has asked for further information and will discuss these issues as an executive of COLFO. Of interest were people who stated police records were at times inaccurate.

The Otorahanga auction went well with some items reaching good prices and I would estimate that approximately 100 people were in attendance with strong postal bids being received.

We are now in the final stages of cataloguing for our July auction so we won't be too far away from going to print.

Subscriptions, there are a small number of members who still haven't paid their subs. These are now overdue so prompt payment to Margaret would be appreciated.

Alwyn  
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**Item free to a good home**

One only map/plan cabinet. Size 1200 wide x 800 deep x 450 high with five drawers, metal construction. Made by Precision Cabinets. This cabinet would be ideal for the badge or medal collector.

Contact Alwyn. Ph. 528-8190.

**Tests Show Napoleon "Not Murdered"**

Scientists have dealt a major blow to conspiracy theorists and those who maintain that Napoleon Bonaparte was murdered.

For years the controversy has raged about his being killed - either by French Royalists or the British - and all have pointed to the high levels of arsenic in the emperor's body as being evidence of such dastardly behaviour.

However, while recent tests on strands of the emperor's hair have shown arsenic in his body, they prove that is not what killed him.

The scientists, quoted in the magazine *Science et Vie (Science and Life)*, said the tests had them originally thinking he had died from the poison, but further investigation revealed the high levels of the toxin were not taken orally. If they had been, the experts said, then Napoleon Bonaparte's death would have been much quicker.

They said the emperor's body contained some 15 parts per million of the poison, where the maximum safe limit is only three parts per million.

Following their investigation, the experts said they believed the emperor had absorbed the toxin over a long period of time and cited such things as hair products, wallpaper, ash from wood fires or glue as being the slow-poisoning culprits.

They now agree the most likely cause of the emperor's death was stomach cancer.

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**Quote for the Day**

“Where Napoleon failed I shall succeed. I shall  
land on the shores of Britain”

*Adolph Hitler on looking  
through binoculars at the White Cliffs of Dover .*

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**Next Meeting .**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May.** At the usual venue Petone Working Men's club Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Display theme will be the letters "WXYZ" which represents a multitude of choices. Remember Terry will be running his lucky draw. A few suggestions are: Winchester, Wide, Whitworth, Zoo etc.