

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

April 2008

www.nzaaawgtn.org.nz

President	Alwyn
Vice President	Terry
Auction Convenor	Steve
Secretary	Tim
Treasurer	Margaret

Committee.

Rex
John
Vic
John
Glenn
Terry
Brent

- Vektor H5 Pump Action .223 with a 50 Round Magazine
- Interesting Item to ID, apparently a Bandsaw Sharpener
- Holsters – Leather & Canvas Service Holsters & Hungarian Helmet 1935m
- Humungous load of Medals! P Badges
- Hunting Rifles -.22. .303 & .410
- Hay Pattern Enfield Muskets – NZ Marked
- Homicide – 2 Pistols linked to a murder
- Interesting Instrument for testing condensers
- War China, China Hats
- Display of 7.62 Ammo, clips, display stands & Bayonets
- 2 Hunting rifles .303, 1 x BSA No 4, 1 x Remington Lee
- Iver Johnson, Revolver & info
- Handguns carriers in WWI
- Irish Gun maker, Indian Matchlock (Trulock & Harris)
- NZ Hats & Other
- Hungarian Air rifle & Hazer Flyers
- Hahn & Crossman Air Pistols
- Indian Ammo from Kirkee & Dumdum

APRIL MEETING

Once again there were some fascinating displays put on. The Letters “H & I” did not pose a problem to many. Thank you to the people who displayed items.

- A Blunderbuss by Ketland
- Spanish Civil War Items including a Helmet & Copy of Poster
- Hunting Rifles – A Steyr 1912 6.5 x 54 & Bruno Shotgun
- Italian Ordnance including an Anti Personnel Bomb & 20mm Round
- Holsters & Handguns – Browning’s, Smith & Wesson
- Hanseatic Crosses from Germany
- Handguns - a selection of Webley Pistols
- Iranian Mauser Pistol
- Ideal MNFG Co – items of Hand loading Tools
- Erfurt 1916 P08 Luger



Interesting Item to ID



Hahn & Crossman Air Pistols

GUEST SPEAKER

We were lucky enough to have a guest speaker for our April Meeting. Norm Carter was our guest speaker, Norm spent time in Prisoner of War Camps during the Second World War. On arrival at our meeting he was pleasantly surprised to see our displays and could certainly remember being issued with a number of items that were being exhibited.

Norm spoke of his time in Alamein, and the in various P.O.W. Camps. It seemed the Italian's were generally O.K., as they would let the prisoners accumulate wine rations, and then drink the whole lot once a week. Stories were told of escape plans and the trouble prisoners would go to, to avoid being detected.

I would like to thank Norm for his time and efforts in preparing his talk, as he was a very interesting speaker.

Alwyn



Iranian Mauser Pistol

A RARE WEBLEY

Henry George Orlando Bridgeman third son of the 4th Earl of Bradford, was born 15th August 1882. Educated at Harrow and the Royal Military Academy Woolich. The cased Webley Wilkinson was purchased August 1901 when it is presumed Henry had just graduated as an Officer in the Royal Artillery.

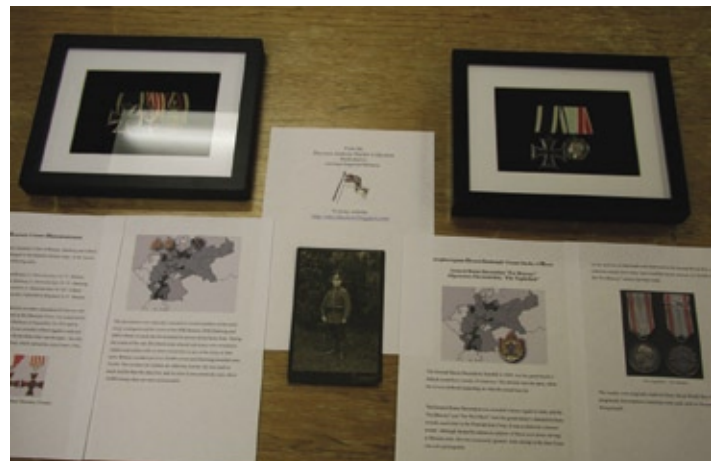
WW1 saw a rapid transition through the ranks to command a field artillery unit in France. By January 1917 Henry was Brigadier Major 47th Divisional Artillery, he retired June 1919 with a rank of Lt Colonel and became a JP for Northumberland in 1945.

Decorations include Military Cross awarded 1915, Mention in Dispatches (date unknown), Order of Danilo of Montenegro, DSO awarded 1918. After the war he became ADC to the General Officer Commanding the Army in Ireland.

The Webley Wilkinson is a model 1900 six shot .476 cal revolver with the feature that it does not have the holster guides seen on many revolvers produced in the early 1900s. The revolver includes the Bridgeman coat of arms in a silver medallion on the grip back strap. My thanks to author Gordon Bruce and the Wilkinson Sword Company for information on this revolver.



Cased Webley Wilkinson Revolver



German Imperial Medals

Wahine Day Experiences.

With the 40th Anniversary of the Wahine Disaster recently members may be interested in my experiences of that day. While I must stress I was not involved in the rescue of any personnel I did get an unusual insight into the rescue efforts taking place on the Eastern harbour side. It all began with my transfer to Wellington a year or two earlier when we established ourselves in Silverstream and I had joined the Upper Hutt Civil Defence Police. Early on the morning of the storm my neighbour rang and asked if I would accompany him to Wellington by car as he had a firm's car which he had to return. At this stage the radio was asking people not to take cars into Wellington and if I remember correctly the Western Hutt road may have been closed. So at around 7am after leaving Fendalton Crescent to the sound of pine trees above Chichester Drive snapping off with a noise like the sound of 25prd cannons we headed off into the city via the Hutt Valley and Petone. Apart from bits of tree branches blowing down the road in places our trip was relatively uneventful and comparatively easy with very little sign of damage or even much traffic on the seaward Hutt road as we drove on up to the Terrace where my neighbour worked. I left him there and walked down into Lambton Quay through one of the buildings opposite Kirks. Just as I started walking South along Lambton Quay there was a great gust of wind and I saw the corner window of the DIC collapse and several bits of large debris rain down from the roof tops above. I hurried along under the verandas and up to our Office which was on the top floor of what was then the Williams Carpark building at the top of Plimmer steps and arrived to find one of our women staff already there and in a state of distress. On inquiry she said the building was rocking and I remember saying oh no that can't be right this is a modern ferro concrete building, I had no sooner said this than we heard a huge gust of wind hit us and my goodness the building sure did rock. We later discovered that numerous cars parked in the building had been blown backwards and one or more had rolled down the ramps.

Our office in that building had a window to the North and we looked out to see long run iron peeling off what was then the TAB building and being blown down into Lambton Quay. Telephone communications were virtually non-existent as the whole system was choked as had been normal in business hours for months before as the Courtenay Place exchange was in the process of being upgraded. We then saw the roof on Whitcoulls begin to lift and succeeded in getting a message via a direct phone line through to our colleagues in the Bank which was on the ground floor of the TAB building (our new Featherston Street building was then under construction) and they ran along the street and told the staff in Whitcoulls of what we had seen. Shortly after Whitcoulls printing staff came out on the roof and began to place bars of printers lead on the roof to hold it down, I believe this action saved the roof.

Meanwhile my boss had arrived with some news of the extent of the storm and also said he had heard that they were calling for Civil Defence personnel to report for duty. He promptly dismissed me and suggested I get back home and report as quickly as possible. The trip home was very slow as there were no train services at that stage and after queueing up for some long time at the Wellington Railway station I finally succeeded in getting back to Silverstream by bus. I am uncertain now of the time I finally got home but I think it was around 2pm so thinking we would be required to secure roofs I gathered up a few tools such as a wrecking bar, hammer and rope and drove my car to the Upper Hutt Police Station which was our reporting centre. I was greeted by a gruff comment along the lines of where the hell have all you bastards been and told to get rid of my gear and climb in that Land Rover out there. So I climbed into a long wheel base Land Rover with about six other men and we sped

off towards the Hutt via the Taita along much the same route that Jeff and I had been earlier in the day but now there was water and debris all over the place that we hadn't encountered early in the morning. They overcame this by driving up footpaths and along the berm in places and skirting around bits of fences and trees. Meanwhile a radio was cackling in the front and we could hear reports of persons in the water etc. No one spoke and then we drove into the Hutt Hospital and a Doctor and a nurse climbed aboard our vehicle each clutching pillow cases stuffed full of medical supplies and told us they hadn't had time to get more. At the Seaview roundabout a Police roadblock was in place and only then did I know for certain that we were in a Police vehicle as the driver flashed a Police ID and we were allowed through. We carried on through Eastbourne and through Burden's gate around the harbour road until we reached two ambulances parked back to back with a tarpaulin over them that was being used as a dressing station. Our Doctor and Nurse alighted and joined this team and we continued on, I am not sure now how much further we went but eventually stopped and were placed into two squads and told to await further instructions. The scene before us was one of total devastation with Police raincoats lying all over the place and dozens if not hundreds of orange life jackets stewn around with many blown twenty or thirty feet up into the scrub on the cliffs. At this stage there did not appear to be anyone left to rescue and two or three lifeboats were on the beach one in a fairly smashed up state if I remember correctly. There were numerous Police and others trying to get warm around a fire that had been lit including the Police Sergeant who had been our Civil Defence instructor. Unfortunately I cannot remember his name but he told me he had been in the water up to his chest and I saw that he was shivering so hard from the cold that I thought he was in need of medical attention. In all the reports I later read I did not see this man's name ever mentioned and all I can say he was one of the many unsung heroes of that day.

Meanwhile two Army trucks arrived and we were divided into two squads and instructed to pick up bodies. One of my team mates was a Petone Borough Council worker and he told me he doubted if he could handle this task but as it happened the first truck did all the pickups and we were left standing to await further instructions. Eventually as the storm abated and it became clear that there was no one else being washed ashore we were stood down. A group of us was then taken back in a Patrol car which stopped on the way at a private home in Eastbourne where the resident was providing rescue personnel us with hot soup and we enjoyed some warmth and a hot drink.

Apart from getting wet and cold my involvement amounted to little more than a spectator. One of my other memories was seeing one of the Wellington tug boats battling its way towards the heads as they looked for survivors then when they came back with a following sea it looked more like a speed boat.

Rex



A nice collection of bayonets

Timaru A.G.M.

A small number of members went south to the annual general meeting that was hosted by the South Canterbury branch. Russell Wood has stood down as national president, and Robin Back (Hawkes Bay) has taken on the role as national president.

I would like to thank Russell for his efforts at a national level. A tremendous amount of work happens behind the scenes and it the efforts of both club representatives and the national committee that keeps our organization running.

Robin is well known and has been involved with the antique arms association for many years.

As you will be aware there was the auctioning of Keith Mcfadgen's collection. There was a good turn out of members and a good number of items have found new homes in the Wellington area. Among the items offered where a number of scarce and unusual items, and I am sure that they will make their way to our meetings some time in the future.

It is always good to catch up with friends and like minded collectors, and these events are always an invitation to catch up with others that you may not see too often.

Alwyn.



Handguns with an interesting history

UP & COMING EVENTS

As you will all be aware we are now closed off for our Club Auction. Once again we are asking for helpers with the setting up, running, clean up and postal processing of the auction items.

This is a massive task and we require your help. Remember this is our club, we have in excess of 200 members and it would be nice to see a few more helping with the activities like this.

I will have lists available at the next meeting asking for helpers. Don't be frightened to put your name on it.

Alwyn



Claude and Wayne receiving there Life Membership Awards at the AGM meeting



Italian Ordnance

Remember to check your Firearms Licence expiry date

Letter of the month is J and K

Things to think about are: Japanese, Johnson, Joyce & Co, Kynoch, Kentucky, Korea, Krag, Kropatschek, Mauser K. just to name a few, lets see what else you can come up with.

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club at 1.00pm Sunday 4th May, See you there.