

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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www.nzaaawgtn.org.nz

Gallipoli - a view of the beach approx 100yds
from ANZAC Cove

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5th April Meeting

The letter "A" brought out an interesting selection of collectables including:

- Auction items, two N.Z. fighting knives
- Acquired recently, two Japanese naval dirks with scabbards and info
- American made, Two Savage made Lee Enfield rifles with accessories
- Adams, 3rd model Tranter 80 bore pocket pistol in original case with accessories.
- Arisaka, 6.5 jap WW2 military rifle.
- A family heirloom, A shooters uniform with dress trousers, shirt, jacket, gloves, tie, cap, footwear, and bugle.
- Aiming post and lamp, with instructions and photographs. Used with the Vickers machine gun.
- Anschultz, Match air rifle, ready for the winter indoor

Turkish Cannon at Gallipoli

shooting season

- Assortment of continental and German medals.
- Acquired recently, a selection of helmets, N.Z. and Swiss
- An unusual selection of trials rifles, bayonets, magazines, and accessories relating to the S.L.R. rifle
- Air borne helmets, a selection of Polish, British, Russian, German and Swiss air helmets.
- Astra, a limited edition presentation pistol, cased and chambered for the 9mm Browning.
- Armed constabulary, a patrol jacket with info on who it was issued to.
- Auto Pistols, Colt .380 cal with both sporting and military variants
- Auto pistols, Webley, two models on display.
- Artillery, German 21cm heavy mortar cases with information.

Thank you to the members who put out displays, once again it certainly surprises me what comes out at our monthly meetings.

Alwyn.

Photos from the 5th April Meeting.



South Canterbury Auction 28th March 2009.

Steve and I attended the South Canterbury auction at Pleasant Point Timaru and noted a good attendance. There were collectors from one end of the country to the other in attendance and a lot of postal interest on many items. Good prices were recorded for the offerings and we gained the impression that collecting is showing little sign of being hit by the recession. Several Wellington members also had success with postal bids.

While in the area we later attended a Canterbury monthly meeting. The Branch certainly made us very welcome and it was good to meet a few collectors and put faces to names of people I have spoken to. The Canterbury Branch had a Mickey Mouse auction planned for the night, and had about 60 members in attendance.

I would like to thank both the South Canterbury and the Canterbury branches for the “Southern Hospitality” that was extended to us over the time we were in the area.

Alwyn

Omaka Airshow.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Airshow at Omaka over Easter in perfect weather conditions. While flying is not strictly our field of interest I was interested to see the range of vintage aircraft that have been resurrected and rebuilt to illustrate the primitive nature of war in the skies from the early days of aviation. The tremendous advances that have been made since Richard Pearce and the Wright Brothers pioneered flight are legendary and although we did not see the latest and greatest we were treated to some excellent displays by propeller aircraft such as the old WW1 machines as well as the more modern and famous Spitfire, Mustang, Corsair, Kittyhawk, Caribou, Yaks and various others.

While the show was about aviation a good number of Military re-enactors were also on hand to do battle with equipment and weapons used, particularly in WW2. Small arms, machine guns and field guns were in profusion and even a genuine German 88mm anti-aircraft gun towed by a German half track were all there as well as a number of other tracked and wheeled vehicles including a replica of an original WW1 Tank and a late model Russian example. The re-enactors, including several women, were dressed in the uniforms of the day and put on a colourful show complete with lots of noise from blank gun shots, machine gun bursts, cannon bangs and pyrotechnics from air attacks. Not to be outdone a squad of NZ Mounted Riflemen were also on hand with their mounts and joined in the battles. I also noted a very extensive display of historic firearms, presumably by the Nelson Branch of The Antique Arms Association. All in all it was a very good effort and a well patronised show which I certainly enjoyed.

Ed

Photos from the Omaka Airshow Easter 2009



Henry VIII covered up sinking.

The loss of King Henry VIII's flagship the "Mary Rose", the flagship and pride of the English fleet, was a humiliating disaster, close enough to Portsmouth to be observed by the horrified English lining the shore - including Henry, on a tower of his fort at Southsea. The ship was named after his favourite sister, and flew his Tudor rose flag was sunk by French cannonball fire, not by poor seamanship – a story invented by the Tudors to save embarrassment – according to researchers recently.

For almost 500 years, the sinking of the pride of Henry VIII's fleet has been blamed on a reckless turn, open gun ports and a freak gust of wind combining to capsize the ship.

Academics now believe a French galley sank the vessel. The Mary Rose was sunk in 1545 as Henry watched from shore during the battle of the Solent between the English fleet and a French invasion force.

It was raised from the seabed in 1982 and is on public display in Portsmouth, England. Researchers at the University in Portsmouth have analysed the "Cowdray Engraving", an image of the battle created shortly after the event, and used modern mapping techniques to create a three-dimensional account.

Calculations involving the tides, the prevailing wind patterns and the movement of the ships were used to show that the Mary Rose lay directly in the line of fire of the French fleet.

The findings, featured in a History Channel documentary, *What Really Sank the Mary Rose*, screened late last year, included possible shot damage to the muzzle of one of the Mary Rose's guns and a French granite cannonball found in the ship.

"The trigger that made the whole situation uncontrollable was the French getting a cannonball through the side of the ship," said Dominic Fontana, who led the research.

"It would have been embarrassing enough for Henry that the ship sank in front of him, but it was not unreasonable that if he discovered what had happened he would not have wanted to have it credited to the French."

The Mary Rose sank within a matter of minutes with seven hundred sailors lost. The remains of the Mary Rose are now on display at Portsmouth Dockyard Naval Museum.

The Mary Rose sinking



The Cowdray engraving from which research centred



More photos from the Omaka Air Show



German 88mm Anti-Aircraft gun being towed by a half track



Ruahine Branch Buy Sell and Trade day.

The Ruahine Branch is planning another Trade day on the 14th June. We are looking at putting on a van or two and travelling up to Fielding for the day. Costs will be about \$30 per person, and we will be confirming costs at the May meeting. If you are keen on a day out, put your name on the list at the May meeting.

Alwyn.

American 1 1/2" ton truck



GUNSHOW 2010

We are considering the possibility of hosting another show in Feb 2010, however we would like to see a few new faces assisting with the running of this event. We asked for any interested people at the April meeting, with very little interest being shown. If you would like to be involved with the running of this event, please contact Alwyn.

The National Association Annual General Meeting and auction is to be held in Christchurch on the 16th of May. This is the 50th year of the NZ Antique Arms and I believe that the Christchurch Branch, (The second largest Branch after Wellington) will be putting on some great displays and hopefully refreshments.

Members will be aware that the last edition of the Gazette was printed in colour and I note the Editor is pushing for Branches to approve an increase in subscriptions to cover the cost of continuing to print in colour. An increase of \$10 per member has been suggested as the amount necessary to run the Gazette in colour annually.

Certainly colour does enhance the publication but do we really need this in colour, after all the E Gazette is in colour and members can open this document on the web and see it in colour. There is nothing wrong with the black and white printed version and I venture to say that an increase in subscriptions for what can only be described as an unnecessary extravagance will not be well received. The National Association has struggled to keep ahead of its costs in recent years and from my own personal point of view colour is a luxury the Association cannot afford.

Rex

AUCTION

Wellington Branch Annual auction is to be held on the 11th and 12th of July (setup on Friday 10th July) we have just about finished cataloguing for this event with some great items already received. We are closing off at the end of the month, so if you have anything you wish to include you had better be quick. Give Alwyn or Steve a call.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs for 2009 became due from 1st January, if you haven't paid yours please attend to this as soon as possible or if you no longer wish to retain membership please advise us.



Next Meeting.

Sunday 3rd May at the Petone Working Mens Club Udy Street Petone at 1pm

Display letter of the month. "B" plus new acquisitions or other items of interest

The letter "B" gives a wide choice but here are a few suggestions
Badges, Bayonets, British, Browning, BSA, Brno, Belgium, Broadsword, Boxer, Bowie, etc etc

