

May 2003

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington Branch Inc.
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- Indian military rifle, complete with its bayonet;
- "Inches" another large and impressive selection of gauges, rulers etc all in the Imperial scale and including a small Ivory example; together with a series of Identification charts;
- "Igniters & Igniter Holders" a fascinating group of early matches and lighters etc - in brass, silver, ceramic & cardboard containers;
- "In-flight Refuelling Panels" – a group of gear previously used with the RNZAF A4 Skyhawk; "Insignia, Identity & Indian" a good range including those in cloth, metal, some dogtags – all together with named paybooks etc.; "Inspection Instruments – Old & New" a pair of engineering instruments designed to ensure accuracy at the work-face; Ivor Johnston cased shotgun – a project recently completed on a family gun; TV 1 Documentary details on the recently shown Von Tempsky programme; S.A. Nazi Solingen Axt dagger with its hanger.

As can be seen, another impressive exhibition of member,s treasures. Thanks for bringing them out, they are always great to see. The trade tables were again doing well and it is obvious members are always on the lookout for new items to collect. Thanks go to all who participated in another good Branch meeting.

MAY 2003 MEETING

Another very good turnout and with duck shooting having just started, a surprising number of members in attendance already had their first bag.

The letter "I" succeeded in bringing out a few surprises and by the searching going on at the tables, the exhibits were once again very well received.

The list included;

- Isaac Hollis Maker – a nice Snider carbine;
- Ivory Implements & Items – a selection incorporating an inlaid horn flask with a Walrus?
- Ivory stopper, Ivory boxes, whalebone Ivory fid and a carved Ivory Japanese fisherman;
- "Identical Colt Navy revolvers" – (well nearly) – two beauties - one with the Colt N.Y. address and the other a London Hartford;
- "Instruments" ex NZ Govt. portable Inspectors weights and scales – an unusual & nicely presented cased set, together with some other
- "Instruments"- a group of early Police truncheons;
- "Instruments – Pressure Gauges" a fascinating range of traction engine steam and vacuum gauges, boost & fuel gauges etc – not items usually seen;
- Indian socket bayonets – a huge and impressive selection from a wonderful collection;
- "Ivory – Imitation & Indecent" a large beautifully carved horn, and a large selection of netsuke's, most of them in Ivory and a few a little!! risqué;
- Ishapore No. 1 1967 Lee Enfield 7.62 mm 2A



ABOVE. A cased I Hollis Pryse Type revolver in cal .360 No 5 displayed at our April meeting.



You all noticed the Snider Cavalry Carbine on display at the May meeting but did you notice the markings? The lock was marked I Hollis & Son but also had a round stamp shown here which has IH&S in the centre with the words Makers to



MILITARY SMALL ARMS

It would seem pertinent at this time with the war in Iraq now over to consider the small arms hardware being used by the US forces and seen everyday on the TV. Even with all the talk about 'precision' guided bombs, missiles, heavy artillery ordnance and the mighty M1A1, M1A2 Abraham's and Mk3 Challenger Main Battle Tanks, it is the role of the foot soldier who is going to be doing the clearing of towns, streets, houses and foxholes. It is their personal weapons that will be protecting coalition forces and civilians and decimating the Enemy forces whether they be the Republican Guard, regular infantry, militia units or the dreaded suicide bombers.

At the disposal for the US forces :-

M9 9 mm Baretta Pistol
M11 9 mm Pistol (SIG 228 issued to aircrews and some others, such as CID)
M16A1 5.56 mm Rifle
M16A2 5.56 mm Rifle
M16A4 5.56 mm Rifle
M4 5.56 mm Carbine
M14 7.62 mm Rifle (Army, USMC & Navy)
Mossberg 509 Shotgun
Mossberg 590 Shotgun

M40 7.62 Marine Sniper Rifle
M24 7.62 Army Sniper Rifle
M82 Barret .50 Cal Sniper Rifle.

M60 LMG
M240 LMG (US version of the FN MAG58 LMG)
M249 SAW 5.56 mm SAW (US version of the C9)
M2HB .50 HMG

M16A2/M203 5.56 mm Rifle / 40 mm Grenade launcher
Mark 19 40 mm Automatic Grenade Launcher (mounted on tanks, APC's and Humvee)

M136 AT-4 84 mm Disposable LAW AT Rocket
M47 140 mm "Dragon" AT guided missile
M98A1 Javelin man portable AT guided missile (range 2,000 meters)
M220 TOW AT guided missile (range 3,750 meters)

As you can see there is a vast array of weapons in use with US forces with the list of 'rifles' alone making New Zealand forces looking like the boys from the back water swamps.

Current NZ hardware consists of:-

Sig P226 9 mm Pistol
IW Steyr (F88 & A1 AUG) 5.56 mm Rifle and Carbines

L96A1 7.62 mm Sniper Rifle

IW Steyr fitted with PI203 40mm Grenade Launcher

C9 5.56mm LMG
L7A2 7.62 mm GPMG
M60 LMG (on Sea sprites and HU1 Huey Helicopters)
M2HB .50 HMG

M72A3 66 mm LAW

Soon to be added the:-
Mark 19 40 mm Automatic Grenade Launcher
M98A1 Javelin man portable AT guided missile (range 2,000 meters)

Kevin

VON TEMPSKY'S GHOST

The Easter TV1 programme titled "Von Tempsky's Ghost" was an in depth documentary of the history of this famous adventurer and I hope that most of our members saw the programme. I am aware that one or two videoed it and would probably lend their copies to others who may have missed the programme. Ask around if you wish to borrow a tape.

Our own Branch member and historian, Tim Ryan had an input into the program adding me and was included on several occasions in the programme. The Dominion Post television critic gave the programme a very good write up and said that the details of Von Tempsky's story would have been a revelation to most viewers and left the feeling of wanting more.

I certainly agree and thought it was well worth watching.
Ed

DID YOU SEE.

The Dominion Post of 26th April report on the fate of the bell from the HMS Vengeance with a photo of our Branch member Margaret Brown ringing it for the last time in NZ.

The bell belonged to HMS Vengeance which apparently saw service in the closing stages of WW2 and in 1962 the Chairman of Mana College's Board of Governors Lt Commander Lowe donated the bell to the college. The bell became an unused ornament and would have remained at Mana College if Margaret had not been doing a bit of naval gazing and stumbled across a British Naval website which led to an inquiry as to its whereabouts. It had been missing for more than 40 years. Margaret had worked at the College and was aware of its existence as her father had served on the Vengeance. Accordingly she took up the fight for its return to Britain.

The Vengeance was sold to Brazil in 1956 and became the Nation's flagship under the name of Minas Gerais but was decommissioned in 2001 and apparently lies at anchor in Rio de Janeiro awaiting a decision on scrapping. However former crew members are campaigning to have the ship returned to Britain to be converted into a Naval museum and it seems as though the bell will be one of the museum's early exhibits.

It all goes to show that Margaret is quite good at naval gazing. Perhaps she will get over to ring the bell in the Naval museum when it's opened.

Ed

Below. A fine display of Handcuffs from the April meeting



AUCTION ASSISTANCE.

We are now asking for helpers for our July auction. We will need members to assist with :-

- Transport and set up of sale items on Friday 11th July.
- Security of the items displayed on the Friday afternoon and also on the Saturday and Sunday of the auction.
- Assistance with holding up auction items as the sale proceeds.
- Kitchen helpers.
- Clean up and tidy up on Sunday afternoon
- Sorting and packing of postal sales on Monday 14th.
- Recording and dispatch of parcels and invoices etc.

The auction is a very big undertaking and we need a lot of assistance in various areas. If everyone makes an effort the work will be completed quickly and easily.

Remember this is your Club and the members work voluntarily for the benefit of the Branch as a whole so everyone has an obligation to assist if at all possible. The more that assist the less onerous the work will be. We would also like to see a few more of the members wives along to assist so don't be shy ladies.

Alwyn

A REPORT FROM THE WELLINGTON SERVICE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The A in ANZAC

Australian Marksman Peter Richards struck gold on ANZAC Day when he outshot 75 other competitors in the tenth "World Famous" WSRA ANZAC Day .303 Shoot.

Held on the Kaitoke Range near Wellington New Zealand the day saw over 4,000 rounds of .303 fired by a record number of shooters that included eight Australians and contained at least ten National and International champions.

Richards, a Sergeant in the Australian army, used an SMLE to outscore his mentor and fellow Australian, Phil Oakford, by five points. Oakford from Townsville is a habitual ANZAC Day .303 competitor and the previous winner of seven Australian army rifle championship Queen's Medals.

In third place was Wellington Rifleman Michael Dobson shooting an "Irish" No4 MkII.

The Ranfurly Rifle Volunteers Cup team match was won by Team ANZUS, consisting of Mitchell Maxberry (USA), Colin Welch (NZ) and Oakford (Aust).

Match Director Guy Robinson and his Wellington Service Rifle Assn helpers produced an excellent competition that was a fitting tribute to the .303 and the part it has played in the ANZAC legend.

ITEMS DISPLAYED at the May Meeting.

I for Instrument brought out this set of precision scales which were originally used by the Govt Weights and Measures Dept for checking weights



INSIGNIA AND IDENTITY.

A good display of various examples of military



INDIAN SOCKET BAYONETS.

Left and lower L

Part of an impressive display of socket bayonets that would make any collector green with envy.





Identical Colts a fine display of almost identical Colt Navy percussion revolvers



Indian manufactured Lee Enfield by Ishapore with bayonet and scabbard.



Another display on the I theme - Measuring instruments - mostly Imperial



A fine group of powder flasks from the April meeting - all in excellent condition



A display of Holsters from the April meeting and the carved butt of a Boer Mauser



The Branch has received a letter of thanks from Dave George, the Australian Military Historian who was seeking information on "Carved" Boer War rifles. (Ref. Flint & Cap February 2003) He goes on to say "The response from your members has been wonderful. I have many close-up photos sent to me as well as information relating to SAT stamped on rifles in NZ. Please extend my sincere thanks to those of your Association who have so kindly forwarded me photos and information."

AUCTION

Our Auction is all on track and catalogues should be in the post by the end of the month. It has all been a very extensive exercise and it is pleasing to report that more members have been involved so far this year than in earlier years. There is still a long way to go before the job is complete but with your support we hope to make this another successful and memorable occasion. Colour photos of various catalogue entries will be on our Web site. Check this out for yourself and click on the item to enlarge the photo.

NZ MILITARY HISTORY COMMITTEE

The following conference about New Zealand in the First World War may be of interest to members. A conference 'Zealandia's Great War' will be held at the National Library Auditorium in Wellington from 7 to 10 November 2003. It will immediately precede the burial of the New Zealand Unknown Warrior on 11 November. Among the speakers will be Professor Hew Strachan (the Chichele Professor of the History of War), Professor Annette Becker (University of Paris/Hisorial de la Grande Guerre), Professor Trevor Wilson (University of Adelaide), and a range of New Zealanders.

For further information, contact the NZ Military History Committee, PO Box 9724, Wellington 6030 or e-mail Ian McGibbon (ian.mcgibbon@mch.govt.nz) or John Crawford (J.CRAWFORD@nzdf.mil.nz). If anyone would like a registration brochure, please supply me with your postal address, so that

REMINDERS.

A few Branch Subscriptions are still outstanding. Please make sure yours is up to date.

FIREARMS LICENCES.

Check your Licence expiry date and apply for renewal, preferably about 3 months before expiry. While some Police Districts are sending out reminders we don't know whether this is universal and if you have changed your address since the last one without notifying them you are unlikely to get a reminder.

NEXT MEETING.

Sunday 1st June 2003 at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone from 1.30pm. Display theme for the meeting will be **Letters J & K**. A couple of tough ones this time but a few suggestions:- Japanese, Japanned, Jeffreys, Jones/Owen, Jager, Jarre, Johnson/Ivor, Joyce, Kentucky, Kerr, Knife, Korea, Krag, K Series (S&W) Kukuri, Kynoch. Or any other suitable displays including new acquisitions or as the Japanese say in their shops "New Arrivals"