

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique
and Historical Arms

Association Wellington Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

May 2007

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

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Editor Ross

Committee.

Vic

Rex

Wayne

John

Glen

Brent

Terry

Frank

guns and a selection of revolvers by several makers.

- Webley: semi autos. A selection of pistols in different models and in various calibres.
- Westley Richards's patent single shot .450 cal carbine.
- Winchester ammo shooters box and a copper advertising plaque.
- Robert Wogden dueling pistol. A fine example.
- Zone. The divided Germany, flags, medals, badges, books, and a bottle of German lubricant.
- Watches. A fine selection of WW II pocket watches and wristwatches including family items all ticking away and all in good working order.
- Winchester posters, ammo and advertising plaque.
- Webley Mk VI military revolver with leather holster.
- A-Z. A steamboat project with photo album.
- Wellington defences battery: A fire shell case with relevant information.
- Winchester P 14 with bayonet, Winchester ammo clips, cleaning gear, sight tools and magazine cut off. A lovely item in very good condition, getting rare these days.
- Walther, a selection of pistols in a number of different calibres.
- Winchester models 94, 90 and 64.
- Whistle off a steam locomotive, the locomotive that crashed at Tangiwai on Christmas Eve 1953.

Meeting 6th May: Letters "W, X and Z"

An exceptionally good turnout at our May meeting with many quality items being on display despite the awkward theme letters. Where these items come from really surprises me.

Items on display included:

- Westley Richards Martini: action chambered for .22 Hornet mounted on deer antlers and displayed on a wooden plaque with a number of carved game scenes.
- Wilkinson pattern 1887cavalry officer's swords, many with previous owners details.
- "Ypres" sweetheart badge, Queens South African medals, brass telescope and British naval Officer's dirk.
- Wedgwood mug dated 1942, Officer's mug R.A.F. Bent Water and Rhodesian "Operation turn gone" mug. A nice collection.
- Winchester. A members winning firearms, a fine pair of lever

Photographs taken at May's meeting



Webley Mk VI military revolver



Wilkinson 1887 pattern cavalry officers



"Tangiwhai Railway disaster" steam locomotive whistle



A duelling pistol by Robert Wogden



A Winchester P.14 with accessories



An early English naval dirk



Selection of Walther handguns in various calibres



Pair of Westley Richard's monkey tail breech

Bus Trip to Ruahine Branch 22nd April



The bus trip was run with true military precision, leaving on time and picking up passengers en route with approximately 20 or so of our members taking full advantage of a relaxing bus trip, while others travelled by car. When we arrived at Palmerston North the clubrooms were all set up with displays and with a good sprinkling of sales tables. Items on display included:

- German military rifles – experimental and sniper.
- Percussion firearms, a good selection.
- ANZAC related items.
- A variety of buttons and medals.
- French foreign legion, a nice display.
- Winchester rifles and associated ammo.
- Colt handguns.
- U.S.A. items including a Thompson sub-machine gun, M.1 carbine, M.1 Garand rifle, Springfield 03 rifle, bayonets and badges.
- 410 shot guns, a selection of single and double barrel shotguns of different types.
- Air rifles from England, America and Germany.
- Naval caps, a selection from around the world.
- Rifle ammo clips and oil bottles, all for .303 approximately 50 items from different makes and styles.
- Helmets, a varied selection.
- A selection of military carbines, some Martini and a New Zealand Lee Enfield.
- A selection of modern MSSA's, sniper rifles, knives, pistols, torches, shotguns and relevant accessories.

It appears that a considerable amount of trading took place, with one or two members negotiating a last minute purchase as others were taking their seats for the bus home.

During the course of the day the Ruahine branch ran a small raffle that some of our members seemed to do rather well in, with three of them taking out 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

A big thank you must go to the team from Ruahine, who put on another enjoyable and memorable day.

Alwyn.

ANZAC DAY 2007



I visited the National War Memorial in Buckle Street on the afternoon of Anzac Day this year, a day when our Armed Services mounted a guard of honour over the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier and the Carillion National War Memorial is open to the public. The inside was decorated with dozens of wreaths and floral tributes to the Anzacs and NZ Forces and I was surprised to note that almost every country which has diplomatic representation with New Zealand had sent messages and floral tributes. It was certainly a sobering experience to read the cards and messages and realise how fortunate we are to enjoy the freedom we take for granted when so many lives were sacrificed to achieve this. I was also there in time to see a changing of the guard and attached are several photos taken of the Tomb and surroundings. The day was cloudy and relatively mild but never-the-less I think the lightly clad Maori warrior would have been glad when his time on guard duty was over.

Rex



Gordon Smith

Members may not be aware that Gordon Smith, one of our long standing members died suddenly on 22nd April. Gordon was a farmer from Rongotea in the Manawatu and attended most of our meetings even though this was a good two hours drive from his home. He always brought along a display and was renowned for his lateral thinking when he frequently displayed a collection of some odd ball items such as wire strainers for the theme letter of W. To his credit he normally also displayed firearms of the correct theme. In fact his displays were so remarkable that members used to crowd around as he unpacked to see what he had this time and he frequently asked me what the next month's letter was going to be. When he gets up to the Pearly Gates I am sure he will be looking to see if they have a theme letter, and should it be S he will probably pull out a pair of secateurs not his old Shultz & Larsen.

Gordon was a well known and highly esteemed member of his community which was evidenced by the huge turn out at his funeral, said to number in excess of 500.

Until recently Gordon used to also bring his brother Murray to our meetings. Murray has been incapacitated for some years and relied upon a walker to get about but sadly his condition worsened last year and he has been hospitalised ever since. However, Murray was able to attend the funeral, although wheelchair bound and unable to communicate, but he clearly knew those present including Robin and myself.

Gordon was a keen collector and a great supporter of our Branch and his passing will be a big loss to our meetings and displays. We extend our condolences to his wife Margaret and family.

Rex

Quote for the day

“What, sir? Would you make a ship sail against the wind by lighting a bonfire under its deck? I pray you excuse me , I have no time for such nonsense.”

Napoleon to Robert Fulton, inventor of the steam-ship, 1805 (the year of the battle of Trafalgar)

FOR THE ENFIELD ENTHUSIAST

Number 25 of the Collector's Annual, produced by Ian Skennerton, arrived in the mail recently. He has some interesting articles and I thought I would list them so people know what is in print and they can check the information out for themselves.

The feature articles are as follows:

British Service Tools. Military rifle, and pistol tools and accessories of the 19th century.

Museums and Internet. Accessing some prime international museums from your computer.

Gun Auctions. More on the internet now.

Pancho Villa, good guy or bad guy?

Italy's Carcano. A look at the history behind Italy's standard issue rifle and carbine.

Gas Seal Revolvers. The system of a forward moving cylinder to seal against the barrel was not new. Research on Patents and models.

British Service Ammunition, a precis of probably the widest array of any military cartridge in all time – the .303.

Firepower-Woolwich, the new museum, displays etc at the home of Britain's traditional artillery factory and arsenal.

AIA Development. At the dawn of a new millenium and Australian company is producing the Lee-Enfield using the best of features from British, American and Australian manufacture.

The ultimate Lee-Enfield! SMLE in Australia.

A study of early 20th century issues in Australia.

For the technos!!!

2006 Museums tour. The collector group spent nearly a month visiting displays in England, Scotland and Europe. Fallen angels, Guns of the gals in the Wild West. Paris Stopover. The Musee de l'Armee at the Hotel des Invalides in Central Paris. Mennen Gates, Ypres. The most visited site on the Western Front today. Flanders Field the centre of this beautiful old town. Sectionised firearms. Pistols and rifles. Nederlands Army Museum, Museum is in Delft and houses the largest military history library in the Netherlands. PTE Himes, Collector. An account of an Australian souvenir hunter. A transcript from France. Hayes Handguns, a reference of about 1,000 pistols and revolvers now available. Plus.....Duxford and Land warfare centre. Capt Alfred Shout VC. Bren Kit. Hellfire Pass. Dunkirk Battlefield Gold Coast Medieval Private Museums. Thai-Burma Railway. Colchester Museum, Koblenz museum.

I will have the book at the next meeting for anyone interested.

Margaret Brown

From the President's Pen

Once again we are not far away from our annual July auction and will be asking for offers of help with an array of tasks. These tasks include setting up of the hall, security of auction lots, helping out in the kitchen, data processing, manning of the tender tables, the dispatching of sold items, sale of withdrawn items, cleaning up after the auction and help with the packing and dispatching of postal bids on Monday.

Setting up of the hall at St. Patrick's College in Kilbirnie will be from **8.00 a.m. on Friday 6th July.**

We require helpers for all these tasks, so please make an effort to support your club and lend a helping hand. Names of those willing to assist are being taken now, so contact Alwyn with your offer of help and let me know what you would like to help with, and when you are available.

Thanks

Alwyn

Winchester 1886 Model Rifles



Among the many excellent displays at the May meeting was a display of Winchester 1886 Model rifles. How many of you stopped to read the notes and saw that two of these were takedown models. My first impression was “What - Takedown of a Hi Power rifle patented over 120 years ago – come on now !” but I was horribly wrong. The owner kindly consented to show me how it worked and I was most surprised to find that on release of a simple lever catch the barrel could be turned 90 degrees and the barrel withdrawn to reveal an interrupted thread. A similar system of interrupted threads is used on breech blocks of field guns and even the simple Browning takedown model .22 autoloaders of many years later but a .22 does not generate the breech pressure of a 45-70 or a 50-110 cartridge which was what these rifles were chambered for. It all goes to show there is much to be learned from the displays at our meetings.

A Wilkinson Experimental musket circa 1860 in excellent condition was also exhibited by this same person and presented a most interesting and unusual display. This was a typical percussion fully wooded long barrel musket of the period. The integral bayonet which was attached inverted to the forend was rather unique as was the bayonet itself with two short fullers on the top. Both were in top condition and would grace any collection.

Rex

Ruahine Branch Display Photo's



German Rifles, Sniper & Experimental



WWII American Firepower



French Foreign Legion Badges



Modern MSA's, Knives, Pistols & Relev-

Next Meeting .

Sunday 3rd June. At the usual venue Petone Working Men's club Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Display theme for the meeting will be the letter "A" which represents a multitude of choices. Remember Terry will be running his lucky draw for exhibitors so make sure you are in the draw.