

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association
Wellington Branch Inc.
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May Meeting 2009

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Breakfast menu, White star line dated 1902. Included tripe and onions for the second class passengers!

Brownings, Browning auto shotgun by FN and a Browning model B .22 calibre semi auto rifle, both in excellent condition.

Cork board of bayonets, 15 various bayonets and a sword.

Bisley flat top target model revolver in its original case and a medal won at Bisley with this pistol.

Bought today, a selection of three pistols and a mannlicher bought at a local auction.

Brittish Snider bayonets, model 1853 to 1880. Two sawback, two Yataghan, one Lancaster and a spike bayonet.

Just put my hand up and bought a silenced .22! Another auction purchase that day.

Italian revolver in 11mm, pattern 1932 acquired on active service in Libya in 1941. Made by Bernadelli.

Bright blue colt lightening in .44 calibre, made in 1902.

May Meeting Displays

Brass British reloading tools, eleven reloading tools of various makes.

Boer war medals, badges and documents of Fredrick William Stud (John Studs father) of the 17 Lancers of the charge of the light brigade fame. South Africa medal plus five bars and a death or glory cap badge.

Cased Beaumont Adams percussion revolver retailed by John Blissett, 120 bore five shot circa 1858.

Brown Brothers books 1916, early catalogs for everything, including things that start with B.

British blunderbuss by Ketland, a nice flintlock blunderbuss with spring loaded bayonet and brass barrel.





Bayonets on a board



British bayonets model 1853 to 1880



Browning shotgun and .22 semi auto



Bisley flat top target model revolver



Cased Beaumont Adams percussion revolver



Italian revolver in 11mm by Bernadelli



Boer war veteran pictures and documents



Blunderbuss by Ketland circa 1800

THE “KAITEN” SPECIAL ATTACK SUBMARINES

By late 1944, the war situation had deteriorated for Japan to the point where extraordinary measures were seen as offering the only way out of an increasingly grim military predicament. With the allied invasion of the Philippines, the Japanese first formulated and implemented ‘Special Attack’ tactics in the form of suicide aircraft attacks: the kamikazes. The Imperial Japanese Navy now approved the development of a new top-secret weapon called a kaiten, a suicide submarine, or manned torpedo to be launched from a submarine. In September 1944, a base for kaiten production and testing was opened on Otsushima Island in Tokuyama Bay in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Early designs allowed for the pilot to escape after the final acceleration toward the target, although whether this could have been done successfully is doubtful. There is no record of any pilot attempting to escape or intending to do so, and this provision was dropped from later production kaitens, so that once inside, the pilot could not let himself out. In the event that an attack failed, the kaiten was fitted with a control for self destruction.

The usual attack method was for a mother sub carrying from 4-6 kaitens to approach the target area, locate the target vessels, and then release her kaitens to attack at a range of between 6-7000 meters. The kaitens would close to tactical range, come to periscope depth for a brief re-targeting at around 1000 meters, make course corrections, and then dive and run at the calculated position of the target until a hit was obtained. Once launched, the pilot was on his own; regardless of the outcome of the mission there could be no return to the mother ship, which would have been submerged and unobservable in any case. It is thought that many kaiten pilots, having reached the end of their fuel, and finding themselves alone in the wide expanse of the open ocean, probably self-detonated rather than face the lingering deaths that otherwise awaited them.

The kaiten was a cantankerous weapon, fast, difficult to control, and prone to uncontrollable dives, broaching, and other accidents. Furthermore, it suffered from a number of mechanical problems, including salt-water leakage into the control space when the mother sub was submerged, and a tendency to catch fire from oil leaks. Owing to these difficulties, its value as a weapon was probably inferior to a normal Type-93 torpedo. However, the kaiten did have the added virtue of being able to make multiple runs at a target; the pilot who missed once could reacquire his target and attack again. On the whole, they were a miserable failure, as Kaiten attacks resulted in sinking only two American vessels

with the loss of 162 American lives, in comparison to 106 kaiten pilots who lost their lives, including 15 killed in training accidents. In addition to the kaiten pilots, more than 600 submariners died as eight Japanese submarines carrying kaiten to their targets were sunk. Due to strict military secrecy surrounding the kaiten program, facts concerning deployment of manned torpedoes did not get disclosed to the Japanese public until after the war. The Kaiten Memorial Museum opened in 1968 at the site of the original kaiten base on Otsushima Island.

The kaiten pilots’ ages ranged from 17 to 28 and were all volunteers.

Ross T.



The submarines crew face towards Tokyo, the Emperor’s Palace and say their final goodbye



Crews waving their Samurai swords as they depart.



Length: 54 Feet: Diameter: 4 feet, 5 inches
Weight: 18.37 tons Warhead: 1.98 Tons of TNT
Crew: ONE MAN; ONE WAY TRIP !

Web sites of interest

Service records of the NZ armed forces
<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx>
Old NZ newspapers
<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>
Martini Henry site
<http://www.martinihenry.com>
Ian Skennerton
<http://www.skennerton.com>
NZ Cartridge collectors club
<http://www.nzccc.org.nz/>

A.G.M Christchurch 16th May

A small number of Wellington members attended the 50th year celebrations and the AGM that was held in Christchurch. The venue was well set out with a superb range of displays and trade tables. Once again we were made very welcome, and there was ample time to look at the exhibitions and chat with the people who owned the items. Once the formal part of the meeting was under way, we had several speeches from founding members and people who have been associated with the organization from its concept. It was certainly interesting to hear how attitudes towards firearms have changed in the last few decades. I would of thought about 180 people attended the meeting with a small number coming from the north. A lovely lunch was put on by the Canterbury branch and once again there was time to browse the sales tables and check out the items that were in to be included in the auction. The auction went well with some strong bidding from both the floor and the postal bidders. On the Sunday morning a few people headed to the market that is held at the Riccarton race course, all searching for that rare item or bargain.

A big thanks must go to the Canterbury Branch for making this event a success.

Alwyn.



Ruahine Branch visit

We are looking at taking a van up to visit the Ruahine branch and attend their buy, sell and trade day. This event will take place on Sun 14th June at the Rangitiki Club in Fielding. Should you wish to come along for the day. Please contact Alwyn.

Branch Auction

We are now asking for helpers to assist with the running of this club event. As you are all aware this weekend long event is a highlight of our club activities and we need your help once again to make this event the success it has come to be. We need help with the set up, security, processing of items, managing of the tender tables and of course helping with the clean up and packing the postal parcels.

This event will be held on Fri, Sat Sun, Mon 10th -- 13th of July, with setting up from 8:00am at St Patricks College in Kilbirnie.

To list your name to help, please contact Alwyn.



Remember to check your Firearms Licence expiry date

Letters of the month are C and D

Things to think about are: Cartridge, Colt, Canadian, Derringer, Dagger, Defence. We are always keen for people who have not done a display for the club to make a special effort.

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club at 1.00pm
First Sunday of the month, See you there.