

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

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Committee.

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Brent

A good collection of lever action Martini's and Lee Enfield rifles. It included two rook rifles, one in .38 and one in .22 and a complete smle rifle scabbard.

MP 40 9mm machine pistol and a MG 34 7.92mm light machine gun made by Rheinmetal Borsig in 1943.

Lightwood, William Lightwood reloading tools made in Birmingham.

Long maori weapons, featuring a taiaha a whale bone handled patiti and a stone pautu. Also on display was a flintlock barrel and lock from Wanganui.

Helmets, an unusual Danish model 1939, featuring a very complicated construction plus a 1923/40 model from WWII.

Lee lead melting pot and Lee moulds, a collection of military models and a lever action Marlin in 30-30 cal.

Lee Enfield rifles x two, one sniper model with correct scope and scope case and a U.S made Savage example with bayonet.

New Zealand mounted rifles badges 1911-1944, 12 nice sets of cap and collar badges displayed in a frame.

Mauser slab side pistol with holster and shoulder stock, also a Melior .25 calibre pistol.

Latest acquisition, pistol with grip safety. 1909 Weyley types I, II and III. One in need of some new grips. (Please see Reg if you can help).

Latest acquisition, an A cat SAFN 49 south American model 7x57 cal in a sporting configuration.

Displays from the May meeting

Display of long range and match cartridges, 450x31/2, 223 advanced marksman unit and .223 experimental.

.256 Jeffery Manlicher, made in London in 1896 and proofed for 37grns rifleite. By 1900 the .256 was the winning calibre at Bisley. The example on display was fitted with peep sights and a 5 blade express sight.

Rifle grenade launcher, an L1A1 rifle fitted with a spigot for launching grenades.

Joseph Lang transitional revolver made in London circa 1853. A 6 shot in .42 cal complete with case and accessories.

Lamp, colman kerosene used for heating and paint burning.

Framed photo of Wellington City Rifles champion team dated 1900.

Latest acquisition, a 6.5x55 Swedish model 1896 rifle fitted with factory target sights.



L1A1 rifle with grenade firing attachment



Framed photo of Wellington City Rifles dated 1900



Lee melting pot and dies plus a lever action Marlin

Upper Hutt City Council Military Heritage Month

During the month of June several displays have taken place with much positive feed back. We have had two displays at the Block house with members in uniform of the era and a tent similar to what military soldiers were issued with during that time. Other items on display included a collection of rifles and muskets that relate to that period.

On the 8th of June, we had a display in the Upper Hutt library. On display we had a Land Rover, a Vickers machine gun and a selection of .303 rifles. A couple of the library staff talked on the military history of Upper Hutt, and then we discussed our collecting interests and then had members answer questions about the display and items on display.

I was thrilled with the interest that many younger people have in N.Z. Military history and the amount of people who came forward and talked of memories of family members connected to the Trentham camp.

It was also noted that not too many libraries in N.Z would of had a Vickers light machine gun set up on display in them!

Displays like this are always a good opportunity to expose our interests to others in a responsible manner and we will actively seek other opportunities such as this.

Alwyn



A very nice Lang revolver with case

Next months auction

Once again we have our club auction only weeks away. We have already received a number of postal bids and are looking forward to another successful club event. This is a club event and takes a massive amount of behind the scenes work to get to where we are. We also need a lot of help over the weekend with many aspects including set up, security, administration, canteen and the ever popular tender tables, to name but a few of the tasks to be dealt with. Your help would be greatly appreciated in any of these areas. Please contact a Committee member to offer your assistance.



Maori long weapons



Mounted Rifles cap and collar badges

Who has a good memory!

In our August 2004 newsletter was a photo of an Enfield musket with a T. Wilsons Patent breech loading system. If you are the owner of this item, or possibly know who owns the item, could you please contact Alwyn. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Maine USA

A recent visit to USA included a week in the state of Maine which is the most northern state on the Atlantic seaboard and surprisingly is steeped in history. This was an area of America that was settled by the British from a very early date and an English settlement took place at Popham on the Phippsburg Peninsula which predated the settlement by the Pilgrim Fathers at the Plymouth Colony by 13 years. However there were earlier explorers before that. In 1607 settlers in the Popham Colony managed to build a 30 ton pinnace, Virginia of Sagadahoc designed for transatlantic trade but they lost heart during a severe winter and returned to Britain in this boat and this was all before the sailing of the Mayflower..

Just north of the Phippsburg Peninsular is the town of Bath which has a long history of shipbuilding, The Percy & Small shipyards at Bath built the largest wooden sailing ship ever launched in the United States, a six masted schooner capable of carrying 6000 tons of coal and was the last and largest of a number of schooners built there. It was named the Wyoming and launched in 1909 and measured 426 feet from bowsprit to stern rail and was the last wooden ship built at these yards. WW1 saw a revival of the yard with the introduction of steel ships and wartime contracts but the yard closed down in 1920. Other shipbuilding continued but was revived during WW2 which saw Bath producing Destroyers and Liberty Ships for the US and Allied war effort. However what really surprised me was that this little town on the river bank with a population of just on 10,000 could muster the resources to not only build warships but build them at a tremendous rate. They were launching Destroyers every 17 days by the end of WW2 and are credited with building more Destroyers at this one yard than Japan built in all of the War. Additionally they built 250 Liberty ships but I am uncertain of at what rate.

Warships are still built at Bath by General Dynamics who now employ 8500 in its Bath and nearby Brunswick sites but unlike earlier times these are erected on a huge floating dry dock which was recently brought out from China. We were told that these new ships are built in modules and the modules had recently been increased in size from 240 tons to 500 tons. Interestingly on the Phippsburg Peninsula early settlers erected nearly a dozen tide-powered mills to serve the ship building industry but I gather these no longer exist.

To the south of Brunswick and Bath is Freeport on the coast of Maine which is another old shipbuilding and

fishing settlement built on the shores of the Harraseeker river and is the home of L.L. Bean one of the larger hunting/fishing supply shops in USA. Until 1970's Beans was apparently a rustic outdoor shop but they have since expanded in a big way and now carry almost everything one can think of. They have a large modern department store which included a firearm section with a range of shotguns and some black powder rifles as well as ammunition but no sign of handguns nor any reloading equipment.. I was told the handguns had no place in hunting. Strangely their web pages make no reference to any firearms being stocked but they certainly have some and quite a lot of "pre-owned" ones as well. Fishing gear of all types is stocked plus extensive clothing sections for men, women and children. The store also stocks ski gear, footwear, cycling, running, camping equipment, canoes, kayaks, electronic GPS units, optical goods, personal locator beacons, knives and all sorts of things were in evidence. Quite enough to whet the appetite of a lowly tourist from down under. The guide books state that this shop is open around the clock and they attract so many customers in midsummer that parking in the town becomes a problem. They claim "The whole world beats a path to L.L. Bean" and after seeing the place I believe it could be true.

Rex



Match cartridges



Danish helmets

Monday morning postal wrap

The wrapping and dispatching of postal bidders items will be held at the Provincial Rifle clubrooms situated at the Trentham rifle range. Maps will be available at the next meeting and the auction.

Remember to check your Firearms Licence expiry date

Letters of the month are N and O

Things to think about are: Nagant, Nambu, ordnance, oerlikon, just to name a few. We are always keen for people who have not done a display for the club to make a special effort. Lets see what else you can come up with. Venue is Petone Working Mens Club at 1.00pm Sunday 6th July, See you there.

BRANCH AUCTION

Once again we are asking for your help with this event. We need people to help with many tasks and duties over the weekend. Contact Alwyn, Steve, Glenn or Brent to offer your assistance or put your name on the lists at the next meeting.