

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington Branch Inc.
P.O.Box 14-029
Kilbirnie
WELLINGTON.

JULY 2003

www.nzaaawgtn.org.nz

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July 2003 Meeting

With only one week to go before the Auction, it was good to see so many keen members and great to see the interesting items they brought out to support the "L" theme letter. The list includes;

- Lancaster bayonet,
- Liliput ammo,
- Lee Straight Pull ammo,
- Target Launcher ammo and "Little Libation"- an interesting cannon shaped bottle on wheels;
- Latest Acquisition – a brass cowboy complete with revolver, rifle and lasoo on his bucking horse;
- Lee Enfield Stripper clip/rod;
- "Joseph Lang" two cased revolvers complete with their accessories. One a Longspur Transitional circa 1853 with a Patented hinged ejector and the other a .450 C/F revolver with a Spirlet Patent extractor.
- L1A1's – a real selection including British & Australian variations, each with their correct bayonets and accessories and a C1A1, the

Canadian variation also with its accessories;

- "Little Pistols" – 4 small pistols, two Woodward Patent turnover derringers – one cased- as well as a 4 barrelled Sharps Patent & a Colt Newline. An impressive group;
- Luger 1917 Artillery Model with its leather and wooden holster/shoulder stock, displayed with the related 1914 Iron Cross and Gott Mit Uns belt buckle;
- "Linethrower" marked .303 rifle complete with its bronze throwing rod in the barrel;
- "L For Leather" – a selection of rifle & revolver holsters, bandoliers, dispatch riders pouches, map holders etc. – interesting to see the attention given to the "AC" marked rifle pouch;
- "Latest Addition" a cased Jones action hammer shotgun with a large selection of accessories including reloading gear;
- L1A1 with its bayonet and "Mummy bayonet" – who knows what is inside the wrapping and the owner is not ready yet to find out;
- Leige Arms 12 G D/B shotgun with mutton leg carry cases;
- L for Lighters and Larger Label. A selection including an American Fox Hole lighter, a German lighter and a Larger label found with a Uniform;
- "Omako 2003" a large selection of photographs of the vehicles, aeroplanes and tanks on display at what was obviously a large gathering;
- "Latham" a display dedicated to Major Latham of the Royal Horse Guards & 3rd. Ghurka Regt. With photos, badges, documents and Service records;
- Leather Holsters – a selection of action shooting holsters;
- Semi Auto BSA Barrington rifle complete with its Nikko Stirling scope. A very impressive example complete with its Bipod and in as new condition.

As can be seen, some great items to see and discuss and the trade tables also seemed to be attracting some attention so another good meeting. Pleasing to see the support for our auction continuing and members gearing up for the busy weekend to come.

Ron.

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Wanted to buy. .22 indoor target rifle suitable for young boy, Vostok or similar. Please tel Rex Brady Wellington 939 9398



An excellent example of a First World War German Artillery Model Luger pistol complete with its shoulder stock attachment, holster, harness, cleaning rod and stripping tool. The display at our July meeting included a WW1 Iron Cross, German identity tag and Got Mit Uns belt buckle.



Leige Double Barrelled Hammerless Shotgun with two Leg-of-Mutton carry bags.



One of the Joseph Lang revolvers this one is the Long Spur Transitional Model Circa

GUNS IN THE NEWS

Keep your eyes peeled for stolen antique arms or persons wanting replacement parts. A Bren Machine Gun, a Thompson Sub Machine Gun, an Enfield .455cal revolver, two replica Colt Percussion revolvers and 50 bayonets have been stolen from a Northland Museum. Earlier this month, thieves broke into the museum, smashing heavy doors to gain access to the guns in a specially secured room. Although the guns were made inoperable for display purposes, it was suggested they may be able to be made operational again. If anyone has suspicions, contact the Police.

The Bus Drivers Union is reported to be shocked at the justice system's leniency in giving bail to an armed bus hijacker in Christchurch. Fourteen people were held hostage and the bus driven around the city for an hour or so until stopped by a Police road block. The hijacker turned out to be a 17 year old male with a replica pistol. The offender is still to be sentenced but the fact that he has been given bail suggests he is unlikely to receive any substantial penalty - little more than a slap with a wet bus ticket.

The Army is to destroy 12 old rifle grenades found as part of an arms cache discovered at Queen Elizabeth Park, the site of a United States Army camp during WWII. No word on what else they turned up. Our member George must have missed this lot with his metal detector, perhaps he was lucky considering the boom they showed on TV when the stuff was blown up.

A hapless shooter was prosecuted and ordered to pay a heavy fine for using lead shot for shooting waterfowl at Lake Wairarapa recently. The prosecution was based on the perceived need to eliminate pollution by lead shot from the wetlands and an awareness of the new ban on lead shot being advertised for the past three years. My understanding is that very few guns sold until recently are suitable for steel shot and it seems that all serious waterfowl hunters will eventually have to buy new guns. Great news for the trade of course but not so good for those of us with shotguns we have looked after and treasured for years.

Interestingly a letter to the Editor of NZ Guns and Hunting Jul/Aug 2003 suggests that if new shotgun sales maintain momentum there could easily be a doubling of shotgun numbers in the country in few years. Just image the effect of this on the anti gun campaigners. Meanwhile old shotguns can still be very useful if they are looked after. We frequently see shotguns at our sales that are up to hundred years old and still perfectly serviceable, so look after your old guns even if they aren't suitable for steel shot.

On a visit to Canada some years ago I was surprised to see the predominance of shotguns over rifles in a couple of large gunshops I visited. Clearly North America has a love affair with the 12gauge shotgun, particularly the pump and autoloading varieties and they came in numerous configurations including defender types and with barrels for rifled slugs.

There have been a number of rumblings this past month that suggests that the heat is being slowly turned up on Firearm Registration. A report in the WaikatoTimes of 11th July claims there are nearly a million firearms in New Zealand but also saying the precise number is not known because licence holders only have to register certain classes of firearms. It seems to me the report is deliberately biased against legitimate firearm users and designed as a softening up of the public for registration of all firearms. We will no doubt see more of this type of orchestrated publicity as the anti gun lobby flexes its muscle.

Meanwhile renewal of licences is progressing with lots of new licences coming to light at our auction. My own impression is that the Police Dept is making this an unnecessarily expensive exercise of this process which is not reduced by sending a vetting officer to personally interview each and every referee. Surely in the case of renewals the form could be posted out for completion and return by at least some referees, especially those not directly related to the applicant. Seems to me this is just another example of the deterrents built in to the system against legitimate gun owners and another perk for the boys in blue. Have you ever seen a vetting officer who is not a retired Police Officer or have you ever seen an advertisement calling for civilian vetting officers. I believe they are well paid for each and every call.

Ed.

Did you hear the one about the Pies ?

Our esteemed Auction Catering Corp placed a bakery order for pies, buns etc for the Auction with deliveries to be made Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The arrangement was that 40 pies, a tray of apple slice, buns and bread rolls were to be delivered to the venue on the Friday evening. By 5.30pm there was still no sign of the first consignment and after numerous phone calls to the Bakery and various reconnaissance missions out to the road front in the midst of the bitterly cold southerly storm, Wayne finally established that the food had been delivered to another hall at St Pats College. Evidently there had been in inter-College rugby match against an Australian team and the players and supporters were having an after-match meeting. Needless to say 40 hot pies along with most of the food Wayne had ordered stood little chance of surviving the onslaught that followed and by the time the baker realised his mistake there was little remaining. Apologies were profuse and the embarrassed caterer at the rugby venue surrendered what little was left of our supplies and the pie man rushed the last of his remaining stocks to the Auction venue in a futile attempt to cover the deficiency. Unfortunately by this time most of our punters had eaten. Last we heard the Pie man was still chasing St Pats College for the cost.

An old gun recovered after almost 40 years.

As a teenager in UK Bill Voisey was the proud owner of an unusual Belgium made 16 gauge double barrelled hammer shotgun which he brought out to New Zealand when he emigrated here in 1959. At a later date in the mid 1960's when the pressures of marriage and raising a young family were upon him Bill sold the gun to help finance the purchase of a lathe. He says he regretted parting with the gun and often wondered what happened to it. Well on reading our 2003 Auction catalogue he noted an item that he thought could well be his old gun and sure enough when the items were put on display he found to his delight it was indeed the very same gun. Needless to say Bill bought it, but against some spirited competition, and is pleased to report that it is still in excellent condition and he doubts whether it has ever been used since it was last in his possession.

Auction

Our Auction has been and gone and from all accounts was a very successful exercise. There were a few minor hiccups and the usual crop of grizzles about one thing and another but all in all a good effort from a large team of voluntary helpers. The weather wasn't kind to us with a strong southerly storm on the Friday but fortunately hit after we had managed to get the gear transported to the hall. Never-the-less it was very cold and may have deterred some punters. Attendance and turnover was a little down on last year but nothing to worry us unduly and we still made a good result for the Branch. It was disappointing to note that our friends the WSRA chose to organise a shoot on the Sunday of our Auction.

The parcel wrapping on the Monday went well with all the postals being prepared. The usual problems surfaced with the odd item that people had over looked collecting but our team eventually got these sorted. Still remained a big job to document the freight charges, process credit card payments and dispatch the invoices as well as letters to unsuccessful postal bidders. All this fell on Margaret, Ron and Maxine who put in sterling work for the rest of the week. Wayne made a wonderful job of catering for the group and on a cold miserable day this was most appreciated. Most of our members would have no idea of what is involved behind the scenes and imagine it is all over on the Sunday night. However it was good to see that more are taking an interest and offering their services.

Ed



A trusty old Lee Enfield displayed at the July meeting



A display of L1A1 Self Loading Rifles at the July

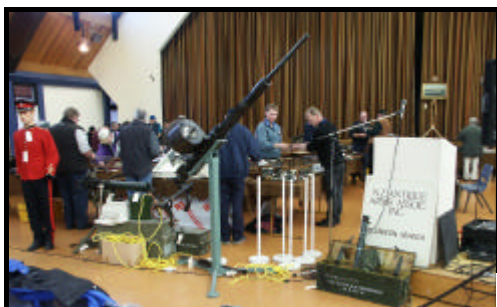


Leather - A few old items including a rifle scabbard marked AC (Armed Constabulary) a US M1 Carbine bucket for fitting on a Jeep or motor cycle, a WW1 Mounted rifle scabbard and 303 cartridge bandolier and pouches.



Above An extensive display on the life of Major Latham

A few photos from the



NEXT MEETING

Sunday 3rd August 2003 at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Display theme for the meeting will be **Letter M**. A few suggestions; MAB, Machine/Gun/Carbine/Pistol, Magnum, Mannlicher, Manton, Maori, Marlin, Martini, Matchlock, Mauser, Maxim, Medals, Mounted Musket. Plenty of scope with this lot plus of course new acquisitions and there should be some of these after the last auction or two.