

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029
Kilbirnie
WELLINGTON.

July 2007

www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

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

President Alwyn
Vice President Terry

Auction Convenor Steve

Secretary Tim

Treasurer Margaret

Editor Ross

Committee.

Vic
Rex
Wayne
John
Glenn
Brent
Terry
Frank

- * Brno sporting guns, Model 21 in 7mm cal., model 1 in .22 cal., Model 5 in .22 cal. and Model ZH321 12 ga. shotgun.
- * Burnside Civil War carbine in .54 cal. 4th model with one round of ammo.
- * Bejeweled Balkan flintlock pistol and black British beer bottle. An interesting display.
- * BSA sportsman cased shotgun with an array of accessories, plus cleaning gear.
- * Bought recently, French foreign Legion items, badges & medals, plus collection of figurines.
- * Badges & Medals. A folder containing ten pages of miniature medals and badges. A display by a prospective member. Very well done
- * Latest acquisitions. .577 cal. Tower 1853, 3 band percussion Rifle plus wooden stock for similar rifle.
- * Buttons. New Zealand army buttons from 1867-1954 a huge selection covering districts, N.Z. Volunteers, Ordinance, Artillery Permanent Staff, Engineers. A lovely display.
- * Bought recently, a selection of peak caps and hats of East German and French origin.
- * L1A1 rifle with individual weapon sight and British arctic sling. Plus a PVS-2 optical sight as issued to New Zealand Army.
- * Books, a selection of engineering books by Brown Bros.
- * Black back up sights for AR15 rifle by various makers.
- * Bren gun, with boxes of spare magazines. British grenades, BESA tank machine gun and a selection of bayonets. A good display with detailed information.
- * Axes. A large array of axes with many head styles. Would come in handy this time of year for chopping firewood.

July 1st Meeting.

The letter "B" brought out a good selection of items for display including the following:

- * Browning, an auto 5 12ga. Shotgun 1960 era and .35 model 8 from 1912. Two very nice examples.
- * Blades, a selection of pocket and sheath knives from around the world.
- * Blanks, a selection covering everything from 1890 Snider to the latest movie blanks.
- * British bayonets, a selection dating from 1853 to 1950, all with scabbards. Another fine collection.
- * British coach gun, a flintlock brass barreled coach Gun marked London. Another unusual item.

A selection of items displayed at the July meeting



Bren Gun Magazine Loader



Mauser Broomhandle Auto Pistol



Bren Gun on Tripod Mount



Tower Three Band Percussion Rifle in .577 cal.

Auction 2007

Set-up day saw a blustery cold and wet southerly day descend upon Wellington, however this bad weather still did not deter the 30 or so keen helpers from turning up and by 8.30am a good crew had the tables set out and items being sorted and being put in place. A brief lunch break of fish & chips washed down with plenty hot coffee and tea and then it was back into it again. By 2.30 all items were on display and final checks being made to ensure all items were in their correct place. A big thanks to all the members and also to our young helpers who worked quickly and tirelessly to achieve this.

By 9.00am Saturday morning the hall was packed with buyers and there were no spare seats. Todd our auctioneer commenced selling right on time and setting a brisk pace of around 130 lots an hour.

Sales for the day concluded around 6.30pm when we adjourned for a tasty meal provided by the courtesy of Wayne's catering team.

Sunday saw a resumption of sales and although the number of buyers had thinned out a little there were some good prices and sales were brisk.

Monday saw the postal packing team on the job at Porirua and once again the very experienced team had it all under control in record time with all parcels packed and the hall swept out by shortly after 4pm.

A big thank you must go to all the members and guests who helped to make this event an enjoyable and memorable weekend for us all.

Alwyn.



Rex setting up shop



Our President Hard at Work

Photographs Showing the Setting up and Auction Day



Setting Up



More Setting Up



A Final Check



Lot Number What?



Happy Punters



Auctioneer in Full Swing



Rifles Galore



Paying for their Purchases

Historical Highlights

OPERATION FOXLEY



Operation Foxley was a plan thought up during World War II by the British Special Operations Executive to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

Although an assassination attempt was never made, historians believe the most likely date for an attempt would have been 13 or July 14, 1944 when Hitler was visiting the Berghof.

The plan was to assassinate Hitler on his morning routine as he walked unprotected to the teahouse in the Berghof compound. The scheme called for the British to parachute a two-man team into the area surrounding the compound. The two soldiers were a German-speaking Pole and a sniper. The men would infiltrate the compound and get in place to shoot Hitler.

Security around Hitler was minimal because he felt nothing could touch him. As a result, several attempts had been made to kill him, including one that took place during the planning of this operation by the German officer named Claus von Stauffenberg. However, none of these were successful. Stauffenberg's attempt only injured Hitler. It did, however, have the effect that public appearances of Hitler were greatly reduced, to just one or two every year, thus limiting the opportunities for another attempt.

One of the first plans considered was to bomb the armoured train Hitler travelled around in. SOE had ample experience with derailing trains but the plan was dropped because Hitler's schedule was too irregular, with stations being informed of his arrival only minutes beforehand.

Another plan was to poison his tea, to which he was addicted, but this was considered too complicated because of the necessity for an inside man.

Then an attack by a sniper was considered. A talk with a German POW who had been part of Hitler's personal guard revealed that at the Berghof, Hitler always took a morning walk, around the same time (after 10) and for the same duration (about 20 minutes). In addition, he wanted to be alone during this walk, leaving him unprotected near some woods, where he was out of sight of sentry posts. To top it off, every time Hitler was at the Berghof, a Nazi flag was put up, which was visible from the nearby town. A sniper was found and briefed and the plan was submitted. An inside man was even found, Heidentaler, the uncle of a captured soldier, Dieser, who was vehemently anti-Nazi, lived in Salzburg, 20 km from the Berghof and regularly visited a shooting range 16 km from the Berghof with likeminded shopkeepers. There had been some resistance against the plan, especially from the deputy head of SOE's German Directorate Lt Col Ronald Thornley. However, his superior, Sir Gerald Templer, was a supporter of the plan and Churchill was also in favour of it. The sniper and a Polish companion who spoke German were to be dropped by plane and sheltered with Heidentaler, after which they could make the approach disguised as German mountain troops.

The plan was submitted in November 1944, but was never put into practice because there was some controversy over whether it was actually a good idea. Hitler was considered such a bad strategist that it was believed whoever might follow him up might lead a better war-effort. Also, Thornley argued, Germany was almost defeated and if Hitler were assassinated, he would have become a martyr to some, as well as causing speculation that maybe Germany would have won if Hitler had lived. Since the idea was not only to defeat Germany but Nazism in general, that would have been an unfortunate development. However, there were strong advocates on both sides and the plan was not put into practice because no actual decision was reached. By late November Hitler left the Berghof, never to return. He killed himself when the war came to a close on 30 April 1945.

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The Postal Bidding Packing Team



This is the group of tireless volunteers who work unseen and spring into action once the auction closes. On the Monday following the auction they descend upon a local school hall with all the successful postal bid items and package and process, plus the calculating of the postage, dispatching of invoices to their “new” owners all within a matter of a few hours. Natrually, the new owners are waiting expectantly for their purchases to arrive in the mail, and going by feedback from past auctions, the postal buyers have been amazed at the speed in which their goods arrived.



Processing the Postal Bids



Postal Bids Awaiting Dispatch

Photographing Displays.

Our newsletter is a very important means of communicating with members and to make this publication more interesting our Editor usually publishes photos of various items of interest. These photos are mostly from displays at our meetings and it is often difficult to get really good results as items are seldom well displayed from a photographic point of view. You will all be aware that the tables used for displays have a dull brown varnish type finish and if some form of underlay is not used on the tables photographic results are often difficult at best. Some members are aware of this and bring along cloths or other backings to mount displays and this can make a

noticeable difference when it comes to photographic results. My message to you all, is give your displays a little more thought than just the label you affix, bring along a clean sheet or some light coloured fabric to lay it on, or mount the display on a painted board. Newsletters keep everyone informed and displays give us the edge, but lets do more to step up to another level. Remember a light coloured fabric for a background is a great help and good clear written descriptions are imperative.

Rex

oo0oo

Editorial

With yet another auction successfully completed, much of the credit for its success must go to Steve who you all know is too modest to claim any honour. Many of you will know that Steve has been our main Auction and Branch front man for a good number of years now, and he has done a great job of representing our Branch with the National Association, as well as dealing with our auction vendors, where he has been responsible for arranging the collection, transportation, and storage of entries. The time and effort involved in these duties is substantial and this is quite apart from the distribution of lots for cataloguing and the general overseeing of the whole operation. The logistics of handling the auction items alone is quite staggering and although he has been known to get a bit testy with his crew at times, Steve has made great strides in bringing more members into the team and lifting the profile of the Branch as an honest and reputable group to do business with. We are indeed a strong Club and Steve has done much to make it more stronger. We are indeed indebted to Steve who so freely gives so much of his time in the service of our Branch.

ED.

Auction

The Price Realised list has been put on to the club’s web page so if you wish to know what something sold for please visit the site at www.nzaaawgtm.org.nz

Presidents report

Well our July auction has come and gone, and as usual was a great success. We achieved what must be record prices for some items and sold all but a handful of the lots on offer. Having said that, I hope you were all able to pickup something for your collections, I know I did. My thanks go to everyone who helped out in any way, no matter how small, as they every little bit helps. And a big thank you to my Committee. This group of volunteers work tirelessly on your behalf and deserve a pat on the back.

The Branch auction is a great social event and I have had heaps of positive feedback from the people who attended, the love the Saturday night happy hour and the feast that our catering crew provided. To be able to relax and have a meal and a drink and talk about what we collect is an aspect that no other auction in the country offers and to me epitomizes what collecting is all about. A job very well done everyone.

Alwyn

Uniform Identified



Many thanks to all those who responded to my request for help in identifying the soldier’s uniform. The response was overwhelming and that just goes to show that the newsletter does get results. So why not take advantage of this free service and advertise for items that you may wish to buy, sell or swap, or in my case ask other members for help in providing information on a certain article. You may be pleasantly surprised by the results too. The uniform was of a Mounted Corporal “Farrier” dated 1914.

ED.

Thought for the day

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, “Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?” To which I replied, “If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?” He smiled knowingly and nodded, “That’s why we ask”

Next Meeting .

Sunday 5 th August. At the usual venue Petone Working Men’s club Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Remember Terry will be running his lucky draw for exhibitors so make sure you are in the draw. Display theme will be the letter “C” which represents a multitude of choices so get your thinking caps on. Terry’s prize draw scheme with the cash incentive seems to be proving very popular with members, and a reminder to those mounting a display please don’t forget to include a label to detail what the exhibit is all about as not everyone will know the history or make and model of your display.