

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique
and Historical Arms

Association Wellington Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

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www.nzaaaawgtn.org.nz

President Steve
and Auction Convenor Email

Vice President Alwyn

Secretary Tim Ryan

Treasurer Margaret

Editor Rex

Committee.

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Frank



Our September meeting last year included a visit from Ian Skennerton and some special items were displayed at that meeting including these two Vickers machine guns which looked complete and ready for action.



A range of cartridges, reloading powders, primers and books that featured at the September meeting.

Buy Sell and Swap Day.

By 11.30am a good number of tables were full with a good array of items including brassware, gun parts, hand tools, edged weapons, helmets, reloading powders and accessories, model toys, a magnificent selection of badges and medals, optical instruments, video books, firearms, airguns, office equipment and it still kept coming. As the day wore on we even had one member turn up with a box of "Fart Bombs." I was half expecting someone to ask for a practical demonstration. Many items found new homes with the odd member reported to be still chasing up items later in the week.

A good afternoon was had by all, we will do it all again next year.

Alwyn



Above and Left.

A selection of knives, daggers, bayonets, hats helmets, gun parts and accessories that were on offer at the Buy, Sell and Swap meeting



US Cal .30 M1 Carbine.

The history of the US M1 .30 Cal Carbine makes colourful reading and is another indication of the tremendous industrial might that America brought to the War effort in the Second World War.

The M1 Carbine was the brainchild of David Marshall “Carbine” Williams. Williams, who formulated many of his firearms designs while serving a prison term for second degree murder, has the distinction of being one of the only firearms designers to have a movie made about him—“Carbine Williams,” starring James Stewart. The M1 carbine was the result of considerable development by Williams and others but basically the M1 Carbine was developed in response to a requirement for a smaller rifle to be carried by clerks, cooks, machine gunners, linemen and the like—soldiers who were not normally issued with a pistol but to whom, because of the nature of their duties, the larger M1 Garand was proving inconvenient. Though initiated in 1938, the request was shelved until 1940 when America’s entry into World War II seemed imminent. In late 1940, a number of manufacturers were sent specifications and told to work up a light carbine. Winchester produced the round, a .30 cal straight-cased rimless cartridge which pushed its 110-grain, round-nosed bullet out of an 18-inch barrel at some 1,860 fps.

After his release from prison, Williams made something of a name for himself working for Winchester. His semi-auto carbine, submitted by his employers, was the arm selected by the Government as most appropriate for its needs. This gun was simple and rugged with a barrel length of 18 inches, and a well-balanced weight of 5 1/2 pounds. The cartridge didn’t have the punch of the .30-06 but within reasonable distances was a fairly effective combat round (110-grain FMJ bullet at 1,975 fps) with a relative stopping power which was about the same as that of the .38 Special. Designated the “M1 Carbine,” the semi-auto employed a clever and reliable operating system, when a round is fired, gas is tapped off into a gas port in the barrel. The port connects with a chamber containing a short-stroke piston that is forced back about one third of an inch. The piston pushes the operating slide to the rear, which in turn operates the rotating bolt to eject the empty case. A coil-operating rod spring forces the bolt forward, where it strips off and chambers a fresh cartridge from the 15-round, sheet steel detachable box magazine. The forward motion of the slide also repositions the gas piston.

The M1 Carbine’s production began in September 1941 with very few modifications to Williams’ original design. Though the first guns were turned out by Winchester, the attack on Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941 caused manufacture to be accelerated and contracts and sub-contracts were let out to a number of other makers including such unlikely firms as Rock-Ola (jukeboxes), U.S. Postal Meter, Quality Hardware, the Inland Division of General Motors and Underwood (business machines). Before the war’s end, more than 6 million M1 Carbines had been turned out to supply the demands of American and Allied forces. After World War II, M1 Carbines continued to be produced in smaller numbers but when the Korean conflict broke out in 1960 the M1 Carbine was found to be lacking in power as the bullets lacked penetration against the heavily quilted uniforms of the Chinese troops and the carbine soon became an obsolete military item.

M1 Carbine production from 1942-1945 ran to over six million with most being manufactured by Inland Division of General Motors and Saginaw Division of General Motors. The latter I understand was the steering assembly division of General Motors and when you consider they were already churning out increasing numbers of trucks, tanks and numerous other vehicles and war material it must have been a huge undertaking to launch into the manufacture firearms on such a vast scale. In fact the whole history of the US war effort is one of an unbelievable supply of munitions, as an example the Boeing factory in Seattle was churning out around 2500 war planes a month by the end of the war and that was only one of several aircraft manufacturers. It was often stated that America was a sleeping giant before Pearl Harbour but they sure awakened after that.



Another member has brought to my attention a further philatelic tribute to New Zealand’s military involvements with the above sheet of stamps depicting Military Uniforms from the Land Wars of the 1860’s to Peace Keeping in the Pacific in 2000.



A nice example of a Feinwerkbau (German) target grade air pistol that found a new home after the Buy, Sell and Swap meeting.

September 2005 Meeting.

As you will be aware our September meeting last year saw the noted Australian author Ian Skennerton as our guest speaker. How time passes, but do you remember he spent quite some time advocating the benefits of photography to illustrate and record firearms and collectible items. With the advent of digital cameras this has got significantly easier than with any film based camera and almost all digital cameras are capable of producing excellent results including macro or close-up photography.

I am aware that some members have acquired digital cameras in the last year but how many of you have made use of this medium to record your collections. Only one has made any effort to send me digital photos to supplement articles written for our newsletter, surely there must be more of you who are capable of assisting.

On researching another item I came across an article in an old 1956 American Rifleman magazine headed Photographing Firearms. This gave illustrations, details and listed fundamental rules to assist readers making better photos of their firearms and ammunition. Certainly the article is long outdated with the advent of colour photography and new and better cameras, but the principal is much the same, get up and close, avoid telephoto lenses and remember that lighting is all important. I would suggest that it is now much easier to get good results with instant displays on the rear of digital cameras and if your photo isn't to your liking it can be easily deleted or re-done. If you have a digital camera, get your collectibles out, put them against a plain background and get photographing, if you haven't got a digital camera, borrow one or buy yourself one.

Ed



Helmets and night vision equipment at the Buy, Sell, Swap.



Presidents Report

It only seems a couple of weeks ago since I wrote the last report, and once again Rex is pestering me for this months. (Rubbish, you dodged last month. Ed)

Our last meeting was the buy, sell, swap day and this was quieter than usual perhaps due to it being Fathers' day but there was plenty to see on the tables and it was good to see all the out-of-towners there, including Norm and Tony from Dannevirke.

Things have been pretty quiet on the collecting front lately but are about to start getting a lot busier with the Auckland Gun show on the weekend of the 30th of September, two weeks later on the 14th of October is the NZ Antique & Historical Arms Assn Half Yearly AGM and auction in Hastings followed by the Taranaki Gun Show early November. If you have never been to one of these events, they are great way to meet new collectors and see different items and of course add to your collections, I highly recommend it.

You will all of course have received your catalogue for the Hastings auction, you would also have found your survey form, it's important that you all fill these in and send them back so that the National Committee has some idea of the direction the membership wishes the Association to take.

I will be attending the Management Committee meeting in Hastings on the Friday and if there are any issues that members wish me to raise, please let me know at the next meeting. See you all there

Steve

HITLER'S TEA HOUSE (THE EAGLE'S NEST)

When Adolf Hitler first encountered the breathtaking mountain scenery and lofty isolation of Obersalzberg in the Bavarian Alps, he fell instantly in love with the spot.

Later as German leader he sealed off the hamlet, creating an exclusive retreat where he and other top Nazis could wine and dine, savor the crisp Alpine air, and plan the most barbarous acts of the Third Reich. Martin Bormann, Hitler's secretary, had a house there, as did Luftwaffe chief Hermann Goering and many other high-ranking Nazis built houses there. A luxury hotel to cater for Third Reich officials and their families and for visiting overseas dignitaries was constructed nearby.

The Kehlsteinhaus, also known as "Hitler's Tea House" or the **Eagle's Nest**, was built as a 50th birthday present for [Adolf Hitler](#) paid for by the [Nazi Party](#). The Eagle's Nest was meant to be a retreat for Hitler and a place for him to entertain visiting dignitaries which he almost never did there. Hitler used the Kehlsteinhaus only to show off to visiting dignitaries, and he probably did not visit it himself more than twenty times. Hitler rarely visited the property, when he did, his visits lasted for no more than 30 minutes as he was afraid of heights, the dangers of lightning and his fear of the elevator, Other theories offered were that due to problems with his ears caused by shelling during his [World War One](#) service, he suffered [migraines](#) and other balance problems whilst at the higher

altitudes of the Kehlsteinhaus. Bormann himself and Eva Braun did far more entertaining in the Kehlsteinhaus than Hitler.

It is an engineering marvel even to this day; the road and house were built in 13 months. The house was built on a rocky spur of the Hoher Göll Mountain, some 2700 feet above the Obersalzberg (6017 feet above sea level). To reach this spur, a mountain road of some four miles was blasted into the mountainside, using only one hairpin curve and five tunnels. The house is reached by tunnel, driven 407 feet into the mountain, at the tunnels end is a large brass elevator that rises 407 feet to the building. This is a two-story elevator: an upper car, which stops on the main level, and a lower car that stops in the basement for the re-supply of the kitchens.

During the last days of World War II, there were rumours that the Nazis were planning to hole up at the Eagle's Nest and the Nazi compound on the Obersalzberg. As a result, on April 25, 1945, 318 British Lancaster bombers conducted two attacks on the area. The homes on the Obersalzberg belonging to Martin Bormann, and Herman Goering, were destroyed, along with Hitler's residence, but fortunately the bombs completely missed the Eagle's Nest. No one was killed in the bombing because none of the Nazi leaders were there and all the servants went into the underground bunker on the Obersalzberg

The house has been restored and somewhat modernized, but its basic appearance today is almost exactly the same as during the Third Reich. It is now one of the most popular tourist sites in the area, reached by special bus from the Kehlsteinhaus bus parking area on the Obersalzberg.

Obersalzberg was in the hands of the American military until 1996, when it was returned to the Bavarian state authorities. An information center was built on the foot of the hill to remind the public of the cruelty of Hitler's regime. The Kehlsteinhaus itself does not mention much about its past.

Certainly well worth visiting if you ever get the chance to go to Bavaria!!!!

Ross T

Ammunition and components for Sale.

Petone Rifle Club has the following items for sale

5.56 cal fired reloadable cases = 783

1 Bullet Box (holds 50rds)

150grms approx Hodgdon H380 Powder

5.56 cal New Military Rounds = 149

5.56cal Federal New Rounds = 180

5.56cal Reloads = 103

Projectiles:

5.56cal 62grn = 710

5.56cal 69grn = 710

5.56cal 69grn Molly Coated = 75

5.56cal Primers = 1370

Inquiries Phone Rex 569-3169

A reminder from Terry



A good selection of medals and badges etc that were on sale at the Buy, Sell, Swap.

Next Meeting.

Sunday 1st October at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club Udy Street, Petone. Set-up from 12-30pm with the meeting at 1pm.

Display theme for the meeting will be the **letter R**. This letter should give good scope and the following are some suggestions; Radom, Rammer/ramrod, Recoil, Regimental, Reloading, Remington, Repeating, Replica, Revolver, RIC, Rifle/rifling, Rigby, Rimfire, Rocket, Rogers and Spencer, Rotary, Ruger, Russian.

Let's see some good displays this time and don't forget to label them, You might know that your exhibit is a Monkey Tail Widget in 50cal but others may not.