





Light Machine Gun



SS Uniforms and field gear



Service dress caps



Snider Carbines



L1A1 fitted with a IWS sight



Spanish Helmets

### Club Promotions

Two branches that are running Antique arms promotions to raise funds for the national association.

The first is polo shirts with a NZAHAA logo embroidered to the shirt. Various sizes available. Cost is \$35:00 each plus freight.

The second is a padded gun bag, with a NZAHAA logo embroidered to the bag.

Cost is \$40:00 each plus freight.

Further details at the next meeting.

Alwyn.

### Christmas luncheon 2nd November.

We are now taking names for our Christmas lunch that will be held at the Petone working mens club.

We will have access to the rooms from 12:00pm.

A list will be available at the rail tour or you can

contact me to take your booking.

Alwyn.

## World War II Tank Found After 62 Years.

W.W.II Russian tank found with German markings after 62 years, and even after 62 years (and a little tinkering), they were able to fire up the Diesel Engine!

A Komatsu D375A-2 pulled an abandoned tank from its archival tomb under the bottom of a lake near Johvi, Estonia. The Soviet-built T34/76A tank had been resting at the bottom of the lake for 56 years. According to its specifications, it was a 27-tonne machine with a top speed of 53km/hr.

From February to September 1944, heavy battles were fought in the narrow, 50 km wide, Narva front in the north-eastern part of Estonia. Over 100,000 men were killed and 300,000 men were wounded there. During battles in the summer of 1944, the tank was captured from the Soviet army and used by the German army. (This is the reason that there are German markings painted on the tank's exterior.) On 19th September, 1944, German troops began an organized retreat along the Narva front. It is suspected that the tank was then purposefully driven into the lake, abandoning it when its captors left the area.

At that time, a local boy walking by the lake, Kurtna Matasjarv, noticed tank tracks leading into the lake, but not coming out anywhere. For two months he saw air bubbles emerging from the lake. This gave him reason to believe that there must be an armored vehicle at the lake's bottom. A few years ago, he told the story to the leader of the local war history club 'Otsing'. Together with other club members, Mr. Igor Shedunov initiated diving expeditions to the bottom of the lake about a year ago. At the depth of 7 metres they discovered the tank resting under a 3metre layer of peat.

Enthusiasts from the club, under Mr Shedunov's leadership, decided to pull the tank out. In September of 2000 they turned to Mr Aleksander Borovkovthe, manager of the Narva open pit of the stock company AS Eesti Polevkivi, to rent the company's Komatsu D375A-2 bulldozer. Currently used at the pit, the Komatsu dozer was manufactured in 1995, and has 19,000 operating hours without major repairs.

The pulling operation began at 09:00 and was concluded at 15:00, with several technical breaks. The weight of the tank, combined with the travel incline, made a pulling operation that required significant muscle. The D375A-2 handled the operation with power and style. The weight of the fully armed tank was around 30 tons, so the active force required to retrieve it was similar.

After the tank surfaced, it turned out to be a trophy tank that had been captured by the German army in the course of the battle at Sinimaed (Blue Hills) about

six weeks before it was sunk in the lake. Altogether, 116 shells were found on board. Remarkably, the tank was in Good Condition, with NO RUST, and ALL SYSTEMS (except the engine) in working condition. This is a very rare machine, especially considering that it fought both on the Russian and the German sides. Plans are under way to fully restore the tank. It will be displayed at a war history museum that will be founded at the Gorodenko village on the left bank of the River Narv.

RossT.



### Are your details accurate?

In recent times I have tried to contact certain members, only to discover contact details are incorrect. Ideally a contact phone number and correct postal address are good. Should you shift address for whatever reason please let us know. Alwyn.



Swedish mauser, Snider and a pair of Stevens



Various grenades



SMLE rifles



Rare rifle rounds



Remington plus reloading gear



Various types of revolver

## Shooting Program

With daylight savings here we will be starting our range days over the summer months. This year round we have got several differing dates. Please observe these as several are not the weekend following our monthly meeting.

Our next range day is Sunday 19th October at the Kaitoke Deerstalkers range.

Things to bring, warm clothes, lunch and a drink, safety gear, and of course your shooting equipment. Alwyn.

## 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/>