

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of the
N.Z. Antique & Historical Arms Assn
Wellington Branch Inc

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www.nzaawgtn.org.nz

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newsletter in full colour

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The Letter "R"

- Relics. A brochure on a pedal powered lathe under restoration, an arrow head and a Legionnaires finger ring.
- Replicas. A pair of cased Colt Navy revolvers in .36cal complete with all accessories
- Royal Navy newspaper cuttings, cup tallies, badges, photos and relevant literature. What a collection that also included one of our members featured in a newspaper article.
- Reinforcement badges 1914-1918. About two dozen different NZ brass badges.
- Regimental sports trophy cup dated 1916
- Rods and rammers, a lovely selection of percussion era cleaning rods and ramrods.
- Remington Lee Model 1887 sporting rifle in .303 cal with matching ammunition. This was a factory built sporter not a cut down military model. A rather rare item.
- Rifles. A comprehensive display continental military rifles with Mausers, Smith-Ruben straight pull, Mosin Nagant, Mannlicher, Gewher J.P. Sauer and Brno – just to name a few.
- Royal Italian Army helmets, Romanian and Russian helmets with literature and an assortment of badges.
- Remington pump action rifle in .22 Remington Special cal.
- Repeating shotguns. Marlin pump action shotguns, Model 1896 and a Model 19 together with a very rare and unusual Model 1909 pump action shotgun by the Union Gun Co. The owner pointed out that the barrel is of Damascus steel construction which is rather unusual for a machine made shotgun
- Recent additions. More helmets, a selection of Bulgarian helmets.
- A lovely selection of military china, a more than a few of our members have been envious of this display.
- Relic revolvers requiring repair. A nice selection for someone with a lot of spare time
- Revolvers. A display of Colt revolvers all pre 1880 including percussion and cartridge models.
- Our SLR collector has done it again, a rare L26A1 instructional rifle and an 8E1 trials rifle with relevant literature. Remington; A display of revolvers and rifles complete with literature and illustrations of the era.
- A Radom Nazi marked semi auto pistol in 9mm cal
- Revolvers, cased pistols. One beautifully engraved with gold inlay in .22cal the other a Smith & Wesson 125year Commemorative model in .45 Long Colt cal and a another very nice S&W revolver in this same calibre.
- Regrind – examples of milling cutting tools reground by one of our toolmaker specialists.
- Remington UMC cartridges. A cabinet full of rifle pistol and rimfire cartridges with no two the same.
- Roses with secateurs – marked especially for Rex. (For those who may not be aware this member exhibited a display of secateurs at our Aug meeting and I suggested he must grow grapes or his wife grew roses. Seems the answer is roses.)

- Russian cannon rounds and a rusty 3.5" Bazooka round.
- Reloading tools, approx 24 assorted re-priming tools.
- Rifle. A Steyr fully wooden Model 1912 Carbine in 6.5 x 54mm Cal with double set triggers, Monte Carlo stock and a Zeiss telescopic sight with claw foot side mounts, all in very good condition.
- Redundant rimfire rifles in .25 and .32 calibers.
- Real American gear, a couple of M1 .30cal Carbines a Thompson .45 sub machine gun, a Colt 45 semi auto pistol and an enormous quantity of webbing and miscellaneous items.

Once again an excellent selection of items on display. Thanks to all the members who put items on display.

Alwyn



Replicas - a cased pair of consecutively numbered Colts



Above & below .Continental Military rifles displayed



Italian, Russian and Romanian helmets and badges etc



Above. Instructional and Experimental SLRs displayed.



Remington shotguns displayed

HITLER'S STATE YACHT: *Grille*



German Kaiser Wilhelm's stately royal yacht, *Grille* was confiscated as war reparations at the end of World War one. The Treaty of Versailles had imposed harsh restrictions on the size of any new German navy and constrained the size and type of new German warship construction. By 1935 the situation had changed. Germany and Britain signed a new treaty in which Germany could build a fleet up to 35% of that of the Royal Navy and Germany again started to design true battleships. With a new larger navy in the offing it was time to again provide a state yacht, this time for Hitler's regime. The new construction was again typed as a naval auxiliary and again named *Grille*.

The new *Grille* was far larger than the first. Over 135 meters in length, she had a displacement of 3,430-tons. Her two engines developed 26,400 shp and gave *Grille* a maximum speed of 26 knots. Although sometimes called Hitler's yacht, the *Grille* was an operational component in the Kriegsmarine. In a repetition of the history of the first *Grille*, she was designed to accommodate many other missions. *Grille* was commissioned on May 20, 1935. She became a floating fleet staff headquarters, training ship and target ship in the development of German aerial torpedoes. She was well armed with three 5-inch guns, changed to three four-inch guns in 1939. During the war she was also fitted with four 37mm AA guns in twin mounts as well as four 20mm light AA guns. When World War Two erupted *Grille* became a fast minelayer and carried 120 to 228 mines.

The *Grille*, as Nazi Germany's state yacht was to be used for Hitler's triumphant arrival in the Port of London on board a suitably royal yacht, to receive Britain's surrender at Whitehall. After the victorious arrival in London, Hitler was to proceed without delay by *motor- boot 1*, later to become known as *Grillet*, to Windsor Castle, already earmarked as his London home. In preparation for the conqueror's voyage of victory, *Grille*, with *Grillet* on board, had been moved from the Baltic to Belgium and made ready in Ostend.

This would not have been that ship's first visit to the Thames as at the outbreak of war she had been laying mines in the Thames Estuary, the first German surface vessel to enter British territorial waters after the outbreak of war. Although

Hitler was subject to seasickness and not a confident sailor, his choice of arrival was intended as a mark of respect for the Kriegsmarine and to signal to the world the defeat of the Royal Navy.

The yacht was built by Blohm & Voss in Hamburg and was used mainly for training young naval cadets, before becoming Hitler's personal yacht. He used it for reviewing the German Fleet on several occasions. Junior officers in addition to their regular naval duties looked after VIPs, usually arriving alongside the ship on board *Motorboot 1*. The team members had to be 1.8m or more in height and wear immaculate white uniforms. There was a modern laundry with ironing machine on board. They were often in close contact with the Führer and his staff.

According to a Kriegsmarine officer, "Hitler had little understanding of naval strategy, though he often memorised small details of a ship to humiliate his admirals when they couldn't answer his every question." Hitler also objected strenuously to drinking and often gave his staff violent temperance lectures. Shortly after having been subjected to one such harangue on board the *Grille*, the staff gathered in the saloon to sooth their frayed nerves with a bottle of Champagne. Suddenly Hitler appeared in the doorway and the bottle, which had just been opened, was discreetly hidden beneath a table. Hitler strode into the room, kicked the bottle, spilling its contents, turned on his heel, and walked out without uttering a word.

Grille was the first ship to test the new high-pressure steam machinery planned for German destroyers. In addition to the fleet reviews and engine trials- the boilers did not permit sufficient manoeuvrability to satisfy Blohm & Voss, so were not fitted to other warships - *Grille* was employed in peacetime for navigation and artillery instruction, and as a target ship for U-boats, all uses requiring regular voyages in the North Sea and the Baltic. But whenever she was required for state duties, *Grille* was summoned back to Kiel or Hamburg. Her first appearance as a state yacht was on May 30, 1936 for a fleet parade to commemorate the Battle of Skagerrak. On that occasion the Führer spent most of his time on board being seasick. The following year she carried the German delegation, led by von Blomberg, to England for the coronation of King George VI.

On the Führer's orders the ship had not been camouflaged for war, but had retained her distinctive yellow funnel and white

hull with gold paint on the bow and stern. He referred to the ship as "The White Swan of the Baltic". But *Grille*, in the interim between state visits, had nevertheless switched roles from royal yacht to warship. When Hitler's army invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, he sent a message ordering that "his" ship be prepared for combat. Mine-laying equipment was fitted along the decks and the mines themselves loaded at Wilhelmshaven. In the evening of September 3, and for six nights afterwards, *Grille*, with a destroyer squadron for protection, laid mines in the North Sea.

Thereafter, *Grille* enjoyed a relatively peaceful war. In 1942 she was painted wartime grey and used as the staff ship and operational headquarters for Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, C-in-C of the Navy, based mainly at Narvik. The Battle of the Arctic was controlled from her dining room. When Raeder was replaced by Karl Doenitz *Grille* became command ship of the U-boat fleet. On May 1, 1945 Grand-Admiral Doenitz was ferried by *Grillet* to *Grille* and there on the foredeck he announced the death of Hitler. It is recorded in the ship's log "that he, acting on the Führer's orders, had assumed leadership of the German nation and supreme command of the fighting forces.

The last German entry in the log was: 'May 2-4: Flag at half-mast in memory of the hero's death of our Führer. A few days later *Grille*, by now with patches of rust showing on her grey hull and with only one working boiler (the engines were reported to have been sabotaged), sailed from Trondheim. With her German crew commanded by British officers, she anchored

in the Forth at Rosyth, - a prize of war. Too big to stay in a busy port, she was then towed to the grimy and far less dignified coal dock at Hartlepool, County Durham, and, a year later, offered for sale to the highest bidder. There was no reserve price, but the Treasury was reported to be hoping to achieve a figure between GBP 70,000 and GBP 100,000, which it considered "cheap at the price".

Paying visitors were allowed on board her. They were shown 35 luxurious guest cabins and the crew quarters, the all-electric galley, the laundry, workshops, sickbay, and the plant that could desalinate 24 tons of water a day. They searched almost in vain for the sign of a swastika: there were in fact only two, one on the stern as part of the emblem of the Kriegsmarine, and another on the ship's bell. Hitler's suite was the main attraction, with an ante-room, a bedroom and a bathroom. The bath was set flush to the floor. There were carpeted floors, a desk, sofa and chairs, all upholstered in eggshell-blue with off-white paintwork. Across the companionway was an exact duplicate suite with rust red as the dominant colour. Visitors were told this was the "boudoir" reserved for Eva Braun but, there is no record anywhere of her ever having been on board.

After the War, *Grille* was stripped of its guns and laid up at West Hartlepool. In 1946 it was sold to a Lebanese entrepreneur who turned it into a floating casino. Its sleek 377ft hull was a familiar sight around the Mediterranean until the vessel was taken over to America a year later. *Grille's* end came in 1951, when it ran aground in New Jersey and was wrecked, and later scrapped.

Ross T



Grillet moored on the River Thames at Penton Hook, Surrey, in 2001. This marina is the closest that *Motorboot- 1* ever got to Windsor - just 10 miles away.



Rimfire cartridges displayed at our Sept meeting



An excellent display of Colt percussion and cartridge revolvers

Auckland October Gun Show 2006

The annual October assault on Henderson, Auckland was again undertaken by a few Wellington Club members. This was achieved in several skirmishes:

Driving up on Thursday trying to beat other collectors to antique shops (nothing as usual), visit Auckland gun shops on Friday morning (I'm sure the price tag devices are set incorrectly), set up sales tables Friday afternoon (unarmed combat with other sellers), Saturday and Sunday full fledged battle with potential buyers and other sellers, then finally the long trek home on Monday (remembering what you should have looked for and not the items purchased).

The show as always was well attended with plenty of people buying, interesting items to buy or trade and of course meeting new people who have the same interest. This year the display tables were few in number, but there was a very good WW2 German weapon and infantry support munitions display.

The first signs of getting older (and wiser?) were evident, being unable to read the names on the road map while looking for the designated Gun Show Hotel, which in hindsight we should not have found. Ensuring that the evening intake of alcohol did not interfere with both physical and mental abilities needed for setting up and managing a sales table. We even managed to set watches correctly for daylight saving.

The numbers of public coming through the door was steady all day on Saturday this made many sale table owners grin from 'ear to ear'. Sunday was quiet as usual and with every year, the time to barter down prices on items not sold.

I fully recommend that club members should make an effort to attend the Auckland gun shows (two a year). Because of the distance it is more cost effective attending the full two days and run a sales table (or two) with other club buddies, in simple terms for a two man team, leaving early Friday morning and returning late Sunday night the minimum cost is as follows:

Two tables \$200
Two nights at a Hotel \$140
Fuel \$160

So at \$250 each, not counting food and booze, smart sales table presentation, small to medium sized items without stupid prices will guarantee a minimum return of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Note that some (non dealers) tables averaged \$5,000 to \$10,000 selling average bigger items like rifles and shotguns. Always have money in your pocket to buy on the Friday afternoon during set up because if you wait until you sell the right amount of items – you will miss out.

There are always bargains to be had, as people have great delight in showing you what they have just brought, which you did not see when checking other tables earlier (may their camel get warts!). For example a Pattern 1853 sword was sold for \$345 (seen on TradeMe post gun show), .54 bore bullet mould went for \$100, plus a range of new 8-shot pump shotguns were all snapped up at \$399!

The only other advice I can give is to book the right hotel/motel months in advance, this way you can stay in a place that has netball teams staying, frolicking in the Motel's sauna, not in some run down hotel where the highlight was surviving a short visit to the hotel bar and the joy of still having a vehicle each morning. This would fall into the same category of missing sales table bargains!

We also had a chance to visit another impressive large gun room which the owner had done an excellent job of displaying many variants of assault rifles, LMGs and SMGs. Again another reason to be a regular show attendee is the friendships you build during the show days, as the locals invite the visitors around to see their collections.

Collectors will also be proud that we discussed Defence disposal issues with Ron Marks who made the mistake of loitering at our table too long.

Overall, another successful and enjoyable trip away.
TS.



Some of the Military crested crockery displayed



Remington pump action shotgun, percussion and cartridge revolvers



Steyr 6.5mm fully wooded carbine with double set triggers butter knife bolt handle and Zeiss Scope



Remington Lee .303 Sporting rifle.

Range Day – October

With rough weather out of the way it was nice to spend a day in the sun. About 15 keen people turned up and some class shooting was demonstrated by a visitor (and a member of the fairer sex at that) using a .303 and hitting the swinging pig a number of times. She later admitted she used to go hunting with her Dad – well done Mel. Tony C had a few problems with a scope, now I know why, he usually uses rifles with iron sights. Most of the others tried out projects that had been worked on over the winter months or rifles that had been recently acquired.

A good day was had by all.
Alwyn.



A visitor at the range who showed them how it was done.

Half Yearly Meeting and Auction – Hastings.

On arrival at the venue on Friday night I was greeted by some of our own members who had already done a round of the sales tables and acquired a couple of armfuls of treasure.

A fair number of Wellington branch members were present for the meeting and auction. I would estimate about twenty of our members supported this event with most coming away with some collectible items. I hear that the Sunday markets also proved a success for some members and one was reported to have picked up a number of good military and technical books.

The team at the Hawkes Bay branch always put on a good show and this time was no different with an excellent meal on the Saturday evening for those who were still in town. A big thanks must go to the team at Hawkes Bay for their effort in putting together another great weekend.
Alwyn.



Bottom left. An extensive display at the Hawkes Bay half yearly meeting and auction. Included was a rare flintlock Nock seven barrelled volley gun, a Webley manstopper .577 revolver, a Howdah double barrel pistol in .577 cal, numerous walking stick guns and sword sticks, tear gas truncheons, a palm squeezer pistol, a knife pistol and various other items.



Also displayed at the Hawkes Bay meeting and Auction. Webley Manstopper revolver in .577 Cal - can you imagine the recoil and noise that firing this would have generated let alone the knock down power.



The Nock flintlock volley gun at the Hawkes Bay meeting. This is a seven barrelled gun of about .45 cal and apparently each was loaded with ball. When fired all barrels discharged at once and the aim was to clear the decks of an enemy ship under attack. A very rare world class item in extra ordinarily good condition.



A further item on the Hawkes Bay display was this double barrel Howdah pistol which fired the .577 cartridge. Also rare and in good condition, this gun would have been a very deadly weapon at short range.



A good display at our meeting of US GI issue gear from WW2



Above. A section of the tables at the Hawkes Bay auction.

Below. An impressive CAC cartridge display board at HBay



Militaria & Gun Show 18th & 19th February 2007

We have been advised that the previous organisers of the annual Gun Show have decided to discontinue this event and following a Committee meeting on 17th October it was decided that the Branch should take it over for 2007. There is a definite feeling that such shows give good exposure to our aims of promoting, collecting and the preservation of militaria, firearms and edged weapons etc as well as getting our message across about firearm safety.

There is not a lot of time between now and the date of the hall booking, 18th and 19th February 2007 (Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall) so there is some urgency and we need the help of our membership. We are extending a welcome to military vehicle collectors, shooting clubs, modellers and re-enactment groups with the hope of widening the scope of the displays and trading tables. If anyone can suggest other groups that might be interested please let us know, it is a big hall and will take a lot of filling.

There will be some cost involved to the branch but we do not intend this to be a money making venture nor do we wish it to be a drain on our resources, so the aim is to break even or do a little better. Help will be required from you all in numerous ways such as setting up the hall, mounting displays, security etc and with the sort of support we traditionally get it shouldn't be too onerous, but please stand up and be counted – we need your commitment to help.

Ed



An old 24pdr muzzle loading cannon on an iron carriage that was apparently used in NZ and now displayed on Marine Parade Napier



One of our cheerie fellows who looks as though he has just got a bargain off the trade tables.



National Secretary, National President and Wgtn Branch President in serious discussion at the Hawkes Bay meeting.

Local Members spread the word on firearms safety and show a bit of history into the bargain.

At a recent Scout camp for the 1st Wainuiomata Scout Group local members of the branch undertook a firearms display, which enthralled a group of 60 plus ranging from 7 years old to adults.

Arranged by Barry with the assistance of Dave and Terry from the club. The display covered a range of weapons

through the ages showing the advancement in technology. The emphasis was from the outset on safety safety safety in the use of firearms. *Prior to the beginning of each demonstration the parent help and adult leaders were briefed on what was going to happen and for them to as much a part of the firearms safety message as those giving the display.*

Starting with a muzzleloader the audience were asked to count the time taken to reload a second shot. Dave performed well under the pressure of an audience counting out the seconds to reload and fire. As the firearms used became more modern the chance to count became less and less.

At the end of the demonstration a number of scouts were selected to have a go (under supervision) at some dangerous balloons. As a grand finale Dave's cannon provided a suitable blast. All in all a grand day, with much positive feedback from the youth and adults alike. Who knows we may have some new budding members for the future.



President's Report

Welcome to another President's report, I have had a busy month attending the Auckland Gun Show and the NZAHAA General Meeting in Hawkes Bay all within two weeks of each other. As well as that, there was Carvell's auction in Auckland, so there has been plenty happening on the collecting front to keep everyone busy.

Although we are getting near the end of the year there are still a couple of important events on our calendar, there is our Christmas picnic shoot in December, however before that is our annual Christmas luncheon on the 12th of November and will be in place of our usual meeting (please ring Wayne or Alwyn to reserve a seat). This meeting is a great opportunity to showcase those prized collectables, and there will be a prizes up for grabs so I would like to encourage everyone to bring a display .

See you all at the dinner

Steve.

NZAHAA General Meeting Report

On Friday the 13th of October Margaret and I attended the Management Committee meeting of the NZAHAA in Hastings . This was hosted by the Hawkes Bay branch who must be congratulated for a well run meeting and auction. To briefly sum up some of the key points, the National finances are a concern and are still in a depleted state from the past litigation issues. National membership is slowly growing but younger members need to be encouraged. The National and Postal shoots are to be made more attractive with a greater range of events including military rifle, lever action and .22 etc. The results of the National survey are very encouraging, if you haven't returned your form please do so ASAP.

On Saturday morning the general meeting was held with new members introduced and voted in, there was no notices of motion, so after a few minutes silence for deceased members and verbal reports from regional representatives etc it was straight into the auction. Some good prices were achieved and a good time was had by all.

Once again a big thank you to the Hawkes Bay branch

Steve

Next Meeting Sunday 12th November
NOTE THE DATE CHANGE - THIS IS NOT OUR USUAL FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
 This meeting is our annual Christmas Luncheon for members and wives/partners. As usual the venue is the Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street, Petone. A number of guests have been invited and members are requested to put extra effort into displays. There is no set display theme and all manner of collectibles are traditionally exhibited at this meeting. Prizes will be awarded for the best efforts and displays. Set-up time will be from 10.30am with luncheon scheduled for 12.30pm. Please arrive on time as display tables are always in demand. A list for names was tabled at the last meeting but if you have not indicated your intention to attend please give Alwyn or Wayne a call (phone numbers on page 1) as we need to indicate to the Workingmen's Club the number to cater for lunch.



Terry's reminder to you all.

COMING EVENTS
Taranaki Gun Show 4th & 5th November - see the Gazette for details.
Wellington Branch Christmas Picnic shoot. Sunday 9th December at the Deerstalkers range Kaitoke.
Wellington Branch Militaria & Gun Show 18th & 19th Feb 2007