

Flint & Cap

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

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie
WELLINGTON

November 2004

www.nzaaaWGtn.org.nz

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| Vice President | Alwyn |
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Glen
Tim

biscuits at monthly meetings, barbecues at outdoor events or the extensive menu at our auctions and as well as that he also arranges the Xmas luncheons. They say an Army moves on its stomach and our branch certainly has progressed well on the food Wayne has organised to keep our team going and progressing. Wayne was somewhat surprised that his efforts had been recognised in such a way by a National award that recognised his services to our Branch. His wife Tess was also presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Next, to my utter amazement my own name was then called and for some obscure reason they seemed to think my contributions warranted a Perham Medallion as well. While my contributions have been ongoing for some time they have mainly been with computer processing of auction data and the newsletter publishing side of the operations and are really no more than quite a number of others have done to make this Branch the strong and progressive group it is today. My wife Robin, who has always been a supporter of these activities was also presented with a bouquet of flowers. My thanks, and I am sure Wayne's as well, go to those who organised these awards which neither of us had the slightest idea about, however if nothing else, it's good to see that Wellington branch is now better represented on the National Association's honours list. I gather that the issue of two Perham medals simultaneously to members of the same Branch is most unusual and possibly unprecedented.

Paul Gatland of the New Zealand Police and Bruce Colville the Porirua Arms Officer were also popular guests at the meeting.

The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

Members may not be aware that Wayne's employer had a hand in the marble construction work of the Tomb and accordingly Wayne was involved in this work. I think all will agree the workmanship is to the highest possible standard although I understand it was not all plain sailing. Wayne is of course a craftsman, obviously one of the best in this field, so he had a good insight into the whole project. Most will have seen reports on TV or newspapers of the return of the remains of the Unknown Warrior to New Zealand and perhaps marvelled at the tremendous public response and awareness that this generated.

My wife and I made the pilgrimage to Parliament Buildings on the night of the 10th November where the casket was placed for the public to view and pay their respects. Even at 11 o'clock at

November Meeting.

The November Xmas Luncheon meeting was a great success and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Catering at the Workingmen's Club had improved on earlier years and there was no shortage of food. Our attendance was slightly down on previous years but the displays were of the usual high standard and represented a wide variety of interests. We were honoured with the presence of our National Association President, Paul Shoebridge who brought along an unusual experimental rifle to add to the displays. Our own President Steve scrubbed up well for the event and made a good job of welcoming members and guests. The Joe Bartlett Memorial Cannon was won by Dave Calcinaï this year and a well deserved win it was as Dave has always been a great supporter of the Branch and is usually the first to offer assistance whenever it is required, his nomination was a popular choice. The prize was presented to Dave by Paul Shoebridge and a bouquet of flowers to his wife Helen.

Then to the surprise of all, but not least the recipients, Steve announced that The National Association had approved the issue of Perham Award Medals to two of our members. The first to be called was Wayne Joseph whom I am sure you will all appreciate has done a magnificent job over a very long period of organising the catering at our branch functions whether they be just tea and

night we had to queue up for almost an hour to see the casket and sign the visitor's book but then to our surprise, as we were about to leave, the Prime Minister Helen Clarke appeared together with The Speaker of the House, Jonathon Hunt and several other Parliamentarians came and spoke to persons in the queue. This certainly made us think what a lucky country we have here, where else in the world would the Head of State and other high ranking Officials turn up to rub shoulders with rank and file citizens in Parliament Buildings at that hour of night.

We were not subject to any searches or restrictions on entering the magnificent old Buildings and although security personnel were present we could only marvel at the freedom we enjoy here which in no small measure goes right back to what that young soldier and lots of others have fought and died for.

While the grounds of Parliament were not really open for motor vehicles we noticed that one of our well known Branch members had rolled up with his motorcycle complete with sidecar and parked opposite the front entrance steps, seemingly with impunity at that late hour. I'll bet he couldn't do that in many parts in the world.

On a trip to USA a year or two before the September 11th tragedy we visited the Capitol building in Washington and even then were subject to a full electronic body search and bags etc were prohibited. The same happened at several other places including the United Nations building in New York and I should imagine security is even more stringent now.

Ed

Displays at the Meeting included;

- The Garand rifle, a display of rifles, bayonets, ammo and other accoutrements, complete with military manuals and books.
- New Zealand Hundred Year Centennial Exhibition, a collection of posters, cards tickets, silverware and a rare screened silk picture of the building and venue of the 1940 Centennial Exhibition in Kilbirnie Wellington.
- Bren guns, two 303 brens, one in section to show internal workings complete with relevant literature.
- Baby Colt .25 cal 1903 Model automatic pistol with well made wooden case and info from Colt book
- Breech loading Terry rifle, a pre runner of the Calisher and Terry rifle, complete with bayonet .577 cal, circa 1855.
- Fighting knives, a nice display of different pattern fighting knives and a collection of pocket knives.
- Knives, daggers and cutlery, another large collection including some lovely old bone handled carving sets and two fine swords.
- Short swords, a great collection of various short swords dating from 1827 to 1915 including belts and hangers.
- The British army in New Zealand, a collection of models and uniform buttons from the Maori wars.
- Webley hand guns and CAC ammo, various marks of the Webley revolver and some nicely marked early NZ ammo packets.
- Map of France, dated 1918 displayed with postcards and silks.
- What did Ron Have, an A to Z listing of the collectables and passions of our late president Ron Stewart, a listing for every letter!
- Old, borrowed, blue and new, another unusual display of Items from Julian including a glass eye!

- Japanese battle flag and a display of short Samurai Swords one of which was disguised as a ladies fan.
- A collection of .410 shotguns together with a Continental made revolver in .410 calibre
- An impressive display of powder flasks together with an embossed brass notice dated 1868 saying that "Poachers shall be shot on first sight and if practicable questioned afterwards"
- A display of early .577 cal carbines including a Percussion Enfield Artillery Carbine Pattern 1858 and two .577 cal Snider-Enfield Artillery carbines.
- A fine example of a 24 bore Sea Service flintlock pistol circa 1700's
- Three early British Military long arms including an India Pattern Brown Bess in .75 cal complete with bayonet. A Pattern 1853 Enfield percussion rifle in .577 cal complete with bayonet and a Pattern 1856 Enfield percussion Cavalry Carbine also in .577 cal.
- A display of Military .303 target rifles with a large selection of various types of adjustable target sights, cleaning gear and various accoutrements.
- An early New Model Colt breech loading pistol with cylinder showing the same coach hold-up scene used on the 1849 percussion pistols.
- A display of RNZAF pennants.
- A First World War Service Record Certificate belonging to a member's Grandfather together with his pocket watch and fob chain decorated with a German bullet taken out of his chest and gold nuggets he prospected himself on the West Coast.
- An extensive collection of Wedgewood Christmas plates
- A selection of Smith & Wesson revolvers together with two S&W marked watches, a compass and a pocket knife.
- A display titled Early 20th Century Remembered, with a set of about ten hard covered books titled The History of the Great European War 1914-18, A copy of the Official History of the Otago Regiment from the Great War and several other interesting publications from the First World War.
- An original box of Eickhorn's salesman's bayonet and knives samples from the early 1970's with half a dozen pieces.
- 50th Anniversary of the FN FAL Self Loading Rifle with an example from the British Troop Trials of 1954. Including a Training booklet, bayonet, magazines, display cartridges, sling and cleaning equipment.
- A display of early shotgun reloading tools and a number of military badges.
- Mamod Steam toy fire engine, motor car, motor lorry, mill engine and a Showmans engine.
- A fearsome looking shark's jaw with teeth intact, fortunately not caught in New Zealand waters.

I hope we haven't left anyone's display out and my apologies if we have, . Ed.



Dave and Helen with the Joe Bartlett Memorial Cannon



Wayne and Tess with the Perham Memorial Medal



Rex and Robin with the Perham Memorial Medal



Our Branch President Steve in a jovial mood.



Our National President Paul Shoebriidge with Bruce Colville

Next page. A few of the members present at the lunch-



An S.A.T. Boer War Mauser in excellent condition



You would go a long way to find a better Flintlock Sea Service pistol than this example.



A rare Terry semi breech loading rifle believed to be the forerunner of the Calisher & Terry



Another excellent display with a selection of short swords



A .25 cal Colt Pocket Semi Auto Pistol in new condition



A fine display of Wedgewood Christmas plates



The US Garand Semi Auto rifle of WW2 as made by various manufacturers that gave the GI's great firepower.



Left. An amusing old notice stating that Poachers would be shot on sight





Items from the NZ Hundred Year Exhibition at Kilbirnie Wellington in 1940 including a rare silk screen picture poster



A selection of ammunition boxes. How many of you have seen or used the cartridges that were packed in boxes like these.



Japanese Battle Flag and short Samurai Sword display



A pair of .577 cal Snider Artillery Carbines and a .577 cal Pattern 1858 percussion Enfield Cavalry Carbine



Two .303 rifles set up for fullbore target shooting together with an extensive display of sights and range equipment.



An early New Model Colt breech loading cartridge revolver with the holdup scene on the cylinder the same as the 1849 percussion model.



A number of New Zealand made fighting knives and daggers with various pocket knives.

Below: A sectionalized Bren Gun



Waiouru Bus Trip.

Our trip to the Army Memorial Museum at Waiouru on 21st November was a great success and enjoyed by some 36 members including half a dozen wives. By 6.50am everyone was ready and waiting at the Pororua railway car park and the bus was loaded and away by 7am, extras were collected up at Levin and Sanson with comments that the bus had arrived earlier than anticipated. On arrival at around 10.30am the group, together with half a dozen or so others who travelled independently were welcomed by two Assistant Curators who divided us into two groups and proceeded to guide us around the main displays giving detailed commentaries and answering any questions. After a lunch break we were met by another of their staff who took us through the Military Camp to a storage facility they had for trucks, tanks, jeeps and a range of other military vehicles, as well as several field guns. Members were given a commentary about the vehicles displayed and were allowed to get in and climb over most of the exhibits. Quite a few of our members had memories of various vehicles they had encountered while doing military training. We then moved off some distance to a second storage facility where more items were held and once again there was no holding back our team who were surprisingly knowledgeable about the various types. Approx 60 different military vehicles were displayed in total including two large recovery vehicles, a WW1 six inch Howitzer, a 25pdr Field Gun in full working order, Quad Gun Tractors, Scorpion tank, Walker Bulldog tank, Bren Gun carriers, a Ferret Scout Armoured Car, 113 Armoured Personnel Carrier, White Half Track, a Lloyd General Purpose carrier and numerous other vehicles. The Assistant Curator in charge of us was extremely knowledgeable and gave us an excellent commentary about each of the items as well as answering questions put to him. This was undoubtedly the highlight of the trip for most. The time went all too quickly and an enjoyable day was had by all.

Alwyn



This hapless pair of Perham Medallion winners were forced to wear gongs on the bus trip to Waiouru.



Margaret in a Ferret Armoured Scout car Page 7



Right. Our group in one of the storage sheds.



One of the M113 Armoured Personnel carriers the Army has replaced with the wheeled LAV vehicles.



Steve has spotted an old bronze Mortar that fascinated him. Sorry Steve, it's not for sale.



Belynda, Steve and Liam climbing on vehicles.

President's Report

As the year draws to a close, I come to my last report. On the 14th of November we had our annual luncheon at the Workingmens Club and were privileged to have among our guests the National President, Paul Shoebridge.

Paul had travelled to Wellington from Napier to present two of our Committee members (Rex Hill and Wayne Joseph) with the Perham Medallion for their services to the branch and the Joe Bartlett Memorial cannon to Dave Calcinai also for his efforts. These guys have worked very hard over the years for the branch and the awards were well deserved.

As usual the members exhibits were of a very high standard, Paul also brought down a very rare Terry rifle on the plane with him to add to the exhibits. It was certainly a pleasure to sit with a wine and socialize with other collectors without any of the political crap that has dogged us all of late. Paul has since contacted me and asked that I pass on his thanks for the great day he had.

On Sunday the 21st of November the Club had a bus trip to the Waiouru Army Museum which had been organized by Alwyn and Phil. About 36 members and guests turned up and were guided through the museum and two huge sheds full of army vehicles. It was great having a guided tour and I guess the smile on my 10year old son's face after climbing in and out of every hatch of every tank pretty much summed it up.

Coming up is the meeting on the 5th of December and the week after that the Xmas shoot and barbecue. This should be another memorable event with Wayne looking to out-do himself.

Next year the Club is getting behind the Upper Hutt Gun Show, this event has now been moved to April and will be in the Horticultural Hall, Lower Hutt. The Model Club is also joining in and will be taking over the adjoining hall. This will be a huge event with sales tables, displays etc. We are asking all Club members to get behind this, with either displays or assistance over the weekend. By raising the profile of collecting and firearms use, we can educate people and legitimize the way we are perceived.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee for all their hard work over the year, and hopefully will see you all at the next meeting and barbecue.

All the best, Steve.



Some of the group who travelled on the bus to Waiouru.



Marilyn and Margaret in one of the large trucks.

Range Working Bee.

There will be a range working bee at the Kaitoke Rifle range on Saturday morning 4th December from 8.30am. We need lots of helpers and if possible bring lawnmowers, weed eaters and general gardening tools. As the old Uncle Sam in the WW1 recruiting posters said, "WE NEED YOU"

Next Meeting

Sunday 5th December 2004 – at the usual venue, Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy Street Petone from 1.30pm. Display theme for the meeting will be letter B.

Reminder. The Xmas Barbecue Shoot will be held Sunday 12th December at the NZ Deer Stalkers range Kaitoke. This is a family fun day with the setup scheduled from 8.00 - 9.00am and practice from 9.00 - 10.00am.

Please refer to last month's edition of Flint & Cap for details of the programme.

There will be no meeting in January and the next scheduled meeting at the Workingmens Club is set down for the 6th February 2005. The Gun Show will be in April.

Wishing You all a Merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year from the Newsletter team, including Maxine Stewart who envelopes and posts out the Flint & Cap. Ed.

