

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association
Wellington Branch Inc.
P.O. Box 14-029
Kilbirnie, Wellington.
www.nzaawgtn.org.nz

December Meeting 2010

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FN Browning model CZ shotgun.

Formalin disinfectant and deoderising lamp made in 1891.

FN rifles, 1906 35REm, Sal 49, 1924 30-06, FN FAL special.

Erskin James cartridge loading tool, 20 gauge made in 1866.

Foreign medals, 25 plus examples.

Eighteen eighty six. Winchester 40-65, 26 octagonal barrel made in 1886.

French helmets, WWI, WWII, 1950's and 1980-1990 models.

English china helmets, Australian, German, British, Scottish, French, New Zealand and territorials.

FN rifle, .22 calibre and five small pistols.

Collectable eggs, made from metal, shell, wood and stone.

Electric fence unit, environment freindly!

Fulton regulated, P14 made by ERA.

FN FAL rifles, X8EI rifle, GI rifle, model 50.00 1967 and FN FAL model 50.00 1972.

December Meeting Displays

Fascist knife belonging to a members uncle.

Fake air rifles from the 1950's.

Field express rifle in .450 No1 express, No873 with Henry rifling.

Fosbery auto revolver with prideaux speed loader, together with a Fairbairn Sykes.

Franks Erfurt Luger made in 1918.

NZ Forest service ammo, .270 and .308 in original packets.

Early fascist field cap, 1926-1937 used by youth fascist organisations.

Ypres to England

From Brussels we made a trip to Ypres where we had booked with Salient Tours for a tour of the First World War battlefields. Interestingly their tours started from a bookstore in Ypres under the name of the British Grenadier, this shop specialised in war books and militaria with lots of artifacts on display but what amused me was a Vickers Machine Gun sitting in the shop window complete with tripod and a belt of cartridges. I was told it was inert but it certainly looked the part. Displaying something like that in a shop window was evidently not a problem and it looked as though it lived there permanently. Our tour took us into the countryside and we went to several cemeteries and a WW1 bunker complex that was used by the Allies as field hospital, all pretty crude and uninviting. One cemetery we were shown was for Germans and apparently after WW2 the Germans were told to remove their dead from Belgium, they had had enough of them cluttering up the landscape and the cemetery we saw held the last remains of about 40000 mostly in a mass grave, this was evidently the only German military cemetery still remaining in Belgium. We were also shown to various battle sites such as Passendale, Hell Fire Corner and Tyne Cot where the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world was built and is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I don't know the number buried there but apart from the thousands of grave markers there are 35000 names of British and NZ. Servicemen who fell in that vicinity after 16th August 1917. The cemetery was built after the First World War around what had been a German bunker on the Flanders line. The whole area was then just one big battlefield of bog, muddy shell holes and death but this is rather difficult to envisage now as it is flat or slightly rolling countryside all neatly farmed and was mostly planted in corn. Even to this day farmers are ploughing up bone fragments and relics. Rusty shells are left by their front gates for collection by Army demolition squads, we saw an example of several shells awaiting collection. All houses and buildings are post 1918 and even in Ypres itself the largest building in the square looked to be hundreds of years old but we were told it was rebuilt as an exact replica of the original destroyed in that war. We were finally taken to a private museum at Sanctuary Wood which was another infamous battle site and where there thousands of artifacts had been recovered from the adjacent battlefields, some were in very good condition but most were more like relic condition. Even so they had numerous items such as pistols on display that appeared likely to be in working order. Outside they had restored the old trenches and

had examples of shell craters and shattered trees trunks that were all that was left standing in the area at that time. This was an insight into the sort of conditions which prevailed and our guide was very knowledgeable but I did not find this as moving as the Normandy landing sites perhaps because of all the redevelopment as everything looked so neat and pristine, and of course it was all quite a long time ago.

In the town of Ypres the British built the Menin Gate in 1927 as a Memorial to that conflict and we were told they stop the traffic each evening at 7pm and play the Last Post. Apart from a time during WW2 this has been done daily since the Memorial was opened and it seems quite number of tourists come each day to pay their respects but we had departed before this time so did not experience this. I have since read that the Menin gate memorial has a hall of memory with around fifty five thousand names of British and Allied soldiers killed in the Ypres area.

One small thing that surprised me about Ypres was a number of modern wind turbines which seemed to be situated almost amongst the houses, these were about the size and shape of the Wellington one at Brooklyn, yet the landscape was flat although it was pretty windy. I couldn't imagine the public allowing them amongst houses in this country.

After leaving Belgium we went on to England and our friends took us to see a private collection of Militaria they had heard about. This was at a farm with lovely old buildings and our visit commenced in a modern barn full of aircraft items including the front end of a Canberra bomber complete with all cockpit instruments right down to the ejection seats. We climbed in and sat in the pilot's and navigators seats and there certainly wasn't a lot of room to spare. A Predator drone surveillance aircraft as used in Iraq was suspended from the ceiling, it was larger than I had imagined these things to be and powered by a flat two cylinder engine that looked to be similar to a BMW motor cycle engine. There were also several full sized jet engines including one from a Harrier Jump Jet aircraft on which the thrust could be changed for vertical take-off, a large radial engine and engine parts including a large and complex carburettor for a piston engine aircraft, this was as big as an average car engine, a complete Rolls Royce piston engine, radio equipment, instruments, engine parts including a large turbine engine, spare turbine blades and big turbine hubs all beautifully balanced. Next we were shown to another big shed with more aircraft parts including bombs, aircraft rockets and other ordnance. I was surprised that this also included

a large late model heat seeking missile, there was also an Anderson air raid shelter, replica German machine gun post with guns including a mannequin with an MG34 and a Schmeisser MP40, binoculars, helmet and all sorts of other items. From there was another shed containing the most amazing collection of modern machine gun cartridges of various calibres, aircraft cannon shells, rockets and ordnance of all descriptions as well as dozens of small models of military vehicles and tanks etc.

This collector also had the most extensive collection of equipment for parachute troops I have ever seen with a section comprised entirely of equipment used by Allied parachute troops in WW2 including a Vickers heavy machine gun, mortar, a Bren on a tripod system (but he didn't have a 100 round magazine that turned up in our last auction) and numerous other weapons including an M1 Carbine and a Thompson sub machine gun with mannequins in uniform and complete with webbing and ancillary equipment. There were parachutes, supply canisters and even specially shaped petrol cans that fitted in the canisters. One most unusual item was a harness in which a homing pigeon was carried, this was a WW2 item, who would believe they were still using carrier pigeons then. Our host said that this pigeon web harness was one of his most rare objects. He had collected all sorts of items designed to be carried on a glider or parachuted including a generating set, a folding bicycle and a folding motor cycle, Red Cross supplies, stretchers and even a camp bed.

Finally a historic building which was built in the 1700's and had wooden pegs holding the frames and rafters together contained items from the home front. This was also an interesting collection in itself and contained period items to WW2 including some unusual civilian wartime items such as a Morrison air raid shelter table designed to be used in the home as a table but strong enough to take refuge under as protection from a building collapsing. (could have been useful in Canterbury) There were fire buckets, torches, telephones, lanterns, gas masks, gas warning rattles and even a couple of hand powered sirens complete with wailing mechanism, another rare item was a German incendiary bomb as dropped in large numbers over England, it was one of a few that failed to ignite and was not destroyed in the ensuing conflagration. All in all a most amazing collection and a great finale to an extensive trip.

Rex





**The Hawkes Bay Branches of NZ
Antique Arms & International
Military Arms Society announce
HAWKES BAY
GUNSHOW
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MARCH 12 & 13, 2011**

**Army Drill Hall, Coote Road, Napier
(on the Marine Parade, Northern end)**

Will be open to the general public

**Dealers welcome, limited tables
available **BOOK NOW**
8 foot tables \$25**

**Contact: Brian McLeary
Phone 06—843 2209
Email: hbarms@clear.net.nz**

Gun Show

The Hawkes Bay branch, in conjunction with IMAS will be holding a gun show. This will be a 2 day event held over the weekend of the 12th & 13th of March. The show will be held in the Drill hall in Coote Road, Napier, which runs off the Marine Parade at the Northern end, towards the wharves. There will be the usual dealers and traders along and these provincial shows often turn up some lovely items. Opening hours are Saturday 9:00am till 5.00pm, and Sunday 10.00am till 4.00pm. Alwyn.



E - GAZETTE MK II

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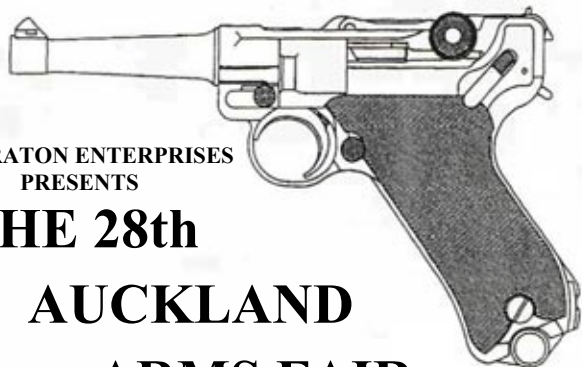
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**GRATON ENTERPRISES
PRESENTS**

**THE 28th
AUCKLAND
ARMS FAIR**

SAT 2nd & SUN 3rd April 2011

HOURS: SATURDAY 9.00am - 5.00pm SUNDAY 10.00am - 4.00pm

**AT THE WEST WAVE RECREATIONAL CENTRE
ALDERMAN DRIVE, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE CITY.**

**NZ LARGEST SALE OF ANTIQUE, COLLECTABLE & MODERN
ARMS, MEDALS, MILITARIA, EDGE WEAPONS & SHOOTING
ACCESSORIES**

PLUS

**ANTIQUES & LADIES COLLECTABLES
DISPLAYS OF SOME OF THE FINEST FIREARMS & MILITARIA
IN THIS COUNTRY**

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$12

CHILDREN (15 & Under \$5 /Under 5 FREE)

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE:

GRAHAM 027 475 9246 OR TONY 021 951 932

Letters of the month are G and H

Things to think about are: Glock, Game, GI, Guer-
rilla, HE, Henry, Holland, Heer. Lets see what you
can come up with.

There is also the chance to win petrol vouchers
in our monthly random display draw.

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club at 1.00pm
First Sunday of the month, See you there.