



E - GAZETTE MK II

New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 39 March 2014

EDITORIAL

With the Prime Minister suggesting that New Zealand should hold a referendum to choose a new national flag, such as a silver fern on black, at this years election, I have only one thing to say :

Please SAVE OUR FLAG



See the article on page 3 for the history of our national flag.

My thanks to all of you who have contributed material for this edition.

Phil

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NZ Arms Register
www.armsregister.com

New Information Pages added
Machine Guns: NZAR ID 201
AFVs: NZAR ID 168,169,170

Back issues of the e-Gazette will be found in the Articles section

AN INTERESTING BAYONET by Ivor Howitt © 2014



M1914 for Schmidt Rubin Rifle. Stamped ELSENER SCHWYZ. Refer Watts & White 607 and Kiesling 389. Possibly last saw-back made notes W & W.

Dimensions: Length O.A. 608mm, Blade Length 477mm, MRD 14mm, Scabbard Length 509mm Blued Steel.



M1918 for Schmidt Rubin Rifle. Stamped ELSENER SCHWYZ. Refer Watts & White 608 and Kiesling 199,

Dimensions: Length O.A. 430mm, Blade Length 300mm, MRD 14mm, Scabbard Length 319mm Blued steel.

The question that has puzzled me is who really made these bayonets? I am fortunate to have “The Knife and its History” published on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of VICTORINOX. I asked the N.Z. agent for information about Swiss Bayonets in my collection and received a reply (opposite) indicating that they must have been part of a military contract and were not offered to civilian agents, as the NZ Agent had no knowledge of them after 40 years association with Victorinox..

The Karl Elsener cutlery company produced the first combination knives for the Swiss army in 1891 with the best high quality product on the market. In 1909, Karl introduced the Swiss emblem on the red fibre slabs and following his mother's death he added her Christian name 'VICTORIA.' Stainless steel was discovered in 1921. The internationally recognized 'INOX' for stainless steel was added to 'VICTORIA' and combined as 'VICTORINOX'.

'VICTORINOX' must have supplied the Swiss military with bayonets, but under their founder's name 'Karl Elsener', hence the stamping 'Elsener Schwyz'. I can only assume that these contracts were kept separate from retail sales to civilians, allowing a disassociation to suit their 'peaceful' image.

“THE KNIFE AND ITS HISTORY” published for the company's 100th anniversary of 'VICTORINOX' in 1984, is a wonderful production with beautiful illustrations. The only thing missing is any mention of Swiss bayonets!

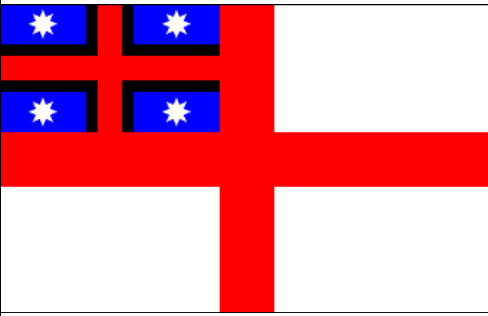


Flags in New Zealand 1834 onwards

Researched & Compiled by John Osborne DTT, PhD, FSG, 17 August 2010

jcosborne@xtra.co.nz Tel. 09 409 3835. Research continues.

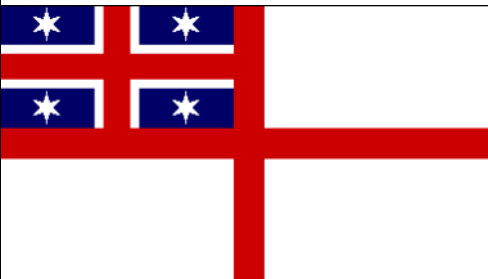
New Zealand's First National Flag 1834-1840



On 20 March 1834, 25 chiefs from the Far North and their followers (at the invitation of the British Resident James Busby who promoted the adoption of a national flag) gathered at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands to choose a flag to represent New Zealand. A number of missionaries, settlers and the commanders of 10 British and 3 American ships were also in attendance. Following James Busby's address, each chief was called forward in turn to select a flag, while the son of one of the chiefs recorded the votes. The preferred design, (a flag already used by Missionary Henry Williams on his Paihia built Schooners *Herald* 1826 and *Karere* 1830), received 12 out of the 25 votes, with the other two designs receiving 10 and 3 votes respectively. Busby declared the chosen

flag the "National Flag" of New Zealand and had it hoisted on a central flagpole, accompanied by a 21 gun salute from HMS *Alligator*. The "National Flag", was described as having the red cross of St. George on a white background, and a smaller red St. George's cross in the top left-hand corner on a blue background. The smaller cross had a wide black border and a white 8 pointed star featured in each of the blue quarters divided by the cross.

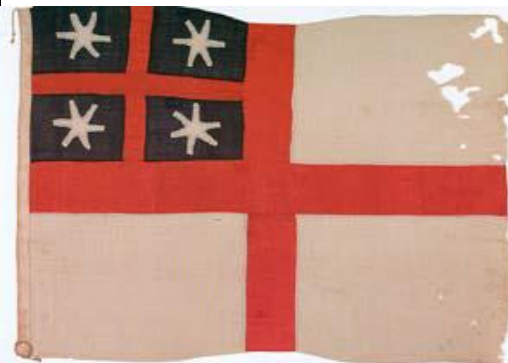
New Zealand's First Maritime Flag 1834-1840



A drawing and details of the New Zealand "National Flag" was sent by James Busby on 22 March 1834 to the British Government and the New South Wales Governor William Bourke. The new "National Flag" was sanctioned by the British Government (not the King personally) and confirmed in a letter signed by Sir George Grey (Downing Street) dated 17 November 1834 to the British Admiralty requesting them to acknowledge and respect the New Zealand Flag and to direct the commanding officers of the British Naval forces to do same. In a letter dated 24 November 1834 signed by Sir John Barrow, British Admiralty, directing the Admiral Commanding in Chief on the East Indian Station to order the Captains and Commanders of his Majesty's Ships and

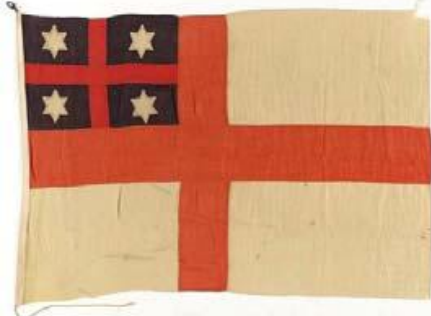
Vessels under his command to acknowledge and respect the New Zealand Flag. New Zealand's Maritime Flag differed from the "National Flag" in having a white border around the smaller red cross and a white 6 pointed star (instead of 8) featured in each of the blue quarters divided by the cross.

The New Zealand Company Flag



The New Zealand Company was formed in 1839 to promote the "systematic" colonisation of New Zealand and adopted their own flag which was made by a passenger on the *Tory* during its voyage from England to New Zealand in 1839 and adopted and raised at Petone, Wellington on 30 September 1839 accompanied by a 21 gun salute from *Tory*. The New Zealand Company flag differed from the then New Zealand National Flag having a six pointed star rather than eight and no black border around the smaller red cross. The Company intended to follow the colonising principles of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, who envisaged the creation of a new-model English society in the southern hemisphere. Wakefield's emigration system professed higher, more-noble aims than mere financial profit. The company established settlements at Wellington, Nelson, Wanganui and Dunedin and also became involved in the settling of New Plymouth and Christchurch. It reached the peak of efficiency about 1841, encountered financial problems from 1843 from which it never recovered, and wound up in 1858.

The Shaw Savill Shipping Company



In 1858 Shaw Savill adopted a house flag similar to the New Zealand Companies flag with six pointed white stars often mistaken for New Zealand's first national flag 1834 - 1840 which had eight pointed white stars and a black border around the smaller cross.

New Zealand's Second National Flag, the British Union Jack 1840-1902.



From 1840 until after the passing of the Imperial “Colonial Naval Defence Act, 1865”, New Zealand possessed no flag of its own, but used either the Union Jack for all occasions ashore or, if the occasion was a maritime one, the appropriate British naval or maritime ensign. In 1865, because there was considerable uncertainty about the question, the British Admiralty laid down the following rules: “That any ship of war belonging to a colonial government should wear the blue ensign, with the seal or badge of the colony in the fly thereof, and a blue pennant” (or pendant). “That all vessels belonging to, or permanently in the service of the colonies, but not commissioned as vessels of war,

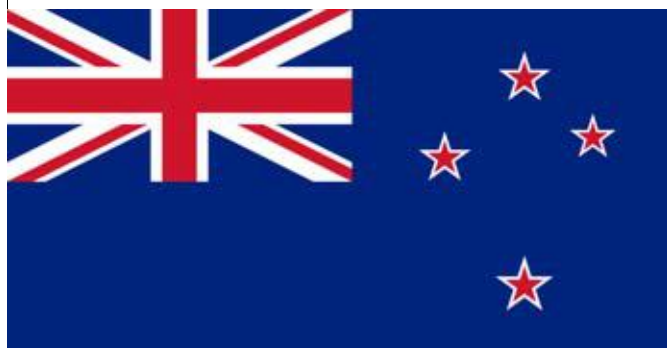
- should wear a similar blue ensign, but not the pennant.”



On 10 January 1867, when four small steamers were in commission, Governor Sir George Grey issued a proclamation appointing “the letter NZ in red, surrounded by a margin of white” to be used as the colony's badge on the blue ensign. This arrangement was temporary, and in 1869 Sir George Bowen deemed it “expedient to adopt a permanent device”. Consequently, on 23 October 1869 it was proclaimed that: “the seal or badge in future to be worn, in accordance with the Queen's Regulations, as the distinctive badge of the colony, by all vessels belonging to or permanently employed in the service of the Colonial Government of New Zealand, shall be the Southern

Cross, as represented in the Blue Ensign by four five-pointed red stars in the fly with white borders to correspond to the colouring of the Jack.

New Zealand's Third and Current National Flag,



The Government decided to adopt the maritime flag for use on shore. An Act was passed and became law on 12 June 1902. In it the New Zealand Ensign was described as “the blue ensign of the Royal Naval Reserve, having on the fly thereof the Southern Cross as represented by four five-pointed red stars with white borders”. On 27 June 1902 the Minister of Marine gazetted a description of the new flag, together with instructions about the sizes and positions of the stars. In 1903, the Shipping and Seamen's Act provided that the “Red Ensign usually worn by merchant ships, with the addition in the fly thereof of the Southern Cross as represented by four five-pointed white stars is hereby declared to be the proper colours for all merchant ships registered in New Zealand.”

Special thanks to;

Stuart Park, Northland Manager New Zealand Historic Places Trust for his valuable advice. www.historic.org.nz

Michael Fitzgerald, Curator History, Museum of New Zealand, for his valuable advice www.tepapa.govt.nz

Joe Edwards FSG, for research at the National Archives UK. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Acknowledgements to and for more information visit- www.mch.govt.nz <http://en.wikipedia.org> www.nzflag.com www.nmm.ac.uk

COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR 1

As you know this September sees the commencement of the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

I am sure many readers will have family stories about the experiences of their grandfathers and uncles who served in this conflict, perhaps stories from the home front too. Many of these stories are unrecorded.

What better way for us as an Historical Association to commemorate this war than to record our own stories in the Gazette and e-gazette.

Send me your stories (oilyrag@xtra.co.nz) and I will try to publish them as close to their 100th anniversary as is practical.

They don't have to be long and they don't have to be about deeds of gallantry, but can be about any interesting experience.

If possible please include a photo of the person concerned, their medals or any other artefact associated with the story.

WANTED

YOUR STORIES FROM WORLD WAR I



NORTHLAND BRANCH VISIT WAIOURU

On the weekend of the 1 & 2 February fifteen Northlanders travelled down to Waiouru for a behind the scenes visit to the National Army Museum. Arriving at midday on Saturday the afternoon was spent viewing the military vehicle collection where our guide Simon told us the significance and history of each exhibit. Over night we were accommodated at the military camp in single rooms and provided with dinner and breakfast in the soldiers mess all for the most modest sum of \$ 37 per head. On Sunday morning museum staff member Ian gave us an excellent guided tour of the museum explaining the story behind many exhibits. At noon it was time to leave on the long drive home. Thanks to Sue, Simon and Ian for taking care of us in the camp and museum.



Land Rover for Royal Visit



1 of only 2 recovery Land Rovers



LP 2 Universal (Bren gun) Carrier



Valentine Mk III



Ferret Armoured Car



Scorpion CVR (T)



Stuart Tank



Lloyd Carrier



Land Rover and M 113 APC prepared for Bosnia



Series I Land Rover with Field Kitchen



Half track with quad 50s

The Volley Gun by Gordon Hill © 2014

Since the earliest fire arms appeared, the idea of multiple shots from the same gun was attractive. Of course a shotgun does exactly that but repeating guns had to await the advance in metallurgy as well as gun making technology. In the 14th. Century cannon with groups of barrels discharging together were known but of course they were unwieldy. Handguns with three or more barrels and a seven barrelled gun was in the inventory of the Bastille(a French arsenal) in 1435. Another 7 barrelled gun dated 1612 was previously in the Tower collection. Laying barrels together in a neat arrangement allows only for 2, 3, 4, 7 or 13 barrels. The best known is the so called Nock volley gun, in fact this was the design of James Wilson who claimed it as a “new” invention in 1779. It was not of course, “new”.

The Board of ordinance contracted Henry Nock to make these and he produced 655 at a cost of 15 pounds each by 1788. The barrels are 6 surrounding the central inner barrel which is ignited first, connecting by internal channels to the outer barrels. Blockage of that inner channel by powder residue could lead to a misfire of that individual barrel. These barrels were 20 inches long, calibre 0.46, the gun weighed 12 pounds and were intended for firing from the tops of sailing ships. The first pattern of these had the frizzen spring of L shape, the so called “Queen Anne” type after Queen Anne flintlock pistols. The second pattern had the usual frizzen spring as seen on conventional flintlocks.



Volley guns were used for sporting purposes either as an enormous shotgun or for firing a volley of balls at an animal. The famous sportsman, Colonel Thornton of Yorkshire was a volley gun exponent and he would put 14 or sometimes 21 round balls in as the charge. That would be useful to fire at a running deer, but also to test the hardiness of the shooter! They must have been real men in those days!

Colonel Thornton also had a twelve barrelled and a double barrelled volley gun, that is two clusters of seven side by side. An enthusiast of shooting, hawking and fishing, he made an expedition to Scotland in 1797 with his entourage, recording that in a book simply called “A Sporting Tour” a good read but of course a rare book now. His guns were built by Dupe and Co in London. Business cannot have been too good for Mr. Dupe because he was declared bankrupt and sent to debtors prison in 1813. I hope Colonel Thornton had paid his bill!

Other makers produced volley guns. Forsyth sold a seven barrelled goose rifle with percussion cap ignition in 1831 and another earlier with his patent “scent bottle” ignition. The Belgian gun maker, Henry Pieper sold breech loading volley guns in .22 and .30 calibre rimfire on the Remington rolling block action, late in the 19th. Century. One of those exists in N.Z. as it was sold at an Association auction in Christchurch many years ago. The making of the barrel represents the ultimate challenge to the gun maker. They have to be aligned, inner channels drilled and externally re filled and ribs braised in.

There is an example being offered at the South Canterbury auction on 6 April. Look at it and admire the workmanship of the barrel maker . **Lot No 74**



HAWKES BAY MEMBER HONoured by Robin Back

At the January meeting of Hawkes Bay Branch a life membership was awarded to Alan Walker.

Alan has been Branch Secretary for 29 years without a break, a milestone the members wished to recognise. He is only the 3rd secretary that HB Branch has had since its inception, he took over in January 1985 and has been in the job ever since. He is thorough and most diligent at organizing the day to day running of the Branch and its activities, from the National Postal Shoot, shooting activities, auctions, gunshows, trips away, keeping the books and banking money. At every meeting Alan will be either filling in a receipt book or collecting subs from some member and is a very fastidious taker of accurate minute's of every meeting (I don't think he's missed a meeting since he joined). His knowledge of all things military is second to none and his memory recall is magic on any gun, bayonet, badge or item, most of all he is willing to share what he knows with all of the members.



Alan (on the right) was presented with an engraved tankard along with a framed certificate by Branch President Brent Horton, he is our only Life Member, an award well deserved.

Kumeu Militaria Show Update February 2014

Hello again fellow enthusiasts

Time is Marching By, The Show is rapidly approaching, my hair is going greyer and I am waking up at night trying to think what I have missed.....

The reality is that we are well on track with more internal and external displays being confirmed every day, and quite a few new people contacting us from word of mouth advertising Thanks to you, our supporters in setting up this venture. The main lesson I've learnt so far is how hard it is to get advertising out there in today's information rich environment.

A few special thanks to some of the people helping to get the word out:

-ALL the Militaria collector groups out there, that have been gracious enough to send out our updates to their memberships.

-To Scotty and Mel, thanks for producing a great Facebook page (Go on, have a look, just put our name into Google)

-To Nick at nzblokes.co.nz for all the advice from someone who has played in the big leagues, Check out their website....very cool!

We are currently finalising out radio advertising, so keep your ears open to the Rock and SoundFM to hear what has been created by Media works. It will be playing multiple slots in the week leading up to the event.

Clayton and I will also be hitting up print media, putting up posters and signs and talking up a storm (well, one of us....)

Just to remind everyone:

Setup on the Friday 1400-2000 & again on Saturday from 0600-0800

Entrance for setup from Access Road

Friday night all internal areas will be guarded by members of the police.

We have Re-enactors setting up and camping the Friday night, so anyone else that wants to stay onsite the Friday night is welcome, common sense rules apply. There are pay showers onsite tokens can be purchased from me as I wander around.

Check out the updated Flyer, our aim is to evolve this to a recognisable standard format

So AGAIN "Ring Fence" Saturday April 12, tell your friends and family and we will see you there!

Danny and Clayton, Kumeu Militaria Show

BAYONETSPLUS website update

Dear fellow collector :

After a winter lull, plenty of fresh material uploaded on www.bayonetsplus.com website today.

A new Featured Bayonet article and new material added to Contemporary Bayonet Images.

Many additions to the Sales Table, in particular a selection of German ersatz bayonets, and a quantity of British No4 bayonets with hard-to-find markings from my own collection .

On the Books page, advance information on forthcoming English edition of 'German Ersatz Bayonets' , with cost and how to order.

Thanks for your continued interest
Derek Complin

FOR THOSE OF YOU PLANNING A TRIP TO OZ.

NEXT SHOW IS IN BRISBANE 8th & 9TH MARCH 2014 at Building 8 Brisbane Showgrounds , located on the corner of Gregory Terrace & Alexandria st Brisbane

Next TOOWOOMBA GUN MILITARIA & ANTIQUES SHOW will be on the 12th & 13th of April. 2014 at Toowoomba show-grounds.

Collectors can buy sell & trade .

The show will host Modern & Antique firearms (Pistols & rifles) All types of Militaria, Antique Swords & daggers from the 1300s right through to modern day Custom made knives, Coins, medals, badges & Bank notes, small amount of collectibles, shooting accessories & 1000s of books , also a selection of outdoor gear ,all is for sale. we have a small selection of antiques & collectables at most of the fairs.

Saturday Doors open at 9 am to public till 5pm

Sunday Doors open at 9 am till 2.00 PM

Adults \$10 Seniors \$8 children under 15 are free with an adult.

One of the many interesting people at our last few fairs was Mr. Ian Skennerton the renown author on Military firearms & bayonets etc & he is the author & publisher of the COLLECTOR magazine. Ian attends most of our fairs when he can. You can buy Ian's books there & can always ask him to sign a copy for you.

Displays of historical Arms & Uniforms from the Victoria Barracks & other Major & reputable collectors guilds . You can join some of these great organisations like the Arms collectors guild of Queensland ,The Historical Arms collectors SSAA, or the Shooters union & The Military Historical Society of Australia.

All form a valuable part of our hobbies of shooting & collecting .Please contact me re any of these organisations & i can put you in touch with them.

Dealer set up time for the show is Friday from 11am till 7pm as well as 7 am Saturday Morning for late arrivals.

Saturday Doors open at 9 am to public till 5pm

Sunday Doors open at 9 am till 2.00 PM .

Armed accredited Security from 2pm Friday ,We are also adding Video recording security equipment for dealers added protection & will have the metal detectors again.

BRISBANE SHOW PRICES BELOW

Public entry prices - Adults \$10

-Seniors \$8

-Children under 15 Free

The SHOWGROUNDS people will have a food & drink venue operating .

For tables bookings & inquiries Phone- Debbie on 0746-370-536 or Dan on 0407-643-776.

Visit <http://www.cmmilitaryantiques.com/gallery.php?arid=5350>

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Long Tom butt tang marks

A recent study of Long Tom butt tang markings has raised a number of questions. If you have any information regarding this please let me know at: oilrag@xtra.co.nz

Q 1. Some Long Tom butt tangs are marked with an "S", it bears no relation to butt length and appears to have been stamped at a different time to the NZ Issue marks. It has been suggested that it stands for "Southern District" but we have seen no "N" or "C" for Northern and Central District.. So what does it mean, is it peculiar to NZ only rifles or was the "S" mark employed in Britain before their arrival in NZ?



Q 2 .It is fairly common knowledge that NZ Imported 15000 Long Toms from Canada in 1913/14 and these are marked C14, likewise a similar number were imported from England and these are marked E 13 or E 14 with a rack number in the range 1-15000. Earlier imports were marked with a rack number and the year of import. A number of butt tangs have been noted recently simply marked "14" but with rack numbers in the 20,000 plus-range.

It is postulated that the markings represent the following:



1901- rifles returned to NZ with troops returning from Boer war and with rack numbers additional batches from Imperial stores as Rack numbers exceed numbers who served in SA

03, 04 , 06 etc - the trickle of a few hundred at a time into NZ service as money and availability dictate total number exceeding 20,000 by 1904.

C14 - the 15,000 Canadian partly used purchase in 1914

E13 or E14 - the 10,000 UK purchase of refurbished arms that include and unknown quantity of MLM, the majority of the MLE going overseas never to return to NZ as they were exchanged for SMLEs

14 - the 5,000 NEW (old dated) from UK that the majority go overseas and never return.

Can anyone confirm the above theory and reason for the "14"?

Confessions of an Unrepentant Accumulator

One of my favourite on-line gun groups had a good discussion going on the nature of gun collecting, and the conversation turned to the difference between a "collector" and an "accumulator". There was 'talking about guns in less than pristine condition, and heartfelt sighs about the quality & common-ness of current production firearms.

I pretty much sat in the cyber-corner & let the big boys have at it. However, after some deep soul searching, I felt compelled to "come out of the closet" and publicly confess what many who know me personally have doubtless long suspected:

ME: "My name is Jim, and I'm an Accumulator".

YOU: "Hi, Jim".

I do remember that at various times in the course of my disorder, I have been the beneficiary of Wise Counsel from various Advanced Collectors. While the advice has varied a bit, the most universal Nuggets of Wisdom have probably been these:

1. The three most important things in collecting are Condition, Condition, & Condition.
2. Specialize.
3. Stay in the main recognized fields.
4. Always buy a book before you buy a gun.

There have been many variations on these (a recurring one being "I can't believe you BOUGHT that"), but these basic Rules have seemed to be fairly universal.

I have truly appreciated every bit of advice I have received, and have proceeded to consistently and usually happily ignore all of these (only the last to my regret, but I can't help it.).

As to the Condition rule, time and experience has mellowed my perspective a bit. I have finally come to appreciate the rarity & beauty of a gun that has survived decades in "as new" condition. I am willing to accept on faith that there may in fact be a difference between a 99.9% and a 99.8% gun (although personally I sometimes find the difference between 95% & 99% to be a bit subtle for my perceptive powers).

It's just that I can't bring myself to care a whole lot. Condition Fetishism just sort of seems to turn Gun Collecting into Stamp or Coin collecting. To me, the most interesting part of gun collecting is the history involved. The well used gun is the one that has the romance & the smell of history to it. A gun that's obviously lain in a box in a cupboard for 70 years is just, well... a bit boring to me.

That, plus it usually tends to cost more.
(Just another helpful tip from your ol Unca Jim).

Now as to the advice to Specialize -- I have no quarrel whatsoever with specialized collectors. However, it sometimes seems to me that specialization can be a bit restrictive when it comes to two of the important benefits of gun collecting -- sharing your appreciation of guns with others & a gun collection as an investment.

It has just always seemed to me that an unfocused accumulation of guns that someone bought just because he wanted them or thought they were cool will usually be more interesting than a specialized collection that appears to the non-specialist to be "30 individual examples of the exact same thing". This is especially true if the person you're sharing your collection with is not a fellow die-hard collector in the same or a closely related field of specialization.

Before discussing specialization & investment value, let us first say together:

"May a Pox of Pernicious Oxidation be visited upon the gun safe of anyone who collects guns only as an investment, for, yea, verily, they ruinith the hobby and driveth prices unto the heavens, all unknowing".

That said, one of the nice things about gun collecting is that it's a hobby where the money spent usually retains and increases in value over the years. It's a bit subjective, I know, but it seems to me that when the final tally is done, and your grandkids are anxious to sell off the guns so they can invest in entertainment-media quality recreational pharmaceuticals, a generalized accumulation of guns will sell better than a highly specialized collection that can tend to over-saturate the market for that particular make/model/subvariation/screwcount.

As to staying in the Main Fields of gun collecting, if we'd been consistently following that advice, we'd all be Colt, Winchester, & Kentucky collectors, wouldn't we? As specialized collections go, the ones that seem coolest to me are the ones where someone has focused on a field that has not been previously done to death; plus the fields that are not yet highly popular can be the ones where you build a significant specialized collection without first winning Who Want to Be a Millionaire. A couple of my all time favourite displays at gun shows have included an outstanding Iver Johnson collection a few years back, and recently a great J.C. Higgins display.

I'll wind down this particular rant with some specific confessions, indicative of the depths of my depravity:

- * The first handgun I owned was a Charter Undercover. I wish I still had it.
- * I read, and believe, newstand gun magazines. I seriously WANT whatever they're pushing this month.
- * I have in my personal never-for-sale collection, no-finish, modified, and re-finished guns.
- * I own, and cherish, guns I cannot even identify as to make & model.
- * My main incentive to become a full time dealer in guns was my tearful realization that I could not possibly obtain and keep one of everything. I figured this way, I'd get to at least have one of most for at least a little while.
- * For our first Christmas together as husband & wife, I gave Eve an RG-10 for a personal defense revolver. I still think it was a really neat gift. (I'm not sure how she felt, but we are still married). I still have an RG in my personal collection, and am proud of it.
- * Every gun I've ever bought is one that I've been glad to have (flip through a Dispatch to realize the true horror of that statement).

Anyway, I thought this slice of life from the trailer-trash, blue-light-special, dark basement corner of the gun-collecting world might be of interest, if only as a cautionary example of a diseased mind.

My mother had a saying: " ' Each to their own taste', said the milkmaid as she licked the cow."

I was never sure exactly what it meant, but it somehow seemed to apply here.

ANY gun collection is a Good Collection. -- Jim Supica

Central Branch Gun Show, Sunday 23 February 2014 at Otorohanga

Having enjoyed a leisurely trip down to Hawkes Bay for the Art Deco Festival in Napier, well worth attending if you enjoy the 1930s fashion, music and a fantastic parade of vintage cars, it was then a cross country dash to get to the Central Branch Gun Show in Otorohanga. This too was well worth the effort, as there was a good selection of trading tables and an impressive array of very professional displays, with a number of military vehicles parked outside. One section of the hall was devoted to commemorating WW I. When I arrived a bit after 0930 the hall was packed solid with customers, which I hope proved well for the traders. Here are a few of the displays:





FROM OUR READERS

Regarding 'pistol grips'

Police say in their advertising: "It means that any semi-automatic rifle or shotgun that has a 'pistol grip' will become a Military Style Semi-automatic firearm (MSSA)." This is in fact misleading - one wonders if it was designed this way? I can only hazard a guess that it may need to be clarified! This does not tell the whole story as one must return to the 'Pistol Grip' regulation to understand exactly what a 'pistol grip' and a 'free standing grip' actually are in law:

Arms (Military Style Semi-automatic Firearms—Pistol Grips) Order 2013

S4 Certain free-standing grips described as pistol grips for purposes of definition of military style semi-automatic firearm For the purposes of the definition of military style semi-automatic firearm in section 2 of the Arms Act 1983, a free-standing grip of a semi-automatic firearm (other than a pistol) is a pistol grip.

That defines 'pistol grip' in law. That is quite different from the non-legal assumption and understanding of a pistol grip. Note that it is only "Certain free-standing grips" and NOT ALL free-standing grips which presupposes that there are 'free-standing grips' that are NOT 'pistol grips' ...

S3(1) grip, in relation to a firearm, means a component of the firearm that (whether or not it is also designed to serve some other purpose or purposes) is designed to be gripped by the trigger hand of a person while the person is firing the firearm.

That defines 'grip' in law

S3(1) free-standing grip, in relation to a firearm, means a grip that,—

(a) is designed to be gripped by the whole or most of the trigger hand of a person firing the firearm; and

(b) is (if any trigger guard is disregarded) structurally connected to the firearm at only one point; and

(c) when deployed, protrudes from the firearm in a direction that is closer to being perpendicular to the barrel than to being parallel to it; and

(d) is neither—

(i) a thumb-hole stock; nor

(ii) a stock of the type commonly described as a Dragunov stock or Dragunov-style stock

That defines 'free-standing grip' in law.

Consequently to be a 'pistol grip' which is an MSSA defining feature the 'grip' must be 'free-standing' in all four defining clauses: [they are ALL connected with the 'and' at the end of each clause]

(a) is designed to be gripped by the whole or most of the trigger hand of a person firing the firearm; and

The question here if the trigger finger is deployed to work the trigger - not grip the grip and many precision shooters do not grip the grip at all simply resting the knuckles against the side of the grip to prevent canting and over firm grip influencing accuracy - so the question of what the grip is designed for is simply left open and undefined.

(b) is (if any trigger guard is disregarded) structurally connected to the firearm at only one point; and

Simple - if a second mounting screw is added to any 'grip' it is no longer "structurally connected to the firearm at only one point".

Indeed the much maligned connecting strip is also a second point of 'structural connection' if substantial enough and blended in to the 'grip' and stock at either end - it can be argued that the construction is no longer free-standing and thus not a 'pistol grip' in law.

(c) when deployed, protrudes from the firearm in a direction that is closer to being perpendicular to the barrel than to being parallel to it; and

"When deployed"?? Are they guarding against folding grips? Already it has been reported that the Monsterman Grip is regarded as 'unsafe' - what about a grip which is a exactly 45 degrees - neither closer to being perpendicular nor parallel! Laughable.

(d) is neither—

(i) a thumb-hole stock; nor

(ii) a stock of the type commonly described as a Dragunov stock or Dragunov-style stock

Neither of these are defined in law - who 'commonly' describes these items? What is a 'thumb-hole stock' and what defines a 'Dragunov-style stock'? The hilarious contradiction and irony here is that the original 'Dragunov stock' was fitted to a REAL Com-Block semi-automatic MILITARY semi-automatic sniper rifle ... with a ten round magazine ... in itself fitting the description of MSSA in law ... due to the magazine capacity alone ... Gwarfs out loud!

So for a 'pistol grip' to be a defining feature of an MSSA it must conform to ALL four clauses or else it is not the legal fiction of a 'pistol grip' which is a 'feature' of an MSSA.

Drill - Tap - 2nd screw - now attached at two points - no longer 'free-standing' => no longer a 'pistol grip' ... in law. [thanks to our gun friendly MP for pointing that out!]

The thoughts of an 'ordinary man' when reading the Order in (not so) plain English! Clarification - anyone?

Regards,
Jim Henry
Canty Branch

BOOK REVIEW by Maurice Taylor

An Introduction to East India Company Firearms C 1775 to 1851. By D. F. Harding. Foresight Books

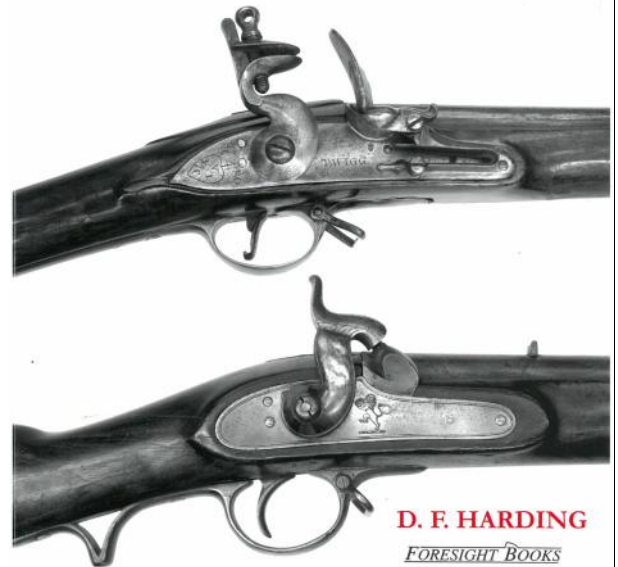
This being a more limited study of the East India Company's Small arms likely to be encountered today by collectors . With recent findings of types not encountered in his first 4 Volume works put out in 1997 –99 and now hard to find . Each Arm is given in detail with dimensions along with a history of its origin and users. Numbers produced and by who plus any conversions or up date given. So that the student can readily identified pieces that he may encounter. What proofs were used, service charges and campaigns used in and by what troops. Pretty well all you ever wanted to know. All encompassed in its 257 photo quality pages with excellent photo and line drawing illustrations. Having read it throughout I don't think any serious collector of this subject could do without it.

Though essentially a private trading concern .The East India Company held vast sway through India and the far East and had it own troops in numbers approaching the British Crown Forces and who in many cases supplied the Ordnance Dept. with arms. Its well known "India Pattern" Musket being the main stay of British and many allied forces. Some three million of this pattern alone being produced making it the most common British musket likely to be found and the pattern most commonly traded and used by settlers and Maori alike in both Land and Sea service patterns .

Visit <http://www.foresightbooks.com/> for more information.

An Introduction to EAST INDIA COMPANY SMALLARMS

c1775-1851



D. F. HARDING
FORESIGHT BOOKS

An Introduction to East India Company Smallarms c1775-1851

CAVALRY PISTOL WITH LOOSE IRON RAMMER, 1808-11

MAIN MILITARY FEATURES: 9in smoothbore barrel of carbine bore, flintlock ignition, loose iron rammer.

CHIEF IDENTIFYING FEATURES: 9in undated barrel of carbine bore; flat lock dated 1808 to 1811, with border-line engraving; double tailpipe with spring; loose iron rammer.

Calibre: Carbine bore (nominally 17-bore or about .66in; examples measured are about .65in).

Barrel: Nominally 9in long (some examples are 9.1in); undated; squared tang; baluster turns at breech; held in stock by two pins.

Locks: 5.4in by .95in; flat plate dated 1808 to 1811, with bevelled edges; flat ring-neck cock; border-line engraving; faceted feather-spring with spear-point flintal. (See p.205 for further photos.)

Trigger: Broad, flatish blade not recurved at tip; hung 'in the wood'.

Furniture: Brass, four items. 1) Short-eared buttcap

with simple one-step moulding; 2) flat sideplate of crooked 'S' shape; 3) trigger guard with teat-shaped flintal, open cut at rear of bow, tang held by one screw; 4) double tailpipe with three collars, with leaf spring inside. No trigger plate or forend cap.

Rib or belt-hook: None.

Stock: Fullstocked. Aprons: around breech tang; teardrops to rear of lock and sideplate flat.

Rammer: Loose iron or steel (i.e., not swivel type).

Lanyard ring: None.

Overall length: 16in.

Weight: About 2lb 12oz (from specimen).

Numbers made: At least 5,460 pairs sent to India, plus 2,200 pairs sold to the Board of Ordnance.

Note: The use of italic type indicates design features that differ from the previous pattern, the "Short" Cavalry Pistol, 1778 to c1803-07.

This pistol's distinctive 'double' rammer pipe incorporates a spring to retain the new iron ramrod, because there was a greater chance of the new heavy iron rod slipping out and being lost than with the old light wooden one, especially under the effect of recoil. This double pipe was used on the Ordnance's modified 1796 Pattern Cavalry Pistol (as originally made in 1796 it had no provision for a rod), and may have been copied from that pattern by the East India Company; but as there is doubt as to just when the 1796 Pattern Pistol was modified, one cannot be certain who was copying whom. The same pipe appears also on the Ordnance Short Sea Service Pistol, but this was a post-1815 design and thus cannot have been the source of the idea.

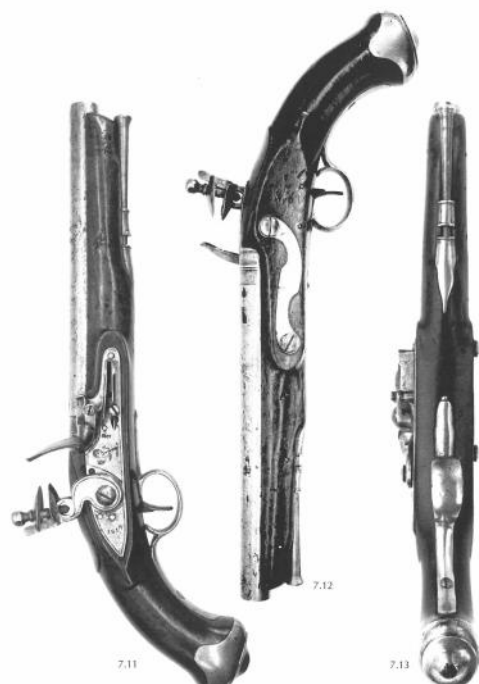
Other changes are purely stylistic, such as the border-line engraving on the lockplate and cock (in line with the Company's smallarms in general) and the teat-shaped trigger guard flintal.

Many pistols of this pattern dated between 1808 and 1811 were sold to the Board of Ordnance, and indeed most specimens that are found on the collectors' market today are ones sold off from the Tower of London in the 1960s, and typically show traces of characteristic black preservative paint. Exact Board of Ordnance copies of this pistol can be found, with full Ordnance ownership and inspection marks. With the London gunmakers already making the pattern for the East India Company, and with so many already bought from the Company, it clearly made sense for the Ordnance to adopt the pattern, just as they had copied the Company's musket and fusil.

Examples are seen with their original lock dated 1808, 1809, 1810 and 1811. If the lock is dated after 1811, this results from locks being swapped from the next pattern of Cavalry Pistol or from the contemporary Sea Service Pistol, both of which used the same pattern of lock.

Users: • Bengal, Madras and Bombay regular Native cavalry. • Probably some Bengal, Madras and Bombay artillery. • Probably some Royal Service cavalry regiments in India.

Chapter 7: Pistols



MORE READERS LETTERS:

Time to Encourage - members reply

Re: Letter to the editor, "Time to encourage" NZAHAA E Gazette February 2014

I agree with the sentiment of the writer and the ideology he proposes, I think that it is equally important to recognise that there are some individuals who are absolute "naturals" for the role that they have been elected to. If there were to be a change it would be in everyone's interest to have some degree of flexibility, if possible, to accommodate such individuals. This could take the form of a vote where a majority of say 90% was achieved. This would ensure that the interests of the majority of club members were preserved and not obstructed by bureaucracy. In the case of a president, another option may be to follow the structure that exists in some organisations and that would be to have an "Immediate Past President" for a year after their service. I am in total agreement with Grant when he discusses the apathy that can infiltrate organisations such as ours and it is critical that we foster an environment that creates maximum impetus for the initiation of fresh thinking and new ideas constantly. This is certainly a subject that warrants active debate at a club meeting.

Yours sincerely
John Dahlin

I read with interest this "request to replace tired old committee members", whilst it is true that so called 'new blood brings new input '. Well here's the problem! Nobody wants to step up to the task! True there are members on committees that have been there for years at Branch level and National level, but they are there for one reason: no one wants to or is willing to have a go at committee work. As for the Management Committee the branch rep is on the committee so it is at branch level that one must put themselves up for the job. Not too sure about the 3yr limit to hold the position on the committee though, what happens if nobody puts their name forward! It does require the person to be available to travel away from home, leave from work, away from family, to work on behalf of their fellow members, even when not actually sitting on the committee, so yes there is a certain amount of work evolved, but none the less those on the committees would not put their names forward if they didn't like doing what they are doing. So I'll finish by saying if you think your committee is looking a bit tired and has the same old faces on it year in and year out then put your name forward, lets not let apathy take control!

Robin Back

Winchester Model 25

Dear sir,

There is misguided information among collectors on the following firearm:

Winchester Model 25, a cheap alternative to the Model 12, which was NOT a US Government procurement. The Model 25 Military Riot Gun is a enigmatic weapon that is almost never mentioned today when discussing combat shotguns.

Kevin N Naylor,
Hastings

Kevin supplied an extract from "Combat Shotguns" by Bruce N Canfield, that tells us that the M 25 was manufactured between 1949 and 1954 with just under 80,000 guns produced but none procured by the US Military. A large batch of M 25 Riot Guns were supplied to South Vietnam but very few appear to have been used in combat. Ed.

MYSTERY OBJECT (below right), answer please to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

John Osborne was first with the correct answer for last month (below left) it is the rear sight elevation wheel for a Mk I Bren gun.. He was quickly followed by about 10 others with the correct answer.



FROM THE WWW (ctrl+click to follow the link or copy and paste to your browser)

New Website for Ruapekapeka Pa Battle site at <http://www.ruapekapeka.co.nz/>

From Margaret Brown, U Boat History at www.sharkhunters.com

The World's ONLY International Source of U-Boat History

From Barry Iacoppi, Lions and donkeys: 10 big myths about World War One debunked

At <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-25776836>

From Tony Bruce, WW1 - How did so many soldiers survive the trenches?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3kgjxs>

From Neville Dodd ,Gun flight: Smith & Wesson, Ruger quit California over stamping requirement

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/01/24/smith-wesson-to-stop-selling-some-pistols-in-california-due-to-gun-law/>

Chance of a life time

Here's a great opportunity to promote Antique Arms & Collecting in NZ. We all know someone who has some fantastic items that could be submitted for this show & to do a combined effort as a national organisation would benefit the association as a whole.

Take a look & lets get some feedback.

<http://www.historychannel.com.au/callouts/1/tony-robinsons-tour-of-duty-call-out>

Cheers

Mike Harris

Canterbury Branch

UP COMING EVENTS - If you have dates for events in 2014 please advise oilyrag@xtra.co.nz
2014

8 March	Canterbury Branch Swapmeet, Riccarton
6 April	South Canterbury Branch Auction/Swap Day, Timaru
12 April	Hawkes Bay Branch Auction & NZAHAA AGM, Napier
12 April	Kumeu Militaria Show, Kumeu
3 & 4 May	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington
21 June	Whangarei Hunting Shooting & Fishing Show
6 July	Auckland Branch Gun Show, Mt Eden
12 & 13 July	Wellington Branch Auction, Kilbirnie
26 July	Mainland Arms & Militaria Show, Christchurch
16 & 17 August	Tauranga Arms & Militari Show
13 September	Canterbury Branch Swapmeet, Riccarton
25 & 26 October	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington
1 & 2 November	Taranaki Branch Gun Show.

GUNS WHERE ARE THEY ? *Send me a photo and details of your local guns*



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***FOR SALE OR TRADE:** Handguns, contact Graham Brimble at grahambrimble@xtra.co.nz
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1 = Mod 66 Unique complete with Holster.cal-7.65 \$450.00

2 = Beretta Mod 1915/1919 complete with Holster. Cal 7.65 . \$650.00

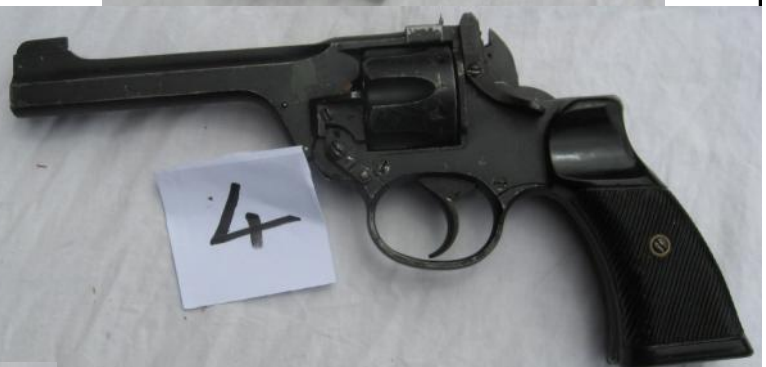
3 = Webley No5.Marked Alcock and Pearce .Melbourne. cal 38. \$550.00 **SOLD**

4 = Enfield Tanker model. Made by RSAF Enfield. With Holster.cal 38. \$ 495.00

5 = Remington conversion New Model Police. cal 36? \$1500.00 **SOLD**

6 = Francotte break top revolver, imported and retailed by C W Andrews, a known London maker. \$395.00

7 = H&R mod 1906.Fully functional .cal.22 \$295.00



***WANTED:** for restoration, mount as pictured or parts, ANY condition considered

Andrew 06 2789097 mg34nz@gmail.com



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Tel: 094117779 or 0274759246

- # 1 =mod 64-5 in 38special. \$1650.00 **sold**
- #2 =mod 15 in 38 special \$1250.00
- #3 =Colt Cobra(2") in 38 special . \$1500.00
- #4 =mod 19-4 in S&W 357. \$1500.00
- #5 =mod 33 in 38 S&W. \$1250.00
- #6 = mod 19-4 in S&W 357 \$1500.00
- #7 =Colt Police Positive Special in 38special \$1250.00
- #8 =mod 10 in 38special. \$1250.00



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