



# E - GAZETTE MK II

**New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 55 August 2015**

## EDITORIAL

I mentioned last month that the last remaining Fullbore Range in Taranaki had been closed. It is therefore pleasing to report that initiated by the New Plymouth branch of NZDA there is now a project getting under way to establish a Shooting Sports Hub on Council land in New Plymouth. The inaugural meeting was held in mid July and was well supported by local clubs and other organisations including COLFO and SSANZ. Our own NZAHAA Vice President and COLFO Rep Andrew Edgcombe has been elected onto the project committee.

Sadly it is not all good news. Decisions taken by the Board and Executive of the Mountain Safety Council last month have put the whole of the New Zealand Firearm Safety Training Programme in jeopardy. Having reorganised the MSC to such an extent that all the outdoor activity instructors were let go and their local branches closed down they have now, despite messages to the contrary, turned their attention on the Firearm Programme. The jobs of the Firearm Programme Manager and Firearm Training Coordinator have been disestablished and the incumbents given notice, the job description for the new position of Hunter Advisor makes no call for any previous hunting or firearm experience or indeed even a Firearm Licence. Many firearms instructors are so disgusted at this latest turn of events that they have threatened to resign and are urging the Commissioner of Police to appoint a new organisation to administer the Firearms Programme.

You can read about both of these and other firearm matters on the new SSANZ Blog at:

<http://sportingshooters.blogspot.co.nz/>

My thanks to all of you who have contributed to this issue and provided feedback on the printed Gazette.

Best wishes,  
Phil



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**NZ Arms Register**

**[www.armsregister.com](http://www.armsregister.com)**

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

# FROM THE GUN ROOM by Andrew Edgcombe

## THE MIGHTY MKVI

The Mk VI Webley Revolver would be the most recognized British and Commonwealth Military sidearm of all time. For years they were available in New Zealand with no licence required due to chambering the .455 cartridge which at the time was classed as an obsolete calibre before arms amendments dictated they required registration. They were abundant and cheap and made an ideal starter for collectors. Times have changed and the MkVI has become rather a desirable collector's item. Introduced officially into British service on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 1915 and being a standard sidearm for officers, machine gun crews, trench raiding parties, crewmen in the newly introduced tanks and airmen in their flying machines they saw extensive use during the First World War. These proved to be hardy and reliable in the adverse conditions of the trenches; they are well made and function beautifully. The Mk VI is still relatively easy to find without breaking the bank but look for one in the good condition as many have suffered from hard years of service and neglect. The Webley revolver's .455 round fires its 265 grain projectile at around 650 feet per second which gave the revolver gentle recoil and good stopping ability. Effective range is quoted as being 50 yards and the Mk VI's 6 inch barrel gave the revolver a reasonable degree of accuracy. The most common round in use during the First World War was the MII round (pictured) which used cordite propellant.



One of the more interesting accessories for the Mk VI Webley is the shoulder stock and bayonet, the Webley Pritchard Bayonet was made by W W Greener and was available for private purchase. Very few were made.

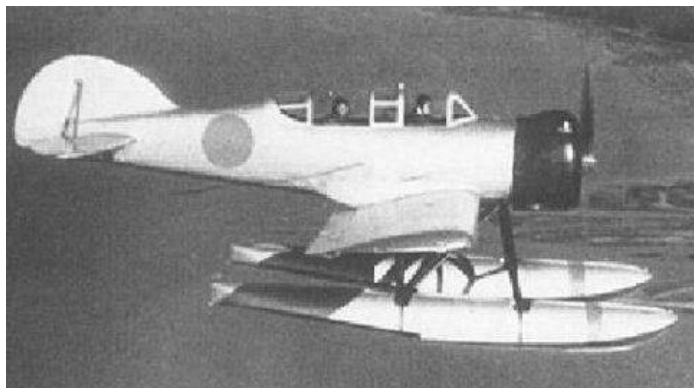
The Mk VI Webley pictured here was manufactured in 1917 and bears sold out of service stamps indicating that it was sold off as military surplus at the end of its service life.



# The Day Japan Bombed Brookings, Oregon, USA

*By: Norm Goyer, Brookings, Oregon.*

On 9 September 1942, the I-25 class Japanese submarine was cruising in an easterly direction raising its periscope occasionally as it neared the United States Coastline. Japan had attacked Pearl Harbour less than a year ago and the Captain of the attack submarine knew that Americans were watching their coast line for ships and aircraft that might attack our country. Dawn was approaching; the first rays of the sun were flickering off the periscopes lens. Their mission; attack the west coast with incendiary bombs in hopes of starting a devastating forest fire. If this test run was successful, Japan had hopes of using their huge submarine fleet to attack the eastern end of the Panama Canal to slow down shipping from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Japanese Navy had a large number of I-400 submarines under construction. Each capable of carrying three aircraft. Pilot Chief Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita and his crewman Petty Officer Shoji Okuda were making last minute checks of their charts making sure they matched those of the submarine's navigator.



*Left image: The only plane ever to drop a bomb on the United States during WW-II was this submarine based Glen, it carried two incendiary 168 pound bombs and a crew of two. Right image: The "Glen" was launched via catapult from a I-25 class Japanese submarine.*

On 9 September 1942, Nebraska forestry student Keith V. Johnson was on duty atop a forest fire lookout tower between Gold's Beach and Brookings Oregon. Keith had memorized the silhouettes of Japanese long distance bombers and those of our own aircraft. He felt confident that he could spot and identify, friend or foe, almost immediately. It was cold on the coast this September morning, and quiet. The residents of the area were still in bed or preparing to head for work. Lumber was a large part of the industry in Brookings, just a few miles north of the California Oregon state line.

Aboard the submarine the Captain's voice boomed over the PA system, "Prepare to surface, aircrew report to your stations, wait for the open hatch signal" During training runs several subs were lost when hangar doors were opened too soon and sea water rushed into the hangars and sank the boat with all hands lost. You could hear the change of sound as the bow of the I-25 broke from the depths, nosed over for its run on the surface. A loud bell signaled the "All Clear." The crew assigned to the single engine Yokosuka E14Y's float equipped observation and light attack aircraft sprang into action. They rolled the plane out of its hangar built next to the conning tower. The wings and tail were unfolded, and two 168 pound incendiary bombs were attached to the hard points under the wings. This was a small two passenger float plane with a nine cylinder 340 hp radial engine. It was full daylight when the Captain ordered the aircraft to be placed on the catapult. Warrant Officer Fujita started the engine, let it warm up, checked the magnetos and oil pressure. There was a slight breeze blowing and the seas were calm. A perfect day to attack the United States of America. When the gauges were in the green the pilot signalled and the catapult launched the aircraft. After a short climb to altitude the pilot turned on a heading for the Oregon coast.



*Right image; Warrant Officer Fujita is shown with his Yokosuka E14Y (Glen) float plane prior to his flight.*

Johnson was sweeping the horizon but could see nothing, he went back to his duties as a forestry agent which was searching for any signs of a forest fire, the morning moved on. Every few minutes he would scan low, medium and high but nothing caught his eye.



The small Japanese float plane had climbed to several thousand feet of altitude for better visibility and to get above the coastal fog. The pilot had calculated land fall in a few minutes and right on schedule he could see the breakers flashing white as they hit the Oregon shores.

Johnson was about to put his binoculars down when something flashed in the sun just above the fog bank. It was unusual because in the past all air traffic had been flying up and down the coast, not aiming into the coast.

The pilot of the aircraft checked his course and alerted his observer to be on the lookout for a fire tower which was on the edge of the wooded area where they were supposed to drop their bombs. These airplanes carried very little fuel and all flights were in and out without any loitering. The plane reached the shore line and the pilot made a course correction 20 degrees to the north. The huge trees were easy to spot and certainly easy to hit with the bombs. The fog was very wispy by this time.

Johnson watched in awe as the small floatplane with a red meat ball on the wings flew overhead, the plane was not a bomber and there was no way that it could have flown across the Pacific, Johnson could not understand what was happening. He locked onto the plane and followed it as it headed inland.

The pilot activated the release locks so that when over the target the bombs would release. His instructions were simple, fly at 500 feet, drop the bombs into the trees and circle once to see if they had started any fires and then head back to the submarine.

Johnson could see the two bombs under the wing of the plane and knew that they would be dropped. He grabbed his communications radio and called the Forest Fire Headquarters informing them of what he was watching unfold.

The bombs tumbled from the small seaplane and impacted the forests, the pilot circled once and spotted fire around the impact point. He executed a 180 degree turn and headed back to the submarine. There was no air activity, the skies were clear. The small float plane lined up with the surfaced submarine and landed gently on the ocean, then taxied to the sub. A long boom swung out from the stern. His crewman caught the cable and hooked it into the pickup attached to the roll over cage between the cockpits. The plane was swung onto the deck. The plane's crew folded the wings and tail, pushed it into its hangar and secured the water tight doors. The I-25 submerged and headed back to Japan.

This event, which caused no damage, marked the only time during World War II that an enemy plane had dropped bombs on the United States mainland. What the Japanese didn't count on was coastal fog, mist and heavy doses of rain made the forests so wet they simply would not catch fire.



*This Memorial Plaque is located in Brookings, Oregon at the site of the 1942 bombing.*

Fifty years later the Japanese pilot, who survived the war, would return to Oregon to help dedicate a historical plaque at the exact spot where his two bombs had impacted. The elderly pilot then donated his ceremonial sword as a gesture of peace and closure of the bombing of Oregon in 1942.

Courtesy Barrie Crabbe

# Has anyone ever seen one of these officially shortened SLR Bayonets?

Research by Phil Moore

207-1-89  
NZ W162/Misc 2  
Issue 1 Feb 77 EPS

EME  
Instruction

BLADE BAYONET (NSN 1005-99-960-0072)

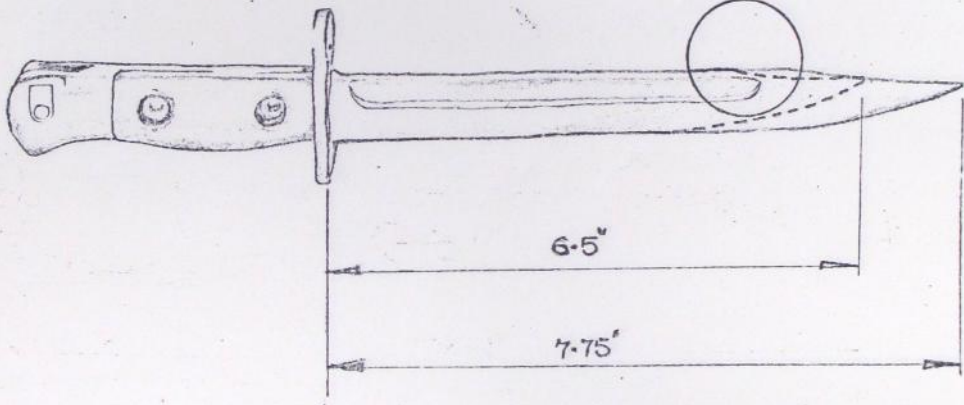
Reference: A. HC 52/2/52/EME dated 8 Feb 77.

General

1. Investigation has proved that the majority of new bayonets do not comply to the specified length, 7.75 inches, stated in EMEI Wpns D254-4 Issue I. To overcome the discrepancy in the length, when the tips of bayonets have been broken a new minimum length has been established when reshaping is necessary.

Action

2. When bayonets have lost their tips and reshaping is necessary, the minimum acceptable length is 6.5 inches; the decision to reshape is also determined by the profile, which should retain the same taper and proportions of the original item with the tapered portion completely clear of the fluted section.



207/1/89

16/2/77  
fap

for (I.W. BLACK)  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineering

Distribution:

As per NZ W162 Issue 1 Oct 76.

Now please check your SLR Bayonets and report. Mine are all full length. Ed

# The first of a series of short articles on Small Arms in the NZ Defence Force.

Researched and written by Phil Moore

## No 4 Disposal

In February 1959 AGS (Army General Staff) Published its rifle policy and future minimum holdings.

<u>Rifles:</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>Forecast Holdings 1964</u>
<b>No 4 Rifle</b>	36,500	25,000
<b>FN (SLR L1A1)</b>	Nil	15,000
<b>No1 Rifle (SMLE) DP</b>	17,000	17,000
<b>Rifle EY (Grenade Launching)</b>	546	546
<b>No1 Rifle (SMLE Serviceable for EY reserve)</b>		176 176

*Italics Authors Notes*

These figure remained static until 1962 by which time the No4 holdings had dropped to 33,000. 28,000 by 1963 and 25,000 by 1964. It would appear that some of these No4's , EMPS (Equipment Maintenance Policy Statement ) 68/63 dated 18 Feb 63 , some 1127 had been converted to DP of these in stock and more to be converted as unserviceable rifles come to hand.

As at 27 May 1959 there were 10,000 No4 rifles in stock at MOD, Trentham. 5,700 new "Savage" rifles packed in manufacturer cardboard boxes and packed 10 to a 3 ply hardboard crates. *(They were still there in 1972 when I worked in the Armoury in Trentham.)* The remaining 4,300 in NZ Army chests, marked as "serviceable" and mobilisation stock.

On the 15 November 1963 the GSB (*Government Stores Board*) issued an Invitation to Tender No. 8689 for the following:

Rifles, No1, .303 EY Qty. 393

Dischargers Grenade for EY Rifle Qty. 604

No further information is on file as to who won the successful tender.

On the 16 November 1967, the Army Disposals Office (ADO 2445) declared 11,970 No4 rifles, along with No2 .22 and .303 EY rifles for tender. All No4 rifles were to be US (Savage) and Canada (Longbranch) Rifles. On the 5th December 1967, Tender no AT7870 was accepted from Century Arms Inc, USA, for the following rifles and stores from NZ surplus stocks:

**Rifles No4 Mk1/1 .303 "Longbranch" Brand.** (Fig 1) Packed in cases **11,940** (Note1)

Price paid for rifles \$7.89 (NZ) each

Price paid for cases \$3.11 (NZ) each *(I have no record as to what quantity in which they were packed but it was probably 10)*

Instructions to Ordinance depots were that no "Savage" brand rifles were to be supplied as these were "Lend/Lease" stores and could not be sold to the US. (Note2) and these rifles were to be separated out when packing for shipment .

The remaining rifles were sold to:

HJ Hughes, Wanganui, Qty 20 No 4 Mk1/1 (Savage) at \$11.00 each plus Qty. 2, No2 Mk4/1 .22 rifles at \$16.00 each.

Wanganui Rifle Club, Qty 10 No 4 Mk1/1 (Savage) at \$9.00 each.



Fig 1

Wiki common

**Carbines .303 MLE** (Fig 2) packed in cases. **180** (Note 3)

Price paid for rifles \$4.02(NZ) each



Fig 2



**Rifles No2 Mk4/1 .22** (Fig 3-6) packed in cases. **2554** (Note 4)

Price paid for rifles \$4.02(NZ) each



Also in this sale was a quantity of parts No1 MkIII .303 rifle with a sale price of \$1363.64 (NZ) from 1 INF Bde, LAD in Papakura. As I do not have the original tender documents for this sale I do not know what was in the consignment, only to say it must have been a considerable quantity of stores for the price paid. A payment from Century Arms, USA, for NZ76,592.30 was received on the 29th December 1967 and paid into the Public Account.

Note 1: The nomenclature, No4 Mk1/1 is not to be confused with the same nomenclature used by the British to identify converted “hung trigger” no 4’s. It was used in New Zealand because early “Hollerith” computing at the time was unable to recognise the “\*” designation. In this case it also applies to the NO2 MkIV\* also sold in this shipment.

Note 2: In fact the “Savage” brand rifles were not Lend/Lease. They were New Zealand Government property purchased through the Reciprocal Payments Program during the war. This programme was warlike stores in lieu of cash payments for goods and services supplied to the US forces in the pacific during the WWII. This error by the Army General staff was common during the 60’s when this equipment was coming up for disposal. In fact there was considerable confusion in the AGS over the issue.

Note 3: These were the rifles, LEC I, which we commonly refer to as the “New Zealand” carbine, This sale would appear to have been the last sale of these rifles in stock.

Note 4: It is interesting to note that only 2000 of these rifles were ever purchased. 1500 were made in New Zealand by purchasing barrels and bolt heads from the UK and 500 were MkIV’s purchased from BSA. From this figure I can only surmise that all pre war .22 rifles held at the time and declared obsolete were bundled into this figure, which would explain where the Pattern 14 and other SMLE .22 conversions went.

Because the files are not complete, either destroyed or as in some cases miss filed, I am unable to guarantee the total accuracy of this information. However, the dates quoted and numbers quoted are beyond doubt.

*Acknowledgements:*     *Source - NZ Archives,*  
                                  *Images - Phil Moore unless indicate otherwise*

## Hawkes Bay Gun Show Images from Robin Back



John Ayto (left) and Carl Hirt (right) winners of the Best of Show display, Soldiers dugout-Gallipoli.  
See June e-gazette for full size Photo.



Prize winners: from left above.  
Displays clockwise from top left below:

Norm Lamont, Best Arms & Militaria HB display.  
Robin Back, Best Non- Firearm display-history of ammunition.  
Con Eagon, Best out of town display- early Colt pistols.  
Mac McLean, Best overall display-one mans rifle. (its hard to see but the rifle is under the display of Webley/ Tranter handguns).





## AUCKLAND BRANCH GUN SHOW

The hall was packed with visitors seeking a bargain on Sunday morning 5 July. With the centre of the hall full of trading tables and an array of excellent displays around the outside. Another great social event on the NZAHAA Calendar.

Prize winners for best displays were:

Best Pre 1900 Display ...	Tony Stones-Havas (A Good Day Out)
Best Post 1900 Display ...	Carl Phillips (British Blades, Barrels and Bombs)
Best First Time Display ...	Pauline and Harold Kidd (Rosalie's War)
Best Single Item Display ...	Trevor Marshall (Life and Death of a Gun)
Best in Show (1 <sup>st</sup> equal) ...	Murray Farrell (German ID Tags)
Best in Show (1 <sup>st</sup> equal) ...	Ricky Gerrard (Vickers Machine Gun)

*Regrettably I have had to cut the excellent images that Kevin Hussey sent to me in order to reduce the file size so that my poor old computer can convert this to a pdf file for e-mailing to you. It did not have enough memory to cope with the size of the images which ran to about 100Mbits. Ed*

*I will try to sort something out for next month . Ed.*

**Can you identify this revolver?**



## COLFO UPDATE

22nd June 2015

P O Box 24020  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
[info@colfo.org.nz](mailto:info@colfo.org.nz)



Dear Members

Moving on from the 2014 COLFO AGM, COLFO has had a positive year. Firstly I managed to attend the NZDA AGM in Nelson and speak to the delegates about COLFO activities and what was happening on the world stage in respect of firearm issues. The delegates agreed to raise the amount that NZDA contribute to COLFO for the coming year. The biggest highlight being the signing here in NZ during Waitangi weekend this year of a memorandum of Understanding between Sporting Shooting of Australia Inc. and COLFO. The main points are listed below.

- To promote safe, responsible Private firearms ownership and use.
- To promote the shooting sports in all their forms including Trans-Tasman shooting competitions.
- To exchange information and ideas.
- To foster a better understanding between responsible firearm owners and the wider community.
- To promote, support or oppose any legislation or any other measures likely to affect responsible private firearms ownership and shooting sports.

The problems that legitimate firearm owners face are worldwide, and need to be opposed on the same basis. This is a very positive step in that direction.

As chairman of COLFO I attended WFSA meetings in Nuremburg, in conjunction with my yearly visit to IWA. I have done this for a number of years, and saved COLFO needless expense on airfares and other expenses. One of the very positive outcomes of my attendance this year is that it looks very likely that WFSA will hold their annual world meeting here in New Zealand in 2016. This will be confirmed or otherwise at this year's annual meeting which will be in Sweden this year. Last year's annual meeting was in America.

I have also been the COLFO representative at the NZ Police Firearms Community Advisory Forum meetings held here in Wellington. This gives the various firearms groups in NZ the chance to engage directly with senior police officials on relevant firearm issues. Several meetings have being held in the last year.

At our recent 2015 AGM, two women were voted on to the COLFO executive. Nicole McKee, and Rachael Dean, I am sure both of them have a lot to offer in making COLFO a more effective organisation. COLFO also voted to upgrade its membership of WFSA from associate to full.

By regular phone calls, Geoff Jones, the current president of SSAA, and myself make sure we keep each other totally up to date on relevant firearm issues arising in either country.

I have also been contacted during the last year, by the national media on various firearm issues that have arisen here, and have managed to convince the media that New Zealand has very effective firearm laws, by world standards. That they actually work very well overall, and further restrictions on law abiding firearm owners will achieve little if anything, and may in fact be counterproductive.

Yours  
Paul L Clark  
Chair

***COLFO now on Facebook***



# CAN YOU HELP ?

Share your knowledge before it is lost.

Questions and Answers to [oilyrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilyrag@xtra.co.nz) please.

**What does the letter S mean?** I have noticed a large Letter S on the following usually on the Knox form:

Snider Artillery Carbine 1878 NZ Issued

Snider Yeomanry carbine 1880 NZ issued 1880

Martini Henry Mk III dated 1893 made by HRB Co but no NZ issue marks

Martini Henry Mk IV Enfield 1886 no NZ issue marks

Martini Henry Bayonet Pat 1887



Some say it is for South Island but why have we not seen any marked N for North Island? Could it be S for School Cadet Corps? Certainly not S for short butt, because the butts are not short. Or S for Sold out of service before the ><?

## Last Month

**Can you advise the country of origin for this Crown over PR on the lock plate of what appears to be an English C1810 Brown Bess.**

**Mike Carrick suggested:** Dom Pedro II (English: Peter II; 2 December 1825 – 5 December 1891), nicknamed "the Magnanimous",<sup>[1]</sup> was the second and last ruler of the Empire of Brazil, reigning for over 58 years.<sup>[A]</sup> Born in Rio de Janeiro, he was the seventh child of Emperor Dom Pedro I of Brazil and Empress Dona Maria Leopoldina and thus a member of the Brazilian branch of the House of Braganza. His father's abrupt abdication and flight to Europe in 1831 left a five-year-old Pedro II as Emperor and led to a grim and lonely childhood and adolescence. I have seen a gun of this period from Brazil, and it was marked with a crown over II for Pedro II. Maybe it is one of the Pedro kings of Portugal?



**From Phil Moore:** I have seen a Baker rifle with this same crown & below it is marked PI instead of PR but in the exact same style & font etc - it was reputed to be Brazilian representing Peter I (Dom Pedro), second quarter of 19th century, he abdicated & his son Peter II (Dom Pedro II) took over for much of the rest of the century 1831 - 1889. So this would be a good research starting point.

Possibly Brazilian from the reign of Pedro I.

I have seen various brown besses marked with a crown over PII for Pedro the second.

I think the PR vs. PI may be Pedro Rex (as king of Portugal) vs. Pedro Imperator (as emperor of Brazil). He briefly held both titles.

**From Laurie Staig:** The Brown Bes you illustrate appears to carry the royal cypher of the Portuguese monarch. During the Peninsular Wars, Britain supplied many of her allies, particularly Portugal, with weapons. I have owned a Baker rifle which carried the same royal cypher.

During the course of the war, the Portuguese royal family was evacuated to their colony Brazil. and many of these English weapons are to be found there.

**Grant Soich thought:** Portugal

**Finally from Noel Taylor:** In the same e-Gazette you ran my short Waterloo Medal info. On the obverse of the medal is the coinage head of the Prince Regent NOT the monarch George III as he was suffering from mental illness hence the appointment of the Prince Regent.

So to your query I'd like to suggest that the Crown over PR stands for Prince Regent who served from 1811 – 1820 and you noted the weapon is c1810 which would fit around these dates.

For later firearms like the MLE/SMLE we have the monarchs crown and cipher like VR, ER & GR so why not PR?

## COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU

The National Army Museum with a grant from Lotteries has been developing a new World War One travelling exhibition, ***Heartlanders: New Zealanders of the Great War***.

The exhibition will travel to over 23 destinations around the country to commemorate the centenary of the Great War starting with the North Island tour in October and November this year. It has been developed in three large shipping containers and aims to bring the stories of our brave soldiers who fought in World War One back home to the communities where their journey began.

Destination	Date of exhibition	Location
Palmerston North	Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October 2015	The Square
New Plymouth	Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th October 2015	Tasman Prospect
Cambridge	Friday 16th October 2015	Town Hall
Whangarei	Sunday 18th & Monday 19th October 2015	To be confirmed
Auckland	Wednesday 21st October 2015	To be confirmed
	Thursday 22nd October 2015	Queen's Wharf
Waihi	Saturday 24th October 2015	To be confirmed
Whakatane	Monday 26th October 2015	Mitchell Park
Gisborne	Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th October 2015	To be confirmed
Napier	Saturday 31st October & Sunday 1st November 2015	Marine Parade car park
Masterton	Tuesday 3rd November 2015	Town Square car park
Trentham	Thursday 4th November 2015	Trentham Military Camp
Wellington	Saturday 7th November 2015	Waterfront near Macs Brewery
Levin	Monday 9th November 2015	Te Takere library
Ohakune	Wednesday 11th November 2015	New World car park



# **Police Community Firearms Forum Meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The Police Community Firearms Forum was held at Police National Headquarters where representatives of the Firearms community met with the Police, Customs and MFAT delegation. Forthcoming issues were raised as per the agenda along with updates on previously raised points. At this point in time I am not at liberty to disclose further details until official minutes and an official summary have been released. This should be available soon and will be circulated when it comes to hand.

The Firearms Community Forum meetings are in their infancy, we have an undertaking from Police that two meetings will be held per year. I believe that given time and patience that the user groups could build up a reasonable rapport with Police and have valuable co constructive input. To achieve this goal we need to remain committed to the forum and maintain continuity of representation. I do realize that there will be an expectation that we should be able to attend and thump the table voicing our opinion then gain favorable results by having our demands met, this is not the case at this point in time and is an unrealistic expectation. I do believe that we will jointly evolve this forum into a valuable tool given time, effort, patience and respect.

Andrew Edgcombe  
NZAHAA COLFO/ POLICE FIREARMS COMMUNITY Rep

You can read the Minutes of the previous meeting here

<http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/online-version/meeting-minutes-3-december-2014>

## **WELLINGTON AUCTION JULY 2015**

### **Report by Andrew Edgcombe**

Wellington Branches annual Auction was impressive to say the least; many superb items were on offer with many items from the late Ian Rasmussen's world class bayonet collection creating tremendous interest with a contingent of Australian buyers coming over to compete for some of the rare and desirable bayonets on offer. Friday evenings viewing was well attended as usual with collectors pouring over their potential purchases with enthusiasm. Saturdays turn out was one of the best I have seen at an auction and the bidding reflected both the high number of attendees and strong postal bids. The odd bargain was available for the astute buyer with few items being passed in. As always the tender table created a good amount of interest with some great items awaiting new homes. Todd Foster ploughed through the lots knocking out 1099 by the close of the first day after which Wellington Branches usual post auction hospitality was well received and much appreciated by all. Sunday was again a busy day with passed in lots being arranged on a table available for purchase at reserve price should one be having second thoughts after missing out when they were under the hammer. I noted quite a few bits being purchased this way!

Wellington Branch and the Auction crew have again excelled themselves by providing a superbly catalogued and expertly run auction. A ton of work goes into finding lots, photographing and cataloguing items with a handful of volunteers putting in long hours before the end result hits your mail box.

*Prices realized already circulated. Ed.*

## Waterloo Remembered by Maurice Taylor

*The 200th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Waterloo last month brought back happy memories for Maurice Taylor of a previous commemoration in 1995 that he had opportunity to take part in.*

I'll concentrate on the common soldiers angle if you like. I at that time did not "Do" Napoleonic but I had friends who did; particularly Richard Moore of Advisor to the Sharpe's series fame. He had portrayed HM 95th Rifles for years before and knew his stuff. Mostly I'd done French & Indian war the North American phase of the 7 years war. But I would "Do" any sort of Re enactment. Well I could, not do 95th, far too much special kit. But I had a UK Govt 'surplus' Gordon's Kilt and related Sporran, picked up a coat of Kings Eight at a gun show and had an original Bess so I made up the rest of 92nd Gordon's including a Trotter pack. My bonnet was Royal Highland Emigrants and I added fly tying feathers. This stuff was scattered between Nelson the US and UK but I duly rolled up to Hertfordshire to link up with my mates ere we drove to Waterloo and camped on a sports field not far from the battle field. The camp was mostly the two units of 95th and Kings German Legion who had a 6 pounder, two London based 42nd lads & me the only Gordon. It was Saturday ere the march into Waterloos muster and we lined up at the on "Present" as the various units marched by, when the large host of the Highland brigade came down the road and I nodded to the brass at the front and fell in with the medics at the rear until we stopped and I was then called forward fully expecting their "recruit from nowhere" to be told off as I'd made no communication prior though I had tried to. My fears were groundless they "took to me with pickles".



The organisers fed us in a sports hall in Waterloo and I met the Colonel of the Gordon's, plus an ex Piper of the WW2 Gordon's made us three the entire Gordon's at Waterloo. The weather being raining and a sea of glue like mud, plus being a Sunday made for a wickedly authentic setting. We even started the battle a quarter of an hour late because of a printing error on the programme! The mud was the original excuse. Being deployed first in line then in Square we struggled in the mud. I was given the corner and could stand rather than get my knee in the muck like the front ranks. The cannons roared, the ground shook, the smoke obscured units. The scaled down farmhouses of La Haye Sainte and to our right Hougoumont saw fierce action, the French charged us, there were horses every where, a fine old din, till the day was won (much earlier than originally) and we were served out food if you were lucky enough to catch it. Rifleman Moore gave me his sage advice "If they offer you food take it, doesn't matter if you don't need it because when you do there probably wont be any going". At length we marched back into the town crowds of Belgians cheering. Being a Regiment of one I gave a nod or a tap on the stock, a butt salute to

Veterans as seemed fitting and I called my own arms drill to allieve the slope arms carry, taking care not to clash into overhead cafe signs. I don't think "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" is particularly period but I sang it anyway.

I recall the BBC taking footage early next morning and I went about making our fire with the tinderbox as I always did I knew they were on this activity but I didn't look up then some silly Rifleman offered me pieces of corrugated card board to help the flames, hardly documentary fire starter. I was dressed as I hadn't undressed since the previous Wednesday when we came but at least we had a tent. Some keen Prussians slept in the mud on the battlefield the night before. Now THAT'S wicked authentic but the novelty of sleeping in rain I had many years ago forgone. That in a nutshell was my experience of Waterloo though the site is much disturbed by building the Lion Monument in the 1840s. We did fight our battle on the original fields just on a much reduced scale.





**MYSTERY OBJECT** (below right), answer please to [oilyrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilyrag@xtra.co.nz)

Last month (below left), first correct answer was provided by Rod Woods, but the most complete answer was provided by Tony Bruce who actually supplied the original photo from which I cropped the image taken at the National Army Museum. It is the hinge and wingnut for a folding paratrooper pushbike made by BSA. The bike folds in half when dropped, with two hinges being on the frame between the seat and the fork head. Read more here: <https://bsamuseum.wordpress.com/1942-1945-bsa-airborne-bicycle-para-bike/>



Chaz Forsyth sent these comments on the previous mystery object: I believe the mystery object identified as a pocket sextant is also known as a "box sextant", used for surveying. I have one, they are intensely portable and when used correctly, are pretty effective. Once you have a straight baseline with an aiming mark ahead of you, it is no trick to set out a line on a given bearing far more precisely than you can with a prismatic compass, for instance. A good user should be able to stay within one angular degree of precision (with a good chairman on the stake), and with the Littlejohn link band, you would have been good for 1:5,000 precision without too much trouble. I think the angles were set out first before setting out the distances.



I believe they were used for some construction setting out, not for field investigation surveys (which would have been performed in those days with a plane table, before the adoption of stadia tachometry).

*You can read more about them here: <http://sextantbook.com/category/box-sextants/> Ed.*

**FROM THE WWW Cut and paste address or Ctrl + click**

**From Tony Bruce: Advice for Black Powder Shooters**

[http://www.pistolnz.org.nz/media/35576/bp\\_pistol\\_training\\_day\\_-\\_v3.pdf](http://www.pistolnz.org.nz/media/35576/bp_pistol_training_day_-_v3.pdf)

**From Nick Smith: Ballarat Arms fair**

<https://youtu.be/7LdqttKJ7eY>

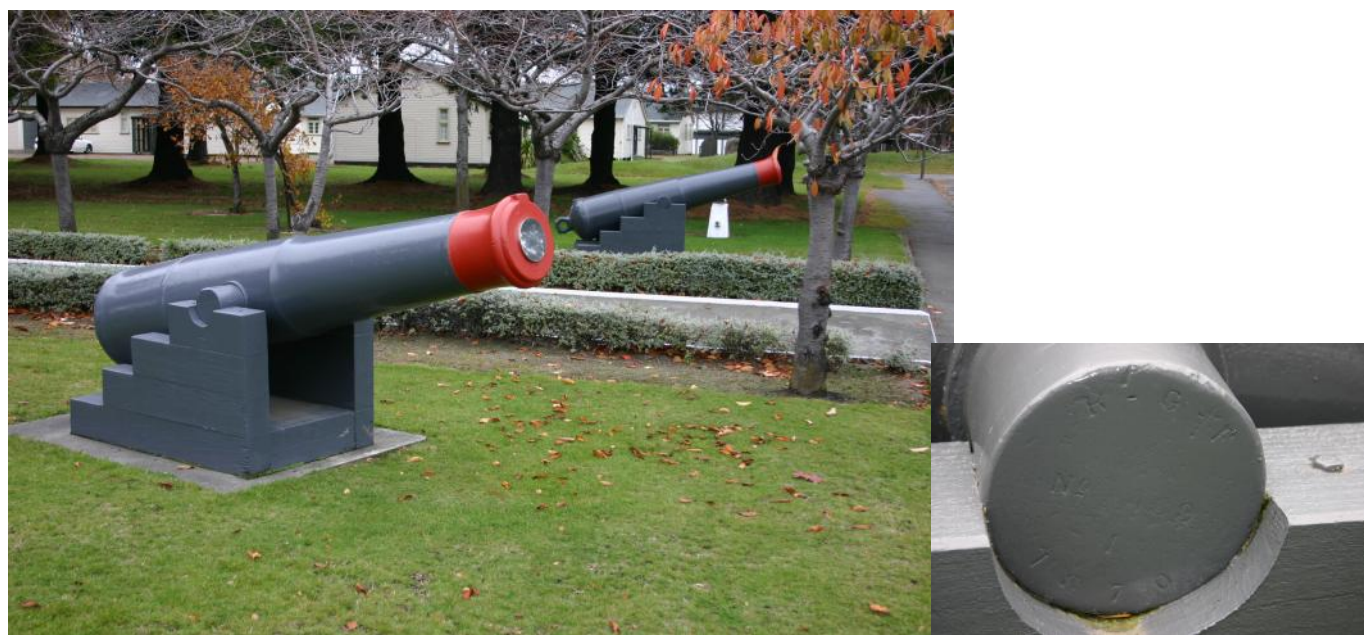
**UP COMING EVENTS - If you have dates for events in 2015 or 2016 please advise [oilrag@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oilrag@xtra.co.nz)**  
**2015**

15 & 16 August	Tauranga Arms & Militaria Show
5 Sept.	Ruahine Branch Auction, Palmerston North
12 Sept.	Canterbury Branch Auction, Christchurch
19 September	NZAHAA HYGM, Auckland
3 & 4 October	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington
7 & 8 November	Armistice in Cambridge.
7 & 8 November	Taranaki Branch Gun Show, New Plymouth

**2016**

19 March	Canterbury Branch Auction, Christchurch
2 April	Northland Branch Auction and NZAHAA AGM, Whangarei
3 April	South Canterbury Branch Auction, Timaru
11 June	Hunting & Shooting Show, Whangarei
10 September	Canterbury Branch Auction, Christchurch

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



A pair of ML cannon at the War Memorial at Waiouru Military Camp, images from Tony Bruce.

**BUY SELL OR SWAP** *List items free for two months*

**\*FOR SALE :** I will soon have a large collection from a deceased estate to dispose of, including many Early Antique Rifles, WW I Rifles, and WW II Rifles. Most are of German origin, but also a few British Commonwealth, U.S., and Japanese. There are many Scarce and Rare Sniper Rifles in this collection. There are also many small Parts and Accessories, including Rifle Grenade Launchers, Experimental and Service Bayonets, Military and Commercial Rifle Sights, Military and Commercial Telescopic Sights and Mounts, Rifle Slings, Other items far too many to list here. **WRITE YOUR WANTS AND I WILL SEE IF I CAN HELP.**

Colin Green, Email or Phone .....61 3 98462070 [colingreenaust@hotmail.com](mailto:colingreenaust@hotmail.com)

**WANTED:** Fore stock for Martini Henry Mk IV [r\\_j\\_coppola@hotmail.com](mailto:r_j_coppola@hotmail.com)



**New Zealand Antique Arms Association Canterbury Incorporated**

The New Zealand Antique Arms Association Canterbury Incorporated is holding an Auction/Display Day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The event is being held in the Parade Ring at Riccarton Park, Racecourse Rd Christchurch opening for viewing at 10am with the auction starting at 12pm. Displays and sales tables will also be there for viewing and perusal.

Displays are free with prizes awarded to best in category.

Sales tables are available for \$10 each.

9.00am open for setup of sales tables and displays. 10.00am doors open for members and auction items accepted.

If you wish to put suitable items for sale in the auction please contact the convenor below. The Branch is charging a commission of 10% of final sales value on each item sold at the auction on the vendor. Hammer price is the sale price. 300 lot maximum on a first come first served basis, so get in early to prevent missing out. This is a Mickey Mouse style auction with no catalogue and therefore no postal bidding.

Any endorsed items sold will require Police permits to procure to be organised between the vendor and buyer.

Entrance fee is \$10 including financial members.  
The bar will be open from 11.00am with food and refreshments available.

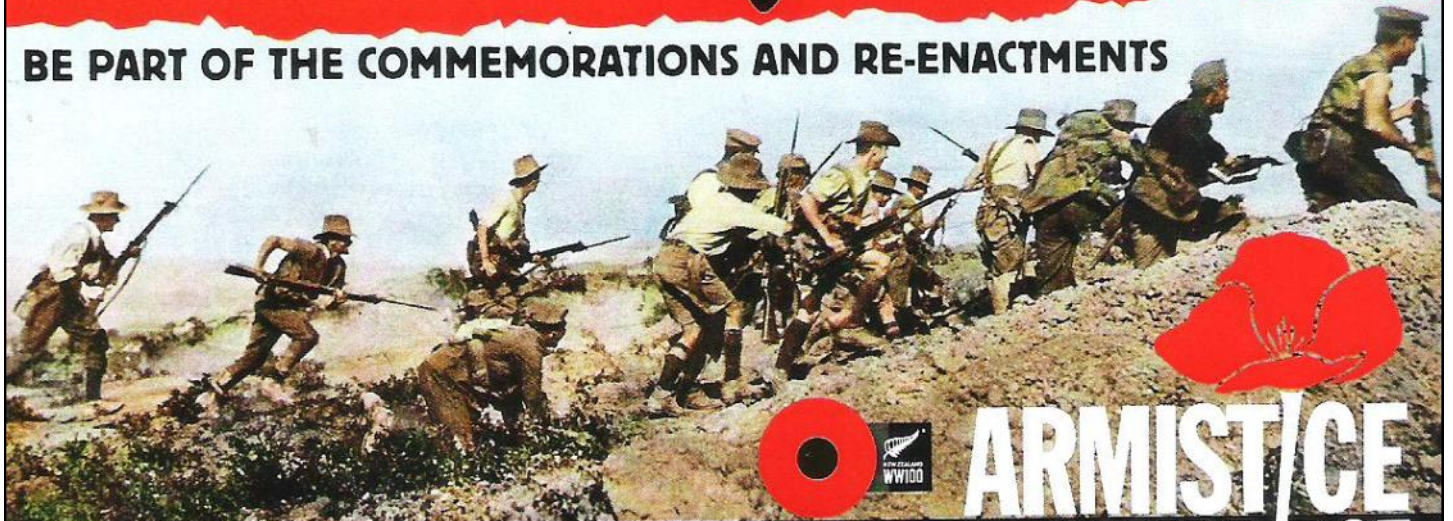
Please note that all persons will be required to present their firearms licence if they have successfully won an item/s that requires a firearms licence to possess.

Contact F. McKeage 3478730 (wk) e-mail [wmrr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wmrr@xtra.co.nz)



# Gallipoli 1915-2015

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Peter on 03 693 8876

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## Northland Branch Auction & NZAHAA AGM

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 in Whangarei

At this time we are looking for quality  
items to go in our auction.

The auction will be limited to 150 lots.

Buyers & Sellers Commission will be 5 %.  
There will be a Tender table on the day.

**Contact:**

**Paul Deeming on 09 4353232 or**

**Email: [gunnerpwd@gmail.com](mailto:gunnerpwd@gmail.com)**

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**Ruahine Branch Auction  
5 September 2015**

**Awapuni Racecourse  
Palmerston North**

We are now seeking quality lots

Due to rising costs  
Commission will be 7.5 %  
for buyers and vendors

Contact: Tony Matthews  
06 374 9164  
[ruahinebranchrep@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:ruahinebranchrep@hotmail.co.nz)

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Full List at <http://gunshows.co.nz/wordpress/>

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