



# Flint & Cap

A monthly publication of the New Zealand Antique and Historic Arms Association (Wellington Branch) Incorporated

Website: <http://www.WellingtonAntiqueArms.org.nz>

July 2018

## Coming Events:

**Next Meeting:** 1 July 2018  
**Theme Letters:** I and J

**Following Meeting:** 5 August 2018  
**Theme Letters:** K and L

**Kaitoke Range:**  
**Club Shoot:** No Shooting  
over Winter

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## From the Branch President:

The branch's big event and fund-raiser for the year is our annual July auction.

This auction is a huge undertaking, with massive amounts of work being done so far by a few key people. The actual auction is now only a matter of weeks away, and we definitely need your help on the day to make this event run smoothly.

We need helpers on the Friday 6th for setup, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th; but most importantly on Monday 9th (for the postal wrapping).

This is your club, you all benefit from the proceeds of the auction; and we now we call out to all members to help out.

Sign up lists will be available at the July meeting for each of the days we need help. We need you as members to participate in the monthly meetings and certainly with the auction. But also for you to interact with the other members. Take the time to talk to those around you, and you will certainly come away learning about the different items that have been out or are up for sale at the auction.

Hopefully we will see you all at the July meeting and Auction .

*Alwyn*



## What's happening in the Branch?:

**Our Next Meeting:** 1st July 2018  
in the Petone Working Mens Club.  
Starts from 1pm

Theme Letters: I— Indian, Ignition, Inglis, etc  
J— Junior, Jungle, Jackboot, etc  
Or bring along a favourite item

1 July Auckland Gun Show Alexander Park  
6-8 July 2018 Wgtn Branch Auction Wellington  
21 July Mainland Arms & Militaria Show Christchurch  
18-19 August Tauranga Arms & Militaria Show Tauranga  
1 September Ruahine Branch Auction Palmerston North

## Branch July Auction

The branch's annual July auction is in countdown mode. The catalogue has been sent out and looks really good. The auction is on **Friday 6th to Sunday 8th July**.

Please note that we will be relying on your help:

- the set up on the Friday,
- manning tables during the viewing times,
- assistance with the auction bidding lots,
- clean up on the Sunday evening,
- postal wrapping on the Monday.

Please note also that the new venue will have new security rules—**SECURITY WILL BE MUCH TIGHTER:**

- the previous Registration Fee is now an Entry Fee. All adults entering the hall must pay \$10 each. (This includes all non-bidders)
- Children under 16 years must pay \$5 each
- all people entering the hall will be ID checked and issued with a lanyard and access card.
- if you leave the venue, and return without your lanyard and you will not be allowed back into the auction!

For more information, please contact Steve on [info@wellingtonantiquearms.org.nz](mailto:info@wellingtonantiquearms.org.nz) or 04-934-2756



## Next Range Day—16th September

Note that the next Range Day for the branch will be the **16th September**.

There is no other shooting planned over the winter

**But, while you think about it....**

**Check the Expiry Date of your Firearms Licence**

## Change of Address and Email

A quick reminder please. If you change physical address, phone number or your email address.

**PLEASE LET THE BRANCH KNOW!**

Please contact our Secretary (Margaret) at:

[secretary@wellingtonantiquearms.org.nz](mailto:secretary@wellingtonantiquearms.org.nz)



## Logic

**Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy:**  
**If Guns weren't in stores, no one**  
**could buy them.**



**Really?? When was the last time you**  
**saw Meth on the shelf?**

## What's wrong in this picture?



This picture was taken in late WW2.

What can you see that is wrong or unusual here?

How about the fact that the German soldier on the left is carrying a Lee Enfield No.4T perhaps?



## June Meeting - G and H

The June 10th meeting had the theme of G and H. We had 19 displays brought along with many very rare and interesting items indeed. Many thanks again to all the members who brought such great displays along.



Helmet— NZ Issue Vietnam Era helmet.  
Plus German WW1 water bottle from South Africa.



12g Hammer gun by H Hamilton,  
plus Holland & Holland cartridges



Husqvarna 1907 9mm B.L. with air force shoulder holster.  
Plus Hi-Power 9mm by Inglis with holster stock.



A Gewehr 71 single shot Cavalry Carbine, plus two German WW1 grenades and a German 1871/84 saw-back bayonet.



Colt 1911 A1 Cal .45 USA, as used by member of the Rhodesian L.R.D.G (Long Range Desert Group)



Holster and Belts WW1 M.E.C.O 1918 webbing  
(Note: MECO = Mills Equipment Company )



Grenade Launcher, 36 Mills Grenade , Grenade Gunnery & Bayonet Manual. SMLE Mk1\* 1906 rifle, 1907 Quillion bayonet. 1903 bayonet with wire breaker. 303 Walstrode Grenade Launcher blanks, and .303 dummy rounds



## June Meeting Continued - G and H



Souvenir of Yellowstone National Park in USA - a Ruby Mountain Knife



Hammer and Hammerless pistols, Webley & Scott x 2, FN mod 1905 and Colt mod 1908. (Referred to as Vest Pocket Pistols)



Hungarian air rifle, .177 tap loading



Grenade Launcher .303 1912 Sht LE III plus tin of Balisite Blanks



Hunting Rifle: Lee Enfield No.4 with silencer, plus two very early socket bayonets, one with a scabbard



Galesi .25 cal pistol with ivory grips



Hookies- 4 Pattern 1907 sword bayonets with hooked quillions, Wilkinson July 1908, Chapman Sept 1908, Wilkinson Sept 1910 and Feb 1911



Omaha Beach Postcard



## June Meeting Continued - G and H



Hand Grenades: German practice stick ,  
Mk2 (Pineapple ) Training , M69 Grenade.  
Gravity Knives – German Paratrooper 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> models  
and a commercial gravity knife



Handguns - Hege .44 Remington 1858 Revolver  
copy, Glisenti made Bodeo revolver in 10.35mm,  
H&R revolver.



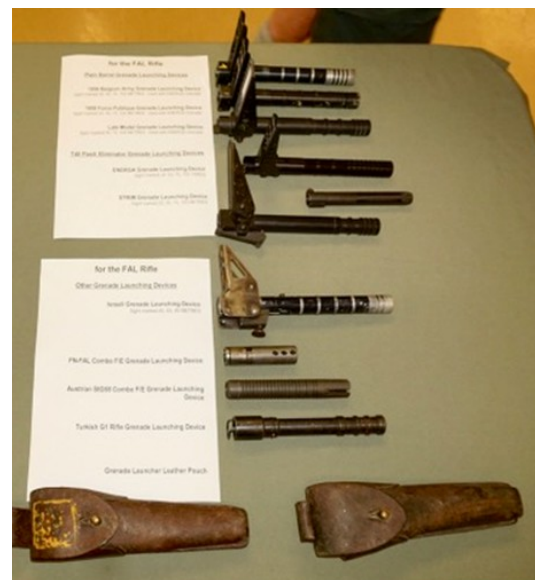
Gewehr / Karbiner 43 (G43/K43) in 7.92x57 semi auto rifle  
from late WW2



D-Day battlefields - a large number of photographs from a recent visit to Normandy.



Hotchkiss 303 machine gun relic barrel, scabbard and diagrams.



Grenade Launching devices for the L1A1 and FAL rifles.



## Ruahine Gun Show—25 May

I attended the Ruahine Gun Show in Palmerston North on the 25<sup>th</sup> May along with several other Wellington members. There was a lot of show support from local collectors and other stall holders with some 30 odd tables to look at. Displays ranged from a big soft-air display to black powder, colonial, WW1 and WW2 weapons and later stuff also.

Displays were very impressive with many showing a lot of effort having gone into creating them. Talking to a few of the stall holders and display table guys the event was very well supported and a lot of people came through the hall. Definitely an event well worth while attending when it is on again next year.

Here's some pictures of a few pictures of the display tables.





## Ruahine Gunshow Continued



## 'You get what you pay for'

*This article was written by a gunsmith, as part of a discussion about buying Black Powder rifles; however the comments are valid to the purchasing all firearms.*

Nearly every day as a professional gun builder I get contacted by folks seeking a price quote for a custom build or my recommendations concerning my thoughts on some of the various commercial guns available. In addition to the many posts on the same subject seen here on Facebook. Most all of them usually start the conversation with : *"Looking to pick up cheap"*, or *"I don't want to spend a lot of money"*, or *"I'm looking for a reasonable priced gun in great shape"*. While this sort of train of thought is understandable and expected, it is not the right train of thought to have. Yes, we all want to get the most we can for our hard earned dollar, myself included.

The point I wish to convey here however is that concerning primitive firearms there is something more to be considered when looking at the price of same. They are **PRIMITIVE FIREARMS**. Which means that even the best made one will have their quirks. They will miss-fire at times, may hang fire on you as well. Not to mention being somewhat limited in potential accuracy when shooting at long ranges with the simplest of open sights.

A good firearm is where all the various components: ie, the lock, stock and barrel are joined in the finest delicate balance of wood and metal. Creating a shootable and accurate firearm that is a joy to hold. That being said you have a set of important considerations to work into the mix when selecting a BP firearm. You want something that is made to the best of possible standards and should expect to pay a reasonable amount of money to obtain one.

Yes there are some great deals to be found out there, but you only get what you pay for, and in many cases the bitterness of a poorly made gun will remain long after the sweetness of a low price is forgotten.

The old adage remains true (and especially in BP arms):

**'You get what you pay for'.**

My advice in all endeavours to procure a BP firearm is to **'Spend as much as you can possibly afford'.**

This applies whether it is a new custom gun, quality factory gun or the used one. While all used guns should be thoroughly inspected inside and out by yourself (or a competent gun smith). Beware of any unbelievable low prices. If it sounds almost too good to be true it usually proves to be so in the end.

Likewise on custom guns, you don't need to drop thousands of dollars to have a well made custom gun built for you either. Likewise you can purchase some very good and well made factory guns for a reasonable price. **But always expect to pay a good dollar to get something you will both enjoy and last you a lifetime.**



## WW1 Angel of Mons Postcard



**The story behind a Great War postcard.** Perhaps the most enduring legend of the Great War was the **'Angel of Mons'**.

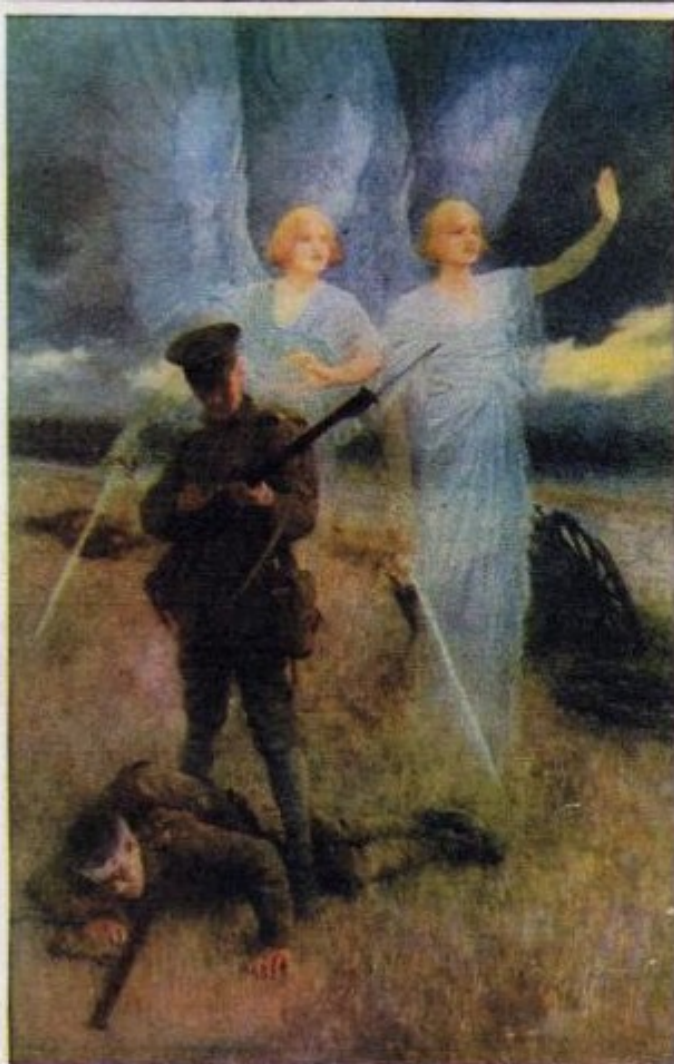
The legend first appeared in a short story titled *'The Bowmen'*, by Arthur Machen,

which appeared in the *London Evening News* on the 29th September 1914.

(Coincidentally, the 29th was also the feast day of St Michael and All Angels.)

The picture on the card below, **'THE ANGELS OF MONS'** was from the painting by W.H. Margetson.

The card itself was published by A. Vivian Mansell & Co., Fine Art Publishers, London' and was No. 1017.



The story starts on Sunday 30th August after Machen read in his morning newspaper about the retreat of the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) from Mons.

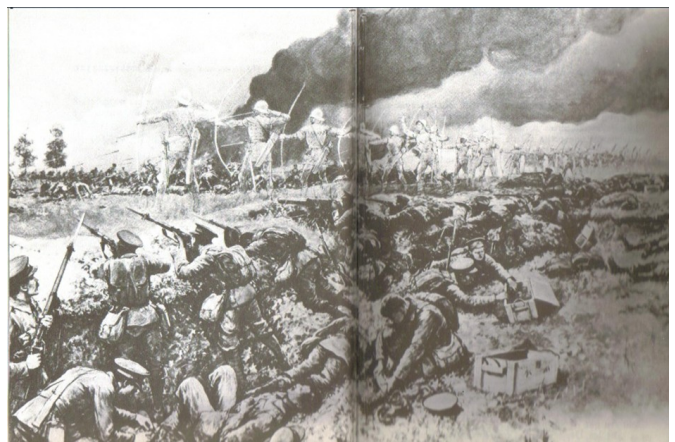
**"I have not forgotten the impression that made on my mind. I seemed to see a furnace of torment and death and agony and terror... and in the middle of the burning was the British Army."**

Machen also said that the inspiration for the story came to him in church, **"as the blue incense floated above the gospel book on the desk between the tapers."**

*'The Bowmen'* story appeared at a time when people were looking for a miracle, and perhaps because it appeared in a newspaper, the story seemed to have some credibility. Whatever the reason, many people in Britain were ready to believe that heavenly intervention saved the B.E.F. from total defeat.

As the story gained more coverage, the bowmen turned into angels. Arthur Waghorn asked his readers in *The War Budget* **"Are the angels on our side in this great struggle for liberty and honour?"**

**For many readers the sky has become as full of visions as the sea of salt."**



With such widespread coverage, it was perhaps inevitable that more people should come forward to announce that they too had friends or relatives who were soldiers and who had **"seen the Angels of Mons with their own eyes."**

It seems that the idea of 'God on our side', gave many people consolation and hope for the future. Despite his protests that the tale was purely a figment of his imagination, Machen said **"Great numbers of people made up their minds that the story was true from beginning to end."** His original article in the *Evening News* (which had started the whole thing off) was published in an expanded version in a booklet, and within a year, 1,000,000 copies had been sold.

Was the tale pure fiction? Of course... and yet... the eminent military historian the late John Terraine said, that as early as 5th September 1914, Brigadier-General John Charteris recorded in a letter that the story of the Angels of Mons was **"going strong through the 2nd Corps...how the angel of the lord on the traditional white horse and clad all in white with flaming sword, faced the advancing Germans at Mons and forbade their further progress."**

This was three weeks before Machen's story of *'The Bowmen'* appeared in print.

**So Who Knows?**