

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association

Wellington Branch Inc. P.O. Box 14-029 Kilbirnie, Wellington

<http://www.nzaawgtn.org.nz/>

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Note from the sectary

By now you should have received an invoice for this years Club and National association subscriptions.

Also included with the invoice was a Notice for the club's Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Petone Workmen's Club on Sunday the 1 March 2015 at 2.00pm.

If you haven't received these yet please contact Terry the Club Secretary (email ter-rya@paradise.net.nz). One of the issues we have had this year is out of date contact information for some members so over the next few months Terry will be checking that he has the right info recorded for each of you.

Terry



Use your Smart phone and this QR code will take you directly to our website @ <http://www.nzaawgtn.org.nz>

Had a hard day at the office, some have had worse and survived to tell the tail.

Just got home from a hard day at the office; the first day back after the Christmas / New Year Holidays. I got to thinking of some photos from a holiday a few years back and remembered one item that reminded me that others have had worse days at the office than me.

During WWII when the Americans started their daylight bombing offensive in Europe they had no form of armour head protection for aircrew. Given that nearly 40% of the fatal aircrew injuries were from head wounds it didn't take long for the development of some form of head protection. Early examples were made by individuals using the standard M1 helmet with the sides hammered out to allow for earphones to be worn underneath.

This led to the official development of the Air Crew Helmet M3 which is essentially an M1 that has cut out sections at the sides with hinged steel flaps. These worked well for pilots, navigators and air gunners. The use of the M3 helmet greatly improved the chances of surviving an encounter with flak. However the size of the M3 was of little use for those in cramped spaces such as the ball turrets positions.

Hence the development of the M4 helmet which resembles a skull cap. The following photos are of a WWII US M4 Air Crew helmet worn by S/Sgt Jesse L Graham of the 390th bomber Group. The M4 helmets was made of overlapping pieces of Hadfield Manganese steel and were made in Britain and the US. The British made ones had an outer covering of leather as in Graham's helmet. US made ones where covered with an OD twill cloth covering.

S/Sgt flew a total of 27 missions as a tails and ball turret gunner, from 20 December 1943 to 29 May 1944. On his last mission he flew as the ball turret gunner on a bombing raid to Leipzig Germany flying in a B17 called Gloria Ann II. During the raid he was struck in the head by a German bullet.

Being the helmet collector that I am I tried to take some photos which just weren't that good given the item was behind glass. Anyone who has tried to take photos of museum exhibits behind glass will know what I mean. Fortunately one of the curators saw my predicament and noting my genuine interest in the helmet and the story behind it opened the display case up for me to take some quick photos.

Photos show S/Sgt Graham's M4 helmet with an M3 for comparison of size. A close up of the M4 with projectile in the side and the inside of the helmet which had serious bump on the inside.

Must have been a traumatic experience, but one which S/Sgt Graham lived to tell the tail. This helmet is on display at the 390th Bomb Group Museum which is located within the grounds of Pima Aircraft Museum, Tucson, Arizona. For more on the 390th Bomb Group see <https://www.390th.org/>

Terry



Wellington Branch NZAHAA Postal Shoot - March 8th 2015

Some members of Wellington branch have expressed an interest in participating in the NZAHAA postal rifle shooting competition. The committee has agreed to make the March 8th booking at the Kaitoke NZDA range available for the postal shoot and I will be running the event with a view to making this an annual event if desired by the shooters in the club. Shooters interested in participating should contact me by ph. 04 973 4455 or e mail johndbryce@gmail.com to advise me which class or classes they wish to shoot. Targets are purchased from the national org and will only be ordered as required (the Wellington branch will meet the cost of targets /entry). I apologize for the short notice and I request that if you are aware of a Wellington Branch member who may want to participate but does not receive e mail, please contact them and let them know about this event.

The following classes are potentially available –

Muzzle Loading Rifle(BP) ,Breach Loading Rifle (BP),Military Rifle (A cat),MSSA, Lever Action Rifle , Rimfire Rifle (17hmr,17Mach 2 ,22short ,22 long ,22 LR ,22 Win Auto or 22 Mag) ,Sniper Rifle and Cadet Rifle (any as issued British 22LR single shot Cadet rifle) With the exception of Cadet rifle which is shot on the traditional NZDF Cadet Rifle target at 25 meters All classes are shot unsupported on the ISU 25 /50 meter pistol target (50 meter free pistol) at 100 meters .

A list of events and rules is attached .Shooting positions depend on the class (mostly any unsupported position) ,slings may be used , spotting by the competitor is allowed and rifles may be shared between competitors.

We usually start at 10 but I intend setting up and starting practice from 9am. I am assuming some shooters will want to shoot more than one class and some may wish to share rifles. I propose having about an hour of practice followed by competition and scoring. (The rules require no practice shots

once competition commences) .Then following with another short practice session leading into another competition. This will enable practice with a particular rifle immediately followed by competition with that rifle. Appropriate ear protection is required by all on the Mound. Eye protection where class requires. Bring your lunch, tea and coffee will be available, but it is a good idea to bring your own cup.

Regards

John Bryce

It Happened This Month in 1869.

Readers may recall that Cullen Montgomery Baker has featured in previous articles and this as you will see will be his last appearance. In the spring of 1864 in Spanish Bluffs, Arkansas, Baker, a deserter from the Confederate Army but still in uniform was drinking in a bar when four Union soldiers walked in. Baker instantly shot three of them and fled , later joining the Federal occupation force. Over the next five years he was involved in many gunfights but the one in January 1869 was to be his swan song. Thomas Orr a schoolteacher had in the past been bullied and threatened by Baker and was leading a three man posse searching for him in southeastern Arkansas. They came upon Baker and a friend having lunch by the roadside and immediately opened up on them. Baker and his companion were both killed and in Baker's possession were found a shotgun, four revolvers, three derringers and six pocket knives!!!. Perhaps he was the first collector of Old West Americana.

By Des Perado.

Letters this month were M & N

Mannlicher Automatic pistol, 600 made B Oster-reichliche Waffenfabriks gesellschaft with 7.63x21 ammo in clip

Two most unusual WW2 London Blitz items made into letter openers

Medals from the State of Bahawalpur, now part of Pakistan. plus WWI German lanyards etc.. and 1818-1855 Polar medal

Indo Persian Daggers, punch daggers, tiger cutters etc..

Webley & Scott S/A pistols Mod 1907-1908-1909 9mm - 7.65 and 7.62 Cal

Mauser C96 Broomhandle auto loading pistol with wooden stock Cal 7.62

3 different Czechoslovakian Helmets

3 Colt new service .455 Target Revolvers. A pair in a case.

Martin Henry .577-450 made by Westley Richards for ZAR, marked SAT 193. Plus South African made pipe and tin of 100 engine starters for Ruston, Hornsby engine.

Bruno .22 magnum, P38 Mauser with Holster

Magnum pistols .357 Coonan, .44 desert eagle, Mauser Pistols 1898 Broomhandle and 1909 6.5x55 Swede Mauser.

Grandfathers P14, 12 gauge shotgun plus his James Mitchel Henry Medals

Moore & Wright measuring instruments

Manuals relating to FAL, L1A1 rifles and accessories.

Machine Gun. German 08 maxim 7.92.57 used from 1908 to 1960

Navy Colts 1851 36 Cal, 1861 36 Cal and Remington 1861 36 Cal

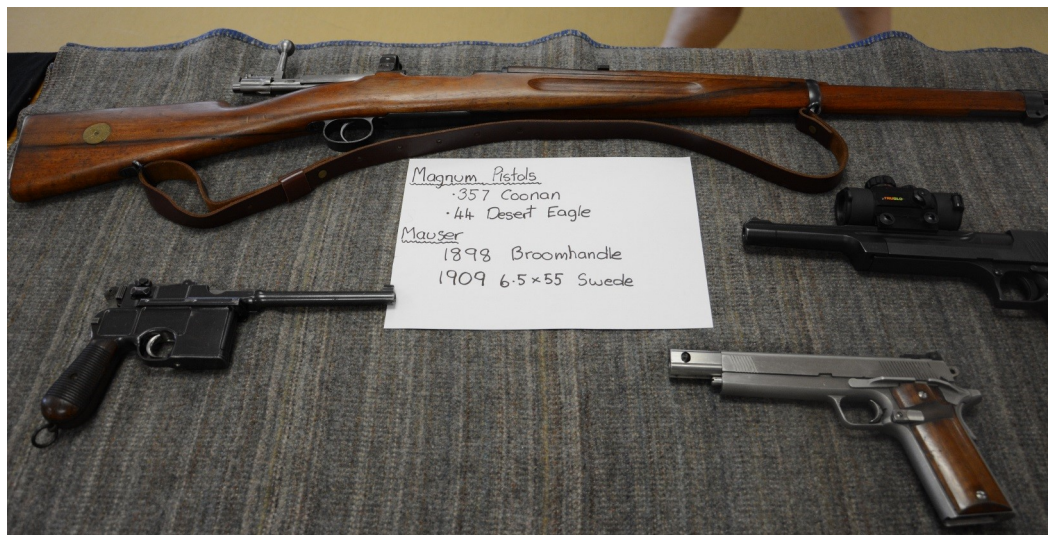
Two Pistols .357 mag S&W and 8mm Nagant

M17 Military mask

Auto Ordnance, Thompson M1 A1 machine Gun

Massachusetts Arms Co produced 20000 Maynard Carbines for the union, action shown. With rare tape and Maynard cartridge. Plus a rare .280 cal Massachusetts Arms Co six shot pistol





UPCOMING EVENTS

Club meetings

1st March

5th April

3rd May

1st of March is also the annual AGM

8th March - Range Day (and NZAHAA postal rifle shoot)

7th March - Hawkes Bay Gun Show

7th March - South Canterbury Auction

28th March - Canterbury Branch Auction

28th March - Kumeu Military Show

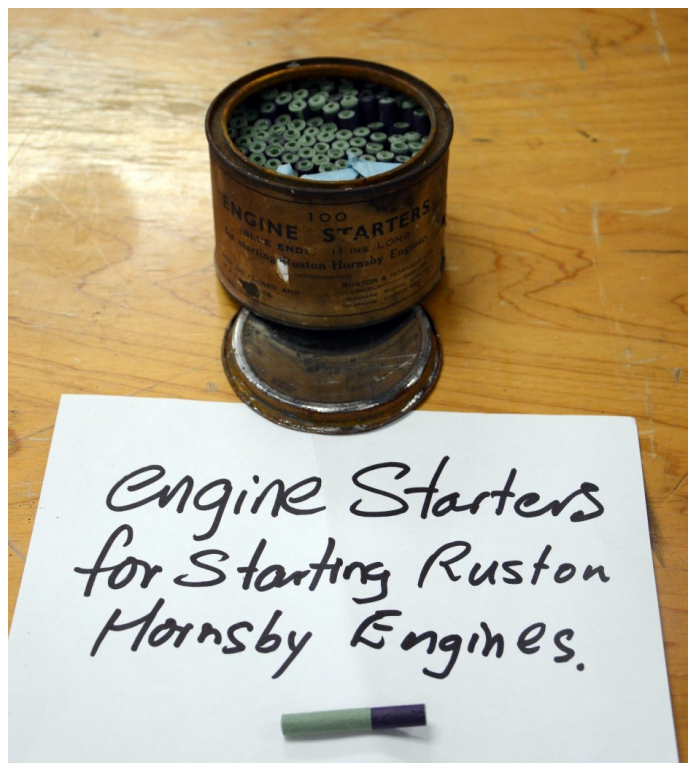


CLUB AMMO FOR SALE

Plenty of Winchester .22 ammo for sale.

A box contains 555 rounds @ \$38.00.

Bring \$\$\$, no credit given



AGM This Month

**Buy Sell and Swap instead
of Displays .**

**Letters for the following
month will be O & P**