

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association

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

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

JANUARY 2015

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stood a chance being illuminated in the moonlight

Welcome to 2015

Once again we are into another year. I trust you all had an enjoyable break.

We are now looking at a trip to the Waiorou Military vehicle that will take place in march.

We will have details available at the February meeting.

On a sad note Len Taylor of Canterbury passed away before Christmas. Len was our national association patron. Len was an active collector; he often came up to our auctions, and always had an interesting story to tell.

Alwyn

It Happened This Month in 1889

Xmas day was not a happy day for rustlers and accused murderers Alvin and Will Odle. They rode into an ambush set by Texas Rangers Ira Aten, John Hughes, Bass Outlaw and Deputy Sheriff Will Terry, "a formidable quartet". The outlaw brothers never

and were blown out of their saddles in short order probably without knowing what or who had hit them. Both were dead within minutes. Moral. Don't muck around with Texas Rangers. These lawmen figure prominently in many other Old West gunfights but these are perhaps another story.

Xmas shoot results

We had a lower number of candidates than in previous years, however we had nice fine weather, and the catering team put on a lovely lunch. A big thanks must go to the cooks and their helpers.

Children

Bryn 4 chickens

Eathan 4 chickens

Ladies Event

Sandy 5 chickens

Janet 5 chickens

Lisa 4 chickens

Belinda 4 chickens

Iron Chicken trophy

Neville A 5 chickens

John K 5 chickens

James S 4 chickens

Richard 4 chickens

Many others 3 chickens

Cadet rifle match

Phil Mc C 133

Stu W 120

Robin W 110

Geoff C 103

Shane P 103

Rob De 91

Many others 70 -- 80

Shotgun event

Stu W 1st

Tony C 2nd

George all 3rd equal

Geoff

Richard

James

Neville

Vic

Teams event

Richard, Phil McC, Hazel, John K. 505 points

Craig, Rob, Lou, Vic 311 points

Stu, James D, Phil, Shane 295 points

Lisa, Hazel, Lou, Shane 248 points.

A highlight of the day was a lovely 8 gauge black powder shotgun being used in the shotgun event. It is great to see these lovely old items, and to know they are still in good working order.... well what can I say.

An enjoyable day was had by all that attended.

Alwyn





THE LUCKY BELL

A good yarn for those interested in the history of the sea is that of the ship's bell from the iron barque Ann Gambles. Outward bound from England, she was lost on Tiwai Point, Bluff in 1878, during a hurricane. During that and subsequent storms, the vessel and her cargo became a total loss with the only thing saved, being the ships' bell bearing the legend Ann Gambles 1862

Many years later, the steamer Progress arrived at Bluff after weathering yet another ferocious storm in which she had lost her bell overboard. Subsequently she was given the salvaged bell from the Ann Gambles.

Later, in May 1931, the Progress was crossing Cook Strait when she broke her tail shaft and lost her propeller, which led to her being driven onto the rocks at Ohiro Bay, broken in half and wrecked with the loss of four lives. Once again the bell was eventually recovered and for many years was the treasured possession of an elderly seafarer who regarded the bell as his lucky talisman.

When he died his daughter, who had no interest in the bell and no understanding of its place in NZ maritime history, decided to send the bell to the rubbish tip. Fortunately, a well known NZ diver, who knew the history of the bell acquired it for his collection of maritime artefacts and kept it in Auckland for many years. In 2012 the bell was acquired by ex-Royal Navy Diver, Author and maritime collector Roger Meecham.

Roger had dived on the wreck of the Progress many times and knew some of the story of the lucky bell and its important place in Wellington's and NZ's maritime history. The Ann Gambles bell, its transfer to the Progress and subsequent salvage are mentioned in C. W. Ingam's book NZ Shipwrecks and in Ian Francis and Steve Locker Lampson's book, The Wreck Book.

The fact of the SS progress having a bell with the Ann Gambles name on it could have caused considerable confusion had the history of the bell not been known

and documented. The fact of a vessel bearing items that bare the name of another ship, are not as uncommon as may be supposed.

The writer has experience of two such incidents that were eventually resolved through diligent research. The first concerns the wreck of HMS Anson, lost on Looe Bar, Cornwall in December 1807. In 1964 the wreck was rediscovered by the Royal Navy Dive Team from Royal Navy Air Station Culdrose, in which the writer was a leading member.

One of the first items found by the team was a large bronze rudder strap, which on inspection, was seen to be marked, Bellona. Diving was suspended because it was considered we had found the wrong wreck, but no one had ever heard of a ship called Bellona coming to grief in that area.

Eventually archivists at the British Admiralty discovered that in 1791 the Third Rate ship HMS Bellona was in Chatham Dockyard being broken up, while her sister ship HMS Anson, lay along side her being repaired. It was surmised that in the break up and refit, the Anson acquired the Bellona's rudder causing the confusion almost 270 years later.

The second incident of a wreck being misnamed was another Cornish shipwreck called the Mohegan, lost on the Manacle Reef, in 1898. In the 1960's the same Royal Navy dive team spent considerable time searching the Manacle Reef for the wreck of the Mohegan.

When we eventually recovered items from the wreck, which we were convinced was the Mohegan, they were marked Cleopatra. Local historians were adamant that no steel ship called the Cleopatra had ever foundered on the Manacles. Once again it was people who were good with records and documents rather than diving equipment, who unravelled the mystery.

Continued on the next page...

THE LUCKY BELL continued .

It transpired that the ship we were diving on, had been built for the Wilson Firness Leyland Line, under the name Cleopatra. However just as she was completed, she was purchased by the Atlantic Transport Co. and renamed Mohegan, however she went to sea with many items clearly marked Cleopatra.

Since acquiring the bell Roger has made contact with Mr David Gambles of Cumbria, England, a descendant of the original John and Ann Gambles. John has provided details and photographs of his great great grandfather, his family and their ships. Roger has also fitted the Bell into a Ship's belfry with items from both shipwrecks and a model of the Ann Gambles, which has completed the international journey, closed the story after 136 years of what must surely be, the luckiest ship's bell in the history of seafaring.

Dick Travis VC .303 champs

Where has the last year gone! The new year is here and the good weather rolls in and with it the opportunity to exercise those lovely old Lee Enfield rifles.

Just a reminder that the Dick Travis VC .303 champs are being held on the 21st and 22nd of March this year. That is only 10 weeks away. Plenty of time to get that rifle prepped. The bedding done, the trigger smoothed, the ammo load tested and all set up for this year's champs.

The standard of shooting is good and the fellowship between .303 shooters like no other on the range. I have arranged the traditional Indian Summer weather for March again and look forward to seeing you all at Trentham and the Karori Rifle Club in this historic year.

For those who have asked I believe the supply of Sierra Matchkings is short. The importer tells me there has been a run on them. They are certainly a great projectile and well capable of handling the 300, 500 and 600 matches. Their popularity continues. I hear that the Service projectile the Hornady 174fmjbt is also giving good results.

On another note the supply of ADI 2209 is short too

but 41/42 grains Of 2208 provide most shooters with good mv and down range performance.

A visit to the Karori Rifle Club website www.karoririfleclub.co.nz shows some photos of past DTVC shoots. KRC is welcoming and the dinner and drinks and .303 talk on the Saturday night is becoming a legend. Please remember that all are made welcome at Karori and the DTVC. Those who are competitive and those who are commemorative. There is a place for all who love the old rimmed case in the DTVC Nationals so don't be shy and do make the effort and join us in March.

Any queries will be answered in a timely fashion just email me at le303@xtra.co.nz

Duncan McKee

Match Director

DTVC

Letters were K & L

Kalashnikov – Russian steel instruction plaque and bayonet book plus ammo in clip

No 36 MKIII Cylinder for Cordite charge bag containers.

Replication project for Wrights Hill Fortress Restoration

J. Lang & Sons retailed Westley Richards 1868 Date .450

No2 Musket #4539 A best quality rifle C 1875

Lever Action 1901 Winchester 10 gauge and mod 1894 marlin in 32-20

Kerr Revolver 5 shot 54 bore (.442) early single action Model 1860 made by London Armoury Co

Lec 88 (NZ) Lee Enfield Carbine NZ Model plus Model 1895 Loewe Mauser 7x57 – One of only 400 Mauser delivered to Orange Free State in 1896

Norma African PH collection – new Norma cartridge board

Kimber Grand raptor pistol .45 ACP, Lahti M40 .9mm and Luger P08 .9mm

K.L Kershaw Ltd No 32 Mkl Telescopic Sight on No4 Mkl (T)

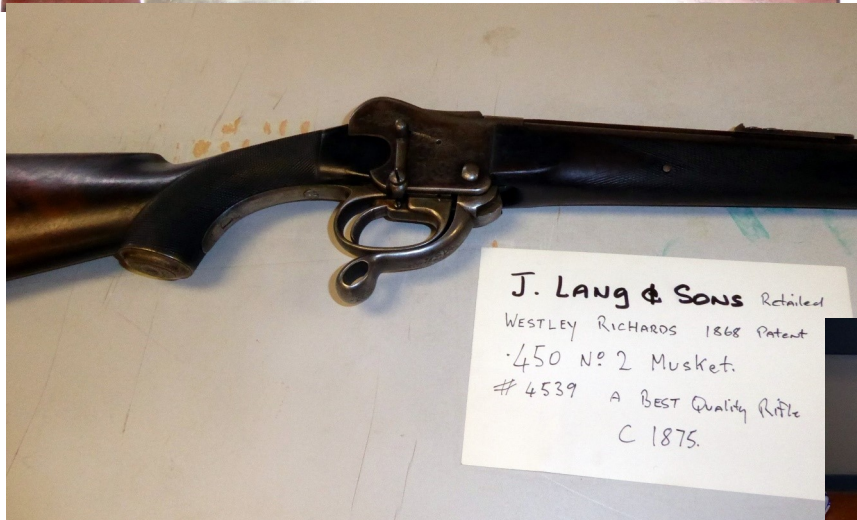
Webleylong Spur improved patt. Repeating pistols. 3rd model revision, retailed by Henry Egg No1 Piccadilly London 1851-67 then sold by Joseph Braddel & Son Belfast

Lee Enfield line thrower from the HMNZS Royalist

German Luger with accessories, paratrooper gravity

knives plus various Hitler knives
South Korean expat helmets, two by Daewoo
Light 2 Aircraft Emergency / Survival Strobe lights –
Plus a piece of casing from a Mk83 1000lb G.P
Bomb. Has a filling weight of 202kg of explosive,
casing approx. 605 of gross weight (454kg)
Good Quality old Cossack Kindjal knife with 310mm
double edge blade. Islamic inscribed gold poincon.







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 terrya@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.

CLUB AMMO FOR SALE

Plenty of Winchester .22 ammo for sale.

A box contains 555 rounds @ \$38.00.

Bring \$\$\$, no credit given

Use your Smart phone and this QR code will take you

directly to our website @ <http://nzaaaaw-gtn.org.nz>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Club meetings

1st February

1st March

5th April

3rd May

1st of March is also the annual AGM

Note from the sectary

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

Also included with the invoice was a Notice for the club's Annual General Meeting which will be

Letters This Month are M & N

Some Ideas are:

Mauser, Mould, Matchlock, Marlin, Magnum, Medals, Mortar, Musket, Mount, New, Nobel, Navy, National Arms, Nitro, Nagant