



E - GAZETTE MK II

New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 15 March 2012

EDITORIAL

One of the great pleasures of being a member of an organisation such as ours is that you get to meet people who collect, or are interested in the same thing as yourself. Often the meeting is not face to face but on line or by e-mail, but through these contacts you learn more and share knowledge on your chosen interest. Since becoming involved in producing this newsletter I have established contacts with collectors in New Zealand, Australia, Britain, Ireland, Canada and South Africa. It is very encouraging to be part of an internationally community of collectors willing to share their knowledge.

If you have comments to make or news or articles to contribute, send them to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz
All views (and errors) expressed here are those of the Editor and not necessarily those of the NZAHAA Inc.

Phil Cregeen, Editor oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

AN INTERESTING BAYONET contributed by Robin Back



The German "bayonet" or at least I think its German, has the typical rear swept quillion, it is 365mm overall, blade is 255mm, fuller length is 165mm, has no muzzle ring hole, no press stud, Bakelite grips with two small studs holding them to the blade, one small stud holding the 'birds beak' pommel to the blade. I wonder whether it's a 'cadet' bayonet, a German fighting knife, or maybe a parade type bayonet? There is no scabbard with it but no doubt sometime in its life it would have had one. I have had it for many years and still don't really know what it is, so maybe someone out there in collector land will enlighten me.

Can anyone identify this blade for Robin?

COEHORN MORTARS & ARMSTRONG GUNS PUT ON A SHOW IN WANGANUI contributed by John Osborne. Photos by Hamish Coull.

Yes several NZAHAA members spoke to me in Wanganui but as you can imagine it was a hectic time so I didn't get long to talk to anyone. Several of the info page below on the Coehorn Mortar were clipped to the cord safety barrier for people to read. I have listed below the process I used to load and fire the Coehorn Mortars,

I used 500 grammes of 3fg black powder propellant in a plastic bag, because the Coehorn Mortars have cone shape chambers that will accept about 1.5 kg of black powder I push a spike through the vent hole and into the plastic bag which holds the black powder in place at the rear of the chamber. (If just a bang is required the powder charge can be considerably reduced)

1. I used an over powder plastic bag containing enough damp sawdust to fill the conical powder chamber so that the card wads stay in the parallel bore.
2. Then I rammed down one at a time two 2mm thick hard card wads cupped on the outer edge like a pump washer.
3. To act in place of a projectile I used about 2KG of loose damp sawdust rammed down about half a kg at a time on top of the wads.
4. I then remove the spike and filled the vent hole with 2fg of black powder (which I have found transfers the ignition flame well) then placed sticky back tape to cover the vent hole for security and keep out any rain.
5. When ready to fire I remove the tape and fill the flash pan with 4fg powder.
6. The priming powder is ignited by a slow burning match held in a linstock. All the guns were fired by the public under supervision, hearing and eye protection mandatory, they stood to the side about a meter away and were instructed on where to place the burning match to ignite the powder in the flash pan. (For the burning match I use about a meter of pure cotton cord placed in teaspoon of potassium nitrate (can be purchased from most hardware shops) dissolved in a little warm water, allow the cord to soak up all the solution, then hang out to dry.
7. The bang, flame and smoke gave a great display much to the delight of the crowds.

I positioned the guns so that the strong wind blowing from right to left away from the spectators and down the race course allowed close encounters with the guns. Refer attached images.

Police Permission is required to discharge firearms in a public place. As part of the conditions the Wanganui District Arms Officer was in attendance for the first series of Gun Salutes at 11am he seemed happy with all the Safety aspects and outcomes.



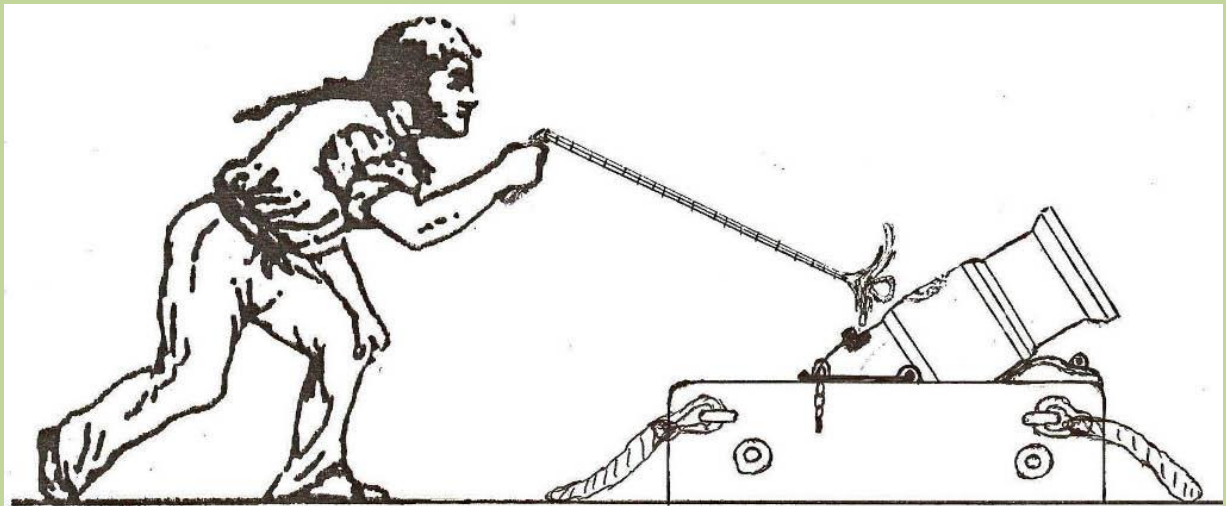
Note the slow match held in the linstock behind the Coehorn Mortars





British pattern 12 pounder (4.52" bore) Coehorn Mortar c1800

By John Osborne AA, DTT, PhD, FSG Commandant NZACFRS Inc. josborne@xtra.co.nz



British pattern 12 pounder (4.52" bore) Coehorn Mortar c1800, Bomb shell diameter 4.4"

Dutch born engineer Baron Menno van Coehorn (1641-1704) developed a small mortar in the 1670s which could be carried by two men, first used successfully against the French in 1673. The Coehorn Mortar was further developed and formally adopted by the British in 1764. These 4 ½ inch bomb shell throwing mortars were cast in bronze (gunmetal) and when charged with ½ pound of black powder propellant and set to shoot at 45 degrees would throw a bomb shell 750 yards. The barrel was originally mounted on a one piece solid wooden base. They were very effective as siege artillery, being used to great advantage by utilizing the curved trajectory to drop explosive bomb shells within enemy defences. Coehorn Mortars were used successfully in the Americas c1770s on and later extensively throughout the world including New Zealand. The clearance of approximately 0.12 inch between the bore diameter of 4.52 inches and the bomb shell diameter of 4.40 inches is known as windage this permits continuous reloading even after the bore becomes fouled with carbon deposits. The bomb shells were hollow cast iron spheres approximately 4.4 inches in diameter and walls ¾ of an inch thick, filled with explosive black powder. A tapered wooden plug fitted with an adjustable length fuse filled the 7/8 inch filler hole in the bomb shell. The fuse was ignited by the flames of the propellant charge when fired. Many British warships c1760s – 1860s carried Coehorn mortars for land based siege attack work and were used by the British in both of the New Zealand land wars and by the NZ Armed Constabulary Force from 1967 to 1886. Two Coehorn Mortars came to New Zealand in July 1845 and were used by the British Colonial Artillery at the Battle of Ruapekapeka Pa 1845/46 and by the Royal Artillery at the Battle of Gate Pa in April 1864.



Left above: this is modern made gunmetal (Tin Bronze) Coehorn Mortar, copied off an original in the National Army Museum. Each original mortar was engraved after satisfactory proof testing and to denote British Government ownership. The GR3 monogram denotes that the mortar was made during the reign of the British King George 3rd who reigned 1760-1820. Note the quoin (wedge) supports the barrel to shoot at about 85 degrees giving the projectile a very curved trajectory & when set to 45 degrees and loaded with one pound of powder had a range of about 1200 yards.

Right above: British and Colonial forces with 12 pounder Coehorn Mortar and bomb shells before the Battle of Gate Pa, April 1864. Courtesy Alexander Turnbull Library.

The 12 Pounder Coehorn Mortars on display and firing Gun Salutes at NZVCC Rally 2012 are 5 of 11 replica guns manufactured in Napier to an original in 1985 by members of the New Zealand Armed Constabulary Force Re-enactment Society Inc.

NEW ZEALAND BREN GUN CARRIERS Compiled by Phil Cregeen

Pattern: (name) Bren Gun Carrier (Universal, Full Track, Carrier), No 1, 2, & 3

Introduced into NZ Service: April 1939, Withdrawn 1956-8

Crew: 1 (driver) but usually 3-4, Battle Weight: 4 tonnes

Length: 12 ft 0 in. (3.66 m) Width: 6 ft 9 in. (2.06 m) Height: 5 ft 3 in. (1.6 m)

Guns: most commonly One .303 Bren LMG or none. But also Vickers MMG or Lewis or Hotchkiss.

Engine: No 1 65 HP, No 2 85 hp, No 3 95 hp Usually Ford 8 cylinder.



Otorohanga Feb 2012 (LP 1)



Armistice in Cambridge November 2010 (LP 1)



Early Carrier Bren LP No 1 (NZ) riveted construction



Later Carrier LP 2 welded construction (Barry Hopkins collection)



Rear mounted Vickers MG



Front mounted Bren LMG

These vehicles were used by both Divisional Cavalry and Infantry, they were built in Britain and locally in New Zealand, initially from British plans and later to an Australian design.

The New Zealand Army took delivery of its first 6 Carriers, Bren No 2 Mk I & II purchased from Britain on 3 April 1939, these were the first armoured vehicles in the country. However in the early stages of WW II it proved impossible to obtain more carriers from overseas and so a decision was taken to manufacture them locally. In August 1940 the Army placed an order for 40 riveted carriers with the NZ Railway Workshop in the Hutt Valley. The first vehicles were handed over in February 1941 and were almost identical to the British No 2 Mk I carrier save for locally sourced components such as Ford headlights, instrument panel and

differential. In October 1941 an order was placed for 420 all welded carriers (Carrier Machine Gun Local Pattern No2), this proved to be beyond the capacity of NZR workshop and so the order was split between them and other contractors around the country with General Motors NZ Ltd eventually taking over responsibility for assembly. This order was later increased to 520 and completed by the end of August 1942.

New Zealand then went on to manufacture a further 650 carriers for export, which were complete by October 1943, however apart from 23 supplied to US forces in the Pacific and 10 to Free French Forces, they remained unsold until the end of the war. In February 1946 they were purchased by the NZ Government for the Army and the existing carriers in service declared surplus.

Throughout WW II the carriers saw extensive service in New Zealand and Fiji, with a small number being taken to Tonga. In the 1950s a number of carriers were equipped with Wasp flame throwers, or modified to carry mortars, Medium MGs or tractors for 6 pounder guns. By 1956-8 they were becoming difficult to maintain and were phased out of service.

Acknowledgements: photos by Barry Hopkins & Phil Cregeen

Reference: Fighting Vehicles of the New Zealand Army by Michael Burgess

Armoured fighting Vehicles of New Zealand 1939-59 by J Plowman & M Thomas

BREN GUN CARRIER RESTORATION PROJECT photos by Colin Arnold and Phil Cregeen

Just over a year ago Colin Arnold of Central Branch bought a Carrier hull and commenced its restoration, when I visited him in January this year the project was well advanced. Here are some photos and I hope to bring you updates as the project progresses.



In the beginning: Carrier hull arrives in the workshop



Hull repair commences



The hull repaired, sandblasted ready for painting



Painted, the carrier is delivered to Colin's home



In Colin's shed January 2012



Wheels on and rebuilding the differential is progressing

Colin has been assisted by his son-in-law Shane who carried out much of the heavy steel work and grandson Wade. He has sourced an engine and gearbox together with countless other parts that still have to be refurbished. Surprisingly he is still finding a few spare parts unused in their original wrapping.

Colin also showed me another of his projects, a scratch built replica non-functioning copy of a Vickers Machine Gun to mount on the carrier. Seen here at the Central Branch Gun Show.



Colin Arnolds scratch built Vickers replica

CENTRAL BRANCH GUN SHOW, OTOROHANGA, 26 FEBRUARY 2012



Another great opportunity to meet up with friends and fellow collectors, look at excellent well presented displays and search for bargains. It was good to see the show supported by members from as far away as Northland, Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Taranaki.

WEBSITES

From Calum Taylor,

Boys Anti tank Rifle: http://www.rifleman.org.uk/Enfield_Boys_Anti-Tank_Rifle.htm#TOP_of_PAGE

From John Dahlin,

M1 Carbine Shoot: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjy6FRW0mhc&feature=related>

WHERE ARE THE GUNS?

Many people do not know where to find them. Do you have one in your locality? Send me a photo together with location and brief details and I will publish it here.



I photographed this nice 25 Pounder outside the RSA in Dargaville on Hokianga Road.

Canadian Women Say Thank You for Ending the Gun Registry - Now Invest in Social Services

Media Release 15 February 2012 (Abridged)

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) thank the Conservative government for keeping their promise to eliminate the wasteful long gun registry.

Ms Pyper Unitt, Canadian spokeswoman for WiSH, said "Finally parliament has seen fit to eliminate what was essentially a taxpayer funded list of legally owned, low risk guns which has done nothing to help women who are suffering in violent relationships."

The registry has certainly not prevented violence against women, and there is no credible evidence that it has reduced violence against women. While the number of spousal homicides continues its 20 year decline, the demand for shelter space and victim services continues to grow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012

17 March	Hawkes Bay Branch Auction, Napier
24 March	NZAHAA National Shoot, Auckland
31 March & 1 April	Auckland Arms Fair, Henderson
21 April	NZAHAA AGM & Auction, hosted by South Canterbury Branch, Timaru
13 MAY	Carvell's Auction, Auckland
19 & 20 May	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington
23 June	Whangarei Hunting Shooting & Fishing Show
1 July	Auckland Branch Gun Show, Mt Eden
7 & 8 July	Wellington Branch Auction
21 July	Mainland Arms Gun Show, Christchurch
17 & 18 August	Arms & Militaria Show, Tauranga
22 September	NZAHAA HYGM & Auction, hosted by Wellington Branch, Feilding
29 & 30 September	Auckland Arms Fair, Henderson
13 & 14 October	Ted Rogers Militaria Auction, Kilbirnie, Wellington

MYSTERY OBJECT (below right) answers please to oilrag@xtra.co.nz



Last month's object, above left, correctly identified by Graeme Barber is a bolt head and firing pin for a SMLE Mk IV* .22 Training Rifle . This month's mystery object was contributed by Lew McClenaghan.

2012 NATIONAL SHOOT

The National Shoot for 2012 will be held in Auckland on Saturday the 24th of March 2012 at the Deerstalkers Range in the Riverhead Forest.

There will be a full range of matches to cater for all tastes, from .22 cadet rifle to MSSA, blackpowder and smokeless, muzzleloader and cartridge, shotgun and rifle.

A program of events with entry form, range location map and forest entry times will be sent to interested parties.

Contact me at your earliest opportunity, to enable us to fine tune the days programme to suit.

John Collins

jcollins@orcon.net.nz

PO Box 10186, Dominion Road, Auckland, 1446, Tel (09) 638 6201



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS??? Photo provided by John Debney.

John Osborne did, here is what he had to say:

The image in the Feb E Gazette is of the NZ made Charlton SLR. I have sent my history of this rifle for publication in the NZAHAA Gazette.

I knew Phil Charlton personally and his associates in HB Maurice Field who financially backed Phil and Stan Doherty who was in charge of the production development when Phil went To Oz.

I produced a full history of the design, patent, prototype, development, promotion to the NZ Army and Government and production which was supervised by Stan.

It's a very interesting story, it's just a pity the CHARLTON never saw any action. The modified 30 round Bren Gun magazines made in Oz were designed to operate as a spring assisted gravity feed top mounted mag and would only work on auto with 5 or 6 rounds in the mag as the spring did not have enough strength to raise the cartridges fast enough to feed the rifle on auto action. Charlton called it the Charlton Automatic Rifle but the NZ Army Designated it a Self Loading rifle. The development of the Charlton rifle was a Political ploy to try and put the NZ public at ease that there were some "modern" type firearms in NZ to resist a Japanese invasion.

As you are probably aware the Charlton has been replicated both in NZ and the USA and I understand a few at least 2 SMLEs were converted by Electrolux in Australia but never put into production in OZ and with the 10 shot LE magazine they would never have worked on Auto.

A MEMBERS COLLECTION Photo by contributed by Nathan Loach, Wellington Branch



UNUSUAL CALISHER & TERRY contributed by John Osborne

This query came from Ian in Britain. Can anyone help? Reply to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz



I am really hoping that you will be able to shed some light on this for me - I have trawled the Internet but have drawn a complete blank. I know you are researching C&T carbines but have you turned up anything on any of their other guns? The one I have is, I would think, 12 bore and is smoothbore. The action appears to be the same as for the carbine. The stock is a quality piece of wood with some chequering and both the lock plate and action are engraved. This leads me to think that it was designed and manufactured for the civilian market and is not in fact a conversion - this is my best guess, hopefully you can be a little more definite!

BUY SELL OR SWAP (Free advertising for NZAHAA members for 2 months)

***FOR SALE OR TRADE :** U.S. Issue WW I Model 1903 Springfield Rifle fitted with Rare 25 round Trench Magazine; U.S. Issue M1922 M1 .22 calibre Training Rifle fitted with Winchester A5 Scope; U.S. Issue Pre WW II Model 1903 Springfield Sniper Rifle fitted with Rare side mounted Noske Scope. See photo below

WANTED : British Commonwealth Trials Rifles especially Pattern 1913, No I MK VI & No 4 Trials Rifles; WW I Lattey, Gibbs, Martin, and similar Optical Sights; Rifle Grenade Cups & Spigots, and Wire Cutters & Breakers.

CONTACT : Colin Green, 5 Tiffany Grove, Templestowe, Victoria 3106, Australia.

Phone :61 3 98462070. Email : colingreenaust@hotmail.com



Victorian Military Accoutrements

Waterbottle Pattern 1895



Contact Phil Moore: vma@nzh rifle.com

Tel: 03 980 7612

www.nzh rifle.com

FOR SALE: Cartridge collection, about 1K rounds, sporting & Military, some pistol & .22

Contact: Don Collins dgcollins@vodafone.co.nz



WANTED ;

SPENCER REPEATING RIFLE. 1862 – 1865.
MAYNARD CARBINE 1851
BALLARD RIFLE. 1861
BURNSIDE CARBINE 1856
STARR CARBINE
GREENE BREECHLOADER 1851
COLT REVOLVING RIFLE 1855
HENRY REPEATING RIFLE. 1862

Please contact Tony on 027 5233318 or
E mail tonyandanita@xnet.co.nz

WANTED:

New Zealand ZC1 Radios, Aerials and Spare parts. anything considered.

Please Phone Mark on 0274 572 124 or e
mail - markarnott@rockmail.com

***WANTED: Seeking Family Medals.** The two medals I am seeking are 1914-18 British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The recipients details are: Rifleman - William Edward Leat 38044. The medals are inscribed around the edge as were all WW1 medals.

If these medals are able to be found, the family are willing to compensate the current owner with either replacement or cash purchase.

Contact: Dave Crompton, Ph 06 278 8213

Email: crompo.ltc@xtra.co.nz

WANTED:

P 1858 Yataghan Sword Bayonet, Bar on Band fitting, square mortise slot, with 20.2 mm MRD. To fit on Whitworth Short Rifle.

Contact Phil: oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

AUCKLAND BRANCH GUN SHOW

Sunday 1 July 2012

Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, Auckland

Contact Myles Chandler 021 897 455

for bookings

Arms & Militaria Show

Greerton Hall, Tauranga

17 & 18 August 2012

9-4 sat, 9-3 Sun

Admission \$5

Enquiries: Keith 027 247 7029

Advertise your event here

Wellington Branch Auction

7 & 8 July 2012

We are currently seeking lots

And will be picking up in both North and South
Island during February.

Contact Steve Privett

04 9342756 or 027 4411785

or e-mail steveprivett@paradise.net.nz

SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH

Annual Auction

Saturday 21 April 2012

We are currently seeking lots, in particular: military
rifles, machine guns and handguns.

Phone: 03 6157 673 (day) 03 686 6884 (evening)

**NZAHAAI Hawkes Bay Branch in
conjunction with the Hawkes Bay
Chapter of IMAS**

AUCTION

17th of March 2012.

Vendor & Buyer commission will be 5%.

**Venue: Clive Rugby Club Rooms
between Napier & Hastings**

Delivery of goods to HBAHAA:
C/O Ahuriri Liquorland
West Quay
Ahuriri
Napier

Contacts: Paul 06 844 7321, E-Mail jo_paul@clear.net.nz

HBAHAA - Alan 06 835 4425

Catalogue sent to all NZAHAA members



**THE RUAHINE BRANCH
NEW ZEALAND ANTIQUE AND HISTORICAL ARMS ASSOCIATION.**

AUCTION 2012

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

NZHAAA HALF YEARLY MEETING FOR 2012

Hosted by the Wellington Branch at Feilding

**Is pleased to advise that they are now accepting
lots for an auction of quality collectable arms
and militaria, to take place at the usual venue**

21/22 September 2012

RANGITIKEI CLUB, FEILDING.

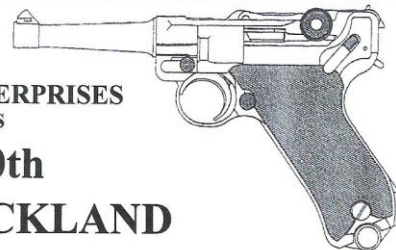
We have the same low bidders/vendors premiums as before.

For further information please contact.

Auction Convenor: Tony Mathews 06 374 9164

**GRATON ENTERPRISES
PRESENTS**

THE 30th AUCKLAND ARMS FAIR



SAT 31st MARCH & SUN 1st APRIL 2012

HOURS: SATURDAY 9.00am - 5.00pm SUNDAY 10.00am - 4.00pm

**AT THE WEST WAVE RECREATIONAL CENTRE
ALDERMAN DRIVE, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE CITY.**

**NZ's LARGEST SALE OF ANTIQUE, COLLECTABLE & MODERN
ARMS, MEDALS, MILITARIA, EDGE WEAPONS & SHOOTING
ACCESSORIES**

PLUS

**ANTIQUES & LADIES COLLECTABLES
DISPLAYS OF SOME OF THE FINEST FIREARMS & MILITARIA
IN THIS COUNTRY**

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$12

CHILDREN (15 & Under \$5 /Under 5 FREE)

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE:
GRAHAM 027 475 9246 OR TONY 021 951 932**

www.gunshows.net.nz