



E - GAZETTE MK II

New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 16 April 2012

EDITORIAL

Prompted by Terry Willson's article on the Swinburn Henry of the Natal Volunteers, Pat Glynn kindly loaned me his Swinburn Henry carbine to review and there then followed an international discussion on who his carbine may have been issued to and this in turn resulted in debate about the bayonet. So we have a strong Swinburn theme this month. If you have one of these relatively rare rifles and carbines, or knowledge about them, please get in touch.

Now that I am no longer National Secretary I have discontinued the NZAHAA Secretary Blog, however if you wish to be kept up to date with what the NZ Arms Register is doing please visit:

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

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 photos by Terry Willson and Derek Complin

Here we have a knife bayonet for a Swinburn Henry Carbine, as issued to the Natal Volunteers and Mounted Police, (see BCB S1) . OAL 284 mm, Blade Length 183 mm, MRD 18.1mm .



The only marking is JKL on the blade. They appear to have been made in two batches, an example of the second type is shown below. Only 190 of these bayonets are known to have been made and because of the nature of the hilt are thought to be specially made rather than cut down from a sword bayonet.



2nd Type

Note rivets in grip and length of false edge to blade.

OAL: 285mm

Blade length: 180mm

MRD 18.5mm

Hilt length : 97mm

GUN REVIEW from Pat Glynn collection, Photos by Phil Cregeen

This month we have a Swinburn Henry Carbine. In outward appearance very similar to a Martini Henry, however while it has a Henry barrel of .577/450 calibre the action is of the Swinburn patent. In simple terms this has a falling block and cocking lever as in a Martini, but employs a V leaf spring and hammer to strike the firing pin and a side lever which allows the hammer to be cocked without operating the under lever. For a full description see The Single Action Patent Site listed under WEBSITES below. The carbine has a 23.25 in. barrel and is fitted with a bayonet bar, the fore-end is secured by a pin and the sling eye. The rear sight is graduated to 800 yds. on the ladder and 1-3 on the bed, with two screws in the stock for a leather cover. The butt, fitted with a steel butt plate, is secured by a screw through an upper tang forming part of the body and lower tang which is a component of the action.



RHS marked V & R Blackmore London



LHS Marked Swinburn Patent

Note cocking lever



Barrel marked Henry Patent A & T 1064 with Birmingham proof marks, 52 (bore) and crown over AS



MP 139 issue mark believed to be Natal Mounted Police, the barrel and butt have a crown over AS inspection mark.

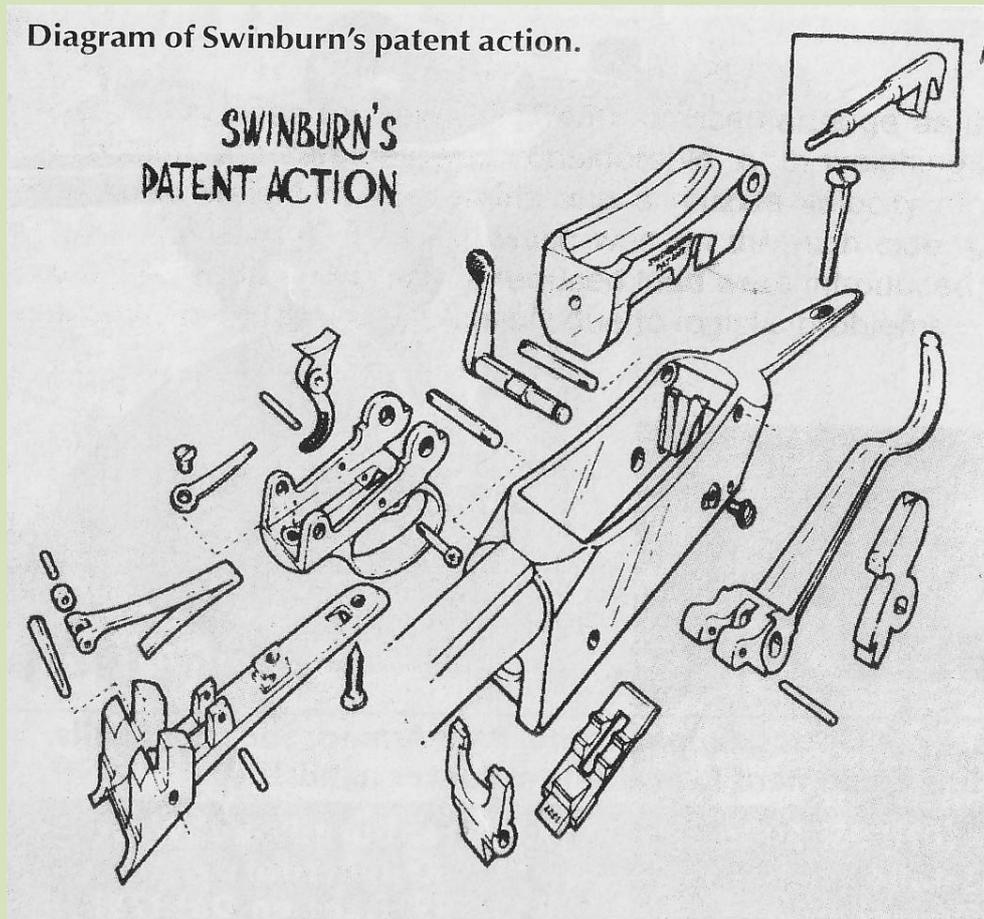
Although not Ordnance Board issue Swinburn rifles and carbines were inspected at RSAF Birmingham and records show that between 1875 and 1886 a total of 450 rifles and 1340 carbines were processed in four batches, it would appear that all of these were sent to Natal. Was this carbine one of them? Were other Colonial forces armed with the Swinburn?

The Swinburn Henrys of the Natal Volunteers. By Terry Willson

Formed in 1854 to protect the young colony from the perceived threat of the Zulu Nation upon its border, the Natal Volunteers saw more active service than any their counterparts within the British Empire. Up to the time of their incorporation as militia into the Union Defence Force in 1912 they had participated in four campaigns, the Zulu and Boer Wars and also the Langalibalele and Bambata Rebellions. Over this period almost sixty units had been formed, retained, disbanded and even resurrected. Some are with us to this day though their future is now uncertain. During their fifty-eight years of independence they were issued with thirteen different rifles and carbines. Of these, the longest serving and perhaps the most famous, was the Swinburn Henry, the rifle of the Zulu War which in its carbine version armed the Volunteer Units and Natal Mounted Police at the battle of Isandhlwana.

Following the marginal performance of the Calisher Terry Carbine during the Langalibalele Rebellion of 1873 and continued presence of the Zulu threat, it became obvious to the Natal Government that rearmament with a modern rifle was both essential and very urgent. Some Sniders had been acquired, but at best these could only be considered as a stop-gap measure. The obvious choice was the newly introduced military Martini Henry, but in view of commitments to the British Government, the manufacturers were unable to supply. The eventual compromise involved the purchase of the Swinburn Henry in its rifle and carbine versions. This weapon, manufactured by the Abingdon Gun Works, traded upon its external similarity to the British service rifle but was in effect a patent circumvention with a different but more fragile action. Perhaps, its only advantage was an external cocking lever, but it did at least take the standard Martini Henry cartridge thus simplifying supply.

Diagram of Swinburn's patent action.



Although the Swinburn retained the Henry rifling, its action was more complex and prone to wear with a troublesome firing pin assembly



The Swinburn Henry rifle and Carbine as used by the Natal Volunteers with their bayonets, the Patterns 1871 Cutlass, 1875 Commercial and the Bowie Knife. The two rifles with the Pat.'75 and Bowie bayonets are stamped "J.K.L." This is believed to stand for "John Kerr London", a possible agent.

Over the period 1875 to 1886 some 880 rifles and 1380 carbines were purchased, mostly just before the Zulu War. With these came 190 bowie knife bayonets for the carbines and an unknown number commercial Pattern 1875 for the rifles. The carbines were issued to the mounted units and the rifles to the infantry. At a later date, probably in 1885, a batch of Pattern 1871 ex-naval cutlass bayonets were obtained for the newly formed Naval Volunteers based in Durban. The bowie knife bayonets were mainly issued to the Natal Mounted Police and two of the Mounted Rifle Regiments. They were not considered a success, with a survivor of Isandhlwana even referring to his as a “foolish thing”.



Early Volunteer Marking on a Swinburn Henry
The mark between the V and the rack number
is obviously a stylized Union Jack.



Later Volunteer Marking on a Swinburn Henry
Probably a locally made replacement die

At Isandhlwana on the 22nd January, 1879, the Swinburn Carbine had its moment of glory, or perhaps rather, its darkest hour, for at that battle some 55 of the Mounted Volunteers and Natal Police met their end fighting to the last. Back to back they fought, volleying into the Zulu warriors with their carbines until their ammunition was exhausted. Then with revolvers, knives and bayonets until they were finally overrun and slaughtered to a man. The seared hands of some of the disembowelled bodies bore witness to the rapidity of their fire and the fierceness of the fight. “Tell England that we died doing our duty” reads the memorial tablet in St. Peter’s Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg and few could disagree.

Conversely, the Swinburn Rifles saw limited active service in a war where mounted men were mainly needed as scouts. Volunteers in the infantry units served as town guards and as such saw no action.



Sir Evelyn Wood’s Bodyguard during the Zulu War with Swinburn Henry Carbines. Whiles these men are not Natal Volunteers, it is highly probable that their carbines are Natal Government issue.



Natal Naval Volunteers parading with their Swinburn Henry Rifles and Pat.1871 Cutlass Bayonets



Volunteer Marking on a Commercial Pat .1875 Bayonet

The Swinburns remained in service until 1895 when they were replaced by Martini Metfords, By this time, after up to twenty years of use, they were out of date, in poor condition with bad sighting and worn out barrels. They had become most unpopular and few lamented their passing – a sad end to an historic rifle.

WHERE ARE THE GUNS?

These two guns are to be found at the north end of the main street in Otorohanga on SH 3, standing beside the war memorial. Can you provide any information such as type, history etc.?



My thanks to Phil Moore for contributing this website which gives details of more guns on public display, mainly in the South Island: www.nzrifle.com/ml_gate_guardians.htm

BIG BOYS TOYS contributed by Graeme Barber

In February several Canterbury members re-enacted in the Big Boys Toys and Girls Things display at the Rangiora Show Grounds



NZAHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 21 APRIL IN TIMARU (Notice with March Gazette)

Election of Officers

Nomination for President: Kath Arnold, proposed by Alwyn Davies & Steve Privett.

Nomination for Vice President: Steve Privett, proposed by Andrew Edcombe & Andrew Barker.

Remits to change the Rules of the NZAHAA

From Northland Branch: to include the exchange of knowledge as an object of the NZAHAA

From Ruahine Branch: to abolish Life Membership of the Association.

Have your say on these important issues, use your proxy voting form if you are unable to attend the meeting and tell your proxy how you wish your vote to be cast.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2012

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 31 March & 1 April | Auckland Arms Fair, Henderson |
| 21 April | NZAHAA AGM & Auction, South Canterbury Branch, Timaru
(see photos under News at http://www.antiqearms.org.nz/) |
| 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 |
| 8 7 9 September | Hamilton Shooting & Outdoors Expo |
| 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 |

WEBSITES

NZ Arms Register Blog: <http://nzarmsregister.blogspot.co.nz/>

You will find the Swinburn Patent here along with others of the period:

The Single Shot Action Patent Site: <http://users.telenet.be/Gert.Claes1/index.html>

Trevor contributed this website for air gun collectors: <http://www.cinedux.com>

Michael Carrick contributed this site for a collectors magazine: www.ArmsHeritageMagazine.com

MYSTERY OBJECT (the piece between barrel and rod, below right) answers please to oilrag@xtra.co.nz

Phil Moore was the first with the correct answer for last month, which was a Bolt stripping tool for an US M1 carbine. Below left.



PISTOL MISSING FROM A CASED FLOBERT by Jim McCaw

In my collection I have a really top quality Flobert rifle in a case which also has provision for a pistol, which is no longer there. If the pistol is still out there in the collecting world I would like to locate it and possibly purchase it.

The pistol is by Mariette and of very high quality. Looking at the rifle, it will have an ebony stock (not ebonised) carved with vines and possibly chequered. It is probably No. 3 size bore and the barrel is hexagonal at each end and fluted in between. "Flobert de Paris" may be gold washed on the top of the barrel with other gold decoration. The steel furniture will be polished and finely engraved. The outline of the pistol can be seen in the case below. The pistol is 15 3/8" long but if anyone thinks they have it I will send them a cut out of the recess for the pistol. The tools are also missing so if anyone knows where they are I would like to get them as well.

Obviously this is a valuable pistol and I would like to re-unite it with the rifle which is a delight.

If you can help me please contact Jim (03) 327 4123



COLFO REPORT

Dear Members,

In the last column I considered the statistics for New Zealand of deaths and injury relative the hours of loaded firearm use that occurred in 2008. I estimated there are 1.9 million hours of safe firearms use every year in New Zealand. In statistical terms there was one accidental death every 8.9 million hours of loaded firearm use, per 100,000 of population.

This time I look at New Zealand's statistics in comparing international death rates. This is not easy because different countries measure in differing ways and title it differently. Although there is a move in recent times to move to a standard international measure has been no long term consistency.

Accidental death is simple to search, however in a number of cases with firearms the shooter is found to be culpable, so the death becomes manslaughter and may result in a conviction, therefore is not recorded as accidental.

In the 2008 year in New Zealand there were 1918 deaths as a result of injury. The majority of these were as a result of motor vehicle accidents, suicide or deliberate self harm, falls, assault or drowning. I have looked at activities that are accidental rather than intentional.

I have prepared two simple tables below comparing data from 2008. The sources are – 'The National Injury Prevention Research Unit at Otago University NZ'; 'The Australian Bureau of Statistics for 2008'; and Canadian Statistics from the 'CANSIM site' for 2008 and 'Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA', whose latest data was 2007 in the same areas. While I considered United Kingdom the data is separated between England, Wales and Northern Ireland with unique issues, so no combined view.

	Deaths per 100,000 of population in NZ	Deaths per 100,000 of population in Australia	Deaths per 100,000 of population in Canada	Deaths per 100,000 of population in USA
Unintentional Deaths	30.6	25.5	30.7	41.0
Falls	11.1	6.7	9.3	7.5
Motor vehicle	8.6	7.2	7.9	13.9
Poisoning	2.5	3.7	4.3	9.9
Drowning	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.1
Unintentional firearm deaths	0.09	0.05	0.1	0.2
Firearm related Total	0.16	0.15	0.7	10.4

What does it all mean? As a snapshot in time it says two things to me;

Firstly - in New Zealand firearms are largely in responsible hands. The number of, firearm related accidental deaths, is small compared to other causes of death such as falls, motor vehicles and drowning. Given the high number of deaths by falling, I am surprised a licensing system has not been suggested for ladders. In comparison to Australia, in 2008, we have similar levels of firearm related deaths as a percentage of population but we had more unintentional or accidental deaths and less intentional deaths.

Secondly - trying to control accidents through legislation is expensive and ineffective.

In my opinion New Zealand's excellent firearms safety record has been achieved and can improved through three areas;

- Education – such as is offered by the NZ Mountain Safety Council, teaching responsible and safe practice with firearms. If these courses were offered in schools it would reduce the number of airgun accidents, as it has with defensive driving courses with the number of motor vehicle accidents for those who have attended these courses.

- Safe areas for firearms to be used – up to now shooting ranges have been a part of most communities, look at your local map you will find a road called “Rifle Range Road” or similar near most towns. Every district council should plan for shooting ranges to provide a safe training and shooting area for their population,
- Reward compliant behaviour – the “Fit and Proper person” test allows individuals to be assessed for the appropriateness to access firearms as they demonstrate their interest and responsible behaviour - rewarding the right behaviour rather than banning access to firearms. Banning can create a decision cross road for young people to head down a criminal path if it is their only opportunity to pursue an interest.

The point of this baseline is to measure the public safety of responsible firearm owners against their own actions, accidental death and injury, and not against the actions of criminals.

Michael Dowling

Chair, COLFO

HAVE YOU SERVED IN THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY OR POLICE?

To aid the research for the NZ Arms Register we would be pleased to hear from any ex-servicemen or police who can provide a list of the arms (weapons) that they trained with or used in their service career. This includes: small arms, artillery, AFVs, aircraft, ships etc. information required includes but not limited to such things as (example below):

Year, weapon name, model, unit, where first used, date if withdrawn from service.

1965	MG	M60	RNZA	Vietnam	not known
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Copies of dated photos would also be useful.

We are currently researching the SLRs used by New Zealanders (FN FAL, X8E, L1A1, L2A1) and would be pleased to hear from any ex-service men who have first hand experience of when they were first issued in the 1950s and 60s, (Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam & NZ) and any special modified versions, such as large capacity magazines etc.

If you can help please reply to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

TAKING PISTOLS TO EVENTS contributed by Andrew Edgcombe

Recently there has been confusion over the requirements for B category firearm storage while shooters attend events. Here is some clarification on this issue.

The Operations Advisory Committee has established the following Policy:

In terms of carriage of a pistol for target pistol shooting the interpretation of the standard condition for pistol club members should be interpreted to mean: Carriage is permitted between the licence holder's home and stated destinations regardless of whether the pistol will need to be away from its usual and Police approved security overnight.

B endorsement holders do not need to obtain a 'permit to carry'/endorsement on their licence each and every time they take pistols away overnight.

In stating this policy the OAG reinforced that they are required to secure the pistols as specified in Regulation 28 of the Arms Regulations 1992.

The full paper noted that failure to comply with regulation 28 might result in revocation of the endorsement.

Joe Green
Inspector
Manager LVSC

COMPETITION RESULTS FOR THE 2012 NATIONAL SHOOT:

There were 13 shooters registered, with all events well competed for. The day went smoothly, with all participants enjoying the lunch and the mix of events.

Results:

Event #1, M/L Shotgun:

1st: Tony Stones-Havas
2nd: John Collins

Event #2, B/L Shotgun:

1st: John Milligan
2nd= Steve Tregoweth
John Collins

Event #3, Snider:

1st: John Collins
2nd: John Milligan
3rd: Steve Tregoweth

Event #4, Martini- Henry:

1st: John Collins
2nd: Steve Tregoweth
3rd: Trevor Marshall

Event #5, M/L Rifle:

1st: John Milligan
2nd= Tony Stones-Havas
Ernie Haghin

Event #6, B/L Rifle:

1st: John Collins
2nd: Tony Stones-Havas
3rd: John Milligan

Event #7, Sniper Shoot:

1st: Steve Tregoweth
2nd: John Collins
3rd: Tony Stones-Havas

Event #8, Military Rifle:

1st: Steve Tregoweth
2nd: Tony Stones-Havas
3rd: Trevor Marshall

Event #9, MSSA:

1st: John Collins
2nd: Steve Tregoweth
3rd: Ernie Haghin

Event #10, Offhand Rifle:

1st: John Milligan
2nd: John Collins
3rd: Paul Exler

Event #11, .22 Rifle:

1st: John Collins
2nd: Mark Downey
3rd: John Milligan

Event #12, Cannon:

1st: Kevin Hussey
2nd= Paul Exler
Trevor Marshall

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

FOR SALE OR TRADE : Canadian Issue Enfield Enforcer Sniper Rifle in near new condition fitted with Pecar Scope; Australian Military Issue Pattern 14 Sharpshooters Rifle fitted with early Fecker Scope ex A.D.F. & Australian Government Ammunition Factory; British Royal Navy marked .22 calibre War Office Pattern Training Rifle with Military type Scope; Collection of approx 80 British & Australian Lee Enfield Range Sights including many RARE examples.

WANTED : British Commonwealth Trials Rifles especially Pattern 1913, No 1 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



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Contact: Don Collins [dgcollins@vodafone.co.nz]



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HENRY REPEATING RIFLE. 1862

Please contact Tony on 027 5233318 or

E mail tonyandanita@xnet.co.nz

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Tel: 03 980 7612 www.nzrifle.com

WANTED:

French MAS 36 rifle in original very good to excellent condition (including bore), complete with bayonet.

Phone Graham 03 684 8880 work
email: graham@pauljohnston.co.nz

WANTED: Fore-end for an SMLE No 1 Mk III* to complete a restoration project.

Contact: James Cagney

Tel: 027390000

e-mail: cagney.james.debra@xtra.co.nz

GAZETTE Dec 2005 to Dec 2011

Back issues available from the
National Secretary

Cost \$5.00 each, plus \$2.5 P&P up to 4 copies

Note: March 2006 sold out

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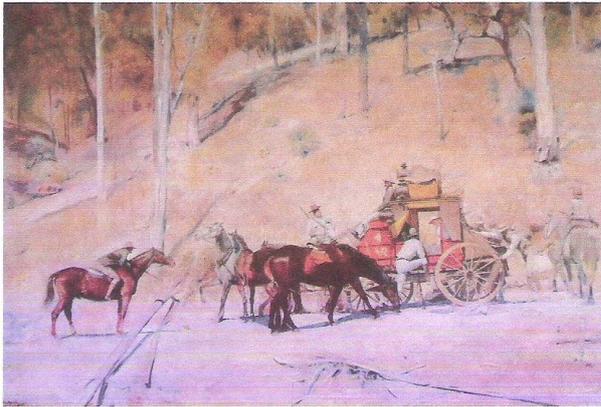
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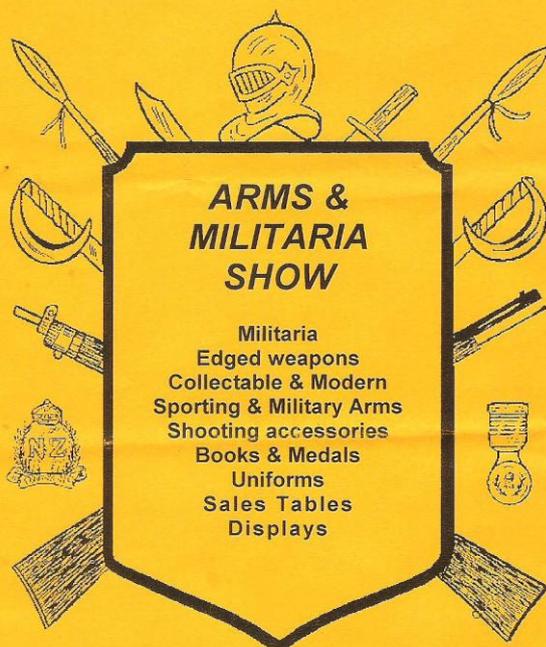
DISPLAYS BY LOCAL CLUBS

REFRESHMENTS

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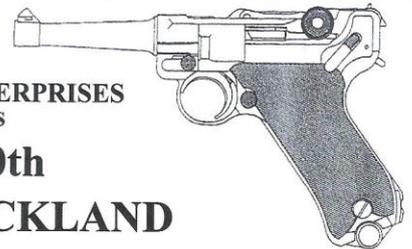
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