



E - GAZETTE MK II

New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc.

35 November 2013

EDITORIAL

After some 20 years it is sad to see the end of the Auckland Arms Fair, which has been held twice a year at Henderson for many years past, ably organised by our members Graham Brimble and Tony Daw. As Graham has pointed out (see page 13) it is time for younger men to take up the challenge.

Fortunately the challenge has been taken up by Danny Patton and Clayton Gillespie who plan to hold a one day Militaria Show at Kumeu Showgrounds on Saturday 12 April 2014.

It is a shame that this new show coincides with our AGM and auction in Napier, as I am sure many of us would have wished to attend this new event. However it illustrates why it is important that event organisers get their dates advertised well in advance so that event clashes can be avoided.

My thanks to all of you who have contributed material for this edition.

Phil

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NEW ZEALAND ARMS REGISTER

WEBSITE NOW LIVE at: <http://www.armsregister.com/>

*****WITH A NEW SEARCH ENGINE ADDED*****

The following information pages have been added or updated in the past month:

Articles NZAR ID A50,A51

We have not been idle this month, more new info pages are being prepared on various Snider carbines, Mk I & II Bren and Local Pattern Wheeled Carrier, these will be uploaded to the website soon. Members are also working on info pages for the Colt M 1878 revolver, GPMG and Besa MG. If you own any of these items with New Zealand provenance we would be pleased to hear from you.

Your comments or additional information is always welcome.



Pictured above are two examples of the Australian Machette Bayonet; Top Mk II, Bottom Mk I.

The Machette Bayonet was approved for production in April 1944 and thought to have been manufactured at the Orange Factory. The initial order was for 1,300 but this was later increased giving a total production of 3,411 bayonets. The bayonets were intended for use by Paratroops and was designed to fit the SMLE No 1 Mk III Rifle, it used the standard Pat '07 pommel, grips and cross guard mated with a new heavy blade. The bayonets were marked with a four digit serial number on the RHS of the pommel ranging from 3001 to 6412, the wood grips are generally marked SLAZ and dated.

In July 1945 following troop trials a request was made for a larger handle, this resulted in the Mk II with a composite grip which was sealed as a Pattern in December 1945. It was intended to convert 2,250 Mk I bayonets to the Mk II grips, however it was not fully implemented. A new scabbard was also introduced with a longer securing strap to accommodate the larger grip and was made of webbing with a metal guide and lined with fibre.

Many of the Mk I Machette Bayonets were sold as surplus in the 1960s. Since they are quite scarce, reproductions have been made, a good one by AIA, and also fakes. Watch out for signs of a new blade being welded on to an old Pat 07 hilt.

Length OA:	16.0 in (406 mm)
Blade:	11.2 in (284 mm)
Scabbard:	16.5 in (419 mm)
MRD:	16.5 mm

Reference: British & Commonwealth Bayonets By ID Skennerton & R Richardson (A24 &25)

At first glance this item looks a bit like a salt shaker and could be easily dismissed as such but looks can be deceptive and unlike the utilitarian item it resembles this object has far more sinister origins.

During the closing stages of the Second World War Germany was pushed to the brink as Allied Forces took the upper hand tightening the noose with troops pushing deeper into the Fatherland cutting vital supply lines and the targeting of essential industry with strategic bombing which had a huge impact on the armaments industry and the ability to manufacture and resupply troops in the field or the home army known as "Volksstrum".

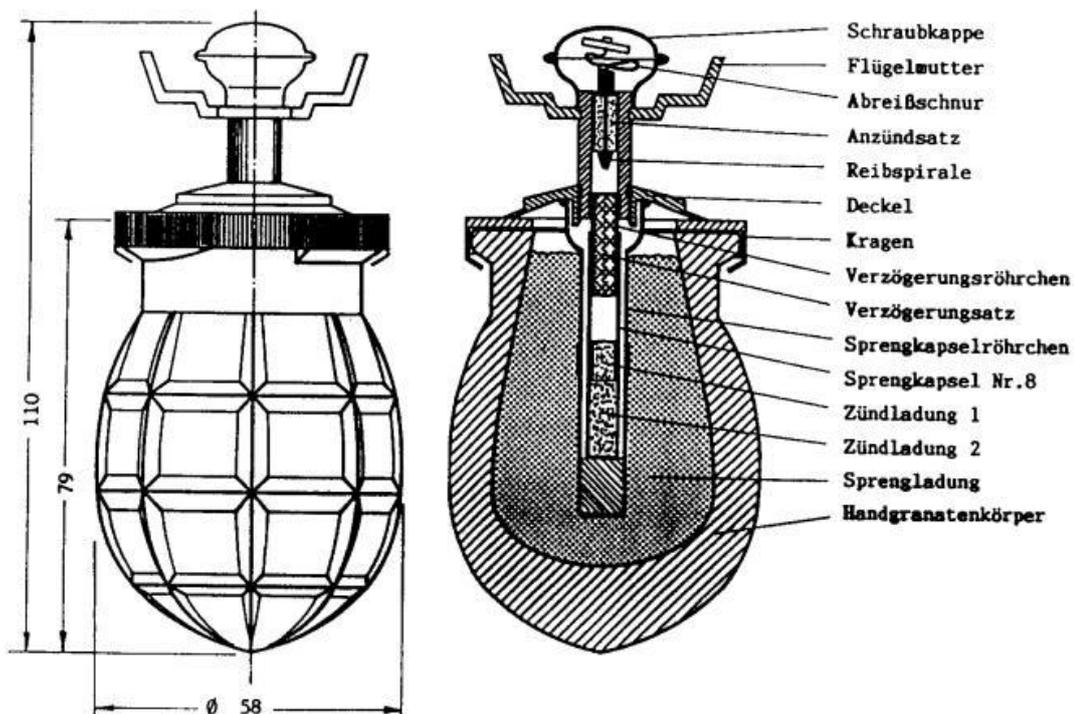
Steel was in short supply as was the machinery, manpower and factory's to work it, alternative materials and construction methods were sought and one solution to the supply of hand

grenades was this grenade constructed from heavy glass, dubbed the GLASHANDGRANATE it is a very uncommon item which I was fortunate to obtain from a collector friend in Germany. There are two known manufacturing variations one with raised fragmentation lines the other with sunken fragmentation lines cast into the glass body of the grenade, the wall thickness of the grenade is 8mm to 10mm. Glass hand grenades have been found with steel fragments added to the explosive charge to add to the shrapnel effect. The Glass hand grenade was fitted with a simple light gauge pressed metal lid which carried either a BZ(Brennzunder)39 or BZ40 pull fuse as used with the Model 39 egg grenade and the Model 43 Stick Grenade, the normal delay time for this type of fuse was 4 ½ seconds and variations existed with 1 second and 7 second delay times. The composition and size of the explosive charge is unknown.

When compared with other expedient grenades produced at the time this glass grenade can be considered quite refined. I will feature some more of these last ditch items in future articles.



Glashandgranate and No36 Mills Grenade indicating size .



A drawing depicting lid and fuse details

19th century officer's cased cutlery trousse

By John Carter

The French word 'Trousse' means a small bundle.

Sometime ago I acquired a cutlery Trousse to add to my collection, but I knew very little about it and invite anyone's comments. It's a folding set of Knife, Fork, Spoon & corkscrew in a very nice little blue silk lined compact leather case which an officer would take in his kit when posted overseas. Although the metal looks like silver I think it is Britannia Plate, the scales are ivory.



Above the name "Allen & Son - Sheffield" on the blade are three stamps in the form of Maltese Crosses. A friend of mine tells me that the Maltese Cross was used by Joseph Rogers to mark his knives.

This is a strange piece of information as on the back of the Fork and Spoon they are marked with what looks like silver makers marks (see below).



JR & S c BP

(JR) could be Joseph Rogers (&) (S) son, (Crown) and (BP) on its side could stand for Britannia Plate. From Bradbury's book of Hall marks I learnt that the Crown was prohibited in 1896. So it gives an indication of the Victorian age.

Could they have been used in the Russian War at the Crimea, or the Maori Wars in NZ or even the Boer War in Africa ?

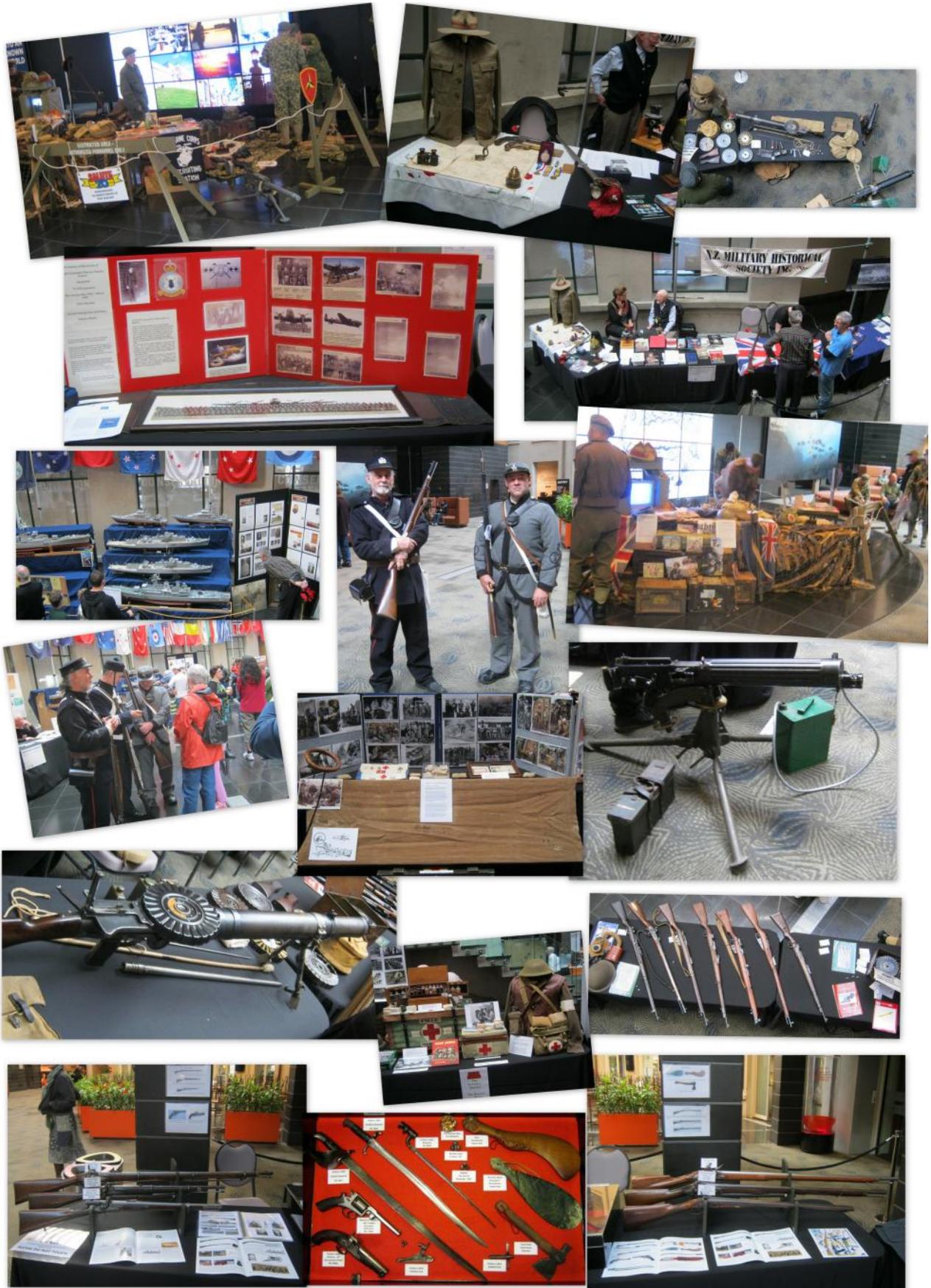
James Allen & Son are listed at :- 4 Mitchell Street and Rockingham Street, Sheffield 1864 – 1925
Joseph Rogers & Sons are listed at:- 6 Norfolk Street, Sheffield 1780 – 1929.

Somewhere, a while ago, I read that these two were in partnership for a time but I can no longer find the source. The Maltese Cross mark was first registered in March 1682, but John Rogers (the father) registered it for himself in 1764. The firm of Rogers & Son was appointed cutlers to the Royal family in 1821.

I displayed the Trousse at the Auckland AGM on 31 August 2013 and I can now say after some friendly 'wheeling and dealing' they have been passed on to a New Zealand collector, and a very good friend of mine.

MILITARY HERITAGE DAY AT AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Organised by the New Zealand Military Historical Society on 12 October this event provided another opportunity for NZAHAA to show case what we collect to the general public. The event coincided with the Passchendaele commemorations at the museum which resulted in Army personnel and veterans viewing the displays as well as mums and dads with their kids. The displays were set up in the South atrium next door to the museum cafe and saw a steady stream of people through from 9.30 until closing time at 5.00 pm.



LIVING HISTORY

A three part presentation by Dave Simmonds

at Pukekohe East Church 150th anniversary commemorations, 14th and 15th September 2013.

Dave Simmonds is a Northland teacher who spends much of his spare time as a "living historian" in the role of a Rifle Volunteer. The following notes are abridged. (Ed)

A living historian perspective. Working from an inquiry approach.

A good inquiry approach begins with research, which generates questions, which directs further research, which generates more questions. In my experience, living historians actively engaging in inquiry learning do not, as a rule, simply accept what has always been 'known' and stated as the truth. The questions that arise from our study of history guide us into further research. Our inquiry approach to history gradually tends to bring our focus from a macro to a micro perspective. We go from examining the overall social and political landscape to considering the private lives of individuals.

We go, for example, from asking why did Governor Grey do and say the things he did, to asking what was it like for Alfred Speedy – Mauku Rifle Volunteers – after the action at Lusk's Clearing, when he realised a bullet had passed through his cap?

From the living history perspective, your questions become quite intimate. What was it like to wear those clothes, those boots? Just how literate were people? How were they able to write so beautifully using nib pen? What did they talk about with their friends? How did they light their pipes? How did they sound?

And of course this is the very information that is scarce in history books. And it's scarce for the very simple reason that it was common. Everyone in the 1860s knew how their fires were lit. How their food tasted. How their hobnails sounded on the road. It is the unusual and dramatic that is noticed and recorded, not the common place, mundane and every-day. But these are the very things we want to learn about.

As living historians we try to recreate the experiences we have read about and test and trial tools, techniques and equipment that were used in the past.

In general terms then, we already knew what it felt like to shoot their rifles. We researched clothing designs and materials, learned to sew – after a fashion – imported equipment from overseas and actually used these items to perform tasks. We tried to master a number of old time skills – such as lighting a fire with flint and steel – however in the back of our minds is the knowledge that, someone from the 19th century would almost certainly laugh at us for being proud of such a common place achievement.

Regulars, Colonial Defence, Militia, Armed Constabulary and the Rifle Volunteers.

Generally, up until the mid 1860s, the burden of combat in the New Zealand Wars fell on the British regular line infantry regiments stationed in New Zealand.

The colony's contribution to defence was limited to the militia and the volunteers. It is my contention that the Rifle Volunteer movement in New Zealand is far more historically significant than is generally recognised. There were at least 43 Volunteer Units throughout the country through that war period.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

The rifle volunteer movement had its origins in Britain in 1859. That was the year the French began to get a bit stroppy. War with France was looking likely and Britain needed her line regiments back on home soil.

New Zealand, along with other British colonies such as South Africa, Australia, and Canada adopted Britain's defence strategy. Three levels of defence aimed at providing the greatest degree of military strength and preparedness for the minimum financial outlay.

An Overview of N Z Military Forces in 1863:

By 1863 the military forces in New Zealand consist of a first line of defence – which were the Imperial Line Regiments.

The 2nd line was the militia that can be called upon if needed - with the militia itself consisting of three classes, and the 3rd line being dozens of Rifle Volunteer companies. These companies were either set up to actively campaign in the field, or as a local defence force working in very specific locality – such as Pukekohe, Mauku, and Waiuku.

The Colonial Administration was quite eager to encourage and support the formation of Rifle Volunteer corps. They would purchase in 1865 a total of 10000 Hay rifles – which was an improved version of the .577 1853 rifle musket. Many of these would be issued to Volunteers Corps, and from January 1861 uniforms, complete with the necessary belts and pouches were available as well. Of course the militia was still an option - however both from the public's point of view and from the Government's perspective, almost everything about the 'Militia' was unpopular.

The Act was difficult to enforce, the militia itself was relatively expensive to equip and to train, and expensive to operate. Worst of all, the growing colony was desperate for labour. A general labourer could make 4 to 6 shillings per day and a bricklayer's labourer up to 8 shillings a day. The Militia paid 2 shillings and 6 pence plus rations per day. The administration was appalled when the first time the Militia was called out, 400 men simply left the colony to try their luck in New South Wales goldfields.

The main difference between the Rifle Volunteers and the Militia was that the 'militia' force was a ballot of men – aged 16 to 55 – drawn from the population at large – with certain people, for example those involved in law, religion, local or provincial government being exempted - and could not be used outside a defined area – something like – within 30 miles of the post office at the centre of the military district.

The Militia Acts, particularly that of 1858, compelled men who were not exempt - and had not provided a substitute - to serve within their particular district and imposed financial penalties – and the possibility of gaol - for failing to enrol for the militia and failing to attend muster and drill. It subjected men to the quite harsh terms of the Mutiny Act in times of actual service.

On the other hand, 'volunteers' were not paid when not on active service, operated at minimum expense to the government, which provided only arms and ammunition, and an allowance for every effective volunteer – essentially a financial incentive for corps to drill and train - although rations seem to have been supplied when volunteers were needed to support government operations. Consequently, a volunteer unit enjoyed certain privileges such as election of its own officers, framing its own regulations, drilling at times that suited them, and of course exemption from service in the militia.

The Rifle Volunteers :

Rather than blue or red, Rifle Volunteers wore uniforms of grey or greyish brown cloth with black trim – some variation of an Austrian knot on the sleeve in square black braid and a red trim or edging around the black. Volunteers were expressly forbidden from having gold braid on their uniforms, this being reserved for the use of her Majesty's regular forces. Rather, braid and buttons on Officer's uniforms was to be silver and Private's uniforms had bronzed buttons. The corners of collars and tunics were to be rounded and any sleeve badges or rank insignia was to be in silver. Often tunics were closed by hook and loop rather than buttons. Headwear differed greatly from plain caps to quite elaborate shakos.



The return on Military Forces in the Colony for June 1862 shows a total of 2826 Rifle Volunteers in New Zealand. Source: *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives online*. This figure does not include cavalry or naval volunteers, or militia.

The December 1861 census gives a total of 37,479 European males between the ages of 16 to 55 years (military age). This suggests that around 7% of European fighting age men were enrolled in Rifle Volunteer companies at this time.

In the 19th century those British citizens who settled in New Zealand strongly identified themselves as being "British", with all this title entailed at the time. They took a great deal of pride, and even reassurance, in seeing symbols of British power and prestige transplanted to, and flourishing in, their new colony. This included all of their political, social, economic and military institutions.

In writing about the Australian experience, Bob Marmion in his 2003 thesis, *The Victorian Volunteer Force on the Central Victorian Goldfields 1858-1883*, notes that the Volunteer movement was essentially a middle class organisation in that, "...the Volunteers were patriotic, socially and politically reliable and with a very strong sense of their British heritage", volunteers also tended to be literate, employed and were able to devote their personal time and financial resources to supporting their corps. Marmion also notes that Volunteering "...melded neatly with the mid 19th century ethos of what it meant to be Victorian, that is hard work, self improvement, community service, respectability and seriousness of character." I would argue the same held true in the New Zealand colony.

A Unique Record of Distinction:

To the best of my knowledge, no Rifle Volunteers, prior to the South African war at least – not in Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa or any other part of the Empire were ever engaged in actual combat with an enemy. Except here, in New Zealand - making our Rifle Volunteers unique among the tens of thousands of Rifle Volunteers who served throughout the British Empire in the 19th century.

It was only here – in New Zealand - that the Rifle Volunteers met an enemy on the field of battle. That Rifle Volunteers fought side by side with Imperial regiments, and were under fire alongside the better known Forest Rangers. Rifle Volunteer units conducted independent operations, and participated in a great many well known actions throughout the New Zealand War period.

Other distinctions that mark our New Zealand Rifle Volunteers from those of other countries, include the award of battle honours to the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers for the action at Waireka, and the winning of the Victoria Cross by Charles Heaphy, an Auckland Rifle Volunteer. Traditionally, these honours and awards are reserved for members of Her Majesty's regular forces.

The Rifle Volunteer Movement was no passing fad that was enjoyed by a few and quickly passed into obscurity. The Rifle Volunteers were many things and their contribution to the social, political and military history of New Zealand must not be forgotten.

Living History and the Interpretation of Historic Events:

So how does a Living Historian with an interest in the Rifle Volunteer movement interpret events such as the defence of the stockade at Pukakohe on September 14th 1863? In essence, you try to read between the lines. I would argue that a major factor in understanding what actually occurred during the defence of the stockade is dependent on knowing the sorts of equipment the men actually carried. We know the Volunteers and Special Constables had been at Drury up to the 9th of August and we can assume they were probably there for the purpose of being equipped and possibly drilled. It is also likely they were at the Volunteer camp at Drury rather than one of the others and would be issued with Rifle Volunteer equipment rather than line infantry equipment.

But other than a general idea of what they were probably given – a .577 rifle, a belt, bayonet frog and bayonet, and an ammunition and cap pouch – other than this we don't know exactly what equipment they were issued.

What did the battle sound like? Loud would be the most obvious answer. But what was the pace or rhythm of the battle? How quickly did the smoke dissipate? How rapid or slow was the firing? Did they consider 3 rounds a minute per man fast? It was close to the fastest rate that a trained man could fire at. Was one round in three minutes considered to be a slow rate of fire? We don't really know.

We don't know a lot of things. For instance we don't know how good a shot the men really were. We hear some men – Scott and Corporal Donald were considered "crack shots". How does that compare to a rifleman today – or even of 1860s? Were they competent judges of shooting skill? In my own experience I can hit a two foot square steel plate 7 times out of 10 at 200 yards. That plate isn't shooting back nor is it trying to hide behind a stump. My question is, would the men who defended the stockade consider that to be good shooting.

The 1859 pattern expense pouch or ball bag is carried on the waist belt on the right and holds 10 cartridges ready for immediate use. Other designs – and some sources appear to suggest that Rifle Volunteers were using these designs - held 20 rounds.

With everyone shooting as fast as they could they would empty that 20 round expense pouch in less than 7 minutes. We know that firing was quite intense during the first hour of the attack. If this was the case, the McDonald boy would need to have moved pretty quickly to resupply the 17 riflemen. Based on the sources, the perimeter of the stockade measured approximately 50 metres

and 17 packets of ammunition would need to be delivered every few minutes.



On the other hand, if the men had been equipped with a cartridge box as well as an expense pouch, then they would have had a minimum of 60 rounds on them. Cartridge boxes carry 50 rounds in 5 packets of 10. However they are heavy and cumbersome – and if you are building a stockade they will get in the way.

But it means the defenders could have had access to 1020 rounds of ammunition immediately. And that also means that James McDonald would have much more time to get around the men and re-supply their ammunition.

Assuming most of the men are in pairs at the loopholes; McDonald could have simply cut the string on the packets, unwrap the rounds and dumped them directly into the men's front expense pouch – rather than handing the packets to the men. He would also have torn open the cap wrappers and placed them in the cap pocket or cap pouch (assuming they had a cartridge box and separate cap pouch). The second man, once he has loaded can be handed a packet and allowed to sort his own ammo out – always assuming he is not involved in repelling an attack at that particular moment.

As cartridge boxes are worn over your right hip, James would have only needed get behind his man, lift the flap of the cartridge box and replace the missing packets. The caps could be handed to the man who would then place them into his cap pouch which is mounted on the cartridge box sling. This tactic allows the men to keep looking to their front – watching for a target – or ready to duck. In considering these questions, what strikes me is that James McDonald's task has to be one of the key factors in the successful defence of the stockade. James must keep his resupply mission up for 2 – 3 hours until the first reinforcements arrive.

And all the time, he is working his way through the ammunition boxes – packet by packet – this 14 year old boy is able to calculate fairly accurately just how much ammunition is remaining – and therefore how much longer the garrison can hold out. Sgt Perry strikes me as a man who knew his business and as such would almost certainly be asking James – quietly perhaps so the others couldn't hear – just how many rounds are left.

At this time an ammunition box holds 560 rounds – or 56 packets of ammunition as well as the packets of percussion caps. At a rate of only 1 round per minute per man, 17 men will fire off 560 rounds

in around 33 minutes. Of course, depending on the immediate threat to their front, some men will be firing at a faster rate than others. Some may even be reserving their fire or don't have a target – especially if the attack is concentrated on certain points.

You see, I don't know if Sgt Perry had the men in a 360 degree defence or if only certain points of the stockade were strongly defended such as the corner bastions.

The sources tell us the men were placed 2 to a loophole and that loopholes were cut in the logs every 5 feet. But the perimeter of the stockade was approximately 150 feet. That gives 30 loopholes and so before the first reinforcements arrive there are clearly not enough men.

Assuming an average firing rate throughout the battle of 1 round per man / every 2 minutes, and the firing goes on from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM – a total of 5 hours - each man could have fired 150 rounds, for a total of 2550 rounds, or the contents of 4 ½ ammunition boxes.

Why are all these figures and 'what ifs', 'maybes' and assumptions relevant? These questions go to the "flavour" of the battle as well as providing avenues for further investigation, research and discussion. The practical hands-on experience demanded by a living history approach raises so many questions overlooked by the texts.

Where are the men's rifles when the attack comes? Are they carrying them in their hands for instant use? Are they in the stockade under the watch of a guard? Perhaps they are stacked or possibly leaning against the walls of the church along with the cartridge boxes? Are they muskets or Enfield rifles?

Cowan's sources note the firing apertures were 4 and a half feet above ground level and 3 inches high by 6 inches wide. This is almost opposite to the dimensions of the loopholes in St Brides at Mauku. Is someone experimenting with tactics? Is there a typo in the record? Or were these dimensions due to the nature of the construction of the stockade – horizontal logs laid one on top of the other – would a 6 inch tall firing port weaken the wall?

I measured out these dimensions - 4 and a half feet is too high to fire kneeling and too low to fire standing. Either the sources are mistaken in their recollection or Victorian men were much shorter than I have been lead to believe.

A more practical firing point would have been 3 inches wide, 6 inches high and cut 5 feet above the ground. Such a firing port will allow a rifle to traverse approximately 45 degrees, depending on the depth of the port. As well as allowing a shooter a view of his target, such dimensions allow a defender to have that critical situational awareness and to quickly position his rifle for shooting and remove it for loading.

I hope I have shown that for living historians it is important to consider not only the historical context but also the people involved. The more we know and understand the people involved the more we understand the historical events they were involved in. For living historians, history is not just facts and dates – it is about people.

A further account of the battle at Pukakohe may be found at:
<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-CowHero-t1-body-d13.html>

INFORMATION REQUEST

I am compiling an NZAR Info page for the Colt M1878 as used in NZ and would appreciate any advice.

Many thanks John Osborne jcosborne@xtra.co.nz

Are there any other .44" M1878 Colt revolvers similar to this one with verifiable NZ provenance?

There are several .476 / 455 Colt M1878 DA revolvers known to have been owned / used by Officers in NZ forces mainly with 5 1/2" barrels, supplied through Colts London outlet and London proofed.

According to Don Wilkerson, in his book "Colt's Double Action Revolver Model of 1878" published in 1998, a German arms dealer "Reuss" in 1889 exported 400 x.44" caliber M1878 DA to New Zealand and Australia. These revolvers were also imported directly from the Colt factory in the USA and from Colts London agent (with London Proofs).

Below the nickel plated .44" M1878 DA Colt S/N 22796 4 3/4" was made in 1889 it is chambered for the early .44" WCF (Winchester Center Fire) cartridge introduced in 1873. The later 44/40 cartridge which is larger in the rim thickness & diameter will not chamber refer images below.

The provenance of this .44" M1878 DA Colt has not been verified but has had considerable use. It has no NZ marks but may have been purchased privately by an officer in the NZ colonial forces following the threat of a Russian invasion scare .



SEND A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO KIWI SERVICE PERSONNEL SERVING OVERSEAS

Kiwi Forces Radio 30 Sep 2013



Kate Lukins, a former DJ and studio engineer with the Radio Network (Newstalk ZB, ZM/FM, Classic Hits, Coast FM etc) and who now works with Defence in a civilian role, has once again secured access to the network's studio, music library and phones.

She will be recording a Christmas radio show for our deployed personnel, complete with music requests and messages of support from families and friends.

The programme will be made available to our people in theatre, in time for Christmas.

To send a song request and record a message for your mate, email: kate.lukins@nzdf.mil.nz with your name, phone number (cell phone is okay) and say what time on the weekend of 16 – 17 November is best for her to call you from the studio.

Final day to email your details through is Friday 15 November, all calls will be made on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November.

THE END OF AUCKLAND ARMS FAIR

Dear people and supporters of the **Auckland Arms Fair** for the past 20 years or so. Tony and I managed 33 Shows in all.

After Show 33 we decided to call it quits as we are now ready to enter retirement as graceful old men.

Your support for our shows has been gratefully appreciated but we decided it was time for us to move aside.

Breaking news.

A new team have taken up the challenge and have secured a date for a very much new look type Show, neither Tony or myself have any involvement at all with this new show but we do support it completely.

The new Show will be a one day Show in Auckland and all of the details of this new look show will be sent out in due course.

I can tell you that this new one day show will be the 12th April 2014 and looks like a winner for all.

Set up day for this one day show will be Friday the 11th April.

This team of new generation collectors/enthusiasts deserves all of the support that they can get, Auckland needs a very good Show of this type each year. I can tell you this will be a very different exciting type Show.

It will not only involve Guns but will involve Re-enactors, Military Vehicles of all types, plus a host of new activities, it will be very exciting for all involved.

Although not involved I can be contacted for updates on this new venture and will be more than happy to forward the latest info on this show as it comes to hand.

As I have already said, Tony and I have moved aside and do really appreciate all of the support we received over the many years we ran the **Auckland Arms Fair**.

It was time for a very new look, revitalised completely new approach to this type of show.

These new young guys just might hit this on the head and do very well, I'm enthused and very confident that this will be a great event which will be here for some time to come with each Show getting better and better.

Let's all wish them well and give them 100% support.

Kindest regards.

Graham Brimble

MYSTERY OBJECT (below right), answer please to oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

The small rectangular plate on the stock of a Alex Henry Rifle (below left) is to prevent ejected cases from bruising the stock.



We really don't know what this is, so hope one of you will have the answer

OTAGO MEMBER HONOURED

At the Otago Branch AGM held on 18 September, Branch Treasurer Stuart Maxwell was made a Branch Life Member, being presented with a badge (real plated gold) by the only other Otago Life Member Grant Sherriff. Just to top off the surprise Stuart was also awarded the Perham Award Medal by Chairman Stewart Bayne.

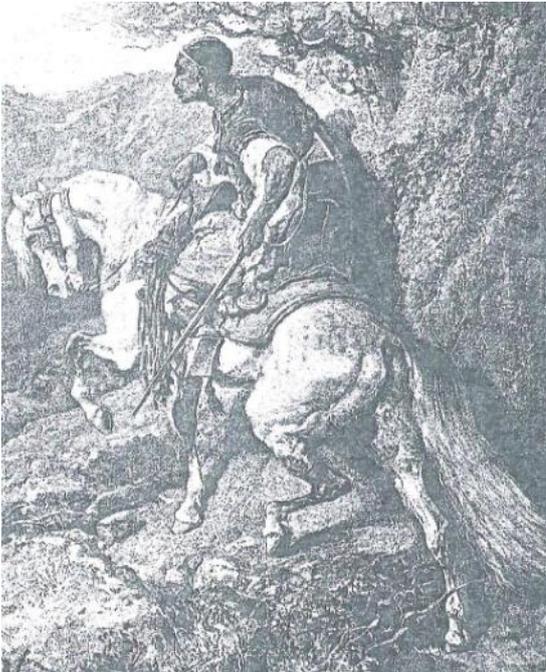
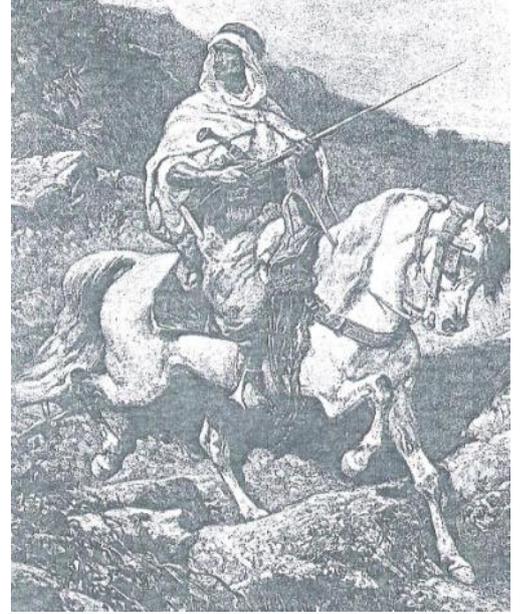
After forty years involvement in many Branch roles, Stuart's awards were warmly supported by all attending. Well done.



African Guns by Maurice Taylor (Part 1)

Maurice Taylor travelled North Africa as a young man and now shares his passion for the unusual muzzle loaders that he has collected and restored.

It was a grossly mislabelled auction lot that prompted me to write of African guns. The gunlock in question was described as a Miguelet Flintlock but was neither and from the photo looked like a typical Moroccan/Algerian Snaphance lock of the sort that though following the European forms of the 17 century remained in use and production well into the 20 century, many being made up for export by European concerns, but they were also made in North Africa and I saw them for sale and in use still in the 1960s. Merchants in Casablanca would assure you they were "Berber" but I saw them in use in central Algeria and they are usually referred to as Kabyls after the horse riding tribes who used them.



The Kabyls vary in quality but are almost invariably in very worn state. In the desert regions there is a constant fine dust that permeates every nook and cranny, you learn to eat without bringing your teeth into direct contact lest you crunch into the fine sand ! So any oil would become valve grinding paste in short order. That and the tendency to use items until they can't function ever again would account for this . The long gun (see next page) never had a ramrod which makes me think it must be a home defence piece, usually the barrel length allows placing the butt in the sand and you are at the right height to load from your horse. This barrel is some 54" long. I once stopped a few days at an oasis where my host had a Kabyl in the corner and an ungainly stuffed Gazelle head on his wall. He had no English nor French but he mimed the spotting , loading, stalking and discharge from the Snaphance musket. I had some flints in my pack (Like you would if you are a Muzzle loader!) and he was delighted with the gift (this was about sixty miles north of Adrar the whole settlement like something out of the Old Testament).

I don't recall seeing the Algerian Mucalha in Moroccan shops. These are a form of Miguelet known as the Arab' Toe lock type, rather massive overkill sorts of lock and I've just about completed restoration of one I bought on a Rendezvous blanket in Ohio, the missing battery ,spring and battery bridle secured by feis or securing pins. The stock illustrated came separately and was missing part of its butt and every bone inlay but four round the tang, the barrel came out of Persian Kurdistan but is in keeping and odd as it looks in proportion I have only been at it since 1971. Why bother you may well ask ! Well like the two Moroccan pieces also much restored are my way of preserving a piece of history and as a young man I wandered through these lands so they mean more to me than wall décor, the usual fate of such pieces . The Glenbow Museum Calgary have two examples of Algerian Toe lock pieces, these are important as they had good provenance being the hunting guns of Abdel Kadar former leader of the Algerian resistance forces who, exiled to France was staying with Marshall Soult .The gunlock bearing the date by our calendar of 1815. Whilst his were fine examples mine would be a more down market item.



Top: Long Moroccan Kabyl, its 54 inch barrel having no provision for the customary ramrod . I speculate perhaps for a building defence arm .The lineage of European Fishtail mid 17c stock styles is evident but much thinner and wider at the butt end. Both barrels and locks were bought or exchanged for hapless captives. Though some locks were evidently a local product.

Middle: A later Kabyl restored from a stock which had been made up with a 1863 Springfield percussion lock and barrel , apparently the result of a rejection of some sub standard Liege contract. These parts being robbed I used a bolster less '63 barrel and a Liege flint lock of the type made in numbers to convert such rifles into flintlock for trade guns to Africa or other markets the shape fitting the mortis exactly, (bands and fore-end restored). However it is interesting that given such rifles they considered the original stocking ugly and stocked it up in their own style !

Bottom: Algerian 'Mookahla'. These I never saw in Morocco in the two months I was there, though I did see Kabyl styles in use in central Algeria. The lock is of early Spanish type, this one locally made and typical of what's called the Arab "toe lock" Miguelet. This example is missing the spring to operate the dog catch there being no half cock or other safety. Again this lock its stock and barrel all originally came from different guns the battery its spring, bridle and related screws and 'Fieles' (pins) were made to restore it and a silver plate engraved to match the lost original. Every bone inlay bar four were replaced along with the butt plate. Yet it is now an example of the type. I did hunt pigs with the above flintlock but this one is too heavy for my tastes.

UP COMING EVENTS - If you have dates for events in 2013 or 2014 please advise oilvrag@xtra.co.nz

2 & 3 November Taranaki Branch Gun Show, New Plymouth

9&10 November Armistice In Cambridge

10 November Carvell's Auction, Auckland

2014

11 & 12 January Northland Branch Annual Invitation Shoot, Oromahoe

23 February Central Branch Gun Show, Otorohanga

6 April South Canterbury Branch Auction/Swap Day, Timaru

12 April Hawkes Bay Branch Auction & NZAHAA AGM, Napier

21 June Whangarei Hunting Shooting & Fishing Show

6 July Auckland Branch Gun Show, Mt Eden

12 & 13 July Wellington Branch Auction, Kilbirnie

WHERE ARE THE GUNS? Please send details of your local gun to oilvrag@xtra.co.nz



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Photos by Pam Cregeen**

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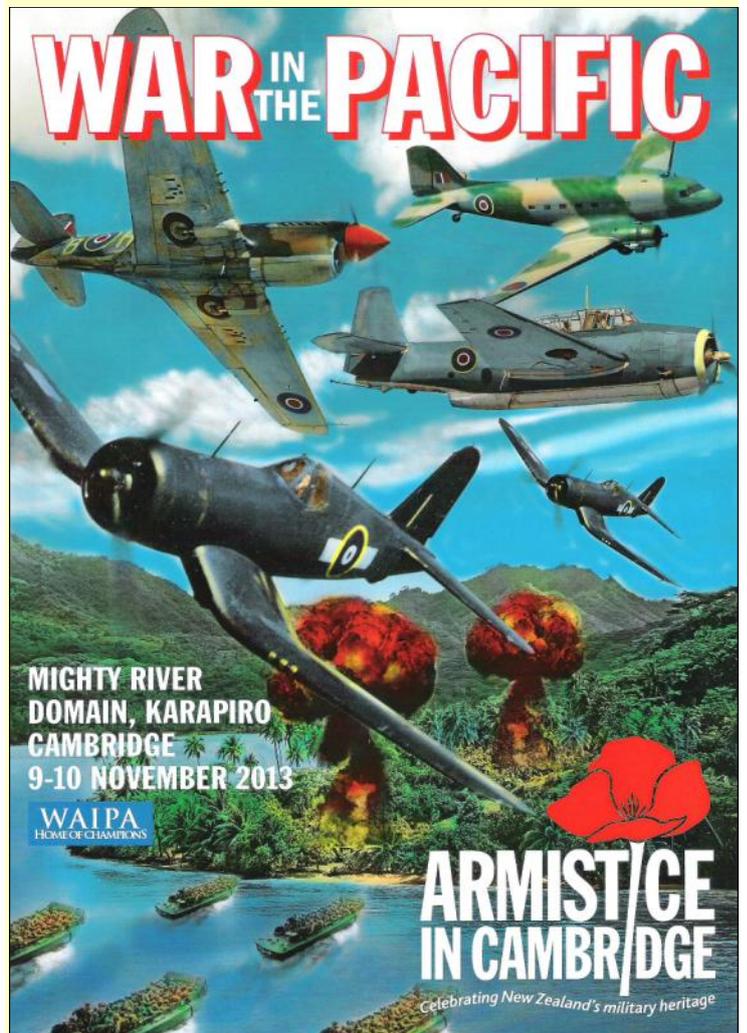
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FOR AIRCRAFT ENTHUSIASTS

Below is a brochure for this years UK Air Show Tour. I understand another Tour is planned for 2014 and the organisers will be promoting it at Armistice in Cambridge. (Ed.)

Tour Highlights
RAF Cosford, The Shuttleworth Collection & Airshow, Yorkshire Air Museum, National Rail Museum, RAF Scampton, Lincs Aviation Museum, BBMF Visitor Centre, RAF Waddington, Newark Air Museum, The Duxford Airshow, Imperial War Museum, Bletchley Park, Watts Chapel, Goodwood Revival, Hampton Court Palace.

Tour Features
Leisurely paced with mostly 2 or 3 night stays, small group, max 24 guests, Unique itinerary, Character accommodation, Escorted from NZ. Flexible return date.

Inclusions
Tour Escorts from NZ, Economy return airfares on Cathay Pacific, Private Coach Transport, All breakfasts, Dinners as stated, Accommodation with private facilities, Sightseeing as stated, Gold Pass for The Duxford Airshow, Shuttleworth Air Display, Goodwood Revival, Gratuities.

Testimonials from "the South" tour

“ Thank you so much for making what we thought would be a good, memorable, trip and tour into a totally enjoyable, fascinating, informative, once in a lifetime set of experiences for Dad, Laura and I. I know we couldn't have done all this without your planning, forethought and continual help. We'll miss you both - especially the laughs! ” **Caroline**

“ A faultlessly organized trip, many thanks for a job well done ” **John**

“ The best organized & most user-friendly tour I have been on. I appreciated the little touches and the overall laid back atmosphere. I really enjoyed the tour from end to end. I would be happy to talk to and recommend the tour to anybody. ” **Warwick**

“ I don't think you could throw together a more interesting and comprehensive tour than this one, all we expected and more. ” **Kevin & Ann**

“ It was a really great trip and I loved the whole experience. I have no complaints and would make no alterations. I was happy with every single aspect of the tour. I am very impressed by your attention to detail and would most definitely travel again on any tour organized by you. ” **Rod**

“ Thanks for making the trip so special. We have told our like minded friends to look out for next year's tour. ” **Murray & Jan**

“ The tour was all we expected and more. Thanks for looking after us so well. ” **George**

UK AIRSHOW TOUR

Planes, Trains & Autos

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Goodwood Revival

Tour Cost \$9150 per person twin share.
Single Supplement \$1500
or option to share.
\$500 non refundable deposit required on booking.
Balance due 31st May 2012.





Day 1 – Thurs 29th August (in flight L, D)
We depart Auckland at 1.20pm, arriving in Hong Kong at 9pm, and we will be transferred to our hotel for the night **Regal Kowloon Hotel.**

Day 2 – Fri 30th August **Hong Kong** (B, D)
Today is at leisure in Hong Kong. There is a selection of tours to choose from if you would like something organized – own cost. We will have dinner at the hotel, an optional escorted walk to the harbour front to view the Laser Light & Sound Show, before transferring to the airport for our late flight to London.

Day 3 – Sat 31st August **Cosford** (B, D)
Arriving into Heathrow early morning, we make our way to the RAF Museum at Cosford with over 70 aircraft including the world's oldest Spitfire and a Lincoln Bomber. It's the only place in the UK where you can see Britain's three V Bombers: the Vulcan, Victor and Valiant. **Premier Inn, Rugby**

Day 4 – Sun 1st Sep **The Shuttleworth Air Display** (B)
We spend the day at The Shuttleworth Collection with the afternoon air show. Also includes the Bird of Prey Centre which is in the Shuttleworth grounds. **Premier Inn, Rugby.**

Day 5 - Mon 2nd Sept **Yorkshire Air Museum** (B,D)
Today we head up to the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington where we spend the day. Situated in a 20 acre parkland site on the former World War II RAF Bomber Command Station, it is the largest and most original WWII station open to the public. **Royal York Hotel.**

Day 6 – Tues 3rd Sept **National Railway Museum** (B)
The amazing National Railway Museum is just a 5 minute walk from the hotel and has over 100 locomotives and nearly 200 other items of rolling stock, telling the railway story from the early 19th century to today. We finish the day at leisure. **Royal York Hotel.**

Day 7 – Weds 4th Sept **RAF Scampton** (B, D)
Today we will drive over the famous Humber Bridge on our way to RAF Scampton, current home to the Red Arrows and former home of the Dambusters. We have a private tour of the grounds & Museums. Late afternoon we will visit Lincoln Cathedral and the Bomber Command Memorial. **Petwood Hotel - aka 617 Squadron Officers Mess.**

Day 8 - Thurs 5th Sept **Lincs Aviation Heritage Centre** (B,D)
Today we visit the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, home of Lancaster "Just Jane". We have 5 places reserved for a VIP Taxi Ride Day in Just Jane – own cost. Alternatively a day at leisure in Lincoln. **Petwood Hotel.**

Day 9 - Fri 6th Sept **BBMF Visitor Centre** (B)
We spend the day at the Visitor Centre and have a guided tour of the hangar which is home to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. **Petwood Hotel.**

Day 10 - Sat 7th Sept **Newark Air Museum** (B,D)
A guided tour of RAF Waddington starts our day and we spend the rest of the day at Newark Air Museum. **Best Western Gonville Hotel.**

Day 11 - Sun 8th Sept **The Duxford Airshow** (B)
Today is The Duxford Airshow. Our Gold Pass includes use of a lined and carpeted marquee with luxury toilets, seated viewing enclosure, private access to the flight line walk, a souvenir programme, and a collectible badge/pass. Spend some time in the Imperial War Museum. **Best Western Gonville Hotel.**

Day 12 - Mon 9th Sept **I.W.M** (B,D)
You may return to Duxford for more time in the Imperial War Museum, or spend the day at leisure in Cambridge. There will also be the option of a trip into Saffron Walden to do the town trail. **Best Western Gonville Hotel.**

Day 13 - Tues 10th Sept **Cambridge** (B)
Leisure Day in Cambridge. **Best Western Gonville Hotel.**

Day 14 - Weds 11th Sept **Bletchley Park** (B, D)
The historic site of secret British code breaking activities during WWII and birthplace of the modern computer will keep us busy today. **Harte & Garter Hotel, Windsor.**

Day 15 - Thurs 12th Sept **Windsor** (B)
Leisure day in Windsor. **Harte & Garter Hotel, Windsor.**

Day 16 - Fri 13th Sept **Watts Chapel** (B,D)
The Grade 1 listed Chapel is a wonderful fusion of influences, including Art Nouveau, Celtic, Romanesque and Egyptian. It is built on a grassy mound and the deep red terracotta brickwork contrasts with striking effect against the cemetery landscape. **Barnett Hill Hotel.**

Day 17 - Sat 14th Sept **Goodwood Revival** (B)
The Revival is the world's most popular historic motor race meeting and the only event of its kind to be staged entirely in the nostalgic time capsule of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The biggest fancy dress party you will ever attend. **Barnett Hill Hotel.**

Day 18 - Sun 15th Sept **Hampton Court Palace** (B)
We finish with a day at Hampton Court Palace including the history, buildings, gardens, Tudor cookery, ghost stories, the chapel, the maze, too much to mention. A fitting end to our fantastic tour!
We return to Heathrow early evening for your onward arrangements or evening flight departure. Your tour escorts will be leaving the tour at Heathrow and staying on in the UK.

Day 17 - Mon 16th Sept (in flight D, B)
In transit.

Day 18 - Tues 17th Sept (In flight D, B)
Arrival into Auckland is at midday.

You may choose to fly home connecting straight through, with a stopover, or to add on a family visit, a London Week, Europe Tour, or River Cruise. Please ask for a quote for your individual requirements.

Any changes from the Cathay flights on the above itinerary are subject to availability and there may be additional costs. Early booking is recommended.

