



E - GAZETTE MK II

New Zealand Antique & Historical Arms Association Inc. # 80 September 2017

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

EDITORIAL

In 4 weeks we have a general election, I hope you use your two votes wisely.

Of course there may be many important issues that concern us that will influence the way we vote, however if the ownership of firearms is one of the main factors, then consider this: In terms of their sympathy towards firearm ownership NZ First is recognised as the most sympathetic, (thanks to Prosser and Mark) National have a Police Minister who has shown she is willing to listen to the firearm community and is sympathetic to our concerns, (see page 13) Labour is generally negative and the Greens are definitely anti firearms, wanting full registration and a 5 year licence.

A vote for NZ First may seem attractive, BUT and it is a BIG BUT, if the Greens and Labour get enough votes NZ First may well enter a coalition with them to form a government, and the horse trading of policies will begin. Ah you say then NZ Firsts pro firearm policies will cancel out the Greens anti policies, BUT don't forget Labour's Greg O'Connor, (or Stewart Nash) who could become Labour's Police Minister, with his past experience in police, and we all know what he thinks about the private ownership of firearms.

So my personal thinking is to give my Party vote to National, to ensure a steady as she goes approach to gun control, with a Police Minister willing to listen to and act on the concerns of the firearm community. As an aside National steered New Zealand through the Global Financial Crisis without too much drama and now, according to the Legatum-Institute-2016-prosperity-index, we are ranked the most prosperous nation in the world, with Australia No 6, UK No 10 and the USA No 17, so National have a good track record of stable and successful government.

Don't forget to vote on 23rd when you attend the NZAHAA Half Year General meeting and Auction in Wellington. May the best parties win.

Best wishes, Phil

The e-Gazette Mk II is a monthly news-letter circulated free to members of the NZAHAA and their friends by e-mail only. It may be copied and forwarded to fellow collectors, we ask that any material used by others is acknowledge to this publication.

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All correspondence relating to the e-Gazette should be addressed to:

The Editor, Phil Cregeen at: oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

To unsubscribe e-mail the Editor.

All correspondence relating to NZAHAA membership should be addressed to the **National Secretary:**

PO Box 694, Rangiora 7440 e-mail: [nazahaa.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:nzahaa.secretary@gmail.com)

NZ Arms Register
www.armsregister.com

Here you can research the arms used by New Zealand Military and Police.

New Info Pages : Corvettes NZAR ID 475 & 476, 6in 26 cwt Howitzer NZAR ID 486.

Back issues of the e-Gazette will be found in the Articles section.

STEN Mk II

Here is a STEN Mk II that you can own without a licence and you don't have to keep it locked away. It is a 45% model made of steel in Taiwan. It is correct in every detail and functions and strips exactly as a real one, it even comes with 5 tiny model rounds, but of course you cannot fire it. The model measure 350mm overall and comes with two types of butt.

For more information see: <https://samoon.com.tw/ghk-sten-mkii>



A Bayonet for the Earl of Aylesford's Great Packington Volunteers

By Derek Complin



For those who do not have a copy of *British & Commonwealth Bayonets*, it is worth quoting from the text. I find this a particularly interesting period in European history, as so many countries competed with each other for their place in the world.

"The strong support for the Volunteer movement [early 1800s] was largely as a result of France's expansionism and successive military victories and the military enthusiasm of the British people extended to all social classes; the learned and wealthy were no exception, in fact, they donated to help equip many of the units. Volunteers were organizing and arming themselves throughout the country and in many instances, no expense was spared to acquire what was considered to be the best equipment available. This even escalated to open rivalry between some groups, and some distinctive sword bayonets have been attributed to particular units during this period. . . B100 [the subject of this article] is different again, and possibly slightly later in vintage, as it is very similar to the Sappers & Miners sword bayonet, with a curved knuckle bow. This bayonet is in the tower collection, and is documented as having been used by the Great Packington Volunteers, who were organized by the Earl of Aylesford. This fixes onto a Baker type rifle made by S. Wallis of Birmingham, which is also at the Tower.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Britain was allied with the German States and it was some German designs that influenced British sword bayonets of this period. Therefore, any study of this age will be greatly assisted by an understanding of the appropriate German swords and bayonets. This period, with its variety of sword, socket and knife or dagger bayonets, represents the Golden Age because of the variety and quality of edged weapons manufactured.

Some of the Ordnance contractors were supplying bayonets to the Volunteers, which was a more lucrative market than Ordnance Board contracts. . . "

This same example of the bayonet was used for illustration in *British Military Bayonets* (R.J.Wilkinson Latham, 1967), and in *The Bayonet Book* (John Watts & Peter White, 1975). Following nearly fifty years of collecting, an example of this scarce bayonet finally came my way. With a slim, 660 millimeter (26 inch) single edge blade, there is a certain elegance to this bayonet, despite the ungainly hilt. The socket dimensions of this example differ somewhat from those recorded in *British & Commonwealth Bayonets (BCB)*. These differences are hardly surprising, as production was by hand, and dimension tolerances measured accordingly.

To compensate, bayonets were individually finished and fitted to each musket. With rack numbers matched, the soldier was assured his bayonet would fit.

They are:

This Example

Blade length: 660 millimeters
Socket length: 110 millimeters
Stud-to-Muzzle: 59 millimeters
Socket Inside Dia.: 23 millimeters

BCB Example (Figure B100)

650 millimeters
109 millimeters
51 millimeters
24 millimeters

The hilt is particularly well made and finished, the knuckle bow quite small, attesting to the smaller stature and size of men some 200 years ago. It's quite a tight fit for my hand, and I'm not exactly a big bloke!



Two markings of note. The blade (above) is stamped with a Crown/4, an indication that there was some relationship between the production of this volunteer piece and the Board of Ordnance.

A two digit numeral is engraved on the socket (right). Initially I took this to be '1', but with the magic of digital photography, a second numeral appears, a '7', which I'd originally thought was a scratch. If you look closely, you can see that the 1 and 7 are engraved in the same style - thin single strokes and multiple strokes for emphasis. Someone took a lot of care over their work, way back then.



In addition to the bayonet held in the Tower of London collection, a handful of further examples are retained in private collections, such as those illustrated in *The Bayonet, an Evolution and History* (R.D.C.Evans and Frederick J. Stephens, 1985), and *Collecting Bayonets* (J.A.Maddox, 2005). Stamped 'Crown/4' on the blade, the Maddox bayonet is numbered "25" on the socket, indicating at least that number were manufactured.

© Derek Complin
Kingston, Canada
www.bayonetsplus.com

Endnote: British & Commonwealth Bayonets, Ian D. Skennerton & Robert Richardson, 1986, Ian D. Skennerton

BL 6 inch 26 cwt Howitzer

by Grant Hays - Assistant Curator Vehicles, Technology and Artillery, National Army Museum

This article was received in response to Peter Maxwell's query last month (Ed)

The 6 inch 30 cwt howitzer was replaced in Britain by this weapon in 1915, although NZ did not receive their divisional issue until the early 1920s. During WW1, 3633 howitzers had been made and had proven to be a thoroughly reliable weapon. They had consumed no fewer than **22.4 million** rounds of ammunition on the Western Front alone.

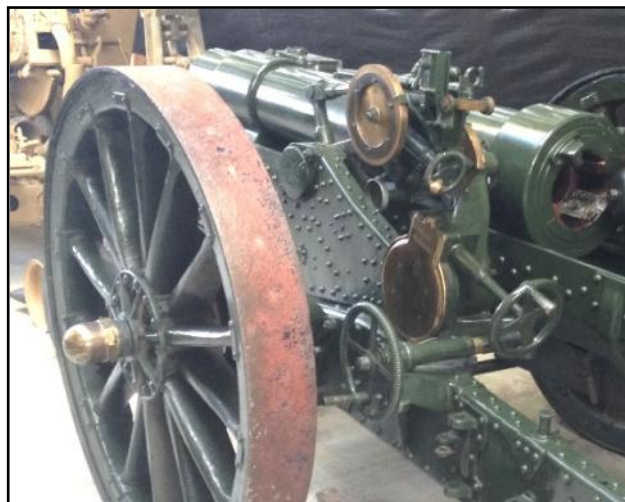
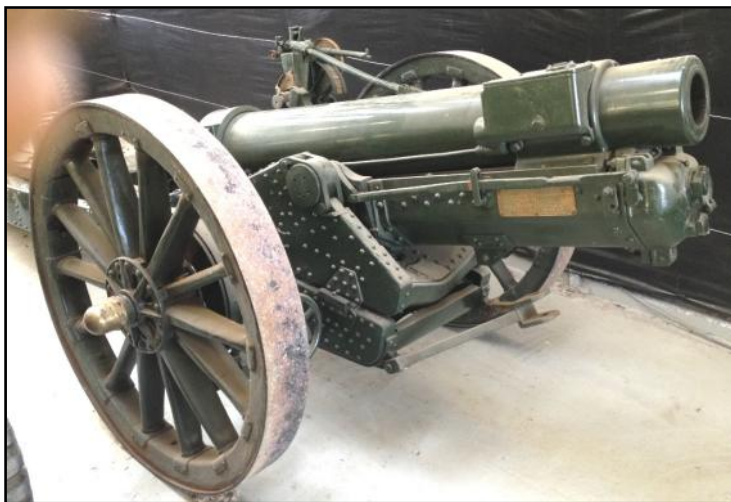
Following WW1, three NZ territorial batteries were equipped with the howitzer. In 1938 the NZ government adopted a local pattern conversion kit to mechanise the gun by fitting a bogie with four pairs of heavy truck wheels (our item obviously escaped this modification as it still has its original steel rimmed wooden carriage wheels). The result did not track well behind the towing vehicle though as the trail of smashed one-way bridges in certain parts amply testified.

The howitzer remained on active service until 1941, and became obsolete in 1945 with the arrival of the 5.5 inch medium gun. However, the NZ Army retained the guns for CMT (Compulsory Military Training) use until a premature occurred around 1953 during a shoot in the South Island involving 17 Medium (Petone), 19 Medium (Wellington) and 14 Medium (Dunedin) that blew the muzzle off one of the guns. No one was injured but the howitzers were quickly retired. The Museum's gun came from Hopuhopu Military Camp who had received it in 1953.

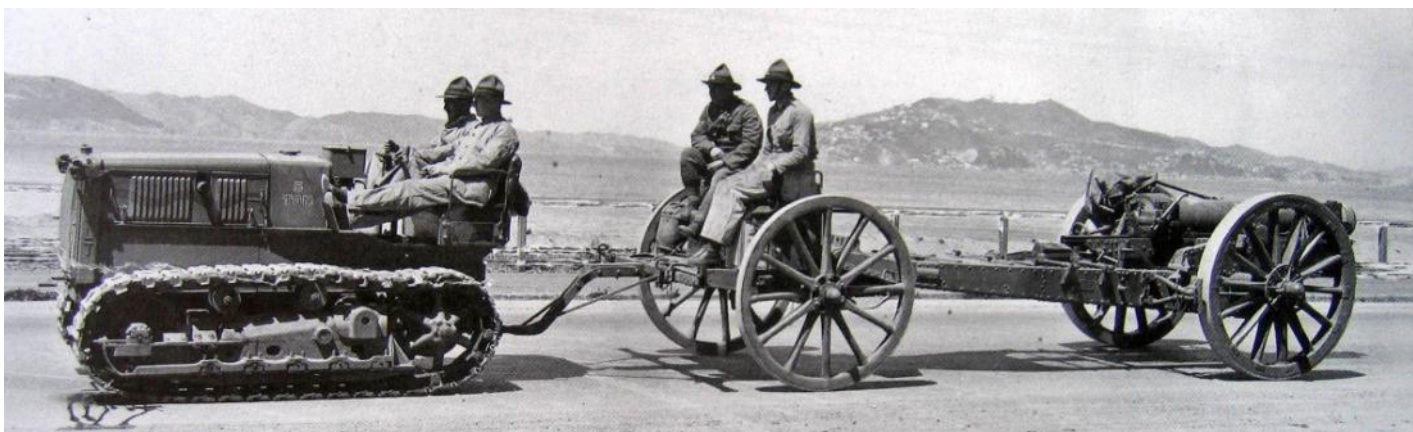
<i>Detachment</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Weight in action</i>	<i>4471 kg</i>
<i>Breech</i>	<i>Welin Screw</i>
<i>Maximum range</i>	<i>10,430 metres</i>
<i>Muzzle velocity</i>	<i>429 m/sec</i>
<i>Ammunition</i>	<i>High Explosive with both percussion and time fuses</i>
<i>Ammunition weight</i>	<i>39 kg (86 lb) or 45 kg (100 lb)</i>



Territorial gun crew in the South Island c.1930 with the 6 inch Howitzer in the centre



Top Left: Barrel and recuperator
 Centre left: Muzzle markings
 Bottom left: Breech carrier
 Top right: Sighting arrangement
 Centre right: Trail section showing breech
 Bottom right: Plate mounted on carriage with 'Instructions for Filling Recuperator'



NZ Artillery 6" 26cwt howitzer on the Hutt road Wellington 1942
Courtesy of John Osborne

BEST WISHES TO ALL SERVING AND PAST WRENS

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Women's Royal Naval Service. It has been celebrated with a variety of events in the UK.



Here are a few images that may appeal to gun collectors:



Wren Armourers testing a Lewis and another inspects a SMLE



Big weapons and small the girls of the Royal Navy take it all in a days work.

NZAAA Auckland Branch Annual Competition Shoot

Held on Sunday 6th August 2017 at NZDA Weir Rd range , 19 shooters took part in fine weather.

EVENTS:

1. CANNON SHOOT

Any bore size, three shots at 100m. **This will be held at the next Cannon day 18th November to save time on the day**

2. SNIDER SHOOT

Open to all .577 Snider action arms, not replicas. Six rnds - 2 prone, 2 kneel/sit, 2 standing. 50m paper target. 10 min.

3. LEVER ACTION SHOOT

Open to any centrefire lever action repeating rifle, any calibre. Standing only. 20 rnds. 50m paper target. 10 minutes.

4. OPEN MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE SHOOT

Open to all M/L rifles including replicas. Six shots - 2 prone, 2 kneel/sit, 2 standing. 50m paper target. 30 minutes.

5. ORIGINAL B/L RIFLE

Original B/L cartridge rifles, no replicas, original sights only (e.g. NO Sutherland/Parker Hale etc.) No glass like sights. All must use black powder and lead bullet. Six rnds - 2 prone, 2 kneel/sit, 2 standing. 100m paper target. 15 minutes.

6. MILITARY SHOOT –BOLT ACTION

Open to all original military rifles, Nitro, field issue sights only - no optical or target sights. Six rnds at paper target, 2 prone, 2 sitting/kneeling, 2 standing. 100m paper target. 15 minutes.

7. OPEN B/L CARTRIDGE RIFLE

Open to all centrefire rifles. All must use black powder and lead bullet. Gas checks permitted. No glass like sights. 5 prone rnds at paper target. 100m paper target. 15 minutes.

8. MSSA

Military style semi-auto rifles. Standard open battle sights only. No glass like sights. 30 rnds. Must have at least 1 magazine/clip change. Standing only. 100m paper target. 5 minutes.

9. BREECH LOADING CLAY BIRD

Open to vintage shotguns with black powder load. Only 1 barrel to be loaded. No plastic concentrators (wads) to be used. 6 bird break, moving back one metre after each shot. Shoot off Skeet if required.

10. MUZZLE LOADING CLAY BIRD

If time permits & enough contestants (maximum 2 shooters per gun!) we will run this shoot, details advised on the day.

11. .22 RIFLE

Open to all old, original .22 RF Rifles, sporting or military. 10 rnds, 2 on each of 5 “Tin Hat” targets at 25m. NO target or match rifles. NO glass or optical sights. 10 minutes. Free standing with no aids. Rifle guideline say, pre 1950?

Winners:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Cannon .. | as yet to be held |
| 2. Snider.. | John Collins |
| 3. Lever Action .. | John Collins |
| 4. Open M/L Rifle.. | Tony Stones-Havas |
| 5. Original B/L Rifle .. | John Collins |
| 6. Military Bolt Action .. | Steve Tregoweth |
| 7. Open B/L Rifle .. | John Collins |
| 8. MSSA .. | Steve Tregoweth |
| 9. B/L Shotgun .. | John Collins |
| 10. M/L Shotgun .. | Not held due to lack of time |
| .22 Rifle .. | Stuart Vivash |



Mainland Arms & Militaria Gun Show by Graeme Barber

David and I very much appreciate the efforts made, despite the horrific weather conditions, to attend or at least attempt to attend this years show on July 22. With a few sellers unable to attend our income was down a bit, however with more people through the door it looks like this year we will not have to put our hands in our own pockets to subsidise the show. It is worth noting here that every year the costs involved in running this show increase.

Our aim has and always will be to promote the collecting and historical interest we ENJOY to the wider public and especially those younger than us. To this end you we noted a significant increase in families and teenagers in attendance with them staying and showing interest for quite long periods. Many of the young people with their gaming interests were able to name the weapons on display and also cite their calibre and rate of fire plus much more. As a displayer suggested an opportunity exists here to invite gamers to next years show to put on a display.

Public admiration for the displays was prolific with many noting the effort involved along with items on display as world class. The public voted 3.Kompanie, LSSAH Military Re-enactment Society (NZ) living history display as best display and they were duly presented the Robin Rapley Memorial along with the \$150 prize money. Close runners up were in nor particular order the 1/6th model display, the Medical Corps and horse display and the Russian Machine Gun displays.

Special thanks to:

Ian Skennerton, Brian Labudda and his son David for travelling across the ditch to describe and sell the new digital direction with his Small Arms Life DVD and CD series. Ian also shared his knowledge and signed books,

Tom from the Arms Office for attending and dealing with applications for Permits to Procure,

All sellers for offering a wide range of arms, militaria, books etc etc for sale to the public,

All displayers including NZ Antique Arms members for sharing their prize possessions and knowledge with others,

All who moved tables, provided security and helped clean up afterwards,

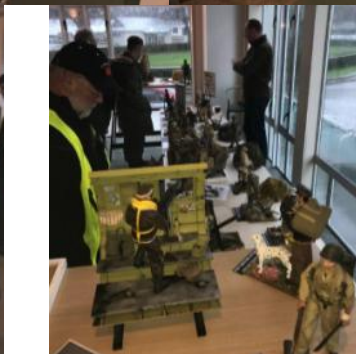
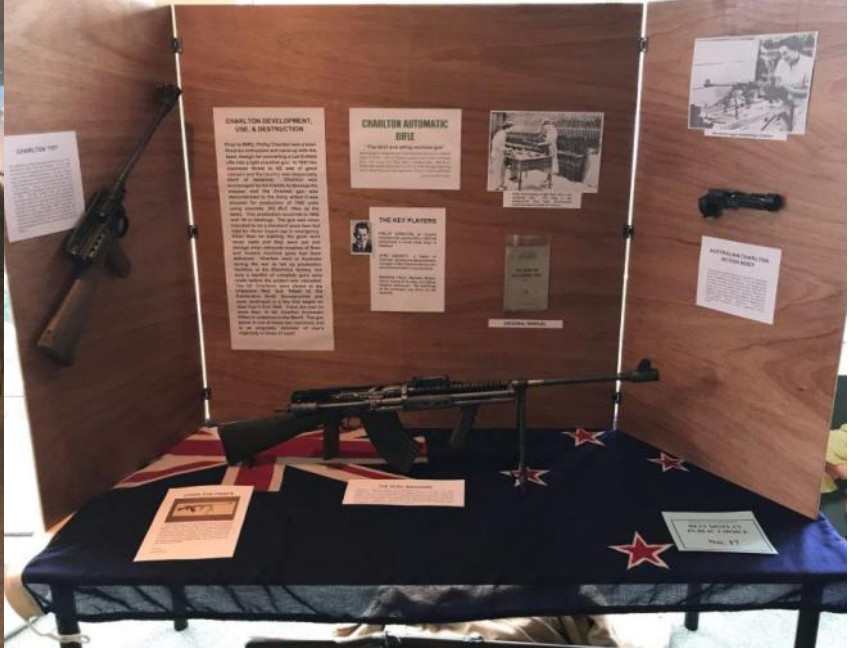
The Riccarton Raceway staff for their help and encouragement, and

Canterbury Branch of NZAHAA for their promotion display and gaining more members for NZAHAA.

In the mean time watch out for, share and like postings on our Mainland Arms Gunshow Facebook group and page. Also watch out for photos of this years show and the forms for the 2018 Show (**Saturday 21 July 2018**) on our [website](#)



3.Kompanie, LSSAH Military Re-enactment Society (NZ)



COLFO News Issue 4 – August 2017

<http://colfo.org.nz>



Hon Paula Bennett's Response to the Law & Order Select Committee Report

Minister of Police Hon Paula Bennett released her response to the Law & Order Select Committee's report on 14 June 2017. The Minister is rejecting twelve of the recommendations outright, accepting seven and accepting one other with modification. We note that the Minister has also made two further recommendations from advice from her independent advisors. That Police have the power to suspend licences instead of only revoking and that Police are directed to consult with the firearms community.

THIS IS THE MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, NOT NEW LAWS.

New law can only be made by the passing of legislation by majority vote in Parliament. The Minister has indicated that an Arms (Firearm Prohibition Orders and Firearms Licences) Amendment Bill is on the horizon. Neither COLFO nor members of the Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF) have yet seen an Amendment Bill. Do not be concerned as there will be plenty of opportunities for the public to make submissions on any future amendments. COLFO will keep you advised, will support you with information on how to be heard and will continue to advocate on behalf of all licensed firearms owners.

COLFO is pleased to see that Federated Farmers, Rural Women NZ, Act, NZ First, National, Labour and the vast majority of firearm owners mostly support the Government's response to the Law & Order Select Committee's recommendations. COLFO encourages all firearms users to seek out and read New Zealand's political parties' policies on firearms before voting in the election this September.

New Man in Charge of Arms Act Administration at Police National HQ

Several COLFO Executive have individually met with Superintendent Mike McIlraith who was appointed in mid June to head the new Arms Act Service Delivery Group at Police National HQ. At these meetings our concerns over the current administration of the Arms Act by Police were conveyed. He was receptive to what we told him, acknowledged he was hearing it often and advised us that his first priority is to improve communications with the firearm community. He will initially start with getting information out through the FCAF representatives. Staff changes and new administrative procedures will take time to implement so he asks the community for patience as he goes about setting up structure and business.

Firearms Safety Training, MSC to continue for another 12 months

COLFO is concerned to learn that delays at Police National HQ have meant that the future model for the Firearm Safety Training and Licence Testing Programme is on hold for another twelve months. Police have asked Mountain Safety Council (MSC) to continue to deliver the programme until 30 June 2018 using their dwindling army of volunteer instructors. MSC announced in 2016 that the future model for delivery of the programme did not include these volunteer instructors that they are now relying on. Many instructors have not been allowed to recruit new instructors for their areas, have had no updated training or moderation and some instructors have voiced outrage that the delay will total three years of little, if any, community instructor support. Firearms Safety Specialists NZ will continue to deliver the Whakatūpato Firearms Safety & Licensing Programme to rural and isolated communities for New Zealand Police. New Zealand Police warranted firearms safety instructors will continue to deliver instruction for Police directly. COLFO is thankful for the good will and experience of the dedicated community volunteers who have helped keep our firearms user's safe over the last 50 years and during this turbulent period.

Official Opening of Auckland Shooting Club

Three of the COLFO Executive were in Auckland on 7 July 2017 to support the opening of the Auckland Shooting Club's (ASC) new range at Makarau which is north of Auckland. The Deputy Prime Minister Hon Paula Bennett officially opened the range and she recognised the initiative and hard work of the ASC committee. A lot of sweat has gone into making this a viable range now and for future generations. The ASC are concentrating on getting the Pistol ranges up and running first. The requirement for all pistol shooters to complete 12 visits at a pistol range every year makes it essential to have such a facility available in the Auckland region. The Minister also took the opportunity to thank the shooting community for sharing their thoughts and emails on firearms issues.

Firearms in Schools

You may recall in June 2017 media reported our New Zealand Defence Force visited a school near their army base and showed the children there the tools of their trade including their firearms. The media published some photographs of grinning kids handling the Army weapons and published a story on the Defence Force visit.

In response to the article public debate on the matter hit main stream media questioning the Minister of Education Hon Nikki Kaye whether firearms should be allowed in schools. The Minister immediately tasked the Ministry of Education to develop a set of guidelines and consultation process for firearms in schools.

COLFO was pleased to be invited to attend a workshop on this in July 2017. The meeting was attended by a big section of the education and firearms communities as well as NZ Police and NZ Army. The school representatives indicated their need for simple yet clear guidelines to be developed. They require a common sense approach for activities to *CONTINUE* in a safe, legal and supportive environment.

Now that the initial meeting has been held and the scope of the work has been determined the Ministry of Education will draft some guidelines and send it back out to the sector for comment. A five week review period of the draft by the sector will be offered. The final guidelines for schools are expected to be published mid to late February 2018.

It was acknowledged by those attending the meeting that firearms are a piece of New Zealand's landscape. The reality is that there are a lot of firearms users in all our communities from all walks of life but more so from our rural environment. There are many school shooting teams, firearms safety education courses, school fundraising initiatives, history lessons, auctions, pest control and Defence Force visits to schools that simply must continue for the benefit of our communities. COLFO are pleased to be a part of this process and will work with the education sector in the hope that common sense will win the day.

COLFO Chair Discusses Firearms with Prime Minister

COLFO Chair Paul Clark has had several informal meetings with both the Prime Minister Bill English and his Deputy Paula Bennett at which issues affecting the firearm community were discussed.

Sika Show

COLFO will be present at the Sika Show in Taupo on 30 September & 1 October, come along and say hello.

Trade Me and Your Firearms Licence

You may have read in the media that Trade Me is to be given access to the Police Firearm Licence database.

This is how the process will work says [Acting Superintendent Mike McIlraith, Officer in Charge | Arms Act Service Delivery Group | New Zealand Police](#):

[“Whenever someone asks a question, bids or buys a firearm on Trade Me they will need to enter their firearms licence number and the name on that licence. This new system will send a query to the Police database to check the licence is legitimate. The query sent from Trade Me will contain only the name and number of the submitted licence, and will be responded to with a simple “yes” or “no” answer from Police. If the licence has expired or the details aren’t correct, the submitter will not be able to go further.”](#)

National Party position on Firearms in New Zealand

New Zealand has a strong culture of recreational hunting, a vibrant and active sport shooting community and many farmers and professional hunters who work to keep our forests and farms pest free, and who hunt to feed their families and friends.

National believes that semi-automatic firearms are a legitimate tool for pest control and we won't be proposing a blanket ban on them.

However we take the responsibility of protecting the public from gun crime very seriously and believe in the need for restrictions on the most dangerous firearms and other weapons.

National believes the vast majority of licenced firearms owners take care to keep their firearms safe and to stay within the law. We value the relationship with the firearms community as important partners in the fight against illegal firearms and criminal activity.

We will:

- Improve the firearms licencing regime by upgrading Police systems and modernising permitting and import processes.
- Ensure firearms activity is appropriately funded and that fees for applications and permits are set on a cost-recovery basis and do not subsidise non-firearms related Police activities.
- Work with the firearms community towards a fit-for-purpose legislative framework that gives as much clarity as possible, while being able to deal with technological changes and new parts and products.
- Aggressively pursue illegal firearms and target criminals wishing to obtain firearms to commit crimes, including bringing in Firearms Prohibition Orders for patched gang members with serious offending histories.
- Make it clear that patched gang members and prospects will not be considered 'fit and proper' people to hold licences
- Continue to restrict access to the most dangerous firearms in the interests of public safety – but we will ensure any changes to these restrictions will be consulted and carefully considered
- Change the Arms Act to give Police a new power to suspend a licence. We will also introduce a 12-month stand-down after a licence is revoked.
- Direct Police to first consult with the firearms community before they propose any changes to policy. The Minister of Police will have the final sign off.
- Introduce new checks to ensure firearms brought in on visitors permit are exported or transferred legally
- Work with the legal firearms owners to prevent them becoming targets of criminals seeking firearms

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paula Bennett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paula Bennett, MP

The above was first published in 25 August 2017. Ed

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM REMOVES FIREARMS FROM DISPLAY

Myles Chandler from Auckland Branch NZAHAA was featured in an article on TV One News on Saturday 12 August expressing frustration that the Auckland War Memorial Museum has removed the extensive display of firearms from display.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/antique-weapons-removal-auckland-museum-sparks-row>

Concerns are that once removed they will likely not return to display, firearms not being very PC at the moment.

There is quite a lot to consider here and my thoughts are as follows:

It is a WAR MEMORIAL museum, firearms are a very valid part of our Military history. Many of the firearms in the collection were trophy guns, either personal or official trophies. These were taken by servicemen as reminders of a specific time or place in history that created an impression on them for whatever reason. Our servicemen endured the horrors of war so we could have the freedoms we enjoy today. Our servicemen fought and died to preserve those freedoms and their souvenirs and trophies whatever they may be are left as poignant reminders for future generations to reflect upon.

I would ask that you share this with your branches and encourage members to email Auckland War Memorial Museum and query their motives and express your views on the validity of a display of firearms in such circumstances.

info@aucklandmuseum.com

I have posted this on NZAHAA Facebook so please see the FB page for further details

Regards

Andrew Edgcombe



BLACK POWDER GRADES courtesy Geox USA August 2011
Compiled by John Osborne Many thanks to several contributors

Black powder is a granular mixture of

- a nitrate, typically potassium nitrate (KNO₃), which supplies oxygen for the reaction;
- charcoal, which provides carbon and other fuel for the reaction, simplified as carbon (C);
- sulphur (S), which, while also serving as a fuel, lowers the temperature required to ignite the mixture, thereby increasing the rate of combustion.

Potassium nitrate is the most important ingredient in terms of both bulk and function because the combustion process releases oxygen from the potassium nitrate, promoting the rapid burning of the other ingredients. To reduce the likelihood of accidental ignition by static electricity, the granules of modern black powder are typically coated with graphite, which prevents the build-up of electrostatic charge.

Charcoal does not consist of pure carbon; rather, it consists of partially pyrolyzed cellulose, in which the wood is not completely decomposed.

The current standard composition for the black powders that are manufactured by pyrotechnicians was adopted as long ago as 1780. Proportions by weight are 75% potassium nitrate (known as saltpeter or saltpetre), 15% softwood charcoal, and 10% sulfur.[9] These ratios have varied over the centuries and by country, and can be altered somewhat depending on the purpose of the powder. For instance, power grades of black powder, unsuitable for use in firearms but adequate for blasting rock in quarrying operations, is called blasting powder rather than gunpowder with standard proportions of 70% nitrate, 14% charcoal, and 16% sulphur; blasting powder may be made with the cheaper sodium nitrate substituted for potassium nitrate and proportions may be as low as 40% nitrate, 30% charcoal, and 30% sulfur.[10] The British Government in 1635 used the ratio 75% Saltpetre, 12.5% Charcoal, 12.5% Sulphur.

Black powder types are purchased and described by 'grades'. The grades carry numbers or designations to declare their granule sizes, and their relative speeds of burning. Those numbers are familiar to pyrotechnicians - the famous 'F' numbers. Powders come in two broad basic grades, 'a' grade, or blasting powder, and 'g' grade, or 'sporting' (shooter's) powder. The more "F"s in a number, the smaller the granule size, and thus, the faster the powder will burn. So, FFa powder is slower, with a larger granule size than FFFa, and FFFg is faster than Fg.

The primary difference between 'a' and 'g' grades is processing. Both powders begin as milled 'meal' powder. The potassium nitrate, charcoal and sulphur are milled into an extremely fine powder. This milling process takes many hours and is usually done by remotely operated equipment due to the inherent danger of the process. The meal powder is consolidated under high pressure into a 'mill cake' or 'press cake' of solid Black Powder by hydraulic press. The cake is dried, and crushed into grains. Both types are then screened to remove fines, and to grade the grain sizes.

Subsequent polishing of the powders may be done in a tumbler. Blasting "a" type powders are not usually tumbled. If they are tumbled, it is just for a short time to knock off any sharp and long projections. Sporting "g" type powders are tumbled with a tiny amount of graphite to polish the grains. The base formula is the same. The graphite is not part of the basic Black Powder formula.

The graphite does act as a burn rate modifier, lowering the burn rate slightly. But primarily, the graphite serves as a surface lubricant to make the powder flow more easily when loading guns. It also serves the cosmetic purpose of making the powder shiny and pretty. The grain sizes are different for sporting and blasting Black Powder.

Note, as shown in the tables below, that it is conventional to express 'g' type powder types with multiple 'F's followed by a lower-case 'g', while 'a' grade powders wear a number before one 'F', and a capital "A". So, three F g" powder is written as "FFFg", while "three F a" powder is written as "3FA". This convention is thought to have been instituted so that less confusion would exist between powder types. For a given number of Fs, 'a' grade powder is coarser and slower-burning than 'g' grades, notwithstanding the graphite polish on the 'g' types. Sporting Grade Black Powder -- "g" type powders

Powder Grade	pass screen,	holding,	stays on,	passing
Whaling	32/64" mesh	3%	4 mesh	2%
Lifesaving	6 mesh	3%	12 mesh	12%
Cannon	6 mesh	3%	12 mesh	12%
Saluting	10 mesh	3%	20 mesh	12%
Fg	12 mesh	3%	16 mesh	12%
FFg 1	6 mesh	3%	30 mesh	12%
FFFg	20 mesh	3%	50 mesh	12%
FFFFg	40 mesh	3%	100 mesh	12%
FFFFFg (no longer manufactured by Goex)				

"A" Blasting Powder used mostly by pyrotechnicians and for some specialized quarry work

Powder Grade	pass screen,	holding,	stays on,	passing
FA	20/64" mesh	3%	5 mesh	12%
2FA	4 mesh	3%	12 mesh	12%
3FA nbsp;1	0 mesh	3%	16 mesh	12%
4FA	12 mesh	3%	20 mesh	12%
5FA	20 mesh	3%	50 mesh	12%
6FA	30 mesh	3%	50 mesh	12%
7FA	40 mesh	3%	100 mesh	12%
Meal D	40 mesh	3%		
Meal F	100 mesh	3%		
Meal XF	140 mesh	3%		

*** Shows maximum percentages held or passed by the sizing screens.

Except where noted in inches, the screen sizes are in wires per inch. The higher the mesh number the smaller the opening size. Note that, for any given number of "F"s, that the blasting powder is much coarser.

Reference: AMCP 706-175 Engineering Design Handbook - Explosives Series- Solid Propellants Part One. Thanks to Bill Nelson and Murr Rhame for collating most of this data.

If you ignore the 'F' numbers, for a given measured grain size, the blasting powder burns faster than the graphite-inhibited sporting powder; That's partly because of the inhibiting action of the graphite, and partly because of the geometry of the grains.

Blasting powder is less dense because the grains are more irregularly shaped; they take up more volume for a given weight of powder. Blasting powder grains also have a lot of rough edges. Rough edges both inhibit packing of grains, and offer lots of easy-to-ignite sites on each grain. The combination of more air space between grains, and the rougher surfaces of the grains promotes faster burning.



Image by John Osborne August 2011

New Zealand Antique Arms Association Canterbury Incorporated AUCTION & DISPLAY

Saturday 16th September 2017.

The event is being held in the Belmerino Room Ring at Riccarton Park, Racecourse Rd Christchurch opening for viewing at 10am with the auction starting at 12.00pm. Displays and sales tables will also be there for viewing and perusal.

If you wish to put suitable items for sale in the auction please contact the convenor below.

The Branch is charging a commission of 10% of final sales value on each item sold at the auction. 300 lot maximum on a first come first served basis, so get in early to prevent missing out. This is a Mickey Mouse style auction with no catalogue and therefore no postal bidding except for the small list posted via e-mail.

Any endorsed items sold will require Police permits to procure to be organised between the vendor and buyer.

Entrance fee is \$10 including financial members. Display tables are free. Sales tables are \$10 for a double table.

Displays will be judged and first prize is 2018 Antique Arms membership.

The bar will be open from 11.00am with food and refreshments available.

Please note that all persons will be required to present their firearms licence if they have registered for the auction and have successfully won an item/s that requires a firearms licence to possess.



Contact F. McKeage 3478730 or 0276831689, e-mail wmrr@xtra.co.nz

Some of the items for auction on the day. From the estate of the late Jim McIntyre over 100 items with black powder and muzzle loading guns and rifles with accessories, books, DVD's , ammo, early firearms advertising and associated gear. Jim was a black powder gunsmith /enthusiast for over 80 years and built and stocked rifles as well as refurbishing shotgun cases. Some of his stocking tools are up for auction.

Some items of interest are:

Kentucky percussion rifle

Powder horns

Cased Hepplestone shotguns

EM Reilly 12 Bore muzzle loader cased

Shotgun Trade labels

Stock making tools and Chisels

Gun cases

Many DVD'S and collectable books

Octant (early sextant)



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

Hamish Bruce was first to correctly identify last month's mystery object, below left, as a flash hider of an early Charlton machine gun



From the Web, cut and paste the link or ctrl+click

Auckland War Memorial Museum puts its Firearm Collection into storage:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/antique-weapons-removal-auckland-museum-sparks-row>

A Home made gun:

<http://www.forgottenweapons.com/weapons-as-political-protest-p-a-lutys-submachine-gun/>

Biography: Paul Mauser

<http://www.forgottenweapons.com/biography-paul-mauser/>

WANTED

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

ARTICLES, NEWS, PHOTOS

GUN ROOM PICTURES

MYSTERY OBJECTS

An article can be long (several pages of A4) or short (half a page of A4), ideally forwarded as a word doc. with separate jpg images and a list of captions.

If you want your events advertised, please return the favour by sending a short write-up and some images after the event. Thanks.

BUY SELL OR SWAP *List items free for two issues (* indicates final listing)*

WANTED: a replacement magazine for a .22 BSA pump-action rifle as below



Contact: Craig Buist , craigbuist@ihug.co.nz Tel: 027 4877729

WANTED: Leather holster and magazine for Beretta 380 acp pistol M1934.


Contact: Ross, tanuki@paradise.net.nz , Tel: 04-569-9579, Mob: 021-1472549

WANTED: Japanese Arisaka type 38 6.5 cal Carbine in good condition, preferably with cleaning rod & bolt dust cover". Contact: Ross Tantrum, E-Mail: tanuki@paradise.net.nz Tel: 04-569-9579, Mob: 021-1472549

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Offers around \$3,500 for each of the above. Contact Kevin: kevin@kandb.co.nz

COLLIER REVOLVING FLINTLOCKS

Last month we asked for information on surviving examples of Collier flintlock revolvers, Noel Taylor provided this link to one at Auckland War Memorial Museum, now safely stored away from public view.

http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-776085?c=ecrm%3AE22_Man-Made_Object&k=collier&ordinal=1



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UP COMING EVENTS - If you have dates for events in 2017 /18 please advise oilrag@xtra.co.nz

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 2 September | Ruahine Branch Auction, Palmerston North |
| 16 September | Canterbury Branch Auction and Display, Riccarton Raceway, Christchurch |
| 23 September | NZAHAA HYGM and Auction, Wellington |
| 4 & 5 November | Taranaki Gun Show, New Plymouth |
| 11 & 12 November | Armistice in Cambridge, Lake Karapero Domain |
| 11 & 12 November | Nelson Branch Gun Show, Blenheim |

2018

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 25 March | South Canterbury Branch Auction |
| 14 April | NZAHAA AGM & Southland Branch Auction, Invercargill |
| 9 June | SSANZ Guns Show, Whangarei |
| 21 July | Mainland Arms & Militaria Show, Christchurch |



**MILITARIA
& GUN SHOW**

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th November


Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: 10am - 2pm

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Tim Gladstone - Phone 0800 653 935



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British Small Arms WW2 (Skenneron)
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WW1 Armament and the .303 British Cartridge HC & PB (Temple)
British Machine Gun Cartridges pb (Temple)
Accurising & Shooting Lee Enfields (Skenneron & Labudda)
Textbook of Small Arms 1929 (HMSO)
Treatise on Ammunition 1887 (HMSO)
List of Changes in British Service sets Volume I-V (War Office)
Guns of the Gurkhas (John Walter)
Tin Hat for Tommy (J Anthony Carter)
Military Ink-The Pen at War (Scott Novzen IMA)
Identification Manual on the .303 British Service Cartridge (Temple)
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Full List at <http://gunshows.co.nz/wordpress/>

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