

More Majorum

April—June 2020



This Issue:

Guild Business

Up Coming Events

Footnote in History

Something from your collection;
World War 1 Items
Japanese WW2 Items

Type 10 grenade Discharger

“Battle of Diamond Hill”

Akbar – Blockby Stone & Co, Melbourne

Type 100 Rifle grenade discharger



WA & NSW Mounted Rifles at

UP COMING EVENTS

April

10th to 13th Easter
Fri 17th Meeting
Sat 25th ANZCA Day

May

Fri 8th Meeting

June

Fri 12th Meeting

N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2019/20

EXECUTIVE

President/Treasurer: John McLean

Vice Pres/M/ship Sec: John Miller

Secretary: Graham Rogers

Newsletter: Brett Maag

Safety Officer: Alan Nichols

Sgt. at Arms: Simon Baxter

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Harrington

Scott Jackson

Carl Webster

Peter Roberts

Rob Keen

Sol Sutherland



Achtung !!

From the secretaries desk

Another Militaria & Collectables Expo has now passed. Numbers were slightly down again with only about 820 paying customers through the door. However though they were few they had plenty time and money to spend, making most of the dealers happy with their weekend's takings. A big thanks to all the members that help setup and packup.

A reminder that the next Guild meeting has been moved from the 2nd Friday in April to the 3rd Friday (17/04/2020) to avoid clashing with Good Friday.

Covid-19 This virus is turning our world upside down and while there are no long term effects for young healthy people, most of our members are in the higher risk category, it might be wise to suspend guild meetings and excursions for a period of time. The executive will keep an eye on the situation and advise members by post and email.



**MILITARIA & COLLECTABLES
EXPO 2020**

**EASTBANK
SHEPPARTON**

www.nvacg.org.au

FEB 29th & MAR 1st



Something from your Collection

With each newsletter we would like to feature something special from a members collection, it doesn't have to be valuable or rare, just something you don't see every day. Members who would like to have an item featured can contact Brett Maag or Graham Rogers. If you can supply a digital photo and a short spiel it would be good if not, bring it along to a meeting and we will photograph it there, and take notes.

SELECT

SEED

GROWER



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& MIX GRAIN
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- **Canaries**
- **Small Parrots**
- **Large Parrots**
- **Pigeons**
- **Poultry**

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0417 564 492**

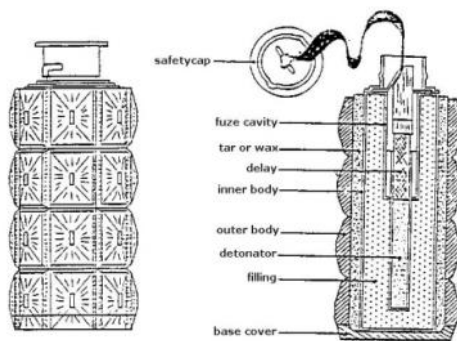
selectseedgrower@gmail.com

Collection Of World War 1 Items

Hi everyone here we have some items from one of our NVACG members collection from his world war selection of items.



World War 1 trench clubs
Top is a German spring handle spike club.
Below is an Australian made club.



World War 1 Australian no14 grenade in use from the 2nd half of 1915 till 29th July 1920



Australian World War1
light horse trooper pocket knife



Decorative brass tin sent by Princess Mary to members of the British, Colonial and Indian Armed Forces for Christmas 1914. Over 426,000 of these tins were distributed to those serving on Christmas Day 1914. The tins were filled with various items including tobacco, confectionary, spices, pencils, a Christmas card and a picture of the princess.

The large number of people who were to receive the gift made it impossible to manufacture, supply and distribute the gifts by Christmas Day 1914. So recipients were divided into three classes:

Class A (received the gift on or near Christmas Day): comprised the Navy, including minesweepers and dockyard officials, and troops at the Front in France, the wounded in hospitals and men on furlough, prisoners and men interned (for whom the gift was reserved), members of the French Mission with the Expeditionary Force, nurses at the Front in France and the widows or parents of those who had been killed.

Class B: all British, Colonial and Indian troops serving outside the British Isles, who were not provided for in Class A.

Class C: all troops in the British Isles

Class B and C gifts were not sent out until January 1915, they contained a Happy New Year card.

**SOME OF YOU MAY NOT
KNOW BUT THE N.V.A.C.G.**



HAS IT'S OWN WEBSITE

Here you will find all the news and details for coming guild events and information for prospective members.

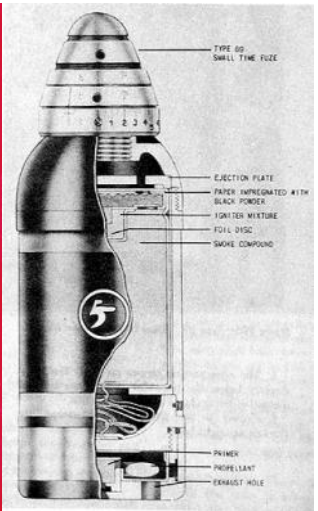
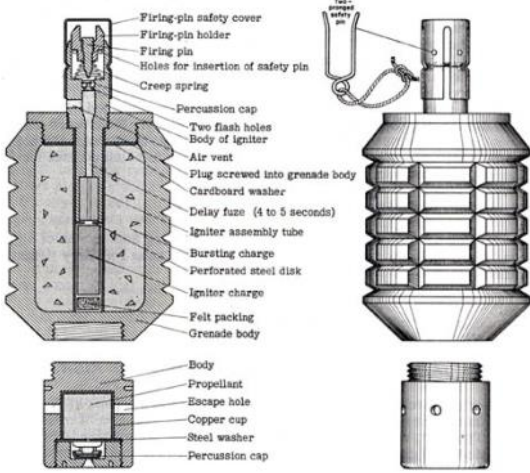
<http://www.nvacg.org.au/>

You can find past & current newsletters here

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/news/>



collection of Japanese items from different NVACG members



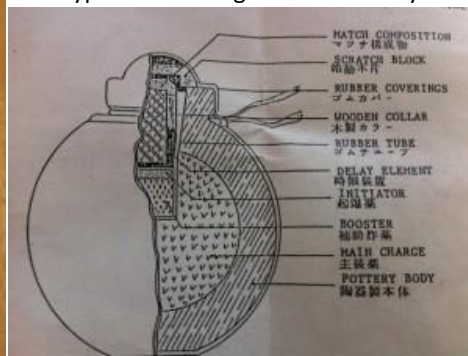
In the photo on the right is a World War 2 Japanese Knee mortar Type 89 50mm grenade discharger round with booster in the bottom of the round. The yellow strip means this round is a HE (High Explosive) round with a max range of 700 yards. On the left in the photo above is a standard Japanese type 91 hand grenade, with a threaded base to attach propellant charge for use in the mortar/grenade discharger and has a max range of 200 yards when used in this manner. Drawings are of a Japanese Knee Mortar/Grenade Discharge in use. As well as the different parts of the type 89 mortar round and the type 91 grenade with mortar attachment.



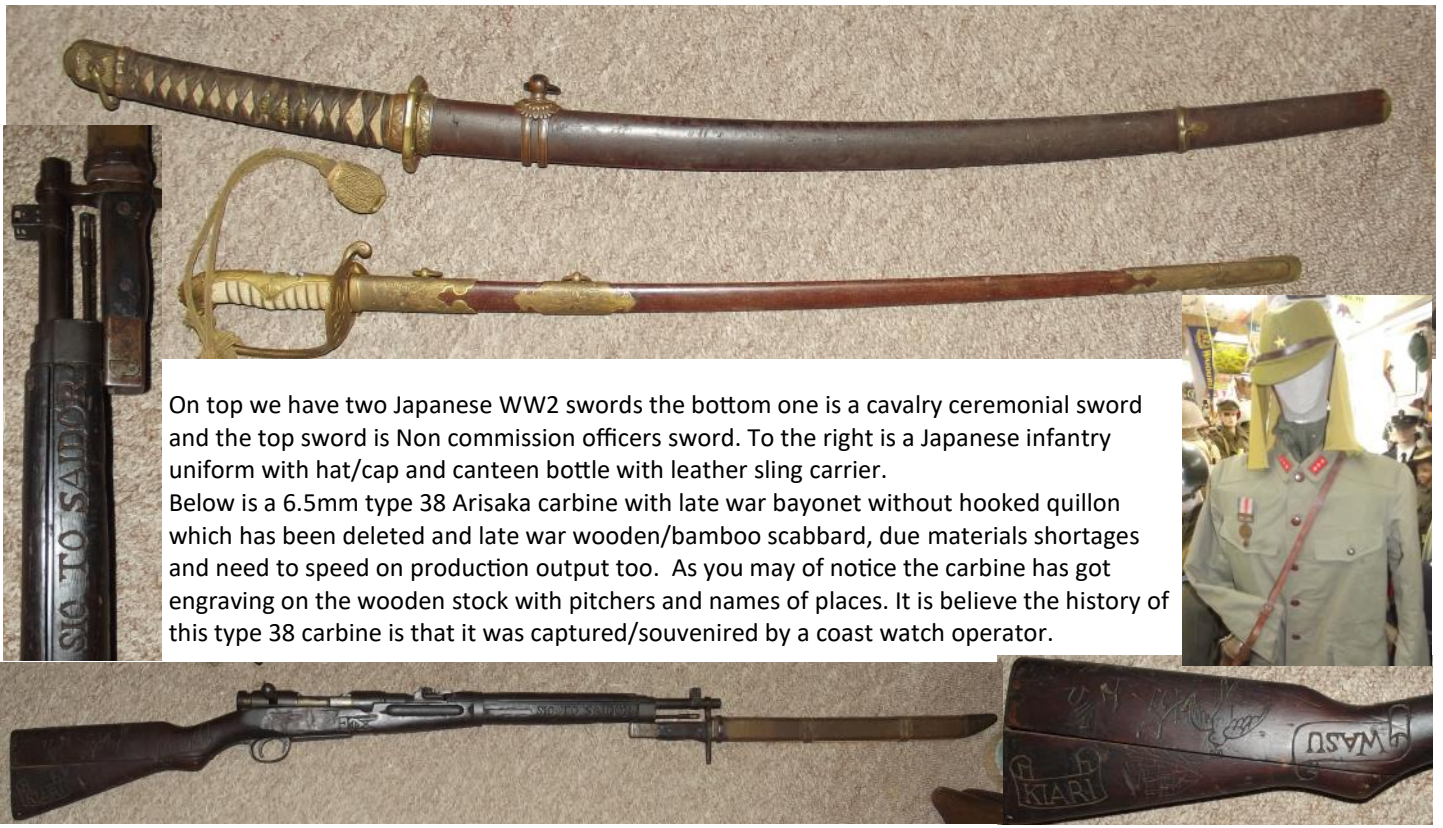
7.7mm Type 99 Arisaka was adopted in Japanese service in 1939 this rifle has the folding wings for anti-aircraft volley fire are marked at 2 and 3 to estimate lead, but missing dust cover. Also the monopod omitted on this rifle. The 99 variant Arisaka Bayonet with hooked quillon and sheet steel scabbard. This rifle still has its royal chrysanthemum insignia on top of the action. By the marking just after the serial number right hand side would indicate it is from the Toyo Kogyo K.K. Arsenal (Oriental Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Fuchi-machi Hiroshima).



Type 4 Grenade or Ceramic Grenade was a "last ditch" hand grenade developed by the Imperial Japanese Navy in the closing stages of World War II. They were passed out in large quantities to civil defence organizations, such as the Volunteer Fighting Corps, *Yokusen Sonendan*, and to reservist organizations Involved in preparations against the possible invasion of the Japanese home islands by Allied forces. They were also supplied to front line combat troops in large quantities, and are known to have been employed at the Battle of Iwo Jima and Battle of Okinawa. The Type 4 had a fragmentation body made of terra cotta or porcelain materials. It



was round-shaped with a bottle neck with a rubber cover and a simple fuse. This detonator was no more than a blasting cap crimped on to a five-second length of fuse. The other end of the fuse, which was outside the rubber plug, was covered with a match-head composition.



On top we have two Japanese WW2 swords the bottom one is a cavalry ceremonial sword and the top sword is Non commission officers sword. To the right is a Japanese infantry uniform with hat/cap and canteen bottle with leather sling carrier. Below is a 6.5mm type 38 Arisaka carbine with late war bayonet without hooked quillon which has been deleted and late war wooden/bamboo scabbard, due materials shortages and need to speed on production output too. As you may of notice the carbine has got engraving on the wooden stock with pitchers and names of places. It is believe the history of this type 38 carbine is that it was captured/souvenired by a coast watch operator.

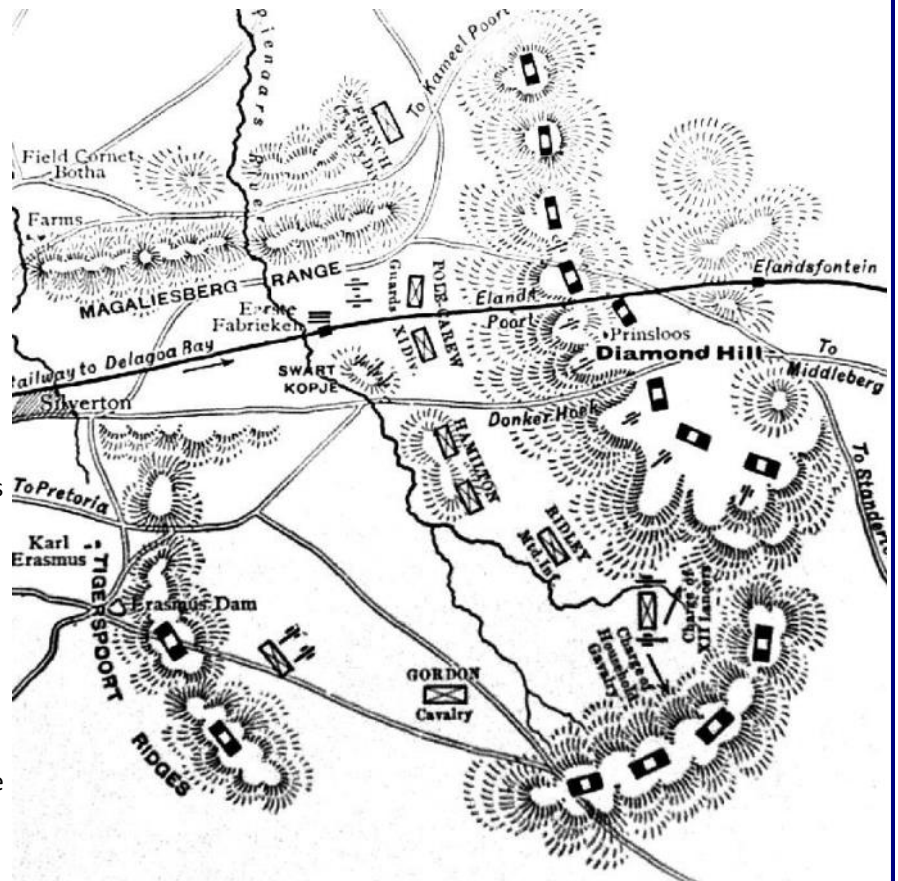
Looking for/Wanted
92 Winchester Tube Mag Spring for 32-20
Contact Geoff on 5821 9015 Or
email; wilsigns1@gmail.com

From the Editor; thanks to all the member who
allowed me to take photos of their items for this
edition of the newsletter and to the members who
help setup and run this years NVACG Shepparton
Military fair/ gun show.

“The Battle of Diamond Hill”

(Donkerhoek) (Afrikaans: *Slag van Donkerhoek*) was an engagement of the Second Boer War that took place on 11 and 12 June 1900 in central Transvaal. **Background;** The Boer forces retreated to the east by the time the capital of the South African Republic (Transvaal), Pretoria, was captured by British forces on 5 June 1900. British Commander-in-Chief in South Africa Field Marshal Lord Roberts had predicted a Boer surrender upon the loss of their capital, but when this was not fulfilled, he began an attack to the east in order to push Boer forces away from Pretoria and enable an advance to the Portuguese East Africa border.

Prelude; The commandant-general of Transvaal, Louis Botha, established a 40-kilometer north to south defense line 29 kilometers east of Pretoria; his forces numbered up to 6,000 men and 30 guns. The Pretoria–Delagoa Bay rail line ran eastward through the center of the Boer position. Personnel from the South African Republic Police manned positions at Donkerpoort just south of the railway in the hills at Pienaarsport, while other troops held positions at Donkerhoek and Diamond Hill. Botha commanded the Boer center and left flank and General Koos de la Rey commanded north of the railway line. Weakened by the long march to Pretoria and the loss of horses and sick men, the British force mustered only 14,000, a third of whom were mounted on wobbly horses. He despatched Robert Broadwood's 2nd Cavalry Brigade, which included the 10th Royal Hussars, 12th Royal Lancers and the Household Cavalry Regiment, on a Special Mission. As the sun came up it was a "bitterly cold Monday morning...we are hidden in the hills at Donkerhoek...ready for battle..." confided Botha to his diary.





Battle; The cavalry of John French with Edward Hutton's brigade attacked on the left in an attempt to outflank the Boers to the north, while the infantry of Ian Hamilton with Lieutenant Colonel Beauvoir De Lisle's corps attempted an outflanking movement on the right. In the center, the infantry of Reginald Pole-Carew advanced towards the Boer center, with the gap between Pole-Carew and French covered by Colonel St.G.C. Henry's corps of mounted infantry.

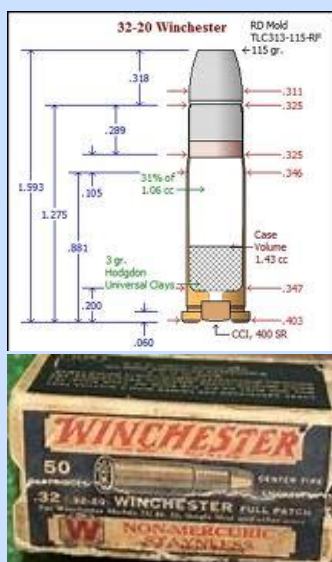
On the left, the cavalry of French entered a valley and attracted fire from three sides. De Lisle's corps was similarly pinned down on the right flank in a horseshoe-shaped group of hills. As a detachment of 10th Hussars swung off to the right, they were attacked from Diamond Hill. A section of Q Battery RHA attempted to return artillery fire, but had no infantry support, until the 12th Lancers arrived on the front line. Lord Airlie took

60 men to clear the Boers from the guns, and in the ensuing exchange of rifle fire at short-range, Lord Airlie was killed. The Boers pressed the matter hard. Two squadrons of the Household Cavalry Regiment and one squadron of the 12th Hussars charged at full gallop at Boers firing from concealed positions. The enemy dispersed. Following the indecisive results of 11 June, Roberts decided to make a frontal attack on the next morning.

The morning of 12 June with artillery fire from guns escorted to forward positions by a squadron of New South Wales Mounted Rifles led by Captain Maurice Hilliard, allowing a Regular infantry advance that captured Diamond Hill. A counterattack was planned by Botha, supported with fire from Rhenosterfontein Hill. The regular Mounted Infantry from De Lisle's corps advanced to a farm, where two rapid firing pom-poms were positioned, supported by the Western Australian Mounted Infantry of Hatherley Moor. The hill was attacked by the New South Wales Mounted Rifles, who trotted across the plain in extended order, then increased to a gallop under Boer fire before they dismounted at the base of the hill. The mounted rifles advanced up the hill and charged the Boer defenders, forcing the latter to retreat. They held the hill despite Boer artillery fire, which forced Botha to call off the counterattack, as British artillery fire from the hill carried

the potential to confusion with the Boer retreat. Among those killed in the attack were Lieutenants Percy Drage and William Harriott of the New South Wales Mounted Rifles. On the morning of 13 June De Lisle's corps pursued the retreating Boers until they expended their ammunition and received artillery fire in return.

Aftermath; On 13th the Botha's army retreated to the north, they were chased as far as Elands River Station, only 25 miles from Pretoria, by Mounted Infantry and De Lisle's Australians. Although Roberts had removed the Boer threat to his eastern flank, the Boers were unbowed despite their retreat. Jan Smuts wrote that the battle had "an inspiring effect which could scarcely have been improved by a real victory." Forty-four years after the battle, British General Ian Hamilton opined in his memoirs that "the battle, which ensured that the Boers could not recapture Pretoria, was the turning point of the war". Hamilton credited war correspondent Winston Churchill with recognizing that the key to victory would be in storming the summit, and risking his life to signal Hamilton.



Winchester 32-20 introduced by Winchester, in 1882, for the Model 73 lever-action rifle, the .32-20 quickly attained considerable popularity as a medium-power cartridge in both rifle and revolver. Practically all American makers have chambered rifles for the .32-20 in lever-, pump-, or bolt-action, and most single-shot rifles have also chambered it. Colt's, Smith & Wesson, and Bayard made revolvers in this calibre. Winchester once advertised it as a combination small-game and deer cartridge. However, it is much too underpowered for deer-size animals. It is, nonetheless, a useful small-game and varmint cartridge at short ranges, and it is quite accurate in a bolt-action or solid-frame single shot.

The advent of cowboy action shooting has given this round a new lease on life. The .32-20 is the basis for the .25-20 and the .218 Bee. Both Remington and Winchester still offer factory-loaded ammunition. Also it can be reloaded easily and at moderate cost. With Winchester, Remington and Star-line brass cases available for reloading.

"FOR SALE"

**COLLECTABLES
&
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etc.**

**Contact Geoff
on 5821 9015**

**Or
email;
wilsigns1@gmail.
com**



Akbar – Blockby Stone & Co, Melbourne

by Terry Warnock

Blockby Stone & Co was established possibly as early as the 1920's. Early history has not come to light, and no literature or advertising is available.

Australian Cartridge Collectors Association (ACCA) journal #72 P24 showed the Akbar packet, and again #116, but nothing further has been published, other than Ken Mitchell's book, where he notes the existence of a wooden kerosene case with the brandname Akbar.

Blockby Stone & Co registration of trademark has been found with thanks to ACCA member Ken Edwards research. This gives an address of 362 Post Office Place, Melbourne, but sometimes this was the address of the legal representative. PO Place is now renamed Little Bourke St. I cannot locate an image of this at present.

Blockby Stone & Co brand name was Akbar. Akbar cartridges details are unknown, but the box says Grand Prix Shells, so they were probably just that – orange Grand Prix cases. They were loaded with EC No 3 smokeless powder.

The Akbar 12 gauge cartridge packet is a rather striking design with red and black print, on white.

I once saw a 500 wooden dovetailed crate in an antique store at Beechworth, but I considered the \$65 pricetag too high at the time, when wooden crates were worth about \$10. I finally obtained one in 2019, and it is a typical wood box by Eley, with AKBAR clearly printed on the end.

Does anyone have any Blockby Stone & Co catalogues, advertising, letterheads or invoices ?

Any comments or additions etc are welcomed.

Terry Warnock

03 5762 3256 H 0419 393 894 e-mail twar1881@bigpond.net.au

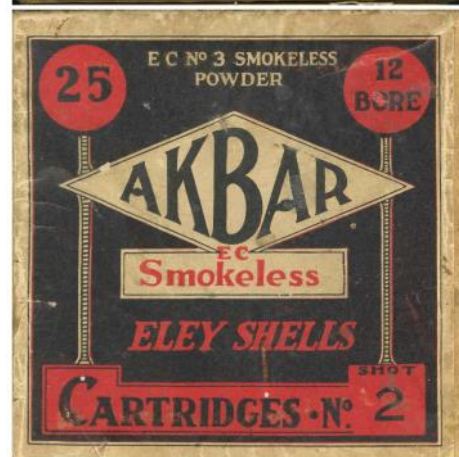
References :

Australian Cartridge Collectors Association (ACCA) journal #72 P24, #116
Back cover
Ken Mitchell shotshell boxes book

Captions:

Blockby Stone & Co AKBAR box label.

Blockby Stone & Co AKBAR 500 box



One of our members is looking to buy several items, namely,

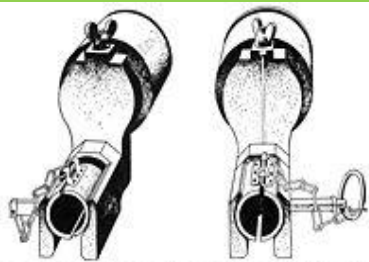
- (A) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Yataghan Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- (B) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Cutlass Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- (C) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Elcho Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.

If you can help with any or all of these Bayonets contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or on jobah450.577@bigpond.com

Cannon & Co "Honey Mead"

Depending on the amount you want to make—
Take one quart of honey to a gallon of water and boil together for one hour. You may or may not want to add during the boiling, a half ounce of ginger, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Plus the juice of one lemon. Allow to cool and then remove spices. Add a sachet of ale yeast, cover and leave until first ferment has subsided, strain into a flagon, again cover neck with cloth. Leave until ALL fermentation has subsided, strain and bottle. Can be consumed within six months. In a cool spot will last for a extended period of time.

Type 100 Rifle grenade discharger was introduced in 1939 as a grenade launcher for the Type 38 and Type 99 Arisaka Rifles. It launches standard Type 91 and Type 99 hand-grenades. The launcher is somewhat unusual in that rather than using the more common cup designs it is a gas trap system, meaning that it incorporates a barrel extension which taps off excess propellant



gases to launch the grenade from a cup offset from the barrel. This has the advantage that standard rifle cartridges could be used along with the standard hand-grenades which simplified logistics, at the expense of increased weight and decreased efficiency. The effective range is approximately 100 yards.



Train in front of the Senussi Cave

Footnote in History; Senussi Cave Railway was a 400 yard (366 m) long 2 ft (610 mm) narrow gauge railway, which was built in 1941 during the Siege of Tobruk at the *Senussi Cave* near Tobruk, Libya. **History;** The Railway lead from a military road that was blasted into the mountains on 28 August 1941 above a wadi east of Tobruk harbour to the Senussi Cave. The Senussi Cave had been reinforced during World War II by Italian troops with a concrete arch. It was captured by British and Australian troops in the summer of 1941 and prepared to be used as a field hospital named "Senussi Hospital" cave. However, eventually it was used as bomb proof stores. Up to 300 t of ammunition and goods could be securely store there. With Rolling stock consisting of 2 diesel locos and 6 wagons.



"Senussi Hospital" cave



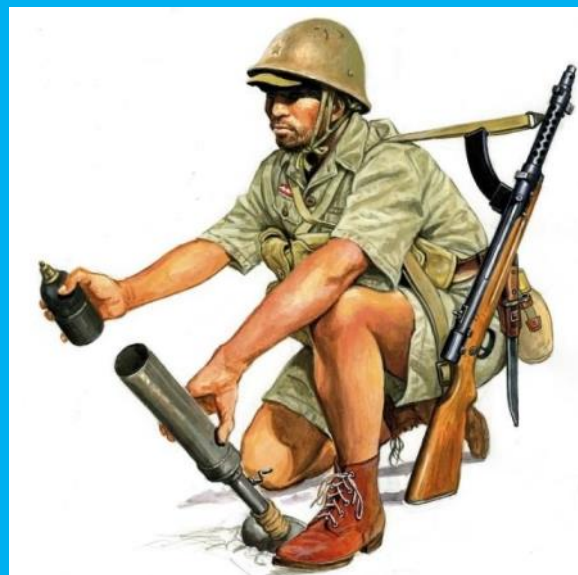
Loading the trains east of the harbour

Narrow gauge train above a wadi at the eastern side of Tobruk harbour



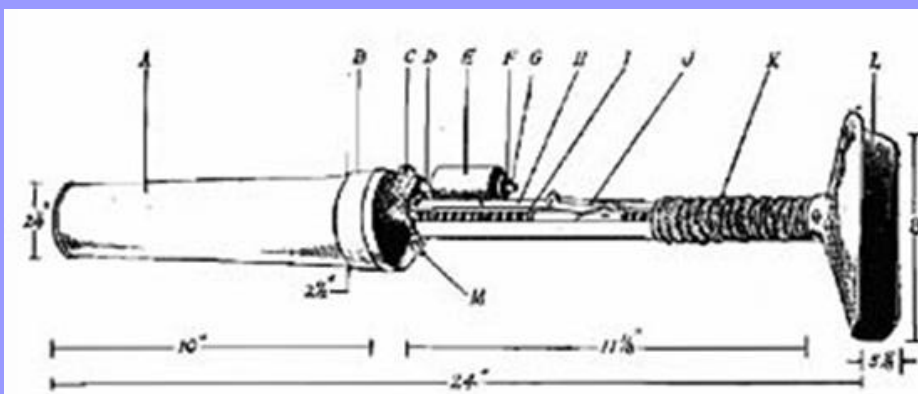
Type	Light mortar
Place of origin	Empire of Japan
Service history	
In service	1921 - 1945
Used by	Imperial Japanese Army
Wars	Second Sino-Japanese War, World War II, Indonesian National Revolution, Malayan Emergency, Korean War
Production history	
Designed	1918-1920
Produced	1921-1945
Specifications	
Mass	2.6 kg (5 lb 12 oz.)
Length	525 mm (20.7 in)
Barrel length	240 mm (9.5 in)
Shell weight	.53 kg (1 lb 3 oz)
Calibre	50 mm (1.97 in)
Effective firing range	(Type 91 grenade): 65 m (71 yds.)
Maximum firing range	(Type 91 grenade): 175 m (191 yds.)

Type 10 grenade discharger was a Japanese smoothbore, muzzle loaded weapon used during the Second World War. It first entered service in 1921. The Type 10 has a range of 175 meters, greater than other grenade dischargers of that time. It had a range control device at the base of the barrel in the form of a graduated thimble by which a gas port at the base of the tube could be varied in size. For shorter ranges, part of the propellant gases escape to the side. Due to a translation error, the Type 10 was called the "**knee mortar**" by the Americans. The manual for the mortar instructed the troops to carry the mortar on the upper thigh, with the base plate attached to the belt and the barrel running down the thigh. It must be understood that it was not strapped or secured directly to the thigh, but hung from the belt. It was also carried strapped to the backpack. American troops on Guadalcanal became aware of the name "knee mortar" and thought the light design allowed it to be fired with the base plate resting on the thigh. If the Type 10 were fired in this manner, it would result in serious injury due to recoil. However, once a few troops injured themselves, the mistranslation was discovered and further experimentation discouraged.



Ammunition

- Type 91 Grenade
- Type 11 Smoke shell
- Type 10 Flare shell
- Type 10 Signal shell
- Type 91 Pyrotechnic Grenade
- Type 10 Blank



- A- Barrel
- B- Base Cap
- C- Range-Adjusting Cogwheel
- D- Screw Bushing
- E- Range-Adjusting Knob
- F- Nut
- G- Adjusting Shaft
- H- Trigger Housing
- I- Range-Adjusting Worm
- J- Trigger
- K- Spring Sleeve
- L- Base Plate

A Type 91 grenade.



****CHANTER ESTATE MOAMA BUS Trip****

On May Saturday 9th 2020, to the Boutique Winery & Military Museum (bus is free to members).

Departure time is 8am in the morning from the fords bus depot in wheeler street Shepparton with a pickup of members in Kyabram for arrival at Chanter Estate around 9/9.30am. Lunch TBA on the day, but more than like be at 1pm on the floating café paddle steamer in Echuca and departing back for home about 3pm with arrival back at the bus depot around 4pm.

Other Propose Bus Trips/Activates for 2020 are;

- Bendigo RSL and Cenitaph Museum
- Seymour Vietnam memorial and Puckapunyal Tank Museum
- Bendigo Guild Arms Fair

To Book or place your interest for any of these trips above please contact: Secretary Graham email secretary@nvacg.org.au.

N.V.A.C.G. CALENDAR 2020

JANUARY						
Mon	TUE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
1st New Years Day 10th NYACG Meeting 27th Australia Day						

FEBRUARY						
Mon	TUE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	
12th NYACG Meeting 29th NYACG Arms Expo						

MARCH						
Mon	TUE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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1st NYACG Arms Expo 9th Labour Day 13th NYACG Meeting						

APRIL						
Mon	TUE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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27	28	29	30			
10th to 13th Easter 17th NYACG Meeting 25th ANZAC Day						

MAY						
Mon	TUE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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8th NYACG Meeting 9th Chanter Bus Trip						

JUNE						
Mon	TUE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
12th NYACG Meeting						

- NYACG Meetings
- NYACG Events
- Other Arms Events
- Public Holidays

About Us.....

Our Meetings

The Guild meets at the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Shepparton Branch Shotgun Club Rooms.

These are located at the SSAA Shooting Range 1170 Midland Hwy, Shepparton East.

Just drive for 20 minutes or so from Shepparton along what we call Benalla Road, and there you will find the Range on the right hand side in a former quarry.

The site is well signed and is the Guilds "returning home" to what was Paul Gribben's other favourite club.

General Meetings are held here on the second Friday evening of each month

Meeting commence from 8.00 pm

Our Background

The Northern Victorian Arms Collectors Guild Inc. Had its origins in August 1967, under the guidance of the late Paul Gribben - still regarded as one of Australia's most advance firearms collectors.

His fondness for Manton shotguns (and lesser examples of gunsmith's and engravers art), was equalled only by his love of history and enthusiasm for sharing it with others.

Our Guild continues this tradition and caters for those interested in the preservation and restoration of all antique and historic arms, accessories, militaria, Australiana and other heritage items.

New Members are Most Welcome!



**P.O. Box 985
Shepparton 3632**

**AFFIX
STAMP
HERE**

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(After the Manner of our Ancestors)
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