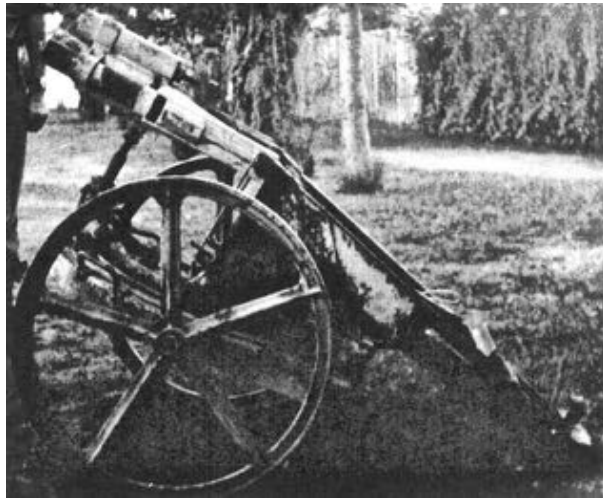


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WA - 1000 WW1 German 7.58cm Wheeled Trench Mortar



Significance:

THE TRUE STORY – WW1 WHEELED TRENCH MORTAR

The story actually begins a number of years before the acquisition of the above item.

In 1969, I was approached by a RSL Service Club in north-eastern Victoria as to my ability to provide a Catafalque Party to the RSL for the three Anzac Day Services within the local area.

Applications to the local CMF Unit (8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles) were not looked on favorably as the distance from their nearest Depot was quite considerable. I asked around my friends and came up with sufficient numbers to cover the request. I wrote to my unit OC seeking permission to organise the activity on a voluntary basis, and to carry weapons (SLRs without breach blocks). Two weeks before Anzac Day we were refused permission to take the SLRs. The local Naval Cadet unit came to our rescue and kindly lent us four Lee Enfield 303s. We spent all our spare time practicing 303 Arms Drill.

In addition to all of the above, I had an ulterior motive. My maternal grandparents lived in the area and were about to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 16 April 1970. My grandfather was a Foundation Member of the local RSL and a returned WWI Soldier. I have always been very proud of my family's military history.

While relaxing at the RSL Services Club after completing the three Anzac Day Services, I was shown two WW1 Wheeled Trench Mortars, one of which was in pieces and strewn around the ground. I remarked to the then President and Manager of the Club that they should be restored and displayed for their heritage. I asked if I could have one for my Regiment and he said you can have it if you pick it up and take it away. He also remarked that the RSL Club had just taken possession of two Mobile Anti-Aircraft Bofor Guns and they were bigger, in better condition and look impressive.

Time passed over the next three years I organised the Cenotaph Guard. By this time we were allowed to parade with SLRs. Every time we were in the area I would check out the Trench Mortars. They were deteriorating from neglect and ravishes of time.

During Annual Camp 1972 I had occasion to visit my grandparents and take them to dinner at the Club. I went looking for the two WW1 Trench Mortars, and one was still there. I was informed that the other had been given to the local scrap metal dealer and that this one would be going there shortly.

I took the situation to be critical, gathered together persons whom I considered would be willing to be involved in the cause (and who were not on Duty that particular night), and we liberated the remaining WW1 Wheeled Trench Mortar.

The operation was carried out with the greatest amount of stealth and finesse.

Today the WW1 Wheeled Trench Mortar stands in pride of place at the base of a flag-pole in a Royal Australian Engineers Depot. Somewhere in Victoria.
(provider of this article – known only to the Regiment)

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in the Mess at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1001 Mameluke Sword



Significance:

The Mameluke Sword

Mameluke swords are a cross-hilted, curved, scimitar-like sword historically used by Mamluk warriors from whom the sword derives its name.

Mameluke swords were carried as dress swords by officers of most light cavalry and hussar, and some heavy cavalry regiments in the British Army at various points during the 19th Century, starting in the period after Waterloo.

This sword is carried by officers of Major General rank and above. The current regulation sword for generals is the British General Officers Dress Sword pattern of 1831, it is a Mameluke style sword, and is carried on ceremonial occasions.

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1002 .303 Lee Enfield Rifle



Significance:

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1003 Imitation Rifle



Significance:

Presented to the Yallourn Sgt's Mess

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

By WO2 D .Dawes, Ex 80 Quarrying Sqn RAE

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1004 .303 Jungle Carbine



Rifle No5 MK1

AKA Lee-Enfield No5 MK1 AKA Lee-Enfield Jungle Carbine

British 1st Airborne 1945 →

- **Jungle Carbine** was an informal term used for the **Rifle No. 5 Mk 1** which was a derivative of the British Lee-Enfield No. 4 Mk I, designed not for jungle fighting but in response to a requirement for a "Shortened, Lightened" version of the No.4 rifle for airborne forces in the European theatre of operations. The end of the war in Europe overtook widespread issue of the No.5 and most of the operational use of this rifle occurred in post-war colonial campaigns such as the Malayan emergency, where engagement ranges tended to be shorter and its handler size and reduced weight were an advantage. This is where the "Jungle Carbine" nickname comes from. Production began in March 1944, and finished in December 1947.
- The term "Jungle Carbine" was colloquial and never officially applied by the British Armed Forces, but the Rifle No. 5 Mk I was informally referred to as the "Jungle Carbine" by British and Commonwealth troops during World War II and the Malayan Emergency.
- The No. 5 was about 100 mm shorter and nearly a kilogram lighter than the No. 4 from which it was derived. A number of "lightening cuts" were made to the receiver body and the barrel, the bolt knob drilled out, woodwork cut down to reduce weight and had other new features like a flash suppressor and a rubber buttpad to help absorb the increased recoil and to prevent slippage on the shooters clothing while aiming. Unlike modern recoil pads the No. 5 buttpad significantly reduced the contact area with the users shoulder increasing the amount of felt recoil of the firearm. According to official recoil tests the No. 4 rifle yielded 10.06 ft lbf (13.64 J) free recoil energy and the No. 4 carbine 14.12 ft lbf (19.14 J). Of the No. 5 carbine 4.06 ft lbf (5.50 J) extra recoil energy 1.44 ft lbf (1.95 J) was caused by adding the conical flash suppressor. The No. 5 iron sight line was also derived from the No. 4 marks and featured a rear receiver aperture battle sight calibrated for 300 yd (274 m) with an additional ladder aperture sight that could be flipped up and was calibrated for 200–800 yd (183–732 m) in 100 yd (91 m) increments. It was used in the Far East and other Jungle-type environments (hence the "Jungle Carbine" nickname) and was popular with troops because of its light weight (compared to the SMLE and Lee-Enfield No. 4 Mk I rifles then in service) and general ease of use, although there were some concerns from troops about the increased recoil due to the lighter weight.
- Due to the large conical flash suppressor, the No 5 Mk I could only mount the No. 5 blade bayonet, which was also designed to serve as a combat knife if needed.
- A No. 5 Mk 2 version (or, more accurately, versions, as several were put forward) of the rifle was proposed (including changes such as strengthening the action to enable grenade-firing, and mounting the trigger from the receiver instead of on the trigger guard), but none of them was ever put into production and there was subsequently no No. 5 Mk 2 rifle in service. Similarly, a number of "takedown" models of No. 5 Mk I rifle intended for Airborne use were also trialled, but were not put into production

Feed : 10rd magazine loaded with 5rd charger clips Effective firing range: 457m Muzzle velocity: 686m/s Designed: 1944

Significance:

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in the Mess at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1005 Indonesian Blow Gun



Significance:

Indonesian Blow Gun, still being used in remote jungles and islands of Indonesia

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Acquired and presented by Mak Bamford



Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WH – 1006 Mauser model 1903



Mauser Model 1903 Re-worked 1939 AKA: Mauser model 03/38



The Mauser on display has the characteristics of a model 1903 in its tear drop bolt handle and a raised stripper clip recess. However its identification stamp design indicates a model 1938. So in conclusion it is a M1903 reworked to fit the new 7.92mm cartridge.

- Mauser is a German arms manufacturer of a line of bolt-action rifles and semi-automatic pistols since the 1870s. Mauser designs were built for the German armed forces. Since the late 19th and early 20th centuries, military Mauser designs were also exported and licensed to a number of countries, as well as being a popular civilian firearm.
- Mauser continued to make sporting and hunting rifles in the late 20th century. In 1995 the company became a subsidiary of Rheinmetall called Mauser-Werke Oberndorf Waffensysteme GmbH, before being acquired by Lüke & Ortmeier Group in 2000.
- A division of the original company, Mauser Jagdwaffen GmbH, was split off and, in 2000, sold to Luke & Ortmeier Group. Mauser Jagdwaffen continues making bolt-action rifles as a subsidiary of SIG Sauer. The Mauser name has historically also been licensed by other companies on intermittent occasions.
- The Ottomans kept pace with the German army and ordered new rifles in the pattern of the Gew. 98. These were chambered for 7.65x53 and had a few other changes that kept the rifles similar to their previous purchases. These are intermediate length actions and a bit shorter than the standard 7.92, 98 action. This is a large ring small shank (LRSSM) rifle. The straight bolt handle has a distinctive tear-drop shape. The stock will have a pistol grip. The rear receiver bridge will have a "high hump" at the clip loading point. This hump was necessary to support the unique stripper clip used at the time. There was also two carbine versions of this rifle with 21.65 and 17.72 inch barrels. When converted to 8mm this is often called an 03/38.

Calibre: 7.92mmMagazine: 5rd internalMauser Co founded: May 23 1874

Significance:

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in the Mess at Newborough Barracks

WH - 1007 .38 Smith & Wesson Revolver S/N 958708



Smith & Wesson Model 1902 .38 M&P (Military & Police)



- In 1899, the Army and Navy placed orders with Smith & Wesson for two to three thousand Model 1899 Hand Ejector revolvers chambered for the M1892 .38 Long Colt U.S. Service Cartridge. With this order, the Hand Ejector Model became known as the .38 Military and Police model. That same year, in response to reports from military sources serving in the Philippines on the relative ineffectiveness of the new cartridge, Smith & Wesson began offering the Military & Police in a new chambering, .38 S&W Special (aka .38 Special) — a slightly elongated version of the .38 Long Colt cartridge with greater bullet weight (158 grains) and an increased powder charge, from eighteen to twenty-one grains of gunpowder.
- In 1902 the .38 Military & Police (2nd Model) was introduced, featuring substantial changes. These included major modification and simplification of the internal lock work and the addition of a locking under lug on the barrel to engage the previously free-standing ejector rod. Barrel lengths were 4, 5, 6, and 6.5 inches with a rounded butt. Serial numbers for the Military & Police ranged from number 1 in the series to 20,975. Most of the early M&P revolvers chambered in .38 Special appear to have been sold to the civilian market. By 1904, S&W was offering the .38 M&P with a rounded or square butt, and 4, 5, and 6.5-inch barrels.

Feed system: 6 round cylinder

Sights: Blade front, notched rear

Designed: 1899

Significance:

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in the Mess at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1008 .303 Lee Enfield Rifle S/N 33780



Significance:

Presented to the Yallourn OR's Mess

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

By Joseph H Graham 1989

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1009 Type 38 Japanese Rifle



Type 38 (Arisaka)



The **Type 38 rifle Arisaka** was a bolt-action rifle that supplemented the Type 99 Japanese standard infantry rifle during WWII. The design was adopted by the Imperial Japanese Army in 1905 (the 38th year of the Meiji period, hence "Type 38") and served from then until the end of 1945.

The Imperial Japanese Army introduced the Type 30 rifle in 1897. However, the weapon had numerous shortcomings, which were highlighted by combat experience in the early stages of the Russo-Japanese War. These included bursting cartridges, a poorly designed lock in which excess gunpowder tended to accumulate, burning the face of the shooter, frequent misfires, jamming, difficulty in cleaning, and cartridge extraction. Major Kijiro Nambu undertook a redesign of the Type 30 rifle, which was introduced in 1906. Nambu reduced the number of parts making up the Type 30's bolt from nine to six and at that same time simplified manufacture and disassembly of the bolt without the need of tools. A dust cover was added because of experiences in the Russo-Japanese War that left rifles inoperable from dust.

By 1940 more than three million Type 38s had been issued to the Imperial Japanese Army. However, shortcomings in the Type 38 design during the Second Sino-Japanese War led to the introduction of a further generation of rifles, designated the Type 99 rifle from 1939. This new rifle used the more powerful 7.7x58mm Arisaka cartridge already in use with the Type 92 heavy machine gun and the Type 97 light machine gun. However, not all units received the new weapon, and the mixture of types with incompatible cartridges led to considerable logistics issues during World War II.

Origin: Empire of Japan
Weight: 4.19kg
Effective range: 366 - 457m
Magazine: 5 round internal

Service: 1906 – 1945
Length: 1.275m
Max range: 2.377m

Cartridge: 6.5mm x 50mm
Barrel length: 800mm
Muzzle Velocity: 762

Significance:

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in the Mess at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1010 Martin Henry MK1 Cavalry Carbine



Martini Henry MK1 Cavalry Carbine (I.C.1)



****The weapon on display is not an Enfield weapon, the Enfield stamp indicates it was built at the Enfield factory England.**

24th Sept 1877. LOC 3215 as 'As Arms interchangeable, Carbine Breech loading Rifled, with clearing rod Martini Henry Mk1.'

The experiments with a Martini Carbine began as early as February 1871, with a shortened rifle, after six trial models, on the 6th June 1876, a New pattern was offered and approved, built upon the receiver frame of a MkII rifle.

Martini Henry Cavalry Carbines

The Pattern was sealed and introduced on the 24th Sept 1877. LOC 3215 as 'As Arms interchangeable, Carbine Breech loading Rifled, with clearing rod Martini Henry Mk1.' "interchangeable" was to be used in the description, and the actions were marked I.C.1. Not only did it simplify production, the carbine could be made as basic arm, with uniformed manufacturing techniques, sharing common rifle and carbine component parts, but providing an arm which simply required a change of furniture to convert from Artillery to cavalry. The new stocking arrangement required a re-think as to how the fore-end was to be fixed, the new slim barrel design did not facilitate a traditional lug hole and cross pin method of fixing used on the Mk1 & MkII rifle, so as a result a new steel hook was screwed into the bottom of the fore-stock, this in turn located into a slot in the front of the receiver.

The design carried a 21.3" lightweight barrel, and the carbines' weight was reduced to 7lb 8oz. Developments with the new single part tumbler for the proposed MkII rifle gave the new arm a positive cocking action, the original pattern arm had a combined half cock thumb catch on the right of the action body. To eliminate the "catch points" the front of action was rounded off to allow the carbine to slide into saddle bucket, and two rigid "Wings" protected the foresight. Most obvious external change was a new smaller cocking indicator providing too less external projection. In 1876, the safety thumb-piece catch was discontinued and not adopted.

Complaints were reported of the rear sight leaf becoming entangled or damaged by the saddlery, on the 18.4.1879, the IC1 Cavalry carbines were supplied with a locking leather back sight protector held by two screws, the screw edges were sharp and it caught clothing. A List of change No 3566 3.7.1879 gave simple instructions that the screw heads were to be softened and rounded. Between the years 1878 and 1889 the RSAF Enfield made 130,000 IC1 carbines, but with the adoption of the .303 calibre in the regular army, production ceased, with most of the component parts being utilized in the conversion to .303 Martini Metford and Martini Enfield carbines. IC1 Carbines emanating from the Birmingham Small Arms factory have never been seen by the author, their factory returns report that they had made over 1600 pieces in the 1890's, however, it is believed that these were made under contract by the Henry Rifled Barrel company, with parts supplied from Enfield.

Calibre: .577/450"

Weight: 7lb 8oz (approx 3.5kg)

Length: 37.6" (approx 955mm)

Significance:

Presented to the RAE Officers Mess Yallourn

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

By Mr B.M. Thiesson 1963

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1011 Turkish Dagger, Dardanelles 1914-1918



Significance:

Turkish Dagger – Dardanelles 1914 - 1918

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Presented By M.A.A.F.A Lawerance R.N.

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks

WA – 1012 Samurai Sword



Significance:

Presented to the RAE Officers Mess Yallourn

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

By Lt R.A. Collins R.A.N.V.R 1966 (Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve)

Current Location:

WA – 1013 Replica Sword



Significance:

Acquisition Details and Date Acquired:

Current Location:

The in **the Mess** at Newborough Barracks