



# BARRELS & BLADES



The Fight For The '14th Colony,' Nova Scotia

## June 2024



**SA Members our next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month at the Lutheran Church Hall 57-59 Botting Street (Corner of Osborne St) Albert Park SA.**

The hall can be entered from Botting Street. For those members who will be displaying items there is also car parking for approximately 13 vehicles in the rear carpark off Osborne street), for members and visitors who are not putting on a display there is plenty of street parking.

**2023/24 SUBSCRIPTION DUE BY THE 30<sup>TH</sup> of JUNE**

***Unfinancial – This could be your last Magazine.***

**Subscription fees**

South Australian Resident Member \$40

South Australian Resident Family membership (includes 2 voting members) \$50.

SA members living more than 100 km from Adelaide, Interstate and Overseas Members \$25

**Australian Members**

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**Overseas members**

May pay by PayPal, alternatively or via Credit Card (Email Heritage and ask for an invoice).

**Index**

Membership Applications .....	3
SA Member May Displays.....	4
THE ROYAL NAVY MIDSHIPMAN'S SWORD – HAS Member Dr John Bird .....	6
French Pill Lock Rifle – HAS Member Les McKessar .....	31
French Turret Pistol – HAS Member Les McKessar .....	32
Making A Model of The HMS Victory – HAS Member William Rosenthal.....	33
Military and Naval Sword Collection for Sale .....	44
First Post COVID Adelaide Arms Fair .....	48
Pistols commissioned By Napoleon – HAS Member Michael Barnett .....	56
How I ruined a \$100,000 pair of pistols – HAS Member Michael Barnett .....	65
Where HMS Hood fought on. – HAS Member John McGrath .....	69
The Hounslow Hanger - HAS Member Keith Fisher .....	75
Meetings and Topics.....	76
HAS Member Business Directory.....	77

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The Association Email Address is: [heritage.arms.society@gmail.com](mailto:heritage.arms.society@gmail.com)

Webpage: <https://heritagearmssa.com/>

## Membership Applications

Nominee: Neil Brown and Family (Sovereign Antiques)

Interests: SA Boer War, WW1 – WW2

Location: Adelaide Australia

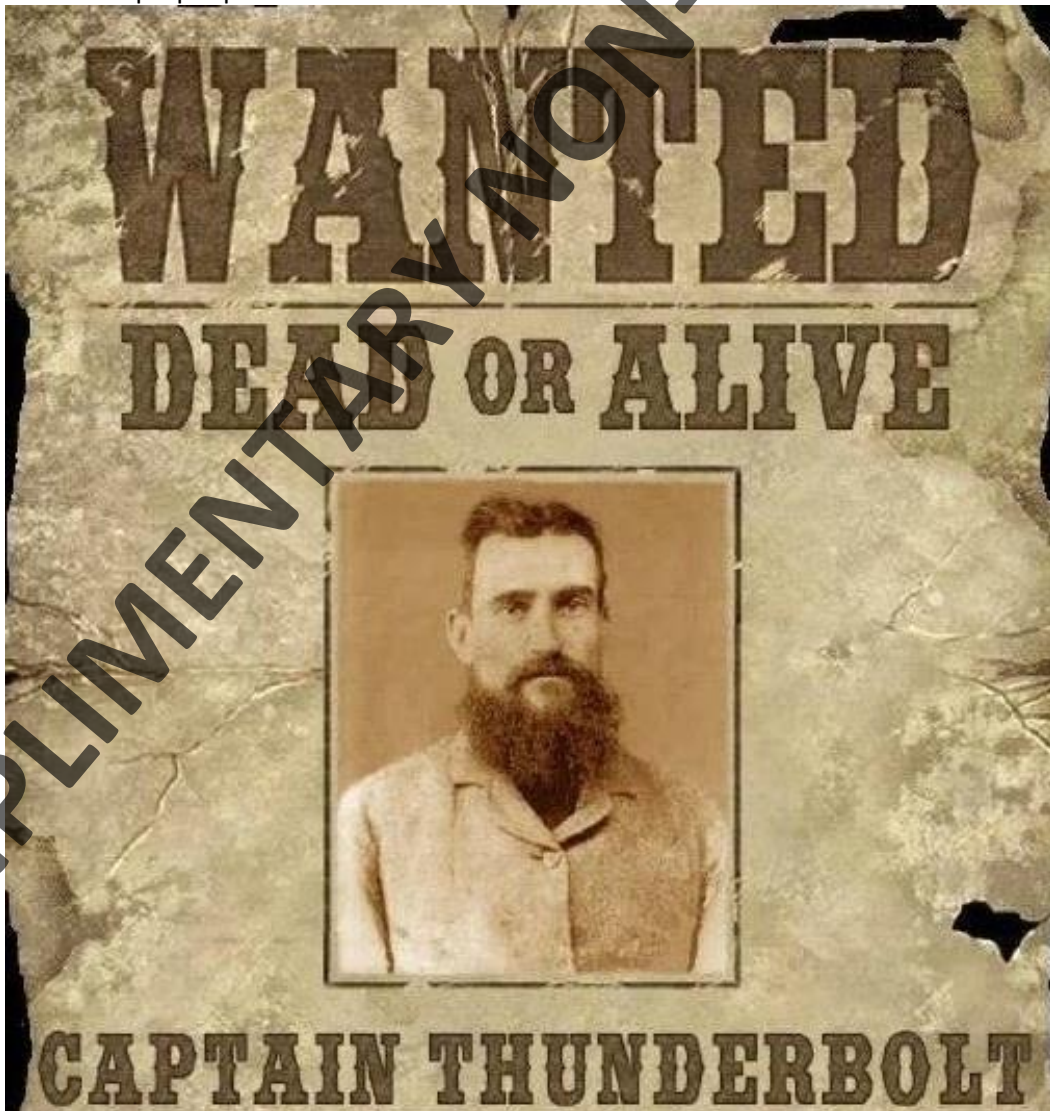
Sovereign Antiques

Nominee: Jozef Akselrud (Hermitage Antique Arms)

Interests: Firearms pre-1900

Location: Victoria Australia

Any member having objection to membership being granted to the above applicants should give reasons in writing, in confidence and without prejudice, to the Secretary, c/- 32 Teakle Street, Exeter, within 21 days of this meeting. South Australian applicants that do not have a current firearm or firearms collectors' licence will require a fit and proper person check from SAPOL.



SA Member May Displays

# MAY

*Asia & the East*



*Navy*



*Loading Equipment*



*Peninsula Wars*



**PLUS, Anything over 100 years old**



1804 pattern naval Seamans cutlass, naval cocked hat, full dress naval belt, British naval dirk, naval sword - cutlass model 1751 from kingdom of Sardinia-piedmont and pair of navy epaulettes.





## THE ROYAL NAVY MIDSHIPMAN'S SWORD - HAS Member Dr John Bird

### THE PATTERN 1805 NAVAL SWORD



Midshipman 1770's



Midshipman 1777

Royal Navy officers had been given uniforms in 1748 but no provision was made for the uniformity of swords. It was not until 1805 that this was addressed with the introduction of a new pattern for all Royal Navy officers and midshipmen, although the style had been in use on land and sea before 1805.



Prince William Henry as midshipman on board the 'Prince George' 1779

The straight single edged blade came from the 1796 Infantry Pattern, the stirrup hilt from the 1796 Pattern Light Cavalry Sword and the Lion's head pommel from the 1803 Grenadier and Light Infantry Sword. Two patterns were introduced. 'Decorated' pattern for Commanders and above with gilt stirrup hilt with langets bearing a fouled anchor, a white ivory grip, often a blue and gilt spadron blade and a lion's head pommel.



Midshipman 1796





'Plain' pattern for Lieutenants and below with wire bound black fish skin grip, a plane spadroon blade which may be engraved with the Royal Cypher, Royal Arms and naval trophies of arms. The stirrup hilt with langets embellished with a fouled anchor, later surmounted by a crown. Combined simple fluted back piece with rounded stepped pommel. Black leather scabbard with three plain guilt mounts.



It may have taken several years for the order to be fully adopted, as it would have taken time to reach all the ships and for the officers to purchase new swords.

Between 1815 and 1825, some lieutenants adopted a hybrid weapon, unofficially, with a black grip and lion's head pommel.



In 1825 all commissioned officers were given the white grip and lion's head pommel, leaving the black grip and plain pommel to Midshipmen, Masters, Mates and Warrant Officers.

#### MINIATURE PATTERN 1805 NAVAL SWORDS

With the introduction of uniformity in the swords worn by naval officers. the wearing of a small swords on dress occasions ceased. They were replaced by smaller versions of the regulation weapon. Instead of a 32" blade x 1" to 1 ¼" wide, these weapons have blades 25 ½" to 28 ¼" x ¾" wide.

There are two possible explanations for the plain small-scale swords. A dress weapon for lieutenants. Many of these swords are of superior workmanship and richly decorated and may be officers' dress weapons.



1806



1810



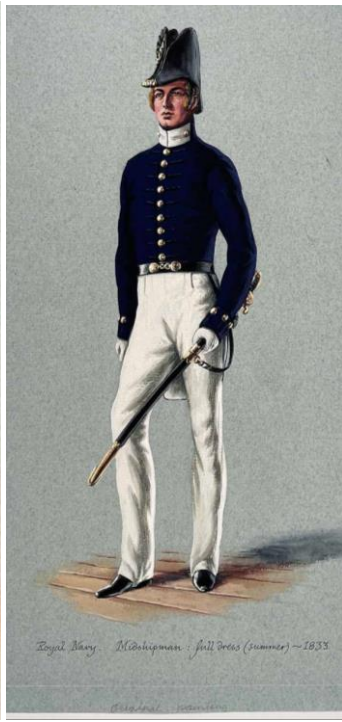
1819



1823



1830



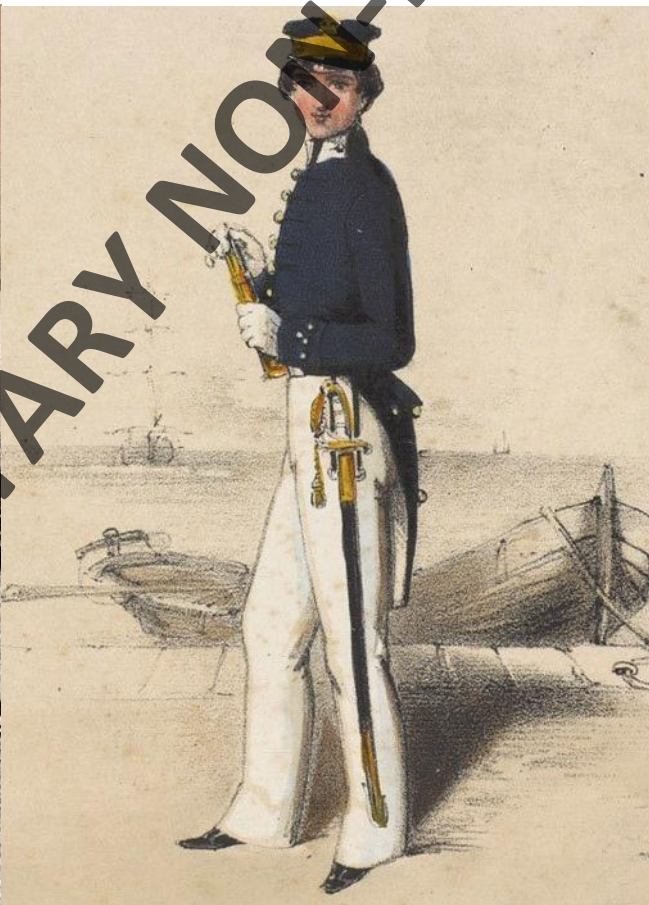
1833



(1830-1856)



1837



1840-1850)

At this time, Midshipmen were restricted to wearing swords of a size compatible with their height. It is possible that full sized swords were too large for the small midshipmen. Midshipmen were still wearing swords at the time of the Crimea War. They were of the same pattern, as lieutenants but of appropriate length. In 1852, Midshipman Daniel said his sword was 'nearly as long as myself'.

However, although aspiring officers went to sea around the age of 12, they would not have become midshipmen until late teens by which time they would have been almost fully grown and not have the need of a miniature sword.

#### PATTERN 1827 PIPED-BACKED NAVAL SWORD



With the new dress regulations, Midshipman wore the Pattern 1827 pipe-backed sword. This sword, like the pattern 1805, is found in both standard and small sizes. However, an order of 18/12/1827 restricted the wearing of dress swords to the drawing-room, making it more likely it was a light dress weapon. In 1847 the pipe-backed blade was replaced by the Wilkinson blade.

#### THE NAVAL DIRK

In Naval regulations issued on 11/5/1856, the wearing of swords by Midshipmen was discontinued, being replaced by a Dirk, gilt mounted with a white fish skin grip.



#### REFERENCES

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### Navy



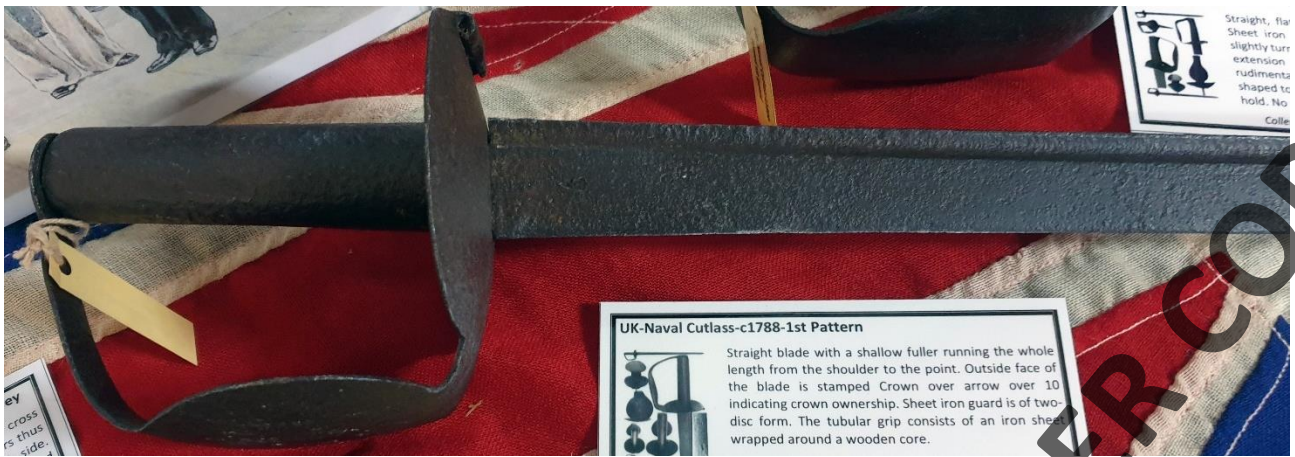
#### UK-Naval Boarding Axe-c1859-Mark 1, No 15

Although the blade is flared, the curve is cut short by a small straight section at the top and bottom which gives the axe its distinctive shape. The Mark 1 is made from iron, like the tomahawk, with a steel insert to form the blade edge. This Axe has a brass rack number plate of 15.



#### UK-Naval Boarding Pike-c1888-Rack No 70

English Ash with steel spike & languets. Brass triangular plate marked rack number 70. Pike has the point of its butt shoe cut off, leaving a collar of ferrule through which protrudes a knob of the staff. This modification was formalised on the boarding pike in 1888, for which the British navy at last decreed an officially designated pattern.



**UK-Naval Cutlass-c1788-1st Pattern**

Straight blade with a shallow fuller running the whole length from the shoulder to the point. Outside face of the blade is stamped Crown over arrow over 10 indicating crown ownership. Sheet iron guard is of two-disc form. The tubular grip consists of an iron sheet wrapped around a wooden core.



**UK-Naval Cutlass-c1804-Figure 8-Turned up guard**

Straight, flat blade single edged with a spear point. Sheet iron guard is a double disc or figure-of-eight slightly turned up sides. At the top a small parallel-sided extension has been tightly rolled forwards to form a rudimentary quillon. The cast iron grip is roughly shaped to fit the hand and is ribbed to provide a secure hold. No maker or issue marks.

**Two Mitford Dirks with original letters from Admiral Robert Mitford to his agent**



**UK-Naval Dirk-Brass & Ivory Grip Curved Blade-R Mitford**

Hilt brass floral backstrap and pommel. Grip chequered ivory, gilt brass wire. Brass Cross guard acorn finials. Curved blade remnants of floral decoration, essentially plain with some pitting. No Scabbard. One of a pair sold with the original velum prize records of Captain Robert Mitford 1781-1870 HMS ESPOIR.

**UK-Naval Dirk-Brass Lion Head Ivory Grip Stiletto-R Mitford**

Small triangular stiletto bladed Naval Dirk, Lion pommel & circular brass cross guard floral decoration. Blade remnants floral decoration, plain with some pitting. No Scabbard. One of a pair sold with the original velum prize records of Captain Robert Mitford 1781-1870 HMS ESPOIR.



**UK-Naval Dirk-c1800-Large Blue & Gilt Serpent Guard-Watson & McDowall**

Checked Ivory Grip with beak pommel and chiselled brass back plate with decorative Serpent Guard. Blue and Gilt curved blade with floral decoration and Crown over GR cypher. Black Leather brass mounted scabbard. Scabbard throat inscribed Watson & McDowall 111 Newgate Str



**UK-Naval Dirk-c1800-Small Blue & Gilt**

Small Georgian Naval dirk, with tapering blade of flattened diamond section with blued and gilt etched decoration of foliage. With copper gilt guard of cruciform shape, and a turned ivory hilt. In its copper gilt metal mounted leather sheath.



**UK-Naval Hanger-c1720-Brass Hilt & Scabbard**

Type carried by both naval officers & seaman. Pre-cursor to the British cutlass. Brass mounted hilt, hardwood grip. Blade is slightly curved and has two deeply impressed Green Man head marks normally associated with



early British Swords. Complete with a later brass mounted leather scabbard and belt frog. Pattern featured in Swords for Sea Service Page 10 Vol 1 and Plate 4 Vol 2.



**UK-Naval Hanger-c1770-Slot Hilt One Side Variation**

Slotted brass Hilt some gold gilding remaining indicating may have belonged to an Officer. Guard pierced with double line of rectangles within slotted hilt of one side. Brass Pommel caps spiral wooden grip. Thick curved blade sharpened back edge 7" long. Double line of rectangles within slotted hilt style used by James Cullum, who may have designed & fitted this sword.



**UK-Naval Hanger-c1770-Slot Hilt Variation Lion Head-S Harvey**

Naval Hanger Bronze gilt hilt, each side of the cross guard having two bars with intersecting short bars thus producing a double series of rectangles to each side. The pommel is a lion's head, and the knuckle guard comes in under the chin of the lion. Slightly curved blade is stamped with an inspection mark of crown over 6.



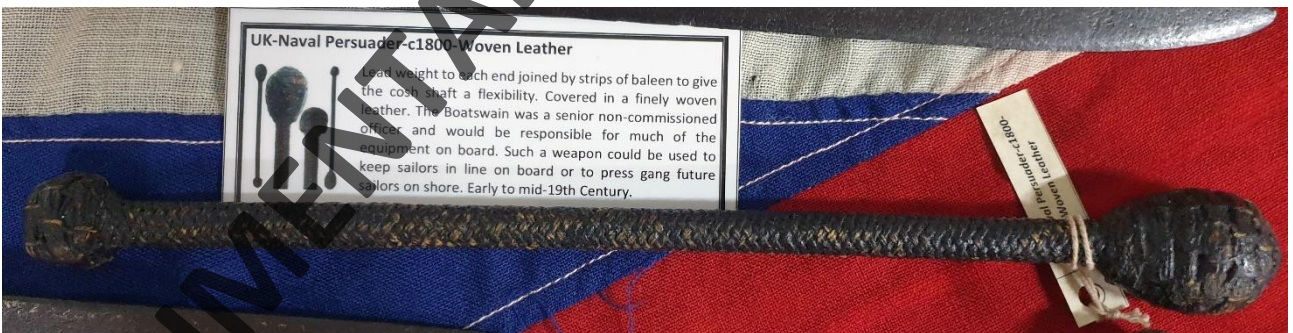
**UK-Naval Pistol-c1800-Sea Service Flint lock-Wood stamped 1800**

Lock GR, Crown, Crown/Arrow, TOWER. .56-caliber barrel 12" marked at breech with government view & proof stamps. Stock behind lock branded "1800" under a crown. Additional issues stamps on the stock including TP 4 GR, crown over 4 & under ram rod no 6. Overall length is 19" complete with steel belt hook.



**UK-Naval Persuader-c1700-Wale Baleen**

Cosh or persuader. Formed with a twisted baleen shaft mounted on either end with a lead weight covered with needle hitched twine. Used to hit slacking/lazy crew members on the back to get them to work at a satisfactory pace hence the name "Starter". They were also carried on land by the Press gangs.



**UK-Naval Persuader-c1800-Woven Leather**

Lead weight to each end joined by strips of baleen to give the cosh shaft a flexibility. Covered in a finely woven leather. The Boatswain was a senior non-commissioned officer and would be responsible for much of the equipment on board. Such a weapon could be used to keep sailors in line on board or to press gang future sailors on shore. Early to mid-19th Century.

COMPLIMENTARY NON-MEMBER COPY



#### Naval Powder Bucket-1803-GR111

The early / mid 1800s, a lacquered, stiffened canvas, gunpowder bucket. Which would have been utilised by the British Empire fighting forces for delivering a powder charge to the artillery section whilst in action. The bucket measures approximately 33cm high, (not including the fold-able leather carry handle). x 16cm diameter, it is in a dark brown finish, and proudly bears the coat of arms of the British empire, with the legend 'dieu et mon droit' (god & my right). together with 'hon soit mal y pense' (shame on anyone who thinks evil of it) please excuse any translational errors!!! the inside is in an unvarnished canvas finish.



**UK-Naval Sabre-c1770-Officer's Lion Head Ivory-Booth & Palmer**

Engraved scabbard locket Booth & Palmer of Chatham. John Booth, sword cutler and silversmith made swords for senior naval officers in Chatham during 1800. Curved fullered blade etched with sea monsters, trophies, & scrolls. Ivory grip and D hilt. Black leather scabbard two gilt locket with rings plus a stud.



**UK-Naval Sabre-c1770-Officer's 5 Ball Hilt-W Loxham**

Curved blade, traces of faint false Damascus. Ivory hilt with the cigar band, fouled anchor & crown; knuckle bow & side guard decorated 5 gilt brass balls & cushion shaped pommel; complete with a brass mounted black leather scabbard, inscribed LOXHAM ROYAL EXCHANGE (William Loxham)



**UK-Naval Sabre-c1770-Officer's Lion Head stirrup Hilt-J Dean**

Naval officer's stirrup hilted sabre, deeply curved blade with faint false Damascus; gilt brass hilt with fouled anchors to the languets; gilt brass back piece & Lion's head pommel; fish skin grips bound with woven brass wire; complete with gilt brass mounted scabbard with the mouthpiece inscribed J. DEAN NO 4 STRAND.



**UK-Naval Uniform-c1890-Captain full dress**

Late Victorian Era British Naval Captain's full dress uniform coat with tails, Captains Rank on Cuffs, Queen Victoria Crown Buttons. Gold Bullion Epaulettes in Lieutenants Rank over eight years' service. Black belt with Victorian Naval clasp.



Japanese naval 1883 pattern dirk. Issued to commissioned officers, petty officers and midshipmen. It is a tanto style with an S shaped guard and plain chromed steel blade.

Due to shortages of materials late in WW2, earlier brass and wire same (fish skin) handles and scabbard fittings were replaced with moulded cellulose painted to resemble brass or gilding.

Even mass-produced dirks were highly regarded as explained by Lt Ozeki "The war ended for me as an Australian POW on a tiny island south of New Guinea. I was stripped of all my equipment by souvenir hunting Aussies. The only thing I wish they had not taken was my naval dagger. A naval officer's soul and honour. I think about it daily. The naval dirk is a symbol of not only his authority but social status and even virility. No woman could resist a man in white with a dagger at his side. We had a saying that a dirk was a charm that kept away the three evils: Disease, Evil spirits and Ugly women."





Royal Navy Lieutenant's Bicorn belonging to Edward Llewellyn Hughes. Beginning in about 1800, the Royal navy began wearing Bicorn hats in what is known as "Fore and aft" fashion. The Bicorn became a staple of royal navy officers, being part of regular dress up until the first world war and being retained as ceremonial headgear even to this day. This particular hat belonged to Edward Llewellyn Hughes, who became a Lieutenant in 1897, eventually reaching the rank of Captain and serving during the first world war.





**Cannon Gunlock:**

British cannon Gunlock recovered from Pitcairn island. The Royal navy began constructing cannons with large flintlock mechanisms called Gunlocks around 1745 and saw extensive use of them during the Napoleonic wars, though implementation of the technology was slow as older cannons fired with linstock's could not be retrofitted with Gunlocks and thus required total replacement with a new cannon. Pitcairn Island is most widely known for being the location where the mutineers on the HMS Bounty made their final stop, deciding to settle on the island and burning the ship in Bounty bay. It is worthy of note that all of the cannons recovered from the wreck of the HMS Bounty show evidence of being fitted with Gunlocks, but all had been removed.



**9lb Cannon ball:**

Remains of a 9lb cannon ball recovered from the ocean floor in the gulf of St Vincent, not far from Fort Glanville. Fort Glanville was officially opened in 1880 and featured Guns which fired cannonballs of this size.





**British Sea service pistol:**

British sea service Pistol, constructed circa 1800, lock made by Tower. 0.56 calibre. These pistols saw extensive use during the Napoleonic wars by the Royal navy, including at the battle of Trafalgar.



**Japanese admiral sword:**

Japanese type 19 Kyu Gunto naval parade sword, belonging to a high-ranking officer. First adopted in 1875 and later modified in 1886 (Meiji year 19) these swords mimic those of a more European design, though still retaining Japanese motifs, as they were designed during a period of Japanese history in which the Government was attempting to modernise their military by imitating styles and tactics of the European powers in order to assert themselves more strongly in their region. This sword features an elaborately decorated backstrap on the hand grip as well as tortoiseshell grips, as well as a black scabbard, denoting it as belonging to a senior officer in the Japanese navy, most probably an Admiral.



## Notes on the Antique Islamic Scimitars by an Australian Navy Captain

Scimitars are short, curved swords that came from the Middle East and were used in the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries for warfare.

The two scimitars are Antique Islamic as there are verses of the Koran engraved on the blades and scabbard. These were purchased in the Kingdom of Jordan by the then Australian Defence Attache for Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Yemen, who served in the Middle East for seven years. 2004-2008 and from 2014 - 2016. Both scimitars were hand made in the mid-1800s.

The scimitars were purchased from an antique dealer, Karim Naffa, in Amman, Jordan by the Australian Defence Attache who was also appointed the aide-de-camp (ADC.) to HRH Prince Faisal bin Hussein of Jordan during his Royal Tour to Australia. (HRH Prince Faisal's late father was the King of Jordan and his brother is currently King Abdullah II of Jordan.) Prince Faisal's Chief of Staff advised this gentleman of the integrity and honesty of Karim Naffa as an antique dealer in Jordan, consequently the Attache a Naval Captain made several purchases of silver and antiques from him.

He was advised that the two Islamic scimitars originated in Persia being handmade and were used during various wars/sieges in the Middle East.

The bone/ivory handle Persian s scimitar was used by the Arab Forces (Hashemite Forces) against the Ottoman Turkish forces in 1917 during the Great Arab Revolt on attacks on the Hejaz Railway and during the war in the capture of Aqaba in July 1917.

The silver handle and silver scabbard was also used during the Great Arab Revolt and in the capture of Aqaba in 1917. It was also used in Yemen during the massacre at the siege of San'a in 1892 when the Ottoman Turkish Forces lost skirmishes against the Yemeni rebels. The Turkish Forces led by Ali Pasa entered the village an Al-Jarda and found themselves surrounded by Yemeni rebels led by Ahmad, son of Iman al Mutawakil Muhsin. A frightful massacre ensued -with the Yemenis using all weapons from simitars, jambiyas to rifles.





COMPLIMENTARY NON-MEMBER COPY



Presentation 17 May 2024 – Asia, Navy, Peninsula Wars



**Japanese Naval Officers Kai Gunto 1938**

Meeting both Asia and Naval, a classic Japanese Naval Kai Gunto of 1930 pattern. Signed blade and numbered parts. Hand forged (Gendaito) and the signature has an anchor stamp probably from Tenshozan arsenal.



**UK Royal Marine Officer's Sword. 1796**

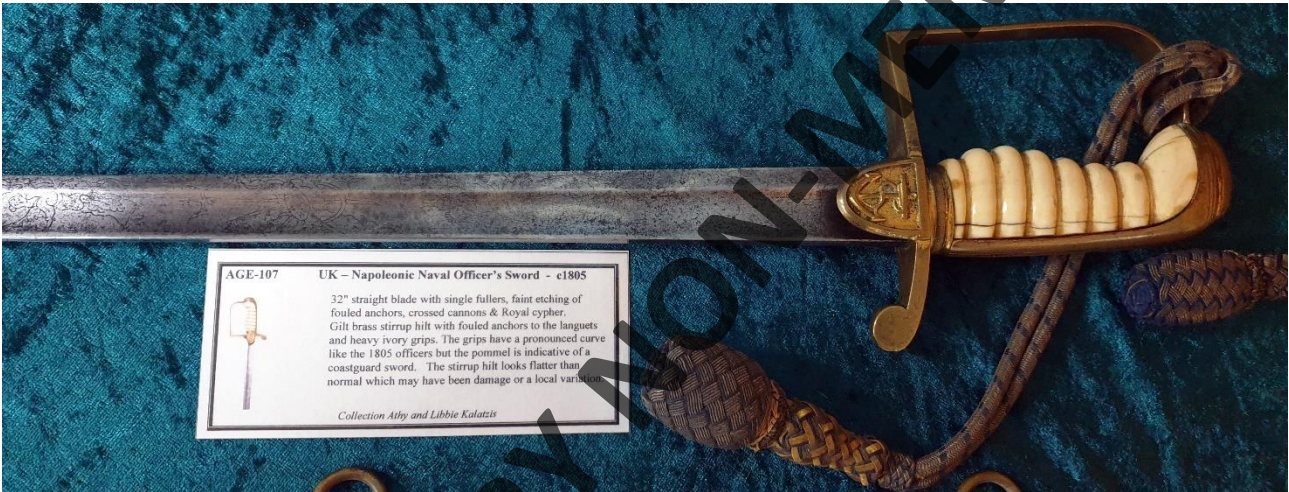
A pre-pattern Naval Marine Officer's sword with an excellent blue and gilt blade. Royal cypher helmeted bust and coat of arms feature on the blade. Engraved Runkel Solingen although Runkel is only registered as operating from Holborn London.



AGE-089 UK Naval Flag Officers Sword - c 1887  
 A British Navy pattern 1827 officer's sword (probably made after 1846 with Wilkinson blade) with a fair to good square backed blade with areas of light & dark staining & etched with acanthus leaves. The blade is etched with a royal cypher and fouled anchor coat of arms to the ricasso. On the reverse side there is a faint residual etching: LANROM & VEYSEY, QUEEN ST PORTSEA & PORTSMOUTH. The folding inner guard is engraved H.B. HALL R.N.  
 Collection Athy and Libbie Kalatzis

**UK Naval Flag Officer's Sword. 1887**

A Pattern 1827 Naval Officer's sword with a Wilkinson blade. Blade etched with Royal Cypher and fouled anchor. On one side Lanrom & Veysey, Queen St Portsea & Portsmouth. Folding guard engraved H.B Hall R.N



AGE-107 UK - Napoleonic Naval Officer's Sword - c1805  
 32" straight blade with single fullers, faint etching of fouled anchors, crossed cannons & Royal cypher. Gilt brass stirrup hilt with fouled anchors to the languets and heavy ivory grips. The grips have a pronounced curve like the 1805 officers but the pommel is indicative of a coastguard sword. The stirrup hilt looks flatter than normal which may have been damage or a local variation.  
 Collection Athy and Libbie Kalatzis

**UK Napoleonic Naval Officer's Sword. 1805**

Possibly sailed to the Peninsula wars. Blade has faint etching of fouled anchor and crossed cannons. The grips have a pronounced curve like the 1805 officers, but the pommel is indicative of a coast guard sword. Stirrup hilt is flatter than normal so possible a later repair.



**The Naval Mystery Lamp**

Unknown origin and age, but an interesting self-levelling oil lamp for marine use?

COMPLIMENTARY MEMBER COPY





## French Pill Lock Rifle – HAS Member Les McKessar

Generally, to collectors, a percussion firearm ignites the powder with a copper percussion cap, but some early percussion guns used the spherical fulminate ball (priming ball), and these locks were termed “pill-lock” or “punch-lock” or “detonators”. Although most guns using this type of ignitions were primed singly, by hand, onto the percussion nipple or vent, the early rifle shown here has a magazine alongside the barrel which holds 40 “priming balls” (fulminate balls). To load this magazine, the hammer must first be cocked – then the circular plate, shown on the right near the breech – is fed a single priming ball – then swung over about 100 degrees to line the ball up with the magazine – then tilt the barrel down toward the ground – this allows the ball to drop into the magazine. Repeat this action 39 more times and the gun is fully primed. The weapon is still a muzzle loader so must be re-loaded for each shot. After firing, the circular magazine is used to feed the next priming ball into position for firing and so on. This is a fairly small sized rifle, and on looking at it from the front it at first appears to be a shotgun, but it is rifled and fitted with front and rear sights. This experimental rifle may have been intended for a person of small stature (and hopefully a muscly shoulder due to its light weight.) It is marked “Pidault Brevet A Paris”, and dates circa 1820. Statistics are -: 25” barrel, 42” long overall and weighing 4 lbs 8 oz, and 16 mm calibre.





## French Turret Pistol – HAS Member Les McKessar

The Medium sized revolver shown here is an attempt by its French inventor to give multiple shots whilst still being flat enough to slip into a jacket or pants pocket. This strange looking piece has a vertically positioned cylinder—just 3/8" thick – chambering ten peculiar teat-fire cartridges, which must be loaded radially in the cylinder with the bullet itself facing outward! The teat is struck through the side of the cylinder by the side mounted hammer. The Cylinder is fully enclosed and must be removed from the pistol by means of a hinged cover plate on the left of the frame. No means of extraction is provided, so it is necessary to pry out the empty cases with whatever is available or perhaps they could be shaken free. A hinged, folding trigger is provided to make the piece more compact for carrying. This gun was made in France by Noel and J.F. Goudry, and is so marked (albeit faintly), and dates from circa 1860.

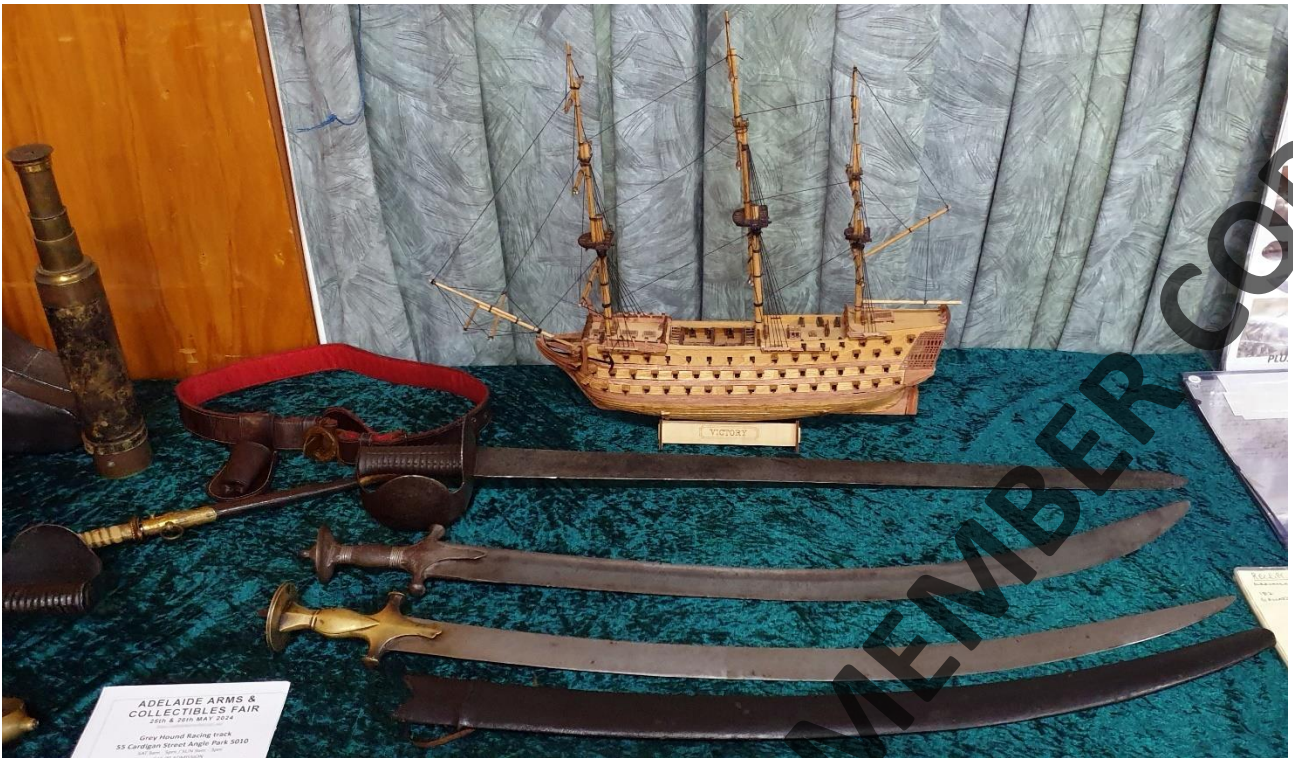
As is normal on French arms no proofs are provided to the cylinder, but all major parts are stamped with the serial number "261". These pistols were of course made well before the invention of flat and compact semi-automatics that came along some 35 to 40 years later. It has a 3 1/2" barrel rifled. Is 8 3/4" long, a total width of 1 1/8" and weighs 1 lb.

### References

Encyclopaedia of Firearms by Peterson Pp337  
Firearms Curiosa by Winant (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) Pp 203  
Antique Pistols by Wilkinson Pp78—Top







**Making A Model of The HMS Victory – HAS Member William Rosenthal**

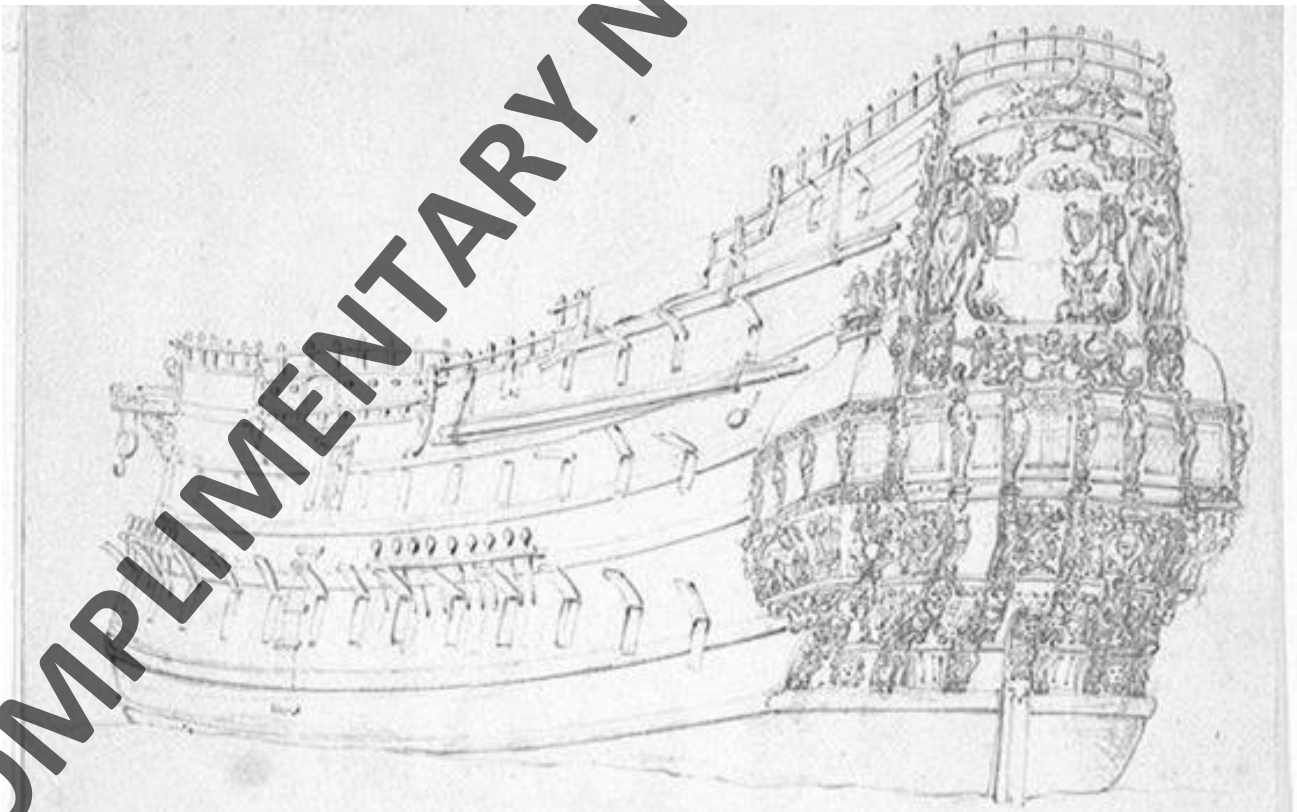


This model was made from a cheap DIY wooden model set from eBay. There were a few challenges which were: there were barely any instructions (which were all in Chinese) and the kit did not have all the parts.



To make the kit look anything like the Victory I had to study different photos of the Victory, paintings of the ship in action and pictures of other HMS Victory models. During this process I was beginning to question which HMS Victory I was making a model of. As the instructions were vague it was open for interpretation.

As the model has three-gun decks and 108 guns (assuming there is a gun behind every gun port, which might not be the case) it ruled out the 42-gun 1620 HMS Victory



*The 1620 HMS Victory*

It came to a tie breaker between the 1675 HMS Victory, 1737 HMS Victory and the HMS victory launched in 1765 (the one at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805)

### 1675 HMS Victory



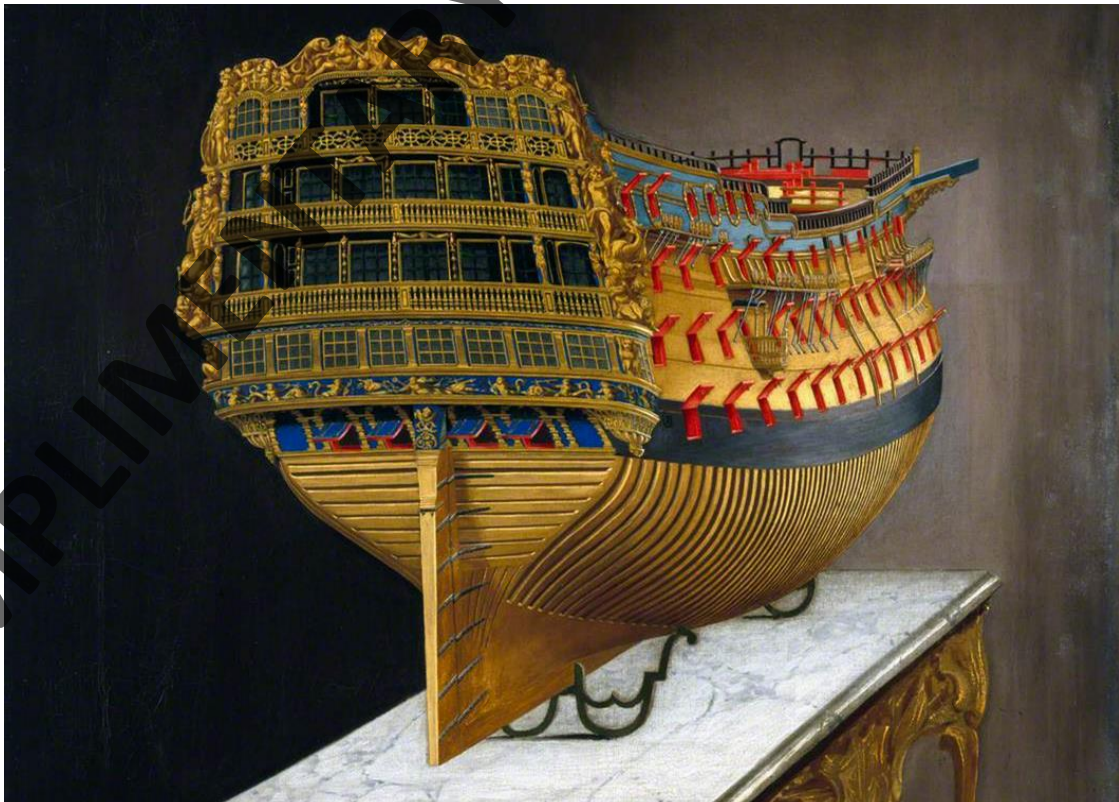
The 1675 HMS Victory was originally launched under the name Royal James and was re-named HMS Victory in 1691.

She was armed with 100 guns of varying shot size and had a 49-meter gun deck

She participated in the Action at Barleur in 1692 which included 126 ships.

In 1721 she was broken up after being damaged by a fire.

### 1737 HMS Victory



**Above is a better model of the HMS Victory than mine.**

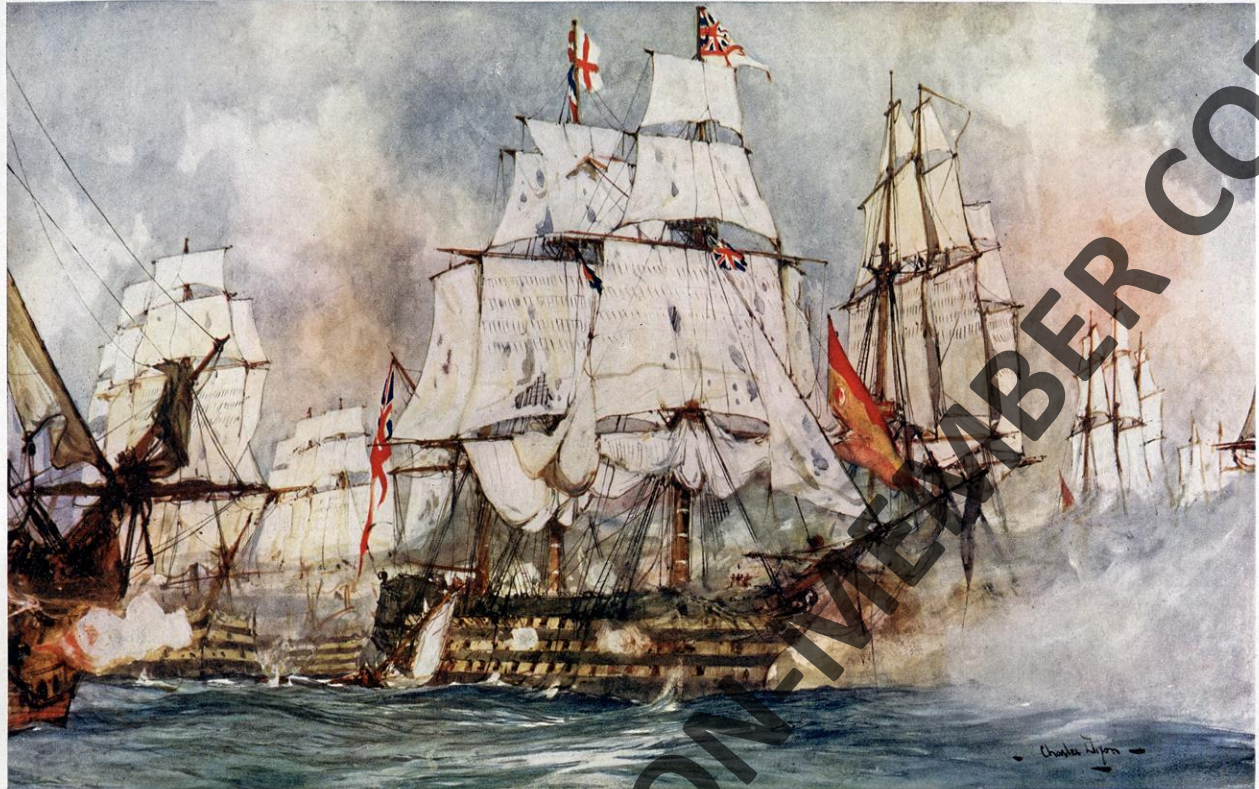
The 1737 HMS Victory was a rebuild of the 1675 HMS Victory.

She was armed with 100 bronze guns, had a crew of 900 and had a 53-meter gun deck



She was wrecked in 1744 with no survivors.

## 1765 HMS Victory



THE "VICTORY" AT TRAFALGAR. NELSON'S FLAGSHIP NEARING THE "SANTISSIMA TRINIDAD."

"VICTORY." 2,162 Tons. Launched May 7, 1765. Heaviest Gun, 32 Pdr.

The 1765 HMS Victory was a remake of the 1737 HMS Victory.

She was armed with 104 guns, had a crew of 850 and had a 57-meter-long gun deck

She saw action at

- First Battle of Ushant(1778)
- Second Battle of Ushant(1781)
- Battle of Cape Spartel(1782)
- Battle of the Hyeres Islands(1795)
- Battle of Cape St Vincent(1797)
- Battle of Trafalgar(1805)

She has served for 246 years

### Conclusion

In the end I came to the conclusion that my model was the 1765 HMS Victory as it had a square back and didn't have circular gun ports like the 1675 HMS Victory and the 1737 HMS Victory.

### Bibliography

*The Great Admirals* Richard Hough Published 1977

*A History of Seafaring* General Editor George F. Ball published 1972

*The Wooden Fighting Ship In The Royal Navy AD 897- 1860* E.H.H. Archibald Published 1968



The best part of making the model was learning about the different ships named Victory.





**Pattern 1859 Naval cutlass bayonet**

Length 32", blade 26.5", muzzle ring diameter .811"

This bayonet was initially made for the pattern 1858 naval rifle. It has a slightly curved blade; the hand guard was initially polished bright on the outside with a black lacquered inside. This could also be used as a short cutlass when not attached to the firearm.



**British Naval Sennet hat**

Sennet hats were worn by British seamen from the middle of the nineteenth century until 1920. They were made of straw and had a wide brim to protect the wearer's face and neck from extreme weather (i.e. sun). They were generally lacquered with shellac to make them waterproof, this being somewhat successful. This hat has a navy-blue cotton band sewn around the brim with a six-sided navy-blue patch to the top centre, inside this patch is a voided 6-pointed star with another 6-pointed star in its centre. The inside of the hat is lined with white cotton and has a British coat of arms (Lion and Unicorn on each side of a shield with crown above) at its top centre. A navy blue/black tally band around the external base of the crown bears the word 'ESSEX' and has crossed royal standards with queen Victoria's crown above on each side of the word. The ESSEX was a Royal Yacht which carried Queen Victoria down the river Nore in 1865.





**British Naval Sennet hat**

Similar to the above with black cotton binding around the brim, a black band around the external base of the crown and a black cotton sweat band to the inside base. It bears a tally band with 'H.M.A.S. SYDNEY' in gold bullion thread around the crown.

**Black Naval Tally Band**

This naval tally band is 7/8ths" wide and bears the words 'H.M.S. VICTORY' in gold cotton.



**A pair of Naval binoculars**

These late Victorian period brass barrelled binoculars are inscribed 'To G.C. Morphett OFFICERS OF THE OCTOPUS 26.5.99' Further research is needed to identify this person and vessel.





### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY OFFICER'S SWORD

Displayed is an Infantry Officers sword, one of a batch of swords purchased by South Australia, from Wilkinson's, for the Volunteers in 1885, under indent 637. The swords arrived in the Colony in 1886.

It carries a crown over bugle logo on the guard and the blade is etched with a crown over VR on the right side & crown over SA on the left.

Further information can be found in *The Military Small Arms of South Australia 1839 – 1901* by A. F. Harris. This particular sword, number 26889, is the subject of the May 1997 Addendum / Corrigendum Chapter 14, pages 151 & 152.



### PATTERN 1912 NAVAL ACCOUTREMENTS

Displayed is a complete set of *Accoutrements, naval, pattern 1912*. Probably the smallest accoutrements set in British naval (& military) history, the set consisted of only two items, the *Case, pistol, Mark I* and the *Pouch, cartridge, pistol, Mark I*. It was intended to be worn with the pattern 1901 accoutrements, the belt from which is shown here. The pattern 1912 accoutrements were adopted pending the imamate adoption of the .455 Webley & Scott automatic pistol Mark I.

More information can be found here - <http://www.karkeeweb.com/1901main.html>



**THE MILITARY SMALL ARMS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
1839-1901**

Anthony F. Harris

**ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM**

Chapter 14, pp.151 & 154

One example of the swords received in January 1886 under Indent 637, previously unsighted, has been located at the time of printing.


Although Wilkinson's records suggest the swords supplied were for artillery, cavalry and infantry, the example noted is fitted with the 'rifles regiments' gilt steel hilt, i.e. with the 'crown over stringed bugle' device. The etched blade decoration consists of an imperial crown over SA on the left side with a crowned VR cypher on the right. There are no title scrolls above or below the colony's initials supporting the branch of service such as 'Volunteer/Infantry' or similar, which is very unusual when compared with all noted examples from other contracts. The brass proof mark is of the scripted initials HW (similar to the illustration on p.150 centre, but without the scalloped edge); while the scabbard is of nickel plated steel.

The text and chart state the serial number range of this contract to be in the '26900's'. This must now be refined as the example under discussion is numbered 26889. The commencing and concluding serial numbers are not known at this stage.





May 1997

# Military and Naval Sword Collection for Sale

Contact Eric Estlin for prices on 04 1055 8067 - Email: ewestlin@bigpond.net.au

Owners Ref	Swords for Sale
S2	 <p>Pattern 1821 Light Cavalry sword without its scabbard. Robson first edition Page 67, plate 63 has a good description, Revised edition page 25, pic 21 is not a good likeness. Blade is 35 1/2" x 1 1/4" wide 41" overall. The fuller ends 9 1/2" before the spear point. The back of blade is engraved WILKINSON in caps. An honest old sword with a good, clean, rust-free blade.</p>
S3	 <p>Pattern 1796 Light Cavalry Sword complete with metal scabbard. Clean rust-free blade with equally clean scabbard. A very good example of this classic sword.</p>
S6	 <p>Pattern 1845/54 Infantry Officer's sword complete with good steel scabbard. The blade length is 29 1/8" with a wide fuller ending 8" from the 1 1/2" clipped point. A most likely active service sword - the blade has been sharpened and the point clipped. The hilt has a circled Crown over V R with a good fish skin grip. there is a 1 1/2" thumb position on the top of the grip to assist in the thrust.</p>
S9	 <p>Pattern 1892 Infantry Officer's sword. Previous 1845 sword was changed in 1891, announced in Army Order 58 of 1892. Good clean blade is 32 3/4" with a width of 1" diminishing to a double edge for the last 7", fuller on each side ends 20" from the point. Blade is etched on both sides - one shows Crown over National Arms and the other - Crown over E R V11. The ricasso has a proof on one side and a thermometer on the other.</p>

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S11	 <p>Pattern 1821 Artillery Officer's sword. complete with good steel scabbard; Blade is 32 1/2" long X 1" wide. Engraving shows a Queens Crown over the Royal Coat of Arms. The Hilt has a good condition black fish skin grip bound with twisted brass wire.</p>
S12	 <p>British Pattern 1786 Infantry Officer's sword with correct pre 1800 black leather scabbard with rare geometric design on obverse side. Spadroon blade is 32 1/2" x 1" long. A Kings Crown over G R is engraved on both sides of blade. Hilt is of stirrup type with a substantial reeded ivory grip. Scabbard has two ringed lockets, with mouth locket also having a stud. The brass chape is in good condition. The makers name is engraved on rear of mouth locket - "Loxham, Royal Exchange" ( William Loxham, sword maker 1740 - 54. Master of the Cutlers Company 1742.) William and Edward Loxham 1755 - 1776. Revised Robson, page 144, plate 129. Wilkinson - Latham pp 31 - 33. A great sword for the serious collector - another similar sword is with the Navals.</p>
N32	 <p>N32-Royal Navy P. 1827 / 1846 Officer's sword. Solid Half Basket hilt with Wilkinson blade complete with Pattern 1847 two ring leather scabbard. Named on flap for John M. D. Elphinstone and supplied by W &amp; E Seagrove ( William &amp; Edward ), Common Hard, Portsea (1850- 1851). Blade length : 26 1/4" Overall 31" About 1880 folding flaps had holes drilled into them to engage with a stud on the top locket of the scabbard - this sword does not have a hole in the flap - i.e. pre-1880. Aged engraving on the blade confirms that this is an antique sword. Have not researched John Elphinstone.</p>
N33	 <p>Rare C 1770 - 1785 Royal Marine Officer's Sword. bright, 27 3/8' blade. Two fullers each side : 1 x 18 x 1/4 inches and 1 x 27 x 3/8 inches. Curved blade has a 9 1/2" false edge leading to the curved point. The brass, 4 slot hilt with a wooden spiral grip bound with brass wire rope is topped with an olive shaped pommel with a baluster capstan. The "olive" is engraved with Royal Marines Fouled Anchor surrounded by a laurel wreath surmounted by a crown. Boarders Away- page 117., Swords for Sea Service - p353 plate 16, P19 - the Slotted Hilt, P19 Royal Marines. Swords and Blades of the American Revolution Pages 154 &amp; 53-57, 107. Battle Weapons of the A. Rev. page 321. Withers - Brit, Military Swords pp 93 &amp; 100.</p>

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M34



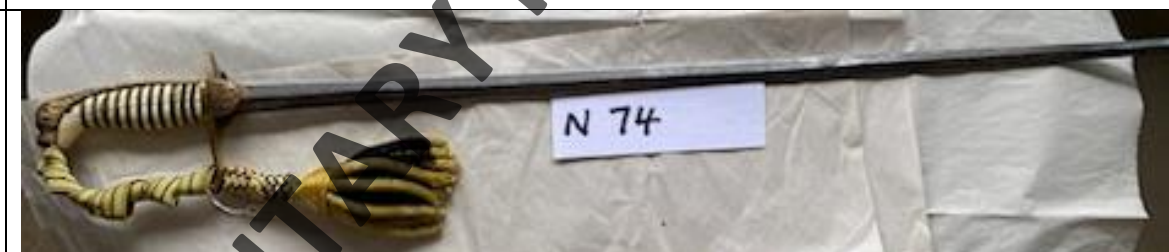
Pattern 1912 Officer's Cavalry Sabre. Blade is sound but has lost most of its glister - as has the nickel-plated Bowl. The leather covered scabbard is excellent . Sword came to me from Dr. Christopher Roads (Adrian's uncle) many years ago.

N63



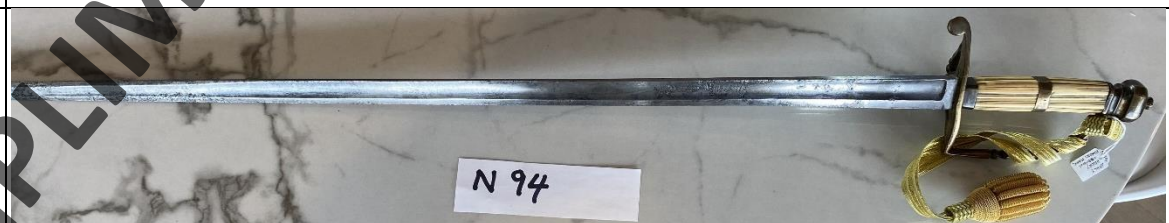
Solid Half Basket Hilt Pipe Backed Royal Navy Officer's Sword. Again pre 1880 as no hole in the fold down flap. Blade is bright with clear engraving - one side showing a Queen Victoria Crown over the Royal Coat of Arms. The other side has a Crown over a Fouled Anchor, plus R. Yarow, R. M. College & 25 Piccadilly London. Has correct leather scabbard attached to rare "round leather" sword belt - do not have sword belt book to hand to correctly identify this rare belt. Retains correct blue/ gold oval ball sword knot. Sword is a tight fit into its excellent condition scabbard.

N74



Another P 1805 Spadroon. This one has a 29-inch diamond profile blade, originally profusely gilt engraved. Hilt is backed by a lion's head pommel with mane. Stirrup hilt contains two fouled anchor engraved langets. The ivory grip has two longitudinal splits (one each side) . Comes with a reproduction period sword knot. An honest sword designed for the thrust. The end of the finial is missing.

N94



This is a mis-sorted Naval, Pattern 1786 Five Ball ( or Bean pattern ) Hilted sword. The clean, 32 6/16"x 1" blade has a single wide fuller reaching to the spear point. In Robson's first edition page 107, illustration 114, he describes this sword as an Infantry Officer's P. 1786, so I will assume weapons were interchangeable between services. The fluted ivory grip has an oval cartouche engraved "J A". Near the hilt the blade is marked with a Crown over H. O. - this is an early mark of Henry Osborn. This is another old sword for the serious collector. (No scabbard with this sword.) Infantry as no Anchor.

N122



N122-British Customs Officer's Sabre - issued from 1798 -1820. Based on P.1796 Light Cavalry sabre. Has a brass stirrup hilt with a naval cutlass style ribbed iron grip. It has a 29 1/2" unmarked, smooth generally unpitted blade, still fairly sharp. Brass guard is period engraved "Customs." Very good original brass mounted scabbard of solid leather. However, last 1/2 inch of drag has been squashed and needs pulling out to allow complete entry of sword. A quality weapon sourced from reputable dealer in USA.

N164



17 - 18th century Hunting Hanger. Brass hilt with a staghorn slab-sided grip. brass knuckle guard with two elongated balls in centre with a curved quillon ending in a swelling. The guard is completed with a cast brass down turned protection in the shape of a shell. There is a plain ferrule and pommel with a pronounced tang button recessed into the pommel. The blade is slightly curved, still sharp, 21 1/2" long culminating in a 5" false edge. The blade is marked on both sides with a "Man in the Moon face". Possibly the mark of Peter Munich. Solingen, 1595 - 1660. The scabbard is black leather, it has two rings attached to brass lockets, the throat locket also has a frog stud. There is no chape, the end of the scabbard being "clip point" shaped. The good condition of the typical navy scabbard suggests it is a new, period addition to a quality old sword : a valuable "find" some many years ago.

N208



N208-Royal Navy P.1827 sword A Victorian Sword engraved on one side with a Kings Crown over a Fouled Anchor. The other side has the Royal Coat of Arms with the Prince of Wales feathers followed with By Appointment Henry Wilkinson Pall Mall London in the ricasso. Back of blade is numbered 32726, which signifies year of production as 1894 - in which year 488 swords were manufactured. The bright blade has only minor rust present and etching is in very good condition. The half basket hilt is complete with correct period sword knot. An excellent leather scabbard has a top locket engraved with the owner's name - A. E. D. Murray, R.N., and an embossed shield on the other side with the maker's details.



N217

N217-British Royal Navy Officer's Pattern 1786 - 5 Ball ( or Bead) Hilt. Also termed a Spadroon C. 1790. Blade is a Flat Back 31 1/4 ", single wide fuller of 22 1/2" ending at the start of a 7 1/2" double edged spear point. Straight stirrup hilt with knuckle guard of rounded brass , thickens in the middle and shaped to form five graduated balls ( or beans ). Quillon is of flat brass, ending in an upturned disk finial leading into a curved side half ring which has five balls similar to the knuckle guard. The Pommel is the octagonal cushion type. The grip is of fluted/reeded ivory with a Cigar Band oval cartouche engraved with a crown over a fouled anchor. The back of blade at the ricasso is engraved "R. Teed". The excellent leather scabbard has a brass mouth locket with ring and stud, engraved with fouled anchor and on reverse " Richard Teed, Strand. There is a second brass locket with ring and a & 1/4" chape. I purchased 5 ball dirks to match this sword ( useless information! )



N227

Pattern 1846 (1827) . C1914 Warrant Officer's sword, with Black fish skin grip - as issued to naval Warrant Officers prior to 1918. Solid half basket hilt with stepped pommel. Tudor crown on blade and hilt. Has an excellent leather scabbard and a Pattern 1891 sword knot. Blade is clean and shiny. Overall excellent. Swords for Sea Service Plate 45 Sword 382 refers; page 48 discusses pre 1918 use of black grips for Warrant Officers and page 373 fig. 32 refers the sword knot.

## First Post COVID Adelaide Arms Fair



Heritage Arms Display on Saturday





Saturday Display by HAS Member Les McKessar



Saturday Display by HAS Member John Bird



Sunday Display by HAS Member Les Arnold



Sunday Display by HAS members Grant and Abel Eldridge



New Family HAS Member – Sovereign Antiques – Neil Brown



Sovereign Antiques



*HAS Members Abel and Grant Eldridge and Les Arnold in front of their displays.*



*HAS President Will Rosenthal with a group of Sikhs having just completed dancing with swords*



HAS Member Reg Dobey



HAS Members Graham Tweeddale left and Dave Wright of Dave Wright Militaria Ballarat in the Bear Skin



*HAS Members Bob and Michelle Bazzica*



*HAS Member Roland Martyn (Tower Arms Victoria) and Rosemary Lauche*



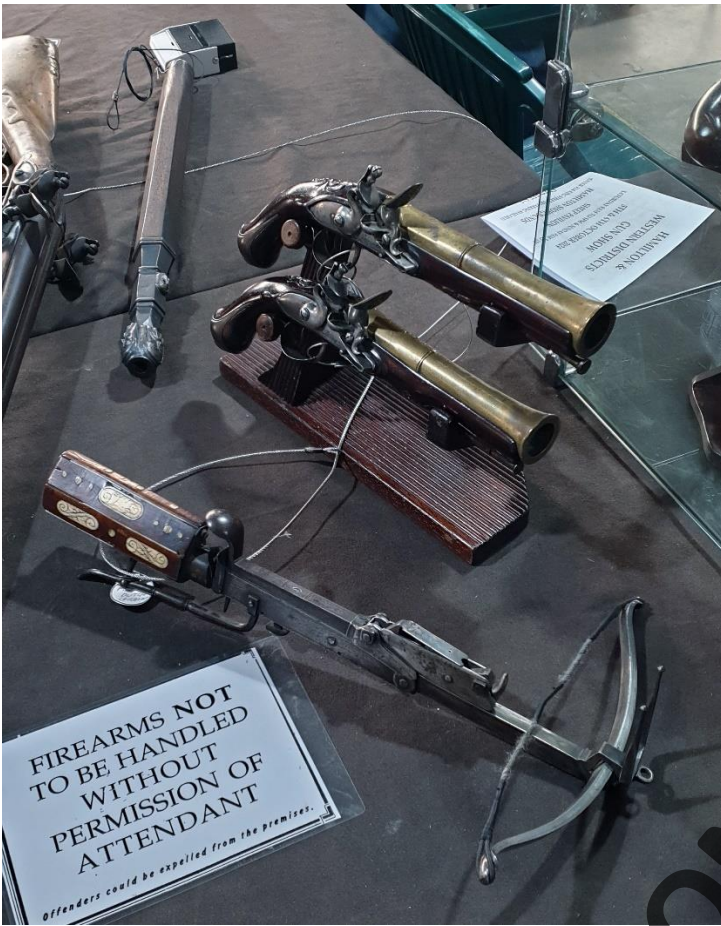
*HAS Member Ian Anderson*



*HAS Members Jim Lyon and Brien Robinson*



*New HAS Member Jozef Akselrud from Victoria (Hermitage Antique Arms)*



Hermitage Antique Arms



HAS Member Lee Blair-Jenke Regimental Arms

# Pistols commissioned By Napoleon – HAS Member Michael Barnett

Property of Générale José de la Serna e Hinojosa, 1st Count of the Andes & last Viceroy of Peru, by descent to Eugenia de la Rocha y Fontecilla, Marquesa de Angulo great grandmother of the present owner.



José de la Serna e Hinojosa, 1st Count of los Andes (Spanish: José de la Serna e Hinojosa, primer conde de los Andes) (1770 – 1832) was a Spanish general and colonial official. He was the last Spanish viceroy of Peru to exercise effective power (January 29, 1821, to December 1824).

These pistols were commissioned by Napoleon and made by Nicholas-Noël Boutet at the Manufacture de Versailles in 1802.



Nicholas Noel Boutet

They were given to Mariano Luis d'Urquijo, Spanish first minister for Foreign Affairs who later presented them to Générale de la Serna.





**Provenance** José de la Serna by descent to Eugenia de la Rocha y Fontecilla, Marquesa de Angulo great grandmother of the present owner.

José de la Serna e Hinojosa, 1st Count of the Andes (1770 – 1832) was a Spanish general and colonial official. He was the last Spanish viceroy of Peru to exercise effective power (January 29, 1821, to December 1824).

He entered the army at a young age and saw his first service (as a cadet) in the defence of Ceuta against the Moors in 1784. Later he saw service against the French in Catalonia (1795), against the British under Admiral José de Mazarredo (1797), and in the second siege of Zaragoza (1809). During the latter battle he was captured and taken to France as a prisoner. He soon escaped.

Thereafter he travelled in Switzerland and the Orient, finally returning to Spain in 1811. In Spain he fought under Wellington in the Spanish War of Independence against the French, until the expulsion of the latter in 1813.



Meeting in 1821 Between Jose De San Martin and Jose De La Serna

In 1816, having risen to the rank of major general, he was appointed to take command of the Spanish forces in Peru battling the insurgents. He arrived in Callao on September 22, 1816, and proceeded directly to Alto Perú (now Bolivia). He took charge of the army in Cotagaita on November 12, 1816. Viceroy Joaquín de la Pezuela ordered De la Serna to attack Argentine insurgents in the province of Tucumán, but De la Serna opposed this plan, citing insufficient forces.

De la Serna had advanced as far as Salta when the Spanish were surprised by the appearance in February 1817 of José de San Martín's Army of the Andes in Chile. San Martín had made an arduous, 21-day crossing of the mountains from Argentina. He conquered Chile, and De la Serna's army in Alto Perú was reduced to defensive warfare against various rebel groups in different parts of the country.

Serna's relations with Viceroy De la Pezuela further deteriorated. (De la Pezuela was an absolutist and De la Serna a liberal.) De la Serna finally asked to be relieved so that he could retire to Spain. Permission was received in May 1819, and in September he resigned the command of the army to General José Canterac. He had partisans in Lima, and upon his arrival there they demonstrated in favour of his remaining in Peru to face the threatened invasion of San Martín from Chile. De la Pezuela agreed to promote De la Serna to lieutenant general and name him president of a council of war.

San Martín landed in Pisco, on September 7, 1819. De la Serna, through secret negotiations, was named commander-in-chief of the army gathered at Aznapuquio to protect the capital against San Martín's advance. He was ordered by the viceroy to march to Chancay.

On January 29, 1821, the principal officers of the camp, partisans of De la Serna, petitioned the viceroy to resign in favour of De la Serna. De la Pezuela refused, and ordered De la Serna to subdue the mutiny, but De la Serna claimed to be unable to do so. The viceroy turned over executive authority on the evening of the same day. Later, the results of this coup were recognized by Spain.

A Spanish commissioner, Captain Manuel Abreu, arrived in Lima while San Martín was threatening the capital. He brought orders to the viceroy to negotiate for a peaceful settlement. De la Serna sent him on to meet with San Martín. Negotiations did begin on May 3, 1821, at Punchauca, with representatives from both sides. The negotiations lasted until June 24 but brought no agreement. The stumbling block was independence. The insurgents demanded it, and Spain insisted on submission to the king. On June 25, hostilities began again.

De la Serna was forced to abandon the capital on July 6, 1821. San Martín entered the capital four days later and was received by the common people with jubilation. On July 15, 1821, the Act of Independence of Peru was signed at the city hall in Lima.

De la Serna retired to Jauja, and later to Cuzco. He brought with him the first printing press in Cuzco, on which was published the famous newspaper *El Depositario*.

On August 24 De la Serna sent General Canterac with a force of 4,000 men to relieve Callao. Nevertheless, Callao was forced to surrender on September 19, 1821, due to lack of supplies. In Cuzco dissension broke out in the Royalist army. General Olañeta refused obedience and maintained an independent Royalist force in Alto Perú.

Canterac was defeated on August 6, 1824, by Simón Bolívar at Junín. De la Serna was now resolved to risk everything to crush the revolt. He left Cuzco in October with a well-disciplined army of 10,000 infantry and 1,600 cavalries. He met the insurgent army in the mountain plain of Ayacucho on December 8, and the following day was totally defeated by General Antonio José de Sucre. De la Serna was wounded and taken prisoner. The Royalist army had 2,000 dead and wounded and lost 3,000 prisoners, with the remainder of the army entirely dispersed. General Canterac, the second in command, signed an honourable capitulation the next day, December 9, 1824. De la Serna, who on the date of the battle had been created conde de los Andes by King Ferdinand VII, was released soon afterward and sailed for Europe. In all but name, the Spanish Viceroyalty of Peru was at an end.

In Spain, De la Serna was welcomed at court and his administration was approved. He was later named captain general of Granada. He died childless in 1832 in Cádiz.

The *Annuaire of the Versailles Manufactory for AN X, or 1802* states:

Minister du Relations Exterior

Pistolets gros calibre a secret, arg. gravé riche, fr. 2.400

Nécess. acajou, pistol. arg. gravé, chaînette, roulet. damasq., fr. 1.200

Nécess. acajou, pistolets de combat, argent, cis. 1er modèle, riche, placage arg. damasq., bassinets or, fr. 3.000

Service: 2 fusils doubles forestiers

The pistols were sold by the great granddaughter of Eugenia de la Rocha y Fontecilla, Marquesa de Angulo in 2014 for USD 98,500.

They were imported into Australia in 2019.

The pistols were in untouched condition, they did not require restoration, but were in need of professional cleaning and servicing.



Trigger mechanism before servicing



Trigger mechanism after servicing

A new set trigger (hair-trigger) screw was made by Peter Dyson in the UK and a new mainspring by Bill Beaton in Western Australia.



The new mainspring is worth mentioning, it is a credit to master gunsmith Bill Beaton, it is identical in every way to the original.

Apart from the aforementioned mainspring and set-trigger screw, the pistols were sound but neglected, with heavy dried oil gum deposits, very tarnished silver wire inlay and seized ramrods. The case had several missing pieces of veneer and lifting in places. It was decided to simply repair the veneer and hand-rub the case with cabinetmakers wax rather than perform a full restoration.



The pistols are cased with a full complement of accoutrements.

Boutet made several grades of firearms, from standard cavalry issue, all the way up to Super Deluxe. These pistols are in the top category. Napoleon only commissioned Super Deluxe grade pistols for people close to him or politically or strategically important to him.

They carry almost every mark and signature expected on Super Deluxe firearms: -

The top flat is signed Boutet Directeur Artiste Manuf a Versailles within a lozenge shaped framework of gilt pellets.

Struck with three gold-lined marks over the breech, in three shaped recesses the letters 'NB', 'LC' and 'BC' (the first two Neue Stöckel 95 and 3741 respectively). "NB" for Nicholas-Noël Boutet, "LC" for barrel smith Jean Le Clerk, "BC" is unidentified.



Stamped with the letters 'DB' for barrel inspector Danial Bouysavy, between a pair of fronds beneath, platinum-lined vents over gold.

As is usual for matched presentation pairs, the locks on each pistol carry different signatures; one lock carries “Boutet Directeur Artiste” and the other “Manufre Versailles”.

The full silver mounts, cast and chased in low relief, comprising trigger-guards with finials formed as a neo-classical trophy-of-arms and with the Nemean lion's pelt about a club on the bows, butts inset with a crowned classical helm bordered by foliage within a framework of rounded nails, rear ramrod-pipe formed of a chequered shield and a garland of flowers all impaled by a neo-classical sword.



These silver mounts are all internally stamped. Stuart W Phyr, from the Department of Arms and Armour at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, explains these marks in great detail in an article written for the Arms and Armour Annual for 1973 entitled “Hidden marks on Boutet firearms”.

The octagon with the cock and the oval with the head were used exclusively between 17 June 1798 and 31st August 1809.

The cock is the assay mark (poignon de tire) denoting first standard silver.

The number “88” separated by the head of an old man, is the excise mark (poignon de garantie) used in the Seine-Inférieure Département for

large-sized work. The lozenge containing the letters “JM” separated by a pellet, a five-pointed star above, seven pellets below in the form of a grape cluster is the maker’s mark.



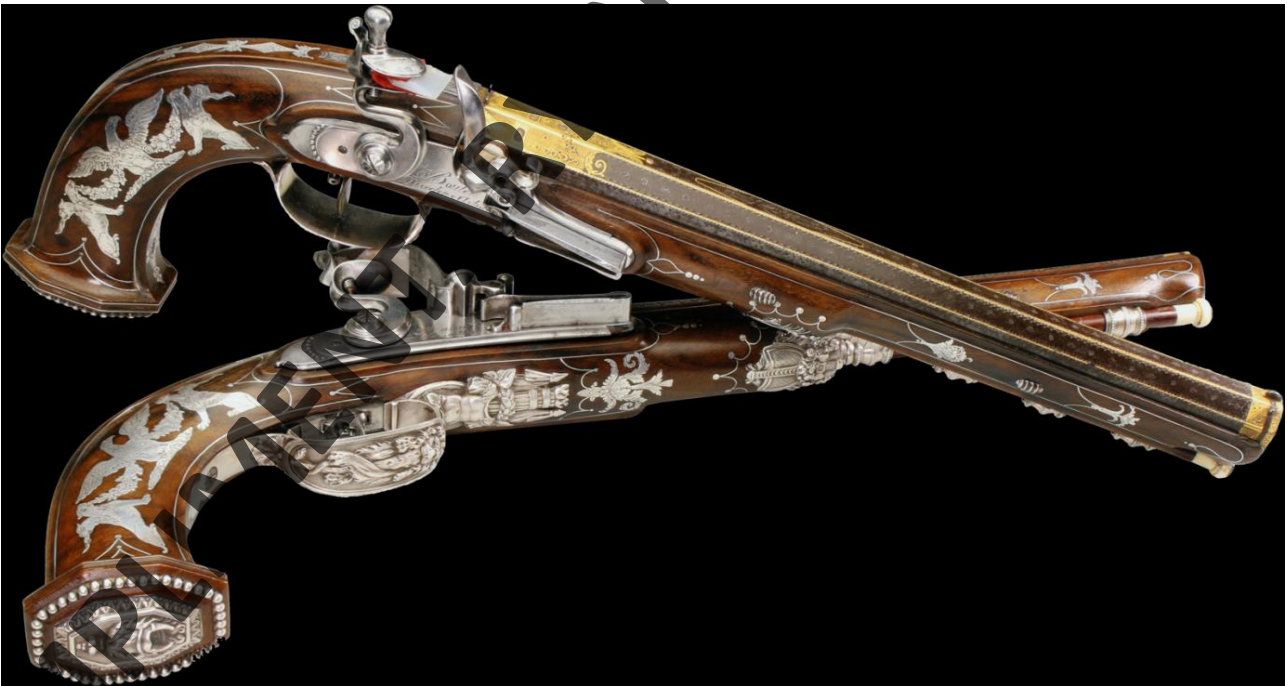
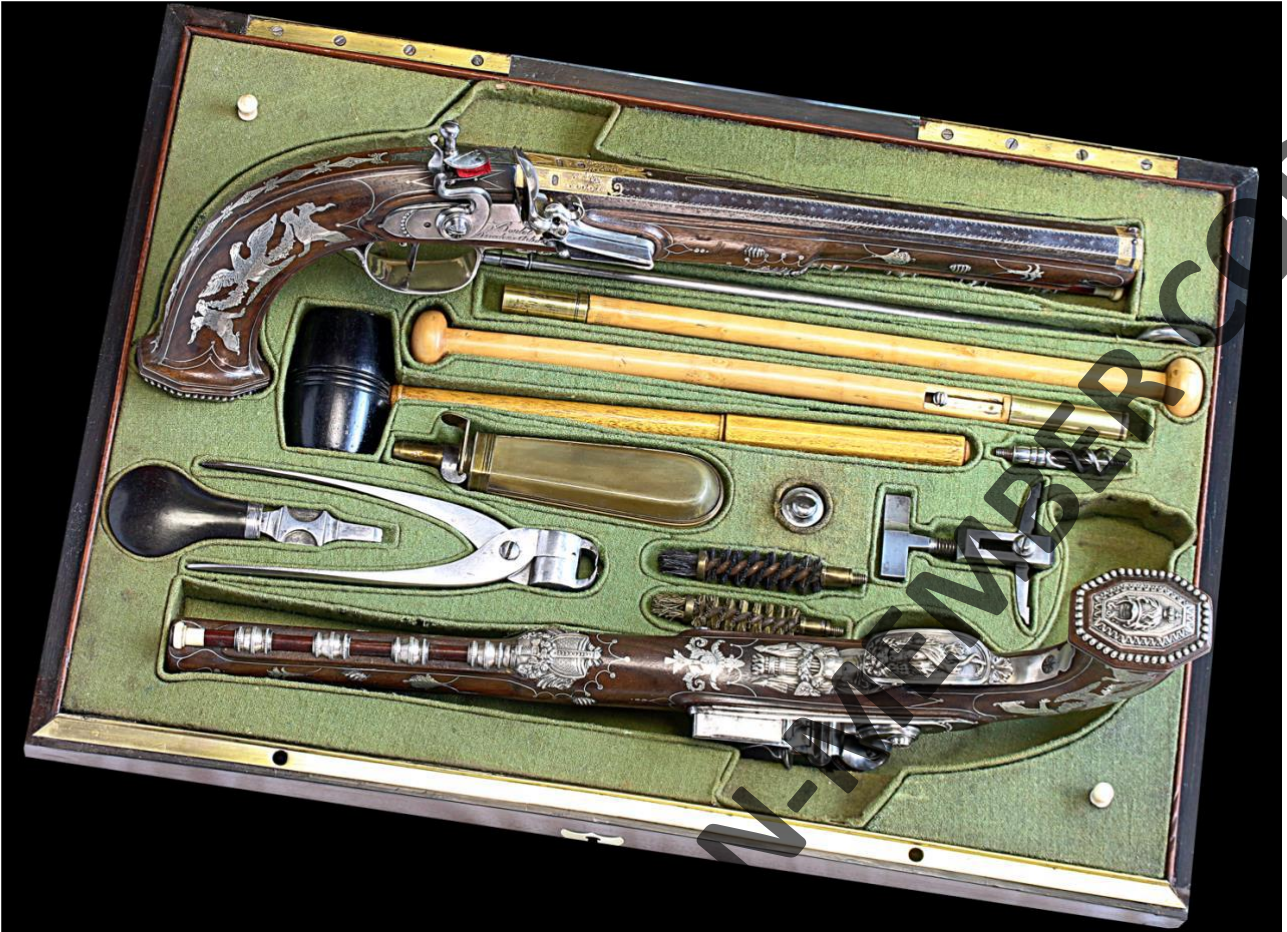


Contact [admin@antique-pistols.com](mailto:admin@antique-pistols.com)

De La Serna profile drawn from Wikipedia entry



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# How I ruined a \$100,000 pair of pistols – HAS Member Michael Barnett

A cautionary tale

We all have to make our own mistakes, I have always been very good at that, it comes naturally to me, in fact I am so good at it that I can make them without even thinking.

So, about my \$100,000 stuff up; it should never have happened, this mistake is so bad, heinous one could say, that volumes have been written in an attempt to prevent the naïve, or stupid, from making it.

Nevertheless, I made it, so I'll talk you through it: -

The auction notes for the pistols in question stated that they were "untouched". For the uninitiated, "untouched" is the holy grail of antique firearms collectors. If you ever decide to start collecting antique firearms, you will soon realise that collectors talk about "untouched" and "aged patina" in much the same way that a normal human being would talk about finding an Old Master in the attic or an E Type in the barn with 200 miles on the clock.

Not only were my pistols untouched, but the auction notes also proudly boasted that the ramrods were "now seized", one mainspring very weak, and a set (hair) trigger screw missing.

I couldn't believe my luck, all these wonderful and sought-after attributes for only a hundred grand.

When I finally got my hands on the pistols, I couldn't believe my luck; the auction house had actually been ultra-conservative with their description.

The pistols were far better than described, not only were the innards completely covered in brown patina, but there was also so much of it, the intricate and obscenely complex set-trigger mechanisms had given up doing their job and decided to meld themselves into one great big lump of brown patina. Not only that, but the cocks were also giving serious consideration to permanently patinating themselves to the lock-plates.

What happened next is all a complete blur, don't ask me why I did it; a death-wish, an overpowering urge to divest myself of wealth. Whatever caused the brain-fart has, according to all the pundits, rendered the pistols next to worthless.

I won't go into all the gory details; suffice it to say the ramrods are no longer comfortably seized in their tubes, they now slide out smoothly, the set-triggers are a functioning mechanism made up of many precision parts instead of one homogenous lump, the locks operate smoothly under strong springs. I can't go on, there's more but it's too painful.

I'll let the photographs be a testament to my folly and, hopefully, a lesson to others; if you are lucky enough to find antique firearms that are covered in aged brown patina, leave them be for another couple of hundred years just as they are. Future generations can then appreciate the wonderous and value-adding effects of neglect. Just don't call it rust.



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# Where HMS *Hood* fought on. – HAS Member John McGrath

## Introduction.

HMS Hood, Fig. 1, was launched and commissioned on 15 May 1920. Her main armament was 8 (4 x twin) BL 15in guns and her secondary armament was 12 single MK 1, BL 5.5in weapons. These latter were removed during refitting before World War II. At the Battle of the Denmark Strait, 24 May 1941, *Hood* was hit by shells from the German ships *Bismarck* and *Prinz Eugen*, exploded and sank in three minutes with the loss of all but three of her crew of 1,418 men.

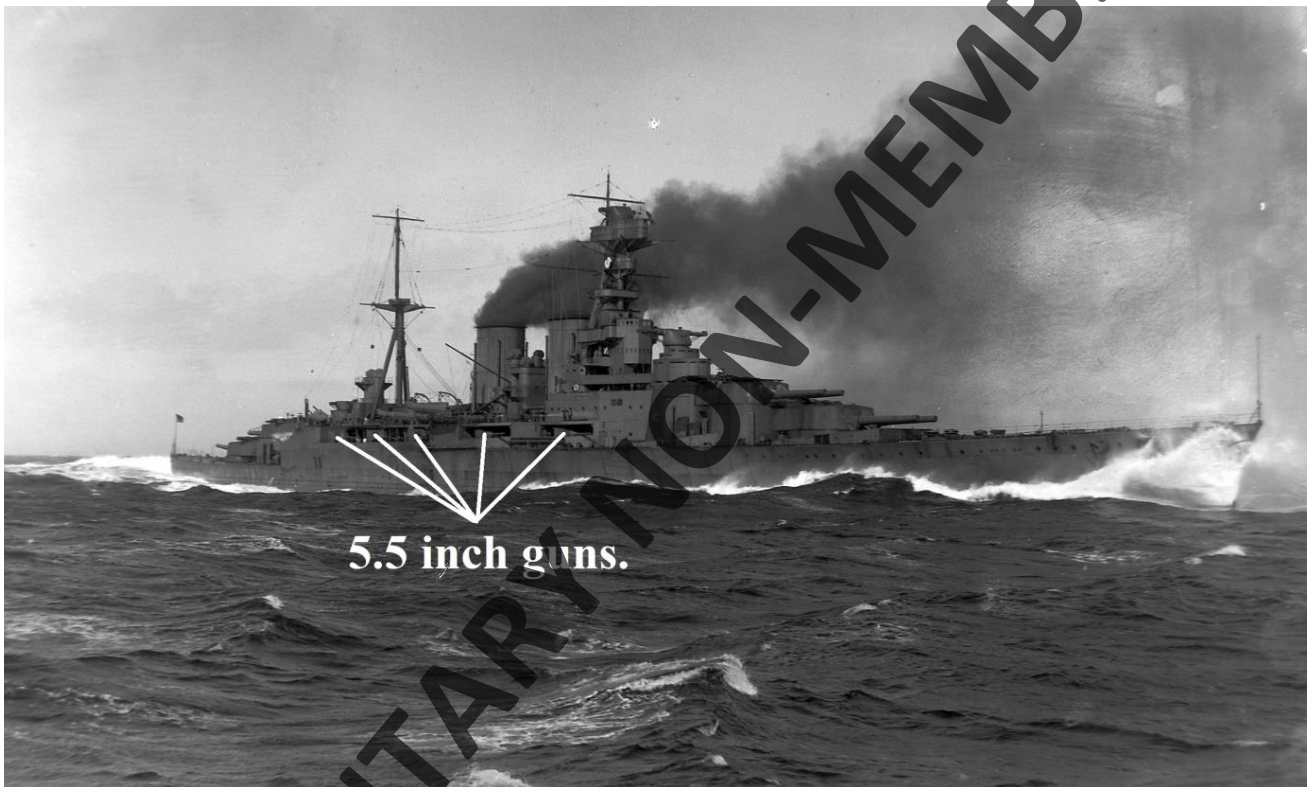


Fig. 1. HMS *Hood*, showing 5.5-inch secondary armament.

## The Mark 1, 5.5-inch Breech Loading Gun<sup>1</sup>.

This weapon was not intended for the Royal Navy. It was the design of the Coventry Ordnance works for fitting to two cruisers being built for the Greek Navy that were taken over by the Royal Navy at the outbreak of World War I and commissioned as HM Ships *Birkenhead* and *Chester*. Similar guns were also fitted to HM Ships *Furious*, *Hood* and *Hermes*, to the Armed Merchant Cruisers *Laurentic* and *Montclare* and to submarine K7. In total, 81 of these guns were manufactured. The weapon gained immortality at the Battle of Jutland (31 May 1916) where 16-year-old Boy Seaman John (Jack) Travers Cornwell, serving as the sight setter for the 5.5-inch gun on the forecastle of HMS *Chester*, was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

Entering service in 1915, these guns fired a shell weighing 82lb (37.19kg) using bagged Cordite propellant. The sustained rate of fire was 12 rounds per minute, the muzzle velocity  $2,790\text{ft.s}^{-1}$  ( $850\text{m.s}^{-1}$ ) and the effective range was 17,800yd (16,300m) at the maximum elevation of  $30^\circ$ , although this could be marginally increased using a different type of Cordite. The range was thus 1cable short of 9 nautical miles<sup>ii</sup>.

The number of these guns surviving is really surprising with at least 5 known to exist today, approximately 6% of the total production. The locations of the five known surviving guns are:

1. Imperial War Museum, London, *ex-HMS Chester*, the gun served by John Cornwell, VC;
2. Two guns, Fort Skansin on Stremoy Island, Faroe Islands, *ex-HMS Furious*.
3. Two guns, Fort Bedford, Ascension Island, *ex-HMS Hood*.

It is with the last of these guns, those from *HMS Hood*, with which the rest of this article is concerned.

### The route to Ascension Island.

The 5.5inch guns from *Hood* that were removed during refit were relined and later used for shore defence batteries. It is two of these that found their way to Ascension Island. The site chosen was Fort Bedford on the slope of Cross Hill, which rises up behind the island's small capital of Georgetown. They replaced earlier 6in guns in the coastal defence battery defending the capital.



**Fig. 2. The harbour at Georgetown, Ascension Island.**

On arrival at the island in 1940, the ship carrying them anchored off Georgetown. The guns, which weighed approximately 7ton each, were then unloaded into lighters and taken to the small harbour, Fig. 2, where they were unloaded before being transported uphill over rough ground to their sites for installation.

### The guns on Ascension Island<sup>iii</sup>.

The remains of earlier defensive batteries indicates that the site selected for these latest guns was that traditionally used for batteries to defend the capital, Fig. 3.



**Fig. 3. Two Mk1, 7inch Rifled Muzzle Loading guns on Cross Hill. Note that they pivot around guns from an even earlier battery.**

The extensive views northwards from this position make clear the reason for its choice while the view over the capital, Georgetown, shows how well these weapons covered the town, Fig. 4. The guns were manned by a detachment of 44 men from the Royal Artillery.

The guns were provided with gun shields that were different from those used when installed in naval ships, Fig. 5. However, they were still open to the rear and did not reach to the ground and experience at Jutland had proved just how vulnerable the crews of these guns were to splinters entering below the shield and removing legs and to incoming fire that landed behind the open back.



Fig. 4. The view over Georgetown from Fort Bedford.



Fig. 5. One of the two 5.5inch guns *ex-HMS Hood* at Fort Bedford, Ascension Island.



**Into action<sup>iv</sup>.**

The installation, manning and working up of these guns had not come a moment too soon. Operating as part of a U-boat pack, *U-124*, Fig. 6, (Kapitanleutnant Johann Mohr, Fig. 7) sank the US registered general cargo ship *Sagadahoc* (6,275ton) on 3 December 1941. There was one fatality and 34 survivors. They took to two lifeboats and were rescued after 6 and 7 days by Allied merchant ships.



**Fig. 6. *U-124*.**



Fig. 7. Kapitänleutnant Johann (Jochen) Mohr.

On 9 December 1941, in addition to her own crew, U-124 carried some of the survivors from the auxiliary cruiser *Atlantis* (sunk by HMS *Devonshire*) and the supply ship *Python* (sunk by HMS *Dorsetshire*). She surfaced and approached Ascension Island. It has been speculated that Mohr had decided that the only practical way to return to base with so many men on board was to proceed on the surface and that he was making the point that the German Navy was still operating in this part of the Atlantic and would pose a threat. However, he may just have wished to destroy the high frequency direction finding equipment (HF/DF) on the island. However good shooting by the gunners from Cross Hill was too close for comfort, so the boat dived and returned safely to her base in France<sup>v</sup>.

This was the only time those guns at Fort Bedford engaged the enemy.

#### Where did the other guns from HMS Hood go?

The remaining ten guns were distributed to coastal defence sites at Coalhouse Fort, Tilbury; Bognor Regis; Pevensey; North Foreland; and Folkestone.

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<sup>i</sup> Information on these weapons can be found at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BL\\_5.5-inch\\_Mk\\_1\\_naval\\_gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BL_5.5-inch_Mk_1_naval_gun) and [www.navweaps.com/WNBA\\_55-50\\_mk1.php](http://www.navweaps.com/WNBA_55-50_mk1.php).

<sup>ii</sup> For those unfamiliar with nautical measurements of distance, 1cable = 100fathoms with each fathom consisting of 2yards or 6feet. There are 10cables to 1nm. This latter is approximate because it makes 1nm = 2000yd (6,000ft) while a precise measure of 1nm is 6,076ft (1852m). The more familiar statute mile = 1,760yd, therefore there are approximately 1.36 statute miles to each nautical mile.

<sup>iii</sup> The Ascension Island Government website has good information on these guns. It can be accessed at: <http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/virtualtour/crosshill/>.

<sup>iv</sup> Information on U-124 and Johann Mohr can be found at: <https://uboaat.net/boats/u124.htm> and <https://uboaat.net/men/mohr.htm>.

<sup>v</sup> On 2 April 1944 U-124 was sunk by HM Ships *Stonecrop* and *Black Swan* with the loss of all hands including Mohr, who had been promoted to Korvettenkapitän and was still in command.

## The Hounslow Hanger - HAS Member Keith Fisher



When I first acquired this sword, I was firmly convinced it was a typical Hounslow Hangar. The latten wolf was typical, as was the mushroom-cap pommel, the shell guard and the knuckle-bow. It is, incidentally, extremely sharp and has seen some serious action. What I found curious was the inscription seen on both sides of the blade: ANNO 1553.



The numbers, taken as a date (which seemed appropriate given the word ANNO) were the date of the story of Lady Jane Grey, which follows:

*Lord Guildford Dudley, young son of the Earl of Northumberland, married Lady Jane Grey in a move that would have cemented his father's position in power. Lady Jane (just 16) was subsequently chosen to inherit the crown by King Edward himself. Jane (a Protestant) was proclaimed Queen on Edward's death; but Edward's half-sister Mary Tudor (a Catholic) also proclaimed herself Queen. In an effort to retain this new-found power through his son, Northumberland then made two major mistakes: first, he failed completely to appreciate the support among the people for Catholic Mary to be the legitimate ruler. Second, before announcing Lady Jane as Queen, he failed to secure Mary, leaving her free in Suffolk to rally support. Far too late, he marched to Suffolk with 2,000 soldiers to arrest Mary.*

*However, many of the soldiers deserted along the way and the campaign was lost. The Privy Council announced Mary as Queen – having previously given their support to Lady Jane. That same year, Northumberland and son Guildford were arrested, tried, and executed. Lady Jane was executed the following year.*

I was immediately thrown off course by mention of Northumberland who, in 1629, owned the land on which the Hounslow forges were built; I thought perhaps this sword had been made as a tribute to his family history. However, it was then the Percy family in Syon House, their London home, the Dudley line having, obviously, been terminated.

This made me wonder if perhaps the sword – or at least the blade – may have dated from the 1500s, but general opinion was that it did not. The style of hilt and blade is actually quite unique in the general scheme of things, to my relatively inexperienced eye anyway; but it has since been brought to my attention that swords known colloquially as Whingers were carried by Border Reivers in the 1500s and they bore a distinct resemblance to this hanger in many ways. The word Whinger is considered a local dialect corruption of the word hangar. So, would anyone who has knowledge of the development history of the style of sword known as a Hounslow Hangar please contact me here: [keithfisher@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:keithfisher@blueyonder.co.uk). Perhaps it was made in 1553.

## Meetings and Topics

All members are reminded and encouraged to bring along items for display. **If you don't like the topic categories on the night, no problem, pick your own, if it is over 100 years old, we would love to see it.** Note: All ammunition must be securely contained to prevent handling.

### Calendar of Topics

**Note: Display topics may change as required to accommodate special requests.**

Month	Where	Who	What	Famous/infamous
Jun	Colonies	Pirates, Bushrangers & Highwaymen	Edged Weapons	As seen in the Movies
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Aug	Caucasus & Eurasia	Yeomanry	Medals	Trafalgar
Sept	Mediterranean	Hunting & Sport	Failures, Blunders & Bad Ideas	Waterloo
Oct	Imperial Germany	Police	Curiosa	Zulu & Boer Wars
Nov	Japan	WWI Combatants	Maker Marked, Presentation, Religious or Royal	Crimea
Dec	Islands	Civilian	Uniforms	Boxer Rebellion
Jan	Europe	Artillery	Buttons & Badges	Conversions, Restorations & Fakes
Feb	Africa	Cavalry	Axes, Polearms & Clubs	Civil Wars, Mutinies & Rebellions
Mar	America	Engineers	Accoutrements	Napoleonic
Apr	Australia	Infantry	Firearms	Egypt, Soudan & North West Frontier
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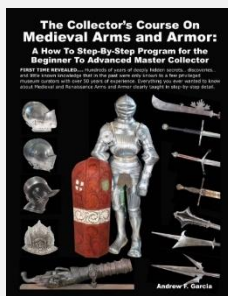
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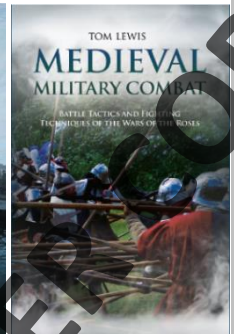
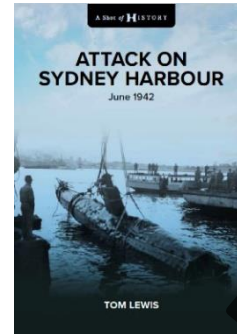
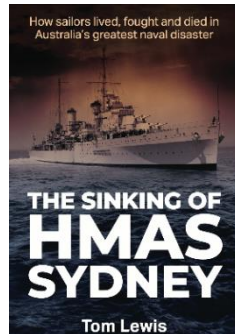
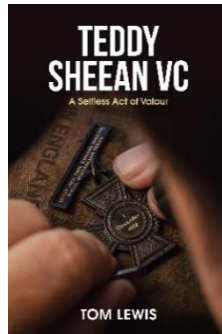


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