

GUNS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY IN NEW ZEALAND

Compiled by Phil Cregeen

All over New Zealand Guns are displayed outside RSAs, Memorial Halls, Museums, in Parks and so on.

But many people do not know where to find them. Do you have one in your locality? Send me a photo together with location and brief details and I will publish it here. oilyrag@xtra.co.nz

***This German Field Gun is in Otautou, Otago, contributed by Tony Bruce**



SOME DETAILS OF THE ABOVE GERMAN FIELD GUN

THIS GUN WAS AN UPDATE OF THE 1896 MODELS AND WAS BUILT IN 1916 BY THE RHINE METAL CO. (RHM) UNTIL 1918. IT IS A 77mm MODEL C96 N/A SERIAL No. 13262 HYDRO PNEUMATIC FIELD GUN. WITH THE RESULT THAT IT COULD FIRE QUITE RAPIDLY WITHOUT LOSING ITS ACCURACY. ITS RANGE WAS 8.4km, WEIGHED JUST OVER 1000kg, USED A SHELL WEIGHING 6.35kg IN A 32 RIFLED BARREL WITH A COPPER SEAL ON THE PROJECTILE, THIS HELPED TO SEAL IT WHILE IN THE BARREL AND GIVE IT A LONGER RANGE WITHOUT EXTRA WEAR ON THE BORE. THERE WAS ABOUT 5000 OF THIS MODEL PRODUCED AS A STANDARD FOR THE GERMAN ARMY WHO USED FOUR HORSES TO PULL IT AND A CREW OF SIX TO MAN THE GUNS IN ACTION. THIS GUN WAS CAPTURED BY THE ALLIES IN FRANCE IN 1918 NEAR THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, STORED IN THE CROYDON WORKS LONDON FOR A TIME BEFORE BEING SENT BACK TO NEW ZEALAND ON THE 13.9.1918 ALONG WITH MANY OTHER WAR TROPHIES TO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPT WHO DISTRIBUTED THEM AROUND THE RSA BRANCHES FOR DISPLAY.

***This Turkish Field Gun is in Otautou, Otago, contributed by Tony Bruce.**



HERE IS SOME HISTORY OF THE ABOVE TURKISH FIELD GUN

THIS PARTICULAR GUN SERIAL No 3V480 WAS PRODUCED BY THE GERMAN FRIED KRUPP FACTORY IN 1904 AT THE AG. ESSEN WORKS, RUHR VALLEY. ONLY 558 OF THIS PARTICULAR MODEL WERE PRODUCED. THE BORE IS 75mm AND USED SHELLS WEIGHING 6kg WHICH WERE CARRIED IN A SMALL TRAILER, HAD A RANGE OF 6.5km AND A MUZZLE VELOCITY OF 500mps. USED A HYDRO-PNEUMATIC RECOIL SYSTEM SO THE GUN HAD VERY LITTLE RECOIL AND DID NOT MOVE MUCH ON ITS MOUNTS, LIKE THE BRITISH GUNS. THEREFORE WAS CAPABLE OF RAPID FIRE WITHOUT LOSING ACCURACY. THE GUN WAS DRAWN BY HORSES HAD A CREW OF SIX AND SAW A LOT OF ACTION AGAINST OUR ALLIES. UNTIL IT WAS OVERRUN AND CAPTURED BY THE NEW ZEALAND TROOPS ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM IN 1917. THEN RETURNED TO NEW ZEALAND VIA ENGLAND IN TROOPSHIPS TO WELLINGTON, WHERE THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPT. INSTRUCTED THEY BE DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE COUNTRY AND DISPLAYED IN A PROMINENT PLACE.

***These two guns are to be found at the north end of the main street in Otorohanga on SH 3, standing beside the war memorial. Can you provide any information such as type, history etc.? By Phil Cregeen**



*** 25 Pounder outside the RSA in Dargaville on Hokianga Road. By Phil Cregeen**



***A 6 Lb Hotchkiss, outside the Memorial Hall in Pirongia on SH 39. By Phil Cregeen**

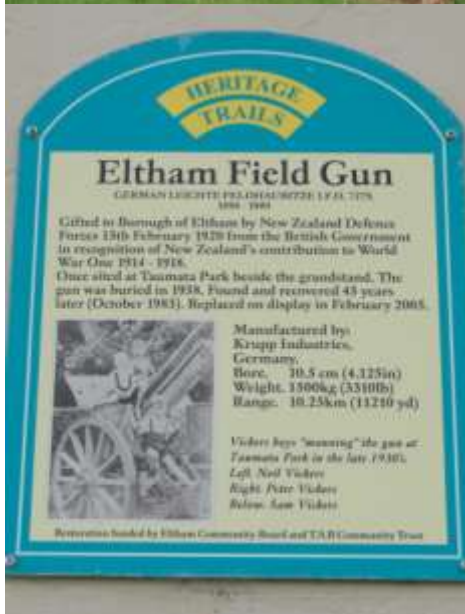


ound "Hotchkiss" manufactured in France between 1900 - 1910. Brought into New Zealand as a gift after World War 1914 - 1918 the whole gun was dismantled and buried behind the Pirongia Memorial Hall during World War 1939 - 1945 where it remained buried for 40 years. Most of the gun was located and excavated by the Mt. Pirongia Lions Club in 1980. Some parts have never been recovered so restoration was delayed for a further 23 years. A substitute barrel or breach support has been fabricated locally to enable the gun to be returned to its original site in NZ 2003

*Thanks to Andrew Edgcombe for sending these pictures of the King George III cannon to be found in King Edward Park, Hawera. It was used by Taranaki Volunteers for drill in 1885 and its 8" shot weighed 64 Lb.



*Field Gun, Bridge Street, Eltham from Andrew Edgcombe



***25 Pounder Stratford RSA from Andrew Edgcombe**



***105 mm L3 Howitzers Seatoun RSA, Gun Dated 1961 from Margaret & Ray Brown**





***Titahi Bay RSA Howitzer from Margaret Brown**



***Kaikohe & District Memorial RSA Inc, L5 105mm Pack Howitzer, contributed by John Osborne**



Taradale District RSA Inc. 1942 25 Pounder Field Gun - Howitzer MKII Gun fitted on a MKI Carriage which was the standard NZ Field Gun in WWII by John Osborne



***Pattern: 6 pdr MKIII 7 cwt QF Anti-tank Gun. Introduced: 1942. Withdrawn: c1960s**
Cambridge Memorial to all men and women who served NZ overseas by John Osborne



Bofers Gun at Waitara from Andrew Edgcombe



***40 mm Bofers at Te Kuiti, behind War memeorial on King Street East By Phil Cregeen**



Ships Gunnade On the veranda of the Museum at Mokau, SH3



1915 Krupp Howitzer, beside the Aquatic Centre, Tisch Ave, New Plymouth



***25 pounder at Stratford RSA**



5.5 In Gun National Army Museum Waiuru



The top-left image shows a close-up of the Vickers machine gun mounted on a black pedestal. The gun is painted a light grey or white. It has a long, dark barrel pointing upwards and to the right. The background shows a light-colored house with a white garage door and some greenery.

The top-right image shows the machine gun from a wider angle, mounted on a white-painted metal base. It is situated in a parking lot with several cars parked nearby. A flagpole with a black flag is visible in the background against a blue sky with scattered clouds.

The bottom-left image is a close-up of a rectangular metal identification plate mounted on the side of the gun's housing. The plate is dark and shows the following text: "VTC 10111111", "N M 11111", and "REG 11111".

The bottom-right image shows the machine gun from a distance, mounted on its white base. The gun's barrel is pointed upwards. The background shows a house and some landscaping.

40 mm Bofers outside the RSA in Rarotonga *Provided by Tony Bruce



Oerlikon outside Warkworth RSA, Mill Lane By Phil Cregeen



8in Disappearing Gun with 12 Pounder pedestal mounted Field Guns at North Head, Devonport by Phil Cregeen



Hokianga Krupp 5.9 in gun By John Osborne



The Hokianga 15cm model 1902 (manufactured in 1905) Krupp Howitzer No 356 bears the Prussian Royal Coat of Arms inscribed in Latin "Ultima Ratio Regis" (ultimate resort of kings) and was made for the Prussian Foot Guards Division of the German Army. This gun was captured in 1918 by advancing New Zealand Troops and shipped to New Zealand as a trophy after the end of WW1. This gun along with many other captured German guns was stored in Wellington to be displayed in a proposed National War Memorial Museum in Wellington, but the idea was dropped by Massey's government because of the depression and these trophy guns were distributed to towns and cities throughout New Zealand. Gun No 356 was dispatched from the Equipment and Ordnance Stores, Buckle Street, Wellington on the 12 June 1920 however the records do not give details of the gun or its destination.

On arrival at Rawene in 1920 the Hokianga Krupp Howitzer was displayed just below the chemists shop on the footpath area. Displaying war trophies became unpopular in the 1930's so the Hokianga Krupp was moved down to where the old Rawene sawmill used to be by the mudflat. In due course the carriage sank up to its axle in the mud and its wooden wheels rotted. An enterprising local sold the gun to a scrap merchant who quickly loaded the gun on to his truck. Another local person, bought the Krupp Howitzer back off the scrap merchant reclaiming the gun for Hokianga After some more years of rusting the Hokianga RSA salvaged what remained of the gun, raised funds and commissioned a local engineer to tidy up and mount the remaining parts of the gun.

The "restored" gun was placed on the small reserve by the Rawene Wharf for all to see (refer images below). On 11th November 1999 (Armistice Day) a dedication service was held and the flag flown from a new flagpole.

Maungataroto RSA 3 Pdr Hotchkiss Gun by Paul Exler



24 Pounder at Napier Marine Parade by Phil Cregeen

