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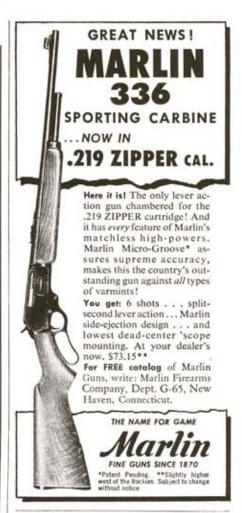


I own some old west guns—a Sharps that was used by the Indian policeman who shot Sitting Bull, and a Merwin-Hulbert "pocket Army" that was used by Bill Doolin, but my favorite is a Single Action Colt. There was a time in my younger days when I used to load my own shells, so naturally I needed a gun with a special cylinder to withstand the wallop that my shells packed. My gun is a specially-designed Colt, with a custom barrel rib and adjustable rear sight. It has a cylinder made of special steel so that I can use my high powered .44 shells, and that's exactly why this is my favorite gun.

BY GENERAL JOHN R. HODGE Corps Commander at Okinawa

My favorite gun is an old .45 Colt automatic. I've carried it through two world wars and it's never failed me. Looks a mite battered outside, but inside it's slick as a whistle, all new parts. That hammer spur, even with a new, longer grip safety, used to pinch me because I hold a gun high, so I ground it off a bit and now it doesn't give me any trouble. It has a new muzzle bushing, a new barrel, and is all tightened inside. That trigger pull's adjusted to just a hair over four pounds, the legal minimum. I use this gun a lot in matches.







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Facing a damage suit, pastry cook Jean Duchemin of Le Havre, France, explained he was near-sighted and that is why he grabbed his rifle and shot a traveling circus's giraffe. He said it looked to him like a rabbit.

the **NEWS**

GUNS in

[Special]—

Three Onaway, Mich., hunters were fined \$50 because a deer refused to stay dead. The charge: shooting game out of season. A conservation officer arrested the trio when the deer, which turned out to be only wounded, poked his head from the trunk of their car.

Mason Bailey of Roanoke, Va., found himself playing a leading role, unhappily, in one of the strangest hunting stories of the season. Coming over a rise in the woods, he spotted a buck, vanked his 30-30 rifle up, sighted and began to squeeze the trigger. There was a bang-and he found the rifle had been blasted from his hands! Glancing off to his right, Bailey saw another hunter about 30 feet away, lowering his gun. Both that gentleman and the deer promptly disappeared into the woods.

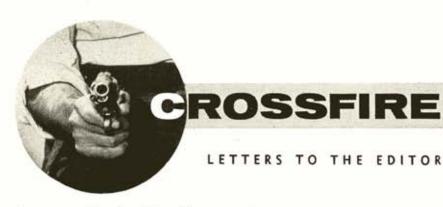
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A Sunday School teacher at Raleigh. N. C., began Bible class with the query: "What was the lesson last week?" On one occasion, one of her young Tarheel pupils volunteered: "I know-it was about the fellow who traded his bird rifle for a mess of partridges."

In Salem, N. Y., a fly annoyed Herbert Dillon so much that he grabbed a revolver and swatted the insect. The gun went off, wounding Dillon in the thigh. The fly escaped.

Raymond Durgin returned to his home at Yarmouth, Me., after a 240mile deer-hunting trip on which he didn't even see a deer. The next morning he was awakened early-by a shot that killed a 200-pound buck just outside his yard.





Comments On Our First Year

About a year ago, I purchased the first issue of your publication. Today, I have the complete set of Guns Magazine published thus far. I want to compliment you on the fine job you have done in bringing such an interesting and informative magazine to the American shooting public. Of the many shooting publications on the news stands today, only Guns offers complete and thorough coverage of all types of gun stories.

I especially enjoy your writings on military weapons, and, if possible, I would like to read an article on the weapons used by American armed forces, the Garand M-1 rifle, the M-2 carbine, the B.A.R., and the M-3 submachine gun.

Don K. Wittig Frostburg, Maryland

In my possession are eight numbers of Guns, from April to November, and I'm able to declare that I never enjoyed myself so much reading a magazine of this class.

W. Kemsley of Detroit, Michigan, in his letter to the editor is right in favoring variety of articles. This is precisely the fact that made Guns one of the best magazines for shooters and hunters. Everybody has preferences, me too. But I also read with great interest subjects that may concern only other sportsmen, and by the way, I learn a lot too.

I thank you in my name and in the name of several friends of mine, who are also friends of Guns, for your magazine.

John Stanoie Buenos Aires, Argentina

My Favorite Gun

I am an officer in the U.S. Air Force at present on duty with the North Atlantic Treaty Headquarters here in Oslo, Norway. I am also a subscriber to your fine magazine. Like most people who take time to write "letters to the editor," I have a small gripe about Guns content. This is in a sense silly since, as a collector, hunter and competition pistol shooter, I have long felt a need for a magazine of your type and I enjoy it thoroughly.

What then is the trouble? With me it is your feature "My Favorite Gun," which, being toward the front of the issue, starts me off with a bad taste in my mouth just about fifty per cent of the time. At the beginning I enjoyed this feature, and the individuals interviewed were, for the most part, people who know and love guns. The few members of the entertainment world showed

clearly from their comments that they used guns and knew something about them. So far so good. More recently however the feature seems to be devoted to those persons in the entertainment world who, no matter what their other virtues are, know very, very little about guns and show it in the interview.

You know, this is sort of an insult to your readers-mostly shooters who pretty well know their subject.

Please don't misunderstand, I have the greatest respect for these people that have been interviewed-they are a success in a field that undoubtedly requires extra hard work and ability and technical know-how. But that doesn't indicate that they know anything about firearms. Just now I would peg this feature as press agent's dream, and I wouldn't doubt that some of those gentlemen use it to get their people in the public eye-after all, that's their job.

Enough of all this. My letter probably just proves how verbose you get after 44 months overseas. The truth is that a professional soldier who flys most Saturdays during pistol shoots, is on maneuvers during hunting season and never quite has the cash to shift from being a casual to a serious collector, is the best sort of customer for Guns Magazine.

No real gripes. I like my job and your magazine.

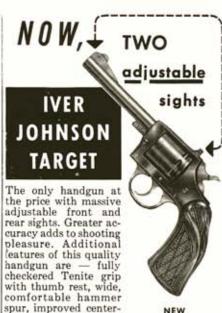
> Bryce Poe II Oslo, Norway

I dislike the column featuring Hollywood movie actors. Who in Hades wants to read the blatherings of these people who very obviously know nothing whatever about the subject of firearms. Jock Mahoney may be an excellent TV actor but what is a "lighter, smoother crown action?" And if you are going to show Gail Davis in the prone position why can't she assume the proper one.

Why does the fact that Ted Williams is an excellent baseball player make him an authority on guns. Maybe he does like to hunt, and so what. For the record, Williams must have been mistaken when he says that his first shotgun was a Winchester double in .410 gauge. Winchester has never made a .410 gauge double.

The balance of this issue is not too bad and some of it is quite interesting but a few statements like the ones mentioned cast doubt on the accuracy of any other statements in the book in addition to insulting one's intelligence.

Judson S. Darrow Woodbury, Conn.



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MAY 1956 Vol. 2 No. 5-17





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VAL FORGETT



ALLA ABOUT HANDGUNS!

STANDARD REFERENCE BOOKS FOR HUNTERS, TARGET SHOOTERS and GUN COLLECTORS

SIXGUNS

BY ELMER KEITH

The Old Master speaks! Elmer Keith, who in the past 50 years probably learned more about sixguns than any other man, living or dead, has poured his knowledge into what you will agree with Judge Don Martin is "a great pistol book." It's a big book, containing more than 400 photos, including pictures of nearly 300 different handguns . . . an authoritative, fact-filled reference work that covers sixguns from A to Z. Again in the words of Judge Martin, it is "an all-around pistol book for target shooters, hunters, sportsmen, for everyone who loves a good handgun." And scented as it is with the pungence of sagebrush campfires, it is mighty absorbing reading to boot. Rush your order for Sixguns by Keith . . . today! Over 300 large pages \$10.00.

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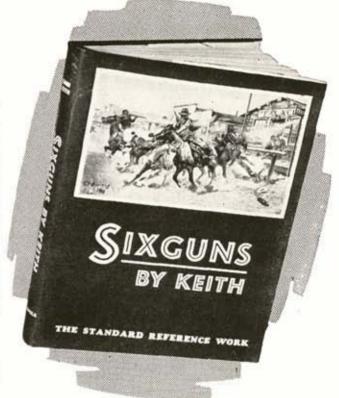
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WILL COLT COME BACK?

AFTER DECADE OF BUNGLING, ONCE BIGGEST ARMS MAKER REORGANIZES UNDER FINANCIAL WIZARD AND MAY AGAIN TAKE LEAD IN HANDGUN FIELD



By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

FOR ALMOST a century the name of Colt was to the gun business what Sears Roebuck was to mail order. Colt was the weapon most Americans spoke of when they mentioned a handgun. Then after World War II, Colt started slipping. Smith & Wesson by-passed

the venerable firm as the prime maker of handguns in the U.S., and even stole their thunder by coining the slogan of "The thoroughbred of the handgun world" for the S & W. Clearly it should have been Colt's slogan.

The once-prosperous Colt firm began

Colt's new owner L. D. Silberstein (right) confers with Colt officials Chester Bland, Burton Bartlett and Ernest Stroheim after stockholders voted to sell firm founded by Sam Colt (above) to great Penn-Texas Corp.

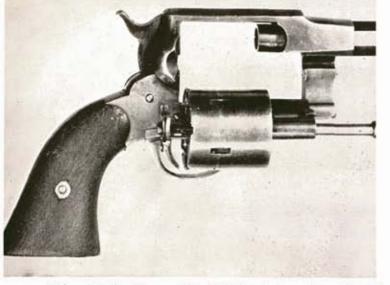


wallowing in financial and managerial troubles in 1945. Dividends which had made Sam Colt and his successors rich dropped to a dollar a share, then less, then nothing. On nearly \$17,000,000 worth of business, Colt's made less than a quarter million profit to split up among more than 360,000 shares of stock. The demand for a change at Colt's became too loud to ignore. The reorganization took place last November at a stockholders meeting and Colt's is now trying to make a comeback. Will Colt's be able to re-establish itself as the premier gunmaking company in America? I frankly think it

I attended the stockholders meeting that reorganized the Colt firearms company. My entree was a proxy for 25 shares and I planned to vote against the proposed merger of the Colt company with a new giant of finance, the snowballing Penn-Texas Corporation.

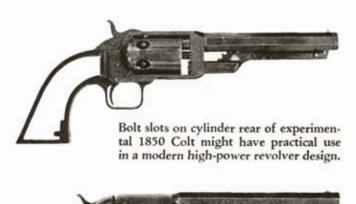
I could not be there when Colt's was incorporated for \$1,000,000 exactly a century before the 1955 meeting at Hartford, Conn. But if I could not be there at the birth of Colt's, I wanted to attend at the death. Instead I witnessed what may be Colt's rebirth. I watched management admit that it had laid an egg, but it may be that the egg contains a phoenix. And the man who is going to hatch the phoenix is a business wizard named Leopold Diaz Silberstein.

Short, barely five feet in height, smiling, bland-faced. L. D. Silberstein is described by his associates in Penn-





Side-swing loading used in 1866 Remington altered by W. C. Dodge is still used in modern-day Colt (right). Colt ratchet invented in 1836 (seen on end of rod) suffers battering on thumb latch, wears rapidly from careless closing.







Modern Colts presented to former President Truman are beautifully made but have the design of 1889 revolver.

Texas as something of an enigma. Almost bookish in manner Silberstein has managed to pyramid some fortunate pre-war investments in Cities Service and railroad bonds into a multimillion dollar holding company which controls dozens of sound business, production, and storage properties. Styled as a "doctor of sick companies," Silberstein did not get much of a bargain when he bought Colt's. The plant is outmoded, the products are obsolete, and management inept and disinterested. No bargain . . . or did he? At the meeting one Colt stockholder put the question: "What will become of the Colt name and the firearms business? Will the name continue?"

Silberstein spoke up then. The only thing he said during the meeting was: "The Colt name is what we are buying." Certainly he got little else in the

way of material properties. Colt's is on the way to being torn down and rebuilt, and the funds for rebuilding will come from Silberstein's Penn-Texas.

The reasons for the decline, which caused a firm once valued during the Civil War at over five millions in gold to be sold for little more than that six months ago, are many,

One of the biggest reasons for Colt's decline is the antiquating of the firm's line of hardware. Any revamping of Colt's will have to start with its guns. The entire Colt line from top to bottom needs not revision but scrapping. With the one exception of the Single Action Army which Colt's is continuing to produce as a collector's item, there is not one gun in the Colt line which can compare favorably either with some of the present competition, or with what Colt's could really do if they would put

their minds and talents to producing modern firearms.

The crippling element of the Colt revolver line is the basic frame design. The deficiencies of this are recognized by any shooter who fires a powerful cartridge in a small frame gun. Thousands of police officers and plain clothesmen know that the little round butt guns which they must carry concealed are completely uncontrollable when one of them lets loose with a High Speed .38 Special. There is a whole industry geared to making special grips so you can hang onto the guns.

Metallurgy progress would allow a Magnum caliber pocket revolver to be made, but the Colt frame as it is today would not allow it. The hand is too low and the barrel whips up and back. A difference of half an inch between

Current "latest news" of Colt gun production is revival of historic Peacemaker made unchanged since 1873.



New Colt owner is L. D. Silberstein whose Penn-Texas company can aid Colt to rebuild and expand. New board chairman at Colt's is retired Gen. C. T. Lanham with good contacts, abilities to help Colt's.





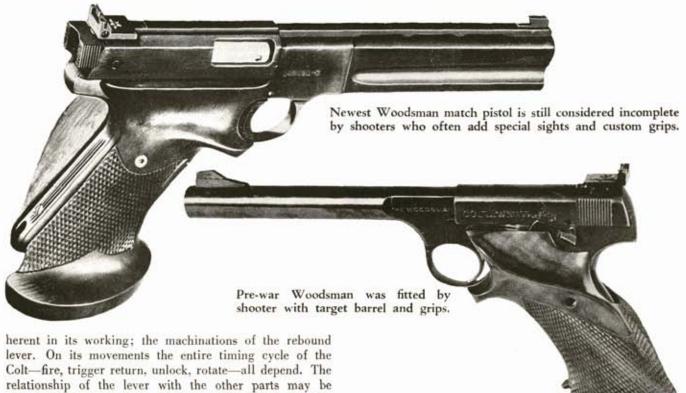
the line of support and the line of recoil would change the bounce and make it more pleasant in all frame sizes as a shooting iron. But modern manufacturing methods do not seem to have room for variations.

The lockwork of the Colt was old when the dodo was young. While the frame dates from 1889 when Colt's thenradical "New Navy Double Action" was introduced, the lock mechanism dates from 20 years before. The New Navy had Colt's own idea of a revolver lockwork. It had a miserably heavy trigger pull. In desperation Colt introduced their heavy frame New Service in 1898 with an improved lock. Copied right from the Belgian ChamelotDelvigne lockwork in a thousand cheap European pinfire revolvers, the Colt adaptation was pretty good and showed much engineering skill.

But they could not cure the one defect of the design, in-

Colt's wants to give museum to state of Connecticut in preparing for clean sweep of old things in plant renewal.





herent in its working; the machinations of the rebound lever. On its movements the entire timing cycle of the Colt—fire, trigger return, unlock, rotate—all depend. The relationship of the lever with the other parts may be changed by a sharp rap on the butt. Factory assemblers have a favorite trick of hitting the butt with a rawhide mallet to "re-time" a gun without having to strip it entirely down. The rebound lever is the main cause of trouble in used Colts—surely better double action designs have been worked out since 1870.

Strangely, the method of rotating the cylinder has remained unchanged since Sam Colt's day. It is mechanically poor. When the gun is cocked fast, internal parts are stressed. When it is cocked slowly, if the cylinder rotating pawl is a little short, the chamber may not move into line. If the pawl is too long, the chamber will throw by or batter the stop bolt. In either event, the jamming effect of the Colt pawl which holds the cylinder tightly is not as good as Colt salesmen claim it to be. If there is any inaccuracy in fitting the cylinder bolt, the chambers will not line up

properly. Along with other leading revolvers, new Colts have been known to shave lead on the firing line.

What will Colt's new management do to remedy these lacks? That is not entirely clear, and understandably so, since Penn-Texas is not anxious to let its competitors know what is in the wind. However, the one comment that Silberstein has made gives some hint.

L.D. made the statement to the press, but refused to elaborate on what he said. "We plan first to increase the company's business," he said. "We will use foreign companies to bring in new developments on a license basis. The products will be Colt's products, manufactured in Colt's factory, using new ideas and sys- (Continued on page 48)

Old Colt factory may soon be rebuilt on land near Pratt & Whitney, noted machine tool subsidiary of Penn-Texas.



TAMING A WILDCAT CARTRIDGE

Powerful 7 x 61 Sharpe & Hart experimental cartridge was developed from "wildcat," is standard caliber in new Schultz & Larsen bolt action sporter.

PRODUCT OF EXHAUSTIVE SEVEN-YEAR RESEARCH THAT
BEGAN WITH FINDING OF EARLY FRENCH RIFLE DURING WAR YEARS

By PHIL SHARPE

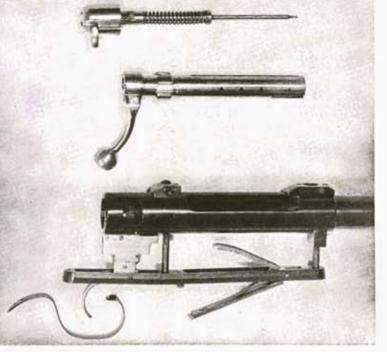


Recessed bolt face of Schultz & Larsen supports case head, giving complete safety with potent long range loads.

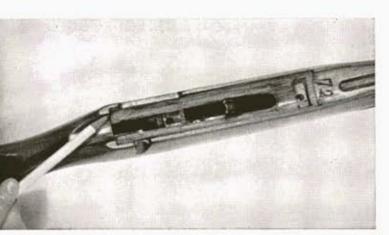
So-called wildcat cartridges have been developed by the thousands in the last 75 years. Most of the development is by a chap who dreams up something this afternoon, grinds a reamer tomorrow morning, chambers or rechambers a barrel in the afternoon, fires a couple of shots the next morning, and blossoms with announcement of the "world's best" the next morning. But in truth the wildcatters have done more to develop ammunition in the last 75 years than the ammunition companies. However, they have done it through stimulation, not achievement.

Some 35 years of serving the public in correspondence, hundreds of visits to arms and ammunition plants throughout the world, and thousands of conferences with the top gun bugs of the country told me that you do not develop a cartridge overnight. What was to become the 7 x 61 Sharpe & Hart cartridge demonstrated this to me pretty well.

Back in 1945 in France, I picked up a hand-made experimental pilot model of a semi-automatic rifle. Engraved "M.A.S. 1907. No. 4," it was toolroom-made at Saint Étiénne, France. Two days of research at the famous French arsenal failed to shed any light on this. Even a



S & L rifle simplicity is shown in interlocking of firing pin with bolt which has four lugs on rear. Floorplate is hinged.



Recoil of action in hand-inletted stock is taken up by conventional shoulder and also at circular rear cut.



Ballistic scientist Phil Sharpe weighed over 10,000 charges to 1/10 grain in exhaustive research on 7 x 61 load.

couple of years after the war, researching through every available bit of literature, I turned up but one clue: during 1907, France experimented with a special 7mm cartridge. There was no data as to designer or cartridge.

The rifle became a collection piece, but several chamber casts indicated that the unknown designer was a third of a century ahead of his time. He had a good cartridge design but he was licked from the start with the powders available in 1907. So it had to die a natural death.

I decided that the new baby I called the 7mm MAS was worthy of development, and right there Dick Hart entered the picture.

Richard F. Hart lives in Oakland, Calif., which is about as far away as two friends can get from each other. It probably explains why we are lifelong friends. Dick got interested in the work. I was long in wisdom but short on cash, so Dick stepped in. He is short in both wisdom and cash. We both raided piggy banks, and that started the "greatest private research program of the century."

Not trusting the flimsy design of the experimental rifle, I had a bull gun made to exact chamber dimensions. I found that brass could be formed from 300 H&H cases with the belt trimmed off in a lathe. Here trouble began. It was almost impossible to find any 300 H&H brass of sufficient concentricity to permit uniform belt removal in a lathe. So the barrel was counterbored to accept the belt. This was the birth of the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart cartridge.

The cartridge was born, but a long way from "on its feet." We needed a little tool-making help. So in came Bob Ditchburn of Gettysburg, Pa., my private gunsmith, toolmaker and fix-all, and we made it a threesome. If I want a pineapple carved and finished to look like a pumpkin, Bob can do it. Several times a year Dick flew from the West Coast to my Maryland laboratories to work on the cartridge. That was the time that Bob's wife became a widow. Bob circulated between the lab and his shop. He ground new reamers, rechambered, made new sizing dies. And we made progress. We did it the hard way.

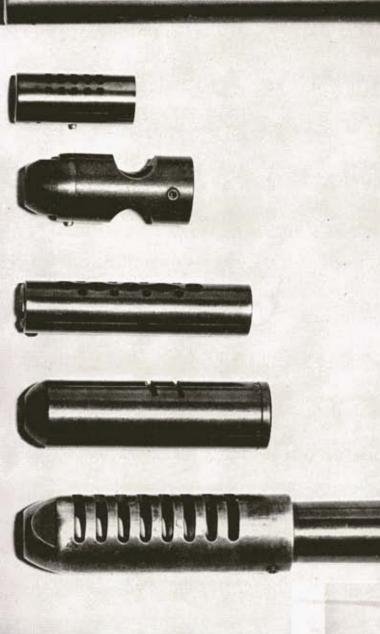
Then my very old friend, Amund Enger, president of Norma Projektilefabrik of Oslo, Norway, and Amotfors, Sweden, entered the picture. Enger, a Norwegian educated in America, can fit into any bunch (Continued on page 46)





MUZZLE BRAKES OF GOOD DESIGN GO
LONG WAY IN CURBING RUGGED
RECOIL OF MODERN HIGH-POWER
SPORTING RIFLES

By J. F. MUTTER



Rifle brakes to reduce recoil emit gas as bullet leaves gun muzzle. The inbuilt and attached Streamline brake (top two) leave rifle appearance unchanged. The short Herter, round ported Kickmaster, and slotted vent Sha-Cul and Johnson (top to bottom) can be easily attached by any gunsmith.

Brakes such as in-built Streamline being used by hunter in sighting-in are useful on fast-bullet hunting rifles.





W HEN YOUR PET musket flattens its Missouri ears and lets go with a haymaker kick, what can you do about it? Most practical way to cut down kick on the hind end of a gun nowadays is to hang a muzzle brake on the front end.

Rifle-braking devices, on which patents were issued as early as World War I, range from many quaint ideas to the most modern designs taking advantage of present understanding of gas engineering. Oddly, one of the earliest brakes and one of the most recent both share the common pattern of having been built into the barrel. Some wild-eyed experimenter before the Civil War cut a Whitney revolver barrel full of holes to relieve the gas pressure and reduce bore friction on the bullet. He got a patent, but probably didn't make any models. The Streamline brake, which was designed in the past couple of years to reduce recoil, is also built into the barrel.

The growth of popularity of the modern high velocity rifle with its sharp and punishing rocket recoil made the muzzle brake become more important as a shooter's accessory. The Johnson muzzle brake was the first commercial offering to meet the growing demand for kick relief. Closely resembling the Tokarev Russian military brake, the Johnson is sold as an attachment. By recoil reduction it made possible the design of the "featherlight" sporter.

Other brakes followed as the idea caught on—Herter's, Christy's, the Sha-Cul, the Kickmaster, and perhaps a few others of local distribution. Rifle brakes with slight changes are adaptable in principle to handguns. The Hi-Standard "Stabalizer" barrel was the first factory-fitted brake. Not a brake in the true sense of the word, its upward porting, however, does counteract muzzle jump. The Beretta, Walther and Star Olympic pistols also have brakes.

Sporting muzzle brakes are fitted today to every caliber from .22 up to .50 machine gun. One of my customers, a Kansas City, Mo., man, ordered a Streamline put into his favorite rifle, a 32" barreled .50 firing the regular machine gun cartridge and fitted to a Mauser anti-tank rifle action. The stock for this weapon is an Olympic type, and he fires it from a tripod. The whole gun weigh 30 pounds. Sighting is a 12X Unertl scope.

With the Streamline brake, the gun can now be shot from the shoulder, the recoil being about equal to that of a 12 gauge magnum shotgun. It is not as severe and less sharp than a sporting weight .375 Weatherby. There is almost complete absence of muzzle jump which had been very annoying before in the 32" barrel. Blast was still severe but the report was no longer a roar, just a "whoosh!" Although my customer has shot it while not wearing ear plugs, and reports no discomfort, it is always wise to protect your ears when shooting the big bores.

The rifle is zeroed in at 1,000 yards and it will do minute of angle accuracy or 10 inches at that range. Proof of this accuracy was given by the results of a recent big game hunt in British Columbia, Montana and Wyoming, where bagged game included bison, big horn, elk, deer and antelope. All six of the animals brought down were one-shot kills, excepting one of the prong horns. Ranges were from 1,000 yards up to 1,400 yards, as measured by a surveyor's transit. Such phenomenal shooting could only be done because the muzzle brake in combination with good stock design made the .50 caliber practical in a shoulder weapon by reducing the recoil. Some people think the army is overlooking something here in a long-range sniper gun.

Just what is a muzzle brake? What does it do-and on what guns and calibers is it of benefit?

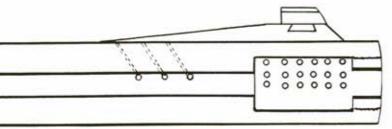
A muzzle brake is a chamber, with gas escape ports, either attached to the end of your barrel or built right into it. It uses the same kinetic force of the powder gases that has pushed your bullet up through the bore to counteract kick of the gun. When the bullet leaves, it keeps your gun from becoming a rocket engine pointed at your shoulder.

A good brake is useful with high power rifles and many handguns, but to a varying degree. That degree depends almost entirely on the velocity of your caliber and load. Efficiency of a brake follows the velocity pattern, irrespective of bore size or bullet weight. It is influenced somewhat by barrel length and by the burning characteristics of the powder used.

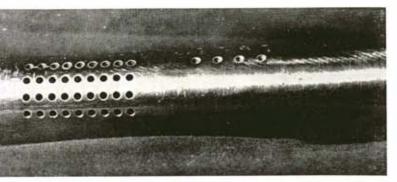
Percentagewise, the fast calibers can be reduced most in kick, the intermediate ones moderately well and the slow ones least. In a rifle caliber of much below 2,000 feet per second velocity, a brake is of practically no help, except that it will control muzzle jump.

On handguns, because of their relatively higher jet kick.





In-built Streamline, protected by U.S. patents, has carefully planned port area in relation to powder gas developed by specific caliber for nullifying kick.



Muzzle of .50 machine gun caliber barrel fitted to Mauser anti-tank rifle mechanism shows a few of the large number of ports necessary to handle tremendous volume of gas developed by 240 grain powder charge. Streamline brake built into barrel reduced kick, enabled powerful sniping rifle to be fired comfortably with kick like shotgun.

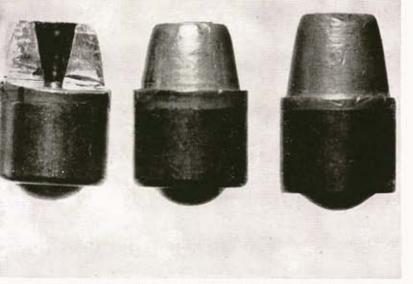
and because muzzle jump there is even more objectionable, a brake is of advantage on all powerful center fire calibers. An anti-jump barrel like High-Standard's "Stabalizer" in .22 caliber indicates brakes may have value even on rim fires.

Rocket kick is responsible for that bounce of your muzzle that momentarily blots out the sight of a disintegrating magpipe, hawk or crow. This lost sight of the target irks the varmint shooter no end, and a good brake on the fleet .25s and .22s is a revelation. Recoil in these guns is not hefty enough to justify a brake, but it is sharp, and the muzzle jump is pronounced, especially with lightweight guns. With an efficient brake, a .220 Swift is toned down to practically a .22 rim fire, with muzzle jump almost eliminated.

To understand the principle of braking, we have to take a closer look at the mechanics of recoil, and the main factors that make up the total momentum. Newton, in his third law of motion, stated that reaction is always equal to and opposite to action. Translated to gun lingo, that means when you shoot a .300 magnum with a 180 grain slug at 3,000 f.p.s. velocity, the gun will shoot you with an equal force. Luckily the reaction is not with the same velocity as the bullet, for that would be curtains for you.

The only reason the gun doesn't come back at you with the same speed is because of the difference in weight between the two projectiles, for in a closed breech weapon the gun is propelled no less than the bullet.

A nine pound rifle with the above load would be kicked back with a velocity of roughly 8½ feet per second; a 6½ pound rifle nearly 12. Keep that (Continued on page 60)

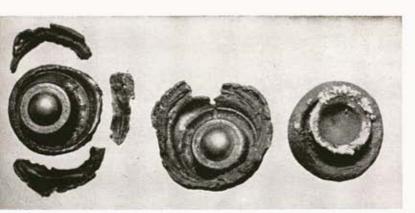


New Jugular X-press 114 grain hollow point has cavity in nose for expansion. Heavier 127 grain bullet (right) is solid.

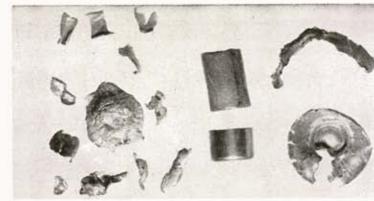


Regular .357 round (left) is loaded with lead bullet, resembles Jugular load (right) with brass gas check.

MOST DEADLY BULLET



Jugular bullets fired into soft earth show much greater expansion than Super-X bullet (right) shot as control.



Lead core and brass cup are swaged together to make Jugular, which blows up on penetrating 5/32" steel.

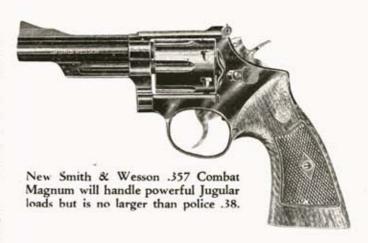
FOR FIRST TIME SINCE INVENTION OF GUNPOWDER, HANDGUN BULLET CAN BE LOADED TO START AT 2,000 FEET A SECOND AND GIVE ACCURACY

By KENT BELLAH

EVEN A HOLLYWOOD press agent would have a rough time finding words to describe the most sensational bullet ever developed for the .357 Magnum revolver—the Harvey Jugular X-press.

The 114 grain hollow point and 127 grain solid are the greatest news to handgunners since the Magnum finest appeared on the American scene. For the first time since the invention of gunpowder, a soft lead .357 bullet can be loaded to start at more than 2,000 feet per second and give exceptional accuracy with safe pressure and moderate recoil.

This phenomenal speed delivers more than half a ton of muzzle energy, fully a third more than the famous .44/40 Winchester rifle that has stopped America's largest game and toughest men. But that isn't all. The bullet design and material actually gives about twice as much



killing power as paper ballistics indicate, because energy figures do not consider the explosive effect of a soft lead core at this velocity. The hollow point and semi-wadcutter shape also cause extra destruction of tissue.

Never before has man packed such power in one bullet; more than three tons of energy in one cylinder makes the biggest of the big bores, the .45 Colt, a mere pip squeak. These hotshot bombshells will blow ten feet of guts out of a varmint whether he walks on four legs or two.

This handgun load will have an immediate appeal to the police officer, who is accustomed to carrying a .38 for economy in target shooting as well as service. High speed equals penetration as well as good knock-down power under varying conditions. One local cycle officer I know carries a short barreled S & W Magnum in bright nickel plate. He loads the first chambers with relatively low-powered mid range wadcutters with a heavy bullet, and increases the loads until the last couple of chambers carry the fast-jacketed automobile

stoppers, the metal-penetrating .357's. The principle of loading for short range with man stoppers and loading for longer range with bullets having high penetration is good. But the new Harvey Jugular X-press loads mean you can combine shock and penetration in one and the same bullet. You can have a cylinder full of dynamite that will work for close-in fighting, or reach way out and stop a getaway car.

For hunting in either handgun or rifle, the jacketed base of the Jugular X-press bullet avoids stripping in the riflings at high velocities, yet retains all the mushroom advantage of the soft lead core. Because it is a handload bullet, lead hardnesses can be regulated to get maximum penetration, but pure lead is usually the best for all-around work.

Accuracy tests on the Jugular Xpress are excellent. A ten-shot group gave a maximum spread of only 2 inches at 50 yards, with the 114 grain hollow point starting at 2,025 feet per second. I'll bet cash money it's only a matter of time until major ammunition makers start loading this type of bullet commercially. The advanced design is the creation of Jim Harvey of the Lakeville Arms Co., Lakeville, Conn.

The half jackets permit undreamed of velocity, without stripping or slugging. About .017" thick, the jackets add to accuracy. Harvey claims the semi-boattail tip on the base gives better accuracy than a conventional flat or cupped base. I'll buy his views without argument, because the little bullets perform like a circus pony. They are faster, more accurate and more deadly than any I have ever fired in a revolver.

In one old Magnum test barrel, the accuracy was amazing. The old chewed-up bore seemed to take a new lease on life after digesting many thousands of experimental loads of every kind, mostly overloads, including tracers, zinc alloy and jacketed pills. Even maximum loads with Jugular bullets have such mild recoil that you may think they are underloaded until you see the effect on animals. The carnage will



Author Bellah who hunts running jackrabbits with his .357 Smith and Jugular X-press loads shows good stance.



C. S. McCall of Saint Jo, Texas, finds that soft lead Jugular bullet will blow up such game as prairie dog varmints.

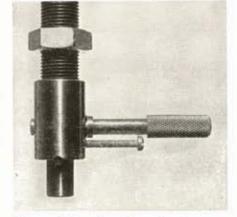
convince the most skeptical that high speed combined with soft lead is superior to any hard and heavy slug that lacks explosive shocking power. Sam Colt made all men equal in combat, but Harvey made some superior!

Jugular bullets are available to reloaders from the maker or dealers. Two types of swaging dies are supplied to those who want to make their own bullets. The Harvey Bolt Action dies will make bullets that fully equal to the factory product in every way, and at a very considerable saving. They are used in standard loading tools. Pure lead wire is best for the cores, but cast lead slugs can be used if desired. Some scrap or salvage lead is not soft enough to give maximum killing power, but scrap lead pipe and cable sheathing is entirely satisfactory. It should not be alloyed with tin or other metals. Number 2400 rifle powder burns with high efficiency with

jacketed bullets driven ahead of high pressure in handguns. Low pressure charges do not burn clean in short barrels.

Working up to maximum loads, our interesting tests indicate the explosive effect of the 114 grain hollow point acts more like loads from a hot-shot varmint rifle.

When the .357 Magnum was developed in 1935, it was the ultimate in killing power. Handloaders were warned to never attempt to improve or even equal the ballistics. It was, and is, tricky to equal the original Winchester factory loads with heavy, naked lead alloy bullets and available canister powders. Most high speed cast bullets have flat bases that increase loading density. Factory loads would sometimes lead a bore due to high pressure and velocity. Amunition stored at high temperature might show a considerable gain (Continued on page 45)



Harvey bolt action die makes the most uniform bullets, fits loading press.



Harvey die set assembles around core and gas check which are then swaged.







Pearl-handled Stevens pistol was shot by Annie Oakley in exhibitions, displayed on table with many of medals she won.

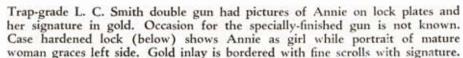
THE GUNS OF ONNIE OAKLEY

GUNS USED BY CRACK GIRL
SHOT WERE OF MANY TYPES
BUT IN HER HANDS THEY HAD
ONE THING IN COMMON: ALL
WERE ACCURATE

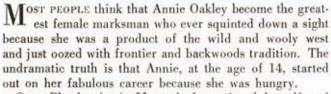
By JAMES CRANBROOK

Gold-plated Winchester was used by Annie in 90's and featured in tricks such as reflection aiming.









Once Phoebe Annie Moses had convinced herself and her amazed fellow residents of tiny Dark County, Ohio, that she could turn bullets into bread, she never again suffered the pangs of an empty stomach. She was just 14 when she began to stock Cincinnati hotels with game shot through the head. The hotel owners liked to buy her birds, because their guests at dinner "didn't have to spit out bird shot,"

The story of Annie Oakley since then has become a part of the American legend but the story of her guns is often clouded in uncertainty and lack of actual records. One thing though is certain: the long Kentucky rifle Annie's father, Jacob Moses, had brought to Ohio 20 years before Annie started shooting it, was her constant companion and most certain bread-winner.

Annie's guns did not remain together in any collection. Toward the end of her life she gave many of them to her friends. Some of the guns were handsome, specially made for her by grateful gun companies. Her exhibitions did much to publicize shooting sport among women. Others were ones she had built to order for her show with Buffalo Bill. According to her niece, Mrs. Ruth Blakeley of Greenville, Annie had in her gun trunk three rifles just alike. These were probably the Stevens sporting rifles of 1872-75, tip down barrel style with a wooden fore stock. Plain open sights were fitted, and about the only con-



cession to fancy trimmings Annie allowed was the pistol grip which was checkered on each rifle. As a shooting star of 18. Annie also like Stevens pistols. During her early years she started out by shooting a spur-guard Gould model single shot in .22 caliber with a ten-inch barrel. At first the gun was a plain, blued barrel and nickel plated frame pistol with regular wooden grips. As success and money came her way, she decorated things a little. The Stevens acquired pearl handles and full silver plating. To pair with it for rapid fire work, she obtained a Smith & Wesson American Model No. 3 in .44 caliber. This was also pearl handled and bright plated. The location of these two guns is not known, although until recently Orvill Patterson of Detroit, nephew of Annie, owned "a pearl handled pistol of hers."

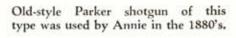
Three types of shotgun are associ-

ated with Annie. The first and probably the type she fired in her first match against Frank Butler was the Parker Brothers hammer gun. She used a damascus-barreled 16-gauge but considered that for beginners the 20-gauge was best. "Some of my best scores in the field and at traps were made with a 20-bore," she remarked. She understood the importance of being a little undergunned and making up for the gun's deficiency by your own skill, rather than relying on the gun to do all the work.

As she became famous, the L. C. Smith gun company of Fulton, N. Y .. built a special trap gun for her. A photo of her with this gun was copyrighted in 1899. Built before the days when every gun for target work had to have a raised, ventilated rib to be worth a tinker's damn, this side-by-side hammerless double with twin portraits

Annie's battery about 1885 with Wild West Show included Stevens pistol and







As young "old lady" of 50, Annie had lost some of Wild West glamour but none of her remarkable skill as she toured amusement parks giving shooting exhibitions. Hitting wood blocks thrown by husband Frank Butler was routine.

of Annie on the side locks knocked more than its share of soaring pigeons or yellow and blue clay birds from the air. It is in the collection of William Locke of Cincinnati today.

One of the most important guns Annie ever used was her deluxe grade Spencer repeating shotgun. There were many shooters at exhibitions who could blast two targets and, by picking up another gun quickly, hit two more, all thrown simultaneously. With the Spencer pump gun, Annie set a new record of six glass "birds" thrown simultan-eously. She could shuck six hulls out of that slide gun before the last bird fell, and get them all in the air. The Spencer gun she used was invented by Christopher Spencer, inventor of the famous Civil War seven-shooting rifle -"that damnyankee rifle you can load on Sunday and shoot all week," as the Confederates called it.

Spencer established his shotgun factory in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1885, and Annie used his gun to good effect. It was the first pump shotgun commercially produced, but even her good efforts as an unpaid "demonstrator" did not bring the world to the doors of the Spencer sales room. The factory failed and was taken over by Francis Bannerman, a New York munitions dealer who (Continued on page 42)

Retirement was impossible for so alive a person as Annie. At the age of 65, she was pistol and shotgun coach at Pinehurst's Carolina Hotel.





WHILE CHATTERING SPRAY GUNS INVENTED BY GERMANS HAVE MANY ADVANTAGES OVER RIFLE, THEY STILL HAVE

DRAWBACKS WHEN USED AS KEY MILITARY WEAPON

Called "grease gun," cheap M3 is now in production at Ithaca Gun Co. for Army.

By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON

In the velvet darkness across the Israel-Egypt border, the b-r-r-r-p of gunfire stabs a beam of tracer bullets across the sands. From the tangled jungle of Maylaya, Communist guerillas blast away at British outposts with chattering staccato volleys. Across the arid, desolate hills of North Africa, every night is punctuated with brilliant bursts of 9 mm. fire by Arab nationalists.

These are the sounds of battle in the year 1956. Wherever men war with guns these days, no longer does the whining single shot of the rifle signal conflict. Today it is the sustained spray of burp guns that has become the new sound of war. In the hands of the infantryman, the burp gun symbolizes the most important revolution in military tactics since the invention of the breech loader. Many generals are openly predicting that this relatively new weapon will inevitably replace the rifle as the basic weapon of war.



Communists made full use of burp guns in Korean war. Here U. S. General Parks holds captured Russian guns.



Latest Israel gun for its growing army is copy of Czech machine pistol which is very compact and cheap to make.



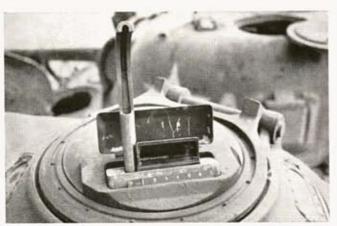
Certainly to take and hold ground, there is no better weapon. In the sanguinary Near East border fighting where hit-and-run raids are regular events, the burp gun is basic. The Israel Model 1950 gun which is used by many troops is a cleverly designed automatic firing arm in 9 mm. caliber of Czech origin. The major parts are square in cross section to simplify its manufacture. The sliding blowback bolt partly shrouds the barrel breech, allowing the bolt to be heavy but not bulky. The clip magazine is in the pistol handle of the folding stocked gun. It is cheap, light, portable and fires many shots very quickly.

It is ironical that Jews fighting to maintain a national state of their own are employing a weapon which reached its most advanced development under the Nazis who tried to eliminate the Jews from the earth. Of the submachine types of burp guns, the best model is still the Schmeisser MP40, widely used by the Germans in World War II. Actually it was the Germans who originated the burp gun. The first such weapon was probably the Bergmann muskete issued in limited numbers by the Germans in 1918 as a trench and mopping-up gun. The name of the burp gun came from its sound of fast firing that sounded like a belch.

Since the Bergmann design, little advance has taken place in the field of burp guns. Variously called "maschinen pistole," moschetto, or submachine carbine, as well as submachine gun, the innumerable types used by Russia, Finland, Britain, America, Germany and other nations have several things in common. They are light weight, 6 to 8 pounds, fire fully automatically, use pistol ammunition, and are cheap to manufacture. The Schmeisser MP40 cost the German government about \$9 during World War II. The welded and tubular Sten of the Battle of Britain cost less. Even today in our present inflation, the reliable and un-



Best type of assault rifle to be issued by Nazis was German MP43/1 sometimes used for tank defense. Same idea was used later by U. S. fitted to M3 burp gun (below.)







Noted arms writer and expert Phil Sharpe demonstrated captured MP43/1 with 90° barrel to U. S. Ordnance in France. On table is 30° barrel with Zeiss prism sight.

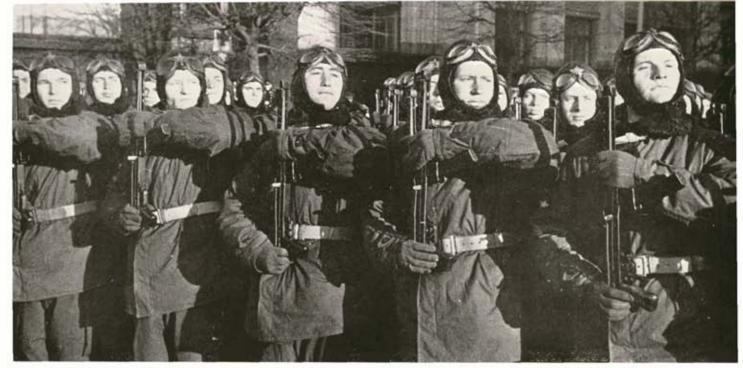
lovely M3 "grease gun" costs less than \$20 to manufacture.

The tactical appreciation of these arms in the U.S. constantly fluctuates. Sometimes we want them and sometimes we don't. In 1948 Loren Cook, an Army sergeant, developed a supposed improvement in submachine guns firing the .45 pistol bullet. After some research the project was terminated mainly because there was "no demand" for additional or improved submachine guns. But recently a contract was let to procure 32,500 M3A1 submachine guns.

While there has been no war in the meantime to demand the production of so many units, the fact remains that the burp gun is an important weapon. It is there when you want it. When you jerk the trigger, it gives out an encouraging blast of sound and jumps around. You have the feeling that things are going on. When contact with the enemy is made, you feel confident that of the volley of shots from your burp gun, one or two will hit the target.

There is much merit to the doctrine of mass fire. The Finns cut the Russians to pieces with the simple, neverfailing Suomi pistol-caliber guns. But then the Russians learned not to move en masse. They also learned to issue volley-fire weapons in quantity.

When the tank and then paratroops began to dominate the mobile activity of World War II, the burp gun came into its own. As a tank soldier's weapon, it proved nearly ideal. For paratroop use its light weight and large magazine made it invaluable. Far more compact than a rifle and smaller than even the M1 carbine, Thompsons and M3's



Sudaev M1943 burp guns issued to Moscow garrison paratroops in 1949 are copied from German Schmeisser guns.



Haenel-Schmeisser machine pistol M1938 was developed to deliver rapid fire bursts without aiming.

Volley principle was retained in Walther MKb 42 which had large magazine and fired full auto but accurately.

were popular with our fighters—that is until they got into combat against the German burp guns. Somehow, when the tanks ran out of gas or a tread got blasted off, and the fight in a local sector was reduced to man against man, the .45 caliber guns didn't stack up so hot. The truth was that the Schmeissers in the hands of Afrika Corps tankmen outranged our .45 caliber guns. Many Allied soldiers equipped with U.S. .45 guns ditched them in favor of 9mm machine pistols.

Meanwhile, the German Heeres Waffen Amt. (ordnance office) pulled a fast one on the western powers. To counter our Garand rifles, the Germans developed one of their own, which in essence was a burp gun.

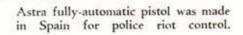
This was not the well-known Gewehr 43 rifle, which was brought back to the U.S. by many GIs. The gun which Germany put into the front lines was based on pre-1939 research, yet was the most modern type of infantry arm designed. Hitler named it well when he called it the "Sturmgewehr." The "storm" or assault rifle was one of the important new weapons to emerge from the conflict in the hands of infantry.

It, too, was a burp gun but with a difference. Instead of being a limited range, low-powered gun, the "Sturmgewehr" introduced something which the German ammo makers had been holding secret for years, the intermediate rifle cartridges. Midway in size between the full 57mm to 62mm cartridges of the German rifle load or the U.S. .30 M2, the special 7.9 kurz patrone was a radical development in ammunition design.

Its development goes back to 1934, when the Versailles Treaty was finally junked by Germany. Their army field services command became interested in adopting a high power, mid-range infantry cartridge. World War I German research had shown that their standard 7.9 x 57mm cartridge which was similar to the U.S. .30 and the other full-power rifle cartridges used by other countries, was not



One use of burp gun use is as police and riot control weapon. Beretta M18/30 semi-auto 9mm carbine has burp gun lines but bayonet persuader.





which has quick barrel change and is made of simple tube parts for mass production.

Sterling gun fires after mud bath demonstrating value of burp gun for all conditions of bad weather in combat.

ideally suited to combat. The need was for lighter rifles and ammo. The earliest loads in this development series were put up by Gustave Genschow and its related company, the Rheinische Westfalische Sprengstoff Ag at Nurnburg. Previously they had worked on short-case high power sporting cartridges which might have military uses. First was an 8mm load with a case 46mm long developed by RWS in 1934.

Then GECO received a war office contract to work on experimental case lengths from 37mm to 46mm using 140 to 150 grain bullets in 8mm. The Polte works in Madgeburg came into the development picture in 1938, and tried out a series of 30 to 35mm cases with 100 and 130 grain bullets. These were all bottleneck, rifle-type cartridges on the basic 8x57 head diameter, using spitzer bullets. Velocities were a little less than usual, about 2200-2400 feet

per second. The Polte short load with a 33mm case burning 24.6 grains of regular service type powder was finally standardized in late 1940 or early 1941.

The bullet was 125 grains weight, and velocity about 2250 f.p.s. Official German records indicate an astonishing thing: that this new "7.9mm Infanterie Kurz-Patrone" would replace the normal 7.9mm or 8mm "long" cartridge of the rifle, and also substitute for the 9mm Parabellum pistol cartridge used in submachine guns. The writing was on the wall. Since 1938 the Germans had been planning a weapon that would combine the features of both the standard rifle and the submachine gun. This was to become the "assault rifle," the most highly developed form of burp gun.

On April 18, 1938, a contract was placed with C. G. Haenel in Suhl for the development of a weapon firing the 7.9mm Kurz load. The basic need was for a rifle accurate to 800 meters, and adapted for full and semi-automatic fire. To distinguish the arm from the submachine gun, the project weapon was designated "Maschinenkarabiner," machine car- (Continued on page 56)

TEXAS DUKE HUNTS IN SPAIN

Superposed double Browning rebuilt to 16 gauge was used by author during his hunting drives with Spanish grandees.

WING SHOOTING IS TRULY A ROYAL
SPORT ON PRIVATE ESTATES, WHERE
UNLIMITED BAGS AS HIGH AS 2500
BIRDS ARE TAKEN AND EVERY HUNTER
HAS A 'SECRETARIO'

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

THE SHOOTING BOXES stretched like a line of skirmishers from the higher reaches of the valley to its bottom a full three-quarter mile below. The posts were arranged just under the crest of the ridge, situated to deny the partridge view of them until the game came booming over the rise. Then it would be too late.

On my right, some 60 yards above stood the Duke de Luna; downhill waited the Duke de Peñaranda, nephew of Former King Alfonso XIII. Peñaranda is a big game hunter who laments that the wily chukar is not his sport;

Although doubles are preferred by Spaniards, "secretarios" hold U.S.-made automatics and pumps with Cutts Comps.



despite these protestations it has been my observation he always brings down his fair share. Luna is one of the first guns of Spain. That morning certainly I was bracketed where I'd have to turn in top performance.

The crowd was so distinguished the very air seemed slightly befogged with a royal bluish haze. There was besides Luna and Peñarnada still a third duke, Algeciras, aide to the pretender, Don Juan. And if this was not enough there was a whole bevy of marquises. And there were quite as many counts: Taboada, who is also a Spanish

Over half-a-hundred chukars or Spanish grouse and four rabbits were downed in one drive on private preserve.





Leading gunmaker Agustin Aranzabal's AYA doubles are used in shoots.



Acknowledged best wingshot in Spain is Count of Teba, pigeon champion.

grandee, and Pozo-Rubio, Grijalba and Montealegre.

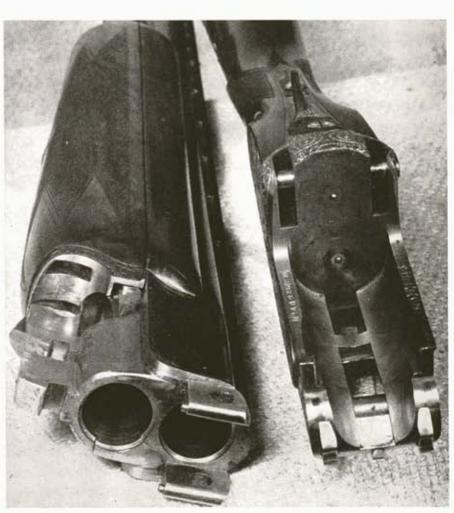
And finally there was old Askins, just a duke from Texas.

Now bird shooting in Spain isn't quite as simply done as out on the Kansas prairies. To begin with the game isn't hunted; it is beaten. This requires some three-score-and-ten peasants to do the driving. And if this wasn't a considerable requirement on the personnel side, every shooter must have a "secretario." This worthy is gun bearer and handy man and tags along to tote your spare fowling piece, several hundred cartridges, coat, sweater, whisky, shooting stool and whatever else fancy dictates.

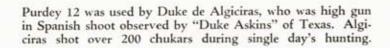
If this seems a bit on the plush side, let me assure you it is.

The "secretario," besides making life more comfortable for you, will if he is worth his salt sally forth when the drive is finished (there are six drives during the day) and gather up not only all your downed birds but a number of those belonging to your neighbors as well. He is a very valuable and important accessory, this institution known as the "secretario."

He can be sporting too. When the game commences to wing over, at first by the dozens, later by the score and finally phalanx upon phalanx, it is his job to keep your spare double charged and pass it up to you from his crouched



Massive, solid construction of AYA superposed is necessary as guns used in fast Spanish shooting get plenty of action, need to be rugged for hot firing.





At noon beaters who flush the birds pause for their meal of cheap red wine, dark bread, cheese and boiled chick-peas.



The "secretarios," or gun bearers, congregate off to side at the noon break, do not associate with "inferior" beaters.

position. Often being an untrained "campesino," unaccustomed to handling firearms, he will manage to load the gun. But in passing it along to you during the excitement of the flight, he may inadvertently get his finger on the trigger and if the hurtling one-and-one-quarter ounces of No. 7s do not neatly part your hair, you can count yourself exceedingly fortunate.

The etiquette of the occasion demands that you turn casually and inform him in a gentlemanly roar clearly audible from one end of the firing line to the other that he is a stupid ass and does he want to kill you?

Directly after the second drive of the morning, my "secretario," an intelligent and willing country Spaniard who had fought with Franco, turned to me and in Spanish, said, "Senor, are you a conde (count)?"

It appeared an innocent question and while most Spanish sportsmen do not deign to chat with their gun bearer, I always did, as much to practice the language as for any other reason. I looked at my man searchingly, replied: "Certainly!" I put on my haughtiest air, lisped in my best Sunday Castillian, "I am the Duke of Ysleta."

The rest of that day and all the next he addressed me very respectfully as "mi Duke."

It should be explained in passing that Ysleta, for which I had just created a dukedom, is a tiny little Mexican pueblo about a dozen miles down the Rio Grande from my native El Paso, Texas.

My poor "secretario" after a careful analysis of the situation might come to the conclusion that he was saddled with some "corriente" (common) Americano, who had no title and what was probably (Continued on page 52)



Largest Spanish partridge is "orogallo" which fell to Askins' AYA over-under.

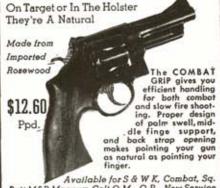


Master of the hunt counts one of six drives totalling 500 to 1,000 birds a day.



With special 16-gauge Browning, Askins more than filled his bag with the great blue Spanish pigeon, the lordly, lightning-fast big winged "torcaz."





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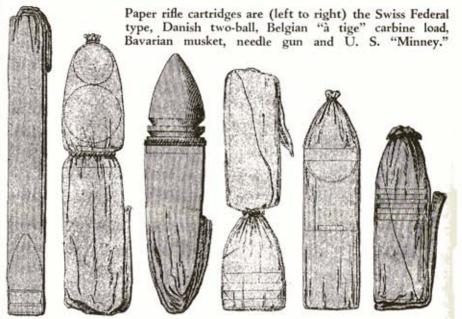
By STUART MILLER

Paper Cartridges of 1860

B EFORE AND DURING the Civil War, agents from both North and South combed Europe for military supplies, chiefly small arms. Their purchases supplied some fairly useable weapons, many of which were issued to home guards. While this released better weapons for battle use, it also kept arms from Europe out of the hands of the opposition.

Because of the abundance and varie-

The bullet weighed only 267 grains, light by those standards, but was backed by a potent 62 grain powder load. Both rifle and cartridge were the result of much experiment and made a very accurate combination. The bullet is not seated directly on the powder, but by means of a projection on the ram rod, was pushed down so as to leave a space between the powder and ball. On this page are some examples of paper cartridges of the mid-19th century when rifles were first intro-



ty of European arms in circulation, there was a demand for information about such arms and ammunition. One of the most widely read books in the field was C. W. Wilcox's "Rifles and Rifle Practice," published in 1861. This book is known to collectors mainly for the interesting folding frontispiece which shows dozens of different types of bullets and has been reproduced in a number of Bannerman catalogs. Little mention has ever been made of an interesting plate showing European small arms cartridges which is also included in the book.

The trend then was for throwing huge chunks of lead. The majority of the cartridges used in European armies of 1860 were from .57 to .69 caliber. Bullets weighed up to 772 grains, and powder charges up to 77 grains. The greatest variant from this rule was the .41 Swiss Federal Rifle Model 1851.

duced for military use.

One popular chambering system tried in many countries was the "à tige" system. A flat headed steel pin extended lengthwise through the chamber. The powder filled in around the pin and the bullet rested on its front end. A few smart raps from the steel ramrod were supposed to expand the bullet so that it would engage the rifling on the way out. The idea was not bad, but after firing a few rounds, the chamber would soon foul. It was very difficult to clean without disassembling the gun.

Volley firing with muskets was still the standard military tactic, and many countries considered graduated rear sights unnecessary frills. The French musket had no elevating sight. To aim at 200 yards or under, the rear sight was used. Beyond that the soldier placed his thumb across the barrel and sighted over (Continued on page 63)

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THE COLT OF ENGLAND

OFFICIAL SIDEARM OF BRITAIN FOR 70 YEARS, WEBLEY WAS HIT HARD BY 1920 FIREARMS BAN BUT ITS PISTOLS STILL ARE CHOICE ITEMS FOR BOTH SHOOTERS AND COLLECTORS

By MAJOR WILLIAM C. DOWELL

JUST OVER a century ago, English gunmaker Philip Webley and his sons hammered out the last part and finished up the last screw and the original Webley revolver was born. Since that day in 1853 dozens of Webley models and hundreds of thousands of the revolvers have been used by the armed forces of England on every front of the British Empire. From the first "longspur" Webley capand-ball through the Webley-inspired Commando revolvers of World War II and the modern 1955 model .22 Mark IV Target Revolver, the Webley has earned the reputation of being the "Colt of England."

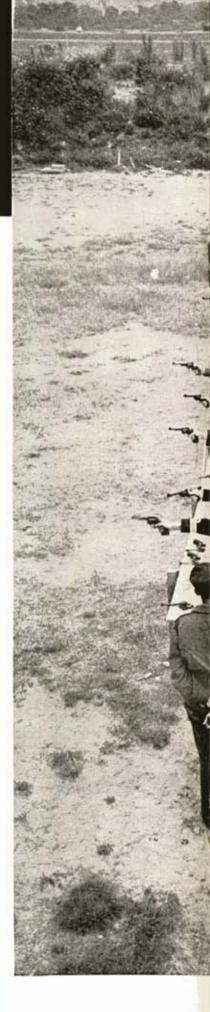
Webley has made official sidearms for British and Commonwealth forces during the past 70 years. The many patterns are important to the shooter and collector. To the shooter, a knowledge of the many special calibers of Webley comes in handy, because of the release of government stocks of these arms on the second-hand market. The collector needs to know details which distinguish the rare items from the common ones.

The modern gunmaking firm of Webley & Scott is an impressive structure occupying a city block in Birmingham, England. All about it are signs of the gunmaker's trade, for the city of Birmingham is one vast arsenal. Across Weaman Street down a dark alley gleams the gilt name of "Tranter," all that remains of a once-powerful revolvermaking rival. Around St. Mary's Square on Whittall Street are a dozen gun shops including the firm of Parker-Hale, gun equipment makers. Reigning over all is the block of buildings which houses the Webley works.

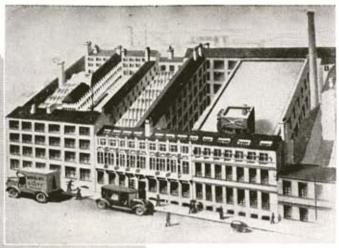
Today the principal business of Webley is making air pistols and sporting shotguns as well as limited arms production for the army and navy. The Webley company has suffered severely from the Firearms Act of

First cartridge Webley is cased with percussion tools and with extra cartridge cylinder.









Webley plant looks today much as it has in years past.

Webley-Kaufmann of 1880 had

improved lock work with easily

removed sideplate for repair.

ing the hammerless Webley "Metropolitan Police" automatic adopted by the London and South African police. These guns went the way of others in the national disarming of 1920. A single shot target Webley in .22 has been made, but has a relatively small sale.

The extremely limited modern market for Weblev consists of holders of firearms certificates. These few people in England are all that keeps Webley making pistols at its Birmingham plant.

Webley has always been on that site. The company was established by Philip Webley, son of Thomas Webley who in the early 1800's was employed in the white button trade in the Midland manufacturing town. Predecessor to Webley's shop was the factory of William Davis, whose brass foundry turned out bullet moulds and gunmaker's tools, His "WD" mark has often been confused with "War Department."

About 1835 Tom Webley's two sons, James and Philip, worked as percussioners and gun lock makers. Their principal business consisted of fitting percussion drums or holsters to new gun barrels, which would be used by



other gunmakers in completed guns. Probably they some-

Philip Webley learned his business the hard way. He had been apprenticed to a gun lock filer, Benjamin Watson, for seven years at the age of 14. Philip did not get rich at the magnificent pay of five shillings a week with annual raises of a shilling a week. His hours were long, from six o'clock in the morning to seven in the evening during sum-

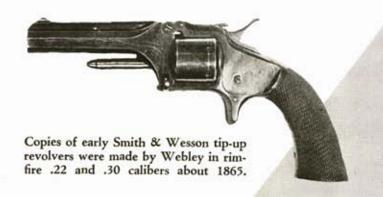
After setting up his own business, Philip married the daughter of William Davis, and the Davis brass works and Webley shop amalgamated. Philip, as the senior, gave his name to the company. Later two sons of Philip, Thomas and Henry, joined the firm which was registered as "P. Webley & Sons." Thomas supervised the gun and rifle department, and Henry the revolver department. In addition to firearms Webley & Sons also made ship's leg irons, handcuffs, cutlasses, boarding pikes and tomahawks. The bullet moulds and tools of the Davis firm were continued in production.

The year 1853 marked the introduction of Webley's first revolver. This was a cap-and-ball revolver, the "longspur" model. A good-looking gun, the Webley equalled in finish and shooting qualities many of their established competitors.

Striving to set up "factory system" production, Webley still had not received the financial support of government patronage. This so far had been reserved for the equipping of most British regular forces with the London-made revolvers of Robert Adams.

It was not until 1883, after the peaceful reign of Queen Victoria had bit deeply into the pockets of British gunmakers and folded up Adams, Deane, Tranter and others, that Webley got into their stride. Possibly it had been the firm's willingness to make other items, bullet moulds and gunmakers' tools for their competitors to use, that in

plant. Richard Ellis & Son was also bought up, and the company name, which may be found on some guns or in case lid labels, was changed to (Continued on page 40)





THE COLT OF ENGLAND

(Continued from page 39)

"Webley & Scott Revolver & Arms Co., Ltd." In 1906 a last name change was made, to the simple phrase "Webley & Scott, Ltd." which it bears today. By this time Webley had at last established itself firmly as pistol maker to the government.

Webley has produced many guns, upwards of 60 different models of which I have been able to collect. Possibly the main aim of the Webley collector is to own an 1853 Webley longspur model revolver. This first Webley was made in 48, 52, 60, 62 and 120 gauge, and chambered for 5 or 6 shots. Claimed by the makers to be as fast to shoot as the single action Colt but faster to load while equally as accurate and reliable, each Longspur was handmade by craftsmen and could not compete in price with the mass-produced London Colt.

The longspur Webley was almost at once superseded by the double action Webley-Bentley. Similar in barrel profile and frame shape, the Webley-Bentley was made in the same calibers. Like the last models of long-spur Webleys, the Webley-Bentley had the common side-barrel loading lever instead of the earlier lever pivoted on the frame. This model was open frame like its predecessor. Some had a knife-bayonet attached for close-in fighting.

The next model was the wedge-frame Webley 1857, a solid frame gun. The barrel has a top strap which runs to the standing breech at the hammer tip. A Colt-type wedge fastens this barrel onto a fixed cylinder pin. Some of these wedge-frame guns have small back-flash shields on the standing breech to the rear of the cones; others are made with the breech sides perfectly flat. They are both double and single action, like a modern revolver. Some guns have a loading lever hinged below the barrel like the Colt, but this was not continued in later models.

The 1859 Webley is their first true solid frame, with the barrel screwed into the frame. It is possible the frame was a forging, but malleable cast iron would seem more likely a material. The side-barrel loading lever works through a slot in the rammer. This gun was made in 52, 54, 80, 90 and 120 gauge sizes and used a combustible envelope cartridge and a bullet having a conical shape with one grease groove and a reduced base.

The last percussion Webley—or their first cartridge revolver, if you prefer,—was introduced about 1865. Often found cased with an extra cartridge cylinder, this pistol had both loading lever and ejector rod, and a loading gate on the frame right side. A plate is fitted to these frames like the frame plate of converted Remingtons. Percussion cylinders could be instantly changed with the cartridge cylinders, and the gun loaded like an ordinary cap-and-ball.

Webley's next revolver is of interest to American collectors. It is a duplicate of the first model second issue Smith & Wesson tipup .22RF revolver. Made first in 1865, the only thing to distinguish it from the Smith is the long curved handle, which is of checkered wood. Instead of being .22 and 7-shot like the Smith, it is .30 caliber, six shot.

In the 1865-70 period, Webley made pin fire models in 7, 9 and 12mm calibers with various barrel lengths. Two pepperbox revolvers, one with six chambers and one with eight, were produced. A 9mm revolver with a six inch barrel was made as a 12-shooter.

Webley's first solid frame revolver made for center fire cartridges appeared about 1866. It was a 4" barrel weapon chambered for the short .577 Boxer cartridge developed by Colonel E. M. Boxer. Colonel Boxer was a British Artillery officer and superintendent of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich Arsenal near London. This .577 was a formidable arm of greater stopping power than any other revolver made up to this time. These .577 revolvers were popular among officers in an age of small wars against fanatical savages.

The year 1867 was very important in the Webley story. That year saw the introduction of a Webley revolver destined for world fame over a very long period. Adopted by the Royal Irish Constabulary, that force of British police which ruled a restless Eire, this revolver became known as the R.I.C. Model.

The R.I.C. was adopted by the governments of Australia and South Africa, and later by London's Metropolitan Police, Variations occur in the frame length as this seems to depend on the cylinder length-this last in many cases is made only as long as the particular cartridge for which it is chambered. Barrels were 21/2" and 41/2" lengths and great accuracy was claimed for the R.I.C. Henry Webley, Philip's son, demonstrated before a number of police students a Webley R.I.C. with which he placed 5 shots into a 21/2" x 11/2" group at 25 yards. Calibers were .425, .442, .450, and .455 and some of the guns would handle the .44 Winchester and .45 Colt cartridges as well, although there were slight differences in rim thickness. In 1883 the New Model R.L.C. was brought out, and on this model the "flying bullet" Webley trade mark was stamped.

In 1878 the "British Bulldog" was announced, a stubby, cheap pocket weapon chambered for some pretty powerful cartridges. Rugged, dependable, the Bulldog sold at a modest price in 5 and 6 shot models, and achieved a world-wide reputation for dependability. Calibers offered were the whole range from .320 to .455, which must have been pretty hard to handle as the butt was the small, easily concealed "bird head" shape. Widely copied all over the world, this gun was made in France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, and in America by the Forehand & Wadsworth Company. It was one of these latter revolvers which Leon Czolgosz used in assassinating President McKinley.

Contemporary with the Bulldog, and also with the round-butt Colt Double Action rodejecting Frontier revolver of 1878 which it
closely resembled, was the Webley "Army Express." This used the solid frame styling of
the Bulldog with an ejector rod housing
fixed by two screws on the frame. Showing
direct Colt imitation, the round stud on the

loading gate is like the Coit DA gate stud, while the birdhead butt and checkering pattern follows the Colt style. With a 5½" barrel, this six-shot Army Express was built for hard service as a military revolver for the colonies.

With the development of the Webley hinged frame line, which eventually became known as the strongest hinged frame revolver ever made, Webley approached their modern designs. The first modern model was marketed in 1876 and based on a patent of Charles Pryse. Made in .32, .38 and .45 calibers, six shots, and with 3¾", 4" and 4½" barrels, the special features of the Webley-Pryse were (1) a rebounding lock, the first in England to be incorporated in a revolver. and (2) the double transverse bolts which securely latched barrel strap to frame. These bolts were operated by twin spring finger grips on either side of the breech, which were pressed between thumb and forefinger in opening the gun. A simultaneous extractor-ejector which also served as the ratchet was used. The Webley-Pryse was a favorite of Field Marshal Earl Roberts and was carried by him in the British-Afghan War of

Designer Michael Kaufmann developed the next Webley of 1880. Webley-Kaufmann revolvers had a thumb-latch breech lock of the stirrup type, one step closer to the perfected Webleys. A birdhead model, the Kaufmann is distinguished from the Pryse by a removable left-frame sideplate, through which the lockwork is assembled. The long trigger gave the Kaufmann a good double action pull, but the model was actually short lived, being supplanted by the Webley-Green Model of 1892, and a whole series of developing "Marks" in military revolvers beginning with the Mark I of 1886.

During the years 1876-1887 the British Government carried out extensive trials with a revolver of their own design, the Enfield .476 caliber self-extracting revolver. This is a monster among firearms, not large, but hideous. To extract and load, the hinged frame is broken at the barrel joint, but then the cylinder moves straight forward, instead of flipping up like a common top break. Chambered for the .476 which was the British equivalent of the .45 Colt, this Enfield revolver was issued to such units as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but they were glad to get rid of them in 1898 in exchange for the big Colt New Service revolvers. Altogether, the Enfield .476 was a bad show.

In 1889 the government decided that the Enfield wasn't the answer to their prayers and extended their tests to include the Webleys and also the Smith & Wesson Double Action Frontier of 1881. Usually made only in .44 caliber, an unknown number of these were obtained and tested in .455 caliber, in competition with the British Webley of 1882. Eventually, in leisurely British fashion, the Webley was adopted by the Army in 1890, and in 1893 by the Royal Navy. From then up to World War I the Webley revolver developed through the round butt Marks I, II, III, IV, and V to the square butt, long barreled .455 Mark VI.

Most of these six guns were .455, although they were made in all calibers from .22 through .476. A sleeve-adaptor converting the .455's to .22 for practice was marketed by the Morris Tube Co., and later by ParkerHale, Ltd. The .230 Morris cartridge was also used in an adaptor.

Among the government Webleys, Marks I through VI differ mainly in barrel length, method of cylinder locking device, shape of butt and hammer. Fundamentally the action and frame are the same. With a slight hump or "prawl" to the grip, the Mark I Webley of 1886 with a 4" barrel was slightly restyled in 1889 and called "Mark II," with a larger hammer and a smooth-back grip. This Mark II replaced the Government Enfield revolver in the services, although the Navy in 1893 was armed with Mark V revolvers.

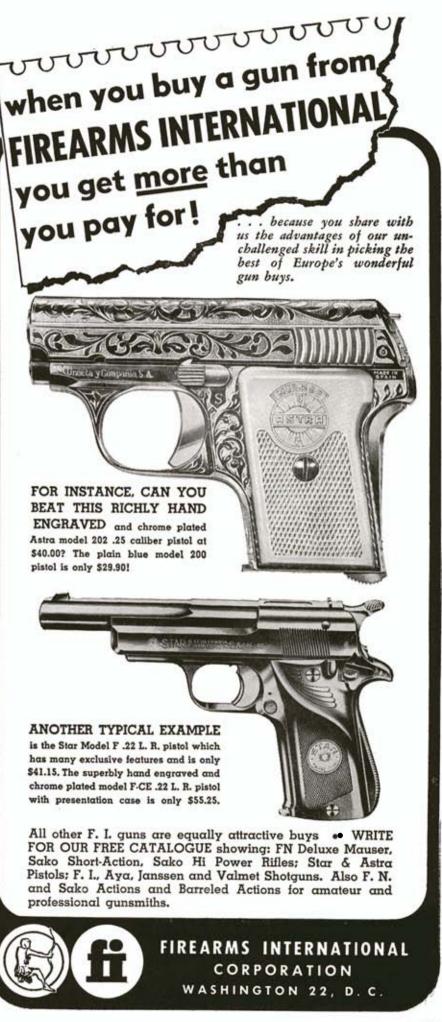
Between the Mark II and the Mark III came the large-caliber Webley Green target revolver. The cylinder holding screw was omitted in this model and a stirrup type piece used which hooked over the gas collar on the front of the cylinder. A separate blocking piece fixed by the hinge screw served to hold the stirrup catch in place. By pivoting this block, the stirrup could be dropped down and the cylinder removed for cleaning or replacement. The top latch was in its final form, a strong stirrup passing over the barrel strap and held by a long screw to the frame. This thumb-operated barrel latch meant the Webley could be opened with one hand, and gave rise to the popular idea that "the Webley is the only revolver that can be loaded on the run." The Webley-Green had the Kaufmann lockwork, and a full-fitting square butt handle with a pronounced hump at the hand web. These revolvers are still used for serious target work in England.

Webley's Mark III of 1897 was a smallframed pocket and police revolver in .38 caliber. It used the same cylinder fastening device as the Webley-Green, which could be moved easily by the user to remove the cylinder.

Visible differences between the next two Webleys, Mark IV and Mark V, are slight. The Mark IV was the model supplied in 1899 to British and colonial troops during the South African war. A four-inch barreled .455 six-shooter, it was only superseded in 1914 by the Mark V which had an increased diameter cylinder for more powerful nitro powder loads. Both Marks were made in 4" and 6" barrel lengths, and the cylinder catch lock was fixed by two screws, so that the cylinder could be dismounted only with the use of a screwdriver.

The start of the World War I saw the last and most famous of the Mark Webleys, the Mark VI. The butt was made flat with a hump at the back, and barrel length standardized at 6". First made in 1915, more than 300,000 of these revolvers were produced for the government. For trench warfare a detachable bayonet was designed to fit the Mark VI, recalling the stagecoaching days of 1853 when the Webley-Bentley was also sometimes fitted with a bayonet.

The illustrious history of Webley as the Colt of England seemed at an end when the firearms ban of 1920 was passed. But Webley has survived with limited production. However, at the close of a century of business, the oldest surviving revolver maker in the empire seemed doomed to extinction. Once their products helped pacify many a colonial area and contributed much to the majesty of Britain; that record is written in a hundred interesting models of revolvers for the collector.



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THE GUNS OF ANNIE OAKLEY

(Continued from page 25)

closed down the plant entirely about 1903.

Annie became famous as a "western girl," yet she was never west of the Mississippi until later years in life. Her shooting skill was not the natural result of coming from some magical part of the country. Instead, she became a good shot because she had to earn a living shooting. The breadwinner of

a large family, Annie daily hunted for quail, partridge, rabbits and squirrels.

Although cartridge breechloaders were common enough in the 1870's, Annie had to learn to shoot the single shot muzzle loader with its cumbersome routine of loading. She learned that there was no such thing as "a miss" when it was hunting time for her. Charlie Katzenberger sent her dressed birds on ice to Cincinnati, and Frenchy LaMotte, who ran the general store in nearby Greenville, bought the carefully-scraped furs from the animals she had killed. These were prime hides, with no bullet holes through the sides to mar their quality. Annie consistently shot them in the head.

When she was 16 Annie was sent to Cincinnati to live with her older sister. There for the first time she saw rifle ranges and shooting clubs. She was entranced by the fact that people didn't shoot just in order to make a living; they did it because it was fun, too. And in that world of shooting fun. as high a premium was placed on skill as when you had to shoot to live. Annie tried her skill at a public gallery: she hit all the pipes, rang all the bells. One of her biographers, Walter Havighurst, notes: "The first shot drew a bong! from the bullseye. Charlie looked up from his paper. She pumped a new shell in. Then she fired fast. The target sounded like an alarm gong, and when she put the gun down the metal still rang with vibration."

The description is highly romantic. More likely the target sounded with a regular cadence as she reloaded. No pump repeating gallery rifles were in existence in 1876. Probably the rifle she shot at Charlie Stuttleberg's gallery was a Stevens Model 1872 sporting rifle. This had a tip-open action like the Stevens single shot pistols, and was a hammer gun, not a repeater. Caliber most likely was .22 Short. Stuttleberg was popeyed when this plain, shy little girl from the country knocked the spots out of his targets. "You don't look like a marksman, but I'll bet you can outshoot Frank Butler!" he told her enthusiastically.

Butler was a young shooting star and had been appearing at the Coliseum in Cincinnati. Through the manager of the hotel where Annie's "shot through the head quail" were shipped, a match with Butler was arranged at the Fairmount shooting club, one of many German-origin schützenverein in the city. This time a shotgun was her weapon. Butler was astonished to see Annie—she was more than astonished to see Frank. Apparently it was love at first sight. But there was hardly time to get acquainted. Money had been bet on the outcome of the shoot.

Butler won the toss and took his stand. "Pull," and the glass ball sailed up from the concealed springboard. He dusted it. Then it was Annie's turn. The glass ball glinted up—it didn't look much like a quail, but quail were lots faster and somehow, suddenly, everything seemed natural to her.

Lead, press the trigger—"Dead" called the scorer. Through 24 alternating shots came his monotonous call as each shooter fired at the flying glass ball. Then, on his 25th shot, Butler tensed up... "Miss!" It was Annie's turn next—a perfect shot.

All her life she remembered that day and the view from Shooter's Hill at the gun club.

Frank Butler considered that if he couldn't beat her, he ought to join her. A year later they were married. Two years later she was his partner on the shooting stage. Almost to the end of her life, she never left that stage. A suburb of Cincinnati, "Oakley," furnished her a name she liked better than "Moses" or "Mozee", and as Annie Oakley she was known the world over: the prettiest expert shooter of them all.

With the Buffalo Bill show, Annie toured Europe. She was the toast of the audiences, and also of many would-be suitors. Frank Butler had unobtrusively kept in the background as his dashing, pretty, vivacious wife captivated the crowd with her lightness of manner and her incredible shooting. A Welshman who had seen the show dozens of times finally mustered up courage enough to send his photo around to her tent with an offer of marriage. Annie set the picture up and then paced off thirty steps. She swung around, cocked her Smith & Wesson .44, and put six bullets between the eyes of the subject. Then she wrote "Respectfully declined" across the picture and mailed it back to Wales.

Another young man came even closer to death at Annie's hands. This was the Crown Prince of Germany, who later became Kaiser Wilhelm II. Annie had left Bill Cody's show temporarily to tour Germany. In Berlin on the wide expanse of the Charlottenburg Race Course, Annie put on her show. Under the eyes of the stolid Prussian nobility, she felt the coolness of their welcome. Frank tried to ease her stage fright—"They're just like those Cincinnati Germans, crazy about shooting." She warmed up on glass birds with a double gun, and there was a patter of polite applause, as if to say "We can see that at any good shooting club."

Then she went to the target line. She threw six balls into the air, turned, picked up the Spencer from the table, and with a staccato of shots as rapidly as a machine gun, she fired. When the last ball had vanished, she stood with the gun smoking and her breath coming fast. The gallery broke into spontaneous applause.

The rest of the show was easier, the crowd unfrozen. She split bullets on knife edge. Better, she used the burnished blade of a large Bowie knife as a mirror and aimed over her shoulder. At the end of the show she shot a coin from Frank's fingers, and the audience went wild with elation and applause.

Then Prince Wilhelm came from the stands and across the grass to the petite shooter. Annie curtsied. Wilhelm picked up the lever rifle and examined it, holding it in the crook of his withered, paralyzed arm. He mentioned a trick he had seen her do in London and asked her to repeat it. As Annie gasped at his nonchalant confidence in her, he put a lighted cigarette in his mouth and stood straight. Annie paced away, turned, brought

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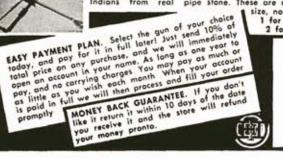


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the gun to her shoulder, and fired. The cigarete ash was cut off close to the future Kaiser's lips. Later, when the story was told during the World War, many expressed regret that she had not, just that one time, missed.

A prized rifle which she probably got after her return to the Buffalo Bill show was her .32/20 Model 92 lever-action repeater. With a gold-plated receiver, half-round barrel, and extra fancy wood in the stock, the light little rifle was featured in some of Annie's more spectacular acts. She would balance it over her shoulder and then aim it using a hand mirror. At fifty feet she could split a playing card on edge.

Oddly, yet perhaps not so odd, this rifle has become enmeshed in the legends of false-hood which have already been woven around the brilliant sharpshooter and her guns. It is claimed that this rifle, now in the collection of Mrs. Spencer Olin of Alton, Illinois, was the one "used to shoot the ashes off the Kaiser's cigarette." This of course is impossible as the feat occurred in 1887, and the Winchester was not even built until five or more years later.

Another curious tribute to the Wild West, as some people imagine it, was in the equipment which Betty Hutton used when she starred in the film version of Annie's life, "Annie, Get Your Gun." The studio, not content with giving her a real Police Positive .32 revolver such as Annie used in later life, gagged a pair of them up with side rod ejectors off of the old Lightning Colt which was obsolete during most of Annie's later shooting career. Just what a side rod ejector was doing on a swing-out cylinder gun was not explained, but the movie folks had a fine time. And it was all good, clean fun. That, too, was a keynote of Annie's life—she enjoyed every minute of it.

Annie never became a "professional" shooter, in that she shot for any particular company. She showed an impartiality for all makers' products. When Parker Bros. of Meriden, Conn., was taken over by Remington, she kept up good relations with the new firm. Some of the workmen who had built her favorite Parker guns went to work for Remington and so she used their guns, too. For quick work, at wooden blocks or other small aerial targets she used a slide-action Remington Model 12 in .22 caliber. She liked nice wood in stocks; otherwise her guns were regular, with the common open sights which so many target shooters disdain. Using these sight, Annie could hit what she aimed at-it was that simple.

When show business dwindled and the years crept on, Annie went south to make a living. At the swanky resort Carolina Hotel at Pinehurst, N. C., from 1915 to 1922, Annie and Frank were part of the staff. While her husband took charge of the skeet range, Annie gave exhibitions and shooting lessons. It was a relaxing change from a lifetime of trouping, this leisurely pace at a southern hotel. There she met and shot with such notables as John Philip Sousa, Booth Tarkington, and John D. Rockefeller. Sousa was an excellent trapshooter, but he never outshot the aging Annie Oakley.

In the twilight of years, Annie could look back to some remarkable achievements. As a feature of her act, she would balance on the back of a running horse and with her lever action Winchester break thrown glass balls. At a charity circus in Nutley, N. J., which Harper's Weekly covered, she "kept up a continual shower of broken glass."

Then there was the time she broke 100 birds straight in six minutes and 32 seconds. Loading her guns herself, this gave her less than four seconds a shot. Besides the thousands of shows where her shooting had no direct competition, she had shot in 31 matches and tournaments, winning 25 prizes. In April, 1884, she attempted to beat the 1,000 ball record at thrown glass targets using a .22 rifle. If this gun was her Stevens break-open, it must have been smoking in the hinge when she was done. The best record then of 979 was made by Dr. Ruth, but Annie broke 943. The next year in February she set out on a marathon of 5,000 balls in one day, using three 16-gauge guns and loading them herself. The balls were thrown from three traps at 15 yards rise. Out of 5,000 shot at, she broke 4,772. On the second thousand she missed 16, setting a high 1,000 ball record

Sitting Bull when he met her with the Wild West Show in 1885 named her "Wan-tanyeya Ci-sci-la," or Little Sure Shot. Buffalo Bill just called her "Missie." He was only speaking in a gentle, courteous manner but the name stuck—"Missie"—she couldn't miss!



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Loads For Jugular X-press

114 grain Jugular Hollow Point, Magnum case: 20.2 grains 2400 powder:

Average	Variation	Velocity 2025 fs 33 fs	Prassure 42,790 psi 4,300 psi
Exticilie	Variation	33 13	1,500 psi
		Powder charge: 11	.3 grains Unique:
Average		1891 fs	44,210 psi
Extreme	Variation	106 fs	3,900 psi
127	grain Jugular Solid	Point, Magnum case. 16.	8 grains 2400 powder:
Average		1684 fs	30,150 psi
Extreme	Variation	80 fs	7,000 psi
		Powder charge: 19.5	grains 2400 powder:
Average		1951 fs	44,950 psi
Extreme	Variation	49 fs	5,700 psi
		Powder charge: 9.3 g	rains Unique powder
Average		1606 fs	32,310 psi
	Variation	24 fs	4,700 psi
		Powder charge: 10	.8 grains Unique:
Average		1770 fs	44,150 psi

MOST DEADLY BULLET

59 fs

(Continued from page 21)

in pressure and smaller increase in velocity. For this reason commercial loads were reduced from the original 1510 f.ps. to a "listed" 1450 f.p.s. The listed figure is pure propaganda, no doubt published as a sales pitch for a cartridge that is so good it can stand on its record and doesn't need a sales pitch. Present Western fodder loaded with their ball powder starts the standard 158 grain slug at 1,350 f.p.s. Remington's bullet leaves the muzzle at close to 1200 f.p.s. with 504 foot pounds of energy, that exceeds any other factory revolver cartridge. So the Magnum isn't exactly a boy's gun with the mildest factory load.

Extreme Variation

Our first test load for the 114 grain Jugular was 17 grains of 2400 powder. Pressure was low, so we increased the charge to 18.2 grains to start it on a journey of death and destruction at 1800 f.p.s. Accuracy and expansion improved greatly with pressure still low, yet it delivered 819 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle! Fired into soft dirt for expansion tests with the hot Super-X factory load as a "control," the factory bullet expanded to .58 caliber while the Jugular opened up to .71 caliber.

In the second loading, 19 grains of powder caused the Jugular to shed 30 grains of lead from the violently expanded nose, while the body expanded to .60 caliber and continued to penetrate the soil. This load will penetrate a 5/32" steel plate like it was paper. It sheds the jacket and leaves a thin ring of lead in the huge punched-out hole. This is a good load with fine accuracy, yet below maximum pressure.

A charge of 20.2 grains of 2400 is maximum, and will explode the bullet core and jacket when fired against a 3/s inch steel plate. Penetration is not complete but the bullet will practically disintegrate, both core and jacket.

I have shot small varmints with this load, Tissue destruction is terrific and entirely too great for eating game as it doesn't leave anything left to eat. Recoil is moderate. Muzzle energy is 1013 foot pounds.

Fair short range accuracy can be obtained with medium frame .38 Special guns, with mild charges in .38 Special cases. At about 1200 f.p.s. as developed with 8 grains of Unique, the hollow points will often keyhole. Unlike conventional bullets, these seem to shoot better as velocity is increased and they give maximum accuracy at near maximum pressure. Cases must be tightly crimped just over the jacket on the lead.

4.700 psi

As a bone-breaking big game load, the 127 grain solid point is superior and gives deeper penetration and equal accuracy. The maximum charge, (and it is maximum) is 19.5 grains of 2400 that gives 1951 f.p.s. velocity and 1071 foot-pounds of energy. This is a fine load for either a rifle or revolver, but if you find any sign of primers flowing into the firing pin hole, it can be reduced to an even 19 grains and still be No. 1 on the Hit Parade.

The H. P. White Laboratory of Bel Air. Md., tested several Jugular loads to obtain pressure and velocity data. Tests were ten shots from Super-X cases, No. 11/2 Western primers and bullet diameters sized to .3565". Loads were fired in a .357 Magnum Smith & Wesson pressure barrel with a .346" bore and .356" groove, All charges of 2400 powder were from Lot No. 144. None of the loads have given trouble or indicated high pressure in my guns.

One word of warning: the heaviest listed loads are in the pressure range of highpower rifles and charges should be carefully weighed. They should not be used in any gun not designed for such pressures, or one that is not in good mechanical condition. An undersize bore can raise pressure and if you have any doubt about the bore diameter it should be slugged and miked. If you have a yen to increase the charges, you are on your own. There will be no improvement and the gun may shake loose. Those loads can get truly hotter than a pistol. The 2400 charges are already lightly compressed and a small increase can cause more trouble than keeping a mistress.

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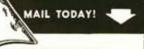
The Kentucky rifle, one of America's first armament developments, figured prominently in early Indian fighting and in the Revolutionary War. Eventually this famous gun was outdated, but the craftsmanship and ingenuity which produced it continued over the years, and contributed to our industrial and armament progress.

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TAMING A WILDCAT CARTRIDGE

(Continued from page 15)

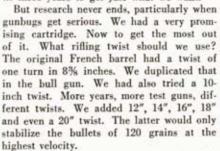
of gunbugs in this country. Annually he turned up for a bull session which lasted three days to over a week. He became interested in the dream baby. We told him that the reformed brass from 300 H&H cases was not what we wanted. We hooked him. He said he would make what we wanted,

With Enger and Norma helping us, we really got to work. The case was redesigned inside and out to meet our ideas of maximum efficiency from one powder-DuPont IMR 4350. Norma made a small batch of cases. We fired and chronographed. We changed the shape of the shoulder. We changed internal case dimensions. We loaded and fired by the hundreds. It took us three years to get just what we want.

highest velocity.

We tried bullets weighing 110, 120, 130, 139, 140, 145, 150, 152, 154, 156, 160, 175, 180, 190, 200 and 210 grains. In the seven years of development we shot more than 10,000 precision hand loads and consumed over 100 pounds of 4350 powder. Loads were tested for velocity, pressure and ac-

Most wildcat cartridges are not tested for pressure because of the cost. The proper equipment is very expensive and few have it. We used the Modern-Bond Universal velocity and pressure gauge. The receiver assembly of this unit costs about \$1,250. A pressure barrel costs about \$200, and has a life of only 300 to 500 rounds. It is this initial and heavy maintenance cost that makes it impractical for the wildcat boys to learn what they are getting for pressure. But we had those facilities in my laboratory.



we were satisfied that the cartridge was fully developed. At this point the famous Danish riflemaker and former competitive match shooter, Neils Larsen, of the firm of Schultz & Lar-

sen entered the picture. For almost 50 years, Schultz & Larsen had been making match barrels and match rifles. Larsen was designing something entirely new in a sporting rifle action, the M54J. Through association with Norma, for whom he builds test equipment, he became interested in the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart cartridge. Two pilot rifles were made. One came

The thousands of tests meant a lot of paper work. Individual chronograph sheets

had to be tabulated and analyzed. Finally

to me and the other Larsen took on a special hunting trip in a government preserve under special permit. Both were chambered for the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart cartridge. He dropped a near record stag, one shot, at 325 yards. He was satisfied. We recommended minor changes in his experimental action, and then came the long, slow process of tooling up. Meanwhile, we standardized the cartridge case and chamber dimensions, and permitted gunsmiths here to build custom rifles. How many have been made will never be known, but about 100,000 cartridge cases are in the field.

To the end of 1955, approximately 600 Schultz & Larsen M54J sporting rifles have been sold in the United States. Many times that number of custom rifles have been made. The 7x61 S&H has taken every type of North American game except Kodiak-no reports either way on them. Norma factoryloaded 7x61 S&H ammunition is sold through Europe and Scandanavia. The cartridge is no longer a wildcat-it is tamed. After 50 years, the French 7mm MAS has been molded into a fully-developed standard cartridge.

Why is loaded ammunition not available in the United States? The answer is easy. Due to the vast number of makes of bullets, weights, shapes, and designs possible we feel that the cartridge belongs to the handloader. It is a precision number, developed for long range hunting, and only precision handloads can do justice to it. Its development cost the designers more than \$10,000 plus countless thousands of man-hours of labor.

For the past three years that this cartridge has been in the field, reports of excellent long-range kills have been coming in, with most kinds of big game on the North American Continent falling to it. In Africa it has taken about everything that is legal for a small caliber. Under African law, dangerous game such as lion, rhino, elephant and a few others, may not be shot at with any rifle of caliber less than .375.

On a recent African trip one of our friends reported in his diary that he had to hide his limited ammunition supply to keep his wife from burning it up in the sport of shooting baboons out of trees at 200 to 300 yards. Baboons, he noted, are considered vermin in Africa.

Just a final note: Letters come in asking when we plan to develop a 6.5mm, an 8mm and a .35 caliber version of the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart.

What? And go through all of that work





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AN ANALYSIS OF THE NEW SHULTZ AND LARSEN RIFLE

THE S. & L. rifle made at Otterup, Denmark, embodies some new features. Clip-loading fans will find the absence of guides and three-shot magazine a little different. For a practical rifle this means less weight by omitting the usual metal elements of the five-shot magazine. For a long time the Krag was considered the only rifle you could load with your fingers frozen stiff, but the S & L takes over that title now. By rolling the gun (bolt closed) over on its side and pressing the floorplate release. the floorplate and cartridge lifter swings out of the way. Three .30-06 or similar-sized cartridges can be dropped in. Then the floorplate is swung shut and you are ready to go.

Bolt design has four lugs at the rear instead of two at the front as is usual. Several benefits are gained by this placement. For high intensity loads, the bolt head is much stronger since there is no possibility of fracturing a locking lug. The four rear lugs give a contact area equal to or greater than usual two-lug designs, but the load on each bolt is proportionately less. Rear lugs are not thought of as being very accurate designs, from the fancied springing of the action body in firing. This cannot happen in the S & L. Receiver is cylindrical, with minimum dimension cuts for cartridge feeding and shell ejection. Less metal has been cut from the S & L action than from any other sporting rifle design of today, and stiffness is assured for practical hunting purposes.

Stock seems a little deep through the magazine, and is of yellowish birch or other soft wood with attractive grain. Using a wood softer than walnut means the rifle can be very light in weight for its barrel length as the stock is light. Strength is assured by the double thickness of wood over the magazine hole. French walnut is, however, their customary stock wood.

Trigger pull is remarkably crisp. Pressure on the trigger edges its tip out of engagement with the sear block. The block is then cammed instantly down by pressure of the firing pin sear. Lock time is very rapid and firing pin fall is only about %". The safety is a positive one which flips foreand-aft on the bolt sleeve and works smoother than most.

Smoothness characterizes the action of the bolt, too. Since the bolt body is a cylinder, it fits to close tolerances in the receiver. If the bolt and receiver are entirely dry, slight cramping can be created by pulling the bolt handle sideways but it is impossible under normal conditions with slight lubrication. Combined with the short bolt lift (four lugs instead of two which means one-half as much movement to unlock) the cylindrical bolt makes the S & L an unusually fast action.

Shooting a light-weight barreled S & L in .30-06 indicated good accuracy for a sporting rifle. Several 100 yard groups were made which came to about 2½" diameter

with smaller three-shot groups being made with cold barrel. The light barrel heats up quickly. By firing five shots rapidly on a freezing cold day, I was able to get heat haze in front of the scope view. Sample fired was fitted with 6X Bushnell Spacemaster in Buchler top mounts. In addition to usual scope mounts, side of receiver is drilled for Lyman or Redfield micrometer sights.

The light barrel M54J is not a rapid fire rifle, but it wasn't designed for that in the first place. As a sporting rifle for getting off several shots with good accuracy and no jams, the S & L rates high. Schultz & Larsen through the Sharpe & Hart Associates supplies the M54J rifle in .30-06, .270, and 7x61 S & H. A bolt action target design is also offered, the M54J action alone, which weighs 41/2 pounds, and permits a better balance and action-barrel weight ratio. Massive M54 receiver is suitable for bench rest work, and is also fitted to the S & L Olympic free rifle for offhand work. A similar Olympic rifle is their No. 47, in .22 L.R. caliber. -W. B. E. ●

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WILL COLT COME BACK?

(Continued from page 13)

tems of gunmaking." I checked around later but could only get the admission that small arms were not Colt's only plans for the future. Developments in Europe of aircraft rapid-fire cannon may be some of the "new developments on a license basis" that are in the cards for Colt's. Something close to this was hinted at by Silberstein's right hand man at Colt's, General Charles Trueman Lanham, recently elected chairman of the board.

The general, who retired from the army at the early age of 52 last year, spoke of Colt's future. "We plan a complete rejuvenation



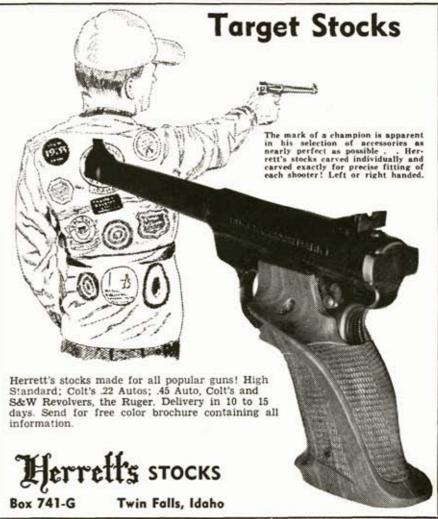
of the firearms business of Colt's. We plan to expand and strengthen the operation and move into new fields. We should be as revolutionary in our day as Sam Colt was in his." Lanham has the raw materials in abundance to do this.

Lanham's first big problem is organizing an efficient, imaginative management that will clean up the mess left in the decade after World War II.

At the end of the war Colt's was in a bad way. Ailing, elderly Sam Stone retired as president. Unable to attend to business because of his health during the war, Stone was not even able to make a profit for Colt's on military contracts. The ledgers in 1946 showed a million dollars in the red. When Stone retired, along with him went engineers and production men who knew gunmaking, even if they did not know business. For nine months in 1946 not a wheel turned in the plant.

New models were advertised but not made. Salesman Bill Henry, now with High Standard after nearly two decades of service at Colt's from the ground up, had tied up a juicy police-sales contract for 500 new Colts. The buyer was a Massachusetts police department. Henry had sold Colt guns in Smith & Wesson's own back yard. But the factory could not give him any guns. The contract was filled by Smith & Wesson through default.

Replacing Stone as president was Graham



Anthony, looked on as a wonder-worker of New England industry. He had lifted the Veeder-Root counting machine company out of a slump. Maybe, thought the stockholders, he could do the same for Colt's? He did not. Capping his work there as president with the formal discontinuance of the Single Action model which kept Colt's out of profiting on the lucrative post-war gun boom, Anthony's career was summed up to me by a leading Colt stockholder. He said simply "Colt's ruined Anthony." There was something about the historic old firm that did not respond to ordinary management reforms.

After Anthony came Ben Connors, He was a plastics man, had made Colt Plastics Division well known in the industry, making everything from phony gem stones to Williams shaving cream caps. When it came to guns, he stumbled. The plastic grips and unsightly sandblasted Dual Tone blue was continued on Colt guns to save on costs. These efforts to cheapen a premier gun lost Colt's prestige and money. Colt's finally realized this and now their guns are polished all over. But plastic grips still continue, and Colt's still meet sales resistance. Smith & Wesson know the appeal of genuine walnut grips, and their guns all have checkered handles which cater to the gun buyer's wishes.

When Connors retired, Chester Bland was called in to be president. Bland is short, rotund, genial, and aptly described as "a ball of fire." He reminds one a little of the late Mayor LaGuardia, bristling with controlled energy. Unfortunately, he knew little about guns. This is not the best thing for the president of a gun company. An example of Bland's deficiency in gun knowledge

was strikingly brought home when I inquired why Colt's had not got a recently-tendered contract to make over 30,000 M3A1 .45 machine guns. Bland flatly denied there was such a contract, arguing that "Colts is the prime supplier to the Army of these guns and we would know."

I had no more to say-then. Later, I learned that Ithaca was making the guns. The letter of explanation I got from Colt's read: "We thought you were talking about the M3 ,50 caliber submachine gun which we make." Incredible as it may seem, Colt's top executive did not know the difference between the heavy Browning and the M3 grease gun.

But all this was changed in November of 1955, and the effects will soon be felt throughout the industry. Colt's has been absorbed by Penn-Texas and signs are that at least one or two men in the new setup will know quite a bit about guns, Silberstein for one, and General Lanham for another,

In General Lanham's military background has been the need to think, to philosophize, to examine facts and results and draw inferences and conclusions. Lanham's teaching of military history at Fort Benning, in the 30's and his association with the Infantry Journal in an editorial capacity have given him a broader foundation for management of Colt's business affairs than might at first be imagined. As a young lieutenant, Lanham was one of several research and editorial assistants to Major Richard Tindall who wrote "Infantry in Battle" in 1934. But it was Lanham who revised the book to suit 1939 when the Nazis unleashed war on Eu-

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How well he understood the role of infantry in battle was reflected by his command of the 22nd Infantry when Colonel Lanham led his regiment in a charge through the Siegfried Line in the first penetration of that supposedly impregnable line of fortifications, in the autumn of 1944. The Croix de Guerre with palm and the Legion of Honor were but two of the decorations several grateful governments have bestowed on him. His E.T.O. ribbon has five battle stars.

More recently, the general has been close to the present Republican administration. In 1952 Lanham made history when he read Eisenhower's prepared statement to the press saying that Ike would not seek the GOP nomination for President but would accept a "clear cut call to political duty." As much as Lanham knows about arms and their uses, he also knows the battlefields of Washington. In this he shares honors with Sam Colt, who was the first to really understand that there are many ways to skin a cat—or ride a "Colt" to success.

One of Lanham's first chores will be in the design end of the business, however, rather than in management. For instance, the Colt line of automatics needs some basic reworking. One of the top items in the Colt line, the Woodsman, suffers from a prime deficiency which is objectionable to many shooters. This is the separate slide that whips back and forth, moving the rear sight. The moving slide sets up vibrations in counter-recoil that may mean the allimportant difference in rapid fire scores. The Ricky Gun Sight Co, has designed a nonmoving Colt Woodsman slide with an internal bolt. Colt would do well to pick up some of that market by fixing things so the Woodsman is up to the minute and meets the demands of shooters without buying additional gadgets. The present superlative polish and blue on this gun does not change the fact that it is basically of 1915 vintage.

The venerable .45 Colt automatic has come in for its share of pros and cons since it was adopted in 1911. Today, the biggest "con" is that it teas adopted in 1911, and reflected the thinking and design of the period. Browning improved the gun in 1923, a pattern which was eventually marketed as the High Power in 1935. Colt's had a chance to make that gun, but they were content to stick to the already obsolete .45.

There are three important trends in automatic pistols today. One is the production of fine-appearing, well-engineered, modern weapons at low cost. This is especially true of the .22 field. Colt's has no such gun. Their closest, the Challenger, is not a truly competitive low-cost gun.

The second trend is the .38 Special match automatic for rapid fire accurate target shooting. A dozen gunsmiths offer conversions of the Colt Super .38 automatic. Over a year ago Colt's real production genius, vice-president John McNally, bought samples of the converted Super .38's and stripped them down to study the conversions. Not one was suitably engineered for production and no two were alike: each gunsmith had solved the feeding and functioning problems in his own way. So Colt's engineers drew up their own gun. There has been much talk, but no green light. Yet a satisfactory

.38 Special auto pistol would do much to overcome traditional police dislike of the automatic.

Third is a trend Colt's has not followed because of money worries. Indications are that more pocket automatics are being sold now than ever before, even with restrictive firearms legislation. But Colt's has no pocket automatic line. The Walthers, Sauer and Mauser war-surplus pistols in double action have pretty much swept the field. Where is the name of Colt? The home-owner, the gas--tation attendant, the gun-crank pistol toter is forgetting the name of Colt's because he doesn't want to buy a premier target weapon or an overly-large woodsman's plinker. 1 asked a Colt field representative, "When will Colt make a double action military or pocket automatic " The answer was brief and to the point: "Never!"

Colt has had a chance to make a lot of guns, but has turned them down. In the Colt Museum, which used to be a storehouse of brains but is now relegated to the inactive status of a curious junk pile, are two 9-shot revolvers. One is the Police Positive type. The other is built on the Official Police frame. Too bad these guns were never produced since today Harrington & Richardson sells more revolvers than either Smith & Wesson or Colt, more than 100,000 yearly of their 9-shot plinking guns. Colt's could have had some of that market, but instead somebody's brain child died a-borning.

With Silberstein holding the reins, maybe things will be different. He seems to surround himself with competent men. General Lanham is a case in point. Unlike most generals who had their know-how poured into them in school, at West Point, at the Army War College, and at the Command & General Staff School, Lanham absorbed his a little differently. He in fact taught at Fort Benning. He knows the ways of armies and of army men, and has unusual aptitudes for a chairman of the board of an arms company.

Most critical in Colt's decline has been the failure of the Defense Department to renew their contracts. As an historic maker of guns for the United States, Colt's was geared economically to government business in their schedule. At one time the Colt firm was considered equal in importance and bigger than Springfield Armory. But times have changed and Colt's counts for nothing with the government.

General Lanham with a reputation as a fighting general combined with a record as a thinking general is well suited to push the Colt spring offensive in the Pentagon. If open design competitions to get the best arms for the least money are again permitted, General Lanham is well prepared. The work force of mechanics, of machinists and assemblers at Colt's is second to none in the world. In the blue-domed Hartford landmark are still plenty of fresh ideas, and engineering talent to equal the occasion. All they need is the go-ahead.

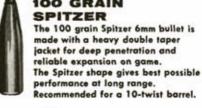
If Silberstein and Lanham will look about them in New England, they will find that design and inventive ability exist to put Colt's ahead once again. Will Colt's new managers start from a clean slate and build the new Colt works according to the changing times? I think they will.

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TEXAS DUKE IN SPAIN

(Continued from page 33)

worse, little standing socially. When these facts became known, he would most surely be held up to derision by his more fortunate companions, each of whom had a member of the nobility to serve.

His relief upon learning that he was buttling for no less than a Texas duke eased his perturbation. To show his satisfaction he scuttled out after the very next "ojeo" (drive) and not only retrieved all my birds but got four clearly the property of the Duke de Peñaranda and seven dropped by

Fausto Saavedra, Marquis de Viana, and our host for the two day bird-taking owns estates throughout Spain and this one, "Las Romanones," was one of the top spots. Handily, it was a bare 20 kilometers from Madrid and could be reached in 30 or 40 minutes from my quarters. The marquis is a sailor, a full captain in the Spanish Navy, awaiting promotion to admiral, and during the Spanish civil war, a blood-letting now past some 20 years, elected to support Franco.

The Nationalists, as Franco's forces were called, were a bit shy on naval craft so Viana cranked up one day and hied him over to pay Mussolini a visit (this was back in 1936, remember). After a brief conversation with Il Duce he bought a destroyer from his own pocket and presented it to General Franco. "She was a sorry craft," he laughed in recounting the episode.

Be that as it may, be annually organized one of the finest shoots in Spain. During the gunning extravaganza of which I write we bagged the first day a total of 542 partridge; on the second, 782. High gun was the Duke de Algeciras with upwards of 200 chukar fallen to his brace of deadly Purdey

The game is the red-legged partridge. I dubbed him chukar-actually he is not. But so close is the relationship, only an expert can differentiate between them. He is called "perdiz" by the Spanish, a word meaning partridge and since it is the only one of its kind on the Iberian peninsula the sobriquet serves very well.

Dr. Gardiner Bump, one of the long-hairs of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife crew, set me right on that score. Doc stopped off for a few days in Madrid en route to Turkey where he has been busy every year trapping the Turkish version of the chukar for transplanting in selected areas of the United States. The chukar, very properly speaking, comes from much farther east than the Spanish bird, Bump explained. The Spaniard is the red-legged partridge peculiar to the Mediterranean and is found on the African side as well as on the Continent. I recollected I had shot him in Tunisia during the slugfest of 1939-45.

Doc Bump had never shot driven game so I invited him to Quintanilla, a lodge owned by that prince of Spaniards, Don Publio Vazquez. Don Publio, a handsome bachelor and sportsman, had built a comfortable many-roomed chalet on his vast acres solely for the enjoyment of his shooting guests. At Ouintanilla, I found, there was always a cook in attendance, a handy man to look after

your needs, and the "finca," a farm of more than 20,000 acres, could provide a hundred beaters any time.

The first day the shooting was especially heart-tingling. I recollect we killed upwards of 300 birds and my worthy game-man got his baptism of fire on beaten partridge. He had a venerable old Parker shotgun, a 12 non-ejector. During one drive I glanced over to see him wrenching at the miserable empties attempting to claw them out of the chambers before the flight was done. Everyone uses two double shotguns-not oneand ejectors are a must. While you are dragging down a brace of targets with the first gun, the "secretario" is busily charging the second weapon. Swapping empty gun for loaded is a sort of legerdemain which shooter and loader achieve in the space of a heartbeat, Bump suffered along with his venerable shotgun.

At the end of the first day's gunning the maestro of the hunt took tally. Bump had accounted for precisely eight birds.

The day following our luck held handsomely although the total bag was not quite so high. As I remember that weekend we came away with about 500 partridge. High gun had accounted for almost a hundred there were a dozen of us shooting—but interesting amigo Bump had again scored exactly 8 perdiz. I smiled to myself. Doc, not a bad wingshot, must have seen to it that he deliberately missed many. Our good fish and wildlife minion did not intend to let it ever be said that either at home or abroad had he ever exceeded a reasonable bag.

And that brings me to a comment on the business of Spanish game bags.

The perdiz belongs to the landowner and not to the state. If the "haciendado" wants to kill all his game in a single shoot, he is perfectly at liberty to do so. He has nurtured the partridge through a twelvethmonth, has waged no-quarter war against vermin and predators by payment of bounties, has hired full time armed guards to patrol his acres and ward off poachers, and after all this the state looks upon his partridge as little different than his chicken, pigs and goats. He can shoot them as he sees fit and if he wants to invite a dozen good amigos to aid and abet that is perfectly ducky.

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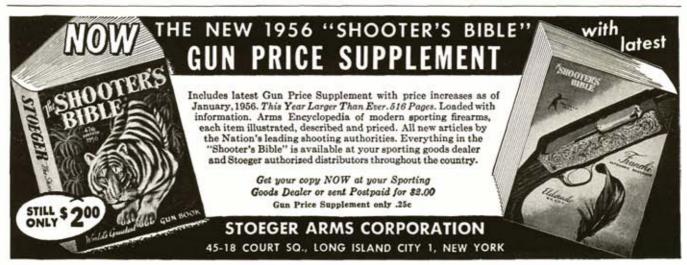
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Don Rufino Yanci, ardent Basque sportsman, invited me to shoot pigeon at his club in the Pyrenees. This club, I found, was as common as an old shoe. It had a membership of precisely six members and so rigid were the rules no others might even petition to join. Outsiders shot at Echalar only by invitation of one of the half-dozen club mem-

The shooting grounds were some 35 miles northeast of San Sebastian, in the very tops of the towering Pyrences. Our game, as I was to find, sometimes was killed in Spain but fell in France since we were astride the border. Gunning of the "paloma," Spanish style, is an entrancing business as I was to learn. It is not at all the staid business of lying in wait around a waterhole on the desert, as I'd long been accustomed.

In the very tops of the mountains are series of natural passes. Here the Basques hack out long alleyways in the timber, first making sure that below the pass are extending ridges. At the near end of the passage, nets are stretched, looking much like the nets used by the fisherman on the coast far below. Each snare is approximately 60 feet in length by 40 feet in height. Beside each is a cleverly concealed blind and within this blind an operator crouches his hand on a triggering device. When a flight of pigeon hits the net, he trips the mechanism and the mesh falls like a plummet entrapping the hapless migrants. It sounds simple. Actually it is quite complex with many intangibles not readily apparent to the uninitiated.

There are three varieties of pigeon that

make fall migrations, a flight that invariably

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PENDLETON GUNSHOP PRINCIPLE OF AVE.

takes place during the latter three weeks of October, and provide the Basque sport. The lesser of the birds is the "tortula," a dove bearing a striking resemblance to our own. Then there is an intermediate flyer, the "choloma," twice the size of the dove and truely a pigeon. Finally there is the piece de resistance of the Pyrenees gunner, the lordly "torcaz." This is a great blue pigeon, with a wing spread of 14 inches and all the speed of a gerfalcon.

He flies, as do the others, only when the wind is under his sternsheets, which means it must come out of the northwest. Nothing else will bring him down. This makes the shooting a bit sporting for the sportsmen must motor out from San Sebastian, an involved journey which necessitates a daily dispensation from the "guardia fronteriza" (border guard) to travel thus closely to the border. The hunters may find on arrival that not a single band will pass that day, the wind having switched to the northeast. But when the wind is right thousands of pigeon will wing over on their march to the southermost provinces of Spain and to not-so-distant Africa. It is then that the shooting attains the heights!

Considerable strategy is involved in the netting of the wily migrants. A full mile below the nets, on either wall of the canyon, wooden towers are constructed. These towers are fully one hundred feet in height and perched thereon are keen-eyed young Basques especially trained for their jobs. The tower observer scans the skies over France, always watching toward the northwest and when he spots an oncoming "banda" of pigeon, he tootles shrilly on his horn. Immediately everyone at the nets takes cover.

Watching the flight, which may include as many as two hundred birds, the uninitiated will see to his dismay that the flight is going to wing above the pass by fully a thousand feet. No use to be concerned about this band-but wait, what gives?

As the pigeons draw near the two towers, the men stationed on the platforms suddenly commence to hurl a series of wooden discs each painted a vivid white into the canyon below. These saucer-like objects, brilliant against the background of pines, arch out widely and fall for hundreds of feet into the defile below.

The flight leaders upon seeing this immediately conclude that another band has been attacked by hawks and evasive action is in order. All in an instant the flock hits the deck. Swooping from an altitude which would have seen them clear the nets by a thousand feet, the torcaz seemingly fold their wings and like many arrows hurtle groundward-just in time to crash into the nets!

Were it not for the strategy of the flashing discs, curving and arching into the abyss, scarce a pigeon would be snared, much less

The guns are stationed not at the nets but behind and below them. Long custom (pigeon have been trapped at Echalar for more than 600 recorded years) dictates very stringent shooting rules. You must not fire before the band strikes the net or spill above it. However, if a flight becomes wary and flies above the mesh you can fire. Singles escaping from the strands are fair game, but never, never must you toss a charge of shot into the net itself!

Don Rufino and I arrived at Echalar just as the sun was dissipating the night's shadows. We hustled into the blinds, Gunfire drummed in from the right. "The president of France is shooting over there today," a Basque, busy with the crates that would later hold the netted birds, nodded casually in the direction of France.

I settled back. Whether I killed a single pigeon or not, this was an exhilarating experience. Here I was perched among the highest peaks of the Pyrences, a glorious view unfolded below me. At my elbow was an agreeable companion, and the hustle of those who were preparing the nets lent a tense expectancy to the scene which set my blood u-tingle.

Minutes passed and time dragged into a half-hour. Finally 45 minutes had come and gone, Suddenly the silence was sharply broken by the trilling of the bugle. Instantly there was a frantic scurrying in every direction, "La bocina," Don Rufino was all smiles, "Estas preparado?" I nodded eagerly.

My view extended to the top of the net on the flanks to the sky-scraping conifers. If I was to shoot, I must take my game during that exceedingly brief interval from the netsto my post. I was going to have to be fast, damned fast.

The bugle was mute. We waited tensely for a full three minutes and not a single flying critter put in an appearance. Finally it spoke again with a long continuous note. "Carramba! The birds have turned aside. We may relax," my companion was obviously disappointed.

But we had not long to ponder our lack of targets. The bugle made its music as before, and again there was a great activity to get under cover.

With a swooshing, metallic-sounding roar, fully 200 torcaz crashed into our net. It fell as though made of steel. There was a wild flapping of wings. Showers of feathers almost submerged the net, and there was a yammer of shots from guns to either side.

All in the space of a heartbeat, great blue targets were hurtling over and around the fallen mesh, targets that sped outward as though pursued by all the hounds of hell. I snapped two shots at a booming mark with no visible return. "How far are we shooting at the palomas, Don Rufino?" I inquired.

"From the very top of the net to this blind is forty-two meters for I have measured it with a line," answered my friend, "and from the tops of the trees is at least 55 meters.'

Wow! This beat pass shooting on mallards. The next "banda" to swerve above the nets saw me ready. I am sure I was leading the forward pigeon by not less than a dozen feet. The load was heavy American -Spanish shotshells are a bit erratic-and when that great torcaz came windmilling down as dead as Steve Brodie I knew I had the zero!

It was a memorable day. We stayed until the chill of the high dusk made the game no longer worth the candle. Passing the blinds where the Basque netters had been so busily engaged through the long hours of the morning and longer still of the evening, I inquired: "What was the take, today, amigo?"

"We have counted a hundred and twelve dozen birds, Senor." Then with a sly grin, he added, "But small thanks to the guns, most of them have fallen to our snares.

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CAN BURP GUNS REPLACE RIFLES?

(Continued from page 30)

bine, MKb. There was a technical as well as a tactical difference. The rifle should replace regular rifles, sub-machine guns, and possibly the light machine gun of the squad. Two models of selective-fire rifles to be made on simple tooling were designed.

Designer of the Haenel weapon was Hugo Schmeisser, who also designed the Schmeisser MP38 and MP40 submachine guns. Both these weapons utilized cheap stampings and were genuine mass production arms, Schmeisser evolved a satisfactory gas operated tipping bolt machine carbine.

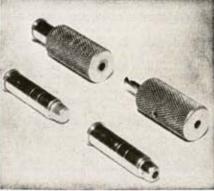
Up to 1941 Haenel was the only firm engaged in machine carbine development. But another famous German arms maker became interested-the Karl Walther plant in Zella Mehlis. Not to be bettered by Haenel, Eric Walther took the rotating bolt principle of Walther military rifles which had been developed during 1939-41 and adapted it to a light, stamped metal weapon. The result looked good and Walther got a contract in

January of 1941 to produce 200 test weapons for trials.

100

It is thought that both Walther and Haenel contracts specified only the particular cartridge, the full and semi-automatic selective fire, and the manufacturing conditions of cheap, stamped production. Walther and Haenel then evolved weapons which use the same operating system (gas) and have the same appearance, weight, and barrel length. The Walther uses the Haenel magazine. The Schmeisser gun was designated MKb 42 (H) for Haenel; the other was the MKb 42 (W) for Walther.

Eventually the Haenel design won out and full production was ordered in July 1943 of the "Maschine Pistole 43" as the type was first publicly designated. Walther ceased all work on assault rifles, yet almost simultaneously several other makers entered the lists. Steyr in Austria, Gustloff Werke in Suhl, Spreewerk at Berlin-Spandau, and Mauser in Oberndorf had obtained details



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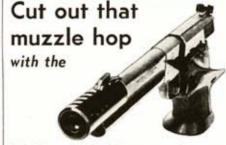
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56

of Haenel and Walther designs and the new cartridge.

Hugo Schmeisser's MP43 was in full production by January 1944 and the Army had received more than 14,000. Several types were made for different tactical uses. One of the oddest, yet at the same time most useful modifications expressed the MP43's role as a submachine gun. It was fitted with a curved barrel extension to shoot around corners.

One type had a slight curve and a periscopic sight and was intended for house-tohouse street fighting, keeping the shooter from having to expose himself to enemy fire. The other type had a 90 degree extension and was fitted in a ball mount for tank protection.

In early fighting, Panzer warfare suffered the fate of the turtle-well armored, he can't scratch where it itches. When enemy sappers hopped onto a tank's blind spot and started stuffing grenades through the ports, things were pretty hot for the tank crew. The MP43 mounted in a tank swivel fitting was the answer; it could spray the side of the tank and knock off guerillas.

American armor was bothered in the same way. At first we tried exploding TNT along the tank hull to knock off the enemy, but this often cracked the tank shell and gave a hell of a headache to any tankers. Fitting the M3 submachine gun with a similar curved barrel was the cure. The German ordnance colonel who dreamed up the curved barrel for the MP43 is said to have taken periodic rests in a mental hospital. Probably while there he looked over back files of U.S. patients and saw the device originally patented in the 1880's for use with the .45/70 Springfield rifle!

The years since V-Day have seen further development in the realm of short cartridge "intermediates." Although U.S. Ordnance seems to have done little worthy of acclaim, others are at work.

An assault weapon now in limited issue is the Spanish machine carbine of 1950-51, which is based on the Mauser experimental "Sturmgewehr" 1945 of 7.9 Kurz caliber.







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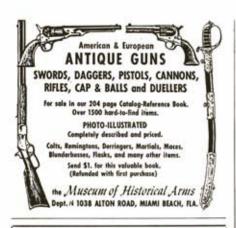
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While superficially the weapon resembles other assault rifles, about as much as the Walther and Haenel resemble each other, there are some important differences in the locking mechanism. The bolt blowback is delayed by two steel balls which are forced outward from recesses in the bolt and engage holes cut in the frame, as the bolt closes and chambers the cartridge. In the Spanish gun, designated the C.E.T.M.E., the ball locks are cammed into the bolt recesses as the pressure of the explosion forces the bolt back.

The initials of the weapon come from the organization which developed it for Spanish military use, the Centro Estudios de Technico de Materiales Especiales of the National Industrial Institute in Madrid. Early work with this weapon was done using the 7.9 Mauser service case reduced to 1.73" in length, or 44mm, and firing a special aluminum-gilding metal bullet which was almost as long: 1.71". Work was also done with a special 7.62mm. Long firing a 100 grain bullet with the appearance of a standard rifle bullet. It only weighed 100 grains, and was hollow at both ends with a core in the middle. With this unstable bullet, that would have considerable wounding power as it tipped on contact, a velociy of 2700 f.p.s. was achieved. The latest versions of the C.E.T.M.E. are in 7.62 NATO, indicating the mechanical principles of the weapon's design would permit it to use any modern high power cartridge.

In Finland the 7x33mm cartridge is in commercial production. It is loaded a little light with only a 78.7 grain hunting softpoint bullet, or a jacketed bullet having the ogive of a pistol bullet. With a longer spitzer bullet of military form, the 7x33 might have much merit. Used in Finland in the light SAKO bolt action sporter, the 7 x 33 has not become too popular. It is to some extent used for hunting the larger game birds, and small Scandanavian deer. Either the 7mm or the 7.62 x 33 Finnish have had some field test use in the Lahti AL 44 machine carbine, the recent Finnish light rifle.

Some engineer at Lahti must have had a bad dream would be the first impression received on studying this novel weapon's functioning. But then the utter simplicity of the design is seen. The barrel is fixed, nonrecoiling, and there is no gas piston. The gun has a locked breech. Unlocking is accomplished on firing. The pin protrudes enough in to the primer to rupture it and a controlled evacuation of gas into the action occurs. The gas flows back around the firing pin and moves the breech locking elements, opening the bolt and working it automatically. The idea of gas loose in the action may make an American shooter shudder, but the fact remains that the gun functions well and, apparently, safely. Finland's work with light rifles dates from World War II when German influence there was strong. Now free Finland is within the Russian orbit, although far from being a "satellite" country.

Britain's development of a burp gun and cartridge has revolved around the EM-2, as the scopesighted automatic "bull pup" was designated. It had many desirable features to it. Problems of too-short barrels in light carbines had been logically solved by placing the operating mechanism to the rear of the shooter's face. The .28" caliber load for this gun was deficient using British powders, but it is understood that our Frankford Arsenal

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experimentally loaded a number of rounds to give satisfactory velocity and accuracy. The .280 British case with a sharp shoulder and a .30 caliber bullet would have been a most interesting design to stack up against Frankford's modified .300 Savage, the 7.62 NATO.

Curiously, in Switzerland this has been done. There, a light rifle cartridge of 7.62 x 37mm or a shade under 11/2" case length has been developed. The case is on a smaller base than the .280, but the trend is there. Many nations have been having success in their own work.

Except the U.S.

American troops now in Germany have been issued some FN rifles, according to a recent report from Europe. The FN lacks many advanced features found in earlier European assault rifle designs. It is costly, and is not adapted to the most highly-developed light ammunition, but rather to a hunting cartridge which has been around for decades. As a replacement for the bulky, tactically important BAR, the FN has many advantages of weight and some of design. As a uniform replacement for the diverse weapons in the hands of the soldier, it is far from the final answer.

There is a form of fire selection which would perfectly combine the burp gun and the military rifle. This is the limited burst of only a few shots. But one of the difficulties in firing a fully automatic weapon is in letting go of the trigger. Manuals and experience will teach the soldier that he can let off two or three shots by just touching the trigger. But there are no triggers fitted to military bullet squirters today which are light and crisp as a sporter. A shooting problem to the burst is that the gunner must consciously act to release the trigger, and usually this is done under considerable mental tension. Poor shooting results.

The Japanese Nambu Model 1922 light machine gun had the germ of an idea to avoid this. Five-shot rifle clips were stacked in a hopper and the gun fired pretty regularly in bursts of five. The result was literally a shotgun blast at individual targets, yet with a range of hundreds of yards if desired. Melvin M. Johnson, inventor of light machine guns and automatic rifles which have been used in quantity by several nations during World War II, projected this idea to military rifle design but nothing came of it. He felt that a burst at an individual target at long range was highly desirable. But the problems of control set up by the recoil and agitation of a long burst in a full-caliber military weapon largely spelled inaccuracy.

The idea could come from a wedding of burp gun and rifle-the modern assault rifle, modified. An interrupter cam would disconnect after firing three or five shots and the burst would cease. Trigger action could be as crisp as a single shot from a bolt action rifle, and the short burst would be easily controlled with accuracy. The semi-automatic fire would be standard, or might be omitted. Ideally, a selector switch for full, 3 or 5-shot burst, and semi-auto would allow the welltrained soldier to make his choice according to conditions. But that might bring up as argumentative a question as can the burp gun replace the rifle? The new question to be hotly contested in ordnance design circles would be-Three shots or five?"

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HOW TO BLOCK THAT RIFLE KICK

(Continued from page 18)

in mind before you instruct your gunsmith to pare and shave off that last excess ounce from your grizzly slaver.

If you want a graphic demonstration of how powerful kick is, set the point of a service bullet against a wooden block. Then hold the butt of your 81/2 pound Springfield against the base of the bullet and fire the gun. A 180 grain full load will drive that bullet over half an inch into yellow fir, still deeper into soft pine. A .300 H. & H. will pound it in a full % inch; and a .375 magnum or Weatherby will drive it in and split the wood.

Oh, yes; you meet fellows who say the punch from a gun doesn't bother them a bit, and that only women and boys need a pad or brake. So why should they hang a bulky gimmick on the end of a barrel, or have it drilled or milled full of holes? But ask these strongmen whether they can also absorb a kick in the pants. Ask them whether they would then stick out their chests and brag they can take it, and claim anybody who couldn't just wasn't much of a man.

Recoil in high power rifles is definitely unpleasant, and never a help to good shooting. To the bench-rester, kick along with muzzle jump is an unmitigated evil. It interferes with complete relaxation so necessary for concentration on sighting and squeeze. Worst of all to him, is that larger bores, which shoot bullets of superior windbucking ability at longer ranges and inherently just as accurate as the high-speed .22, are practically ruled out because of steppedup difficulty of control. Even to the casual target shooter and hunter, recoil is always a handicap, whether he recognizes it as such

Ballisticians, with their knack for making simple things look complicated, tell us there are three kinds or classes of kick. The first one, slowish but hefty, is from bullet acceleration. It begins the moment the bullet starts moving forward and ends when further acceleration of the missile ceases, a little out from the muzzle. It makes up more than half the total momentum and sometimes as high as nearly 80 per cent in the heavy-slug, moderate velocity loads. Short of stopping the bullet, which is the last thing we want to do, there is nothing we can do about it. So we just set the gun butt firmly to our shoulder and roll with it.

The next one, from gas acceleration, also starts from the ground floor and will impart its full momentum before braking can set in. In contribution to total kick, it has a relatively low place-from 6.5 per cent for the .35 Remington 200 gr. load to 22 per cent for the .220 Swift 48 gr. load. In braking, this high pressure gas column, which expands forward at a terrific clip, is the one and only component of recoil that we can use to counteract rearward travel of the gun.

The third one, that hits you where it hurts, is "rocket kick" from liberated and expanding gases at the muzzle. Like that from bullet acceleration, rocket kick cannot be used in braking. But it can be all but prevented by a correctly designed brake. Since rocket kick is second in magnitude only to what you get from bullet acceleration, and is always the most punishing part of the total momentum, its control is a most important point in designing a brake.

This brings up the question: how efficient are muzzle brakes today?

If you take as gospel the claims made for two now sold, muzzle brakes are about the most efficient mechanical gadget there is. One that we'll call brake "A" is advertised to give 40 to 60 per cent reductions, with no qualifications. The distributor of brake "B," not to be outdone, claims 50 to 80 per cent better than any other brake-period.

Brake "B," in a witnessed test here last fall, was compared with the Streamline on two .270 Weatherby magnums of about equal weight and barrel length, using identical loads. The score, after four rounds for each on the kickmeter, was an even 2 to 1 in favor of the wee Streamline.

Yet, even in my cockiest moments, I could never bring myself to claim more than 40 to 42 per cent actual reductions for the Streamline, with the most favorable calibers-for that was all the durned kickmeter would show, and only about half of that with the slow-pokes of massive bullet profile,

Remington Arms in their very illuminating breakdown table of recoil factors for a wide range of sporting calibers and loads give the contributions of gas acceleration and rocket recoil with the 180 grain .30-06 factory load as 27.5 per cent. The remaining kick of 72.5 per cent is due to bullet acceleration.

Since no existing commercial brake-or, for that matter, any brake you or I would care to have on a gun-can more than slightly retard bullet acceleration kick, it becomes evident that any claims of appreciably above 25 per cent reductions for that load are just so much hokum. However, because braking potential, percentagewise, follows the velocity curve, a considerably higher reduction is possible for the same load in the .300 H. & H. This has a combined gas acceleration and rocket kick of 33.5 per cent in the Remington tabulation. The 150 gr. .30-06 load has 37.0 per cent, just a little more.

But run-of-the-mill guns, that do not always have the ideal bores and chambers on which the Remington figures are based, may vary considerably from gun to gun, sometimes as much as 15 to 20 per cent. One Springfield I had, with a tight and very uneven bore, had the normal kick of a ,300 H. & H. Marked difference in kick is often met in guns of the same make and caliber.

Brakes can be built and have been experimentally by this writer and by others before him, that will not only stop gas and bullet acceleration kick, but will actually pull the gun forward. Such brakes, looking much like a megaphone, catch the full blast of the gas many inches out from the muzzle where it has reached its highest velocity and has spread out in a wide cone. The slight gas escape out through the bullet exit then figures little compared to the large internal brake head against which the terrific coned blast spends itself.

In a practical size brake, this gas funnel does not occur early enough to do much good in a larger diameter brake bore, even if that bore is short enough to prevent escape ahead of the bullet. Bore length is less critical than some other brake details.

Bullet and gas acceleration kick has already been fully imparted before braking can begin. The third phase, rocket recoil, must be prevented if possible before it happens. Our brake, then, has to be planned to get the highest positive braking attainable within the weight and size limits of a practicable brake. It must forestall rocket kick by not allowing high pressure gases to get around and out through the brake exit ahead of the bullet. Insufficient porting which leaves more than residual pressures in the bore after the bullet has cleared the exit would be bad as the pressure would increase rocket kick.

Brake bore length, the distance between barrel muzzle and brake exit, has to be limited to where accelerating gases will not beat the bullet out through the exit. If they did, the gain in recoil reducing forward impact against the head of the brake from increased gas velocity would be offset by mounting rocket kick.

This explains why a relatively small brake bore with correct dimensions and gas escape can be more efficient than a wrongly designed brake of more bulk and length. It is the impact of high velocity gases against the head of the brake bore and not the rapid "bleeding off" of gas as some people think that constitutes the principle of effective braking.

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which have to be made with such sloppy exits that even your plumber can do a bang-up job of fitting them, is that they let too much fast gas escape around and ahead of the bullet. One brake has not enough space between baffle tube and outer case for free gas circulation. With such brakes, efficiency will decrease with shortened barrels because of increased rocket kick.

Rocket kick is the shortcoming of one commercial brake. In my comparative tests on three different calibers, this brake showed barely half the reductions registered by two other brakes that were on the market before the Streamline was developed.

In the Streamline's dispersional system of porting by small, quickly dissipating jets, aggregate escape area was carefully correlated to bore size and load, with some plus compromise for smaller bores for the sake of standardizing. This was done to give continued bombardment from gas flow for the

split-second time it takes the bullet to pass from the muzzle out through the brake exit.

More escape than that would only increase noise and turbulence without further braking gain. Less would leave more than residual pressures in the bore and thus not only decrease braking efficiency but increase rocket kick.

I have been asked whether there is any velocity loss with a muzzle brake. Probably there is none. There could even be a slight gain, since the bullet, in passing through the brake bore and out through the exit, is no longer slowed by friction but is still pushed hard by the rushing gases.

In a properly fitted brake, the bullet, of course, will not touch anywhere once it leaves the rifled bore.

What reductions can you expect from modern brakes on guns that are usually turned in for braking? If we leave out of this one or two poor performers, you can look for somewhere around 20 to a little over 40 per cent, depending somewhat on caliber, load and efficiency of the brake. A good average would probably be about 30 per cent or a little above, by a ballistic pendulum test.

If this sounds discouraging, after those rosy figures of 40, 60 and, inferentially, 100 per cent and more, perk up, for there is a silver lining. For one thing, a pendulum or other mechanical kick indicator is not quite a true yardstick of even actual reductions.

Bullet and gas acceleration recoil always comes before braking sets in. They will therefore be registered on such devices according to the weight inertia of these. On my very light recoil carriage, the kick recorded from a .300 magnum was still nearly half of the unbraked normal even with the big megaphone de-kicker that made you tighten your grip on the gun so it wouldn't be pulled from your hands when you shot it from the shoulder.

What you feel of kick from a braked gun, and what the pendulum shows it to be, are not one and the same thing. Punishment to you is reduced by easily half again of that, so that where the actual reduction was 20 to 40 per cent it becomes 30 to 60 per cent insofar as you feel it. Some think it is more than that, up to nearly double. But even if we stay with pendulum reductions, we get pretty worthwhile results.

For instance, if your missus can shoot a .300 Savage or a stubby .30-30 carbine, you can hand her your braked .300 H & H without being apt to get into the doghouse for a week thereafter. If she favors a .257 Roberts, a switch to a braked .270 Weatherby, with Streamline barrel porting, will give her one-half pound less kick, with no muzzle jump to speak of; and a .270 Winchester, with brake, will be just so much duck-soup to her.

If 11-year old Bobby has progressed to a Hornet or Bee, you can give him a braked .257 Roberts and take him along deer hunting without worry that he'll get into a flinching habit. You yourself can probably do better for those long-off shots at a buck or bighorn where you have plenty of time to think what that bruiser .300 blown-out Magnum will do to your shoulder and face.

Looking at it that way, the score for muzzle brakes isn't half bad. In fact, as mechanical ratings go, they give a pretty good account of themselves.

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CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 34)

the nail. To give greater elevation, he aimed over the joint of the thumb. Nothing like having a rule of thumb.

Some cartridges had the ball in direct contact with the powder. Others had the ball separated from the powder by the tying string. A third group had a separator within the paper case between powder and ball. The Swiss Federal rifle load was for the Chasseurs Carbine. The Danish two-ball cartridge was the only one of its type used in Europe. The Minie-type bullet was for the Belgian "a tige" carbine with exposed grease grooves. The odd point-to-powder cartridge was one of two sizes adapted for Bavarian muskets.

A similar point-to-powder bullet with a much more conical point was for the "chambered Austrian carbine with the Console-Augustin lock." That's a new one on me, but if your odd "German" percussion carbine proves to have a separate chamber in the breech, you might be on the start of a gun collector's discovery. Prussia's revolutionary needle-gun cartridge had a rounded bullet base and nestled in a paste board wad or sabot. Set in the base of the sabot was the priming. The rifle's long "zundnadel" or firing pin penetrated the paper case, powder charge, and struck the priming. Although the pin eroded, rusted and broke, it was the first really successful breech loader and the basis for the Mauser rifle. By comparison with these and other oddities was the usual U.S. service cartridge, the .58 Minie ball.

Some remarkable bullets were used in these times. Called "musket shells," these explosive bullets were eventually outlawed for war use, but had only limited value anyway. The Devigne musket shell had a percussion cap placed on what appears to be a common musket nipple screwed into the nose of the lead bullet. Doubtless the ramrod had a cavity to accept the cap without exploding. This type was popular as it could be transported with the gunpowder in it, but unprimed until used. Another kind was more dangerous. It had the cap built in and contained a long needle which set off the cap on impact. A French Minie bullet also was tried out with a percussion cap on a separate cone. The English Jacobs bullet contained a copper clyinder of fulminate. Rifle tests were conducted at up to 2400 yards during which ammunition wagons were blown up with this bullet. Verging into the bazooka field were some little copper-encased rockets fired from muskets by the soldiers of Baden and Wurtemburg. A careful study of these may help identify some of those odd bullets picked up on Civil War battlefields.

The High Cost of Living

When I first started collecting cartridges back in the early '30s, one of the big attractions of the hobby was its comparative cheapness. Two bits would buy most any of the buffalo cartridges, and a cartridge that listed over a dollar really was a rarity! Bannerman was selling most of his Civil War cartridges for \$3 per hundred. But today things have changed. Twenty-five cents is often the starting price of the more common cartridges. A dollar seldom buys one of much rarity. Prices such as \$10, \$20, or \$35 are cheerfully asked for real rarities. . . . How come?

There are a lot of factors that make this big value jump. First off, as we are reminded time and again, the dollar doesn't buy as much as it used to do back in the '30s if you had a dollar then. Perhaps the main reason is the enormous jump in popularity of the hobby. The addition of new collectors and new capital into the field was bound to raise prices.

Another reason for these prices are the ads that have appeared in various gun magazines offering high prices for really rare cartridges that some collectors wanted badly to complete sets, or to add to their particular speciality. This is an effective method of getting the cartridges needed, but it has created the impression, especially among noncollectors, that any unknown cartridge is worth one of these attractive prices, until proved otherwise.

One further reason for the increase in price is the great increase in printed matter on collectors' cartridges. It is one thing to have a cigar box of unknown cartridges kicking around the gun room, but when you see one written up and illustrated in some article, it immediately becomes something more. Identification of rarities has its useful points. It brings them out into the open where they may be available for sale or

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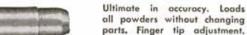
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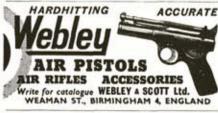
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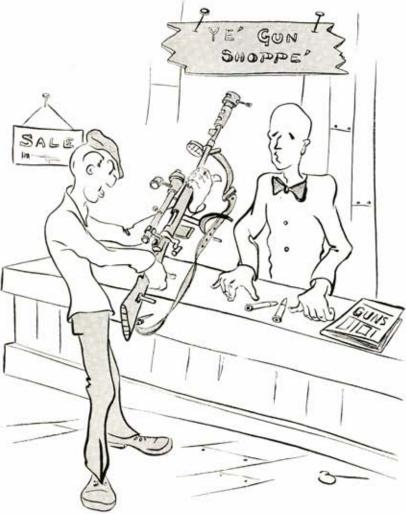
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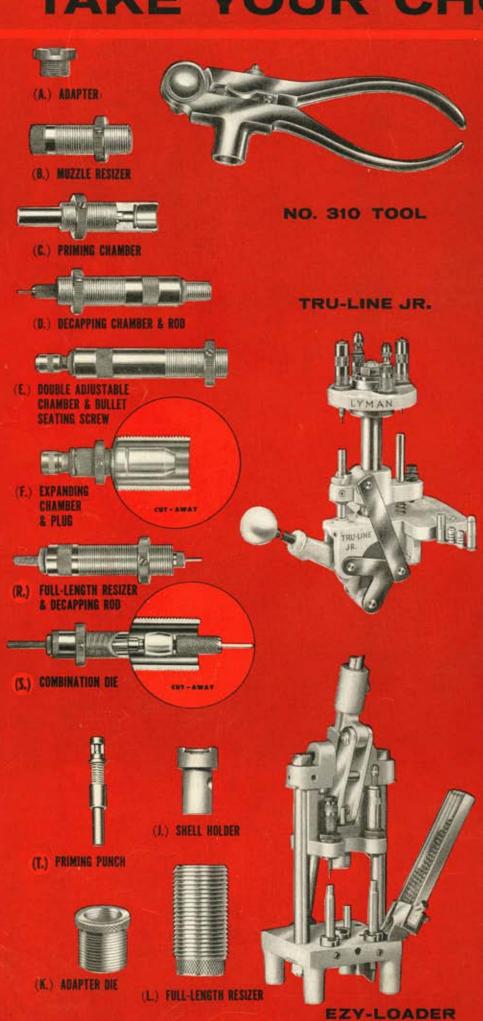


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Tool performs all reloading operations on your choice of cartridge. No. 310 Die Set for rifles or pistols consists of: (A) Adapter Die, (B) Muzzle Resizer, (C) Priming Chamber, (D) Decapping Chamber and Rod, (E) Double Adjustable Chamber and Bullet Seating Screw, (F) Expanding Chamber and Plug.

Die Set complete \$10.75.

TRU-LINE JR. PRESS

\$17.50 Turret-head bench press produces large quantities of accurate ammunition quickly. Die Set for Rifles: (E) Double Adjustable Chamber and Bullet Seating Screw, (S) Combination Die (Muzzle Resizing, Decapping, Expanding), (T) Priming Punch, (J) Shell Holder. Die Set for Pistols: (E) Double Adjustable Chamber and Bullet Seating Screw, (F) Expanding Chamber and Plug, (R) Full-length Sizing Die and Decapping Rod, (T) Priming Punch, (J) Shell Holder.

Rifle Die Set, \$10.00; Pistol Die Set,

EZY-LOADER PRESS

\$12.00.

*35.00 Volume reloading with ease and speed for metallic cartridges and shotshells. Rifle Die Set: (E) Double Adjustable Chamber and Bullet Seating Screw, (S) Combination Die (Resizing, Decapping, Expanding), (J) Shell Holders: 3, (L) Full Length Resizing Die. Pistol Die Set: (E) Double Adjustable Chamber and Bullet Seating Screw, (F) Expanding Chamber and Plug, (R) Fulllength Resizing Die and Decapping Rod, (J) Shell Holders: 3, (K) Adapter Die.

Rifle Die Set, \$16.25, Pistol Die Set, \$16.75, Shotshell Die Set (not shown) \$27.50 (12, 16 or 20 ga.), Rifled Slug Die Set (not shown) \$19.75 (12, 16 or 20 ga.), Automatic Primer Feed, \$7.50.

IDEAL HANDBOOK

here's the bible for everyone who reloads, and a perfect reference book for anyone interested in shooting. Contains sections on Reloading Metallic Cartridges, Casting Bullets, Reloading Data, Bench Rest Shooting, Muzzle Loading, Reloading Shotshells, and a full-color product section. At your sporting goods dealer. If not available, mail \$1.00 for your copy, sent postpaid.

The Lyman Gun Sight Corporation

Middlefield, Connecticut

