

CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

November/December 2016



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CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

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MISSION STATEMENT

Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, firearms education for all Canadians, freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all Canadians to own and use firearms is protected.

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On the Cover

Honouring Those Who Served

This month's cover is from the camera of Nathaniel Miljour. Proving that Nathaniel can not only draw those monthly cartoons we all appreciate, but he knows how to run a Nikon, as well. Pictured is Corporal Kevin Thiessen (retired). Kevin served with the Governor General's Foot Guards in Ottawa for three-and-a-half years before finishing a diploma in mechanical engineering at Algonquin College and then transferring to the Calgary Highlanders for five years. His rifle is a heavy barrelled Remington 700 in 308 Win. Kevin works with it to maintain his skills, and misses service to his country.



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

The View Back

Welcome to the last issue of **CFJ** for 2016. That means this is the issue in which we pay tribute to our men and women in uniform. From the front cover, to the last-page book review, you'll see references to the people and equipment used in freedom-winning (and freedom-robbing) conflicts around the globe.

In his column, Gary Kangas takes us on a short tour of the bizarre beginnings of the First World War, and highlights some of the Canadians involved in that conflict. And to further the historical trend, you'll find shooting reviews of some of the most iconic rifles ever to see conflict, including the Martini-Henry, the Egyptian rolling block and what Paul Scarlata calls, "the last military Mannlicher." Bob Campbell

tells us what it's like to shoot an old Winchester 1892.

Ed Osborne drags us back to the future by highlighting some Canadian manufacturers, as well as some foreign makers who have stepped up to begin producing variations of guns just for the Canadian market.

And don't forget it's still hunting season in much of Canada. We can't let that go unnoticed, so Brad Fenson explains what a lifetime of deer hunting has taught him about deer bullets. Additionally, Lowell Strauss gives us a primer on the lubes and solvents we use to keep our guns running.

This is also our last issue before Christmas, so I'm going to help you out by drawing attention to some gear I've been working with over the last year, and

which I've found particularly useful. Feel free to highlight what you might want to find under the tree, and leave this magazine someplace where your significant other will see it.

I want to close by expressing my thanks for being patient with me while I've learned the editing ropes here at **CFJ**. I've been at the desk for a year now and have enjoyed every learning minute of the challenge. I'm committed to bringing you the best quality writing and photography I can find, as are the writers and photographers whose work you see here. We're busy planning for 2017 already and I'm excited about what we have in store for you. We want to educate, inform and challenge you. After all, it's your magazine.





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Multiple Issues Facing Canadian Gun Owners

At time of writing, I have just returned from the Second Conference of States Parties to the **Arms Trade Treaty**, which took place from Aug. 22 to 26, 2016. The UN trip to Geneva was largely successful for the NFA. It was important for the NFA to present a view in opposition to the new Canadian government's position of support for the ATT. It was also useful to connect with allies in other pro-firearm rights groups who were present as observers.

The NFA's status as an NGO permitted me to present as the head of a delegation. To that end, I had conversations with several other delegates, including some from the African Union, the head of the UK delegation and the head of the EU delegation, among others. There seemed to be significant interest in the NFA position, even though many were not in agreement with our position. We will need to do more to highlight our efforts on the international stage, as we have become a major international player. We were the only pro-firearms rights organization in

the world to present at this major conference. There are other UN matters coming up, and I will ensure that our concerns are represented there. Our NFA presentation at Geneva, and those of the Canadian and other delegations are available at: <http://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/index.php/en/sessions/2nd-session/csp2/statements>.

On the domestic front, there are a number of issues which we are monitoring closely. One of these is the increased scrutiny of lead in ammunition, and its role in the environment. We are concerned that the tiny amount of lead in ammunition is being wrongfully blamed for problems caused by lead from other sources, especially tetra-ethyl lead which was a gasoline additive for many years, and which remains in the environment. We are surveying the available research on lead to locate useful information in clearing up misconceptions about lead in ammunition.

As well, we are lobbying government on the magazine capacity issue, as highlighted by the Ruger 10/22 magazine problem.

It seems that the government wishes to abdicate its policy-making responsibility to the police on some aspects of this issue, while it is clear that magazine capacity limits and firearms bans simply have nothing whatsoever to do with people making poor choices and doing bad things to others. It is time to have magazine capacity limits removed as an offence.

The NFA is fighting hard for all Canadian firearms owners and we are making a difference, even in the face of an unfriendly government and detractors who are only serving their own interests. Our lobbying efforts are getting underway, and it is critical that you begin to write the Minister of Public Safety, Mr. Ralph Goodale, MP, and tell him that you are not happy with magazine capacity restrictions, that you want the AR-15 platform of rifles made non-restricted again and that the NFA speaks for you on these issues. As we head into the fall and hunting season, I wish you the best of the hunt and good, clean shots.

CROSSING THE LINE - CORRECTION. By Lowell Strauss

Thanks to the sharp eyes of several CFJ readers, I've learned that my article in the last issue of the CFJ contained some dated information. It appears the process for obtaining temporary import permits into the US has changed. So, I would like to clarify a few points.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) no longer requires proof of a hunting license or competition registration to import firearms and ammo into the US. The most current form - a fillable PDF - can be found at <https://www.atf.gov/file/11386/download>. Instructions included with the document state that all applications must be signed and submitted to ATF by mail or fax. That said, one NFA member noted that he has successfully submitted his application by e-mail, and that turnaround times have usually been one or two weeks.

The ATF website is somewhat confusing, as it holds both the older version of the 6NIA form (the first one found in a Google search) as well as the updated form, which does not require proof of hunting licence or competition registration. The old 6NIA form is still accepted. Some of my hunting and shooting friends successfully applied for a permit in 2016 using the old form, and ATF didn't correct them or tell them there is an updated form. Up to press time, I haven't been able to reach an ATF representative for comment or clarification.

This situation changes if the applicant is entering the US under a non-immigrant visa - see the 6NIA form for details.

One final note - it is a good idea to check with the airlines prior to travel for current firearms and ammunition transportation information. Requirements may vary by airline. When travelling by air, the ammunition allowance is limited to a maximum of five kilograms (11 pounds) per passenger. This is not enough for some competition shooters. It's best to check with the airline when you are booking your ticket, as specific transport requirements can change without notice.

Thanks again to our NFA members for their keen eyes and broad experience in border crossing with firearms.

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Les Propriétaires D'armes à Feu Font Face à Plusieurs Enjeux

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes j'arrive de la deuxième Conférence des États Parties au Traité sur le Commerce des Armes (TCA) de l'ONU tenu du 22 au 26 août 2016 à Genève. Ce voyage fut un succès pour l'ACAF. Il était important pour nous de pouvoir présenter un point de vu opposé à celui du nouveau Gouvernement Canadien, qui lui, est en accord avec le TCA. Nous avons aussi eu l'occasion de rencontrer des alliés parmi les autres groupes pro-armes qui étaient présents en tant qu'observateurs.

Le statut d'ONG de l'ACAF m'a permis de livrer un discours en tant que chef de délégation. J'ai pu converser avec plusieurs autres délégués dont celui de l'Union Africaine, du Royaume-Uni, et de l'Union Européenne entre autres. Ils étaient très intéressés par la position de l'ACAF quoique plusieurs d'entre eux n'étaient pas d'accord avec notre position. Nous devons faire plus pour mettre en valeur nos efforts sur la scène internationale depuis que nous sommes devenus un intervenant important à ce niveau. Nous étions la seule organisation pro-droits aux armes à feu qui a fait une présentation à cette importante conférence. Ils y a d'autres enjeux en provenance de l'ONU qui devront retenir notre attention dans un avenir rapproché, je vais m'assurer que que nos intérêts y soient bien représentés. La présentation donnée par l'ACAF et celles des autres délégations sont disponibles en suivant ce lien: <http://www.thearmstrade-treaty.org/index.php/en/sessions/2nd-session/csp2/statements>.

De plus, nous surveillons plusieurs enjeux de près au niveau domestique. Dont l'attention particulière qui est portée sur les munitions en plomb et leur effet sur l'environnement. Nous nous inquiétons du fait qu'un métal relativement bénin, utilisé en quantités minimales, soit blâmé injustement pour des problèmes reliés au plomb provenant d'autres sources, tel que le plomb tétraéthyle qui était utilisé comme additif dans l'essence pendant plusieurs années et dont il reste des traces dans l'environnement. Nous sommes entrain d'étudier les données disponibles sur le plomb pour fournir la preuve que les munitions en plomb ne sont pas nocives pour l'environnement et corriger les perceptions erronées par rapport au plomb dans les munitions.

Nous faisons aussi pression auprès du Gouvernement à propos des capacités des chargeurs et en particulier à propos du chargeur Ruger 10-22. Il semble que le Gouvernement veut abdiquer ses pouvoirs législatifs et les donner à la police vis à vis certains aspects de cet enjeu. Il est évident que les limites sur les capacités des chargeurs et l'interdiction de certaines armes n'ont rien à voir avec les mauvaises décisions de certains qui choisissent de faire mal aux autres. Il est temps que les limites sur les capacités des chargeurs ne soient plus des infractions.

L'ACAF travaille très fort pour tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu et nous réussissons à avoir un impact, même face à un Gouvernement hostile et certains détracteurs qui ne voient que leurs propres intérêts. Nous entrepre-

nons notre travail de lobbying. Il est primordial que vous écriviez au Ministre de la Sécurité Publique M. Ralph Goodale, ainsi qu'à vos députés pour leur faire part de votre indignation à propos des restrictions sur les capacités des chargeurs et que vous vouliez que les carabines de type AR-15 soient remises dans la catégorie sans restriction. Dites leur que l'ACAF parle en votre nom sur ces enjeux.

L'automne étant à nos portes, la saison de la chasse aussi. Je vous souhaite du succès et de viser juste.





Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

Restricted Firearms Ownership Is On The Rise

In September, the CBC reported that the number of restricted firearms in Canada rose 9.5 per cent in 2015. This figure is based on the increase in restricted registration certificates generated through the sale of handguns and restricted semi-automatic rifles, such as AR-15s. The greatest increases took place in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

CBC reporter Elizabeth Thompson lamented this increase, and took great pains to warn Canadians that it was due to the policies of the Harper Conservative government and US gun manufacturers. The article was a window into the mind of the civil disarmament lobby in Canada. Historically, they claimed that licenses and registrations made Canada safe, that the intent of these things was not to interfere with the legitimate ownership and use of these firearms. In the 1990s, registered restricted firearms were prohibited through legislation, and in some cases they were even confiscated from their owners. This was one factor that contributed to the failure of the universal firearms registration program, the Long Gun Registry.

Clearly, the CBC and the civil disarmament lobby see firearms licensing and registration schemes as a means to deny Canadians access to firearms, and certainly "bad" guns like handguns and semi-automatic rifles.

Most of you reading this will be familiar with the process necessary to acquire a restricted firearm in Canada. It's a two-day course, entailing a written and a practical test, followed by a

restricted firearms licence application (with criminal background check). And once the licence is issued, a further check with each restricted firearm purchased. This is a registration and transfer process governed by two levels of bureaucracy, one at the federal level and one at the provincial level. It's accompanied with a series of policies enforced by provincial chief firearms officers, designed to discourage restricted firearms ownership by using restrictive authorizations to transport, and demanding proof of gun club membership. And don't forget the punitive and ambiguous storage and transport regulations designed to confuse those wishing to be law-abiding.

But apparently, this is not deterring Canadians from buying "bad guns."

The fact is, interest in handguns and semi-automatic firearms is increasing and will continue to increase in Canada due to various social, cultural and environmental conditions. Indoor target ranges are mushrooming in Canadian cities, and many of these ranges even rent firearms to those who do not possess their own. They are the new date night, bachelorette party or company outing. It's extreme entertainment in an environment that is probably 10 times safer than the average nightclub or concert venue.

But you're not supposed to do it. Handguns? That's an American thing! How could you? Why would you?

"Can I try it, too?"

Like anything forbidden by polite society, people will flock to it. And much

to the chagrin of the civil disarmament lobby, firearms ownership and shooting will become a lifetime love and pursuit for many who try it.

Restricted firearm ownership is up partly because urbanization has caused many Canadians to be cut off from the tradition of hunting. Many urbanites can no longer afford the time or expense necessary to take part in this once broadly enjoyed pursuit. It is now a recreational luxury enjoyed by only the devoted or wealthy city dweller, who can spend the dollars and time off work to travel. People living in areas where they can step outside the front door, or drive less than an hour to a favourite hunting spot, should be eternally grateful for that blessing, because it's no longer a tangible reality for many Canadians.

This fact has not lessened Canadian's interest in firearms. The real issue here is the bias which the media, areas of law enforcement and the government have for restricted firearms. A lot of social engineering has been invested over the decades in characterizing handguns and many other firearms as not being part of Canada's "field and stream" gun culture, and therefore require prohibition or heavy restrictions. That embarrassing Canadian pastime of parochialism and the incipient anti-Americanism of certain segments of Canadian society has been well employed to justify these attitudes.

The original purpose of handgun registration in Canada was to restrict their ownership to reliable citizens of British stock, keeping them away from Bolshevik agitators and religious



and ethnic minorities. However, I am happy to report that equality has now been achieved. You see, everyone who holds a restricted firearms licence and a registration for a restricted firearm is now targeted by the civil disarmament lobby for progressive disarmament, regardless of race, gender or background. We've seen the bans and confiscations of the past, which were facilitated by the registration process, and it's clear this is now the intent of licensing and registration.

In other news, August saw the RCMP Firearms Program, through policy review, ban magazines over 10-round capacity for Ruger 10/22 type rimfire rifles. You'll read more about that in Guy Lavergne's column in this issue. In the weeks since, I have been asked at least 10 times a day why the RCMP decided to ban these magazines, 20 years after the initial magazine bans of the 1990s.

First, the RCMP Firearms Program will tell you that they didn't ban anything. They simply reviewed the magazine

regulations, and found these 10/22 magazines have been prohibited all along. Mistakes were made. Who made these mistakes? You did for buying the magazine, and the retailer for selling them to you.

If they were prohibited, why were they allowed to be imported into Canada for the last 20 years? Mistakes? Not the RCMP's, of course, but the irresponsible Canadian importers, distributors and retailers who skirted the law in order to sell you these dangerous prohibited devices. Clear now? Make sense?

We've reached the tipping point in Canada. Now firearms laws and regulations have become so arbitrary, bizarre, punitive and deliberately harassing, that those most likely to run afoul of them are just regular Canadians who wish to be law-abiding. It's not criminals, not terrorists, nor even irresponsible drunken yahoos who shoot up the woods, being targeted. Regular Canadians are now those who are routinely and arbitrarily criminalized

by the RCMP Firearms Program. And indeed that has been the goal and intent of the program since its inception over 20 years ago.

The magazine regulations themselves are a sham and protect no one. Criminals, terrorists and lunatics can still get all the magazines they want. If the Canadian border cannot be shut off to the flow of illegal handguns, how can it shut off the smuggling of "overcapacity magazines" that are inherently more concealable and portable? The RCMP Firearms Program doesn't even control or prevent criminals, terrorists and lunatics from getting illegal guns. How can they? Criminals, terrorists and lunatics can't get, don't want and are not even bothered with firearms licenses or registrations. And they are not bothered by bans on "big clips" or "bad guns," either. You and I, in the eyes of the firearms program, are the danger to public safety. It's a sad fact that can no longer be excused by the pleas and bromides of "fighting crime" or "public safety."





Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Courage & Heroism – Lest We Forget

The Great War, the War to End All Wars, the First World War, was a war of destruction and death on a scale before unknown. And the tragicomic act that opened the ball was perpetuated by six radicalized assassins. Their radicalization was enflamed by a shadowy cadre of Serb officers who believed the death of the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, would force Hungary to return Bosnia and Herzegovina back to the Serbs.

On June 28, 1914, the young radicalized zealots convened to attack a motorcade carrying the Archduke and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, to a reception in Sarajevo, Bosnia. The entire performance by the conspirators was near comic. A hand grenade thrown by one of the young radicals missed its mark and injured others in the motorcade, as well as innocent bystanders. Having failed, the young man bit into the cyanide pill given to him by the organizers of the murder attempt. The pill only made him throw up. The rest of the group, knowing they had missed their opportunity to complete the mission, dispersed. One of the gunmen, Gavrilo Princip, went for lunch at a downtown deli. During Princip's lunch, the Archduke's chauffeur made a wrong turn and stalled the car in front of the cafe. Princip saw his opportunity and fulfilled the mission, fatally shooting the Archduke and Sophie. And so, a comedy of errors launched the world on a path to mass destruction.

The timeline went something like this:

- On July 5, 1914, Kaiser Wilhelm pledged German support to Austria to fight with Serbia
- July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia

- Aug. 1, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia, an ally of the Serbs
- Aug. 3, 1914, Germany declared war on France, an ally of Great Britain and Russia
- The invasion of Belgium began Aug. 4, 1914

And then Britain, an ally of France and Russia, declared war on Germany, and the entire British Empire was drawn into the conflict. As the war raged on, the hostilities took a huge toll on manpower and resources from all sides. Battles were fought on land, on sea, under the sea and in the air. Emerging technologies, such as the machine gun and air power, changed the strategies of warfare.

By the dawn of 1917, the war had been at a near stalemate for two years. The combatants would cede only a few feet of ground for each engagement. Britain and its allies realized a combined effort was needed to break the deadlock. Britain and France determined to coordinate in a new, broad offensive, combining techniques and strategies using air power, artillery, sappers, miners plus infantry in concert. A new concept in war, the planned action was fast moving and decisive. With the use of excellent intelligence gathered on the ground and in the air, all units drilled in the new innovative procedures.

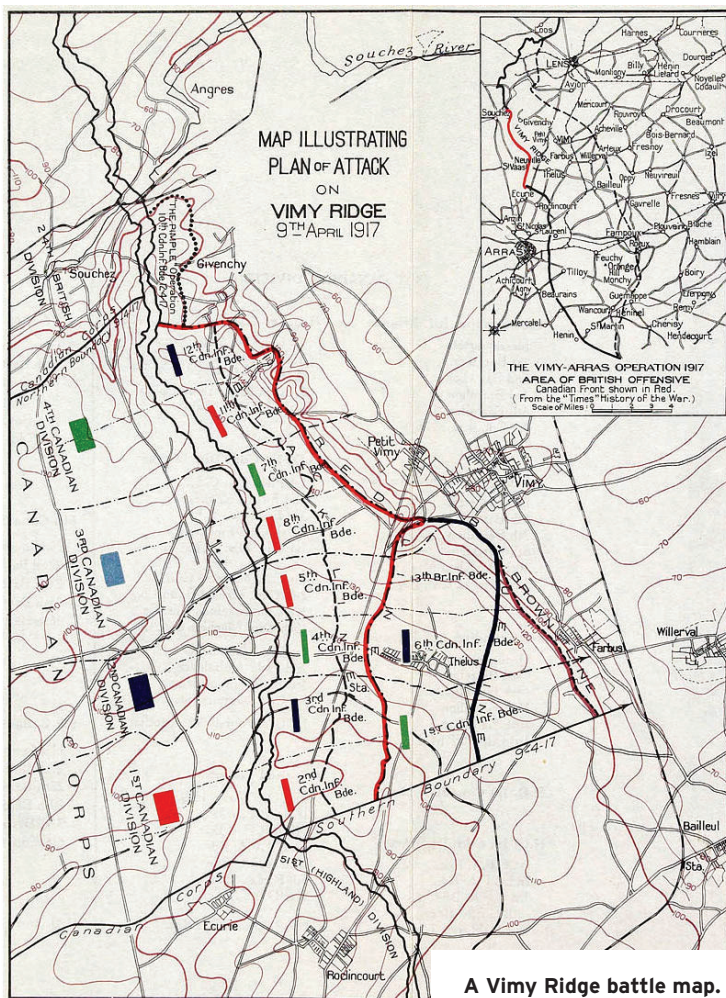
The massive offensive of Arras began on April 9, 1917, with the Canadians tasked to capture the high ground of Vimy Ridge. The ridge had been held by the Germans since the beginning of the war and they were confident they could not be dislodged. To date, 100,000 French troops had been killed or wounded in assaults on the ridge, to no avail. But the Canadians trained intensely for weeks



Pictured, Private Jeremiah Jones.

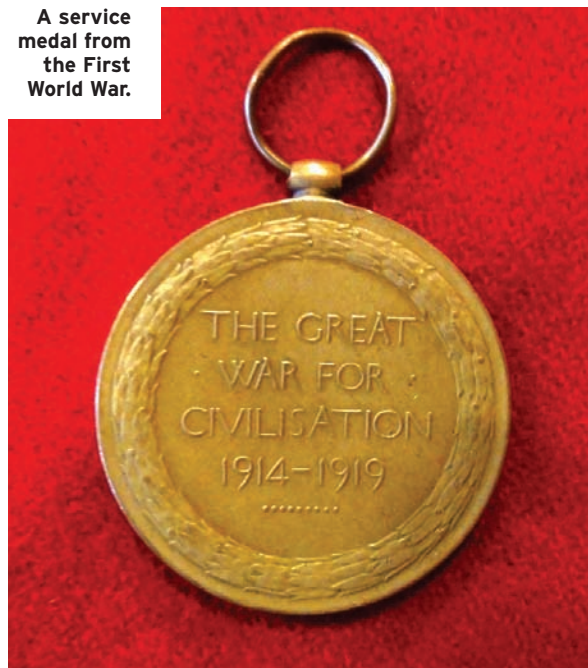
leading up to the attack. Gunners and aircraft practised their manoeuvres. Sappers and miners dug long tunnels under the German lines and filled them with explosives. The stage was set. Vimy was not the most important battle; however, it would be pivotal in the Allied strategy to capture high ground.

The four divisions of the Canadian Corp, fighting together for the first time, attacked at 5:30 a.m. on April 9, Easter Monday. The timing was critical.



A Vimy Ridge battle map.

A service medal from the First World War.



They proceeded up the slope, following a walking barrage designed to pound no-man's-land and then the German trenches. The sappers, at the right moment, set off their charges under the German trenches and the RAF swooped down, raining bombs on the Germans and their machine gun emplacements. All the planning, endless drills and rehearsals, plus the expanded use of more machine gunners and grenade throwers, were put to the test. The weather was intense, with rain, sleet, snow and wind accompanying the 15,000 Canadians storming the ridge. By the afternoon of April 9, the Canadians had captured most of the German positions. Three more days of nearly hand-to-hand combat saw the Canadians drive the Germans off the ridge.

The three days, from April 9 to 12, 1917, were a time of heroism and bravery. There are legendary accounts

of ordinary Canadian men performing extraordinary feats of courage. Men, young and middle aged, volunteers all, gave everything to win the objective. Individuals, such as Jeremiah Jones, African-Nova Scotian, a middle-aged, 58-year-old from Truro, in the 106th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles) single-handedly captured a German machine gun and crew. He had them disassemble the gun, then made the Germans carry the machine gun back to the Canadian lines. Jeremiah Jones was posthumously awarded the Canadian Forces Medallion for distinguished service.

Private George McLean, a 41-year-old First Nations man from British Columbia's Okanagan district in the 54th Batt. (Canadian Infantry) launched a daring attack on the enemy lines. Throwing multiple hand grenades in his manoeuvre, he captured 19 Germans.

George was shot in the arm and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Four Canadians were awarded the Victoria Cross: Private William Milne, Lance-Sergeant Ellis Sifton, Captain Thain MacDowell and Private John Pattison.

These are a just a few of the names framed in an historic moment. These and others came to serve King and Country. They were of all ethnic groups, every shape, size and colour, Canadian born and immigrant alike. These brave and courageous Canadian soldiers were a testament to Canada's will. They served notice that Canada was now a nation on the world stage. It would no longer be viewed as a little backwater colony of the British Empire. There were 7,000 Canadians wounded and 3,598 killed at Vimy Ridge. These individuals paid the price to preserve freedom and our firearms heritage.



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

UN Arms Trade Treaty – The Moral High Ground

Like the disastrous League of Nations that preceded it, the United Nations excels in the rhetoric of idealism. It's the major political virtue of UN-style internationalism. With it, Trudeau's Liberals can bask in the warm, virtuous glow of higher moral purpose as they commit Canada to the **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**.

The UN has declared that the ATT is a "landmark" of international co-operation and has been adopted by an "overwhelming majority in the General Assembly." The ATT will "contribute to reducing the suffering of millions of civilians." It will "create a safer environment for the United Nations and other organizations to ... attain globally agreed development goals." This "normative ATT" sets a new global standard and promotes appropriate governmental regulation ... including adopting adequate legislation.

Who could resist jumping on the bandwagon with an "overwhelming majority" of the nations of the world? Unfortunately, as is well known and documented by organizations such as Freedom House, a respected NGO, the UN has 51 countries that are dictatorships and a further 55 that are only partially democratic. This constitutes a majority of the UN General Assembly. We must therefore ask, are Canada's interests the same as the interests of dictatorships? Perhaps Trudeau the younger, with his basic admiration for Chinese dictatorship, can explain how our joining such people is the moral high ground? Or is he saying that the Liberal Party's agendas are more important than democracy? A further problem with this groupthink, keeping-up-with-the-Joneses approach to foreign policy is how unique Canada is and how superior our culture and accomplishments are to most of the world. Are our politics not superior to the endless tribal wars of

the Congo or the brutally sexist policies of Saudi Arabia? Are savage, totalitarian states like North Korea the peers whose "respect" we must strive for?

THE UN'S RECORD

The UN's track record of stopping conflict through arms control or intervention is little more than a sham. To mention a few of many examples:

Rwanda: Over a half million Tutsi murdered by Hutus. UN response was a total failure.

Cambodia: Four years of genocide that left two million dead. The UN utterly failed to take any effective action.

Darfur: A genocidal campaign of terror leaving 300,000 dead and 2.7 million displaced. The UN took five years to make a pathetically weak response.

Yazidis: Islamic fundamentalists engage in murder, rape and forced religious conversions. The UN responds by declaring a "high level emergency" and calls for humanitarian aid. Having made this noble humanitarian response, no action whatsoever is taken to interfere with the killing. On coming to power, the Liberals immediately stopped our armed intervention. Confronted with the facts, they could not determine if genocide was taking place and had to ask their betters at the UN to make a "responsible" determination.

Such is the UN's commitment to "reducing the suffering of millions."

PROBLEMS WITH THE ATT

The ATT proclaims that all arms sales will be examined to see if they undermine peace or internationally recognized human rights, including gender rights. Unfortunately, the ATT does no such thing. Let us look at the reality behind the posturing:

The threshold for refusing an arms transfer is an "overriding risk" of a serious violation of international human rights law. The term "overriding risk" is undefined and each country can interpret it any way they want. In other words, no international standard at all.

International reporting (a Liberal talking point) is a farce. States are only required to report a minimal list of exports. States are not required to report commercially sensitive or national security sensitive information. Arms moved through licensed production or defence co-operation agreements are not covered. A basic principle of the ATT is the right of states to arms for self-defence through production, import and export to support legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests. Individuals and non-state actors, such as ethnic groups oppressed by their own governments, have no such rights.

Countries are "inviting to co-operate" in their assessment of what "risk" is, but there is no mechanism to enforce standards, nor is there any existing monitoring system other than the states themselves.

Sovereignty, amendments to the ATT can be passed with a three-quarter majority of meeting attendees. These amendments will be binding on all states 180 days after the amendment's acceptance. States can withdraw from the ATT, however its obligations under the ATT will continue even after it has withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The ATT is a monument to the Liberal's naïve (or is it cynical?) faith that bureaucracy and record keeping will take precedence over the vested interests of nations. This ahistorical faith, that nations will set aside political interests based on earnest exhortations alone, is folly. This

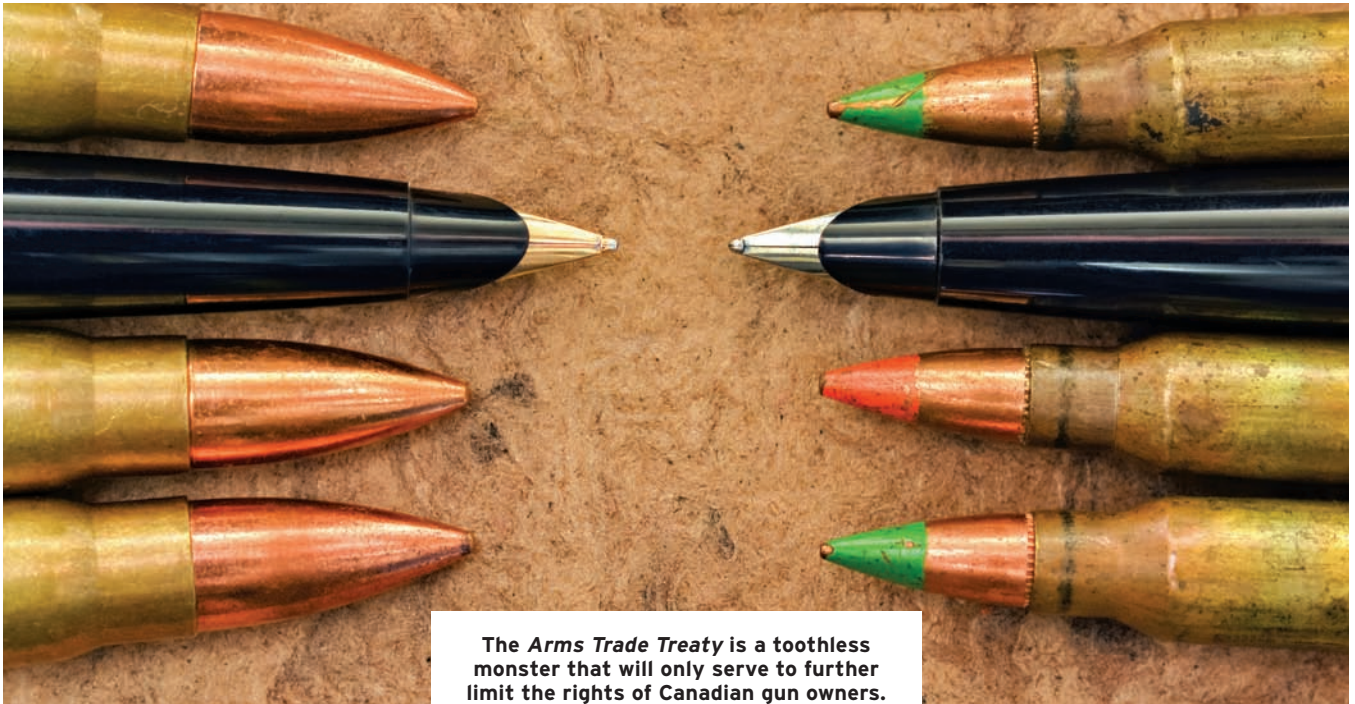


Image: iStock.

The Arms Trade Treaty is a toothless monster that will only serve to further limit the rights of Canadian gun owners.

folly was the fatal weakness of the League of Nations and is the fatal weakness of the UN. Without force to back them, international agreements restrain only the responsible. The great arms trade treaties of the 1920s and '30s limited those who earnestly disavowed violence as a state policy. They were useless shams that did nothing to restrain the ruthless. The high-minded pacifists and disarmers of the interwar era failed to prevent the Second World War. Their nobly worded treaties served only to disarm the best to the advantage of the worst. It will never be known how many thousands and tens of thousands died because war found them unarmed before the foe. Absent the strength and will to enforce, the chimera of "international standards" is folly. To see the utter fraud of this ATT, we need look no further than the actions of Trudeau the feminist, a man so devoted to gender equality he picked his cabinet based on a gender headcount. His approval of Canada's sale of military vehicles to Saudi Arabia, a religious dictatorship with a horrendous record of gender discrimination, demonstrates what all the fine words actually amount to. Unfortunately, for law-abiding Canadians, this sort of international virtue signaling has very negative effects. It's a matter

of sovereignty. By moving policy and decision making out of our democracy into unelected, unaccountable international bodies, we disempower Canadian citizens. Further, the new higher law created by the political decision to join the ATT creates a wonderful soapbox to posture from. Policies that would not pass muster in parliament or with the voter, can now be paraded out as international obligations to which we must comply.

These are problems that go far beyond gun laws. They are a repudiation of democratic governance closely tied to a very loose grip on reality. We now have a clear pattern of our elites shifting more and more decision making out of an accountable parliament and into unelected, unaccountable bodies. This is happening domestically, where judges make political decisions under the colour of law, and internationally where our policies are being yielded up to the control of international agencies and commissions.

Gun laws, which may not be of any concern to non-gun owners, are a leading indicator of this trend. We now have anonymous RCMP bureaucrats writing criminal law that subjects tens of thousands of law-abiding gun owners to the hazard of a decade in prison. (10/22 Ruger magazine reclassification.) Our

Supreme Court happily declared that the right to arms, a centuries old right, was non-existent on the grounds that the right had been regulated. This seems a very specific ruling applying only to gun owners. However, there is not a single "right" in Canada that has not and is not regulated. Not free speech, not voting, not ownership of property, not due process; all are and have been regulated. So we find that this specific limited decision sets a precedent utterly undercutting all our rights, making them subject to judicial politics or the administration of the day.

The ATT is but another undemocratic step in this process. Canadians are being forced to pay a high price for a toothless ATT that enforces nothing. That the ATT will give political cover to the Liberal Party as it pursues its anti-gun agenda is neither fit reason, nor one Canadians should accept.

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SOLVENTS & LUBES

Making sense of firearms maintenance

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

"Step right up! Step right up! Before your very eyes, I hold the best shootin' iron elixir the world has ever known. That's right! It cleans, it lubricates, it preserves! It's a non-toxic, non-greasy, non-smelly, carbon-eliminating, copper-stripping, lead-gripping, eco-friendly, speed boosting formulation! Don't believe me? Watch as I demonstrate...!"

You may snicker at this spoof on the old snake oil sales pitch, yet every year I watch with interest as new firearms cleaning products are introduced to the market. And each makes grand claims of doing what no other has done before. This year, I returned from the SHOT Show with a bag full of gun care samples and it prompted me to explore this dizzying array of products, from next-generation bio-based creams to homemade cleaning concoctions and everything in between.

TYPES OF CLEANERS & LUBES

Chemicals for firearms maintenance can be divided into two broad categories.

Three-in-one products, labelled CLPs, are designed to clean, lubricate, and protect (or preserve) with one product. Break-Free CLP

is one of the first names that comes to mind because of its use in our Canadian military.

Stand-alone cleaners, lubricants and protectants include bore solvents, copper cleaners, lead removers and oils. Hoppe's No. 9 and Montana X-Treme solvent are two of many options. This category also includes foaming bore cleaners like Wipe-Out and micro-abrasives like J-B Bore Compound. Lubricants and preservatives that perform only that function are included here, as well.

SOLVENTS

Fouling is removed either by dissolving it with a solvent or loosening with a surfactant, often in combination with scrubbing. Carbon is a product of burned powder and is the easiest fouling residue to remove. Most solvents and CLPs can effectively strip carbon deposits from a dirty bore. In fact, muzzleloaders are cleaned using hot, soapy water.

Plastic fouling is more difficult to remove and is caused by shotgun wads melting in a hot barrel and leaving deposits. Plastic accumulates at the choke and in front of the forcing cone. Acetone works well to soften

Handy Accessories



Over the years I have found a few products that expedite gun care.

- BoreSmith Triangle Patches. Because of their shape, these patches don't get stuck in the bore. They also work better than square patches, due to increased contact with the bore.
- BoreSmith dual purpose bore brushes have two parts - a narrow brush tip to accommodate a patch and full-length bristles to scrub the bore at the same time. An ingenious design! <http://store.rigelproducts.com/>
- Swab-its gun cleaning products makes a variety of handy foam-covered cleaning tools. Gun-tips are reusable, lint-free swabs for cleaning nooks and crevices. Bore-tips are foam swabs threaded for a cleaning rod. <https://www.swab-its.com>

A Homemade Option



Some shooters use non-firearm products because they are less expensive. Carburetor cleaner and top engine cleaner are effective products for removing oil and fouling from metal surfaces. However, most will also damage wood finishes and polymer gun parts, so use caution. But if you absolutely must make your own, there's an option for the toughest cleaning and degreasing jobs, such as military surplus firearms. Ed's Red is an effective, homemade CLP that can be made from hardware store ingredients. It is made from equal parts of automatic transmission fluid, kerosene, mineral spirits and acetone. If you are interested in how to make your own, check out <https://nfa.ca/resource-items/eds-red-homebrew-bore-solvent>.

plastic, but can damage non-metal parts. Copper fouling in rifles can be tough to remove as well, but there are a lot of good copper solvents available. For the most stubborn fouling, there are products that use an ultra-fine abrasive to clean everything from a barrel. J-B Bore Cleaning Compound from Brownells is the gold standard for abrasive compounds.

Nitrobenzene was a key ingredient in early gun solvents because it cleaned so well. Turns out it's a nasty carcinogen! Dan Opel of Plenty O' Patches (www.plentyopatches.com) in Alberta explained that petroleum-based cleaners use strong, caustic chemicals to soften or dissolve fouling. Depending on their strength, they can be harmful if left in the bore. A bigger concern is the health risk of these products to the user. Developing a safe, yet effective, cleaner was the driving force behind his Canadian-made 1st Choice Bore Cleaner - a water-based cleaner for removing carbon and copper fouling.

Many of these next-generation cleaners are eco-friendly formulas. As a bonus, many are non-flammable, and can be shipped in the mail. These water-based cleaners intimidate some shooters because there's a perceived risk of rusting the bore. But these cleaners normally include rust inhibitors, so there's really no need to worry. Still, I think it's advisable to apply a bore protectant, like Eezox, after cleaning.

For over 100 years, Hoppe's No. 9 solvent has been a go-to gun cleaner. What do people like most about the product? The smell! While the fragrance of Hoppe's triggers nostalgic memories of grandpa's gun room, not everyone appreciates the smell of a strong solvent. Petroleum-based products have strong odours that can stink up the house. Many of the next-generation cleaners and lubes have almost no smell at all.

Bottom line: All of the cleaners work, whether it's a CLP or a stand-alone product. Scott Lee, the director of operations and sales for Seal 1, a bio-based CLP, has been working in the lubricant industry for over 30 years. He told me that products that fail will do so in the lab. If they've made it to market, they will work to some degree.

Personally, I use a combination of cleaners to keep my guns running.

To keep my auto-loading shotgun functioning during a hunt, I pack an aerosol CLP. A quick blast dissolves the worst of the carbon and leaves a thin film of lube in the action. It's a stop-gap measure. When time allows, I strip the gun, give it a deep clean and lubricate. However, I favour stand-alone products for cleaning and lubricating rifles and shotguns. I feel most do a better job of cleaning all of the carbon, copper, lead and plastic out of the bores.

Note that if switching products, it takes time to remove old lube and replace it with a new one. Scott Lee's mantra for Seal 1 is, "Shoot, clean; shoot, clean;

shoot, clean," a three-step process to deep-clean a firearm while removing any trace of the previous lube.

LUBRICANTS

By reducing friction, lubricants allow working parts to move without binding. They also minimize wear. Because, if you were to examine a firearm's polished surface under a microscope, it would look like coarse sandpaper. Lubricant applied to a metal surface forms a thin film, eliminating metal-to-metal contact. The film keeps the metal surfaces from rubbing as they slide past each other (hydrodynamic

lubrication). It works well, until enough pressure is applied and the lubricant film is displaced.

To counter this problem, some lubricants have additives that fill voids in the metal and create a boundary between the two surfaces (boundary lubrication). Teflon and molybdenum are two of many possible anti-wear compounds that can be added to a lubricant. And grease is really just thickened oil, which stays where it's

It's important to be aware of the operating temperatures of lubricants, especially in the cold. Make sure what you're using is suited for Canadian weather.



put. Grease is perfect for bolt lugs and slide rails, and any other metal-to-metal area that bears a load.

It's important to be aware of the operating temperatures of lubricants, especially in the cold. Make sure what you're using is suited for Canadian weather. Oil that thickens in sub-zero temperatures can impede the action and, worse, prevent the firing pin from striking the primer hard enough to fire. A handy tip for anyone who shoots in the cold: carry a bottle of lock de-icer in your pack, just in case.

Another solution is to run the firearm without any lubricant. But in these days of high-tech synthetic lubes, it's really not necessary. Be careful, too, because moisture will condense and freeze on cold firearms when moved into a warm place. Then as the metal warms, frost turns back to water. Any metal parts not coated with a lubricant are sure to rust.

Lubricants are necessary to minimize wear and ensure good firearm

performance. Look to see what your lubricant is designed to do. Does it have anti-wear additives? Is the lube thin enough to get in where you need it? Do you need a grease? A one-size-fits-all lube may work for some shooters and not for others. In the end, it comes down to how much you shoot and how often you lubricate your firearm.

PROTECTION

Protect or preserve are used interchangeably as the 'P' in CLP. There is a difference. Protectant is applied before heading to the field to prevent rust. Preserving a firearm is protecting it from moisture for a longer period of time, meaning one week to 100 years. Cosmoline is a great example. It's an oily-waxy, rust-inhibiting mixture often used to protect military surplus firearms. Birchwood Casey's RIG gun grease is a modern example of a similar product.

A characteristic of a preservative is that it stays in place tenaciously to prevent the rust of metal parts. Because, metal is protected when there is a barrier to oxidation-causing air and

moisture. Some protectants stay in place better than others. As a result, they are superior products for rust protection.

THE FINAL PATCH

People can get passionate about cleaners and lubricants. Dozens of YouTube videos show shooters trying to find which one is best. For example, the Gear Obsession channel's Plate of Truth tests popular lubricants for how well they protect metal.

The bottom line is, most gun cleaning products work. Some cleaners remove fouling fast. Others need more elbow grease or time. Some are toxic. Others are eco-friendly. CLPs provide a simple one-step process. I think stand-alone products clean deeper, but their multi-part method takes longer.

So in spite of my opening medicine-show sales pitch, none of these products are "snake oil." Try a few, ask your fellow shooters what they use and try those, too. The best cleaner and lubricant is the one that keeps your firearms doing what they are supposed to do.

A small sample of modern gun cleaners, lubes, CLPs and greases.





NOTICE OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS FOR OFFICE OF DIRECTORS Fall 2016

The NFA is pleased to announce that the 2016 fall election for directors is now completed. We would like to congratulate the new board of directors who shall take office immediately. Welcome to the NFA team who were elected by acclamation:

Alberta – NWT and International

Jerrold Lundgard serving a 2 year term

Dwayne Gorniak serving a 1 year term

British Columbia - Yukon

Sheldon Clare serving a 2 year term

Blair Hagen serving a 1 year term

Ontario

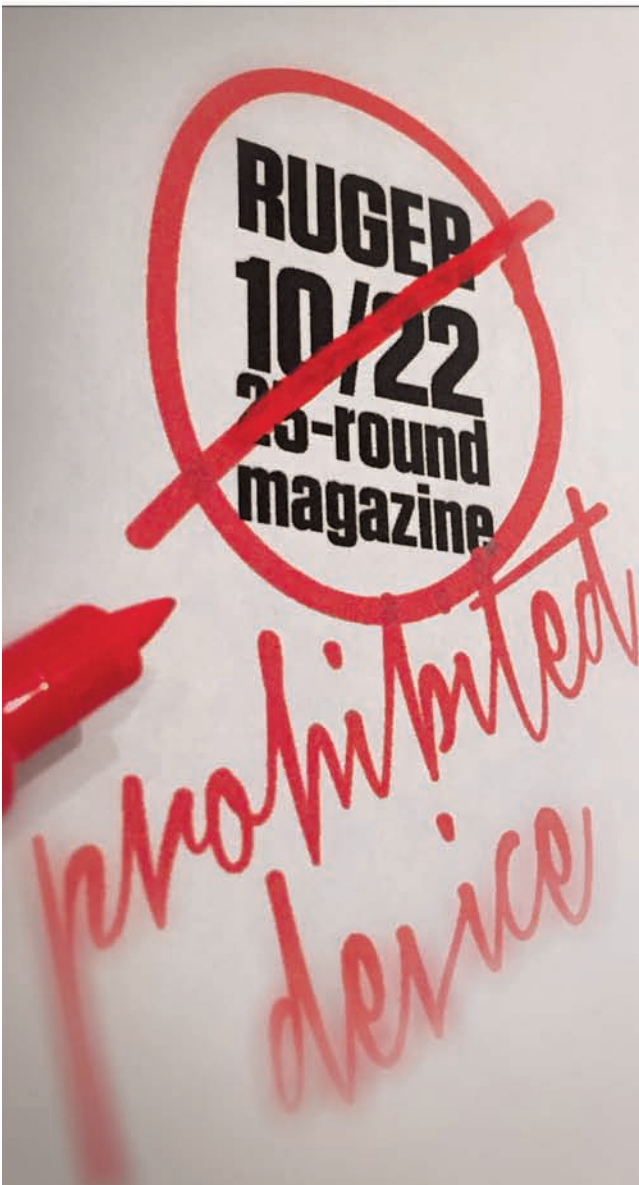
Charles Zach serving a 2 year term

Francis Tenta serving a 1 year term

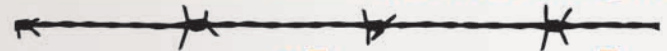
Maritimes/Newfoundland & Labrador

Robert Bracken serving a 2 year term

SK, MB and QC are vacant at this time.



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COMMITTED *To* CANADA

**Companies seeing potential in the
Canadian marketplace**

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

The Canadian firearms market is a unique, regulated environment. Let's face it, when the market for an entire country is the size of a single US state, and government restrictions weave a labyrinth of requirements, some guns just aren't going to be available here. Simple economics dictates the investment for manufacturers may be too high, and the returns too low. But there are some foreign companies willing to go the extra mile to sell in Canada, and they are complimented by businesses here at home striving to make the Canadian gun industry vibrant. Together, they are producing products specifically made for our country.

KEL-TEC

One of those companies is Kel-Tec, the Floridian manufacturer that has become famous for its unique firearm designs. Their entire business is built around producing wild and weird products that are outside the imagination or capability of more established manufacturers. And while Kel-Tec might have an online reputation as a boutique shop, with guns that are perpetually rare, they actually produced almost 100,000 firearms back in 2012 and have expanded since then. More than that, they also create variants of their firearms specifically designed to address Canadian legal requirements.

They produced a special edition of the RFB 308 Win. bullpup, outfitted with an 18.5-inch barrel, just for Canada. We've also seen the Canadian-red version of the Sub-2000 folding backpacker's carbine, which is more than just a fancy colour. The US version of the Gen 2 Sub-2000s all



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Black Box Customs aims to bring premium gunsmithing services to Canuck shooters.

ship with a short barrel, and the folding mechanism locks into the front sight. The Canadian version sports a longer barrel to make sure it is non-restricted, and uses a redesigned hand guard to allow the gun to still fold and lock into a compact storage position.

Kel-Tec's latest creation, the downward-ejecting bullpup, or RDB, has already been brought in by importer Vault Distributing, and submitted to the

RCMP for approval. Kel-Tec has built a version of the RDB designed for us, the only question is how long the firearms lab will take to inspect the 5.56mm semi-auto rifle and assign it a classification.

ROBINSON ARMS

Similarly, Robinson Arms, out of Salt Lake City, has built a substantial portion of their business around the Canadian market. Their XCR platform began life

as a competitor in the US SOCOM rifle competitions, but found a home up north as a valued AR-15 alternative. Not only does Robinson Arms produce long barreled rifles for Canada, but they've also taken to producing pistol variants of all their firearms to allow for the 10-round magazine compatibility in Canada. Ten-round magazines in 7.62x39, .223 and .308 are all available, thanks to the flexibility of the XCR platform.

CZ

It's not just the US that is interested in making guns to sell in Canada. Across the ocean, European manufacturers see some potential in our PAL holders. The Czech manufacturer Ľeská zbrojovka Uherský Brod has been selling guns into Canada for decades.

For years, they sold semi-auto versions of the Vz58 in Canada, which were labeled the Cz858 here. Thousands of these Cold War-era rifles made their way into Canada, providing a proven alternative in 7.62x39mm to the ever-popular SKS. When the RCMP attempted to prohibit those guns back in 2014, CZ and their Canadian importer, Wolverine Supplies, designed a Cz958 that used a redesigned receiver. While the RCMP decided some Cz858 rifles had too close a lineage with their full auto brothers, even a dedicated gunsmith would face serious challenges converting the Cz958 to fire full auto. The only question now is when we'll see the Cz958 on store shelves here.



Robinson Arms' XCR rifle began life as a competitor in the US SOCOM rifle competitions, but found a home up north as a valued non-restricted AR-15 alternative.

But its not just rifles. The CZ SP01 is a top-notch competition pistol. And here in Canada, we've had our red-handled, maple-leaf-engraved Canada Edition for several years. Sometimes its not about changing specs or mechanics for Canada, sometimes its just acknowledging that we're here, and distinct from the US.

Having a domestic partner is a key part of getting these manufacturers to build for Canada. In the case of the LA-K12 Puma, it was Vancouver retailer Lever Arms that pushed to get the semi-auto bullpup 12-gauge shotgun built and approved for this country. They took the core frame of the QBZ assault rifle used by the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and turned it into a drastically different civilian sporting platform.

BLACK BOX CUSTOMS

The Canadian market isn't just about imports, either. There are companies building things right here to improve the vibrancy of our shooting sports. Black Box Customs is one example. They aim to bring the premium gunsmithing services prevalent in the US to Canuck shooters who want to see their firearms improved. Their bread and butter is the Glock pistol. Universally popular, Glocks can see substantial improvement from lightened slides, improved grips, enhanced sights and retextured surfaces. But I can't imagine a Canadian owner who'd trust the ATF and US postal system to send their handgun across the border to one of America's Grandmaster Glock Wizards.

Black Box has also embraced the US trend of refinishing firearms with Cerakote, offering this enhanced finish to any Canadian looking to add a little colour to their gun. To Cerakote a firearm is to create an individualized, artistic-looking set up that encourages real pride in ownership. Again, not many people would go through the hassle of importing and exporting their personal guns to get them coated by the US custom shops, so Black Box has established the capability here.

MODULAR DRIVEN TECHNOLOGIES

Modular Driven Technologies is another Canadian success story, with their development of chassis systems to enhance the mechanics of bolt-action

rifles. Starting with the Remington 700, their products have taken off internationally, and MDT now makes aluminum chassis stock replacements for a wide variety of bolt guns. These systems allow for customizable AR-15 furniture to be fitted onto precision rifles, or allows for dedicated long-range stock systems, with micro adjustments in length of pull, cheek rest and angle. While their lightweight Tikka systems have gained popularity in Europe, Remington has bought into the MDT system wholesale. Their Model 700 Tactical Chassis rifles are now available direct from the factory outfitted with the MDT system. And you can also find MDT-built chassis on factory models of rifles made by Mossberg, Weatherby and Savage.

THERE'S MORE

There are dozens of other great companies in Canada working to improve and supply the firearms market here. Premium AR-15 manufacturers like Alberta Tactical Rifle Supply, and budget AR-15 producers like North Eastern Arms, both address the domestic market, with products lines worthy of entire articles by themselves. In a similar vein, different businesses across the country manage the import of various firearms lines designed for Canada. Unfortunately, there isn't room to cover them all here. Instead, I've cherry picked some of the notables who assist in diversifying our firearms landscape. They are all companies committed to Canada's firearm owners and deserve our support.

In collaboration with Canadian importers, manufacturers are building firearms intended solely for Canadian shooters.



DEER BULLETS

Choosing the right bullet for your hunt

BY BRAD FENSON





Because deer bullets are engineered for a deer-sized target, you shouldn't use them on larger game, like moose or elk.

After spending weeks figuring out where deer were moving, I eventually set up on the edge of a large wetland. I knew bucks were running scrape lines there, trying to keep track of the does in the area.

Covered in snow camouflage from head to toe, and sitting at the base of an old, decadent willow, I blended into the landscape perfectly. I'd been sitting for over two hours when movement along the trees caught my eye. I could see antlers, and within seconds a buck trotted out from cover and started to cut across the open corner of pasture I was watching. Having my rifle supported on a bipod, I tracked the deer until it was directly in front of me, settled my crosshair on the vitals and gently squeezed the trigger.

The deer jumped and ran less than 10 metres before piling up in a cascading wave of loose snow. I had shot straight, which is, of course, the best way to ensure a deer goes down fast. However, that's not always the case, and I vividly remember harvesting a huge-bodied buck in eastern Alberta that was able to suck up lead like it wasn't even hit.

THE CHALLENGE

Millions of hunters, like me, pursue deer across North America. And in Canada, we are often considered spoiled by the

amount of property we can access and hunt. Most provinces have vast areas of Crown land, and Canadian landowners and farmers are still pretty good about granting permission to those who ask for access. Now, consider deer hunting in the US. Pennsylvania, for instance, has close to 1.3 million licensed hunters, who harvest about 430,000 white-tailed deer a year. In short, there is a hunter on every square mile of deer habitat, which is why hunter orange is a requirement there. Hunters are forced to set up on small properties, or have nowhere to hunt, and that is where their problems start.

What happens if you shoot a deer, and it gets over the neighbour's fence? You might not be able to recover it, or keep your coveted venison. The same type of trespass laws exist in Texas and Illinois, where hunters can be concentrated and properties are heavily managed for trophy-quality antlers. And, naturally, we Canadians want a shot deer to drop quickly, too, and if they do run, the blood trail should be short and easy to follow.

To say deer are tough is an understatement. Anyone who has tracked a wounded deer knows they can appear almost invincible, seemingly able to survive and run on nothing but adrenaline. I've helped track many deer

that weren't hit with an ideally placed bullet. Some we caught up with, others we didn't. I do know that in some cases, bullet choice was part of the problem.

BULLET ENGINEERING

Over the years, I've been fortunate to hunt with a few bullet and cartridge engineers from Winchester and Federal. The resulting first-hand education on bullet design, performance and cost was enlightening. That education, and a lot of deer on the ground, has yielded the following considerations when looking for a deer-specific bullet.

A deer bullet is engineered to release as much energy as possible when going through an animal that is specifically the size of a whitetail. The bullet must start to expand relatively quick, and do so whether it hits hide, flesh or bone. The expansion releases energy into and through the deer, causing severe trauma and shock to the animal. Then, in a perfect world, the bullet bores through the animal doing direct tissue damage, and has just enough gusto to exit the hide on the far side, providing that sought-after blood trail that a blind man could follow.

Not all Canadian hunters understand or appreciate the engineering that goes into a deer bullet like that. And I've had



The next time you wander the ammunition aisle, pay attention to the boxes and look for ammunition specifically designed for the game you're hunting.

a few buddies over the years complain adamantly about the loss of meat because of the wound channel produced by their bullet. I remember hearing one friend tell me he will never use polymer-tipped bullets again because he loses too much meat. However, those plastic tips are part of the design and are carefully engineered as catalysts to ensure bullet expansion. The reality is, bullets are designed to cause damage, and when you buy a "deer bullet" or cartridge, you should expect to lose some meat, if you want the deer to drop quickly. If you hunt a very small parcel of land, the last thing you want is for the deer to run over the fence.

MATCHING BULLET TO GAME

Because deer bullets are engineered for a deer-sized target, you shouldn't use them on larger game, like moose or elk. I know some hunters like to use one cartridge and bullet for everything, but

to be honest, it isn't the best practice. A deer bullet may only retain 50 per cent of its total weight after getting the job done, and it isn't uncommon to find only fragments on the hide where the exit wound would be. This is why it's important not to use deer bullets on larger game. If you use a deer bullet on an elk, it may not penetrate the full distance through the vital zone. In short, it spells trouble and inconsistency, which leaves hunters frustrated and scratching their heads.

A controlled-expansion bullet is designed for larger game, where a more modest expansion rate means the bullet will retain more of its weight. These are the bullets that will plough through thick hide and even bone, holding together to get the job done. Many premium bullets will retain 90 per cent or more of their weight, to ensure proper penetration every time.

There are two types of controlled-expansion bullets: the conventional ones with lead cores and heavy, bonded copper jackets, and the newer bullet designs that are all copper or copper alloy. With the cost of metals today, a

solid copper bullet can be pricey, but they are also very effective.

MARKET OFFERINGS

If we dissect bullets like Winchester's new Deer Season XP, we can quickly understand the concept of a deer bullet. The Deer Season XP projectile has an oversized polymer tip that is the business end of the design. The jacket of the bullet is thin and the core is soft. The instant the bullet makes contact with a target, that polymer tip is forced rearward into the core. That begins the expansion process. As the thin jacket peels back and down, energy is released into the animal and portions of the bullet fragment, causing shrapnel-like wounds. In short, they are devastating on small, light-boned game like deer and antelope.

To reinforce what I'm trying to point out about bullets designed for deer hunters, I asked the people who design them to explain the purpose and intent. Mike Stock, the product manager with Winchester Ammunition, who started with the company as an engineer,

said, "Deer Season XP is the first true offering from Winchester designed specifically for deer hunters. Many of our customers only hunt deer, so why not provide a bullet offering maximum performance for a deer hunter."

The Power-Point, Fail Safe, XP3 and similar bullets Winchester produced over the years were all designed to bring down bigger critters, but could also be used on deer. They were slower expanding bullets meant to deliver energy to a bigger animal. Mike said that Winchester stepped back and asked, "If we only sold to deer hunters, what would the bullets need to do?" The answer? The second a bullet makes impact, it slows down. So designing a bullet that starts to deliver energy at the maximum velocity point in the animal is what creates the most damage, and thus the creation of Deer Season XP.

Browning is now producing ammunition, and has a similar bullet

offering in its BXR Rapid Expansion Matrix Tip. I used this bullet on a deer hunt last fall and shot a big, mature buck at just under 200 metres. The deer didn't make it 20 metres and had a bullet entrance hole as big as one would normally find at the exit.

Justin Johnson, product specialist with Federal Ammunition, said, "Our hunting rounds are designed to impart as much energy on the target as possible. This is done through the velocity of the projectile, expansion of the bullet once on target and overall weight retention. Those three things are a benefit to the hunter by helping to provide first-round knock downs, making for a safe and ethical hunt."

READ THE BOX

With the unbelievable diversity of ammunition to choose from on store shelves, hunters need to pay attention to the details on a box of

rifle ammunition. Sure, price can be an important consideration, but considering what it costs to purchase a licence, get fully outfitted and travel to remote locations, the cost of ammunition is only a small percentage of a total hunt. As with anything in life, you get what you pay for, and buying ammunition loaded with a premium deer bullet may cost more, but it also comes with optimal performance.

The next time you wander the ammunition aisle, pay attention to the boxes. Most deer cartridges will have a picture of a whitetail right on the box. If the box indicates the bullet is suitable for moose, elk or bear as well, there may be a better, more specific choice for your deer hunt.

The reality is, bullets are designed to cause damage, and if you want the deer to drop quickly, you should expect to lose some meat.





SHOOTING EGYPTIAN HISTORY

The Remington rolling block in 43 Egyptian

BY BOB SHELL



During the mid 1800s, there were many advancements in firearms. The fully contained cartridge was one of them, and its reliability quickly ensured widespread use. Additionally, a trained soldier could fire 15 rounds per minute with a single-shot rifle, while that number is three shots per minute with a muzzleloader. And another (not so obvious) advantage is the ability to reload a breechloader without standing up from behind cover.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Of those new single-shot rifles, one of the best developed during this time was Remington's rolling block rifle. Leonard Geiger conceived the original idea, and while the concept was good, it needed some improvements. So, Remington turned the project over to one of its engineers, Joseph Rider. He

worked on it, and by 1866, the design was developed far enough to start production. By the late 1860s, several countries were either using the rifle or contemplating it. The Spanish were one of the first.

In 1866, Sam Remington was in Europe demonstrating the rifle to various militaries, when word reached Egypt about this new rifle and its virtues. The ruling Khedive in Cairo, Isma'il Pasha, invited Remington to Egypt to demonstrate the rifle. Remington accepted and a few months later brought some rifles for testing. The Khedive watched the demonstration, and as usual the rifles performed flawlessly. An order was placed immediately. In fact, the Khedive was so pleased with Sam Remington and his rifles that he gave him a piece of prime property. As a side note, Remington eventually built a

small palace on the property, though he seldom stayed there.

The final design saved the Remington company from bankruptcy, as their business dropped off sharply after the Civil War, with no domestic need for large quantities of military firearms. Besides Egypt, many other countries either purchased rolling block rifles from Remington or bought the licensing rights to produce their own. The design was considered so good, it was given a silver medal at the 1867 Paris Exposition, as the best rifle of the time.

The 43 Egyptian cartridge was introduced in 1870, making it one of the earlier rolling block rounds. The original loading used a 400-grain paper patched bullet and was used until 1900, though in different rifles.

The rifle was made for Egypt from 1870 to 1876, but France obtained a



shipment of them and used them in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 to 1871. The original order was for 60,000 rifles, but war was brewing between France and Germany, so through some intrigue, France ended up with them.

France, along with Remington, convinced Egypt to allow France to procure them. Later on, France ordered 130,000 more, but in the 43 Spanish calibre. By 1875, Egypt finally started to get quantities of the rifle, which they put to immediate use. They were used in a lot of skirmishes with success, as well as Egypt's assistance to Turkey during the Russo-Turkish war. The rolling blocks also saw action throughout the Abyssinian campaigns during the late 1870s. In 1885, the fanatical Sudanese

Dervishes, using rolling blocks, defeated the British under Gordon. It seems that the 43 Egyptian was used in a lot of conflicts in various countries.

THE ROLLING BLOCK AND ITS AMMUNITION

The genius of the rolling block is its strength and simplicity. A swinging breechblock serves to open and close the rifle for loading and unloading. After loading, merely cock the hammer and the rifle is ready to go. When that hammer falls to its forward position, it locks the breechblock in place. However, like many military weapons of that period, it lacks a safety - something not really needed on an exposed hammer gun. The only issue I have with the

The genius of the rolling block is its strength and simplicity.

design is the heavy trigger pulls seen on some samples. This, of course, has a negative effect on accuracy, but otherwise they are very capable rifles. Unlike many rolling blocks, the trigger on my specimen is pretty decent.

The case resembles a 43 Beaumont round, but isn't interchangeable. The Egyptian bullet is usually .446 to .448 inches in diameter, while the Beaumont sports a .457 to .458-diameter slug. The 43 Egyptians are great rifles to shoot, however, I strongly suggest that after obtaining one, you have it checked out by a competent gunsmith. Since they are about 140 years old, there's no telling what may have happened to it before it ended up in your hands. They are rugged and well-made guns, but taking some precautions may save you some grief down the road. This applies to all the guns made in that era.

MAKING 43 EGYPTIAN

I initially used 32-gauge Magtech cases to handload ammunition for this rifle. However, I experienced some case head separation. Gas was sprayed back in my face when the head separated, showing the necessity of safety glasses. Some

HANDLOADS			
LOAD	BULLET	VELOCITY	COMMENT
25 grains	Trail Boss 230-grain cast	1,598	Decent
15 grains	Trail Boss 300-grain HB	1,016	Very mild
84 grains	Olde Eynsford FFG 300-grain HB	1,561	Consistent
32 grains	AA5744 300-grain cast	1,505	Nice load
65 grains	Clean Shot FFG 340-grain cast	1,562	Consistent
78 grains	Olde Eynsford FFG 370-grain cast	1,435	Consistent



Cases can be formed from Magtech's (CBC) 32-gauge brass shells



For a nice lightweight bullet, try a .45 calibre 230 cast pistol bullet, swaged down to size.

cases were so swollen they wouldn't fit into the shell holder. Even with the naked eye you could see the swelling, and measuring showed they expanded from .008 to .010 inches. Another feature that doesn't please me is they only take pistol primers, due to the shallow primer pocket. Pistol primers contain a smaller amount of compound, so they might not properly ignite some loads. While suitable for black powder shotgun loads, they come up short otherwise.

That first rifle of mine was damaged in a fire, but I was lucky enough to obtain another one in good shape. I went back to the 32-gauge cases and this second batch worked fine, even in my first rifle. I haven't had any more problems, so perhaps the previous cases were from a bad lot. Bertram makes cases for the 43 Egyptian, and if you can afford them, that's the deluxe option. Expect to pay about \$100 for 20 cases.

Hodgdon markets black powder under the Goex name and sent me some Olde Eynsford FFG. This is their premium powder and it has shown amazing consistency.

But for those who don't want to use black powder, there are some safe

alternatives. The rolling block action is fairly strong and, if in good shape, smokeless powder can be employed as long as you don't overdo it. Trail Boss is good for lightweight bullets because it takes up a lot of space inside the case. All other factors being equal, the load with the least amount of airspace will be the most consistent. Another good choice is AA5744 - I have used it in a lot of obsolete guns and, due to ease of ignition, light loads are feasible. If done carefully, 4198 can duplicate full-power black powder loads, and can slightly increase them; but increasing power should not be a primary goal. Keep in mind that this gun is about 140 years old and not getting younger.

Although the correct bullet diameter for this cartridge is about .446 inches, you should slug your barrel, as there are sometimes differences in barrel dimensions. Tolerances were not as tight back then.

Commercial bullets are available from a few sources at reasonable prices, but there isn't a large selection in regards to weight or style. They are usually 300, 340, 370 or 385 grains, with either a flat point or a round nose. For a nice, lightweight bullet, try a .45 calibre 230 cast pistol bullet, swaged down to size. It isn't hard to swage them down and I have done so

up to 400 grains. Normally you are going to swage them by .005 or .006 inches, so unless the bullets are really hard it isn't that much of a chore. I use that bullet for several odd 11 mm guns I work with.


However, if you need/want to buy a custom mold for your rifle, you had better be prepared to fork out some serious bucks and endure a long wait. Any odd diameter or style mold will cost more than normal due to the special tooling required to make an odd size. That makes squeezing down those .45 calibre slugs even more attractive.

I do not recommend jacketed bullet use in these guns for any reason.

Shooting the 43 Egyptian is a pleasure, as recoil isn't bad even with the heavy bullets. After all, black powder doesn't possess the sharp recoil impulse that smokeless powder has. Although, the smokeless powder loads are pleasant, as they are not loaded to high levels of performance. If you want to use this rifle for deer hunting at woods ranges, there is no reason not to. The lightweight bullets are fine for small game or target, and since it uses such little powder, it is economical to shoot.

If you like an unusual gun, this might just be the one for you.





THE LITTLE GIANT OF THE OLD WEST

Winchester's Model 1892 rifle and the 32-20 WCF

BY BOB CAMPBELL

Among the slickest, fastest handling and most enjoyable lever-action rifles of the previous century is the Winchester 1892 rifle. And I tagged the date correctly, because my personal rifle was manufactured in 1919, about midway between the production period of 1892 to 1940. The Model 1892 replaced Winchester's Model 1873, the toggle action of which impressed Maxim enough that he used the principle in his machine gun.



The Model 1892 is a scaled-down version of the strong, Browning-designed 1886 rifle, which was chambered for the 45-70 Gov't. class of cartridges. While the Winchester 92 is back in production today, it is the original that concerns us here. Because, after handling quite a few replicas, I have to state that none equal the fit and function of even a hard-worn Winchester. The exception is the well-made current Winchester Model 1892, and because it's a genuine Winchester, it's officially not a reproduction. Yes, a real Winchester is pricey, but I think it's worth the money for the performance and the history.

Above: The Winchester 1892 rifle, when paired with the 32-20 WCF cartridge, is accurate, reliable and well suited to small game.

Right: Black Hills Ammunition gave excellent results in the author's vintage rifle



THE RIFLE

The gun illustrated is a rifle, not a carbine, and features a 13-shot tubular magazine and an octagon barrel. The rifle operates in the same manner as other lever-action rifles. The lever must be closed as the cartridges are loaded in a side-loading gate. Once the magazine is loaded, the lever is actuated to load the chamber. As the bolt travels to the rear, the spent cartridge is ejected. The lever is pushed forward, not downward, and the lever must be pressed to the full length of its travel to properly operate the action. A carrier picks up the cartridge from the magazine, then feeds it to the chamber as the lever is returned to the resting position. For carry in the woods, the hammer features a

safety-notch position. The rifle illustrated is about as tight as my pre-'64 Winchester 1894 rifle with little play in the action, and it doesn't rattle when carried.

While the Winchester 1894 rifle was designed to handle a bottleneck .30 calibre cartridge, the smaller '92 action is faster to cycle if you have a need to lay down a lot of lead. The lever stroke is short. I'm not Chuck Connors, *The Rifleman*, but just the same, if you enjoy firing quickly, the '92 is up to the task.

That 13-shot magazine gives the rifle a definite muzzle-heavy feel when fully loaded. When the rifle is empty, the balance is quite different. The 1892 has a solid bottom receiver, an asset for strength. Examining the locking bolts and

their recesses immediately fosters an appreciation of the design. The receiver walls are thick, and the rails and slots are also made of good steel with plenty of support. Each locking lug is held strongly against the bolt when the rifle is locked. Those of us that speak the language of steel are impressed by such a design. Even if I were unaware of the mechanical advantages of the rifle, I would appreciate its shooting properties.

The sights include a buckhorn type rear, with an elevator for elevation adjustment. The front post may be drifted for windage. The rear sight may be drifted as well, but most of us will prefer to drift the front sight. These sights are most useful to about 100 yards.

I recently added a Lyman tang-mounted peep sight to this rifle and have found it superior to the standard sights in practically any application. The Lyman Gun Sight Company was founded in 1878 on the basis of these sights and still manufactures them. After all these years, most shooters have found nothing better for fast and accurate shooting. The Lyman sight is easily adjusted for elevation, and offers excellent speed, as the eye tends to center the front sight in the aperture, and results in not only accuracy, but also an unobstructed view of the target.

THE CARTRIDGE

Like many of you, when I am looking for an authentic rifle that is nearly 100 years old, I keep an open mind. After all, calibre isn't that important for a recreational piece. While the 38-40 Win. and 44-40 Win. are more powerful chamberings also offered in the '92, I ended up with the 32-20 Win. Originally, it was called the 32-20 Winchester Center Fire (WCF), but today's designation is simply 32-20 Winchester. Whatever the name, the cartridge likely fits my needs better today than it might have if I had been on the trail or hunting

off specification than handguns. While accuracy may have suffered, generous tolerances ensured feed reliability even with a dirty or corroded chamber and the less-than-perfect ammunition of the period. But the bullets were soft, consisting of 40 parts lead and one part tin, and therefore bumped into the grooves easily on firing, allowing acceptable accuracy. Harder alloys are popular today in order to produce better accuracy in modern firearms, and to limit leading of the barrel.

Today, 1,200 feet per second may seem modest for a rifle, but the shooter who knew what he was doing and was familiar with his rifle could connect on deer-sized targets past 100 yards. As a result, the cartridge served cattle drovers and farmers well. And don't forget that the 32-20 WCF translated well into handguns, with the original load producing about 900 feet per second from the 7.5-inch barrel of a Colt revolver. We may not have great confidence in this power level today, but a competent shot can do good work when accuracy and penetration are present.

TRIGGER TIME

When handloaded for performance, the 32-20 will more or less equal the 30 Carbine. There is even a supposition that the 30 Carbine was modeled on the 32-20 Win., much as the 308 Win. was modeled after the 300 Savage. Maybe. It isn't a huge leap from a handy saddle carbine to the light self-loading carbine.

My well-worn Winchester 1892 has a good bore and is accurate to the standard of two-inch groups at 50 yards. With Black Hills Ammunition's Cowboy loading, the rifle has proven accurate and reliable, demonstrating a clean powder burn. This is no mean feat when you consider the voluminous cartridge case was intended to burn black powder.

In order to get a good idea of the capabilities of the 32-20 Win., I obtained a set of Lee loading dies and a supply of lead 115-grain flat point bullets. The rifle's previous owner had set the sights for 100 yards, but I was able to move them to the lowest notch and sight the rifle in for 50 yards. With a modest amount of load development, I was able



Among the slickest, fastest handling and most enjoyable lever-action rifles of the previous century is the Winchester 1892 rifle.

outlaws in 1895. Then, the small calibre and light weight was likely an advantage to those making long forays into the wilderness. It meant more ammunition could be carried, not only by weight, but also by available funds.

Winchester introduced the 32-20 WCF cartridge in 1882. Standard ballistics is a 115-grain flat point bullet at 1,200 feet per second. A modern shooter using hard cast bullets may find it, and the other chamberings, less accurate than the legend. This is because the firearms of the day all had less-than-consistent bore diameter from maker to maker and handgun to rifle. This disparity in bore dimensions makes for poor accuracy. I've found rifles are more likely to be

While the effect of the cartridge when fired from the rifle, based on superior accuracy, penetration and velocity, was much better than the handgun, the combination was not without merit. To herd cattle, drive off a coyote or repel mountain lions, the 32-20 is effective. Deer will fall to a through-and-through wound in the lungs from a 115-grain bullet. But realistically, against bad men, warhorses and bears, an unsuitable outcome may be the result. As for the commonality of cartridges between the handgun and the rifle, I am certain the rifle was the most important of the pair. However, if one firearm were lost or damaged, the other could still serve with the ammunition available.

to demonstrate 1,200 feet per second from the rifle. The load is suitably accurate, with the Winchester posting two to two-and-a-half inches at 50 yards. I have also enjoyed good results with a rather hot load, using the Sierra 90-grain JHP and H110 powder at 1,600 feet per second. Sierra bullets give good accuracy and this load is no exception.

The rifle and the cartridge certainly work well for my forays into the hills. I doubt there is a bison in my future, so I don't need a 45-70 Gov't., but there are plenty of coyotes, dirt clods and pine cones to feel the wrath of my 32-20 Win. Its history and performance makes this cartridge the little giant of the west in lever-action rifles.



A MARTINI, A BAYONET & GUTS

Shooting the 577/450 Martini-Henry

BY DEAN ROXBY

The 1964 movie, *Zulu*, features the Martini-Henry rifle in heated battle, and may well present the strongest visual most people have of this historic firearm. One memorable scene depicts the aftermath of a particularly hard-fought battle against Zulu natives.

Colour Sgt. Bourne: "Mr. Chard, sir, patrol's come back. The Zulus have gone. All of them. It's a miracle."

Lt. John Chard: "If it's a miracle, Colour Sergeant, it's a short-chambered, Boxer-Henry .45 calibre miracle."

Colour Sgt. Bourne: "And a bayonet, sir. With some guts behind it."

THE RIFLE

That iconic Martini-Henry rifle was the primary British Army service rifle from 1871 to 1888. While not a tremendously long time in front-line service, it played a part in many important battles throughout the British Empire, most notably during the South African Anglo-Zulu war of 1879, as well as other dirty little wars in Afghanistan, Burma and Egypt.

The Martini-Henry was the first British service rifle designed from the start as a breech-loading arm, firing complete cartridges. It replaced the short-lived Snider-Enfield conversion of the Enfield muzzleloading rifle. The Martini-Henry combined the single-shot action designed by Swiss inventor Friedrich von Martini (itself an improvement on the Peabody action) and the unique rifling pattern created by Alexander Henry of Scotland.

While it is often described as a "falling block" action, the Martini-Henry rifle is not a true falling block, as the breech block pivots at the rear rather than dropping straight down. The tilting block accomplishes the same function though, serving to lock the breech closed in a simple, yet strong, manner.

The Henry style of rifling is a unique one. It does not use the typical lands and grooves with square corners that we are accustomed to now. Instead, it uses a rather complex arrangement of shallow and tight arcs, vaguely similar to the polygonal rifling used in Glock pistols. This could be

visualized as gently rolling hills and valleys. The pattern between alternating wide and narrow arcs is repeated seven times. The rate of twist is one turn in 22 inches, right-hand twist. As well, the bore has a slight taper to it. The first eight inches of the barrel has a reduction in diameter. This is vital to know for reloaders, as a bullet sized to fit the muzzle will be very loose for the first few inches of travel.

During its service life, the Martini-Henry was made in several variations. The design went through four major marks, and minor changes occurred within each mark. In addition to the full length (approximately 49 inches long) infantry rifle, there was a shorter (37.7 inches) carbine for cavalry or artillery company use. My rifle, the one featured in this article, is a Mk IV. The Mk IV is the most recognizable mark, due to the extended length of the cocking lever. This change was made to give more leverage to extract sticky cases when fighting in hot climates. This was based on extraction issues encountered during battles in the Sudan, northern Africa.

THE CARTRIDGE

The cartridge is based upon the 577 Snider round, lengthened and necked down to supposedly .450 calibre. In actuality, the bullet diameter is about .470 inches. During initial testing, a narrower and longer straight-walled case was tried, but this was found to be a weak design. So Col. E. M. Boxer (inventor of the Boxer primer) of the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich, England, suggested that the same powder charge (85 grains of black powder) could be maintained in a shorter case if the body was of a larger diameter. The new version used the same diameter base as the previous .577 round, and featured the now commonplace bottleneck design. Thus was born the short chamber Boxer-Henry .45 calibre cartridge, as mentioned by Lt. John Chard.

Prior to the introduction of modern one-piece drawn brass cases, the British Army used a multi-piece case. The body was made from a thin brass sheet wrapped around a mandrel. The rim was a mild steel washer and the bits were soldered together. The earlier 577 Snider cartridge used this method also. This type of construction was also invented by Col. E. M. Boxer. These rolled foil rounds have a distinctive wrinkled look to them before firing. Afterwards, they are perfectly fire-formed to the chamber. Due to complaints about them tearing apart upon extraction, they were replaced with drawn brass cases in 1885.

MAKING AMMUNITION

And yes, if you want to fire this cartridge, you will need to handload for it. The original British military loads are long gone, certainly in shooting quantity. And the few rounds that do surface, are far too rare and pricey to shoot.

Reloading is possible, but it's challenging. Lee Precision makes a die set that is reasonably priced, but is part of their large series of dies. Meaning a press capable of accepting one-and-a-quarter-inch, 12-thread pitch is required, not the usual seven-eighths-of-an-inch, 14-thread. The Lee set works well, but there is an issue that must be noted. This cartridge dates back far before SAAMI specifications or CNC machining. This means there has been a wide range of chamber dimensions over the years. Lee's solution is to manufacture their

The Young British Soldier

Poet Rudyard Kipling mentions the Martini-Henry rifle by name in his poem *The Young British Soldier*, describing the Second Anglo-Afghan war:

When 'arf of your bullets fly wide in the ditch,
Don't call your Martini a cross-eyed old bitch;
She's human as you are - you treat her as sich,
An' she'll fight for the young British soldier.
Fight, fight, fight for the soldier...

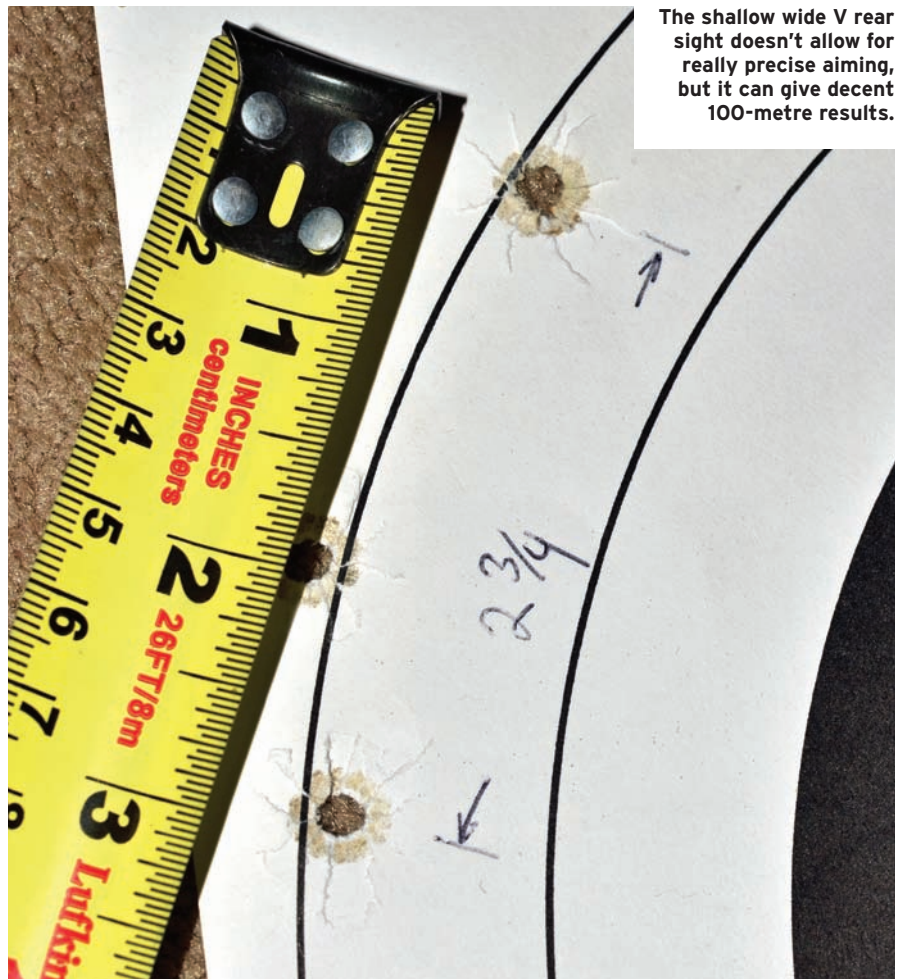


sizing die to minimum dimensions, in order that ammunition can be sized to fit any chamber. While this is a perfectly sensible approach, it does result in your valuable brass getting overworked in larger chambers. Then, when repeatedly enlarged by firing, and resized much smaller, the brass becomes work hardened and cracking quickly develops.

To determine how much my brass is being resized each cycle, I made a cast of my chamber and of my sizing die with Cerrosafe. This product, designed for casting chambers, is an alloy of bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium that melts at about 75 degrees Celsius (less than boiling water). My two castings showed that my dies are .022 inches tighter than my rifle chamber at the mouth. That explains the extra effort required to size my cases. Now that I know the issue, I am planning on having a machinist friend carefully open up my die on a lathe.

Aside from the dimensional issues, there is the matter of locating suitable brass cases. I am still using cases lathe-turned from solid brass round bar from North Devon Firearms Services, in the UK. Unfortunately, they closed in 2002. Several years ago, Ten-X, a US company that caters to the Cowboy Action crowd, made a run of ammunition, but this has now ended. The current best option to get your rifle shooting again is to reform brass 24-gauge shotgun shells into 577/450 M-H dimensions. In Canada, these can be obtained from Rusty Wood Trading Company, of Mission, BC. The head and rim diameters of the 24-gauge hull are very close to the specs for the 577/450 M-H case. They will, however, require reforming from straight wall to bottleneck, and this is not an easy process. Many shooters use the Lee full length sizing die to reform, but this requires a large reduction in diameter in one step. A better way is to reduce the neck in several steps, but this will require custom dies.

Bullets for these rifles are a mixture of diameters. First, forget using .458-inch diameter slugs. Cast bullets of .465 inches to .467 inches diameter are the correct size for Mk I, II and III rifles, while the Mk IV will work best with .470 inches to .472 inches. These sizes are for cast lead grease groove



The shallow wide V rear sight doesn't allow for really precise aiming, but it can give decent 100-metre results.

bullets. If you want to use paper-patched bullets, then the diameters will be reduced somewhat.

SHOOTING THE MARTINI-HENRY

Once the ammunition reloading issue is resolved, these guns are a joy to shoot and offer solid, but not punishing, recoil, a cloud of black powder smoke and a large slice of history with every shot. Firing a 145-year-old design is bound to make you smile. The shallow wide V rear sight doesn't allow for really precise aiming, but it can give decent 100-metre results. While assembling this article, I was pleasantly surprised to find an old target of mine showing I once shot a 100-metre, three-shot, sub-three-inch group.

This fall, I plan on taking my Mk IV bear hunting. A 480-grain bullet traveling at 1,350 feet per second, giving almost 2,000 foot pounds of bonk, may not sound overly impressive, but these numbers are somewhat deceiving. A heavy, slow-moving hunk of lead

punches a large entry hole and keeps on going. It is already similar in diameter to a properly mushroomed modern bullet and it will probably penetrate farther. I certainly do not feel under gunned. And unlike the British soldiers mentioned at the start of this article, I'm confident I won't need a bayonet.

RESOURCES

Rusty Wood Trading Company:

www.rustywood.ca
brass cases

Higginson Powders:

www.higginsonpowders.com
Lee brand 577/450 Martini-Henry reloading dies

Brownells:

www.brownells.com
Cerrosafe casting alloy

International Military Antiques:

www.ima-usa.com
Martini-Henry parts and accessories



The
LAST
MILITARY
MANNLICHER

A look at the Hungarian 1935.M

BY PAUL SCARLATA



Prior to the Great War, the unified state of Austria-Hungary was one of the world's great powers. But unifications are a fragile thing and the First World War caused the downfall of the Hapsburg monarchy and the union of Austria and Hungary was dissolved.

On Nov. 3, 1918, both countries signed an armistice with the Allies. The Hungarian Republic was proclaimed 13 days later. The next year, a coup by the Hungarian communist party led to the creation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic. But counter revolutionary forces under Admiral Milkós Horthy, former Commander-in-Chief of the Austro-Hungarian navy, defeated the communists and restored order.

On March 1, 1920, the National Assembly of Hungary re-established the Kingdom of Hungary, but chose not to recall the deposed King Karoly IV (former Kaiser Karl I) from exile. Instead, Horthy was proclaimed "regent," a position he would hold until 1944. The new army continued to use the same weapons it had while part of the Dual Monarchy, with the basic infantry rifle being the Gyalogsági Ismétlődő Puska 95.M.

LINEAGE

The M.95 rifle fired the 8mm scharfe Patrone M.93, with a rimmed case 50 millimetres long and loaded with a 244-grain, round nosed, FMJ bullet traveling at 2,040 feet per second.

The M.95 rifle used a straight-pull bolt with dual frontal locking lugs, but Mannlicher's magazine generated much more enthusiasm than his straight pull bolt action. It used a metal clip that held five cartridges and was inserted into, and became part of, the rifle's magazine. A spring-loaded follower pushed cartridges up into feeding position. Then, after chambering the fifth round, the empty clip fell out of an opening in the bottom of the magazine housing.

Most rifles had their barrels shortened to 19.7 inches, re-chambered and had their sights modified. They were marked with an "H" (for Hegyes Töltény, meaning pointed bullet) on the chamber and were known as Gyalogsági Puska 1931.M.

Not completely satisfied with the 1931.M, the Honvédség began looking for a more modern rifle. The engineers at FEG began work in 1932, and by 1935 had designed a rifle that combined characteristics of the M.95 Mannlicher, Infanteriegewehr 88, Lee-Enfield, Mannlicher-Schönauer and the 98 Mauser. After trials, it was adopted as the Gyalogsági Puska 1935.M.

THE FINAL DESIGN

The 1935.M's bolt was based upon that of the German Infanteriegewehr 88, as improved by Otto Schönauer. It featured a tubular split bridge receiver

with a two-piece bolt that cocked on opening. The bolt handle passed through and turned down in front of the split bridge receiver, and acted as a safety lug. The separate, non-rotating bolt head contained both the extractor and ejector. It was locked by two frontal lugs positioned on the bolt body, directly behind the bolt head.

The 1935.M's most distinguishing feature is a two-piece stock similar in concept, but of a different design, to the Lee-Enfield. The buttstock is attached to the receiver by a through bolt. The top and bottom of the butt socket are milled out to fit tightly over the tang end of the trigger guard, to prevent it from rotating. Hooks at the top and bottom of the butt socket also engage grooves in the tang and trigger guard to further secure it in place, while the forend is tenoned into the butt socket for a more rigid design.

The bolt has a heavy-duty extractor mortised into the separate, non-rotating bolt head. The ejector is mounted on the left side of the bolt and dual frontal locking lugs are positioned behind the bolt head, while a guide rib runs most of the length of the bolt.

The straight bolt handle is part of this rib and turns down in front of the split bridge receiver to provide additional locking surface. A checkered thumb piece allows manual re-cocking or lowering of the firing pin, while a Mauser-

type wing thumb safety is used. A single gas escape hole in the bolt directs gases from a ruptured case or pierced primer down the left locking lug raceway, where it is vented out the thumb clearance cutout in the left side of the receiver.

While a strong design, the 35.M suffers from one of the Infanteriegewehr 88 breed's chronic faults – the bolt can be assembled and the rifle fired without the bolt head in place. This is partially rectified by the fact that unless the bolt head is in place, the bolt stop must be manually depressed before it can be inserted into the receiver.

The 1935.M's magazine is loaded with the Mannlicher M.90-style clip that can only be inserted into the magazine one way. Thoughtfully, there are finger grooves on the top of the clip, so the shooter can tell if he is inserting it properly, even in the dark.

A full-length handguard runs from the rear sight base to the muzzle band, and sling swivels on the side and bottom of the stock allow the rifle to be used by either infantry or mounted troops. A tangent rear sight, adjustable from 100 to 2,000 metres, is mated to an inverted V blade front sight that is protected by a hood.

Four versions of the 35.M bayonet were produced, two each of infantry and cavalry models. All feature a 13-inch, double-edged blade and mount via a thumb catch on the left side the muzzle ring. Cavalry model bayonets have an auxiliary front sight mounted on top of the muzzle ring. This system was copied from the M.95 Stutzen Mannlicher, and was used to compensate for the change in point of impact from the weight of the bayonet.

Production of the 1935.M took place at FEG from 1936 to 1942, with about 163,000 units being made. It is also believed that another firm in Budapest, Danuvia Gepgyar, undertook limited production.

IN ACTION

It never completely replaced all of the 31.M Mannlichers in service, especially after Hungary began expanding its armed forces during the Second World War. The 1935.M saw service with Hungarian troops, taking part in Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the USSR and by Hungarian units assisting in anti-partisan operations in central Europe and the Balkans.

The 35.M proved a sturdy, reliable rifle, so much so that a modified version was adopted by the German Wehrmacht to supplement their Karabiner 98k Mausers.

The German version, known as the Gewehr 98/40, was chambered

his extensive collection to test fire and photograph for this article. It was made in 1940 and is in extremely nice condition with a clean bore. Overall workmanship and quality of materials are first class.

Recently, I came to the realization that I don't enjoy recoil any more. Accordingly, I test fired both rifles from a Caldwell Lead Sled on my club's 100-yard range. The 35.M was fed a diet of Hornady 8x56 Hungarian ammunition. Loading a bolt-action rifle with Mannlicher clips is without a doubt the fastest way to charge a magazine.

This rifle has a typical two-stage military trigger pull, but with crisp let off. The sights provide a clear, sharp sight picture. The stock is comfortable enough and it has one of the smoothest operating bolts I've ever worked. And that's not an easy thing for one of the world's most ardent Krag-Jorgensen fans to admit! The first round out of the 35.M's clip required a hefty shove, but after that the other four fed effortlessly. Empty cases were ejected positively, and empty clips fell out as soon as the fifth round was chambered.

With the rear sight set at 100 metres, this rifle printed close enough to point of aim to keep me happy.

But no matter how hard I concentrated on sight picture and trigger pull, the 35.M tended to string rounds vertically. When the smoke had cleared, my measurements indicated the average of three, five-shot groups to be 3.25 inches.

My impression? To be perfectly frank, I can find little negative to say. This is a fine handling, accurate rifle that deserves a better reputation than Mannlichers usually receive. I believe it compares favourably with contemporaries such as the Kar. 98k Mauser and the No. 4 Lee-Enfield. I expect it would have served any soldier carrying it very well.




The 35.M performed well, but tended to string shots vertically.

for the 7.9mm Patrone s.S. and can be recognized by its charger-loaded, Mauser-style magazine, Karabiner 98k-style side-mounted sling, bayonet bar and turned down bolt handle. It is reported that 138,400 were manufactured and, as with most non-standard rifles, saw wide service with security units and anti-partisan troops in eastern Europe and the Balkans.

SHOOTING A PIECE OF HISTORY

My good friend Vince DiNardi supplied me a Gyalogsagi Puska 1935.M from



A left view of the receiver shows the bolt release catch, as well as the serrated cocking piece and safety on the bolt.

SPECIFICATIONS

GYALOGSAGI PUSKA 1935.M

CALIBRE
8mm 31.M


OVERALL LENGTH
43.7 inches

BARREL LENGTH
23.6 inches

WEIGHT
8.9 pounds

MAGAZINE
Five rounds, clip loaded

SIGHTS
Front, inverted V blade; rear,
V notch adj. by tangent from
100 to 2,000 metres



Manufacturer's
markings and date.



Stuff That *WORKS*

A pre-Christmas list of good gear

BY AL VOTH

We're closing in on the end of 2016, with Christmas already on the horizon. That makes this a great time to take a look at some of the shooting and hunting gear I've been using over the course of the last year. Most of these are new products, and they've all been performing well enough to be worthy of placement on your Christmas wish list.



\$65

BUG-A-SALT GUN

The media loves to label some guns as assault weapons. However, this really is a salt weapon. And it qualifies, because it shoots salt. Yes, ordinary table salt, and it shoots it at bugs no less. So, it's not an assault weapon, but it is a salt weapon.

Unfortunately, winter is a terrible time to buy this gun in Canada, because the bug population is limited at this time of year. But I picked mine up in the midst of fly season and it has been a hoot to shoot all summer. Simply, pour salt into the ammunition hopper and then cycle the pump-action forend once for each shot. Pull the trigger and a blast of compressed air drives a pinch of salt out the barrel, very much like a miniature shotgun. Centre a fly in that salt pattern at a distance of one to three feet and you can call for the body disposal crew. This is pure fun, with a gun.

I got mine at Bass Pro for \$65. Make sure you get the 2.0 version, as there have been some significant upgrades from the original.





\$1,100

VORTEX RAZOR HD LH RIFLESCOPE

Vortex added a new series of riflescopes to its hunting line this year, and I've had a chance to work with the 2-10X40 model over the summer. They call this series Razor HD LH, with the goal being to provide a high-end, lighter-weight scope for hunters. Models also include a 1.5-8X32 and a 3-15X42 version. These scopes offer two different reticles and all the features you'd expect from top quality riflescopes.

I've found the optics of my sample are stellar and all the adjustments feel tight and solid, like they should. Tracking is dead on, although the scope and turrets are not really designed for dialling distance shots. With a ballistic program and some range time, that's what their HST-4 reticle is for. It's graduated in two MOA hash marks for windage and elevation. And once you have your drop figures established, that's likely the best way to make longer shots with this scope. Like all their products, these scopes are covered with the Vortex lifetime guarantee. Prices at Canadian Vortex dealers are hovering around \$1,100, depending on the model.

KALASHNIKOV ENCYCLOPEDIA

Finding Christmas gifts for gun collectors can be a tough chore. But reference books are always a good bet, and this is a reference set that will fill up a bookshelf all by itself. It's called the Kalashnikov Encyclopedia and it's the most comprehensive resource on the Kalashnikov rifle in existence.

Compiled by Dr. Cor Roodhorst of the Netherlands, this three-volume set covers the AK-47 rifle and all its known variations, breaking down the chore by country. To cover everything alphabetically between Albania and Vietnam takes 4,000 pages. Each country has its own section, with nations like Finland, for example, listing 84 variations. Did you know the Finnish Valmet was made in 222 Remington?

Of course there are photographs, almost all of

which are in colour. Detailed specifications of each rifle variation are provided, as well as a narrative that fills in some history, parts interchangeability and the usage information that makes arms collecting so interesting. The only negative I see in the books stems from the fact that English is not Dr. Roodhorst's first language, so it's common to see punctuation and grammar that is a little "off." However, the meaning is always clear.

The immediate reaction of every collector who has thumbed through my copy of the Kalashnikov Encyclopedia is, "Holy \$%&#!" It's that impressive a piece of work. You can find it online, direct from the author, at www.kalashnikov-encyclopedia.com for about \$370 Canadian. There's nothing else like it.

\$370





\$70

SCENT CRUSHER OZONE GO

If you're a hunter, you know how valuable scent reduction can be to success in the field. And one of the emerging technologies being used to further this goal is the use of ozone. A company called Scent Crusher is establishing itself as a leader in this area, with a broad selection of gear, all designed to make the hunter as scent free as possible. I've been using a couple of their products, and all have impressed me with their abilities. But I think their greatest idea is a small device called the Ozone Go.

The Ozone Go is a tiny ozone generator that plugs into the 12V power outlet found in most vehicles. It then pumps odour-killing ozone into the interior of the vehicle according to a programmed schedule within the unit. And I'm here to tell you it works!

When I first received the device, I loaned it to a dog- and horse-loving friend whose truck habitually smells like wet dog and sweaty horse blankets. Within the space of a few days, the truck smelled like new. Likewise, for another friend who spilled an entire Starbucks latte onto the carpeted floor of her Honda - in the middle of a hot summer. The Ozone Go eliminated the curdled milk smell within a week.

I have more stories, but you get the idea. I now treat my clothes with one of Scent Crusher's gear bags prior to leaving on a hunt, and the Ozone Go has a permanent home in my truck. I plug it in whenever I'm on my way to a hunt, and get myself as scent free as possible. You can find the Ozone Go at Cabela's for about \$70.



\$260

5.11 RANGE READY BAG AND URBAN SNIPER BAG

Shooters all seem to love 5.11 clothing, and for good reason. After all, when someone makes garments with pockets specifically designed for rifle and pistol magazines, shooters get on board. But 5.11 makes great nylon gear as well, and I've been working with a couple of examples over this last year.

Their Range Ready bag has been my primary way of transporting gear to the range, and their 50-inch Urban Sniper bag has been carrying my rifles there and back. Both are built with 5.11's typical quality and have been giving me great service.

The Range Ready bag holds enough gear that it's easy to forget in which pouch something is located. But all those pouches keep things organized and now I rarely find that I've forgotten something at home. Price on these hovers around \$140. The Urban Sniper bag is a large gun case capable of swallowing two big rifles, or one rifle and a pile of accessory gear. It can also double as a shooting mat. This bag costs about \$260. I've noticed that most Canadian 5.11 dealers have these items in stock regularly.



\$330

TENZING PP15 PREDATOR PACK

If you've ever taken a gun for a walk in the woods, you've probably taken a backpack, as well. I've been using the Tenzing PP15 Predator Pack for a year now, and for my style of woods-stomping it's the best pack I've ever used. And the reason I say that is primarily because of the "chair" that is built into the design.

If you have a hunting style that involves a fair amount of sitting, calling and/or waiting, this is a pack you should look at. The pack features a cushy seat for your butt and fold out legs that turn into back supports. It's a design that enables the hunter to sit comfortably anywhere, meaning you don't have to look for a tree or fencepost to rest your back against. And it all folds up into a neat, tight package when you're moving.

At the pack's core is a sturdy aluminum frame, and around the outside are 23

pockets and compartments for carrying gear. Many of those are removable and customizable. It'll accept a two-litre water bladder and there are lots of straps and lash points for carrying more stuff. After a year of hard use, I've lost the rubber feet from the leg tips, but other than that it's still in perfect condition.

The only negative I can report is a bit of an incompatibility with carrying a gun using any kind of a typical over-the-shoulder sling. I found the gun can bang against the pack's chair legs doing this. As a result, I've switched to a sling carry that places the rifle across the front of the body, something which works well with the modern sporting rifles I frequently use anyway. If you have broader shoulders than I do, this may not be an issue.

Wholesale Sports has these packs for \$330. No, that's not cheap, but this is good gear and, in my opinion, worth every dime.

Point Blank

Chris McGarry

The Struggle For Firearms Freedoms Is Global

There's no question that over the past 20 years our planet has become a much smaller place. This, of course, is due in no small part to the rise of the World Wide Web, and, more specifically, the prominence of social media. A technological development that at one time seemed like science fiction, has not only brought Canadian gun owners closer together, it also has strengthened the global gun rights movement.

Throughout the world, firearms enthusiasts work hard, every day, to preserve their freedoms and heritage. Even in the United States, which is blessed with the **Second Amendment**, gun owners are constantly evading attacks from antigun activists, media and politicians. The Internet enables gun owners from various nations to communicate with one another and share updates about proposed or impending legislation that harms our rights. But they can also share positive news and techniques for victory, a great example being when the former Conservative government repealed Canada's Long Gun Registry

in 2012. At the time, fellow gunnies from America, Australia and the United Kingdom congratulated their Canadian counterparts on this hard-fought success.

Through the Internet, I have learned of many prominent gun rights activists in various corners of the world. They include Robert Brown, a member of parliament for the Shooters and Fishers Party of Australia, as well as Maria Butina, chairwoman of the Moscow-based Russian Organization for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

In recent years, we have heard countless politicians, academics and activists speak of a "global village." This concept of a worldwide community, in which ideas and philosophies are shared, includes groups and individuals representing a wide array of causes and viewpoints. Firearms owners, whether they live in Canada, New Zealand, Brazil or Ukraine, should feel privileged to belong to this burgeoning international society of ordinary citizens who have a strong love for freedom and liberty.

In the past, firearms owners were largely isolated from one another. Before

the advent of the Internet and the subsequent explosion of social media, Canada's massive geography hampered gun owners from communicating with one another. Meeting places used to be limited to the local Tim Horton's, the occasional gun show or annual general meetings.

Fortunately, those days are gone. Canada's National Firearms Association, which formed in the late 1970s and has always maintained a strong membership, has a Facebook page with close to 19,000 members. And it's growing every day. With half the world on Facebook, those of us on the front lines of the fight for firearms freedoms, regardless of the country we call home, are literally a few clicks away from being part of a vast global village of sorts, consisting entirely of gun owners.

Although firearms owners in Canada may at times feel insular, we must always remember that this often arduous battle isn't exclusively ours. It is shared by hundreds and millions of fellow freedom-loving brothers and sisters across the world.

The advent of the Internet has brought gun owners and firearms enthusiasts together, regardless of where they call home.





Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

The Legalities Of The Ruger 10/22 Magazine Ban

The Ruger 10/22 rifle, in its various iterations, is likely the best-selling rimfire rifle of all time. Millions of Ruger 10/22 rifles and their copies have been sold throughout the world, including hundreds of thousands in Canada. To my knowledge, it has never been used in a mass shooting of any kind, and thus has not attracted the kind of negative publicity as some other firearms, such as the AR-15 and the Mini-14.

Until recently, owning a Ruger 10/22 rifle was a worry-free experience. One of the positive aspects of 10/22 ownership is the widespread availability of OEM and aftermarket parts and accessories, allowing Ruger 10/22 owners to customize their rifle, or as some say, pimp it out, to their liking. Among accessories popular with Ruger 10/22 rifle owners are 25-round magazines made by Ruger and other manufacturers.

However, things recently changed. Earlier this year, the RCMP came to the

conclusion that certain so-called “high capacity” magazines – magazines capable of holding more than 10 cartridges – were in fact prohibited devices. Thus, in the RCMP’s opinion, anyone who possessed such a magazine was a criminal, since the possession of a prohibited device is a criminal offence under the Canadian **Criminal Code**.

The issue stems from the fact that long after Ruger introduced the 10/22 rifle, the company also introduced a rimfire pistol, called the Charger, based upon the 10/22 platform. The Charger pistol is capable of using the same magazines as the 10/22 rifle. You probably have never heard about the Charger pistol, because it has never been very popular, and I would be surprised if more than a few hundred Charger pistols were ever sold in Canada. It would not be far-fetched to affirm that there are about 1,000 10/22 rifles for every Charger pistol in Canada.

Whereas semi-automatic rimfire rifles are not subject to magazine capacity limitations, semi-automatic rimfire pistols are limited to a maximum capacity of 10 shots. The law is worded as follows:

“Prohibited devices” (...)

3 (1) Any cartridge magazine

(...)

(b) that is capable of containing more than 10 cartridges of the type for which the magazine was originally designed and that is designed or manufactured for use in a semi-automatic handgun that is commonly available in Canada.

Clearly, those magazines that were manufactured before the introduction of the Charger pistol were never “designed or manufactured for use in a semi-automatic handgun.” However, this does not seem to bother the RCMP, which deems all Ruger 10/22 high-capacity magazines to be prohibited devices, irrespective of their date of manufacture.

Arguably, given the very low number of Charger pistols ever sold in Canada, and the high number of 10/22 rifles, most of those magazines were not “designed or manufactured for use in a semi-automatic handgun.” They were rather manufactured and designed for use with the 10/22 rifle. Again, the RCMP is not bothered with such fancy distinctions.

According to the RCMP, it also does not matter that an individual who possesses such a magazine may have no intent, or even possibility, to use the magazine in a Charger pistol. Mere possession of the device is, in and of itself, conducive to a criminal offence. Or at least, the RCMP thinks so.

As of now, all imports of high capacity Ruger 10/22 magazines into Canada



This marking indicates this 25-round magazine was manufactured in September 1994, 12 years before the development of the Charger pistol.

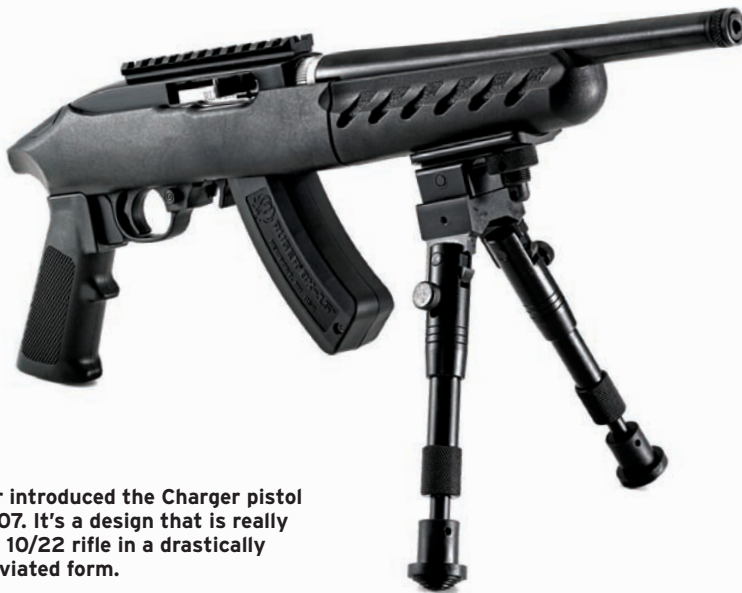
have stopped. All sales of such magazines are prohibited and people who possess such magazines have been asked to surrender them to police authorities for destruction, or run the risk of being charged with a criminal offence. Once again, with the stroke of a pen, or rather

the click of a mouse, the RCMP has turned hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Canadian gun owners into criminals, because of the mere fact that they possess their own legally acquired property. Which, by the way, they purchased under the assumption that it was legal to

own, since the government authorities, including Canada Customs, and the various bodies involved in the application of the Canadian firearms program, let them understand, whether explicitly or implicitly, that buying, possessing or using such high capacity magazines with a Ruger 10/22 rifle was not a problem.

To my knowledge, no one has yet been charged with a criminal offence for the mere possession of a 10/22 high-capacity magazine. An internal RCMP memorandum, recommending against laying charges for the mere possession of such a magazine has even surfaced, which goes to show how confident the RCMP is about its interpretation of the law. The same memo recommends allowing a 30-day grace period for allowing the magazines to be "pinned" to a maximum capacity of 10 shots.

The purpose of criminal law is supposed to address a wrong, not to create one where none exists. In Canada, when firearms are concerned, it is often the other way around.



Ruger introduced the Charger pistol in 2007. It's a design that is really just a 10/22 rifle in a drastically abbreviated form.

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Team NFA

Megan Tandy

My Relationship With The Shooting Range



What makes the difference between a good shooter and great shooter in the sport of biathlon? Maybe it's natural talent, or simply hard work. It could be focus, physical conditioning or any number of other factors. But there is one factor I haven't truly appreciated until recently, and it is literally all in your head.

I have a long history with biathlon shooting ranges. It started when I was 12, standing cautiously, 30 metres behind the firing line of a humble little biathlon range hidden amongst the cross-country ski trails in my hometown of Prince George, BC. I can still remember my curiosity and excitement as I tugged on my Dad's arm, whispering in his ear, begging to try shooting. Thirty minutes later, I had cleaned my first set of biathlon targets. Mind you, it was on standing size targets from prone position with a supporting wooden block, but that hardly mattered to me. I felt like a million bucks when that fifth target went down.

Over the next five years, my commitment to my sport went through ups and

downs. Sometimes you could find me dry-firing every morning before school, determined to win my next race, and other times biathlon was more a hobby compared to the oh-so-important life of a teenage girl. What never changed was my passion for shooting. Rain or shine, I have always loved the satisfaction of watching those targets fall. To this day, there is nothing better than those rare, effortless shooting sessions where every shot seems destined for the bulls-eye.

I remained a "good shooter" throughout the junior years of my career, most seasons claiming my spot under the top 20 on the international percentage-ranking list. I had great moments, but I was rarely the best. And then, in 2012, the excrement hit the fan. There is really no other way to put it. I found myself on a rollercoaster of inconsistency: ripping off shots at top speed in one race and barely trusting myself to squeeze off the first shot in the next. The shooting range suddenly went from being one of my greatest passions to a place of torture.

I became terrified of missing targets. I dreaded entering the range. I felt nervous minutes before I even approached the range. Some days I hated the shooting range. I really did, and yet I stayed out there longer than anyone else, trying desperately to prove that I still had what it took to own those targets.

I had to change something. So, I started to analyze everything.

I learned a lot from my ensuing analysis. I went back to the basics and ended up making some significant changes to my shooting training, putting quality before quantity and keeping the process as simple as possible. The result was my best season ever. I was ranked 10th in the world for shooting accuracy in the 2014/2015 season and was the 11th fastest shooter on the entire World Cup circuit. The improvements were great, but they didn't result in the long-lasting consistency I needed.

After eight years of competing on the Biathlon World Cup circuit, I don't take it lightly when I say I've tried just about everything over the years. But what else was

left to change? I could still taste my recent success, and yet the shooting process just wasn't coming together the same way as it was only months ago. I found myself daydreaming during shooting practice, mentally going over my dreaded to-do list and having imaginary conversations with my son. I just wasn't present.

Well, that was it, the gloves were off; no topic was off limits. I had dared to acknowledge the impact my private thoughts and feelings had on my shooting performance one-and-a-half years ago when using distraction training, which involves having a teammate read aloud a list of my biggest fears/distractions while dry-firing. But I had never let myself delve deeper into the topic.

To start off with, let me be straight with you: Being a full-time Canadian athlete in an awesome, but unfortunately non-mainstream, sport like biathlon is hard. I rely on sponsors to cover all of my private and sport expenses and, when

times are tough, the Bank of Mom and Dad. So needless to say, going home from training at the end of the day and not thinking about biathlon every 30 seconds is no easy feat. Despite this, I have always stubbornly insisted that private drama has no place on the shooting range. As much as I wish that were true, my brain apparently begs to differ.

So what was really going through my mind when I was supposed to be zeroed in on my target? Well, I had been deeply unhappy in my marriage for years, which finally led to separation in 2014. Immediately after the break up, I finally felt like I could relax and breathe again, which interestingly corresponded with my best shooting performances in the 2014/2015 season. Then came the reality check. Suddenly, every waking moment seemed to be consumed by lawyers, court dates, a custody battle over my then-four-year-old son, financial stress and all of this in Germany with a foreign culture and a for-

eign language. It was a nightmare. Looking back, it's no wonder it was hard to focus on sport.

The solution? Taking care of me. I have gotten really good at asking myself, "Megan, do you really want to be here right now? Are you truly ready to think only about biathlon for the next two hours?" As a result, I have become much better at knowing when to walk away. In a way this has been the ultimate test of my dedication. Because nine times out of 10, my answer to myself is yes. If it wasn't, I believe my time as a professional athlete would be over. And those few times when the answer is no, I just go home. I call a friend, go for a walk or tackle my to-do list; whatever it is I need to do to feel balanced and in control again.

Recognizing that I am not a machine has been a big step for me, and giving myself permission not to strive for perfection 365 days a year has been hard. Allowing myself to step away from my tough-guy security blanket has been harder yet.

I recently participated in an international training camp with the USA Biathlon Team, which included time trials, intensity training sessions and summer races with Swiss and German national team athletes. Much to my satisfaction, my shooting is right there where it should be, and so is my head space. Just like the good old days, I loved every minute of it. The time pressure, determination, aggression, confidence and excitement; the whole flurry of emotions funneled into cold, calculating shots. It was all there.

The balancing act of being a world-class athlete, especially in a sport with a huge mental component like biathlon, is always ongoing. What I can say for myself is that I feel like I truly understand the value of life-balance for the first time and the undeniable role it has played in my shooting results. These days, I only go the shooting range when I really truly want to be there, which is about five to seven times a week. I am a positive person on and off the range, and love my sport like never before. The shooting range started out as a happy place for me and that is how it is going stay from here on in.

Dear shooting range, I guess we are in for the long haul.





NFA Book Shelf

Sheldon Clare

Suomi M/31

The Finnish Submachine Gun - Suomi M/31

Author: Heidler, Michael

Title: The Finnish Submachine Gun Suomi M/31 (German and English)

Publisher: VDM Heinz Nickel, 2015 (hardcover)

ISBN: 978-3-86619-092-4

Pages: 96

Size: Eight by 12 inches

Illustrations: Colour and black and white

The Suomi M/31 was a submachine gun of Finnish design, which saw extensive use by that country in the Second World War. Michael Heidler, a well-known firearms historian, has recently authored a fascinating pictorial history of that unique firearm. The appearance of this book is timely, in that a semi-auto, non-restricted version of the Suomi has recently appeared on the Canadian market.

The historical and technical information on the SMG is well presented and clear, with information taken from archival research. The work is remarkable for its many impressive photographs of the SMG in use from 1939 to 1945. In a worthwhile nod to the North American market, Heidler has chosen to write the book in both German and English, and yet has managed to keep the translations from distracting the reader. All captions are in both languages and credit the archival sources, the photos mainly coming from the archives of the Finnish Defense Forces. There are a few minor typos, which are not unexpected in such a work, but the translations appear to be consistent and the English is easy to read.

This is an excellent addition to the collection of anyone interested in infantry small arms of the Second World War. It includes a brief history of the firearm's development by its clever inventor, the well-known gunsmith Aimo Johannes Lahti.

The Suomi was a simple, yet highly effective weapon and proved its worth in the three major defensive campaigns faced by the Finns: the 1939 to 1940 Winter War, the Continuation War of 1941 to 1944 and the Lapland War of 1944 to 1945.

The book includes a discussion of modifications and unusual variations of the Suomi, and includes over 270

high-quality images of the weapon and its users.

Heidler has another hit on his hands here to add to his other works, including German Secret Armament Codes Until 1945, and Deutsche Gewehrgranaten und ihre Abschussgeräte bis 1945 (German Rifle Grenades and Launchers).

If you are at all interested in the Suomi and the Finns who made such effective use of this firearm, then this is a great addition to your reference library. This is a hardcover book and priced accordingly. Various online sources list it at about \$50 US.





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Developed by the Chinese military as a replacement for their Type 56 rifles (license produced AK-47). Was designed to have a longer service life, higher accuracy, improved durability and better controllability in full auto firing.

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