

Machine Gun News

The Hidden
History of the
UZI SMG

An Interview With
Marine Sniper
Carlos Hatchock

The Puteaux Model 37
25mm antitank gun

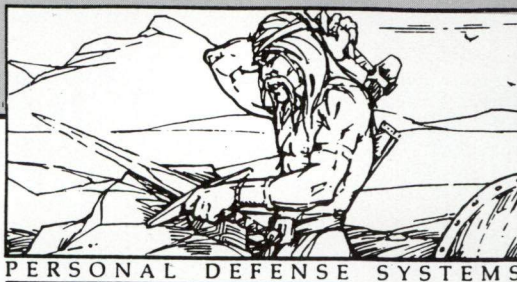
Beta C Mags

Russian PPD 1940

Czech Light Machine Gun



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MG846	Fleming G3, HK91 conversion	MG052	Franchi LF 57 sear gun
MG839	S.W.D. 9mm M11, NIB	MG056	S&H Arms 08/15 reg. rec. gun
MG842	Military Arms M10A1A, unfired	MG060	BSA Lewis 1914, w/access.
MG843	Fleming FN FAL test-fired only	MG552	M1A match reg. rec., NIB
MG848	Fleming FNC, w/col. stk.	MG580	H&R 008 Pistol new reg. rec.
MG851	Suppressed Browning rifle	MG693	Auto Ord 1928, w/Lyman Sights
DD001	Solothurn S18-1000, museum quality	MG603	IMI Uzi Pre-86 dealer sample
MG852	Paws ZX5 test-fired only	MG065	N. Korean PPSH 41, w/orgin. drum
MG064	Soviet Union PPSH 41	MG097	1918 Marlin Rockwell, mint
MG066	Universal U.S. Carbine	MG758	Early Ruger AC556, neat wood
MG067	M78 Valmet, like new	MG825	R.P.B. M1 Carbine
MG069	Beretta 38/42, reparked	MG822	Smith & Wesson Model 76
MG071	Presample FN Model D	MG824	Original AR-18 Armalite
MG072	Presample 1941 Johnson	MG823	Neat 1928 Colt drum & mag
MG074	Madsen 1950 reg. rec.	AOW22	Stevens 410 handy gun
MG081	Celco PPS-43, reweld	MG860	H&R Arms M14, w/1 mag
MG077	British MK 1 Lanchester	MG858	Fabrique FN G1, good shape
MG084	S&H Arms Ingram Model 6	SBS10	13" bbl. Ithaca shotgun
MG093	Suppressed MAC-10 w/box	MG855	Suppressed Marlin bolt rifle
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MG560	Steyr AUG, dealer sample	MG853	Colt M16 carbine 14.5" bbl.
MG503	UZI pistol, NIB	DD002	Lahti complete w/sled & etc.
MG536	MP5K reg. rec., NIB	Others available:	
MG528	AUG w/sear 20" green, new	MG288	Springfield M2 carbine
MG037	MP43 done by Fleming	MG225	Beretta AR-70 select fire
MG039	Sidarme 1915 Chauchat	MG312	Reising M50 w/mag
MG040	Madsen M50 by S&H Arms	MG660	Vollmer HK 21, as new
MG041	VZ 58 folder, have pair	MG744	Colt M16A1 in 97% cond.
MG044	Original Zastavia 56	MG829	Walther MPK vg. good shape
MG049	Maadi ARM AK 47 in 7.62	MG000	And much, much more....

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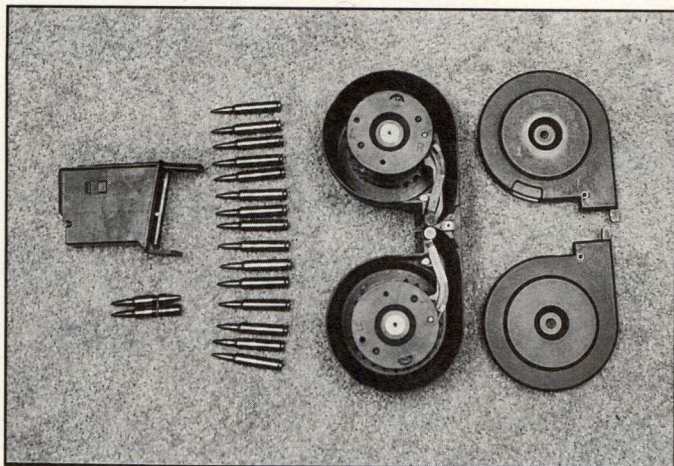


Machine Gun News

THE MAGAZINE FOR FULL-AUTO ENTHUSIASTS

Volume 9 Number 6

November 1995



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On the Cover: Folke Myrvang and Tom Flatby in action with ZB 26. Photo by: Per Vangsnes

Machine Gun News is published monthly to serve as a forum for Class 3 dealers and machine gun enthusiasts. We feel it is important that dealers and collectors have a source for new products, news and information involving Title II firearms.

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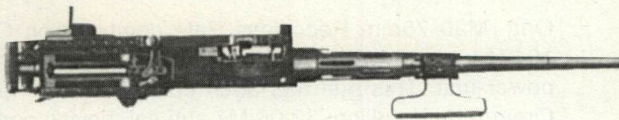
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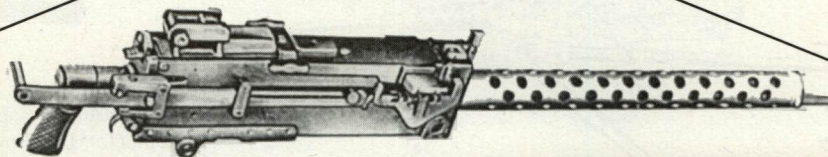


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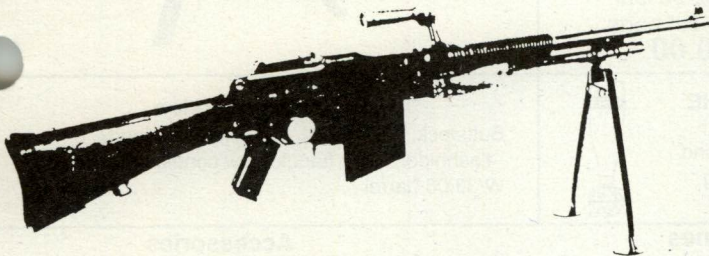
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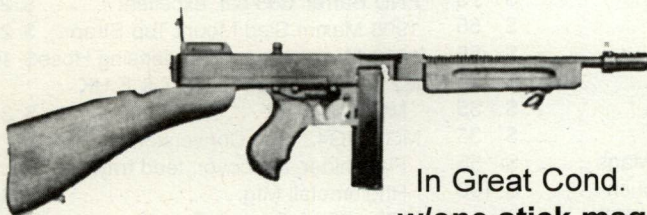
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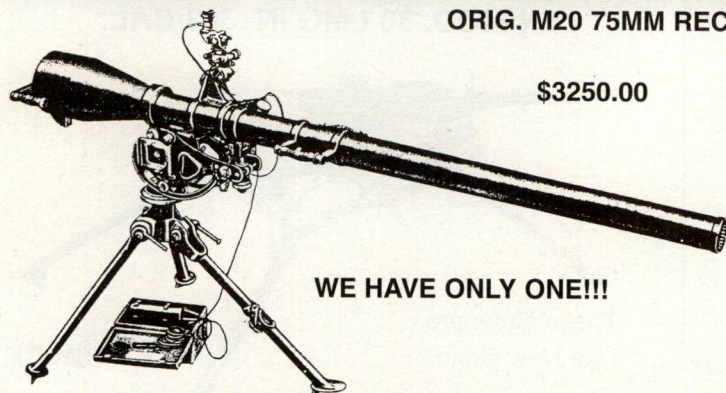
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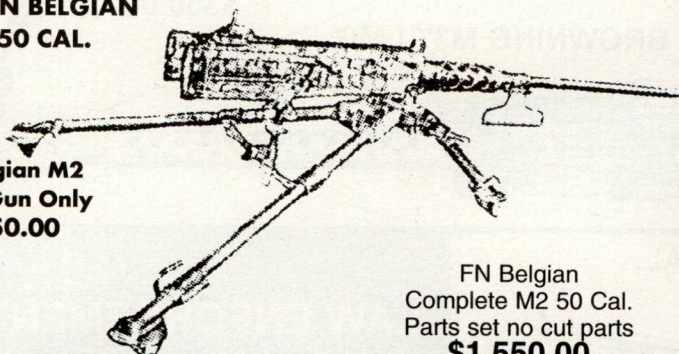
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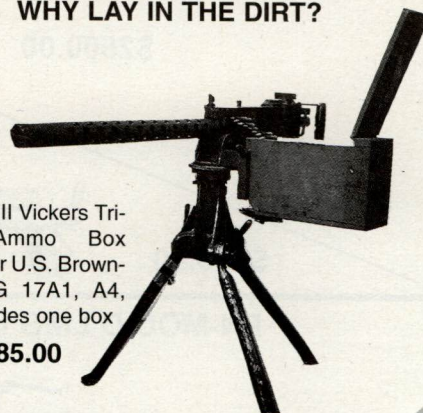


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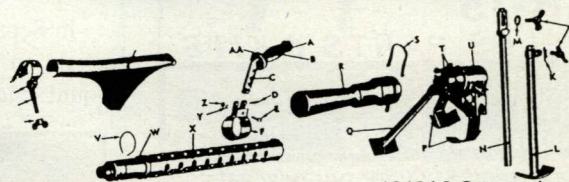
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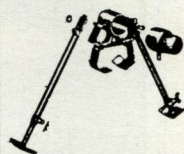


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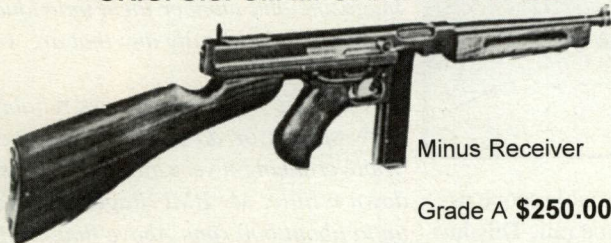
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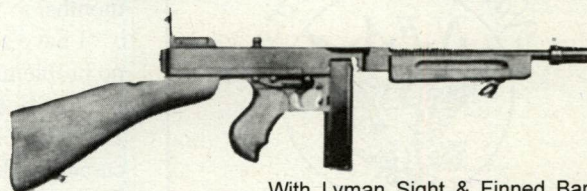
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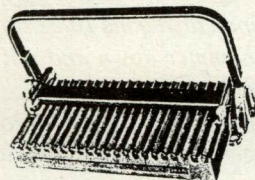
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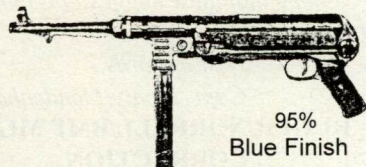
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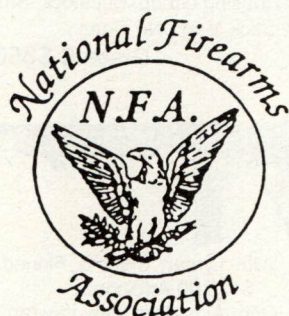
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Incoming

MG42 REPLICA

In September 1995 *MGN*, you had an article on the MG42 replica. I thought I would send you some photos of my MG42



replica. I installed a 329 variable scope using the standard 10-22 scope rail. This installation has worked well for five or six months.

I have shot roughly 1,000 rounds with no problem. You would be amazed at how accurately I can pour lead on the paper at 100 yards. The light recoil and good accuracy of the 10-22 really shines with the scope and bi-pod. I realize the scope compromises the traditional look of the 42, but it makes an interesting and functional upgrade—giving the old favorite a new futuristic look.

Your column is excellent.

Sincerely,
 James D.

RE: NORRELL/RUGER ARTICLE

I read your article in the September, 1995 issue of *Machine Gun News* about the 10-22 conversions.

I have two BMF activators. They will do, that's all.

I have three questions:

1. How can I get lucky and purchase a Norrell/Ruger full-auto trigger group?
2. I have a lot of problems with powder fowling with the BMF activator. What are the best brands of .22 ammo to buy

to help prevent this?

3. Do you have any other suggestions to cut down on the fowling and jamming?

Sincerely,

T. D. V., Jr.

I have never seen a Norrell full-auto trigger group offered for sale without the accompanying Ruger 10/22. When Norrell 10/22s are offered for sale, the price is around \$1500. You could try placing an ad in the wanted section of the Machine Gun News classified ads.

I am surprised that you are having "jamming" problems with your Ruger 10/22. Do the jams occur while using the original Ruger 10-round magazine? If it works OK with the original Ruger magazine, try using a different high capacity magazine. Put adhesive tags on every magazine and number them individually. This will help identify any that are working 100 percent.

Does the BMF/Ruger work reliably at slow speeds or do the jams only occur while cranking it very quickly? If so, slow down a little. My BMF/Ruger works fine up to about 600 rpm. Above that, misfires occur due to firing out of battery. Firing out of battery is indicated if the 10/22 stops firing with the hammer down and a live round in the chamber.

Fouling has never been a serious problem with the Ruger 10/22. I generally use the brand of ammo that is on sale at the local discount store. Winchester 22LR ammo seems to have a faster burning powder than other brands. I have no proof of this, but it does cause the Norrell/Ruger to fire faster than any other ammo. This indicates that the powder is faster burning. Theoretically, faster burning powder should create less fouling.

I believe that the problem with your 10/22 is probably caused by either a defective magazine or by turning the BMF's crank too quickly.

I hope that these suggestions cure your problems.

Best Regards,

Capt. Monty Mendenhall

RUGER/NORRELL/BMF MG-42 CORRECTION

In last month's Ruger/Norrell/BMF MG-42 article, John Norrell's address was

left out. His address and phone number are 2608 Grist Mill Rd., Little Rock, AR 72207, (501) 225-7864.

ALABAMA SUBGUN MATCH

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some people for their help this past shooting season. First and foremost, a very big thanks to C-3 Systems (1-800-421-5142). C-3 Systems put up some very nice prizes for our shooters this past season and it was truly appreciated. Paul Craven is not only good people, he has a great product; it really works.

Also, another big thank you to all of the range officers and the shooters. Not only do these folks help at the match, but they help put up and tear down all of the targets. These folks also reset steel, repair damaged targets, cook food and run errands. Without them, we would not have any matches to go to. I would also like to thank *MGN* for their support by publishing our schedule. And most of all to my wife Denise, for without her, I could never get it all done.

1995 was the second year for our Alabama submachine gun points program. Malcome Davis is our state champion for second time. Congratulations Malcome. Alabama Class Three Association has been holding subgun matches for five years, and this has been our best season. We are now getting shooters from surrounding states and competition is getting very good. Many of our shooters place in the top ten at Knob Creek and this makes all of us very proud.

We are looking forward to next season and hope that it is even better than the last. We are going to begin using NFA rules so that we can be standardized with the meets at Knob Creek. I hope that all other groups in the nation will use NFA competition rules so that we can all be using the same book. We are also looking for more sponsors so that we can offer more of our shooters prizes.

I would like to urge everyone to support the advertisers in your magazine. These companies are not just making money; they are helping us to keep our sport going. Most will bend over backwards to help, whether it is a purchase or a question in need of an answer. *MGN*, keep up the great work. We all need you.

Tony Gooch

Send your comments to:

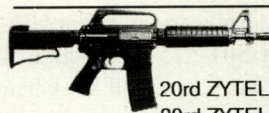
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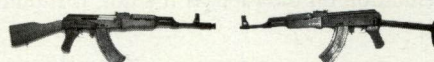
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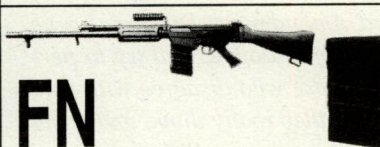
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Raffica

(Full-Auto)

by DAN SHEA

"He that wrestles with us, strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper."

—Edmund Burke

"Go forth, all you faithful defenders of the Second Amendment. Discuss, argue with, engage in dialogue, and try to persuade all of those who disagree with you. Find out what they really think, and try to answer their questions, allay their fears. Educate them. You will find a stronger courage for your convictions and will have some REALLY interesting conversations. (Try not to sound like a bumper sticker; you'll find so many of your opponents that do and will be amazed at their ignorance of the real issues.)"

—Raffica on the soapbox

Just back from the Soldier of Fortune firepower demo, and I am headed to Knob Creek for the fall shoot. It seems like a never-ending road trip this month, and I am positive that there are a whole bunch of people out there who are REALLY feeling sorry for me. One thing about being a Class 3 enthusiast in the United States, there sure are a lot of neat places to go and interesting people to meet.

Machine Gun News is moving up on its 10th anniversary, and I keep trying to get Vida to plan an "MGN 10th Birthday Machine Gun Shoot and Gun Show." I need

your help, friends. You can fax her at 501-525-7519, call at 501-525-7514, and e-mail at MGNews@aol.com. Tell her when the best time of year to do it is, and keep those calls and cards pouring in, until we get her to go along with it!

MP Looks like an M3 Greasegun silenced barrel assembly, with insulation on the tube. If it's not, it should be.

John Weaver
JRW Arms

A John, you get the coveted RKI. It is, as it should be.

MP I think the September '95 Mystery Photo is a suppressor for an M3 or M3A1 .45 cal "Grease Gun." I really had to look at the photo with a magnifying glass. If I'm right can I get a ride in Lucy's Mustang next time I'm in town?

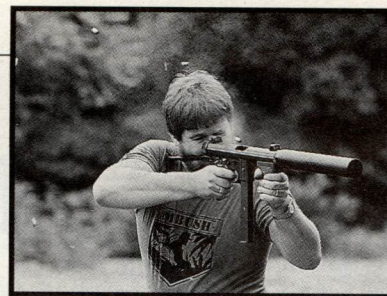
Best,
Ed Rydberg

A Got yerself an RKI, Ed. As far as getting a ride in Lucy's 'stang.... You're gonna have to lobby her for that. I wouldn't dare offer that to anyone.

MP I am a new subscriber and I thought I would take a guess at the September Mystery Photo. Is it a silenced barrel assembly for the M3-M3A1 Grease Gun, .45 ACP or 9mm made for the OSS during World War II?

Thanks
Troy Hesse

A It is, and more, Troy....



MP Just a few notes for the Raffica column.

1. September Mystery Photo—OK so it's a Grease Gun suppressor—what's the mystery.

2. When I saw the demand for safety wire pliers, I hunted around and came up with a dozen new in the box with auto return—\$35.00 retail +\$3.00 S&H. Dealers send their FFL for price.

3. S&W 76/MK 760 magazines—9mm MAC 10 and KG/Intratec magazines can also be made to work.

4. Enclosed is a news clipping. You will see something that may surprise you.

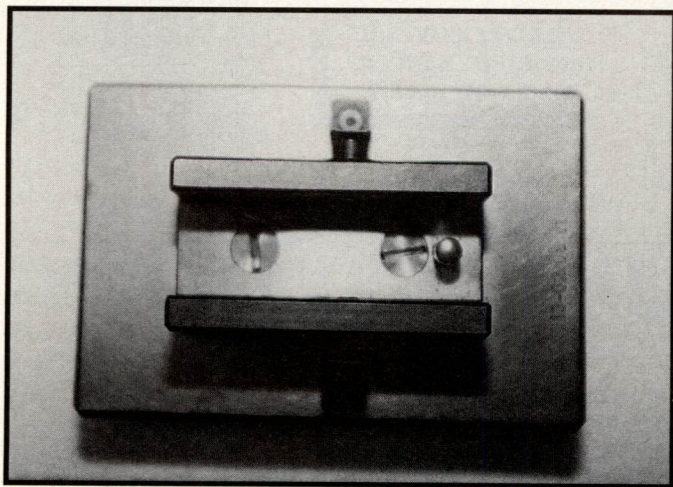
W.B. English
Box 6511

San Antonio, TX 78209

A OK, Woody, you got your RKI, AND the free blatant plug in the Raffica column. I hope you can move all those safety wire pliers. But, that is a kind of "special" M3 Grease Gun suppressor—it is an original. Read the next letter for that. In regard to your news clipping, I had heard that Wayne Spears, a Class 3 dealer from San Antonio, was arrested. I didn't know that the charges were for unregistered, untaxed, destructive devices. Thank you for the information—MGN will look into it.

HERE IS THE LETTER THAT ARRIVED WITH THE M3 GREASE GUN SUPPRESSOR THAT WAS IN THE MYSTERY PHOTO:

MP First off, I read MGN from cover to cover and pass it around our Ordnance shop. I also get Shotgun News and the NRA Rifleman; however, MGN is our favorite and I have to lock it up in my tool box or it will grow legs. Where we are located is in an antigun country, no full autos—even M98 Mauser rifles have the magazine well blocked and welded so as to be single shot. Revolvers—even cap and ball black powder—you have to have a gun license. Of course the gang-



November 1995 Mystery Photo.

sters and thugs have all sorts of guns. Willi, Reno, and the Brady Bunch would be in seventh heaven here, while crime is going

Enclosed is a photo for the "mystery" section. It is one of a thousand and not a Winchester 73. You will recognize it as an issue item to OSS in WWII. It was on Guide Lamp M3A1 Serial #6737XX which went to Alabama and was destroyed by "big brother." We replaced it with a standard barrel, because a suppressor would be a capital crime here. When I went to Ordnance School at Aberdeen, we did not have one in the museum at that time. Since, I have heard even guns in the museum have been destroyed if they had "no military or historical value."

Specs on this are overall 16", diameter 2", barrel 4 1/2", suppressor 11 1/2". Markings on barrel collar are F.S. Co., a flaming bomb and G1-C153xxx. The outside color is a flat black. You may keep the photo for your files and I will be watching *MGN* in case you need more items for Raffica. Keep up the good work.

A no-name ordnance gun lover

This photo came in "sterile," as did the letter with it—from overseas. Our overseas readers do send us some interesting information, from time to time.

MP As to the magazine in Raffica, July 1995, it's for the "San Cristobal" .30 caliber carbine as adopted by the Dominican Republic sometime after WWII. This was a Beretta-inspired delayed blowback with two triggers. Rifle type full wood stock.

Arne C. Eastman

A An RKI to you, Arne...

MP Your August Mystery Photo is a 1960's era Marx-company toy that came out as a set of historic weapons.

This set included a Sharps rifle, Winchester, the "Wanted: Dead or Alive" TV-show rifle, the Thompson SMG and others. These toys could "fire" a black-powder roll cap.

I have the TSMG. It's worth about \$10-20.

Keep up the good work.

Jay Sproat

A An RKI to you also, Jay.

Q Can you tell me the purpose of the longitudinal slot on the sides of the buttstock on recent Soviet AK variations?

Ed

A Not to play coy, but I FINALLY have an answer to this one, and I can't tell you until next month! That longitudinal slot has puzzled everyone that I know for years. It appeared on the AK-74, and the AK-100. When *Soldier of Fortune* Technical Editor Peter Kokalis went to Russia for Mikhail Kalishnikov's birthday celebration, he found out the answer to that right from the man himself, as well as a whole bunch of other neat stuff that I have down on a taped interview with Kokalis, due in next month's *MGN*!

Q I'd be curious to know what this Russian "security service" guy is holding in this photo from *U.S. News and World Report*. It looks like a suppressed AK bullpup of some kind. Is this bullpup

design the newest thing from Russia, or what's the story?

B.L.F.

A Once again, I waited till I saw Peter G. at the SOF convention. I knew that the rifle in the picture was a Dragunov variant, in a bullpup set-up, but there really isn't anywhere to get more info on these new Russian firearms, unless you talk to someone who has been there. Peter ID'd this as the new Dragunov bullpup rifle, with suppressor, manufactured in the Izsmash factory, in the city of Izhevsk in the Urals. It is equipped with the new synthetic black stock, is in 7.62x54R caliber, and uses the standard Dragunov scope in this photo.

Q As for your February 1995 article on magazine interchanges, here are a few more:

- Sten to MP28
- Thompson to M-6 Ingram
- Uzi to Beretta 38, 38/42, Model 12, etc.
- Galil to Valmet
- Port Said to S&W 76 to Swedish K

I am also sending you some poor photo copies of Maxim silencer stuff in response to Randy Y. in the July 1995 issue. He will get a kick out of all the guns the Maxim company made couplings for. One is a copy of a 1939 encyclopedia showing not only a Winchester with a can, but a couple of others to boot. The other copy is from an old Maxim catalog (I believe to be original) listing couplings, prices, how to thread barrels and even more photos of firearms with cans installed.

I have a Savage Model 23 in 22LR with a coupling installed. In the good old days, a company called Cicero (I believe) sold reproduction parts kits for the Maxim 22 suppressor and I had a Class II friend build one up for this Savage. With 22LR it is reasonably quiet, and with the shorts, all you can hear is the firing pin fall.

I have seen a pre-1964 Winchester Model 70 with a coupling on also, but the price and condition of the gun kept it out of my hands.

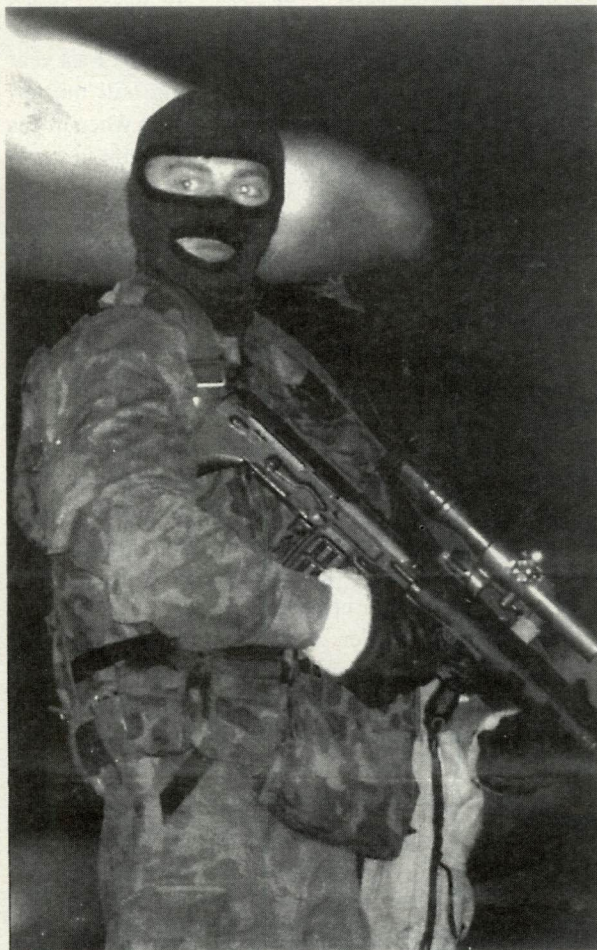


Photo from 12-19-94 issue of U.S. News & World Report, p.44.

To close, I will also send you some copies from a company which sold reproduction Model 1915 30/06 Maxim silencers.

Safe Shooting,
Tony T.

A Thank you for all of the information, Tony. Those are some interesting magazine conversions that you mention. We are starting to get quite a list of magazines that can be converted from one machine gun to another. Unfortunately for the readers, the photocopy quality would not reproduce well enough to place it here in *Raffica*. If anyone has originals of these Maxim advertisements, and would like to lend them to *MGN*, we will try to run them in a future article.

Q Enclosed please find copies of a VP70M manual showing the proper wearing of the harness. I hope the fax will show the details.

The problem of the civilian VP70 with stock mount that could work with 3-shot stock burst fire doesn't exit. Heckler & Koch changed the so-called "control lever" (part 20 in the manual), the left trigger part #14 lever and sometimes a few more parts. So civilian VP70s won't work in burst-fire even with the burst-fire stock. Moreover, Heckler & Koch doesn't supply any more VP70M retail parts and I think there is no other source.

S.P.S.

A One of our German readers weighing in. Thank you for the fax. Unfortunately it is not of a quality to reproduce in *Raffica*. I had not had the opportunity to examine the VP70Z (civilian semi auto) in any detail, and was not aware of the changes that you are referring to. They do make a lot of sense, however, considering the laws that we are dealing with in the U.S. civilian market. I had been shocked to see the stock attachment on some of these semi-automatic VP70's in the U.S., the implication being that you would end up making a "short barreled rifle" from the pistol, requiring a \$200 tax be paid, by installing the stock. I had assumed that the installation of the stock on one of these models would result in a select-fire VP70.

Q I look forward to *MGN* coming every month. The information is always right on and very useful. So imagine my

surprise when I found an error in the August issue! It was located in the *Raffica* column by Dan Shea. Dan stated at the end of his opening paragraphs that "at SOF you cannot fire any of the weapons..." What would you like to fire? This year, we will again be offering machine gun rentals for the public at the Desert Sportsman range where the firepower demo is held. We set up on the hill overlooking the firepower demo area and some of the stages for the three gun matches. Last year, we had buses full of eager attendees, many of them from other countries, shooting one or more of about 100 weapons set up. One of the favorites has been Jonathan Arthur Ceiner's Mini-gun (one customer ran 500 rounds through on a single burst last year.) We offer 1919's, Vickers, MG34's, Uzi's, Sten's, Tommy guns, MAC's of all sizes, Lahti 20mm rifles, MP40's, MP5's, Chinese and Russian belt feds of several varieties, M16's, G-3's, FN's, PPSH's, AR 180's, Bren guns, Lewis guns, Madsen's, S&W 76's, M60's, M203's, M2's (both in .30 carb and .50 BMG), PPS43's, M3 grease guns, Japanese Bren guns, AK-47's, suppressed weapons of all descriptions, etc., etc. I'm sure I forgot a few. EVERYONE goes away with a big smile. Last year we introduced our bowling ball mortar, which got everyone's attention when it was shot. You are of course welcome to come and join us for the festivities. We have to wait until the end of the days organized events before the shoot, usually late in the afternoon, but we run lights and shoot as long as anyone wants to. (Sorry, no tracers—fire problems.) Last year we had people shooting until after midnight with the Russian NVD's. We also feature many old west guns for those interested in getting into cowboy shooting (my other shooting passion). Give me a call and we can set something up. We are Class 2 mfg's and do rentals for the public and for movies. My other company makes Black Canyon gunpowder, a new nonfouling, noncorrosive black powder replacement. We are going to be building a suppressed muzzle-loader and a suppressed trapdoor Springfield to take advantage of the new technology.

Glen R. Parshall, aka Jedediah Erastus Bull Military Weapons & Technology (doing the MG rentals) Legend Products Corp. (making the Black Canyon Powder) (800) 622-8669 (office of Legend).

A Come on, now. If you were the first person to catch me in an error, I might call myself an expert instead of a Reasonably Knowledgeable Individual! But, I am going to get off on this one, using a technicality. I looked for your set-up at the Firepower Demo (which I was writing about in the article you quoted), and you were not there. Your set-up was at the same facility, but at another range, a quarter mile away. So, you cannot shoot at the Firepower Demo at Soldier of Fortune, but you can walk a few hundred feet to the left of the range, and shoot any of a number of neat machine guns, as mentioned above. It really was an impressive group of firearms that Glen had available to the public, and my time was, unfortunately, short. The black canyon powder suppressors do sound very interesting also, and I would appreciate an update on that project.

Q Hello to all at *MGN*. I wanted to drop you a line and just let you know you guys have a great magazine and to keep up the good work, I've been a subscriber for many years now and *MGN* is one of the few I read cover to cover. I would like to see more written on the GE134, the 1919A4 and M14 MGs. I also wanted to mention that we love the articles on Knob Creek due to the fact I took my significant other to the fall '94 shoot and up to that point she had no interest in firearms whatsoever, especially MGs. Well she got a chance to fire the little fat boy's short barreled 1919 and see Ciener's M-134 fire 500 rds of tracer. Well, needless to say, my little conservative real estate seller now has MG fever. I may have to get her a subscription to your magazine because we fight over who is going to read the latest issue first. One note, I hope you plan to cover the SOF show in Vegas cause that's where we are off to next. Hope to see you there. Keep up the great work

L. K. & Heidi

A OH NO!... do you have any idea what happened to the last guy who called him the Little Fat "Boy"? George Christie is known as the "Little Fat Guy." I am glad that you enjoyed Knob Creek, and not all surprised that your friend got MG fever from being there. Most of the people that I know who are not shooters and have gone to a machine gun shoot, started getting into shooting at that point. We usually do

cover the SOF convention; you can check some of the back issues for stories.

Q Do you have any info related to Ruger .223 full auto. I do not have the correct nomenclature of the weapon.

Thanks
W.E.S.

A Good! A quick one! The full-auto version of the Ruger Mini-14 rifle is the Ruger AC-556, with variations as follows: AC-556 blued rifle, KAC-556 stainless steel rifle, AC-556F blued rifle with folding stock, KAC-556F stainless steel rifle with folding stock. Add "GB" to the end of any of the above and get the "government bayonet" model, which has the front sight mounted back a few inches and includes the dreaded bayonet lug. The AC-556 has safe, semi, 3-shot, full auto positions on the selector, and we recently had an article on it in the May '95 issue.

Q The sight you can't remember the name of is a C-More "heads up" red dot. A fine sight I might add. The pistol version was featured in the "What's New" section of the June '94 issue of *MGN*.

The other thing I would like to mention is the article that was done recently: "Building a Shorty AK." This article was slightly misleading in that the cyclic rate on the test gun was increased almost two fold. I have done the short barrel on a Chinese AK and in fact the cyclic rate decreased slightly. I talked to Dennis Duphily (Den's Guns) and he told me that the cyclic rate of the "90" he put the short barrel on, was already approaching the 1000 mark. If you know of something that might be of help in increasing the cyclic rate of my gun, I would appreciate it. This is not your average "cheap" AK; it's a \$2500.00 fully transferable, and not a post sample! The barrel is the very same type that was used in the article (Krinks).

Thanks
Keith M.

A You are referring to the caption of the photo in the Knight Armament Rail Interface System, wherein I said "I can't remember the name of this sight!!!" That was not supposed to be in *MGN* like that.

Increasing the cyclic rate on your AK. Well, the quickest way to do it would be

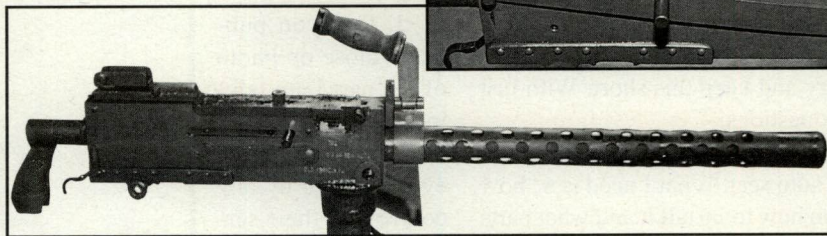
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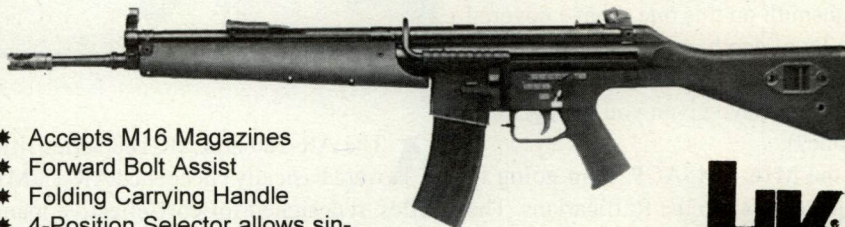
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to increase the gas port hole size. This should be done very carefully and in steps to record the rate of fire at each step. This is not a game for amateurs to play in. There is a lot of pressure involved here. I was unable to locate any other "off the shelf" method, so I have to assume that this is what has been done. I spoke with four other RKI's on this, and all of them said the same thing—keeping the cyclic rate down to a comfortable 650-700 or so would be more desirable. If you want to make it into a bullet hose, that is your prerogative. It will probably be a lot of fun to shoot.

Q I'll try and keep this short. With just two questions:

1. I have an H&K 91 7.62mm and a registered auto sear. What I need is a "how to" book on how to install it and what parts I need to get.

2. I want to get a full-auto .45 ACP upper for my M16. The only place I know of is SGW/Olympic Arms, but because the State of Washington will not let them make full-auto parts for civilians, I'll have to do some work on the upper. What can you tell me?

Tom R.

A There is a pretty thorough installation guide for the registered transferable HK conversion sears in Raffica in the December 1992 issue of *MGN*. As simple as the installation appears, I recommend that you deal with a Reasonably Knowledgeable Gunsmith on this one. I have covered this in a lot of depth previously. Call *MGN* and they can sell you the back issue (Vida, now that I have given you a plug... can I have one?).

On the M16 in 45ACP, I am going to throw that one out to the Rafficians. The only source that I was familiar with was the SGW/Olympic Arms product. Hopefully some of the guys out there can throw some hints our way.

Q I have some questions about Armalite 180 rifles.

1. Did any Class 2 manufacturers convert the semi-auto 180s into selective fire? If so, were they reliable?

2. Did anyone ever invent a "drop-in" auto sear for this rifle that worked reliably? Were any of these auto sears installed before the ban?

3. One time I saw two original factory selective fire AR-18 rifles for sale by a

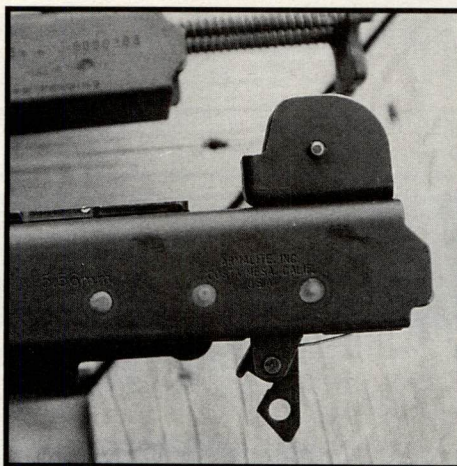
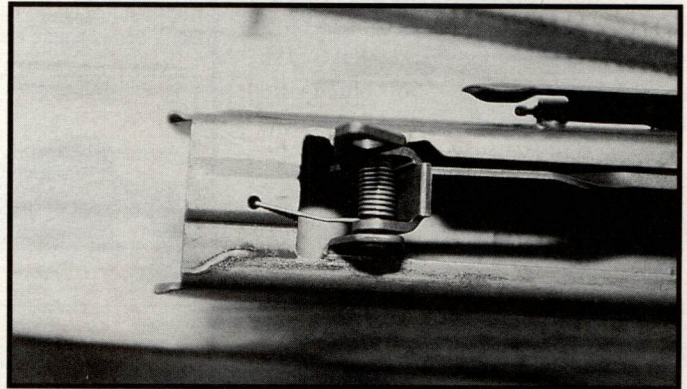
Class 3 dealer. These full-auto guns have some sort of thin sheet metal select-fire mechanism that is attached to the upper or lower receiver; I can't remember which. Anyway, one of the rifles was missing this piece because it had broken off! Can it be repaired?

4. Do you think the breakage of this thin sheet metal piece that is not found on the semi-auto guns is the reason why the AR-18 assault rifle never became popular?

5. Can you publish a close up photo of the part I am talking about?

6. Was the AR-18 ever adopted by any country as their service rifle?

J R



A The AR-180 and AR-180 series rifles were basically cheapened AR-15/M16 rifles, redesigned for cost-effective manufacture. This was supposed to enable them to be marketed to countries that had lower budgets and technological abilities, and would probably want to manufacture them "in house." The AR-18 is basically a sheet metal M16, with more simplification. They were made in the U.S. (Armalite), Great Britain (Sterling), and Japan (Howa). The AR-180 generally signifies the semi-auto model.

1&2. Yes, actually quite a few of them did. These were all registered receiver firearms, and the lower is the registered part. (This doesn't make a whole lot of sense, look at the photo and you should start to understand.)

3. The auto sear (trip) is located in the upper receiver, and hangs down below the channel, into the lower, disconnecting the hammer at the appropriate moment. Not in the photo, that there is a semi-auto (AR-180) upper in the background.

4&5. No, I just think that the competition in the open market ended the AR-18 series. Here's your photo.

6. The AR-18 was adopted by only one

country that I know of, and that is Swaziland. Not a real high recommendation, actually. Various "grandchildren" of the AR-18 have been adopted in the form of the SAR-80 from Singapore.

Q I'm a subscriber and have a question of an article in Aug '95 by Capt. M. Mendenhall.

It shows a 90-round drum mag for a Ruger. Was this an error? If correct, who manufactures the mag or where can I get one?

It appears to me to be a Chinese-made mag similar to Norinco's for the AR-15/M16!

Fred S.

A The mag is called a "Ninety Rounder" and it was manufactured by MWG. You can find them around gun shows and various shops. These are a "snail type" drum and have a loading tool that makes life a lot easier when you are going to the range. There are two models you should be concerned with, because they look so similar to each other. There is one for the AR-15/M16 series and one for the Mini-14/AC-556 series. The designations will be on the drum itself.

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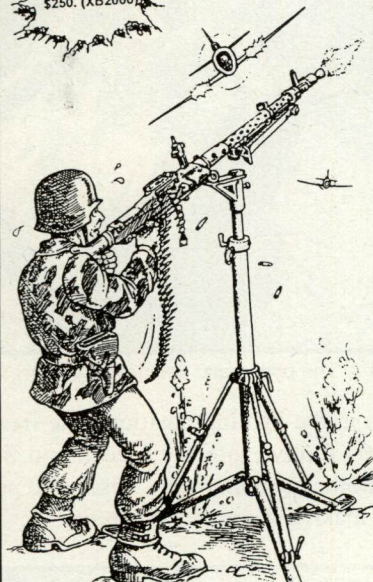
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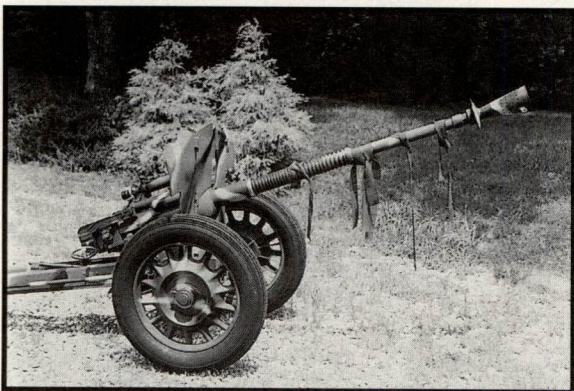
The Puteaux Model 37

by CARL SILVER

This month's column will focus on the French Puteaux Model 37 in 25mm. The history, design, operation, and ammunition will be discussed.

ANTITANK GUN HISTORY

By the late 1930's, most tanks carried more armor than even the large 20mm antitank rifles could penetrate. This led to the development of the antitank gun. The Puteaux Model 37 (picture 1) was a redesign of the 1934 Hotchkiss field gun, firing the same ammunition.



Picture 1: The Puteaux Model 37, 25mm antitank gun.

HOTCHKISS

This French company was founded by American ordnance engineer Benjamin Berkely Hotchkiss (1826-1885). He started working for the Colt Company and in 1856 designed a field gun for the Mexican Army. He was in charge of the New York City Arsenal during the Civil War. In 1867, he went to France to promote a metallic cartridge which he had designed. He designed the Hotchkiss revolver cannon and in 1875 set up a company to manufacture them in 37mm through 57mm calibers. It was this basic design work that led to the development of some of the earliest rapid-firing artillery guns which employed sliding lock breeches and metallic

cartridge cases as found in the Model 37. This company's most famous product, the Hotchkiss machine gun, was not completed until after Hotchkiss' death.

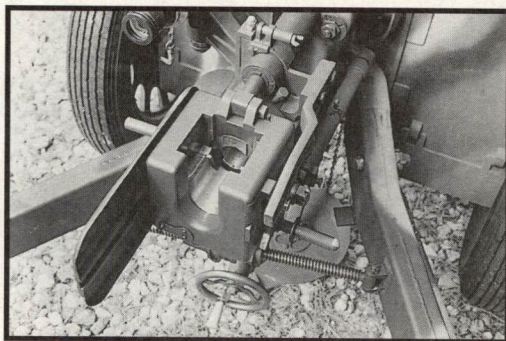
PUTEAUX MODEL 37

The redesign of the Hotchkiss Model 34 was done at the French military arsenal Atelier de Construction de Puteaux. The Hotchkiss weighed close to 1000 pounds which made it too cumbersome to use as an antitank gun. The weight of the Puteaux Model 37 was trimmed to around 600 pounds by fabricating the trail out of rectangular steel tube and making the wheels, tripod center foot, telescope tube and mounts out of aluminum alloy. Rivaling German arms in its complexity, the design is overengineered by American standards.

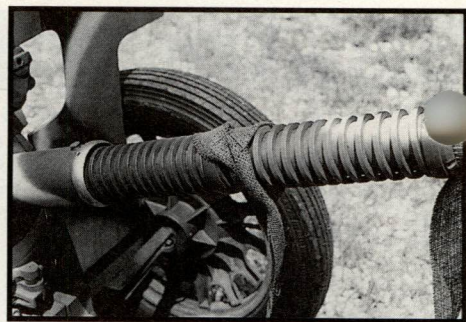
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

The Model 37 is a flat trajectory field gun. It is a semi-automatic, single-shot gun (*I know this sounds like a contradiction in terminology, but keep reading*)

that uses a sliding breech block. The breech block is the vertical sliding type that is lowered into the breech ring to expose the chamber (picture 2).

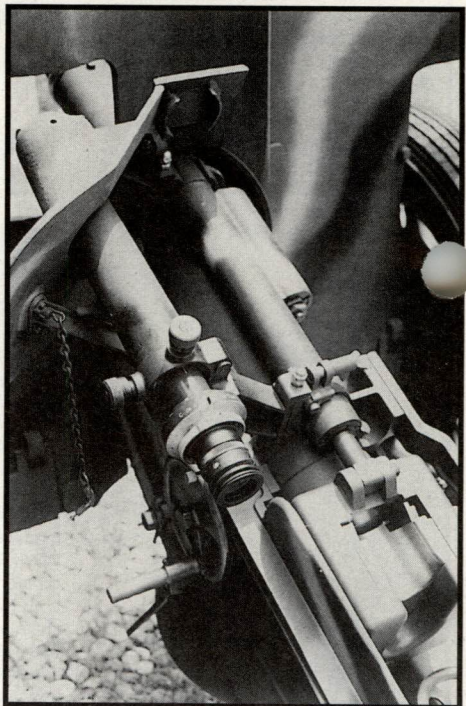


Picture 2: The sliding-wedge breech—open & ready to load. The breech operating handle is on the right-hand side of the breech.



Picture 3: Square cross-section recoil spring.

The **semi-automatic** action works in the following manner: when the gun is fired, the barrel and breech recoil against the square cross-sectional recoil spring (picture 3). The breech automatically opens, the empty case is ejected, and the gun returns to battery, slowed by a pneumatic dampener (picture 4, center) leaving the



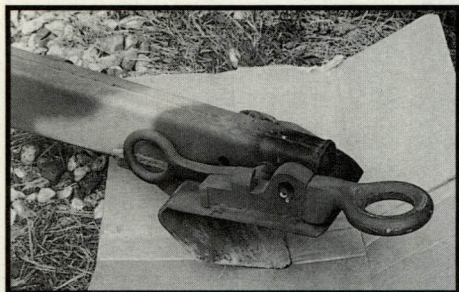
Picture 4: The pneumatic dampener (center).

breech in the loading position. The fresh round is thrown into the breech and the breech block automatically raises into position, making the gun ready to fire.



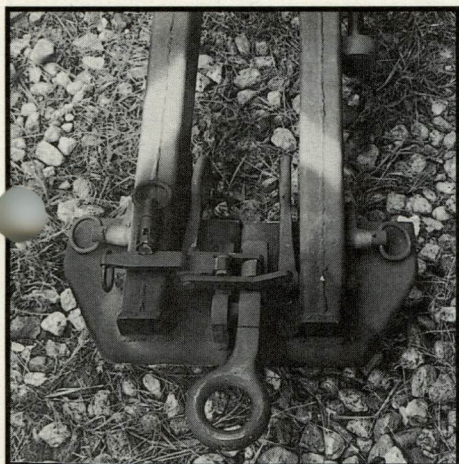
Picture 5: The right trail leg carries the muzzle brake wrench and cleaning rod.

The carriage is the split trail type and is designed to be towed behind a prime mover on roads and cross country. The right leg carries the muzzle brake wrench and cleaning rod (picture 5). The trail legs are equipped with adjustable spades (picture 6) and a complex latch mechanism and lunette (picture 7). The die cast alloy



Picture 6: Adjustable spade on the right trail leg.

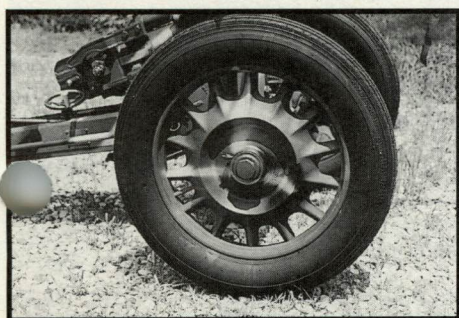
wheels were originally shod with solid rubber tires but these have been replaced with



Picture 7: Trail latch mechanism and lunette.

pneumatic tires (pictures 8, 9). Before firing, the hinged wheel assembly is lifted and latched, leaving the gun supported by a tripod formed by the tripod center foot (picture 10, bottom center) and the two trail spades. The three-piece blast shield (armor) is hinged and removable.

The carriage is designed for one-man control of aiming, elevating, traversing and



Picture 8: "Mag" wheels (front).


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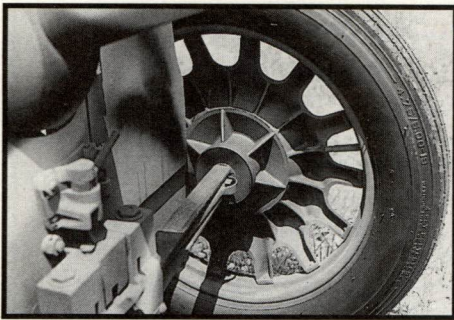
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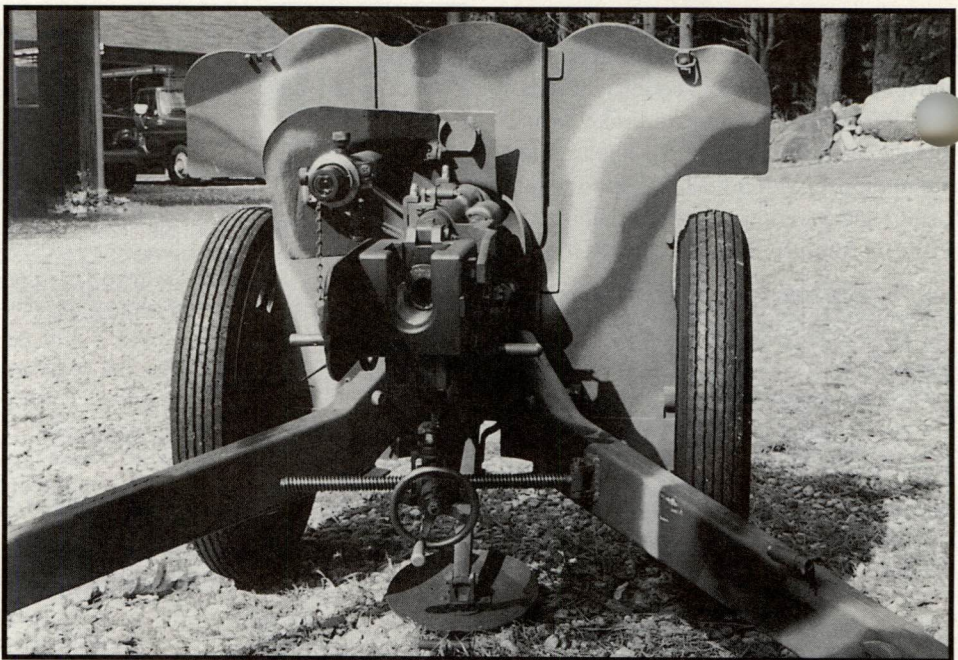
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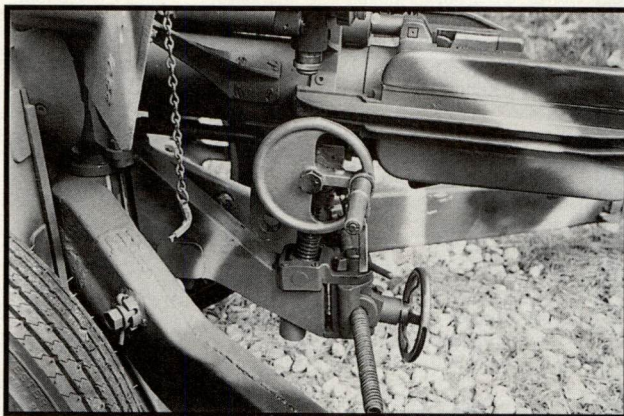
Picture 9: "Mag" wheels (rear).

firing. Both **elevation** and **traverse** are adjusted by brass handcranks which drive worm gears (picture 11). The target is sighted through the optical sight. This rare sight is about four-power magnification and has an adjustable range-finding reticule calibrated from 100 to 3400 meters (picture 12). Back-up iron sights are mounted below and to the right of the scope (from the shooters point of view), and both are protected from return fire by armored covers (picture 13).

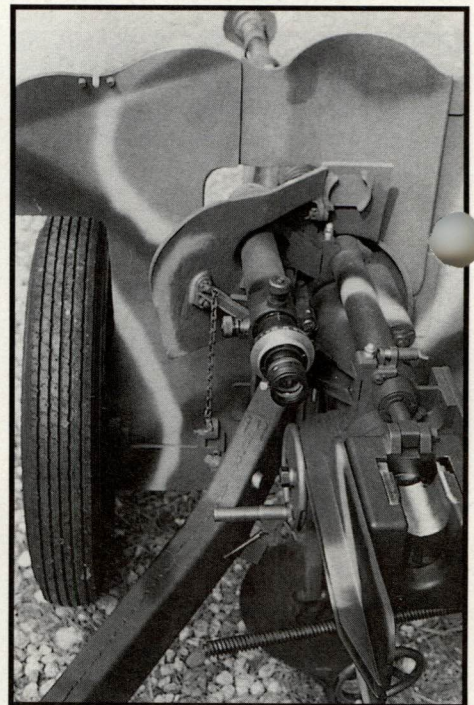
The trigger and the *only* safety on the gun are located on the elevation handcrank. The safety lever is slid to the left with the thumb, and the lever-type trigger is squeezed (picture 14). The barrel is equipped with a removable "spaghetti strainer" muzzle brake and flash suppressor (picture 15).



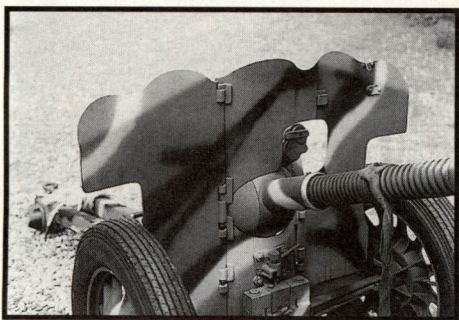
Picture 10: Tripod center foot (bottom, center).



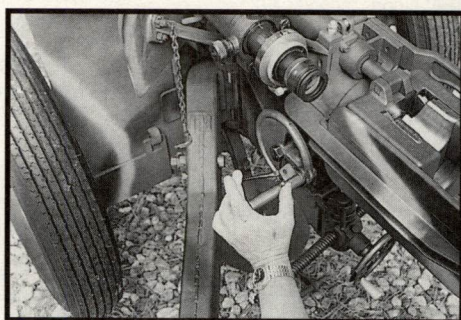
Picture 11: Elevation and traverse handcranks and locks.



Picture 12: Range-finding optical sight (center).



Picture 13: The hole in the blast shield frames the armored covers for the optical and iron sights.



Picture 14: The motorcycle lever-type trigger and safety on the elevation handcrank.

SLIDING-WEDGE BREECH BLOCK

Sliding-wedge breech blocks are used in most large cannons. This type of breech block is a heavy steel forging that is sturdy enough to withstand the high chamber pressures. The largest gun employed by the U.S. military to use the sliding-wedge breech block is the 8 inch naval gun.

Figure 1 shows the sliding-wedge

breech mechanism from the side. The breech block is in the lowered (open) position. The dotted line represents the breech block in the raised (closed) position. The grooves that the breech block rides in are slanted forward so that the breech block moves forward while it is closing. This forward movement wedges the cartridge case into the chamber, preventing it from moving rearward and improving the gas seal.



Picture 15: The "spaghetti strainer" muzzle brake and flash suppressor.

Figure 2 shows the mechanism while firing. The case, expanded by the gas pres-

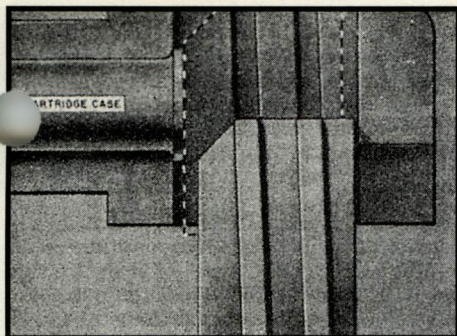


Figure 1: Principle of the sliding-wedge breech block.

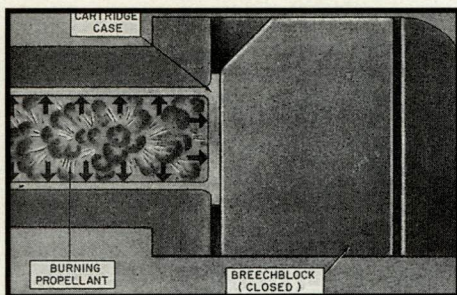


Figure 2: The sealing of the breech by case expansion.

sure, seals off the chamber and prevents the escape of any gases from the rear of the gun. Figure 3 shows the operation of the extractors (the Puteaux Model 37 has two). The extractors have lips which fit in front of the rim on the cartridge case. When the breech block drops, the tops of the extractors are cammed backwards, flipping the cartridge case out of the chamber. On the Puteaux Model 37, the extractors also lock the breech block in the open position. The fresh round hits the extractors, allowing the breech to close.

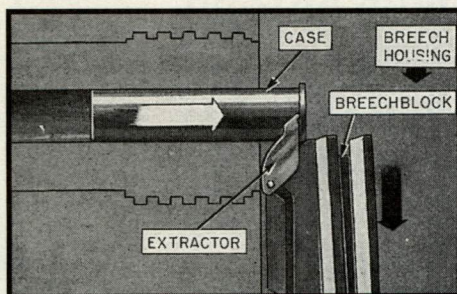


Figure 3: Diagram of case extraction.

AMMUNITION

The rimmed, tapered cartridge looks like a scaled-up .30-40 Krag (picture 16). Some original ammunition is still available about \$35 a round. The factory round consists of a 4830 grain (11 ounce) Armor Piercing with Tracer (APT) projectile loaded on top of a duplex load. This load is composed of 20 grains of blackpowder in a tube around the primer which ignites

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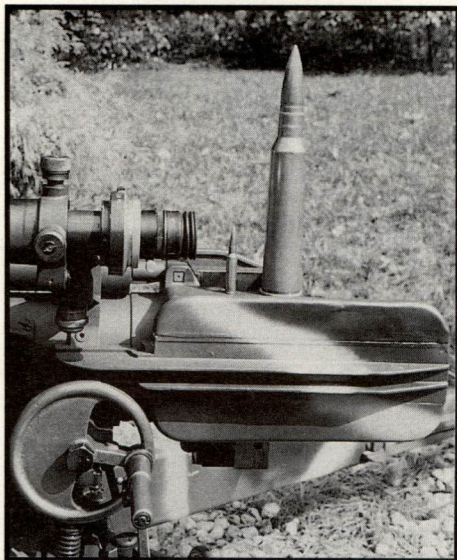
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Picture 16: (Left) 7.62 NATO round, (right) 25mm Puteaux round.

2860 grains of a tubular propellant. This combination produces 3168 feet per second of muzzle velocity! The factory rounds are packed eight to a sealed tin.

RELOADING COMPONENTS

Handloading components, especially propellant, are scarce for the 25mm Puteaux. Fortunately, the primer is the same diameter as the M23A1 primer used in the

U.S. 37mm M51 round. Call or write the sources listed at the end of the article for more information.

SHOOTING THE MODEL 37

The heavy breech and barrel recoils about a foot, ejecting the hot shell casing straight to the rear. You definitely want to be on the left side of the shoulder guard before firing this gun! I did not have the opportunity to shoot the Model 37 before MGN's deadline, but will include more information in next month's article on the U.S. M3 37mm gun.

CANNONEERS GLOSSARY

Apron: the part of the armor (blast) shield that extends below the wheel centerline on a gun carriage. On some cannons, it is raised during transportation and lowered before firing. On the Puteaux it is hinged.

Breech: the "action" of a cannon that seals the barrel and contains the firing assembly.

Gun: the term "gun" actually designates only the gun tube or barrel, but is commonly used to refer to the entire mount assembly including the breech.

Lunette: the hitch ring on the end of the trail that is used to couple the gun to the

prime mover for transportation.

Spade: the spade shovel-shaped "foot" attached to each leg of the trail. The recoil from firing causes it to dig into the ground, providing a stable shooting platform for the gun.

Trail: the part of the gun carriage that rests or slides on the ground. Hinged on the Puteaux, it is connected to the lunette.

SOURCES:

Michael Angelo

(860) 684-4630 (5 to 9 pm, EST)

AntiTank Ammunition: 20mm Lahti, 25mm Hotchkiss, 37mm U.S., Custom Vehicle Mounts for the Lahti Model 39

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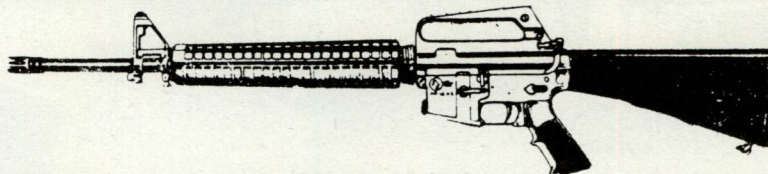
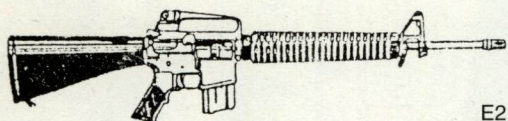


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CZECH LIGHT MACHINE GUN

BY FOLKE MYRVANG



Folke Myrvang and Tom Flatby in action with ZB 26. Photo by Per Vangsnes.

Known as the direct predecessor of the Bren Gun and also as one of the guns used by the Waffen SS early in the second world war, this Czech gun and the revised model ZB 30 was in use throughout the world for many years.

After the first world war it became apparent that the heavy, water-cooled machine guns were obsolete for anything but fixed positions. The need for lighter, more mobile weapons grew, and many new constructions came to light. The Danish Madsen of 1903 was the first light machine gun, but a very complex mechanism prevented it from being adopted by the major military powers on a large scale. In spite of this, the Madsen was in use all over the world in many versions for over fifty years. The Lewis was another early light machine gun, but it had its drawbacks, too. Heavy

and cumbersome, it was not the ideal gun for fast-moving assault operations.

The light machine gun ZB 26 is an air-cooled gas operated weapon with a quick change barrel. It fires the standard German 7.92x57mm rifle and machine gun cartridge from an open-bolt position. Ammunition is fed into the weapon from top-mounted box magazines, normally of 20 round capacity, although 30- and 40-rd magazines have been observed. The gun is normally used on a bipod; tripods existed but are very scarce today. It is of relatively light weight, at 8.9kg and 155cm.

The ZB 26 came out of a series of prototypes made in Czechoslovakia in the early twenties at the Zbrojovaka Praga (the Prague Gun Factory). These were light machine guns, gas operated with the operating rod under the barrel. The belt-fed Mod-

el 1-23 was very successful, and the Czech army ordered a number of guns for troop trials. However, Zbrojovaka Praga was not able to manufacture the desired number of guns, so they had to seek assistance at the Zbrojovaka Brno. The Brno gun factory had better production facilities, so they acquired the production rights for the new weapon.

Early in 1924 it was decided to reconstruct the Praga 1-23 for use with box magazines instead of the belt-feeding mechanism used on the early models. The task of redesigning the weapon was given to a newly assigned man at the Zbrojovaka Praga, Václav Holek. He accomplished the work in the course of a few months and the new weapon was adopted by the Czech army and given the designation Praga vz 24. Early the next year, the Prague gun factory

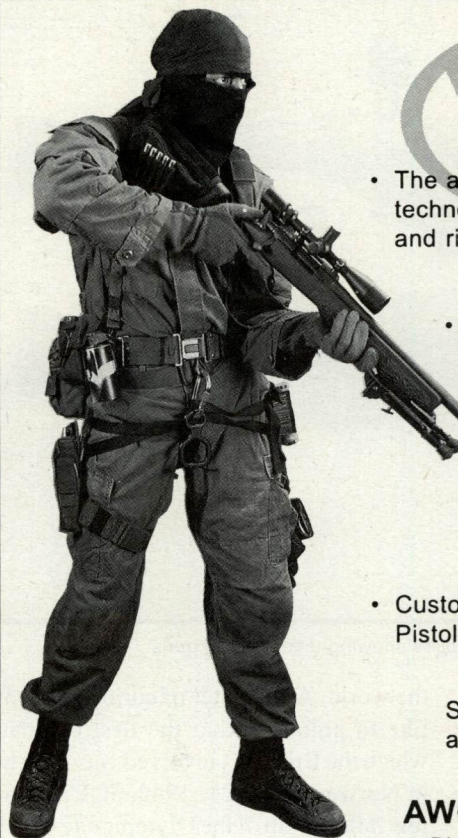
signed over all the rights to the new weapon to the Brno gun factory. Václav Holec was probably a part of this deal; he continued to work as a gun designer at the Zbrojovka Brno. Serial production of the Lehky Kulomet ZB vz 26 (Light Machine Gun ZB Model 26), as the production model was named, started in 1928.

At the Brno gun factory the sales managers and the engineers were very customer oriented. In the matter of a few years, the ZB 26 was redesigned twice: first the model ZB 27 appeared with a new and different bolt/piston assembly and then the ZB 30 with an adjustable gas port mechanism at the muzzle plus the changes in the bolt assembly from the ZB 27.

The Model 27 was merely a transition prototype model, but the ZB 30 remained in the sales brochures along with the ZB 26, which was kept as the main sales product. The ZB 30 was a refined and more expensive model to purchase for the user countries.

The Czech light machine gun was a success and was quickly adopted by most of the countries close to Czechoslovakia. Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania were big customers and had several changes made to their models. Other customers included Portugal, Spain, Ethiopia, Turkey, Afghanistan, China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lithuania, Sweden, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Uruguay, Venezuela and probably others. Yugoslavia, Hungary, China and Spain all produced some of their own guns, and in Japan the Army Light Machine Guns Type 96 and 99 "borrowed" lots of features from the Czech guns, while the type 97 was a direct copy. Not all the guns were in 7.92x57mm. I've heard of 7x57mm guns for South America, and the Swedish guns were rebarreled to 6.5x55mm when the guns were transferred to their homeguard in the fifties. But, the contracts that really secured the Czech guns a place in the world's firearms history was undoubtedly the British, even though the Czech guns were never issued to British troops.

The British army conducted several trials with the Czech guns in the early thirties. Václav Holec followed the British specifications very closely, and the Czech ZB 24 turned slowly into the Bren Gun (BRno-ENfield) during the first half of the 1930's. At least five prototype models were made in very small quantities, most of them bearing the ZGB model designation



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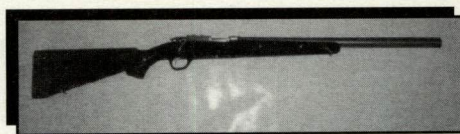
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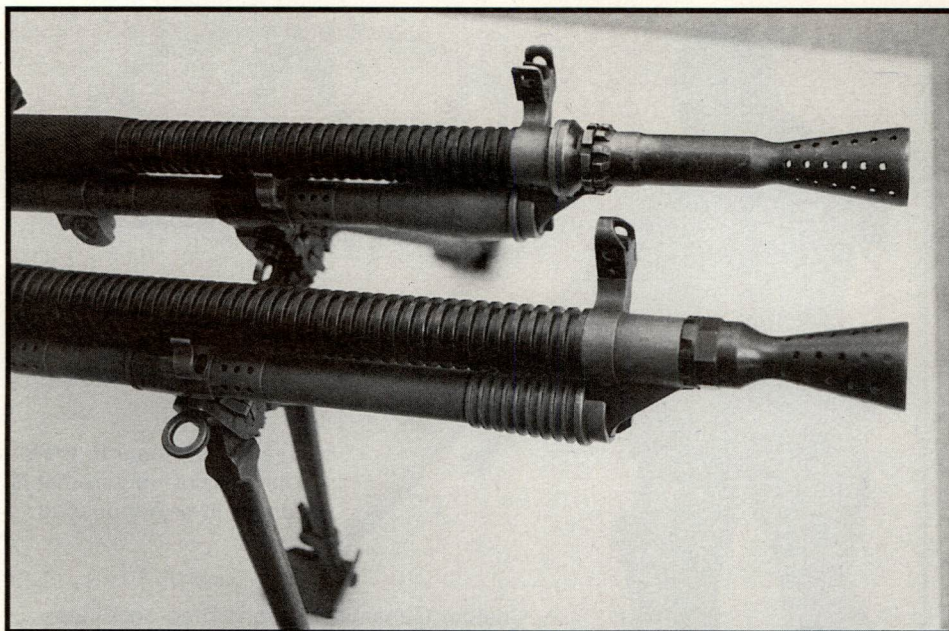


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ZB 26 (front) and ZB 30 (rear) flash hider assemblies showing difference in guns.

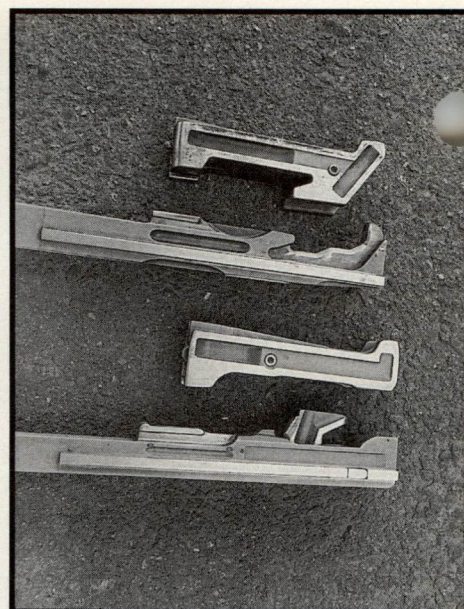
(GB=Great Britain). The last, ZGB vz 34 Model 4 Type 2 was made in some quantity for troop trials. This gun is almost identical to the Bren Mk 1, with which I am sure most readers will be familiar.

The Czechs knew they had a hit on their hands, so they kept the Bren in production for special orders. The Lehky Kulomet Bren was sold to Iran and was in the Czech sales brochures after the war. The British acquired production and sales rights for the British Empire, while the Czech kept the rights for the rest of the world.

The British tooled up for their own license production of the Bren gun, and the drawings were converted from metric dimensions to inch dimensions. The first Bren Mk 1 came out of Enfield in September 1937 and became one of the most famous and easily recognizable machine guns of

the world. As a matter of curiosity, I would like to point out that the first combat in which the Bren was involved was right here in Norway, April 21, 1940, at 3:30 p.m. a few miles south of the Olympic site of Lillehammer. This was the first fire fight between British and German troops in the second world war.

However, when the Bren gun first saw action, Czechoslovakia had already seen her share of it. One of the first countries to be overrun by the Nazi German war machine, it was under complete German control by the spring of 1939. The German army, the Wehrmacht, had modern weapons like the MG 34, but the political and police troops of the Waffen SS were not yet so well equipped as the regular army. However, at this early stage they needed weapons and seized the Czech ZB series



ZB 26 bolt (top) and ZB 30 bolt (bottom) showing differences.

of MG's and put them into use. Pictures from the battle of France in 1940 show Waffen SS in action with Czech ZB guns. These guns were ideal as they used the same ammunition as the German guns. As Germany took control over other countries like Hungary and Yugoslavia, they took their guns too and distributed them among the troops.

In Germany several manuals were issued dealing with the Czech ZB 26 machine guns. The ZB 30 is so similar to the ZB 26 that there probably was no need for a separate manual for it. The Germans named the guns MG 26(t) and MG 30(t), the T being the first letter in Tschechoslowakei—German for Czechoslovakia.

At the Brno gun factory, the production lines of the ZB 26 and the ZB 30 were kept running—even speeded up quite a bit. Later on in the war, the Germans decided to tool up the Brno gun factory to manufacture MG 34's with the dot maker code. Subsequently the ZB 26 and ZB 30 production was reduced considerably or dropped completely. The Germans named the Brno gun factory Waffenwerke Brünn. As the MG 34 and MG 42 production in the German Reich was stepped up, the Waffen SS had no further use for the Czech guns in front line units.

As the Germans built fortresses all around the coastal lines of their empire there was a demand for weapons here too. Throughout the whole Norwegian coastal line they built fortresses: "Festung Norwegen," the Norwegian Fortress. These small garrisons were often armed with oddball



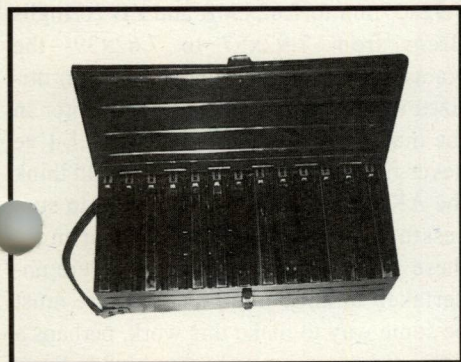
ZB 26 field stripped.

guns like Hotchkiss heavy machine guns, Lewis guns in Dutch calibers, Bren Guns and lots of other rarities. A great number of Czech light machine guns found their way here. The number of these was so high that they were incorporated in the Norwegian Home Guard after the war for a few years along with other 7.92x57mm guns. In the manual it is referred to as "BREN machinegun - Czech model," the writer obviously thinks it's a Czech copy of the Bren with which we were very familiar.

During the war, the John Inglis company of Canada manufactured Bren Guns Mk 1 and 2. In a German article I read while researching for this article, it was stated that the Canadians made ZB 26 machine guns for China before they started making Bren Guns. This is probably not correct, but they redesigned the Bren Mk 2 back to 7.92x57mm calibre for sale to China. While developing this model, they had sense enough to use the original ZB magazine, so there are no special magazines for this model. There has also been some talk of numbers of these made as a "Resistance" Bren in 7.92 caliber. Apparently the rumor is that these guns were made for the resistance groups in occupied Europe for use with German ammunition. This must be wrong. When peace came to Norway on May 8, 1945, exactly 50 years ago to the day as this is written, the resistance forces had 3000 Bren Guns—all of which were in .303 cal., and the 7.92 Canadian Bren is extremely rare here. Norway was one of the major drop zones during WWII.

After the war, the ZB 26, ZB 30 and the Bren were offered for sale in Brno sales brochures, but I don't know if any major sales were made, as the world was full of surplus military arms that could be had almost at scrap iron price.

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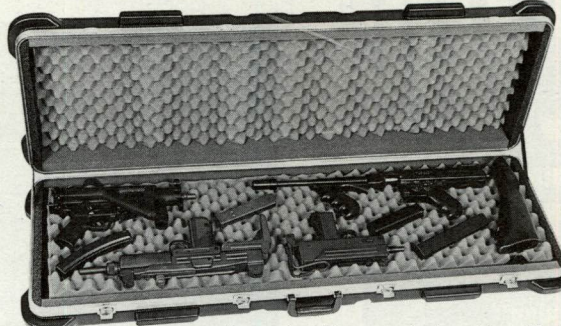
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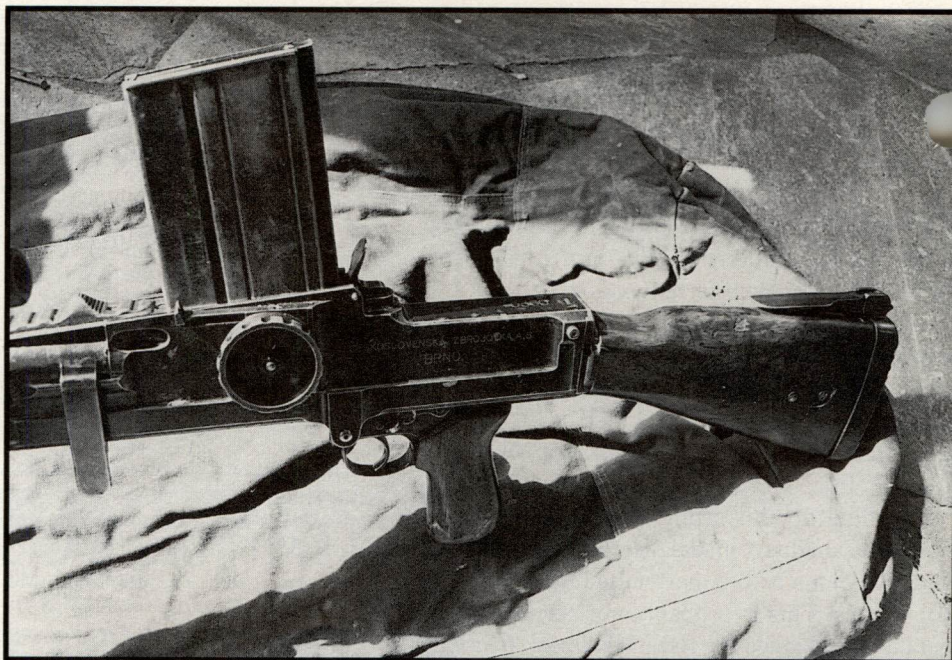
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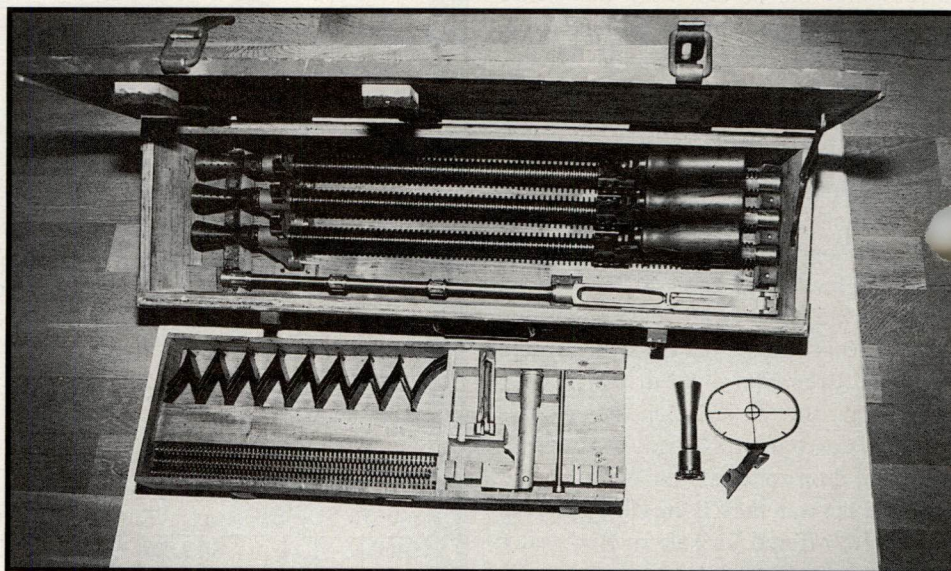
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Receiver markings on ZB 26.



Spares box, containing three barrels, complete piston rod assembly with bolt, springs, tools, etc. Lower right corner, AA-sight and flash firing device.

ish experimented with such designs throughout the fifties. The most successful was the Czech VZ 52 and VZ 59 and the Spanish FAO Model 59, that was in use until recently in 7.62 Nato caliber. In outward appearance, the Belgian FN Mag also has a slight touch of Bren. In England a large number of Bren Guns were converted to 7.62 Nato caliber, the L4 series of light machine guns. These guns are still in use by some units, and last saw action at the Falkland Islands and during Operation Desert Storm.

In China there were a lot of different caliber guns when Mao Tse Tung turned them into communism in 1949. As they received a lot of technical and military strat-

egy help from the Soviet Union, they converted lots of their older military weapons into Soviet calibers. Examples: Thompson submachine guns from .45 ACP to 7.62 Tokarev, Maxim heavy machine guns from 7.92x57mm to 7.62x54R and ZB 26/Inglis Brens from 7.92x57 to 7.62x39—the Kalashnikov round. This conversion utilizes the AK-47 magazine, an adaptor in the magazine well and a new barrel. I've never fired a gun like this, but would think the AK round had too little power to successfully operate the gas mechanism on these weapons. The conversions were undertaken in large numbers, so there must be some way to make this work, perhaps a lightened operating rod assembly? In Swe-

den a recoil booster was mounted under the flash hider when older, less powerful 5x55 ammo was to be used after the guns were rebarreled to that caliber.

Enough history, lets get started on the interiors of this fine weapon. As most gun buffs will know, prewar machine guns (and other prewar guns for that matter) are usually extremely well made. The Czech ZB 26 is no exception to that rule. When working the gun's moving parts or field stripping it, it's like working a warm knife through butter—smooth!

The gun is very simple, and has a minimum of working parts. When firing the gun, pull the operating handle to the rear until the mechanism locks in the rearward position. Push the cocking handle forward again. Place a loaded magazine in the mag well on top of the weapon and aim the gun at your target. When you take off the safety and pull the trigger, the sear will release the operating rod/piston assembly and the bolt. These parts will travel forward assisted by the recoil spring. The bolt strips a cartridge from the magazine and into the chamber, where the extractor slips over the groove on the cartridge case. When the bolt

is in its fully forward position, the piston rod assembly will press the bolt up and into a locked position where it cannot move as long as the piston rod assembly does not move. A hump at the end of the piston rod assembly hits the firing pin, and the cartridge fires. As the bullet leaves the barrel, powder gases flow into the gas cylinder and pushes the piston rod assembly rearwards. The bolt is pulled down and out of the locked position and follows the piston assembly's rearward movement. The ejector is fixed in the mag well behind the magazine and positively kicks the spent case down and out. If the selector is on "1" for single shots, the piston assembly locks in the rearward position again. If the selector is on "20" for full auto, the firing cycle repeats itself until pressure is taken off the trigger or the magazine is empty. When the mag is empty, the mechanism remains open after the last shot, so all you have to do is change magazines and keep firing.

The main differences between the ZB 26 and the ZB 30 is that the bolt on the ZB 26 slides with outside claws on the piston assembly and that the piston assembly on the ZB 30 has a spring-loaded post that the bolt rides on. This post also hits the firing pin when the bolt locks in the forward firing position. The ZB 30 also has a gas reg-

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ulator at the muzzle, between the flash hider and the barrel. This will enable the user to fire lower powered ammunition in this weapon and still make it work, whereas the ZB 26 might be a little sensitive to the ammunition being used. In addition to this, the barrel locking nut on the ZB 30 must be fully locked before you fire the gun, or else the piston assembly will not go forward. It is possible to fire the ZB 26 with an unlocked barrel locking nut but definitely not recommended!

Taking this gun to the range is a lot of fun and should be a recommended therapy for stress. Everything is really simple. Just fill all the magazines you have and start shooting! This is no exaggeration; it is one of the smoothest shooting experiences to be had with light machine guns from this period. When we did the photo session for this article, we shot 600 rounds without any hassle at all from the gun. Three spent cases stuck in the chamber with the extractor groove torn off but came out easily when helped by a cleaning rod from the muzzle. The extractor is completely locked for the first 5mm, so either the case comes out, or the extractor pulls it apart! The ammo was mostly Norwegian manufacture FMJ 7.92 made between 1932-50.

The sights are very rough and could have been a little smaller; they tend to cover small targets completely. Also, an aperture rear sight would have been most welcome. The standard sights are V-shaped rear sight and inverted V front sight. In spite of this, accuracy was about the same as most LMG's I've ever shot—more depending on the user than the gun itself.

Relatively light weight and slim features make it an attractive weapon to look at, combined with the excellent workmanship on the machined parts. Everyone that shot the gun on the day we spent with it on the range fell in love with the old Czech veteran. The gun at hand was in very good shape for its age and performed accordingly. The spring-loaded buttplate helps keep felt recoil to a minimum.

After the excellent PACT timer/chronograph arrived on the market, the world of cyclic rates has not been quite the same! Most books and manuals list the cyclic rate of the ZB 26 at around 500-550 rpm and one source was even down to 450 rpm. The pristine condition test gun was somewhat quicker than this. Original German infantry FMJ was clocked at 650 rpm, Norwegian FMJ gave us 660 rpm, while German SmE

"Für MG" (iron core, loaded for machine guns) was operating at 690 rpm! Unfortunately, there was no ZB 30 available for test firing. I would have liked to see cyclic rates with different settings of the gas regulator.

The only problems I have encountered with the two ZB 26 specimens I have fired is that the bumper pad located at the rear of the ejection opening is very crucial for the gun's functioning. The purpose of this bumper pad is that the spent cases will slow down on their way out of the gun. When the bumper pad is sixty years old, the rubber is smoldering or gone. What happens then is that the brass bounces back into the action (after hitting the front crossbolt that fastens the pistol grip/butt assembly to the receiver) and causes a jam. I don't think this was a problem when the guns were new, but it is worth noting that, if you have one of these guns that will not function properly, you might want to check the bumper pad and replace it if it is ruined.

After a long hard day at the shooting range comes the gruesome task of field stripping and cleaning the interiors of the gun you've used. Field stripping the ZB 26 is not so bad, though. First, make sure the gun is empty and that the bolt is in the forward position. Turn the barrel locking nut up and pull the barrel out of the receiver. The flash hider retainer can be pushed to the rear and you can unscrew the flash hider when the barrel is separated from the receiver. Push the pin at the rear of the receiver through to the right as far as it will go. Let the buttstock and pistol-grip assembly swing forward. Pull the cocking handle to the rear and take out the operating rod assembly and the bolt. No further disassembly is necessary for normal cleaning. When reassembling the gun, just do everything in reverse order.

SOURCES:

MG 26 (t) and MG 30 (t) *Waffen Revue* No. 85, 86, 87, 88

Bren Gun Saga by Thomas B. Dugelby, Collector Grade 1986

"Bren Gun" by Vidar Andresen, *Nordisk Våpenforum* No. 10

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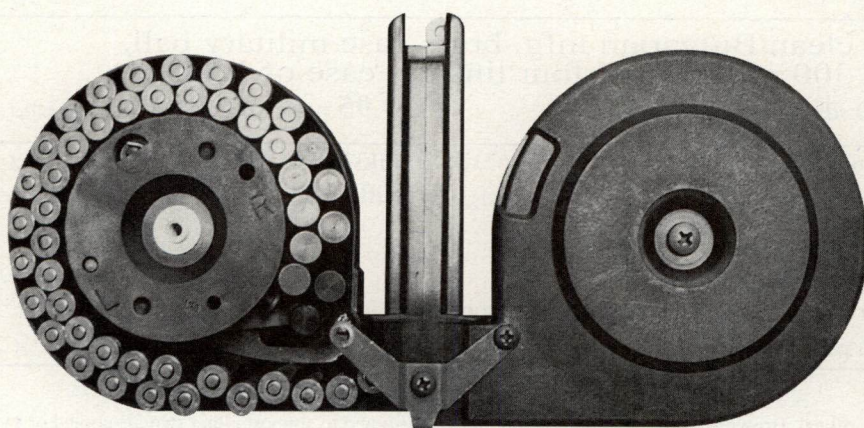
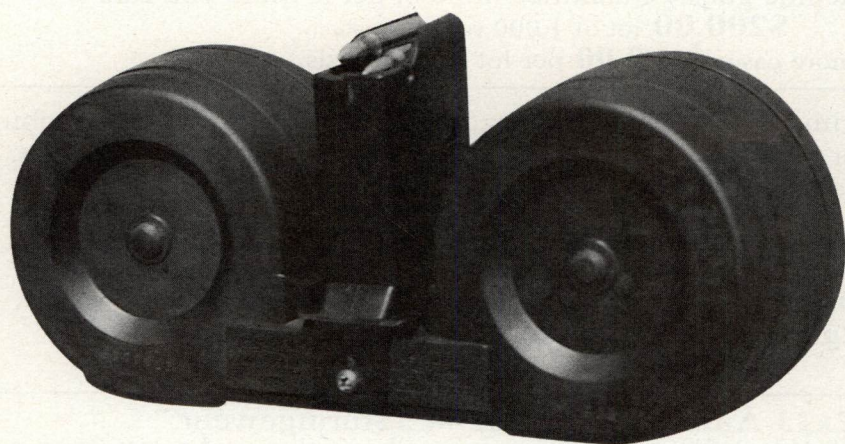
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The concept for the Beta C magazine is derived from the German MG-15 aircraft machine gun, followed by a field conversion of the MG34 with a special top cover. The drum is commonly referred to as the MG15 saddle drum. Externally, the Beta C Mag and the MG15 saddle drum are similar. The MG-34 was originally designed as a belt-fed gun. The saddle drum has no belt. It contains loose ammo. In use, the MG-34's top cover was removed and replaced with a special top cover for the saddle drum. Unbelted 7.92mm ammo fed alternately from the left and right drums.

Beta C magazines contain loose ammo and feed alternately from the left and right drums. Beta Cs are constructed of a Zytel-like plastic. It is durable but not indestructible.

Though brilliant in concept, the Beta C magazine is simple in design. Two double-column drums force the ammo into two single columns. These left and right single columns of ammo are merged into a centrally located short two-column magazine. The short two-column magazine locks into the gun like a standard magazine.

Unlike many drum magazines, the Beta C is not driven by a "wind-up" spring motor. Each symmetrical drum is powered by a "nearly constant force" spring. Though supplied with a loading tool, the magazine may be loaded by hand with some difficulty. A lost loading tool does not put the Beta C out of action.

The Beta C magazine springs are compressed as the ammo is loaded. Each spring powers a plunger that presses against a row of dummy 5.56 NATO rounds. The dummy rounds push against the live ammo. The Beta C magazine will work without the dummy rounds, but it works best with them. The dummies are retained in the magazine after the last live round is fired. Each Beta C magazine is supplied with a

THE BETA C MAGAZINE

by Capt. Monty Mendenhall

carrying pouch for the user's belt. In the side pocket of the pouch, is the Beta C loading tool. Though required, it speeds loading immensely.

Two types of Beta C loading tools are available. One loads loose ammo. The other loads ammo in stripper clips.

The plunger supplied with the Beta C stripper clip loading tool has a small magnet on each end of its "T" handle. After stripping out the ammo, the magnet lifts the empty stripper clip from the loading tool. Without hurrying, a Beta C magazine can be filled from stripper clips with the tool in two minutes.

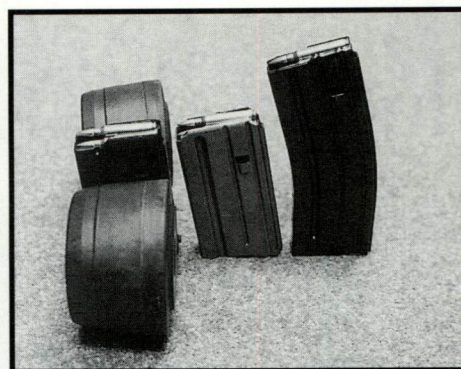
The Beta C loose ammo loading tool operates similarly to the stripper clip loading tool. Place the tool on top of the central magazine. Drop in five rounds. Use the plunger to push the ammo into the Beta C.

Being symmetrical, the Beta C balances perfectly on the rifle. Since it is as short as a twenty-round magazine, it is easy to fire the Beta C magazine from the prone position.

Kits are available that allow the user to convert a Beta C magazine to fit other 5.56



AUG and Beta C mag.



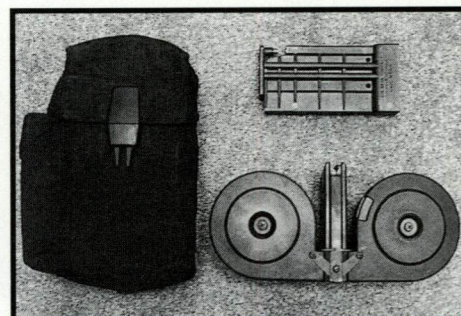
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NATO guns. A Beta C magazine can be converted from its M16 configuration to fit a Steyr AUG in ten minutes. The only tool needed is a small phillips screw driver.

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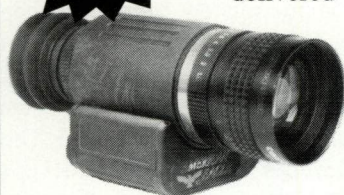
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Russian PPD 1940



by Frank Iannamico

One of the well known submachine guns of WWII was the Russian PPSH 41; millions were manufactured and used during WWII (see *MGN* 12/92). We have all seen them in the books, movies, and documentaries about WWII. They are usually recognized by their 71-round drum type magazine. It was a very formidable, high firepowered weapon, and was an excellent choice for the many city street-to-street battles that occurred during the war. These submachine guns fit in with the Soviet doctrine of massed troops with overwhelming firepower.

The PPSH was used by the German Wehrmacht whenever they captured them. In fact, many were converted to 9mm by German arsenals and were further modified to use an MP40 magazine. If you look closely at any WWII documentary films or photos, chances are good you will see a German soldier carrying a Russian subgun.

A much lesser known predecessor to the famous PPSH 41 was the Russian PPD 1940. This arm was a model designed after the earlier PPD 1934-1938; they are similar in appearance and function. Both of these weapons were used early in WWII against Finland. The design of these weapons are very similar to the Suomi as is the drum magazine.

Construction of the PPDs was like many early WWII designs: overengineered and of old world craftsmanship. The PPDs are more along the line of the U.S. Thompson, where as the PPSH was more like the U.S. M3 grease gun or the British Sten in construction.

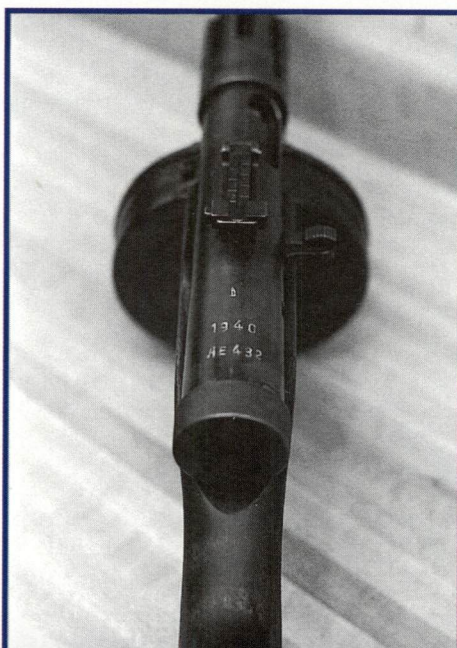
The PPD was only manufactured for two years: 1940 and 1941. Then war time

conditions perpetuated the need for arms that could be produced quickly and cheaply (enter the PPSH 41). The PPD was a very well constructed piece made exclusively from milled steel, was well finished and very rugged.

The PPD weighs 12 pounds with a fully loaded 71-round drum magazine. It fires the 7.62x25 Tokarev cartridge. Like many Soviet arms, it features a chrome-lined bore for easy cleaning and longevity. Like most subguns, it fires from an open bolt; however, it uses a movable firing pin that is cammed forward when the bolt is fully closed. This keeps it from firing until the cartridge is fully seated in the chamber.

It is a select-fire weapon with a cyclic rate of approximately 800-950 rounds per minute. The rear sight is a tangent type on the earlier model and is easily adjusted from 50 to 500 meters. The front sight is unprotected and is windage adjustable. The selector lever is like the PPSH: a lever simply marked "1" for semi-auto fire and "71" for full-auto operation. The safety device is located on the cocking handle and is able to lock the bolt in the retracted or the forward position. The safety is simply a pin that fits into a notch in the side of the receiver, keeping the bolt stationary.

There were no stick-type magazines designed for the PPD 1940, only the 71-round



Receiver markings. Arrow inside circle indicates arsenal that manufactured the weapon.

drum. The drum magazines for the PPSH and the PPD 1934/38 will not interchange with the PPD 1940. The PPD 1940 drum has only one feed lip. The reason for this is, placement of the ejector is such that it interferes with the left side lip of a PPSH drum or magazine.

One advantage the PPDs have over the PPSH is that the PPD ejects expended brass out the side where the PPSH ejects straight up in front of the operators face. The PPD 1940 also has a wooden foregrip that keeps your hand off of the barrel jacket, which can get too hot to hold. The PPSH was copied and manufactured by many communist countries. The PPDs were only manufactured in the Soviet Union.

The PPD 1940 is easily field stripped: remove two screws from the trigger guard. Turn selector switch to the side to allow trigger guard to be removed, reposition selector. Remove stock. Unscrew cap from rear of receiver. Remove bolt assembly and spring. More detailed disassembly: barrel is pinned and pressed into the receiver. A set screw holds the threaded barrel jacket in place. The trigger and sear are pinned into the receiver. The extractor, firing pin and lever are pinned into the bolt. The entire gun can be completely disassembled with little effort, although a press is needed to remove the barrel. The barrel is flanged on the rear side and is removed out the back of the receiver.

I've always kind of had a "thing" for the Russian subguns. So when Florida Class 3 dealer David Allen offered me the PPD 1940 I could not resist, BUT he had no magazine for the gun. Being the type of

person who loves challenges I said, "No problem." Not wanting to ruin a PPSH drum right away, I thought if I can get a PPSH stick mag to work first...so I ordered some PPSH stick mags. When the stick mags arrived, I found there were two problems: one, the mags were too wide to fit in the mag well. After some precision grinding, I got the mag to fit up in the mag well, then problem two reared its ugly head. The left feed lip hit the ejector, so it would not seat up into the receiver. I solved that problem by simply cutting a 1/4" notch out of the rear of the left lip. After testing the mags to see if they would work (they did), I then made similar modifications to the PPSH drum.

I now was ready for some shooting. The light bullet weight, along with the weight of the PPD 1940 makes it very accurate (read controllable) with full auto fire and in the semi-auto mode as well. It seems like it would make an excellent Jungle Lane competition gun, especially with the 71-round drum mag.

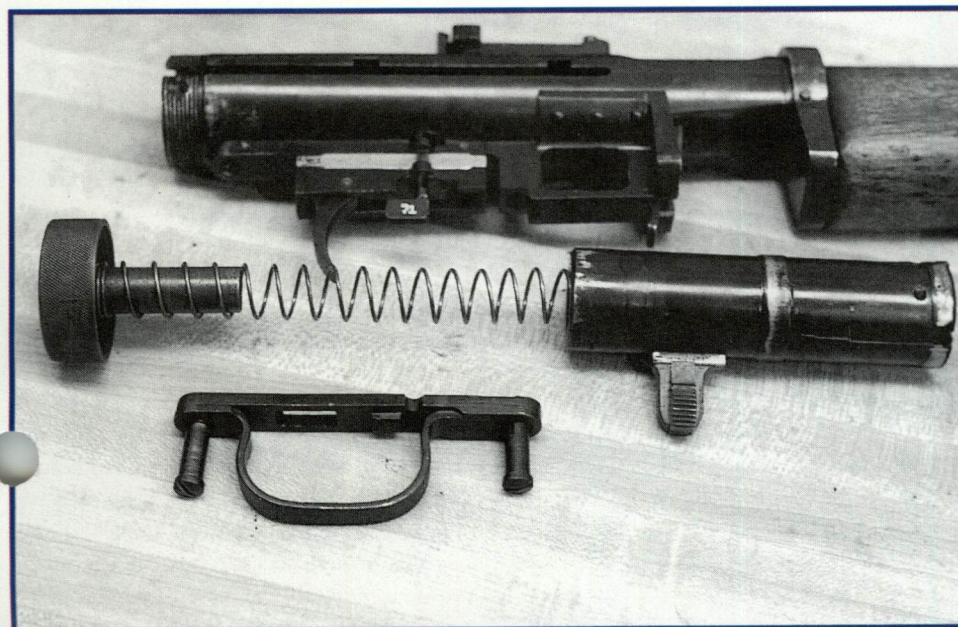
The 7.62 Tokarev rounds are still in fairly good supply, although this is sure to change in the near future. Most of this ammo is imported from China, and of course, the

Chinese ammo is banned from further importation. I am happy to report that the Tokarev rounds I fabricate out of .223 cases work flawlessly, and you have the option of experimenting with different bullets and loads. These homemade Tok cartridges are more accurate than the military ammo (MGN article 2/95).

I have planned for the future to attempt to convert the PPD to 9mm. It seems to me that it is a feasible conversion. The Germans did it, although they used MP 40 magazines; I think the originals might work as well. I do not want to permanently alter the PPD in any way. The Sibarco Company converts the PPSH drums to work in several types of 9mm subguns, and I have a Tokarev pistol with a 9mm conversion kit that uses the original mags. I have already loaded some 7.62 Tokarev rounds and made the overall length the same as a 9mm. These shortened cartridges feed and function in the drum and the magazines. I think it would be an interesting conversion and would be applicable to the PPSH as well. MGN

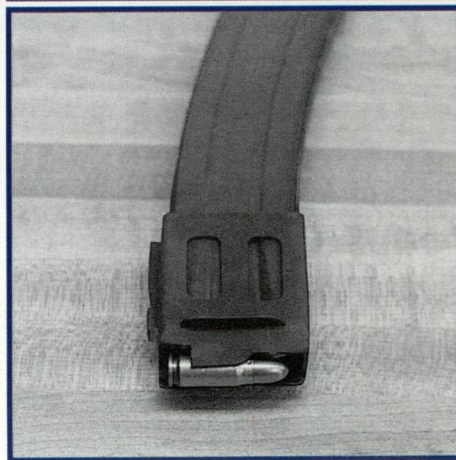
PPD 1940 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber	7.62X25 tokarev
Muzzle Velocity	1,625 feet per second
Muzzle Energy	540 foot pounds
Magazine	71-round drum
Cyclic Rate	800/900 rounds per minute
Operation	Open bolt, blow-back operated, cammed firing pin
Modes of Fire	Semi or full auto
Weight	8 pounds empty, 12 pounds with loaded drum
Overall Length	31 inches



Left: PPD 1940 is easily field stripped for cleaning. All parts are of heavy milled steel.

Below: PPSH drums and mags could be used after a slight modification of the feed lip on the left side.



The Interview: Carlos Hathcock

by DAN SHEA

Gunnery Sergeant Carlos H. Hathcock, USMC retired, has had several books and many articles written about him, as well as video tapes and one movie loosely based on some of his exploits. I am going to assume that the reader is familiar with them, and the Gunny's quiet, unassuming manner about what many consider to be a heroic life's work. (If you aren't familiar with him, fax me at MGN and I will fax you some good reference material lists.) I have known Carlos for a number of years and always find it a pleasure and inspiration to see him. Stan Andrews and I stopped in to visit the Gunny in Virginia Beach in August of 1995. Most shooters are aware of Carlos' accomplishments as a Marine Corps Sniper in the Republic of Vietnam during the 1960's, but most are not aware of one thing that is very relevant to this magazine and its readers: the famed Marine Sniper started as a Machine Gunner....

MGN: Gunny, nice seeing you again. As I told you on the phone, I wanted to talk with you about your experiences with machine guns.

Carlos: Well, I was a machine gunner with an MP unit during my first tour in 'Nam. I had an M60 mounted on a tripod.

MGN: (Surprised) I thought that you used the Browning M2HB.

Carlos: I used that in '67, early. In operation Desoto. Most operations, in '66 and '67 I was in the back of vehicles, keeping the bad guys away from us when we were moving. My primary weapon was the M60.

MGN: You used both the Browning .50 and the M60 in combat, in Vietnam? What was your opinion of the two guns?

Carlos: I liked the Browning—good, reliable machine gun. That M60 was flimsy, never felt comfortable with it. I didn't trust the gun, too afraid of malfunctions. One operation, we were going down a road, and the whole tree line opened up on us, across a paddy. I had the M60 mounted on top of the weapons carrier, and swung it onto the trees. I just fired, and fired, aiming in on the muzzle flashes in the trees. All of our guys were down and covered, 'cuz the bad guys were really putting the lead into us. I kept firing until there were no more muzzle flashes in those trees. The

M60 did work alright. We never did find out how many were hit; no one wanted to go investigate. Not too unusual, either, with the booby traps and hidey holes the Cong always had. Yep, a man wants a gun he can count on.

MGN: You adopted the M2 heavy barrel as a "long range target acquisition device."

Carlos: Definitely. Though Captain E.J. Land was the one who decided we should put the scope on the .50.

MGN: Did you have to make any modifications to the firearm?

Carlos: No. We just had to make a mount that would fit my old scope. We took the Unertl off my rifle, so it would mount on the .50 cal.

MGN: Did you make that mount in Vietnam?

Carlos: Yeah, we made it over there. I was told that the SeaBee's made it, up in DaNang. I don't remember all the details—that was a long time ago. It had a mount with a little bit of twist. It bolted right onto the side where the threaded holes were.

MGN: Was it hard to sight it in, when you mounted the scope?

Carlos: (Laughs) Shoot no. Ain't nothing to it. That gun was made for it. I put it where I wanted it, real quick. It took three rounds to zero it at two different ranges. Closest was 1000, the farthest was 2500. I actually made three kills at 2500 yards, not just the one that people talk about.

MGN: Did you do any alterations to the trigger pull or anything else?

Carlos: No, nothing. Nothing but the standard butterflies.

MGN (Stan): See, this is like a lot of things that I ask myself, because I've read your book and I think to myself OK, I'm a gunsmith, I want to duplicate the gun, so I'm asking, "How did he do this, how did he do that..."

Carlos: Standard butterflies, they worked good, too, cause I had to turn it loose one night. To get the bad guys off us. We were on the other side of the hill... and I was there with the guys. The Cong come charging up the hill cause they had run a sweep team back up to the hill and swept right through us. About three of us was up there, that's all. Our cover left with the sweep team. We had all the ammo, all our gear, every bit. They left us, left us out there.

MGN: Was that an NVA action?

Carlos: No, it was the Viet Cong, the Cong. I just put the .50 back on the tripod. Didn't realize how much that thing weighed before that time. There was usually someone else who set it up, and we used it. Put it back on the tripod, it had a handle on it, and that helped some. Took the scope off and was getting ready to leave and the bad guys are coming up the hill and I didn't want 'em to.



Gunner Sgt. Carlos Hathcock looking for enemy targets. Duc Pho RVN.

Stay away from me, boys. I turned that .50 loose and when I started to turn it loose, they run all down the hill! It seemed like they were running towards the little Pagoda down there in the valley. Pretty soon they were all wadded up inside that pagoda, and there was a window opening on the side facing me so I started launching rounds into that window and tracers were flying out the door and everywhere. Not many people leaving, though. (Laughs)

MGN: You say you mounted it back on the tripod. What did you use to fire it when you were doing single shot?

Carlos: Free gun.

MGN: Free gun with an M2 heavy barrel?

Carlos: Free gun. Used the pintle, but had the T&E disconnected. Set-up took me all day, cause I didn't trust anyone else to set it up. It took me all day to get that big gun mounted properly, sand-bagged and scoped.

MGN: How was the recoil on that?

Carlos: Pretty good. Not that bad. I could work with it.

MGN: I had one come off a tripod once like that, came out of its lock and I didn't like that at all.

Stan: No sense of humor.

Carlos: (Laughs again) I had it locked down good, trust me on that.

MGN: Did you have special ammunition for the gun when you were using it as a sniper?

Carlos: No, just regular, standard ball. Worked out pretty good too, for standard stuff. It was pretty accurate out to 2500 yards or so. Seems amazing doesn't it?

MGN: Yeah, sure does. So, what did you have for ammo for the Winchester rifle?

Carlos: Whatever we could scrounge for match ammo, once again, it was standard issue. I sighted in my rifle starting at 700 yards, and ending at 1200 yards. It doesn't make sense to engage the enemy at less than 300 yards, 'cause they can effectively return fire, and that interferes with doing your job.

MGN (Stan- shocked): You made all those shots with standard issue U.S. military ball ammunition!?

Carlos: Yup. Sure did. That was all we had to work with. That ammunition is pretty good, you know.

MGN (Stan): Well, "If the enemy is in range, so are you"—Murphy's Law.

(All are laughing)

MGN: Carlos, You were one of the founders of the Marine Corps Sniper School, and have had quite a bit to do with several other well known training groups. If you were selecting ammunition today, what would it be?

Carlos: Without a doubt, for the .308, I would choose Federal Match Grade 168 grain boat-tails. No question about it. I went up to the factory a few years ago and looked over the whole manufacturing set-up. I have recommended that for years and know that it is reliable, consistent, and accurate. Over 600 yards, I would want a heavier bullet, though.

MGN(Stan): You have been involved with a Sniper Training School here in the Virginia Beach area?

Carlos: Sure, I worked on starting it up. It is a yearly two-week sniper course for law enforcement only that is sponsored by the local police department.

I don't actively train anymore, but there is a very good group of instructors there now.

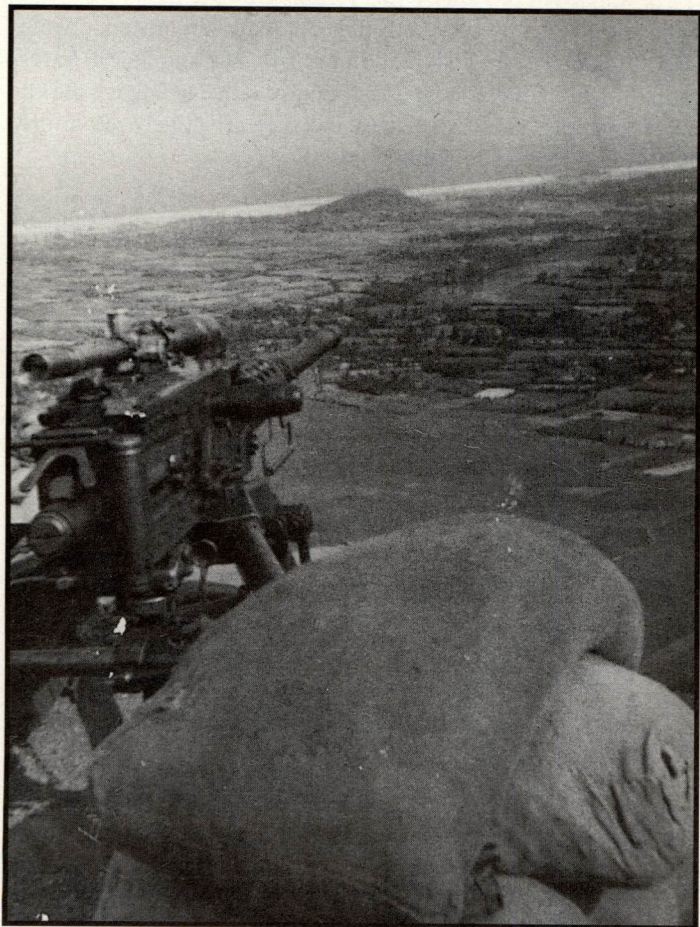
MGN (Stan): My son is a police officer, and is interested in some schooling, is why I was asking. I was hoping that you were still training.

Carlos: Nope. But, there are a good bunch of guys there. I personally trained them for ten years. Worked them real hard on discipline. Think they know what they're doing? (Laughs)

MGN: I'll bet they do. Carlos, did you have any experiences with the combloc machine guns?

Carlos: Only with the test teams at Quantico in the '60's. I shot the RPK and the DPM. They were quite the weapons. Strong, well made. I enjoyed shooting them, but didn't get a lot of experience with them. Nope, most of my machine gunning was with the 1919 and the M60.

MGN: You were talking about keeping distance from the enemy to discourage effective return fire. Have you ever used a silencer or sound suppressor?



Ma Deuce with a sniper scope overlooking a valley at one of the ends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail near Duc Pho. (1 Corps) RVN.

Carlos: (Laughing) Heck, distance has always been my silencer! Distance muffles and disguises the sound of a shot, as well as where the shot came from—all I have ever needed. I did try one of the earlier bolt action fifty caliber rifles, looking for more range but I never went with one.

MGN: You have a large following in the shooting community, both the professional and hobby shooters. Is there any particular message that you would like to send out to them?

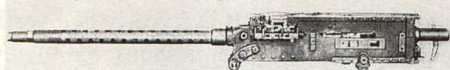
Carlos: Well, discipline is the most important thing in shooting. I have seen too much complacency at shoots, and that leads to a loss of the discipline you need to be an effective shooter. These "experts" I see are a bunch of malarkey. Discipline and training are the keys, and you have to keep shooting and practicing all the time, or you will lose the skills that you need, the ones that will keep you alive.

Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock has given a lot to the shooting community, and to his country in general. There have been numerous articles recently, mentioning some of the medical problems that are plaguing him. Friends of his at the Virginia Gun Collectors made up a copy of the Remington M40 .308 caliber sniper rifle that Carlos used in Vietnam and are raffling it off, with all proceeds going to the Gunny. Tickets are \$2 each and the drawing is December 15, 1995.

Check with you local gunshop for tickets, or call Archie Mayer at (703) 221-3030. Mail at Archie Mayer, The Carlos Hathcock Fund, 18759 Fuller Heights, VA 22172.

MGN

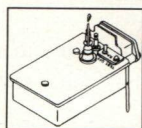
BRITISH ANM2 Machine Gun Spares Set



These kits came from British guns used in RAF Scout and Bomber planes and are in .303 British caliber. These are the model with the hold-open style lock frame group and side-fire selector. Ideal for building dummy guns or

spare parts for both British and U.S. guns. Can be used as .303 conversion sets for U.S. guns in .30-06. Over the years many shooters have converted .303 guns to shoot 7.62 x 54R. Barrels are excellent with bright and shiny bores. Kits come with bolt, barrel and barrel extension, barrel muzzle bearing, lock frame, back plate, top cover, and small parts.

..... \$ 149.95
Kit with special aircraft ring sight and post \$ 189.95
Kit with sights and aircraft cradle as used during WWII \$ 249.95



PLATOON EARLY WARNING SYSTEM DETECTOR, ANTI-INTRUSION DT 577

These transmitters/detectors are part of the current U.S. Army system used to warn troops of approaching vehicles or personnel. These units have a detection radius of approximately 10 meters, and will transmit a signal to a standard radio scanner up to 1,500 meters away. The detector broadcasts on a frequency of 139.1 Mhz. They provide a reliable method of early warning. A standard 9-volt battery powers the transmitter for up to 14 days. Units are brand new in G.I. packages and come complete with antenna and seismic probes.

Each \$49.95 or 5 transmitters for \$199.95 Ppd.

PARTS and ACCESSORIES

Browning ANM2 barrel extension	\$ 24.95
Browning .50 cal. M2 top cover	\$ 90.00
Browning .50 cal. M2 front sight cover	\$ 7.95
Browning M37 bolt, new	\$ 69.95
Browning M37 barrel extension	\$ 35.00
Browning blank firing attachment stop (1005-103-7856)	\$ 8.00
Madsen Model 50 9mm barrel	\$ 55.00
Madsen Model 53 MK II barrel	\$ 65.00
Madsen MK II barrel cover	\$ 30.00
Madsen rubber recoil bumpers	\$ 6.00
MP-40 firing pin	\$ 20.00
MP-40 muzzle nut	\$ 15.00
MG-34 German belts, 50 rd.	\$ 4.95
MG-34 ammo can w/5 belts & tab	\$ 39.95
MG-42 belt, w/groove, late	\$ 8.95

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Famous "clam-shell" design that offered easy access to all working parts. Side folding stock made for a very compact weapon. One of the first submachine guns



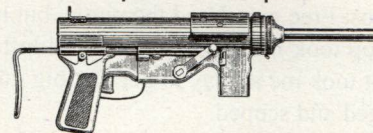
with a grip safety to help prevent accidental discharge. Our kits have excellent barrels with mirror bores and parts do not appear to have had much use, just carry wear on finish. Naturally the receiver has been destroyed per BATF rules but you do get the pistol grip with folding stock attached, receiver front with barrel trunion and all other parts. No FFL required.

Madsen kit complete \$ 99.95
Madsen kit, complete with the pistol grip accessories: magazine loader, spare firing pin, extractor and safety button \$ 119.95
Madsen spares-only kit, barrel, bolt and all other "working" parts, same great barrels, no stock or trunion parts \$ 79.95

Thompson M1A1 SMG Parts

Bolt, new in wrap	\$ 59.95
Buffer, AOC marked	\$ 6.95
Buffer, square S, Savage	\$ 5.95
Magazine, blue	\$ 9.95
Magazine, gray	\$ 7.95
Rear Sight, late w/ears	\$ 14.95

M3/M3A1 Grease Gun Survival pac of needed spares



M3/M3A1 New G.I. sear, extractor, 4 recoil and 4 magazine catch springs. These will cure most problems of used guns \$ 24.95
MAGAZINES, 30-rd, new in G.I. wrap \$ 15.95
10 mags for \$ 99.95
G.I. magazine springs. Get these to insure your pre-ban magazines stay usable, replace springs that have taken a "set" 5 for \$ 10.00
For 5 springs and 5 followers \$ 12.95

Send \$5.00 minimum shipping. Office closed on Mondays, warehouse open Fridays 1-5. Hundreds more interesting and useful tools, gages, accessories, parts, and magazines in new Spring '95 Machine Gun catalog. Send \$5.00 for 1st class mail. Overseas customers send equivalent in own currency.

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Madsen, .30-06 LMG	\$ 17.95
Reising, 20 shot	\$ 79.95
Reising, 12 shot	\$ 49.95
Yugo, Type 56	\$ 39.95
ZB-26 8mm, 40 shot	\$ 149.95

CLASS THREE SUPPLY, INC.

P.O. Box 1119 Hermitage, PA 16148
Phone: 412-962-1890 Fax: 412-962-1891

M1K "HAMMER"

CTS Incorporated now offers the original M1K "HAMMER" conversion to all qualified owners of Benelli M1 Super 90 shotguns. Previously restricted to law enforcement agencies, this conversion allows the user to add tactical flexibility to this fine weapon.

This conversion is available on all Benelli M1 Super 90 shotguns that do not have a fixed 7-round magazine. All later production models will accept our conversion, including ghost-ring sight versions.

The M1K "HAMMER" conversion includes shortening your barrel and relocating the front sight. A new magazine cap will be provided and your original magazine extension will be returned to you. "Hammer" logo can be engraved at additional cost. Your shotgun will retain the ability to accept optional barrels and magazine extensions.

The M1K "HAMMER" is registered as a short-barreled shotgun, and may only be transferred to individuals on ATF FORM 4. The transfer is taxed \$200.00 and must be approved by BATF prior to delivery of the firearm.



Benelli shotgun
not included



Specifications

Barrel length: 10.4"
Overall length: 31.7"
Magazine capacity: 3

Suggested Retail
\$295.00

M1K "HAMMER" conversion on customer's shotgun; shipping, insurance, sales tax and transfer tax additional.

Note: The M1K "HAMMER" conversion is only available on otherwise stock shotguns. CTS Inc., may refuse any firearm that is deemed unfit. Price and specifications are subject to change without notice.

SWEDISH K PARTS

Closeout of parts for the Carl Gustaf M45B or Port Said 4.2mm submachine gun. All parts removed from functioning weapons in good repair.

Item	Description	Quantity	Price
C0045	Left grip panel	31	\$ 5.00
C0046	Right grip panel	34	5.00
C0047	Barrel shroud with retainer (stripped)	18	20.00
C0048	Receiver cap	38	10.00
C0049	Barrel (pitted bore)	20	50.00
C0050	Bolt assembly	35	50.00
C0051	Return spring	36	10.00
C0052	Barrel Support	44	20.00
C0053	Magazine housing (removable type)	37	10.00
C0054	Retainer for magazine housing	39	5.00
C0055	Buttstock assembly	40	20.00
C0058	Trigger	37	10.00
C0059	Sear	20	10.00
C0060	Ejector	34	10.00
C0061	Cocking handle	2	20.00
C0062	Front sight	14	10.00
C0097	Magazine (36-round capacity)	43	65.00
K0008	Port Said complete part set with magazine	7	225.00

RUGER AC556 PARTS KITS



Selective Fire Three-Shot or Fully Automatic

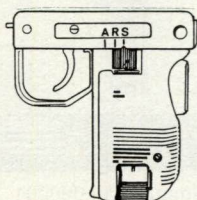
CLASS THREE SUPPLY, INC. has acquired a number of RUGER AC556 Fully Automatic Rifles. These rifles, in the form of kits, are being made available to all NFA dealers and other qualified individuals. These kits consist of the following: stock, barrel, complete 3-rd./Full-Automatic trigger mechanism and all other parts—except the receiver. (No magazine is included.) Replacement parts only. All NFA rules apply.

AC556 Parts Kit . . .	\$325.00	30-RD. Original Ruger AC556 Magazine
N.R.A. Good Condition		Refinished \$49.00
		Good Condition 39.00

Prices subject to change without notice.
Dealers should send FFL/SOT for dealer discount.

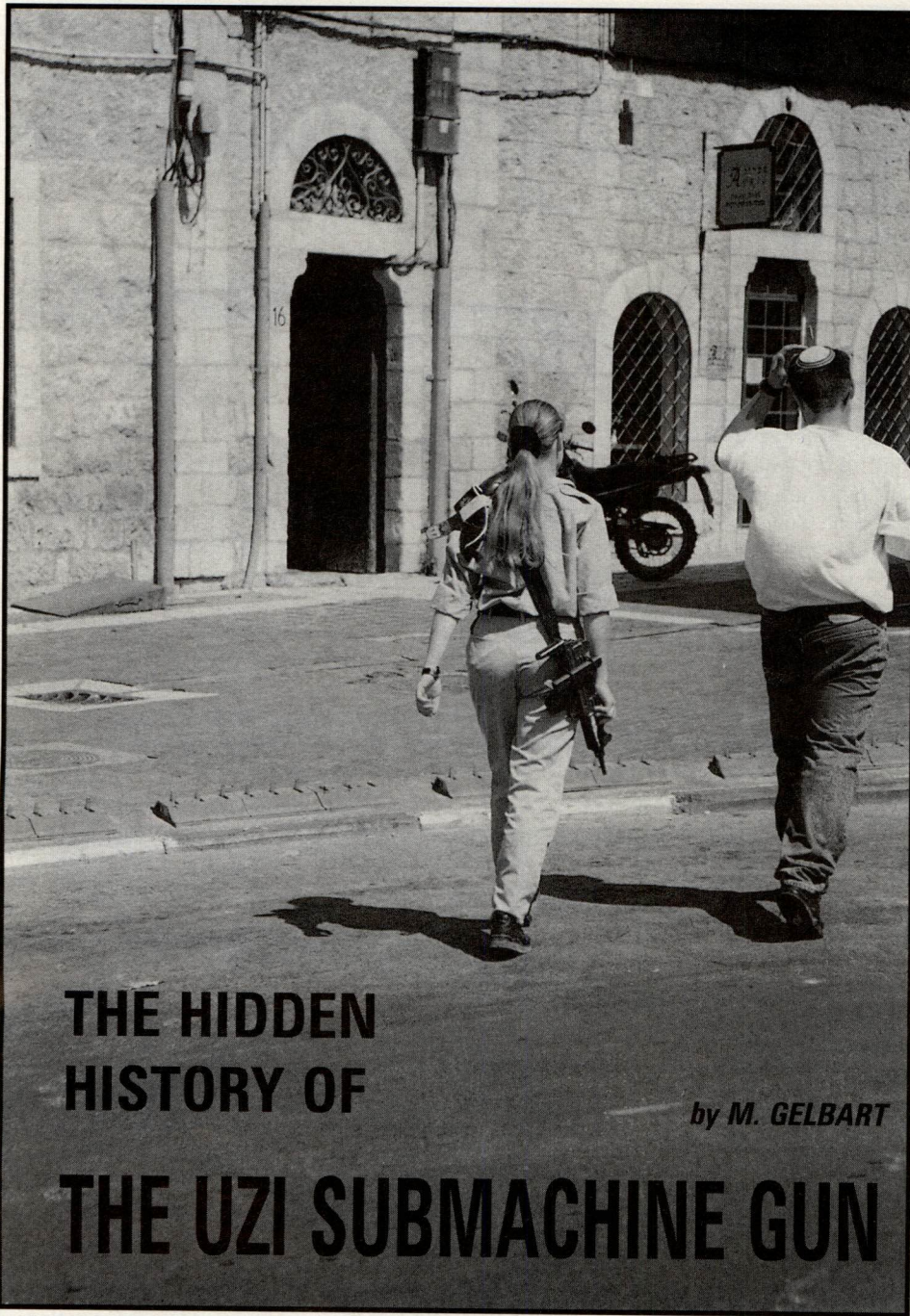
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COMPLETE Full-Automatic Trigger Mechanism (Lower) for Machine Guns.



- * Contains All Internal Parts *
- * Brand New Black Finish Genuine I.M.I. *

- 0504000 - Grip assembly Mini Uzi closed bolt SMG **\$495.00**
- 0464000 - Grip assembly Mini Uzi open bolt SMG **\$450.00**
- 1074000 - Grip assembly Uzi SMG **\$395.00**



THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF

by M. GELBART

THE UZI SUBMACHINE GUN

Woman soldier in Jerusalem 1995 with her trusty Uzi!

CLOSE IN AND DIRTY

Think of a really effective submachine gun. Chances are that one of two models spring to mind: the Heckler & Koch MP5 or the Uzi. Both weapons are excellent designs in wide spread use, and it's hard to choose between them. The German gun, with its closed-bolt firing cycle, is more accurate and is the better weapon for police and counter terrorist work. The sturdy, reliable Uzi is marginally superior as an infantry weapon. Both weapons are perfect for the close range fighting associated with urban areas. The German gun was produced in the 1960s by a state which was an in-

dustrial giant, with a well established arms industry. The Israeli weapon was built earlier in the 1950s, by a developing country, with a ramshackle economy and a Mickey Mouse arms industry. How did the Israelis manage it?

The main reason is that they had a sophisticated and ruthless system of competitive tender: they pitched two decent, local designs against each other in a battle to death. It also helped that they had a weapons designer of genius, a man by the name of Uzi Gal.

The Israeli arms industry started up in conditions of illegality in the Palestine of the 1930s. Secret underground workshops built D.I.Y. small arms of varying quality. Some of these weapons were ingenious; most were eccentric. The Dubigun, a 12-gauge "carbine" with a six-round drum magazine, was impressive looking. However, it was probably more dangerous to the firer than the target! By the mid 1940s the Israelis were producing an unlicensed copy of the 9mm MK II Sten. Unfortunately, the Israelis had to build the gun of poor quality materials, only the barrel—cannibalized and rebored from the barrels of old hunting rifles—was actually made of steel! This did nothing for the accuracy and reliability of this STEN clone.

By 1950, the Israeli military, having had enough of submachine guns that blew up in your face or which jammed just when the fire fight was getting interesting, put forward a requirement for a new gun. The Israelis wanted a compact, reliable weapon, sturdy enough to take punishment and accurate enough to dish it out.

Israel and its hostile neighbors during the 1950s were involved in a cycle of artillery duels, nighttime border raids and counter strikes. The Israelis had inferior artillery but had infantry better trained in night fighting. **The submachine gun, easy to carry and with a high rate of fire, was ideal for this kind of close-in and dirty type of warfare.** The Israelis were desperate to put a reliable weapon in the hands of their paratroopers, the spear-point of



1951, the first Uzi ever! 9mm Model 000001. Tool room model 30-round magazine.

their night raiders. Having decided that there was nothing on the market to meet their requirements, they had to build a submachine gun from scratch.

BITTER CONTEST

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) found that they had two designs in development which appeared to meet their needs. The first was a rather traditional looking weapon designed by Major Chaim Kara, head of the light weapons section of the IDF's Science Corps. The second weapon was built by a youngster working his way rapidly up the ranks and who seemed to have a genius for weapon design—Uzi Gal. Both guns needed further development before being submitted to testing. The Kara in particular needed reworking to meet the advanced demands of the IDF. The rival submachine guns, named after their creators, were handed over to the army in 1952 for competitive trials.

With the help of Colonel Matti Hemed (retired) of the IDF Collection Houses Mu-

seum Tel Aviv, I examined the weapons entered for trial. Matti, who was involved with just about all the small arms trials the IDF has ever carried out, was able to explain why the Uzi won the contest.

The 9mm Kara was a good gun, the match of any found in the major armies of the time. Despite its traditional appearance, it utilized—as did the Uzi—a wrap-around bolt and blowback operation. Wrap-around bolts allow the construction of a much more



The dubious, Dubigun a 12-gauge "carbine" built as an act of desperation in a secret workshop on Kibbutz Ein Gev in 1946. The weapon has a six-round drum magazine.



A line up of Israeli made submachine guns. From top to bottom: A: A 9mm Sten clone circa 1944, 32-round magazine built of inferior materials by the Hagana, the underground Israeli Army before statehood. B: The first ever Uzi 9mm prototype built as a tool-room model in 1951. Magazine capacity 30 rounds. C: One of the five early 9mm Uzis submitted for the competitive trials in 1952. Magazine 30 rounds. D: One of the eighty pilot series 9mm Uzis issued to army units for their suggested improvements in 1954. Magazine capacity 30 rounds. E: Standardized 9mm Uzi issued for service in 1955. Magazine capacity now 25 or 32 rounds. F: 1967 model 9mm Uzi now equipped with a folding metal stock.

Machine Gun News - November 1995



From top to bottom. A: A 9mm Sten clone, this time built by a secret factory owned by the Stern Gang terrorists. B: 9mm Kara Model K-12, the final prototype Kara which was submitted in competitive trial against the first Uzi. IDF Service Corps development 1951. Magazine capacity 20 or 40 rounds. Note the gun is fitted with a bayonet! C: 9mm Kara prefinal prototype developed in 1950. Magazine capacity 20 or 40 rounds. D: 9mm Kara prototype 1949 version. E: 9mm Kara early prototype 1948 version. Note at this early stage, the Kara did not have its magazine housing in the pistol grip. F: 9mm Kara early prototype from the same period with minor modifications.

NFA DEALER SEMINAR

The purpose of this two day class is to provide valuable information to persons who are either already in the business of dealing with NFA weapons or for those who would like to obtain the special occupational status. The class will cover the following topics and areas of interest:

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

NFA 34
GCA 68
Amnesty weapons
MV 86
Various "Bans"

NFA TRANSFERS

Individuals
Dealers
Estates
Law Enforcement
Trades
Curios and Relics
Problem solving
Dealing with the ATF

ATF LICENSING PROCEDURES

FFLs
NFA SOTs
Explosives
Destructive Devices

DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS

Q & A SESSION

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Prospective NFA Dealers
Current Class II & III
NFA weapon owners

INSTRUCTORS

Dan Shea, Technical Editor,
Machine Gun News
Bill Nixon, Omni Arms Co.

CLASS DATES AND LOCATION

Dec 1 & 2, 1995 (Fri & Sat)
To be held near Memphis, TN

CLASS COST

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9mm Mini Uzi, 1982, in a prototype form not adopted for service. Note front pistol grip and the one bar telescopic stock. Fitted with a 32-round magazine.



Uzi with attitude! An Uzi fitted with an extra long barrel, bayonet lug and grenade launcher. Note flash hider at end of the muzzle, the bayonet, and the formidable looking grenade below the gun. A one-off prototype 1967.

compact and handy weapon. Nowadays this type of bolt is common; in the 1950s, they were innovative. The Kara was very well made—if anything, too well made. Its circular cross-section was built to very fine tolerances, difficult to manufacture cheap-

ly. Having only eight main parts, the gun was easy to field strip. Just as well really as its precision manufacturing process would not have withstood the grit and dust of the Middle East without jamming. The Kara had the choice of a 20- and 40-round

magazine.

The 9mm Uzi, even in its crude looking initial version, was a gun of a later generation than the Kara. Well built, it employed a large amount of stamped steel in its design: simple to mass produce and without the need for the close tolerances demanded in the manufacture of the Kara. **The Uzi was a killing machine: precise and elegant in its design, rather than in the quality of its construction.** With its wrap-around telescoping bolt, the Uzi was a compact weapon. The original Uzi was fitted with a 30-round magazine; later models have 25- or 32-round magazines.

The Uzi had excellent human engineering. Its best feature was the magazine housing built into its pistol grip. Uzi Gal had thought what happens to a tired soldier fighting at night and needing to change magazines in the dark. The soldier may be frightened, disorientated and fumbling. The designer thought of the "fist finds fist" principal. No matter how dark the night or how tired you are, you will be able to touch your fists together without thinking. The fact that a soldier's dominant hand holds the combined pistol/grip magazine housing, allows the Uzi to be reloaded quickly. The Kara's later prototypes followed this fea-



A close-up from top to bottom. A: One of the 80 pilot series 9mm Uzis issued to army units for testing and suggested improvements in 1954. Magazine 30 rounds. B: Standardized 9mm Uzi issued for service in 1955. Magazine capacity now 25 or 32 rounds. C: 1967 Model 9mm Uzi now equipped with a folding metal stock.



9mm Uzi pistol in service since 1983. Section view model. Magazine capacity 20, 25, or 30 rounds.

COMPARATIVE TABLE

	KARA	UZI (early model, wooden stock)
Caliber	9mm	9mm
Operation	Both weapons blowback, selective fire	
Feed	20- and 40-	25- and 32-round box magazines
Weight	3.03 kg	3.8 kg
Overall Height	715mm	650mm
Barrel Length	305mm	260mm
Rate of Fire	510-520	600 rounds per minute
Field Strip	8	7 main parts

ture of the Uzi, however it was insufficient to sway the contest.

The Uzi had a number of other advantages. Unlike most submachine guns, the Uzi is almost immune from the danger of inadvertent misfires. A substantial safety catch at the back of the magazine housing needs to be squeezed at the same time as the trigger, before the gun will fire. Because of this safety feature an Uzi is not likely to accidentally discharge if dropped to the ground. The weapon also has a small number of parts making it easy to strip down and reassemble—a good feature for combat operations. For a submachine gun, the Uzi is accurate with limited recoil and climb; it can even be fired one-handed.

Incidentally, Uzi Gal has been accused of copying the Czech weapon, the CZ23, with its similar lay-out. Colonel Matti, who knows Uzi Gal very well, describes Gal as being absolutely straight and honest. When Gal says he did not copy the Czech gun, he is telling the truth; it was simply the case of two sharp design teams coming up with similar sophisticated blueprints.

Anyway in 1951, twelve Karas and five Uzis were placed on trial. After a period of rigorous testing, the Uzi was declared the winner. The Uzi was accepted because of its ability to fire and function in dusty, gritty environments without jamming. The gun was also easier to mass produce than the Kara.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE LOST UZIS

From 1951 through to 1955 some eighty preproduction models were issued to selected units. After feedback, the basic design was altered and enhanced at the request of the IDF. In 1955, the Uzi recognizable as the gun we know today, was finally put into service. In 1956, the gun proved its reliability during the Suez War. It was the start of a great career. The gun continued to evolve when in service. Perhaps the most important modification was the introduction of a neat, folding metal stock to replace a fixed wooden one in 1967. As well as having been built by Israeli Military Industries for the IDF and many other armies, the Uzi was license built by FN, the famous Belgium weapons firm.

Colonel Matti showed me several prototype variants that were never to go into service. The most startling of these was an Uzi built in 1967, fitted with a bayonet lug and equipped to fire rifle grenades! Mercifully for the soldiers intended to use them,

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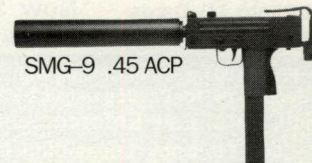


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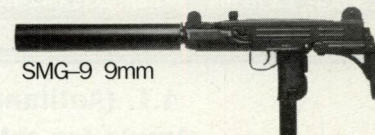
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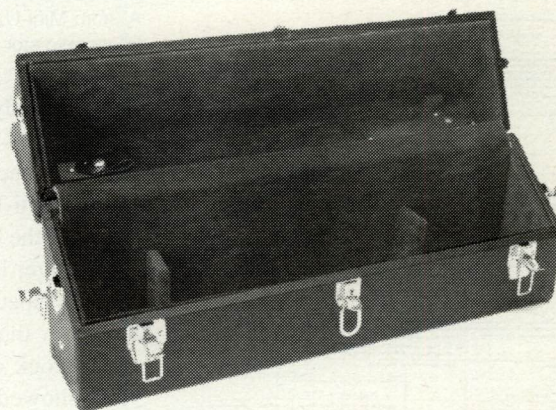
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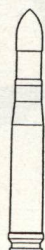
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9mm Mini-Uzi with folding stock as accepted for service in 1982. Stock folded. Magazine capacity 25 and 32 rounds.



A 9mm Mini-Uzi variant from 1982 not adopted for service. Note two-bar telescopic stock but this time no pistol grip.

this unwieldy beast was not accepted by the IDF. In 1980, the demand for an even more compact weapon led to the adoption of the Mini-Uzi. This has all the killing power of the Uzi, compressed into a smaller package; it's most often used in covert work by special forces. The model of the Mini-Uzi that is in service has a folding metal stock of a rugged design. Colonel Matti showed me the Mini-Uzi as it might have been, with a selection of alternate stocks including a two-bar telescoping butt. Many of the variants of the Mini-Uzi variants that were tested but not adopted, had forward pistol grips. The Uzi continued its shrinking act in the 1980s with the adoption of the Uzi pistol and the Micro-Uzi. These super compact weapons have the reliability, sturdiness and good ergonomic design of the Uzi squeezed into miniature

bundles.



service. Note two-bar

Thanks to Matti, Meir and Zvika of the Collection Houses Museum Tel Aviv for their help. For those interested, this museum, located at 35 Eilat Street, Tel Aviv contains a vast number of unique weapons of every kind and is an Aladdin's cave for the military historian.

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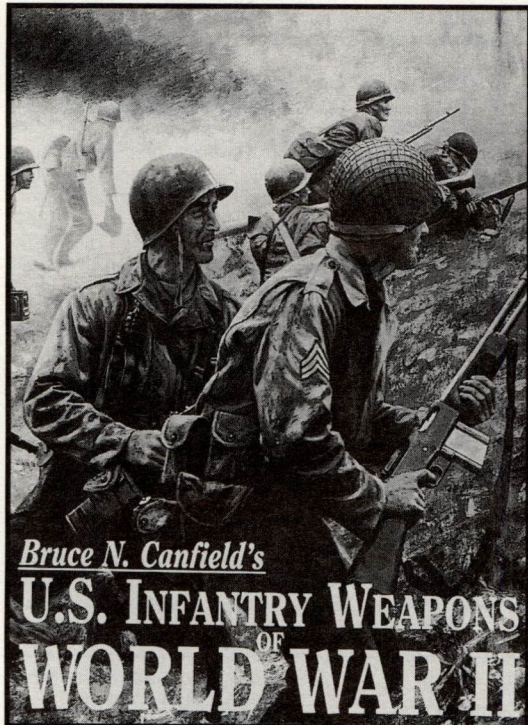


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MGN Book Reviews

U.S. INFANTRY WEAPONS OF WORLD WAR II, by Bruce Canfield, 303 pages, 417 photos, hardbound. \$35.00 + \$4.00 S&H. Available from Andrew Mowbray Publishers, PO Box 460, Lincoln, RI 02865 USA. Phone (800) 999-4697 Reviewed by Dan Shea.



It is essential to the Class 3 collector or dealer that he have a wealth of knowledge on different firearms available to him. I chase all over the place looking for reference books for my library, needing all kinds of obscure information to satisfy my curiosity, as well as the many questions that come up in the course of a day in this business. When I run across a book that provides a goodly quantity of information, I like to pass it on.

The *U.S. Infantry Weapons of World War II* by Bruce Canfield, is one such book. Before I get into the "why's and wherefor's," be forewarned that it is going to be

recommended that you purchase it.

I had received an E-mail message telling me that "I had to see this book!" The initial advertisement I obtained regarding this book promised "*The definitive study of (WWII) infantry weapons, covering everything that could be carried into combat by the Army or Marines and fired from the hand, shoulder or light support: rifles, carbines, edged weapons, shotguns, machine guns, mortars, bazookas, grenades, recoilless rifles, submachine guns, automatic rifles, flame throwers.*" That is a tall order for any book, and I was a little doubtful of its claims. I have to tell you, they came through on it!

Bruce Canfield, the author, has a wealth of experience in writing; some of his other books include, *A Collector's Guide to the M1 Garand and the M1 Carbine*, *A Collector's Guide to United States Combat Shotguns*, *A Collector's Guide to the '03 Springfield*, and *A Collector's Guide to Winchesters in the Service*.

Chapters are divided according to category of weapon: "edged weapons," "handguns," etc. Our main interest here, of course, is with the NFA firearms. Chapters include 28 pages on submachine guns, 14 pages on automatic rifles, 24 pages on machine guns, 14 pages on bazookas and the Boyes antitank rifle, 26 pages on grenades and grenade launchers, 20 pages on mortars, 5 pages on recoilless rifles, and 15 pages on flame throwers.

Collectors notes on each category and firearm are included, and Canfield shows an impressive knowledge of the information that collectors are looking for. He has included nice clear, crisp, WWII historical photos, as well as photographic details of variations. The tables include variations, manufacturers, statistics of manufacture, and many dates of manufacture, including some serial number ranges. Canfield details the normal accessories for each

firearm that he includes.

I thought that a list of some of the covered firearms would prove to illustrate the thoroughness that is in the *US Infantry Weapons of WWII*:

- Wartime Thompsons
- M3 and M3A1 greaseguns
- Reising's
- UD-42's
- 1918 BAR
- Johnson LMG
- Browning 30's
- M2 .50 caliber Tora Tora guns
- M1 and M1A1 Bazookas
- M9A1 Bazooka
- Lots of hand and rifle grenades
- 60mm, 81mm and 4.2 mortars
- 57 and 75mm recoilless rifles
- M1 and M2 series flame throwers

If you are interested in U.S. history and the different firearms used by the U.S. Forces, you will enjoy this book. If you are a collector or Class 3 dealer, you need this book as a reference. I highly recommend it!

SOUND MEASUREMENT and THE ART OF SILENCE by Phillip H. Dater MD, two separate technical pamphlets, *Sound Measurement* is 20 pages, *The Art of Silence* is 17 pages. \$4.00 each, post paid. Available from Automatic Weapons Company, PO Box 3538, Boise ID 83703. Phone (208) 939-7222. Reviewed by Dan Shea.

Dr. Phillip Dater's name is synonymous with innovation in the suppressor industry. His firearms' suppressor designs have been around since the mid 1970's, starting with his improvements on the MAC designs and moving into the AWC mode. Today he is part of the Gemini Technologies team. Many of today's suppressors are based on Phil's designs. I mention the above to illustrate a point. When "Doc"

Dater starts talking firearms suppression, knowledgeable people start listening.

I had a conversation with Dr. Dater at Soldier of Fortune Convention in September 1995, wherein he expressed a desire to standardize the sound measurement practices in the modern suppressor industry. Between all of the manufacturers, testers, users, and writers, there are as many methods of discussing "sound" and "sound reduction" as there are individuals. One man's "42 db reduction" is another man's "25 db reduction."

Sound suppression measurement is not that simple. There are seven parts of a sound that should be taken into account when discussing a specific sound, and each of these must be addressed on each measurement in order to have an accurate comparison basis between designs.

Dr. Dater makes the point that most of the suppressor manufacturer claims today are not really valid when the measurement process is flawed or incomplete. I wholeheartedly agree. In the "Sound Measurement" pamphlet, he lays out the logic and methods of sound suppression, what equipment should and should not be used (as well as WHY) and the various environmental factors that need to be taken into account. This author recommends that all suppressor manufacturers, dealers, and interested individuals and government users get a copy of this pamphlet, and study it.

The days of saying a suppressor is "quiet as a Porsche door closing," "quieter than a 22," "quieter than that other design, to the ear," are hopefully behind us. It would be nice to be able to compare apples to apples, and real measurements to real measurements!

These two technical pamphlets are written so that the average reader can comprehend the subjects, with the exception that the Sound Measurement pamphlet will require a little more knowledge for the reader.

The second pamphlet is "The Art of Silence," a short historical perspective on the silencer. He goes into the development and basic principles of firearm sound suppression. It makes a nice companion reader to the Sound Measurement pamphlet, with the measurement sections written in a slightly less technical manner.

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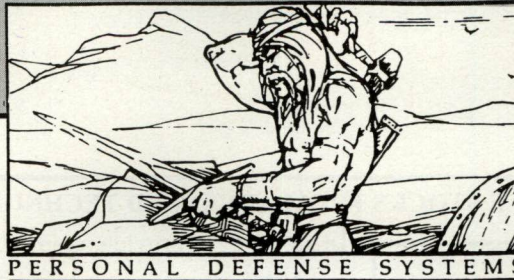
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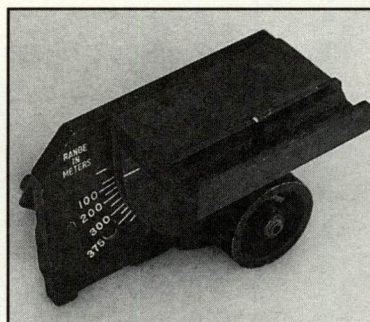
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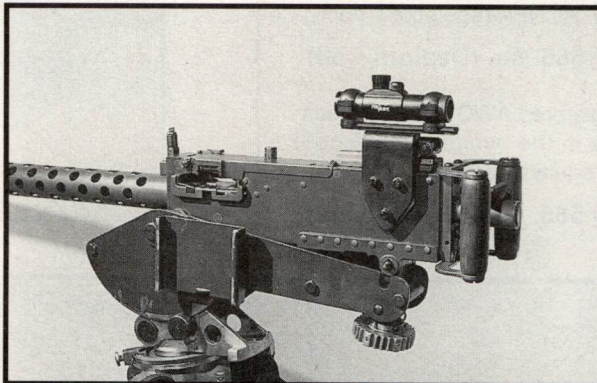
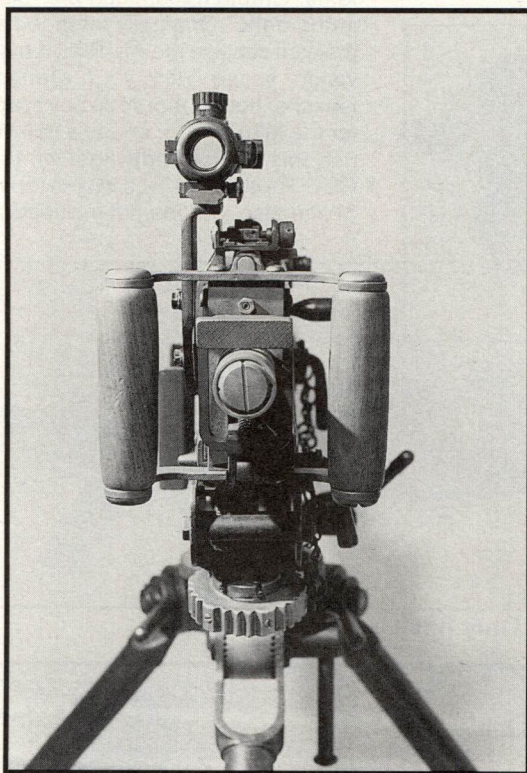
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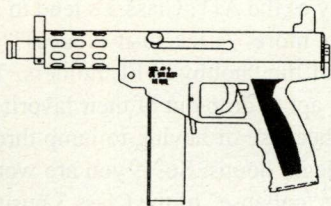
DCC Enterprises is now offering two new products for full-auto shooters. The first is a scope mount for the 1919A4 and A6 machine guns. The mount is made of 1/4 inch solid steel, with a black teflon finish and mounts to the three holes on the left side of the 1919 receiver. The scope can be mounted "inboard" over the top of the receiver or "outboard" off the left side of the receiver. The mount comes complete with all mounting hardware and a Weaver base for \$125.00 which includes 2nd day air shipping. DCC is also offering wooden transport crates which they manufacture. These are very well made using clear pine and screws throughout. The crates have interior cutouts to fit the guns extra barrels and accessories. They also have hinged tops, rope handles and lockable front latches. The transport crates are available for the 1919A4-A6, 1917, M60, Vickers, Maxims, MG-34 and 42, BAR, and the M2-50 caliber. They can also build custom cases for all H&K weapons and M16's. If a customer so desires, he can Form 5 his weapon to DCC and they will custom make a case to fit the weapon. For more information or to place an order contact: DCC Enterprises, 259 Wynburn Ave., Suite C, Athens, GA 30601. Phone: 1(800) 858-6979.



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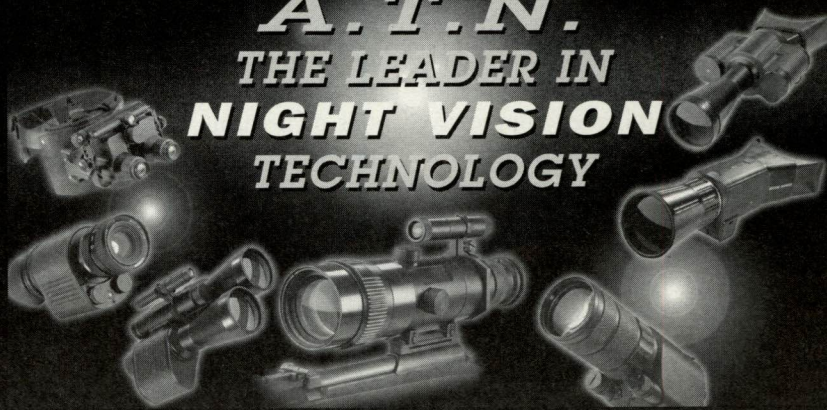
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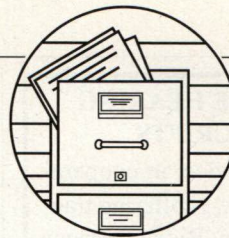
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The Forms

by DAN SHEA



A quick note for those of you new to "The Forms." This is where I try to answer your questions about dealing with the federal regulations regarding the firearms business in the United States, specifically the Class 3 business (dealing in National Firearms Act Registration). This also serves as a forum for interested parties to air their opinions and experiences with the "procedures" and laws.

By calling me and releasing a notice, the ATF will many times use this column to send information out to the industry. All in all, "The Forms" works pretty well for us.

First off, let's deal with some of the hysteria in the industry right now. There have been a lot of numbers bandied about, regarding an exodus of FFL holders from active status. In fact, there HAS been a tremendous drop in licensees! The general figures that I have seen are thus: two years ago, there were a total of 288,000 Federally Licensed Firearms dealers (FFL). In July of 1995, there were 168,000 remaining. That is a drop of 120,000! A 41 percent reduction. That is pretty impressive. Most of these licensees were not in the firearms business at all... they were individuals who had an FFL because they wanted to mail order firearms for private use or held an FFL in order to insure they would have one if they ever wanted it and FFL's became hard to get. Twenty years of ATF agents telling gun owners that they had to have an FFL to sell even one firearm; of ATF agents going table-to-table at gun shows and handing out Form 7 applications for an FFL; and many years of distributors selling firearms at discount to anyone with an FFL, had built the huge FFL system.

This system is ungainly, and impossible to manage as any ATF agent can attest to. It certainly appeared to need some "culling down," if the system was to function as intended by the Gun Control Act

of 1968. I just angered a lot of folks out there, but the truth, after all, is the truth. I personally don't think that we need this system, but since it is in place, let's be straight about it—there was a lot of room for abuse by both the dealers and the ATF. This dealer abuse has been the motive used by the anti-Second Amendment forces as they lobbied to make the FFL system more rigid. Many of us feel that there will be a continued reduction in FFL holders over the next year, as more licenses come up for renewal. Remember that there are many multiple FFL holders, and many of them have dropped their duplicate FFL's to save cost. I believe that we are going to see it bottom out at around 100,000 FFL's. This is going to be tough on the distributors of Title I firearms who have concentrated on the nonbusiness FFL's.

By the same token, the so-called "store-front" FFL holder will monopolize the business in his area, having only the "mart-marts" to compete with. Of course, many of the previous FFL holders will continue to deal (without a license) in small quantities of firearms, becoming felons in the process. This is a disturbing trend and a real recipe for disaster. There is a trend in certain areas for the ATF to harass FFL holders until they drop their license. Stories about ATF agents threatening citizens are rampant.

Having said all of the above, I have several "rays of hope" to offer. In *MGN*, we are dealing with the Special Occupational Taxpayer (SOT), commonly referred to as the Class 3. The numbers that are changing in the FFL holders are not reflected in the SOT's.

In the 1995 tax year, which ended on July 1, 1995, there were 2001 Class 3 dealers, 390 Class 2 manufacturer's (reduced), 122 Class 2 manufacturers (regular), 27 Class 1 importers (reduced), and 68 Class 1 importers (regular), for a total of 2608 Special Occupational Taxpayers. I have

been gathering the information regarding the SOT's who have renewed for the 1996 tax year, and it appears to be very similar—we are gaining as many Class 3's as we might be losing. NFA Branch has not gotten the exact numbers for the 1996 SOT yet, but MGN will publish them as soon as we get them.

The perspective on Class 3 dealers must also include the fact they tend to be in the regular firearms business or at least are devoted to the firearms business, Class 3 in particular, and are not "put off" by the scrutiny of the ATF. Class 3's tend to have a little more "stick-to-it-iveness" than many of the "hobby" FFL holders. They are not apt to drop out of their favorite activity, because of having to jump through a few legal hoops. So, if you are worried about a "collapse" of the Class 3 business, I believe you can stop worrying. Although there has been a slow summer, that is normal, and the business is starting to pick up.

In last months "The Forms," I mentioned that there had been an interesting incident involving a Class 2 SOT and his FFL renewal. The rumor was that the Class 2 was in the process of being harassed out of his FFL by some ATF agents, who were threatening to call his zoning board. He responded that his Form 7 was "Special Tax Information," and it was a felony for an ATF agent to disclose who he was to ANYONE. I have not received any updates on this case from anyone, but I would like to include the pertinent sections of Title 26 USC 6103(a) for your information, as well as for any lawyers who may need to focus on it.

"Returns and return information shall be confidential, and except as authorized by this title- (1) no officer or employee of the United States, (2) no officer or employee of any State... shall disclose any return or return information obtained by him in any manner in connection with his service as such an officer or an employee or

otherwise or under the provisions of this section.

(This means it is a felony for an agent to disclose information regarding a taxpayer.)

6103 (b)(1)- The term 'return' means any tax or information return ... required by, or provided for, or permitted under, the provisions of this title which is filed with the Secretary by, on behalf of, or with respect to any person.

(This means any documents that you file are confidential, and all of the information contained therein is a felony for the agent to disclose.)

(Return information is more broadly defined;) *A taxpayer's identity.. tax liability.. or tax payments, whether the taxpayer's return was, is being, or will be examined or subject to other investigation or processing, or any other data, received by, recorded by, prepared for, furnished to, or collected by the Secretary with respect to a return or with respect to the determination of the existence, or possibly existence, or liability (or the amount thereof)- of any person under this title for any tax.*

(This focuses more clearly on the fact that your identity is in fact "tax information.")

Stephen Halbrook's "Firearms Law Deskbook," reviewed in *MGN* August 1995, provided the above information.

A little bit of knowledge is certainly a dangerous thing... so is the total lack of knowledge. I suggest that anyone who is in a position to use this information should be getting competent legal counsel before doing so.

Onward:

Recently, I was contacted by the Firearms Tracing Center, ATF, and had an interesting conversation. I was informed that there has been a lot of focus lately on the ability to trace firearms used in crimes (which we knew), and that the records that out-of-business FFL holders had sent in were not very "good" (which we knew), and that there was a high percentage of those records that had never been turned in (which I had suspected). Since the changes in the laws in 1986 (generally regarding firearms, not the NFA items), many FFL holders who have given up their licenses have not complied by sending in their Bound Book of Acquisitions and Dispositions. Not turning that in is a felony offense... and the ATF wanted to get the word out to the industry in general that

they were in the process of checking compliance.

A few suggestions for dealers, manufacturer's and importers who are closing an FFL:

Reconcile your bound book records to any remaining inventory, as well as to the copies of all the transfers that you have ever done—that a prudent person should have been keeping—so that they are all correct to your knowledge;

Sign out any firearms that you intend to keep (out of the bound book to your self, for sole proprietors, partnerships and corporations have a little more involved);

Make a photocopy of your "bound book" (record of acquisitions and dispositions), and put the copy into a safe place; you may need this in the future to answer any questions about firearms you had.

Send your original "bound book" to:

ATF Firearms Out of
Business Records Center
Spring Mills Office Park
2029 Stonewall Jackson Drive
Falling Waters, West Virginia 25419

How can someone leave Class 3 firearms to their son or other family heirs? What paperwork? Time limit? Legal will, etc.

Thomas B

I always get into trouble on this one, because so many people want to leave Pre-86 dealer samples to their children. All that I can do is tell you what the current letters from the ATF are telling us. When an owner of an NFA registered firearm dies, his firearms are considered part of an estate. The executor of the estate is selected or appointed, and that person has the legal responsibility for the disposition of these firearms. The first transfer out of the estate, to a lawful heir, is tax free, and done on a Form 5, signed by the executor. Fully transferable firearms may go to any lawful heir who may legally own them. Machine guns that have an import restriction status as a "Pre-86 dealer sample," may only go tax free to a lawful heir who is also a Special Occupational Taxpayer—this is also done on a Form 5. Machine guns that have an import or manufacture restriction as a "Post-86 dealer sample," may only be transferred to a Special Occupational Taxpayer who has a letter from a law enforcement agency requesting a demonstration of that firearm—

this transfer is also done on a Form 5. Transfers that are not considered to a "lawful heir" will require the payment of the \$200 transfer tax (\$5 on AOW's). That definition of the "lawful heir" is going to change by local and state laws, and the ATF usually goes along with the local jurisdiction for that.

The Form 5 requires that individuals receiving the firearm as an heir, that are not Special Occupational Taxpayers, obtain the signature of the chief law enforcement officer in their area of residence, be fingerprinted, and attach photographs to the application.

Q In the June 10, 1995 *Shotgun News*, on page 196, a company called Philadelphia Ordnance has an ad for 80% machined receivers, including MG-34 receivers. Their ad states in part that their receivers, "can be made into a dewat, semi-automatic or blank gun by anyone."

Whoa, how does that square with 27 CFR Part 178, which states in part, "This final rule amends 27 CFR part 178, relating to firearms, to implement section 2204 of the Crime Control Act of 1990, Public Law 101-647 (104 Stat. 4789), approved November 29, 1990. Section 2204 makes it unlawful for any person to assemble from imported parts any semiautomatic rifle or any shotgun which is identical to any rifle or shotgun prohibited from importation under the Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended, as not being particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. Effective date: August 30, 1993."

I can't imagine getting a parts kit for an MG-34 that didn't contain at least ten of the parts listed in this rule that were imported. I suppose you could eliminate some feature of the rifle (the flash hider perhaps?) to make it nonidentical. Would making the thing semi-auto only make it non-identical?

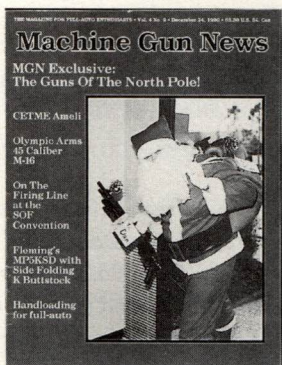
I wonder if Philadelphia Ordnance hasn't misled some folks. I'd be interested to hear your comments.

Trey H

A This is indeed a problem area. There is a lot of room for misunderstanding what you can or cannot do....

The definition of the "80% receiver" is going to be necessary to start any conversation here—by "80%" we mean that the receiver is LESS than 80% complete, and it is difficult to fit parts to the receiver—

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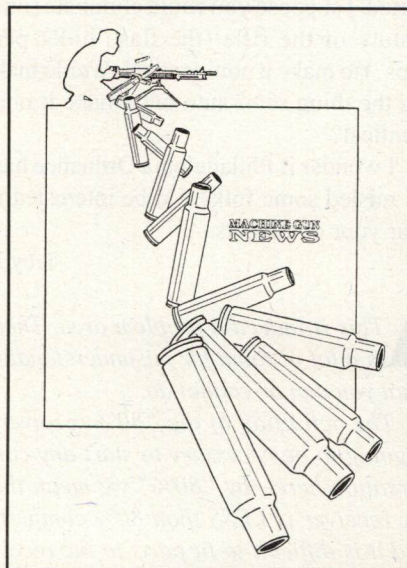
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er to make a functional firearm. It is critical to get the ATF Technology Branch to agree, in writing, that your design is less than 80% complete—because if you do get them to “approve” it, someone may come along later and declare that it is too easy to make a functional firearm out of it.

Companies that supply “80% completed receivers,” and “BATF approved dummy receivers” walk a thin line—not that there is any criminal intent, it is just a “grey area” many times. Philadelphia Ordnance has been around a long time, and from what I know of them, they submit all of their “nonfirearm” receivers to ATF Technology to insure that the ATF will not declare them to be “readily convertible to a machine gun” at some later date. You may not be so lucky with some of the newer companies on the market right now. I suspect that your main problem here hinges on the words “semi-automatic” and the so-called “assault weapons” ban, tied into the import/manufacture language that you are quoting.

From the period of the instituting of the law that you are quoting, up until the final “assault rifle ban on further manufacture,” there was a period where United States citizens could manufacture “dreaded assault rifles” for themselves, using receivers manufactured in the U.S., and up to ten imported parts, the rest of the parts having to be of domestic manufacture. The quote you are using pertains to that. Now, the features that make an assault rifle dangerous have been defined for us by the Liberal anti-Second Amendment fanatics and are encoded into law. The flash hiders, bayonet lugs, pistol grips, and collapsing stocks are the dangerous parts, and it is illegal to manufacture a firearm that has a high capacity feeding device and two or more of those features, for private ownership. (Gosh, ma and pa should feel safer already.)

The other part of the problem here is the phrase in the GCA-68 that refers to “sporting purpose.” There is no reference to “suitable sporting purpose” in the “manufacturing in the United States regulations,” other than the destructive device exception that “permits” us to manufacture shotguns over 1/2" in bore diameter (recently used to trash the private ownership of Street Sweepers, Strikers and USAS-12 shotguns). “Suitable for sporting purpose” is a phrase that is re-

lated to importation of firearms under the GCA-68, and that is what the 1993 regulation you are quoting also stretches back to, in order to get a basis in law. In this case, a law that was rooted in international commerce, is being quoted to regulate the private manufacture of firearms inside the United States. The logic really doesn't fly, but it is standing as a regulation.

You cannot make a firearm that is a "clone" of a firearm that is banned from importation. You could make a semi-auto version of a machine gun, that didn't have the dreaded assault rifle characteristics, and you could use imported parts to do it, provided that you cleared it with Technology Branch first. This would ensure that you are not making a mistake in any of the things that you do.

Let's try an example: You want to make a semi-auto MG-34 in 8mm. Hmmmm... It would have to have a free-floating firing pin... easy enough... needs to fire closed bolt... that can be done.... it has to be different enough so that the original machine gun parts can not be readily installed onto it and convert it to full auto. That is something that you will have to take up with Technology Branch. Now... does it have any characteristics that would make it a "dreaded assault rifle"? It does feed from a high capacity feeding device, and it has a pistol grip; that is one strike. No collapsing stock, no grenade launcher, no threaded barrel, but, it does have a flash hider.... That could make it easier to use when robbing a Seven Eleven convenience store, so, that is going to have to be designed out. Yup. It sure looks like you could make one, it will just be a lot of work!

The "80% receivers" provide a great service to the firearms collector market and help many collectors and reenactors fulfill their hobby in states that are not "user-friendly" to machine gun enthusiasts. I would hate to see this become another "lost right."

Q I'm a Class 3 in Florida and I have a question that I've been wondering about for some time. Maybe you know the answer. Can I make a pistol out of a rifle—for instance take a Mosin Nagant (really cheap) and cut down the barrel and stock to pistol configuration? Wouldn't that be creating a short barreled rifle? How about turning a pistol into a rifle? I

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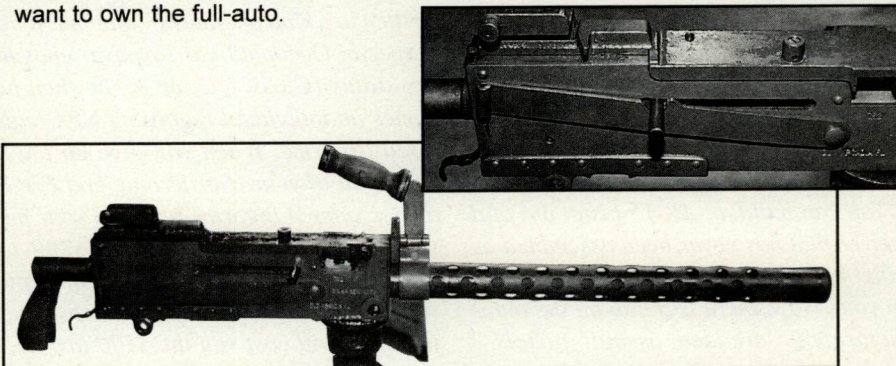
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see things like the Contender and think its OK, but something in the back of my mind says, "Woah!" What do you think?

Rob G.

A We have to go to the definitions to clear this up, Rob. You are correct in thinking that there is a minefield of legal problems here.

Title 27 CFR, 178.11:

RIFLE: A weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder, and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

SHORT-BARRELED RIFLE: A rifle having one or more barrels less than 16 inches in length, and any weapon made from a rifle, whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise, if such weapon, as modified, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Note that the rifle definition includes "intended to be fired from the shoulder." So, it follows that the "short barreled rifle" is made only from a rifle (reread the definition).

You can start with a receiver that has never been made into a rifle, and make yourself a pistol, which is how the Contender is made—each receiver manufactured as a pistol has never, individually, been manufactured to fire from the shoulder. Thompson Center did get into a legal battle with ATF over the fact that the carbine and pistol parts interchange, and you can take a carbine and make it into a pistol, meeting the "short barreled rifle" criteria (yup—reread both definitions again). The U.S. Supreme Court decided in favor of Thompson Center! There was no intent to manufacture NFA firearms.

You can build an AR-15 pistol out of a receiver that has never been assembled as a rifle. Whoa! Hold on just a second here... can you? Now, there is a ban on the manufacture of "dreaded assault pistols," whatever they are. Well, look here, right in my Machine Gun Dealer's Bible—1995 updated (Dan, this is a SHAMELESS plug! —Vida), page 4-4, and it gives all of the criteria for a "Dreaded Assault Pistol" as written by those firearms "experts" in Congress. If it uses a detachable magazine and any two of the following characteristics:

1. a magazine that attaches to the pistol

- outside of the handgrip (one down), 2. a threaded barrel capable of accepting a flash suppressor, barrel extension, silencer, or forward handgrip, (depends on how we make it), 3. a manufactured weight of 50 ounces or more when the pistol is unloaded (two down), 4. a semi-automatic version of an automatic firearm (OK here), 5. a shroud that is attached to or partially or completely encircles the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned (depends on how we manufacture it). So, I guess the AR-15 pistol can't be made, unless you have a smooth barrel (no threading), make the finished weight under 50 ounces, and no barrel shroud or forend that you can hold.

If you apply the above to any of your semi-automatic pistol/rifle projects, it should clear up things.

Q I read "The Forms" first every month. I have the old MG Bible. Due to bad health I'm calling it quits. I'm a sole proprietor w/FFL and SOT. Please advise about the \$200 liability on each gun (MG) or suppressor kept. You wrote about this in MGN, Sept 95, page 57 to Don W. Is this \$200 liability something new. If so, who do I pay and when. Please help. My FFL runs out Nov. 2, 1995.

Thank you,
J.C.

P.S. I think "The Forms" is the most important part of MGN, no exceptions.

A Actually, I have had a lot of contact from readers on that one. It was just written in a kind of "murky" manner. When a Special Occupational Taxpayer ends his tax status (Class 1, 2, or 3), he then becomes an individual regarding NFA registered firearms. When you give up the license, all of your transferable and Pre-86 dealer sample firearms revert to your personal ownership—there is no \$200 tax owed for this. My comment was that after you gave up that tax status, any subsequent transfers will cost you the \$200 tax. So, if you are giving up your SOT and have NFA firearms that you are planning on selling, bear in mind that you are going to have to transfer them out of your personal possession "tax paid." It might not be a big deal if you have one machine gun at \$200, but if you have 15 or 20 firearms that you don't want to keep, you are looking at \$200 each! You may want to transfer them out to an-

other dealer before you give up the tax status. I agree that "The Forms" column is the most important part. In staying out of trouble, that is.

Q Another response to Dr. Runes (for those who may not be following it, there is an ongoing discussion here in The Forms, dissecting and exploring the Second Amendment).

To your comments:

1. Citing laws regarding slander as an example of infringement on the right of free speech is invalid. Slander is an example of the misuse of the right of free speech.

Please cite several examples where the Constitution allows the interests of the government to supersede the fundamental rights of the individual.

Explain the logic, not the law, that would permit only some of the Bill of Rights to be determined fundamental. What rights could be more fundamental than those referenced in the document which is the foundation of the United States? (Amd 1 thru 10.)

That no right is granted by the 2nd Amendment, since the right is deemed to pre-exist, raises the question; given that, what right could be more fundamental than one which already exists prior to the establishment of the Constitution? Explain the logic, not the law.

Please explain the statement that the Federal Constitution limits only federal powers and fundamental (as defined by the Supreme Court) rights which the states must honor in the context of Hamilton's "Federalist Papers Number 84" as a minority rebuttal on the question of the inclusion of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution.

2. The statements regarding the MILLER case are troubling. I will accept "as it has come to be interpreted does not protect private ownership of military weapons" since this does appear to be amply demonstrated; of course, these interpretations are wrongly derived by people lacking a grounding in the case and the opinion as written by Justice McReynolds.

Also, MILLER addresses only the question of the validity of a 2nd Amendment defense predicated on a "shotgun with a barrel of less than 18 inches long" having today any reasonable relation to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia." The case never addressed the 1934 NFA in any framework other than

that of this singular firearm.

The 1934 NFA was passed only after it was determined that powers to tax would be the basis, as it was determined that legislation banning firearms violated the Constitution. This is the only reason military firearms are heavily regulated.

Since the founding document, the Constitution and its attached Bill of Rights enumerates at least certain fundamental rights, and the right of the people, as individuals, to keep and bear arms pre-exists that document, there is no question that 1934 NFA must be struck down as unconstitutional.

3. Question. Is it constitutional to tax a right? I don't believe it is. Have not poll taxes been determined unconstitutional? As a citizen, I have a right to vote. Infringement of that right was one of the cornerstones of the civil rights movement, was it not?

4. This section addresses the reason we have a problem with our fundamental right as individuals to keep and bear arms, without infringement. The statement, "In dictum, many of the Justices have stated that it (2nd Amendment) protects the national guards and well-regulated (state regulated) militias only." speaks volumes. It is clear that the judicial decisions they reach are little based on the proper interpretation of the Constitution, the intent of the Framers. Their decisions are based on their personal feelings entering into their reading and understanding of the Constitution, the intent of Framers and prior decisions (many of which were also wrongly derived for the same reasons.)

When I read the positions of Cress and Tribe, when I read Burger's concept of "well-regulated militia," when I read the position of the ACLU on the issue of rights of individual arms ownership, I am troubled. All are guilty of misconstruction!

Jefferson, in a letter to William Johnson (6/12/1823), wrote:

"On every question of construction (of the Constitution) let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed."

I suggest that those who question the "fundamental" nature of ALL of the Bill

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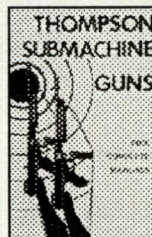
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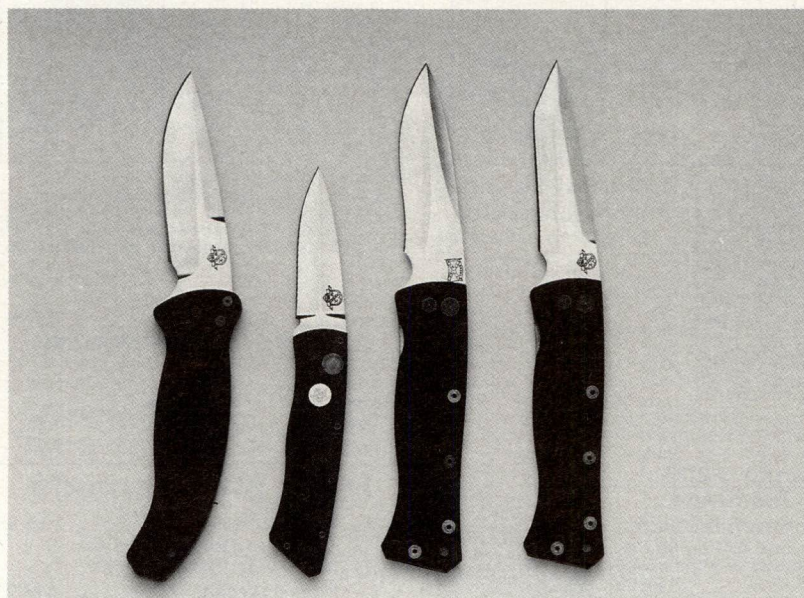
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of Rights are guilty of wrongful interpretation. Having said that, those who would "infringe" on this fundamental right should consider the following.

A well informed electorate being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to register and vote shall not be infringed.

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to register and vote to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed

In each of the above statements, the phrase before the comma is NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE DECLARATORY STATEMENT OF FACT.

In each of the above statements, the phrase following the comma indicates no requirement other than that unstated, THAT THEY BE CITIZENS.

In the first statement, the people are not required to be "well informed" any more than in the second statement of being "well regulated."

In the first case, the "electorate" is "the people." In the second case, the "militia" is "the people."

In neither case are there any stated, implied, or inferred exceptions to the explicit prohibition against infringement. The statement is ABSOLUTE!

Thanks,
Bill

I am getting all kinds of mail regarding this debate, and due to lack of space, will continue next month. Keep those letters and e-mail coming in!

Questions to:

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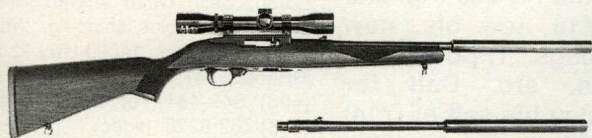
Archive Photo of the Month

From the Robert Bruce Collection



Quantico, VA, September 1943. USMC Master Gunnery Sergeant Kravits demonstrates the .45 ACP caliber Reising Model 55 submachine gun. This is the version of the Model 50 featuring a pistol grip and flimsy folding wire stock. Designed by Eugene Reising and briefly adopted by the USMC for paratroop use, it proved a poor substitute for the Thompson and was soon ditched. Credit: U.S. Marine Corps/National Archives. Copyright © 1995 **ROBERT BRUCE PHOTOGRAPHY**. *Editor's Note: Robert regrets that he cannot handle individual requests for photographs. However, publishers and documentary film makers, etc., are encouraged to contact him for information on use of archive images. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and details on intended use to **ROBERT BRUCE PHOTO, P.O. Box 482 MGN, SANDSTON, VA 23150.***

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110

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Wanted: In-depth technical manual of Russian (Samozariaduya Vintouka Tokarev) SVT 40 and SVT 40A rifle. Please call Richard collect (818) 575-7130 after 6pm PST thanks. (xnov)

WANTED: One Pre-Ban 9mm Beta C magazine for a Colt M16/9mm. Capt. Monty Mendenhall, 500 Wildwood Trail, Thomasville, NC 27360. (nov)

Stoner 63A parts, accessories, literature, information, memorabilia needed. Jerry (217) 826-2919. (xjul96)

Ballistics stripped MP5 receiver wanted. Call Wes at (208) 939-2207.

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115

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120

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MGN Newspapers 3-8-88, 10-88, 12-88, 1-89 (9 issues) offers to Alex Nofstgor, Box 448, Goffstown, NH 03045.

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FULLY TRANSFERABLES 125

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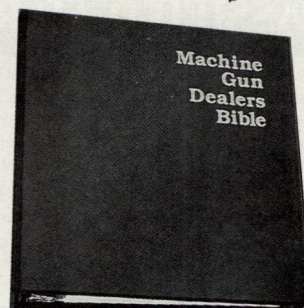
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MODEL MP5 SUBMACHINE GUN

Conversions to your gun require no up-front funds until finished & transferred. We allow a \$600.00 credit against our conversion prices on your gear.



VOLLMER CONVERSION FEATURES

- * H&K full-auto service manual for all MP5 types.
- * 30-round preban magazine.
- * Factory-correct "SEF" lower & magazine kit.
- * Correctly restamped "MP5." Identical to factory.
- * Complete refinish, parkerized & baked in epoxies.
- * Factory MP5 3-lug barrels, fluted chamber, threaded 1/2x28.
- * Trigger packs converted with factory auto parts.
- * Full 30-day MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.
- * TWO-Year Service Warranty TRANSFERABLE to ANY OWNER.

*** IN STOCK, READY TO SHIP ***

A \$400 DEPOSIT
IS ALL WE REQUIRE.

GUARANTEED FINEST MP5 CONVERSIONS

Considering converting your own gun? Think you will save money? Call us before you do and we will explain why our conversions offer you a better investment, superior quality, and a safer firearm. A high quality detailed conversion will always command a premium over a homemade nightmare. Our conversions are available in Models MP5, MP5K, G3, G3K, 51, 33, 53.

MODEL MP5K A5

OPEN SIGHTS WITH 3-SHOT/FULL LOWER.



CONVERSION FEATURES

1. Magazine kit with SEF lower or 3-shot.
2. PDW barrel threaded 1/2x28.
3. Option 3-shot lower, open sights.
4. PDW stocks complete \$295.00.
5. Only factory full-auto parts used.

*** IN STOCK, READY TO SHIP ***

We offer all Models of the MP5K.

We are taking conversion work with a guaranteed four-month completion date. Any repairs, refinishing or upgrading is a sixty-day turn over. We don't require any funds until work is completed and transfer is approved. Remember, doing business with us is not a gamble; it's a pleasure you will appreciate.

BOXED UP SPECIAL: MODEL 21 BELT FEED .308 WITH 3-SHOT/FULL LOWER REG. REC. WE HAVE THREE GUNS TO OFFER AND THIS WILL BE THE LAST GUNS WE HAVE.....\$5195.00.

Since 1960, full time Bullion & Firearms dealers. D&B rated AAA. Any purchases, we pay within 24 hours of receiving any item for sale. We want to buy machine guns, assault rifles, better quality firearms. Call us today for the best deals in the business. We take the fun out of dealing in the mails. Guaranteed.

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