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*By: William R. "Bob" Bishop (bishopwr@aristotle.net)*
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*By: Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)*

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### **Reader's comments**

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I've got a Yugo model 24 whose stock is sporterized. bore is in almost excellent shape and it's a fairly accurate gun (1.5 inches not good enough for me). I think the problem is in the trigger, which seems too tightly curved. Stoning the sear helped some. but anyway, I suspect that with an after-market trigger, things would improve greatly. Now, here's my question: does the short action preclude use of after-market bold or timney triggers designed for the model 98 rifle or 98K? Would appreciate advice. Pablo (Formies@aol.com)

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Ward,

I have noticed that Midway is now advertising semi-finished barrels for Mausers and various sporter style stocks for the same. In the past couple of flyers, they have been offering them as discounted packages. Looks like they could be a good deal. They are also now carrying barrel and action vises at what look to be very reasonable prices.

On the political front, please note that when Clinton announced his expansion and twisting of the "assault weapons" imports, he referred to them as "weapons designed only for war". It doesn't take much to stretch that term into covering almost any firearm made, especially surplus Mausers. I have also seen an internal HCI letter from Sara Brady which details a new initiative, modeled on the Anti-smoking crusade (local/state demonization, suing everyone involved, etc) , which they will be launching in the next few weeks. Keep your eyes open and watch your six!

Lee Scroggins ([LScroggi@gemsmail.att.com](mailto:LScroggi@gemsmail.att.com))

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Ward,

What are the reports as to accuracy and shootability of the M96 straight pull rifle? If it was in the Monthly, I can look it up, sorry if I missed it. Any scuttlebutt? What about the gun mags? I'm interested in getting one if they meet today's expectations for out of the box performance. The Remington 700 is my benchmark in that regard.

Thanks,  
Bob (rfsacher@class.org)

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Hi Ward,

Just thought you might like to know AIM is about to get in the Norway Kar98 conversions to '06. Said to be in excellent condition, with a choice of Navy or Airforce markings, at \$300.

Ouch! It's a different world from when I bought mine for \$150 :-)

Very best,  
Kyrieellis@aol.com  
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I recently bought a M96 in apparent pretty good shape, and in a moment of impulsive idiocy, a Remington 700 Classic, the '94 model which is in 6.5x55 Swedish, or claims to be. NIB, unfired. And I picked up two boxes of ammo, one each of what was handy, thinking that's how one starts to find out what each gun might like. I have PMC 139 gr PSP and Sellier & Belliot 131 gr softpoint. So far so good, right? WRONG!

The S & B is nearly a quarter-inch shorter than PMC, due to lighter (shorter?) bullet and/or deeper seating. The PMC mikes at 3.15" overall, like the blueprint I pulled from a web page somewhere, but the S & B is only 2.94 - 2.95"! Whoa, here, I'm in over my head. But there's more!

The S & B seems to chamber well enough in the Rem, and the PMC in the Mauser. But the PMC WILL NOT chamber in the Rem! Not even close. It simply won't go in! So, how many 6.5x55s are there? If I have 2 already, how many more will I find? Are there going to be two or more sets of load data, headspace specs, and what else? I was going to take the Mauser to a smith anyway, for inspection prior to firing, but do I have to use a smith just to determine the proper round for the Rem? Or maybe I'll dump the NIB Rem, if it won't accept the standard round for its caliber. Help!

Carl Anderson (Candersox@aol.com)

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Ward-

I promised (threatened??) another q., and here it is. Just would appreciate your reaction to the following, which was posted on a board somewhere -

<<Posted by John L on February 28, 1998 at 21:42:41:

In Reply to: Cheap hot rod 6.5 on 3 lug action posted by Belden on February 28, 1998 at 19:06:56:

: Want to run a 6.5 at more modern pressures and velocities?  
: Worried about getting a bolt in the face?  
: No problem!

: Just buy one of those cheap Turkish 09/38 8mm jobs from navy arms and then buy one of those new 6.5 Swede barrels. Well what do ya know....the old large ring look alike has small ring thread specs. Screw out the 8mm barrel and screw in the Swede. Here's where you need a gunsmith to check and or set headspace. This combo will let you safely experiment with non lawyer loads for the 6.5 Swede cartridge and have the peace of mind knowing that the 3rd lug is there.

: :-) Belden

Did this last year, \$30 rifle \$20 new m38 bbl. Did my own work, so with a cheap scope it cost less than \$100. Shoots great though its still in the Turk stock. John >>

Aside from the fact that such wildcat activities are for experienced handloaders, and at that, only those who know what they're doing, does this sound like a credible story? If so, it's an area that might prompt me to get some more magazines!! It had already occurred to me to wonder what might be possible with the 6.5 bullet if one could fly it up around or a bit over 3000 fps. And that one of the next questions would be,

how to optimize twist rate? I've been through enough ballistics s/ware to understand that the Swedes, at least, are somewhat overspun for some loaders' taste, but that hi rates are appropriate for bullets that are long for their weight. However, if the velocity were bumped by 20% or so, the rps in flight would be similarly raised. That would be dandy way downrange, like > 500 yards, but what would it do to performance (accuracy) in the first 100 or 200 yards? Maybe even blow up the bullet? With all my reading, I still haven't found the process for spin optimization, other than good old trial and error.

I apologize for digressing badly, but wanted to give a little insight to my ... curiosity, for lack of a better word. In short, if I win the lottery, I might well set up an outdoor range, and do the development work, just to see how many hours (or days, weeks, etc.) it would take me to blow up a pop can at 1000 yards. That would be my idea of a perfect way to spend my retirement! If I could pop one can a day, before my shoulder gave out, ..... well, you get the idea. Just to see if I could, and where else I might want to go after that.

My actual questions are, reaction to the notion expressed in the post?  
Do you happen to know whether the old 8mm Turks are really up to such a task?  
Are Swedish barrels really available all that cheaply?  
Or are these guys purely blowing smoke?

BTW, it would really hurt me to go hacking on a good Swede, but the old Turk is another matter.

Carl Anderson (Candersox@aol.com)

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I am just beginning handloading for my m96 and am following suggested load development in Speer manual #12. I am beginning with IMR4350 and 120 gr Rem PSP bullets. So far accuracy has been good (not great). My rifle shoots the factory Winchester load with excellent accuracy, but at \$14.00 a box I would like to handload something "identical" at a substantial cost savings. Can anyone share load data they've worked up that might give me similar results? I am interested in what other powder types I should try next; any other advice also welcome.

[yarnfly@aol.com](mailto:yarnfly@aol.com)

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Ward, How are you? Today I saw an unusual Mauser rifle. The rifle was heavily sporterized. It was fully engraved and had a double set trigger. The engraving was definitely done by someone who knew his trade. The receiver appeared to be a 98k with claw mounts like those used on the sniper rifles. The bolt had 3 lugs and a gas shield and a bent spoon shaped bolt handle like a 98a. I wonder what this Mauser started out life as. Perhaps a SS sniper? The owner wants me to take it home and remove the stock and see if there are any markings below the stock line. I told him I would call him when I had the time to look more closely at this rifle and see what I find. The late owner of this rifle, a P38 ac44 all matching including magazine and capture papers, a French black powder cap & ball single shot pistol in what appears to be a very large caliber and other militaria brought back from WW11 was considered junk by family and was about to be thrown into a dumpster before it was liberated. Hopefully some day I can be as lucky as that fellow and liberate some "JUNK" I'll keep you posted as to what I find when I disassemble the Mauser..

Joe (Rpitt75665@aol.com)

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### **Arctic Predator: The Swedish m/41 Sniper Rifle**

By William R. "Bob" Bishop ([bishopwr@aristotle.net](mailto:bishopwr@aristotle.net))

(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the *Machine Gun News*, and is reprinted here with Bob Bishop's permission.

It can also be read on the Web at <http://hfh-lewisville.com/tad/articles/ArcticPredator.html>)

With the federal government, encouraged by a biased media, making it more difficult and expensive to own full automatic weapons many enthusiasts have been searching for an alternate collector's route. Based on the recent expansion in numbers produced, options available and rise in prices it seems a new found recipient of this attention has been...sniper rifles! It is pretty difficult to write legislation against firearms which generally do not have bayonet lugs, high capacity magazines, etc. and operate via bolt action. The Steyr PII SSG, Remington 700 PSS, Winchester M70 Sharpshooter and others are excellent examples of this trend.

Equally impressive has been the surge in demand (read "outflow from wallet") for older sniper rifles such as the M1C and M1D Garand, German Kar 98K and British No. 4 Mk I (T) Enfield firearms. One rifle in this illustrious group which has been little known in America, until now, is the Swedish-Mauser m/41 sniper. It is one of the highest quality, most accurate and reliable arms ever produced for any government military force. Of even greater interest, it recently became available at an affordable price. Interested in learning more? Then read on, as this article will profile the history and development of what is one of the greatest - and perhaps least understood snipers - the Swedish m/41 sniper rifle.

### History

Note: due to an almost complete lack of documentation on the m/41, the dates cited in the following history are estimated with a tolerance of + one year. If you have updated information please contact me via email at [bishopwr@aristotle.net](mailto:bishopwr@aristotle.net).

Sweden did not actively participate as a belligerent in WWI and apparently saw little need for giving its military forces a true sniper capability. As they did not undergo the hell of trench warfare, the value of snipers for both tactical and morale purposes was not fully - if at all - appreciated. These circumstances changed dramatically by 1940 when WWII was in full swing and Sweden was threatened from the west by Germany (via Norway) and east by the Soviet Union (via Finland). Both the Norwegians and Finns had amply demonstrated that small units fighting in a mountainous environment could use snipers to a tremendous defensive advantage against numerically larger forces. This was not lost on a very nervous Swedish government which quickly decided to bring into service a suitable sniping weapon. The rifle to be used as a base was the superb Swedish m/96 Mauser bolt action longarm in the efficient 6.5x55 caliber.

In their speed to gain a sniping rifle the Swedes accomplished what must have been one of the best negotiations in modern history. They contracted with the Third Reich (their potential adversary!) for supplying "short side rail" mounts, telescopic sights and needed accessories. Perhaps Germany wanted hard currency or had immediate requirements for Swedish raw minerals! Anyhow, this short side rail system had been in use since the mid-1930's by German police formations and was recently combat proven by Wehrmacht, Waffen SS and Luftwaffe field units. Although little information is available, it appears Germany delivered approximately 2-3,000 short side rail mounts, AJACK 4x90 scopes, leather lens caps and scope carrying cans to the Swedish armament factory at Eskilstuna. These deliveries occurred throughout 1941-42.

Here at Eskilstuna, Swedish ordnance personnel fitted the German mounts to the left breech wing of the m/96 receiver, performed various checks and forwarded them to the military for final acceptance. The end result was a sniper rifle, which was type classified as "m/41". Unit of issue was six m/41 rifles per infantry company. Sweden now had its first formal sniping weapon system - and none too soon, either!

The German contracting situation changed in 1942 when positional warfare on the Eastern Front demanded all available war materials. Sniping was reaching a zenith and supposedly Adolph Hitler himself ordered all scharfschutzen supplies be retained for use in defense of the Reich. Sweden was now cut off from its supplier while at the same time increasing the size of its own army - and snipers. Consequently, it needed to acquire a replacement scope and mount. Since America and the United Kingdom were unable to part with any of their own sniping equipment (after all, there was a war going on) Sweden had to produce its own. The result of this decision was the introduction in late 1942 of the AGA 3x65 m/42 scope. The short side rail system supporting this scope was the same as used on the German AJACK version.

The AGA m/42 scope was produced for two years and considered fairly reliable, although relatively complex to manufacture. This was not a good situation during a world war environment so the Swedes

production-simplified the m/42 scope and introduced the AGA 3x65 m/44 series. As before, the short side rail mount remained the same, however it did have one significant difference to be covered later. Even though it was still 3x magnification as the m/42 scope, the method of focus, machine work and general design of the m/44 was much simpler. The m/44 scope was also very reliable and remained in service until 1955. Beginning that year, the Swedes changed scopes one last time by bringing into service ... the AJACK 4x90 m/41 scope. Talk about going retro! This scope change also was in conjunction with the introduction of the last version of the m/41 sniper rifle. This final model was called the m/41 B rifle.

The m/41 B was the last sniper rifle to be based on the venerable m/96 bolt action longarm and still see Swedish military use. As some of these m/96's were built in 1898, and converted to sniper specs in 1955, this meant a "new" m/41 B could have been over half a century old when first issued to a Swedish sharpshooter. Amazingly, at this age it was still one of the most accurate rifles to be found in service - bar none. The modern equivalent to this would be akin to issuing a brand new M1C Garand sniper to a US SOCOM soldier deploying for a tour in Bosnia.

The m/41 B rifle had several refinements over the predecessor m/41. Chief among these was the re-use of the superior German AJACK scope. The next most obvious was a different short side rail receiver base. This newly-designed base reflected lessons learned from years of sniping in the harsh Swedish environment and "soldier proofing" it. Other detail improvements were also brought out. The m/41 B obviously was an excellent sniping weapon as it soldiered on with Swedish regular and Home Guard units until 1991! At this time it was finally replaced with the PSG90 sniper rifle. After exactly 50 years, the Arctic Predator finally received a well deserved rest. And collectors can now rejoice.

#### Technical Development Base Rifle

The base rifle in both the m/41 and m/41 B versions was the excellent m/96 Swedish Mauser longarm. The only cartridge either sniper was chambered for was 6.5x55. Even though this cartridge was originally designed in 1894, its ballistic efficiency and renowned long range accuracy remain first class even to this day. Three manufacturers made the m/96 - Mauser of Oberndorf, Carl Gustaf and Husqvarna - and all three of their rifles have supposedly been converted to snipers. However, I have personally observed only the Mauser and Carl Gustaf conversions and have not seen any Husqvarna models. Quality of construction was very close among these makers, although for historical purposes the Mauser version commands a slightly higher price on the collectors market. Rifles selected for conversion to sniper specs were chosen based on a procedure similar to that described on pages 79-81 of Senich's *The German Sniper*.

Barrel length on both m/41 and m/41 B models was 29" with a five-round capacity in the internal magazine. Rifling twist was 1-7 1/2" with four lands and grooves which pushed a 139gr. spitzer bullet at 2625 fps. Barrels on Swede snipers should not be corroded as their military never used "dirty" ammo. Also, they rarely exported them to other countries with the only exceptions being Finland in the 1939-40 Winter War and post- WWII Denmark. This means that collectors who are fortunate to own a Swede sniper can be assured of having a very well maintained piece of history in their possession.

The wood stock used on these rifles was a single piece of beautifully machined walnut or birch. Walnut stocks were supposedly used in many of the Mauser rifles while birch was used by Carl Gustaf and Husqvarna. Linseed oil was the typical stock finish. However, for many rifles this treatment has aged so that current snipers may exhibit a dark wood color. When this old linseed oil is removed the warmth of the original wood will emerge.

In typical European fashion, most parts on the rifle were numbered or "matched" to that rifle's serial number. Usually, these parts carry the last three digits of the rifle number. The Swedes did not seem quite so careful about keeping all the parts together (especially the cleaning rod) as the Germans so that matched snipers are very rare. Depending on the version, telescopic mounts and bases may or may not be numbered to the rifle. Scopes were never numbered to the rifle, mount or base. This is different than standard German practice.

Finally, in the m/41 B series there was evidence of a leather cheekpiece being used to reduce the "turkeynecking" associated with this rifle. Unfortunately, this device appears to have been a prototype and

never placed into actual production.

#### AJACK 4x90 m/41 Scope

The Adolph Jackenroll ("AJACK") Optische Anstalt GmbH. firm of Berlin was the provider of the m/41 scope and its short side rail system. AJACK had extensive experience producing these items as they were a prime contractor to the German military and Waffen SS.

The AJACK 4x90 scope was very finely made and had a beautiful deep blued finish. It possessed a 4x magnification and measured: 26mm tube, 44mm objective/38mm ocular, and 279mm in length. It had two mechanical functions: ranging and focus. The ranging turret was exactly as found in the German version and scaled from 1-800 meters. A locking screw was then used to hold the ranging dial from being bumped. The only recticle pattern to be used was the standard "picket post" pattern in which two horizontal stadia framed a single vertical post in a "T" shape. Adjusting the ranging knob towards 800m physically moved the recticle pattern down, with short 100m shots raising it towards the center of the lens.

The focus ring was near the ocular and adjusted from +3 to -3 diopters. The ring itself was made of brass although it was chemically darkened a subdued color. To maintain a waterproof seal at this exposed area, the focus ring was covered by a rubber gasket similar to a piece of a textured bicycle innertube.

The AJACK m/41 scope came with high quality leather lens covers and a finely made scope can. The can was made of formed sheet steel with a hinged lid and spot welded together. The interior of the can was partially lined with thin leather to protect the bearing surfaces of the mount. The serial number of the rifle was stamped into the lid. Adjustable leather straps were permanently fixed to the can by rivets allowing attachment to the field gear of the Swede sniper. Original examples of scope cans which I have observed all had a dark green "dunkelgruen" paint similar to FS595B #34096 sprayed on them.

When the AJACK 4x90 scope was brought back into service in 1955, the letter "B" was engraved into the left side of the ranging turret next to the scope serial number. This designated it as an m/41 B scope. Other improvements to B model AJACK's included new lenses which were fully coated. Original AJACK scopes used in the first m/41 snipers were uncoated as that process had not been invented by the early 1940's.

#### AGA 3x65 m/42 Scope

The Swedish firm of Svenska Akkumulatoraktiebolaget Jungner was contracted in late 1942 to build a replacement for the AJACK scope. Although the AJACK was an excellent scope, the Swedes were rapidly expanding their military and needed to standardize on one version. As the AJACK was no longer available due to Herr Hitler's order, the AGA 3x65 m/42 came forward as a replacement. It possessed a 3x magnification and measured: 22mm tube, 26mm objective and ocular, and 225mm in length. The finish was a low gloss blue.

This scope had an active service life of approximately two years as it was relatively costly to manufacture and had a small field of vision. Two mechanical adjustments were available: ranging and focus. Both of these adjustments were accomplished via annular rings located around the center of the scope. The ranging ring was located towards the objective and scaled from 1-800m. Given the scope was only 3x in magnification, this max range of 800m seems to be overly optimistic. The focus ring was towards the ocular and adjusted from +3 to -3 diopters.

As in the AJACK, the recticle pattern was the familiar picket post pattern and it moved vertically as the ranging ring was rotated. Unlike the AJACK, there was no rubber gasket covering these annular rings as they were of finely machined brass construction which tended to keep out moisture. I say "tended" as the m/42's I have examined all had some degree of haze and cloudiness within the tube itself which is generally indicative of moisture intrusion.

The m/42 scope also came with a well made set of leather lens covers to protect the lenses when not in use. I assume some form of a scope can was available, but have yet to see any. Sweden could not have reused the AJACK cans as they were much too large to safely hold the markedly smaller m/42 scopes. The rattling around inside would have been tremendous. Not good!

#### AGA 3x65 m/44 Scope

In 1944 or early 1945 the Swedish firm of Svenska Akkumulatoraktiebolaget Jungner once again was contracted to build a new telescopic sniper scope for the military. No documentation is available to indicate why this took place, but my personal belief is the m/42 was too complex, not water resistant, and the field of view was too small.

The new winner was the AGA 3x65 m/44 scope which addressed all three of these issues. It was definitely less complex as it was all steel in construction and had only a ranging ring. Specs on the m/44 include: 3x magnification, 27mm tube, 30mm objective and ocular, and 228.6mm in length. Finish was a medium gloss blue. The variable focus ring was eliminated. Also, instead of having the annular ranging ring built around the center of the tube, it was now placed onto a separate turret on top of the tube as in the AJACK. This made it much easier for a sniper to see what range he was dialing in versus having to cock his head forward and look down as was required on the m/42 scope. Unnecessary movement is death for a sniper.

With the elimination of the annular focus ring and therefore another series of joints to seal, most m/44 scopes I have inspected generally have clear optics. Also, the design of the scope permitted a much increased viewing area when compared to the m/42 series. As in both earlier scopes, the reticle pattern continued to be the traditional

#### Picket Post Design

Finally, the m/44 scope came with a very good set of leather lens covers. However, just like the m/42 series I have yet to find a scope can to hold the m/44. They must exist somewhere in a forgotten Swedish arms depot with the caretakers unaware of their significance.

#### m/41 Short Side Rail Base

The short side rail base used on the m/41 sniper rifle was fairly consistent throughout its production. The base was attached to the rifle via three 4mm locking screws which in turn were retained by three 3mm set screws. German war experience showed the three locking screws could come completely undone after repeated firing. By adding the three 3mm set screws this could be prevented. Also, the base was further held in place by the addition of two 3mm pins which greatly contributed to a solid mating surface.

The entire short side rail base (along with screws and pins) was blued to a medium gloss. The base was always numbered to the telescopic mount - not the rifle or scope. This is another departure from German practice. Apparently the Swedes understood these bases were not to be taken off the original sniper rifle and therefore saw no need to number them to the rifle. Unfortunately, this obscured the receiver serial number as it was now hidden by the base. This was later corrected during the m/41 B series when the bases were numbered to the rifle and also the mount.

The short side rail base was very labor intensive to machine and was hand fitted to the rifle and telescopic mount. I have yet to see a base which can freely interchange with existing holes drilled in another m/41 rifle. Also, I have never observed a telescopic mount being able to slide on a non-matching base and correctly lock up. These were all truly one-of-a-kind items.

#### m/41 B Short Side Rail Base

The m/41 B short side rail base came out in 1955 and was similar to the m/41 version, but had several differences. These were due to a simplified manufacturing process and "lessons learned" from real world sniping. The m/41 B base did not exhibit the fine finish and machine work observed in the earlier bases. It was dull blue in color and had very noticeable mill marks on the surface flats. Additionally, it had a 90 degree protuberance with a 5mm screw at the front of the base which acted as a scope recoil stop.

As the momentum of repeated recoil would pound the scope mount forward and cause a tight lock up, it became very difficult to pull back on the locking arm and release the mount. The sniper would gain leverage only by grabbing the scope and using it to get suitable force. This does not lend itself to equipment reliability when you must use the scope for leverage to get it off the rifle! The addition of the recoil stop screw prevented the mount/scope from ramming too far forward and becoming hard to remove. This stop was an excellent idea.

The m/41 B base was held to the rifle receiver by the standard three 4mm locking screws. However, it did not use the three 3mm set screws as on the m/41 series. A sharp punch was used to upset the 4mm screw head and deform it into the vacant set screw hole. Not elegant, but surely just as effective in keeping them tight. Also, the m/41 B base was numbered to the rifle. This corrected the earlier problem of hiding the

receiver serial number and making it difficult to conduct routine arms room inventories. Finally, two 3mm pins were used to further mate the base to the receiver as in the earlier series.

#### m/41 and m/41 B Upper Mount

The upper mount was essentially the same for m/41 and m/41 B series snipers. In both cases, it was a U-shaped device of 16 high precision parts which were polished and blued to a medium gloss. Hand fitting to the matching base was carried out by skilled craftsmen. As earlier, an upper mount would fit only its numbered base and interchangeability was practically non-existent. I have yet to see a mount correctly fit and lock up on a non-matching base.

The only real differences among these mounts is the size of the scope rings being used. The AJACK and m/42 scopes used rings designed to correctly "crush" on a 26mm diameter. The m/44 scope was unusual as its front ring supported a 30mm opening while the back ring was sized for a 27mm hole. Obviously, rings for the m/44 scope are unique and cannot be swapped out or machined to fit the other two scopes.

Scope windage adjustments on the m/41-series rifles are performed through the mount. There are two 3.5mm screws at the rear of the mount which are loosened and tightened depending on which way the scope must traverse. Also, as this makes the scope/rear ring swing in an arc, a hidden screw under the front ring must first be loosened. This will permit the scope to pivot about the front ring's axis. When windage is correct, simply tighten the two rear screws and then the front screw. The scope's vertical adjustments (via the scope) can now be properly dealt with.

#### Shooting Impressions

Solid. High precision. Historic. Beautiful. All these thoughts run through your head when shooting a m/41-series Swedish sniper rifle. It's easy to understand why sniping rifles are gaining such popularity as it is a very slow motion form of shooting when compared to full automatic. It is absolutely relaxing and brings a different kind of joy than a H&K MP5 or Gemtech suppressor.

When arriving at the local range and laying out the rifle, scope and ammo, be prepared for the crowds to form. No one has ever seen one before and few have heard of them. Most mistake one for a German Kar 98K sniper and wonder why you would dare "mess up" a museum piece. After kindly setting them straight on what it is, the fun really begins.

To mount the scope to its m/41 rifle, first match the male dovetail on the base with the female dovetail on the mount. As the mount is slid forward, the mount locking arm engages a small pin sticking out from the base. The locking arm cams over, and leverages off the pin, which allows a firm push forward on the arm. This firm push takes out the final bit of loose tolerances between the mount/base combination and results in a rock solid integration of scope to rifle.

For initial zeroing, it is very important to start with windage and adjust it at a short range such as 50 yards before final zeroing at longer yardage. This is because the windage screws induce very pronounced deviation with just a slight turn of the screwdriver. Use a spotting scope or be prepared to walk back and forth a lot. Just breathing on the screws seems to move the point of impact by ½ inch. Once the windage is adjusted and the screws tightened down it will not have to be done again.

After zeroing and conducting record fire, you will be amazed at the accuracy of the rifle and cartridge. I have been shooting m/41's for three years and continue to be impressed. A m/41 in reasonable condition should be able to hit 1 MOA with decent factory ammo. I have several which routinely break ¾ MOA using handloads. Its only real limitations are shooter skills and the low powered scopes with traditional recticle patterns. A 10x Leupold with fine crosshair would make the m/41 even more impressive!

After finishing shooting, take your m/41 home and carefully clean the bore from the chamber end just as you would for any fine firearm. After completing this and cleaning the bolt face, wipe all metal surfaces with a good grade of oil and carefully place it into your locker. It's a bolt action, remember?, so powder fouling does not contaminate everything like an automatic does.

#### Conclusion

The magnificent m/41 can claim to be one of the greatest snipers of all time. It has honorably served for

exactly half a century in one of the harshest climactic conditions in the world. What other sniping weapon can boast this longevity? Even the legendary Kar 98K sniper served for only six years from 1939-1945. The m/41-series rifle is usually found in very good to excellent condition as the Swedes did not abuse them or fire corrosive ammo. It is light in recoil and shoots the very efficient 6.5x55 cartridge. Finally, you can own a real sniper straight out of the Swedish Defense Material Administration (Weapons Division) depot near Stockholm. This is the most rare variant - the m/41 B - and comes with the correct German AJACK 4x90 scope. Some of them are fully matched and all are worth every cent. Call Connie at SAMCO (305) 593-9782 to acquire your own personal Swede sniper and own a true piece of sniping.

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### **Publisher's Comments**

By: *Ward M. Clark* ([wclark1046@aol.com](mailto:wclark1046@aol.com))

I am very excited, this month, to bring you Bob Bishop's article, "Arctic Predator: The Swedish m/41 Sniper Rifle." My thanks to Bob for allowing me to reproduce this impressive work on the m/41 Swede sniper! As noted earlier, Bob's article originally appeared in the *Machine Gun News*, and we are indeed fortunate to be able to have it in these pages for all of us Mauser nuts to enjoy.

Some great Mauser stories have been coming in!

Next month, I will be bringing you "The Myth of the Hundred Million," by Joe Steen, a comprehensive breakdown of 98 Mauser production in Germany and elsewhere. (I won't give away the ending by telling you how many really were made!) This article originally appeared in *The Military Rifle Journal*. Also in the near future, a shooting review of the latest addition to the Clark gun rack - a 1916 kar98 carbine!

This spring here in Colorado is producing some perfectly beautiful weather. We've had the kind of weather that just begs to be enjoyed on a rifle range! Load development projects this year include a good long-range .30-06 load with the 165 grain Barnes XBT, and a good load for the 210 grain .338 XBT, for Thunder Speaker. Also, to my shame, I will admit to being in the market for a non-Mauser shooting iron - a Thompson-Center Contender - that I will also be spending range time with. One of my personal custom sporters made its way to a new home this month - a beautiful Steyr large ring 98 (1912 Mexican contract) with a #2 barrel in .30-06 and a nicely figured American walnut stock. The Steyr has arrived at its new home in Illinois, leaving me with an empty spot in the gun rack. Fortunately I have a couple of stripped actions around, and now, with some operating capital...

A couple of housekeeping notes - if anyone who responds to a question from another reader in the Monthly, could CC me on the reply, I will place the answer in the next issue so we can all learn from each other. Also it helps me make sure everybody is getting questions answered!

Keep the questions, notes, tips and stories coming, it's going to be a great year! We are up to almost 400 subscribers now - there's a LOT of Mauser info out there.

Until next month -

Good Shooting!

- Ward