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Reader's comments

Ward,
 I noticed your recent comment in the Mauser monthly about the monthly getting a bit thin. I have an idea that I'm working on which may or may not work but will be interesting. Bear with me for a bit but do you have any nice photographs in digital format of a Mauser with perhaps close-ups of the markings?

Don Shesnicky (dons@cadabradesign.com)

Can anyone help Don with this? My digital equipment won't handle that sort of close-up! - Ward

I had a mishap about twenty five years ago with a Harrington Richardson break over rifle, which I was loading for. The caliber was a 30/30 and it was a Christmas present/savings combination. I was a teenager at the time using my fathers loading equipment, which consisted of a Lyman Ideal #310 tool, and Ohaus scale. I am unsure of which powder I was using, but I do remember that I couldn't find his load book, so I poured a little powder ,seated a bullet and stepped outside and fired at the incinerator barrel in the back yard. The detonation was minimal so I added a little more in minute increments and fired again. After no more than 3 or 4 rounds fired the gun exploded. If I had been aiming the rifle the way one would normally I might have been hurt, but I was pinching it between my arm and rib cage just shooting at the incinerator barrel no more than 20 yards away. The plastic trigger guard was hanging on my finger and the barrel was nowhere in sight. I found it on the other side of the house, further than I could have thrown it. The chamber end was split in three sections, kind of peeled toward the muzzle. The sides of the receiver were spread out by the pressure. I used to think that the barrel was obstructed, but on inspection I found no obstruction. Recalling how minimal the recoil was I have always doubted that I overloaded it. I have read in my monthly publications about a peculiar phenomenon occurring in cowboy action shooting where the top strap on revolvers blows off. This breech looks like that. I believe the occurrence I am referring to is called peak pressure phenomenon or something similar to that. Believe the story was covered in Shooting Times. Since then I have matured and my loading practices have acquired some sophistication (necessarily) and I still have my old trophy on my loading bench as a constant reminder to always adhere to safety guidelines. Thank you for reading this, and good shooting and hunting!

Herb Cooke (hlcooke@iland.net)

I guess we could start an e-mail/snail campaign. (regarding production of new '98 actions. – W) The post- pre-64 Winchesters are still going strong. I think they could give the locals a run for the money. I'm going to inquire about the possibility of a magnum '98 action.
I guess we can hope and dream.

I haven't found an e-mail address for SIG just a phone number and snail mail.

SIG Arms Inc.
Corporate Park
Exeter, NH 03833

Phone: 603-772-2302

Best regards,
Eric (Mauser416@aol.com)

I was wondering if anyone could help me identify WWII German military slings for K98ks or point me in the right direction? I have a few rifles and a few slings as well and there are differences in them all. I know there are slight manufacturer differences but I have not found a good source of information on military slings. Thanks for your help.

Best regards,
Paul H. Beddow
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BTW still have several contract Mausers for sale, including a nice Yugo M48 and a Chilean M1995, drop me a note if you or anyone else you know has an interest. I need the space, the February CADA show is coming up.

Best regards and thanks.
Nick Vanvonno (nvavonn@authentec.com)

Having always been fond of the Mauser actions, I own four that are in various chamberings, having been converted by utilizing military receivers. These are: .270Winc. w/bull barrel, a wonderful long-range groundhog or deer getter. .243Winc. w/bull barrel, fun to set up whitetails at 300 yds. 22-250 w/bull barrel, devastating on groundhogs and prairie dogs, using 55gr. V-Max and 39 grains of H-380 propellant. And finally an M-1912 Steyr action, that was built into a sporter by a student at the Colorado Gunsmith's School. This in .270 Win. and my favorite deer slayer. (you can guess that I grew up reading Jack O'Connor and before the .280Rem became popular, which I am convinced, has a slight edge over the .270Winc, but I am not about to change horses now!) My latest project is going to be built around an M-1909 Argentine carbine. Century has new barrels, in the white for \$80. I have chosen the 7.62x39mm, as in that short carbine, the report and recoil will still be very easily handled and the carbine in that caliber will not only be a fun rifle to shoot, but a fine lightweight "woods rifle" for whitetail! I have always liked the look of the Mauser carbines with the full-length stock. This one should be a very handsome piece when completed. The current bore is shot out and the stock needs some work, so I don't feel that I am ruining a historical piece by this conversion. All comments, suggestions, criticisms regarding this project are welcomed!

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ATK, Mauser, Oerlikon Sign Agreement for U.S. Production

Submitted By: Carl Arvidson (ArvidsonC@aol.com)

(Credit to PRNewswire)

ATK, Mauser, Oerlikon Sign Agreement for U.S. Production of Medium Caliber Ammunition for Marine Corps Assault Vehicle

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 /PRNewswire/ -- ATK (Alliant Techsystems) (NYSE: ATK), Mauser, and Oerlikon said they have signed an agreement that will lead to the licensing of 30mm ammunition developed by the Mauser-Oerlikon team for U.S. production by ATK's Conventional Munitions business segment.

The Mauser-Oerlikon team currently is executing a Foreign Comparative Test Program contract with the U.S. Marine Corps for the Armor Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot-Traced (APFSDS-T) ammunition, which is to be used on the Marine Corps' new Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

"The Mauser-Oerlikon round has been demonstrated to be highly effective against armored targets," said Michael McCann, director of medium caliber and tank ammunition programs for ATK's Conventional Munitions business segment. "This agreement will add an important new product to our broad portfolio of medium caliber ammunition."

McCann said the agreement continues a long-standing relationship between three of the world's leading developers and manufacturers of ammunition. ATK, Mauser, and Oerlikon, together with Boeing, also are in partnership on Team 35/50, which was established in 1997 to market a 35mm/50mm armament system for future infantry fighting vehicles.

Mauser-Werke Oberndorf Waffensysteme GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rheinmetall DeTec AG, Ratingen, Germany, is a proven leader in high-technology defense engineering. Within the Rheinmetall Group of companies, Mauser is the center of excellence for the development and manufacture of medium caliber automatic cannons, weapon systems, and ammunition.

Oerlikon-Contraves, an internationally diversified company, is the world leader in low-level air defense, including state-of-the-art guns and ammunition in the 20mm to 35mm caliber range, advanced fire control equipment for a variety of land and naval applications, as well as corresponding simulation and training equipment. Oerlikon-Contraves' supplies major products, such as the 35mm AHEAD air defense systems, missile systems, naval weapon systems, advanced ammunition, combat effectiveness improvement kits, and simulation equipment.

ATK is a \$1.1 billion aerospace and defense company with leading market positions in munitions, solid propulsion, composite structures, and precision electronic fuzes. The company, which is headquartered in Hopkins, Minn., employs approximately 5,600 people and has three business segments: Conventional Munitions, Aerospace, and Defense Systems. ATK news and information can be found on the Internet at <http://www.atk.com>

SOURCE ATK

CO: ATK; Mauser-Werke Oberndorf Waffensysteme GmbH; Rheinmetall DeTec AG; Oerlikon-Contraves

ST: Minnesota, Germany

Shooting Kangaroos with a 6.5 Swede

By: Tom Pike (pikes@ozemail.com.au)

I keep reading that you are thin on space. We don't have elk season here in the Northern Territories of Australia, Matter of fact the only thing that has a season is the fish. The furred creatures are either native animals which are protected or feral animals which can be shot any time. The only exception to the shooting of native animals is that Aboriginal persons can hunt them on their own lands at any time.

This leads me my first hunting outing with my Swede. My only Mauser started out as a K-38 carbine. I know you collectors will cringe but I put it in a synthetic stock and mounted a Cabela's 3-9x scope on it. It's a sweet heart of a shooter and will put 3 rounds under an inch at 100 yards with factory Winchester ammo.

This past weekend I was invited to help some aboriginal men shoot a few kangaroos for as part of the food for a men's health conference they were having. My only other rifle here in Australia is a .22 so I figured the 6.5 Swede was the ticket. So at 4pm on a Friday afternoon 4 of us climbed in to the trusty landrover and headed out bush. I was joined by my friend Mike (with his Ruger .22 magnum) and the 2 Aboriginal men. We drove out of town for about an hour and a half to get to the block of land belonging to these men. Now being an American myself I know it's a little hard to understand what it's like here in the Australian outback. We live in a town of about 25,000 people. It's a 1000 mile drive in any direction to get to the next biggest town. The block of land we were going to is a little over 500 square kilometers in area. And is out on the edge of the Simpson dessert. One of the other things that is different about hunting here is that this was meat gathering. So, we didn't bother with any of the fancy stalking stuff. Pretty much anything goes including spotlighting and shooting from a vehicle. Mike was on the Left side of the truck and I was on the right.

For safety sake we keep the bolt open and the chamber empty while the truck is moving. We drove around for about 45 mins. We had seen several roos but they always managed to disappear into the scrub. Then we spotted one, Standing still just watching us about 200 yards out. We quickly decided that it was way to far for the .22 magnum. Just the job for the Swede. I quickly chambered a round, looked through the scope and placed the cross hairs on his chest, I drew a slight breath and held it, then slowly squeezed the trigger. At the crack of the round going off I saw a puff of dust on the big roos fur as he jumped into the air. Then he was off bounding through the scrub. And we were racing after him. I was sure I had hit him solid but he bounded off for about 400 yards. We could see the blood streaming down his coat. He stopped to look at us. And we stopped too. this time he was about 75-100 yards out. Again I chambered a round, took aim and fired. This time he hopped twice then fell over. He was a large red male, we didn't have a scale to weigh him but two of us had trouble muscling him up onto the bull bar on the front of the truck. It soon got dark. then a slight rain started to fall. We drove around for several more hours using the spot light to find the roos. We didn't want to use the 6.5 after dark because it carries so much further than the .22 mag. Mike shot a medium sized female with the .22 magnum. It was only 75 yards out and he took her with a clean head shot. Our friends shot 2 more. We then drove to the camp where the health conference was being held, and dropped off the roos.

I found it very interesting that the aboriginals do not gut the animals before eating them. They are cooked whole to preserve moisture. Each region has a little different way of preparing the Kangaroo. Here they dig a pit, build a fire in it and let it burn down to coals. Then they break the Roos legs to get it to fold just right. They put the roo on the coals and cover it with dirt, then let it cook for about an hour. I didn't hang around for the finished product but I hear it comes out rather rare.

Well one of these days I'll go back home to America. I hope to be able to bring the Swede with me for some deer hunting. In the mean time I'm trying to schedule some camel and pig hunting trips. Camels are pretty big and may be a challenge for the 6.5.

Have a safe hunting season.

Tom Pike (pikes@ozemail.com.au)

Publisher's Comments

By: Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)

Now this is a great issue, folks!

I was fascinated to read Tom's account of kangaroo shooting in Australia. While the Monthly is in every respect a world-wide publication, with readers in areas as disparate as Taiwan, Germany, and New Zealand, most of our readers are still in the US and Canada – it's great for us Norteamericanos to get to read about hunting in other parts of the world. Like Tom, I think the 6.5 Swede sounds about perfect for the job!

It's likewise good to see that Mauser's parent company still has Mauser-Werke involved in military ordnance. That was, after all, Peter and Paul's first ambition; I'm certain that they, in whatever hereafter great gun designers go to, would be pleased to see their name still associated with arms and munitions for the world's military forces.

Elk season this year was a bust – I saw one bull running up a spur at 200+ yards, and missed the one shot I got. The weather was terrible, at least for elk hunting; 75 degrees at 11,000 feet, in Colorado, in November! Unbelievable.

At any rate, my thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue, and my thanks to Carl and Tom for our headline stories. There's a thousand more great stories out there, folks – don't be shy about sharing them!

Until next month, then;

Good shooting!

Ward