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**Reader's comments**

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Dear Ward,

GOOD JOB! I always look forward to reading Mauser Monthly.

In this March issue, In the article by HD entitled "Confessions of a Mauser Addict", he mentions at the end that there are some clean 1909 Argentines available right now. I always need a couple of clean ones. Do you know where they are? HD didn't say.

I'd appreciate a quick note if you have any information on it. (Note: Anyone have any leads on decent 1909's? I'd like a couple, too! -Ward)

Thank You,

Robert Peña (betop@bga.com )  
Austin, Texas

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Good news! The Dealer I use has finally gotten a price for one of the Olympic Arms Ultramag actions. He said there is a waiting list but, for a double square bridge magnum Mauser, I'm not going to complain. I'll keep you posted.

Eric (Mauser416@aol.com)

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Thanks for putting me on the list. The RTF format was a bit of problem but I found a way to convert it.

I was quite surprised to see my page listing posts by Dave Tomlinson mentioned ie. [http://www.magma.ca/~asd/...](http://www.magma.ca/~asd/)

The Mauser Series as I call it can be found at

[http://www.magma.ca/~asd/dat/dat\\_spec.html](http://www.magma.ca/~asd/dat/dat_spec.html)

There is now a link at the top of the page for the Mauser Series, which consists of 4 posts. Some of the posts contain information specific to Canada's fight against Bill C-68 but the first couple of posts are good reading on the history of Mausers. There are also links to a couple of other posts

that are non C-68 related, these can be found under the "Firearms" link (which also contains the Mauser Series).

Firearms  
Ignition sources for firearms propellants (1 of 2)  
Ignition sources for firearms propellants (2 of 2)  
Weapons through the ages I  
Weapons through the ages II  
Weapons through the ages III  
The firearm in society I  
The firearm in society II  
Full and Semi-automatic Firearms, Part I  
Full and Semi-automatic Firearms, Part II

Don (dons@cadabratech.com )

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I just found this one on the boards and thought that I'd pass it on.

Subject: New Swedish Mauser Mailing List  
From: blackml320@aol.com (BlackML320)  
Date: 17 Mar 1999 12:25:15 EST

To any and all of your lovers of surplus rifles, please be informed that I have created a list devoted to the discussion of Swedish Mausers.

If you love those M96's or M38's, or other variants, and enjoy the ballistics of the 6.5x55mm cartridge, please join and tell a friend.

To subscribe, point your web browser to:

<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/swedishmausers>

Thanks.

Carl (ArvidsonC@aol.com)

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Ward,  
Just got a short note from Marc at Jager Werk. He is starting production on the Vz 24 scope mounts. I thought you might want to pass this on. He can be reached at JAGERWERK@aol.com.

Regards,  
Eric (Mauser416@aol.com)

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### **Range and Ammo Testing a Custom Swede**

*By: Jim Simmons (jsimm@tiac.net)*

The following may be of interest to you and other readers, as I noticed a quip or two regards Swedish M-96's.

A few years ago I ordered a "customized" Swedish M-96, 6.5x55 from our friendly importer in Vermont. The price was quite reasonable at just over a hundred dollars considering it came with a new stock, turned down bolt, drilled and tapped for a "see thru" scope mount, and all was re-blued. They also chopped off some of the barrel, recrowned it and installed an iron sight. I even

requested a "hand picked" model of the Carl Gustafs flavor. I received a nice looking Carl Gustafs 1914 as described above complete with a dark but unpitted bore. Being too cheap or maybe poor at the time, I neglected to purchase any ammo of the correct size. Here's where the fun starts.

Having picked up a set of used RCBS dies in the 6.5x55 persuasion, I set down to study the general Sammi specifications for the cartridge and any similar critters. It became evident that I could probably make some very passable 6.5 brass out of the common .30-06 brass. Not having the correct form and trim dies, I did some Rube Goldberging with other tools at hand and soon had a batch of 100 reformed cartridges. Yes, I knew the base of the '06 cartridge was smaller than the original 6.5 base but what's a few thousandths between friends. It was a lot of work reshaping the brass, but at the time there were few reloadable rounds on the market.

Bullets were the next order of business. But not to worry, the used dies came with a few opened boxes of 140-grain Sierra soft points. A vintage reloading book from earlier days gave a recipe for both the 140 and 160-grain pellets. It was for a powder of great vintage also. Reclaimed military 5010 powder. Slow burning stuff. The book suggested several load weights that basically filled the cartridge leaving only enough room for the base of the bullet to be seated at the proper oal. Since some cases are slightly different than others, a variation in powder height level was seen. A note in the loading data suggested that with 5010 power, one could not overload the cartridge and therefore could basically scoop the cartridge full of the little sticks and shake it down and insert the bullet. This is also a quick way to find what the cartridge will hold and then use a scale to duplicate it. Yes... we are neither crazy nor uneducated regarding "proper" loading and safety procedures... We are however equipped with much experience and OJT from the days when reloading was in its infancy. I will not give you here, the exact charge weight of 5010 powder that I used as it really is not critical. We are not here to discuss reloading per se, rather the function of the old iron.

Cut to the chase as they say. OK, the next stop is the range. Fifty feet seems like a good place to start seeing how this rifle has never been papered since it was overhauled. At least we will be able to tell if it is in the ballpark. Iron sights for this trial consist of original military rear sights and the bogus aftermarket front sight. Three shots at the center of a three-foot square target. Results are rather disappointing. The rear sight is at its lowest elevation of 300 meters. Impact is nearly at the top of the paper. Tried this several more times and concluded the front sight was junk. Nobody bothered to match it for the rear sight and or the cartridge. Pleasingly, the groups were quite fair for hand tooled brass of not quite the correct base size. The fired brass of course is now fire formed and should fit better. Back to the drawing board. A little research found that the front sights as installed were way to short for the assembly and a taller sight was immediately available. Having received the included "see thru" scope mounts, I installed them and added a fine, inexpensive 3x9x40 scope. Back to the range and dial this "custom" rifle in. Starting at 50 feet again, we brought bullet impact into a spot approximately 2 inches higher than point of aim. At one hundred yards the scope was again adjusted to correct bullet impact. This time to about three inches above center. At 200-250 yards this should give us a reasonable point and shot picture and have the bullet impact at or just below the point of aim. Now for the surprise:

The first five shots from this 80+-year-old rifle at 200 yards grouped at about three inches diameter, about 10 inches to the left and 2" high. Readjust the scope and check for any loose screws. Second five shot group is even tighter and closer to the bulls eye. The third five shots holding 2 inches high and 2 inches to the left and can be covered by a fifty-cent piece! There is a slight breeze blowing from right to left so I did not adjust the sights further. With a fresh target and ten more spaced (slow fire) shots the same fifty-cent group was again made with the exception of a low flyer that I will claim to be my error. This firearm has earned its place on my gun rack. (Subsequent chronographing showed the load easily reached 2500 fps.)

Please note: The Swedish 6.5x55 was only designed for pressures of 47,000 cup or less. Any reloading today should be "by the book" as the lower pressures verses today's modern higher pressure guns has been taken into consideration.

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### **A Perspective on the Spanish FR-8**

*By: Colin (debin666@storm.ca)*

(For the complete story and some great pictures, please see Colin's Web page at, [http://www.storm.ca/~debin666/html/the\\_fr-8\\_page.html](http://www.storm.ca/~debin666/html/the_fr-8_page.html) – Ward)

For three months, I researched the history of these misunderstood carbines.

OK, so I didn't really get to go to Spain (darn), but I've dug deep to find out some history of these converted Mausers.

When I purchased a FR-8 at a local gun show awhile back, I was only looking to expand my small military rifle collection with another Mauser type action. I liked the idea of having a Mauser in 7.62x51 because of my passion for reloading and shooting with military guns and the 7.62x51 cartridge offers so many options for the reloader to experiment with.

What I didn't realize, was the amount of controversy these guns had generated since hitting the North-American surplus market.

Whenever I acquire another surplus gun, my first endeavor is always to research its origins and uses. Here in Canada, research material is hard to come by in this subject. My initial readings in "Rifles of the world" came up pretty well empty. I then began to search across the Internet for information.

I started reading huge threads of arguments in past postings of the newsgroup "Rec.guns". I read them all but was still left with a lack of FACTUAL knowledge on the history and uses of my "new" FR-8.

Although the newsgroup threads were helpful, the amount of interpretation of facts by well-meaning and often very knowledgeable people, only left me confused and more intent on finding out more.

After several searches of libraries and conversations with fellow collectors turned up nothing new, I contacted the Embassy of Spain in Ottawa, Canada. I lucked out here, as the Colonel I spoke with has a brother in Spain who as well as being in the Spanish forces, also is a avid collector. Unfortunately, this fellow has not yet come "online" and so our discussions took a bit of time to travel back and forth across the Atlantic but he was able to fax me some interesting articles relating to the Cetme program and the subsequent conversion of Spain's arsenals of model 1916 and 1943 Mauser rifles to the FR-7 and FR-8's...

By 1960, the Cetme assault rifle program was well under way. Spain and Germany had signed joint development agreements for this project. This program led to Germany's development of the H&K assault rifles. In fact, as early as 1956, parts made in Spain (barrels and others) for the Cetme program were being sold to Germany and used in their own rifles using the U.S.30T65 cartridge.(7.62x51 NATO)

In 1964 , the Cetme model 'C' was in full production. Also at this time, Spain adopted the 7.62 NATO round for standard issue. At this time, Spain decided to rejuvenate their stores of light arms. Enormous stores of Mauser rifles in excellent condition were on hand. A revaluation was done in order to put them to the best use so they could be used serving Spain's auxiliary corps of engineers, communication personnel , drivers etc. An examination of resources found that

enough parts produced for the Cetme `C' rifles could be used in the refurbishing of the 1916 and 1943 model Mausers.

This unusual but practical combination, gave birth to a new bolt action rifle affectionately known as ``El Cetmeton". Conserving all the virtues which made the Mauser so legendary for its reliability, but cutting its dimensions and improving in areas of mobility and in aiming mechanisms, it looks more like an assault weapon. This esthetic impression is due to the tube situated underneath the barrel , which looks like a gas tube, but in reality is only a space for a cleaning kit and part of the sight protector and the bayonet mount.

I also wanted to decipher the meaning of the model number designations of these guns (FR-7 &FR-8) .My sources agree on Fusil Reformado 7 & 8 , That's fine but do the 7 & 8 stand for? I heard two different theories. Some people claim the 7 & 8 come from the original caliber's (7mm & 8mm Mauser) , But another source in Spain claims the numbers correspond to the 7th and 8th Military regions of Spain at the time, which was where the weapons were modified.  
Summary of Transformations...

--Stock and handguard shortened to 28.9" & 8.8" respectively.

--- Cetme `c' barrels modified to fit and shortened to 17.75"

--- Cetme front sight housings (inverted ) and a cleaning kit housed in the lower hole and stabilized by the rear of the kit resting in a recess of the front stock band.

--- Various modifications to the magazine for proper feeding of the 7.62x51 cartridge.

--- ``mixed" rear sight welded to the receiver, with a open `V' notch and 3 diopter apertures (settings for 100, 200, 300 and 400 meters)

--- ``NATO" style muzzle flash hider with machining for grenade launcher

#### AMMO SQUABBLES...

The biggest controversy today concerning these rifles is , what ammunition are they designed to use. I urge anyone to consider common sense in this matter. A competent gunsmith before firing should inspect ANY surplus firearm. And even then you must still be aware that shooting guns of this kind can be risky. They were never designed for civilian use, they were often produced with substandard materials in wartime conditions and by sometimes less than experienced craftsmen. THIS BEING SAID, LET'S GO ON...

From what I've learned, I believe that by 1965 when the FR-7's & 8's were being made, that Spain was using basically standard NATO ammunition. My Spanish source quotes a spec. page listing FR-8 using a 147gr. bullet with a velocity of 2700fps. He also points out the worldwide sales of a Cetme sporter in .308 Win. that uses the same barrels and the Germans use of the NATO round as early as 1956.

He speculates that if a lighter bullet/velocity cartridge WAS used it would have been developed to aid in control when using full-auto fire with the Cetme type guns, as his experience was that they were quite a handful when used as such with the NATO ammo.

Again as I stated above, you must assume a ``use at own risk" attitude when firing these guns. Moderate handloads would be my recommendation to anyone considering a rifle converted from one cartridge to another.

And so the FR-7 and FR-8 served Spain from 1965 to around 1980. By then the 5.56 Cetme models had been adopted and the older model `C's filtered down to the auxiliary forces. Most of

the FR-7's & 8's were seldom used But some saw use in various campaigns including N. Africa as Spain tried to hold onto colonialized Spanish Sahara.

Today Spanish collectors are having trouble finding these guns. All were sold for export. My Spanish friend paid 200 German Marks (about \$160 Canadian) for his FR-8 on a trip to Nuremberg in 1993. He said at that show he saw several that had been sadly sporterized. Thanks go out to the many people that helped on this project, especially Angela Laird who learned all about rifles while translating pages of Spanish text and the Spanish embassy in Ottawa for taking an interest in this project!

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### **Publisher's Comments**

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

A happy Easter to all, and thanks to everyone who contributed to a great issue this month. I've looked over a few FR-8's at various shows, and now I'm a little better informed as to the origins of this M98 variation!

It's always a pleasure to meet any of you in person, and that pleasure was mine again this month, in the form of a visit from Carl Arvidson. It was great meeting Carl, and we had a great talk about Mausers and the shooting sports in general – and a share of complaining about politicians, of course, as well.

Here's a point for everyone to ponder.

I'm toying with the idea of publishing a hard-copy, print version of the Monthly, on good quality paper, complete with graphics, photos of guns, and so on – like a real magazine. (Yeah, probably ads, too.) The catch is, I wouldn't be able to do it for free, as is the e-mail version; I'm guessing I would have to ask for \$12-15 a year for a subscription. I would of course keep the free e-mail version going for everyone – I do not, under any circumstances, intend to replace the free-mail newsletter with a paid hard copy publication.

What I'm leading up to is this – how many of you would be interested in such a published newsletter? I'm trying to evaluate whether I would be able to keep enough material to keep a printed version going, plus whether enough people would be willing to subscribe, to cover the costs involved. Anyone who's interested, drop me an e-mail.

Spring is blooming here along the Front Range, and I really need to get in some range work of my own – although half my collection is in the shop right now for one thing or another; reblueing, having a new safety installed, that sort of thing.

Until next month -

Good Shooting!

- Ward