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**Reader's comments**

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I have two corrections (to last month's notes on Swedish Mauser markings.) Hope it isn't too late.

- 1) The first time a rifle went to an Armourer for a minor repair he may make a punch mark on the trigger guard. If he made some minor modification on the rifle he may make a second mark.
- 2) There is also a second proof mark, in the shape of a flattened &#34;N&#34;

Mats Persson ([m95perm@mtek.chalmers.se](mailto:m95perm@mtek.chalmers.se))

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This is just a note to let you know that I picked up a 1909 Cav Carbine from Dennis at Empire Arms (<http://www.empirearms.com/>) last month and I see he still has one left. I spoke with the folks at JLD just after the New Year and they also had them then.

Good luck  
dar (Dar.Swedberg@intranetsol.com)

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I've been receiving your e-zine for several years and enjoy it even though I'm an M96 man myself. (I've especially liked the debate on pre-M98 action strength -- why don't a pool of enthusiasts chip in and test a batch?)

I just recently had a right smart Scout Rifle built on a M96. It's beautiful, and has inspired me to contemplate a second Scout Rifle. This would be a slightly more tricked out version based on an M98 and chambered in .308 Winchester.

Part of the fun of the Scout Rifle is putting together a "user" rifle at the most reasonable cost possible. If I would put one together in 8mm, the world would be my oyster because good 8mm M98's can be had at quite reasonable prices. However, I'm not a handloader, and 8mm hunting ammo availability is poor. Thus, I want .308 Winchester.

My question for you: do you have any good leads on the best values for M98 receivers, and any leads on new surplus .308 barrels? I'd like to get the receiver and barrel for less than \$200 if possible. Or, do you have any leads on M98 rifles in .308 in very good shape or better?

Any info appreciated.

Best Regards,  
Kevin Malin (kevinb17@earthlink.net)

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### **Update on the Waffenamt Conundrum**

*By: Joe Steen*

Re: Waffenamt Conundrum Kyrie's discussion of the apparent inconsistencies in the use of the WaA359 mark on World War Two German military small arms in the March Mauser Monthly was of interest, but erred in its central thesis: Waffenamt inspection teams were assigned regionally and not to specific firms. WaA359 inspected in the Zelia-Mehlis/Suhl region from 1935 or '36 until the end of the war, but it was no more assigned to Walther than to J.P. Sauer or any other firm.

Numerous examples of WaA numbers found on products of two or more firms in the same geographical area can be cited. WaA13 inspected products of Ruhrstahl A.G. (code avk) and Anker-Werke (fng), both in Bielefeld. WaA76 in Prague accepted rifle barrels from F. Janecek (dsh) and pistols from 66hmische Waffenfabrik (fnh). Likewise WaA26 served not only Mauser of Borsigwalde (ar), but also Fritz Werner (crv) and Gustav Genschow (cxm). These latter three firms were all in the greater Berlin metropolitan area.

Other examples of this practice could be given. It is apparent the arms-making region of Suhl and Zelia-Mehlis was served by at least two WaA units, WaA37 and WaA359. All Walther products show WaA359; all Haenel-made firearms bear WaA37. J.P. Sauer is anomalous in that while its pistols have only WaA37, the rifles may show both 359 and 37. To me this suggests that Sauer either had at least two plants, one subject to inspection by WaA37 and one by WaA359 or that those rifle components bearing 359 were supplied by an as yet unidentified subcontractor.

It seems probable (to me, at least) that the specific areas of responsibility for WaA37 and WaA359 were geographically based and that neither would have inspected products originating in the sphere of activity of the other ordnance team.

--Joe Steen

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### **Wow! Collection for Sale**

*By: Steven L. Ashe (stevena@clark.net)*

Just thought you might enjoy seeing my for sale list. I am getting ready to retire and move to Fl. and must offer some of my collection for sale. Please pass this list on to others. Thanks!

Japanese Arisaka, Type 99, 7.7mm. Chromed bore. Aircraft sights. I sold the one in the ad, but I have another Type 99. Numbers match on bolt. I need \$139 for this one.

Imperial German Mauser, WWI Model 98AZ. (sold)

Imperial German Mauser, WWI GEW98, I sold the 1920 GEW, but I have an earlier marked WWI GEW98 that still retains the Lange sights. Dated 1916. I need. \$169 for this one.

British SMLE, very late No1 MkIII\* production begun by BSA in 1940 and interrupted by the German Blitz. Marked as a "B", dispersal rifle and completed at various small shops scattered about England, following BSA factory destruction. Matching numbers on receiver, bolt and bayonet lug. The bore is sharp and bright. The wood is clear with only minor storage dings. The hand guard appears to have been replaced in the final arsenal rework. Bolt plunger is the early type round ended variety. Good representative WWII SMLE, better made than the later models. \$119 + \$12 UPS and insurance to any of the lower 48 states.

This one is still for sale.

Imperial Russian Model 1891, Mosin-Nagant (long rifle), 7.62x54R. I sold the rifle with the 1910 date, but I have another in the same date range. \$99.

Here are some additions:

Swede M-96, matching bolt, excellent bore, disk marked as #1, Walnut stock, metal whiting on sharp edges, minor stock dings, no splits or cracks \$149

Swede M-96, matching bolt, excellent bore, disk marked as #2, Walnut stock, metal whiting on sharp edges, minor stock dings, no splits, \$139

Steyr Mauser, matching numbers, Model 1912/61, 7.62x51, w/bayonet and scabbard and sling, test fired with target attached \$159

Steyr Mauser, non-matched bolt, Model 1912/61, 7.62x51, test fired, \$119

M-1891 Argentine Mauser, has Argie crest, chromed parts for honor guard or parade, 7.65mm, a shooter, \$99 second one without crest, \$89.

Steyr Mauser, M-1895, 7mmMauser long rifle, matching numbers with rod and sling. Test target with rifle. Clean wood and metal. Bright bore. \$169

Same as above, with no accouterment and unmatched bolt, \$119

Same as above, chambered for 7.62x51mm, \$119

98k JP Sauer coded, CE 43, Soviet capture, peened eagles, but does retain some Third Reich arsenal marks. Strong bore but a little dark. Mismatched bolt. \$119

98k Coded 237 1939. Soviet capture with eagles peened. Mismatched bolt. Early machined parts to include butt plate, barrel bands and floor plate. Number 25XXI. Laminated stock. Fainl Luftwaffe "L" on right side of butt stock. Several Third Reich arsenal markings remain. \$139

98k Serbian Crest, matching numbers, U20XX Only model markings are the Third Reich "Model 98" on the left side of the receiver rail. Has Soviet made wartime sling and unissued Yugo bayonet and scabbard. All, to include bore, appears as unissued. \$189

Same as above, without accessories and has non-matched bolt, range tested for headspace, \$139

98k bcd 43, Soviet capture, eagles peened, but retains several Third Reich arsenal markings, straight bolt force matched, Most metal parts early machined type. Bore very strong, but a little dark. \$119

98k BCD 41, \*all\* numbers match down to numbered screw heads and stock parts plus, all parts are correct for that era, laminated stock, cupped buttplate, machined barrel bands and floorplate, bright bore, this is a known USGI bringback and untouched since capture, \$900

98k bnz 4, strong bore but dark, laminated stock and handguard, wood sound with the usual storage dings, metal finish original, Waffenampts peened (this reported done by Romanians, after capture) 8mm, \$129

98k DOU 43 Third Reich markings, all refinished with numbers force matched with electro pencil. Bore appears unfired. Has correct Third Reich bayonet and scabbard and sling and rod and sight hood. All for \$199

Same as rifle above, but bcd44, no bayonet or sling, sight hood or rod. Wood, metal and bore are appear as unissued, \$169. Other makers and dates available:BYF41, BNZ41, BNZ42, BNZ43, 337 1940, BNZ43, DOU43

98b Brno, full length Gewehr, w/updated tangent sight, Czech markings, 8mmMauser \$129

Imperial German Mauser WWI dated Oberndorf, \$149

VZ-24, strong bright bore, Czech lion acceptance mark on left side of receiver, Lion crest, mostly white, sound stock, Brno made, 8mm, \$129

DWM, Model 1908, 7mm, Brazilian crest, with bayonet and scabbard, Bolt only, mismatched, \$149

M-1938 Ankara, short rifle, 8mm, \$99

Rifles of Great Britain:

No1 MkIII\* "wire wrapped" for grenadier use, bright sharp bore, \$129

Same as above, with sheet metal reinforcing stock, \$129

No1 MkIII\* post WWII production, 1952, .303Brit., excellent shooter, \$129

No4 Mkl, clean, excellent shooter, \$100

No4 MkII, w/bayonet and scabbard, PF3305XX all matching, shoots 1" groups @ 100yds, very minor stock dings, bright bore \$129

No4 MkII, out of shrink-wrap, but stored receiving minor dings in stock, un-issued w/hang tag, to include mismatched bayonet and scabbard, \$195

No1 MkIII, matching Lithgow with bayonet, scabbard, throg and sling \*all\* dated 1916, complete piece to shoot or display, \$250

No1 MkIII WWI dated 1916 BSA E92XX, has cut-off slot, with bayonet, \$159

No1 MkIII\* BSA, 1918, 69527 with bayonet, \$139

British SMLE, very late No1 MkIII\* production begun by BSA in 1940 and interrupted by the German Blitz. Marked as a "B", dispersal rifle and completed at various small shops scattered about England, following BSA factory destruction. Matching numbers on receiver, bolt and bayonet lug. The bore is sharp and bright. The wood is clear with only minor storage dings. The hand guard appears to have been replaced in the final arsenal rework. Bolt plunger is the early type round ended variety. Good representative WWII SMLE, better made then the later models. \$119 + \$12 UPS and insurance to any of the lower 48 states.

US Military Rifles:

A very fine M-1894 US "Krag" rifle 30-40. Updated at Springfield to 1896 specs. Bright, sharp bore. Very good metal and wood with clear cartouche. Has correct early bayonet and early scabbard and correct leather sling. \$1595 (no FFL required)

US M1 Rifle, Mkl, Navy conversion to 7.62NATO with the contract barrel this, done in the 1960s, awarded as Admiral's Marksman Trophy in 1987, w/Gov't release papers and a bill of sale from the Naval Officer recipient to me, \$1595

US M1 Rifle, Winchester receiver, Springfield barrel, no import, \$695

US Model 1903, Barrel dated 1914, matches SN, finger groove stock, \$750

US Model 03-A3 Remington, w/US gov't. release papers, 34509XX, bright bore, 4/43, clear cartouche, \$495

US M1 Rifle, WWII dated, lock bar rear sight, no import, \$750

US M1 Rifle, heavy Springfield target barrel in 7.62NATO, unfired \$850

Springfield M1A (M-14 configuration) As new in box. Fired very little. Has glas bedded plastic stock and handguard in camo, plus extra GI walnut stock and early vented hand guard. Fires exceptional tight groups. \$1295

US M1D with all papers, wrappings and box from Anniston Arsenal. M2 (trumpet flash hider). This rifle was assembled from the arsenal with the sniper parts for display only and never fired. Released through the old DCM program. All gov't shipping wrap included with the papers. Springfield receiver number, 2951XXX. Barrel drawing lot number ends in the correct 555. \$1595

US Model 03-A3 Remington 4/43, #35375XX, Raritan Arsenal release papers, 1961, through NRA. Has NRA letter to buyer, release from arsenal, Railway Express receipt for shipment. Appears as unissued, unfired. Has sight hood. Cartouche: Ordnance wheel, FJA (Col. Frank J. Atwood) and clear "P" proof mark in circle. \$795

US Model of 1842 with rifling and long range sights. According to Flayderman's, less than 10,000 of these were produced. The rifle comes with a very good, correct bayonet US marked. This is the finest M-1842 that I have seen and rear rifled model. \$2595 No FFL required

US sniper rifle, based on the US M1 Rifle. This may be an early Vietnam War makeup. Appears to have never been fired. H&R receiver #4720XXX. Springfield barrel dated 11-63. Griffin & Howe M1C type mount, with quick detach rings by use of lever locks. Scope appears to be a Weaver K4, steel-bodied scope, with horizontal cross hairs and vertical military style post recticle. Stock is smooth, as new walnut. In 30-06, should be a tack driver \$1500

Finn VKT Model 39, matching bolt, VG clean \$139

Finn Model 91/30 Tikka 1944 unissued, with rod \$149

Japan:

Type 38, untouched mum and complete w/rod and release hangtag. The hangtag signs the rifle over to a named US Naval Officer and is signed by the Captain of the ship and has the ship's seal embossed on the document, all matching, a true and documented "bringback" \$450

Type 99, 7.7mm Kokura w/aircraft sights, defaced mum, \$129

Firearms miscellaneous:

Finn, M-39, SAKO, strong bore, no cracks, good metal. \$149

Soviet M-91/30 Unfired, unissued. 1941. #LYA19XX. Matched barrel, receiver and bolt. Charcoal black metal finish appears as new. With rod. \$149

Imperial Russian Model 1891, Mosin-Nagant (long rifle), 7.62x54R. Receiver dated early 1900s. Correct Russian stock for that era, without hand guard (also correct). Bore is strong and bright. Hangtag reads that I range test this rifle with Chi-Com, copper washed ammo, on 5-14-97. The group measures 1 7/8" and there were no signs of unacceptable headspace on the spent cartridges. The stock is sound, with only minor storage dings and has the usual steel escutcheons for the "dog collar" sling swivels. The Imperial Russian crest is clearly stamped on the top of the barrel and on the receiver. Correct rod in place. Original metal blue is thinning to perhaps 70%. Wood is clear and has not been varnished or otherwise "cleaned". \$99 + \$12 for UPS and insurance to any of the lower 48 states.

Polish M-44, as new, w/sling and accouterment packet, this was in the early imports that were as new! \$169

Russian M-44, as new, \$139

Several early Russian M-1891 rifles, priced according to condition, from \$79. Sorry none dated before 1899.

Winchester Model 50, 20ga full choke, very little use, VG, \$425

Austrian, M95 carbine, 8x56R, w/box of collector ammo, \$110

Thompson Center "Hawken" .54cal and 20 Buffalo bullets, \$225 No FFL required

MAS M-36 in shrink-wrap. Unissued. #N883XX, with sling and instruction book in French. \$150

French Cavalry Carbine, Model 1916 Berthier. The rifle comes with one charger clip and six rounds of sure fire 8mmLebel \*and\* a correct sling. The bore is strong and the rifle has been range tested and shows no signs of poor headspace. \$179

Brazilian 30-06. Model 954 Mauser Short Rifle (Ball's book, Page 33). Sharp, clear crest. Strong bore with some dark spots. Cleaning rod in place. Correct threaded barrel for grenade launching and for blank firing device. This is a Mauser not often seen these days. \$179

Greek FN Model 1930 Short Rifle. Unusual in that this rifle retains the Greek crest, even though it shows signs of being a Turk capture weapon. (Ball's book, Page 135). FN legend on left side of receiver rail. 8mmMauser. Rod in place. Bright, strong bore. A hard to find Mauser. \$179

CZ-52 "SHE" Rifle. 7.62x45mm Czech. Semi-auto. As captured by our troops during the fighting on Grenada. Correct folding blade bayonet. Very clear stock, not refinished. Original blue is in the high ninety percentile. This is the cleanest SHE rifle that I have seen, that has not been refinished. Strong, bright bore. Comes with one box of Czech ammo. \$329.

Serb/Yugoslavian Model 1924. 1924 Crest, NOT the recent import with the Soviet Yugo crest. See Ball's book, Page 211. Nearly unmarred walnut stock. Blue, thinning only on sharp edges. Rod in place. 8mmMauser. Bore sharp and bright. Has the Serb crest over 1924, clear and crisp on the receiver bridge and the Kragujevac Arsenal legend on the left receiver rail. Correct, straight bolt handle. Another Mauser that is not often encountered today. \$179

US 1898 Krag. Classic "sporter", with stock cut-down as a carbine and peep sight mounted on the rear of the receiver. A very nice example of early DCM released rifle. cal. 30-40Krag. \$250.

US Krag in full issue dress. This rifle is untouched. Has very minor storage dings. Blue is thinning on sharp edges. Bore is bright. \$795

Let me know if you can use any of these.

Steve Ashe in Md.

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### **Reloading the 1908 Brazilian 7X57 Mauser**

*By: Bob Spence (dspence@norlink.net)*

There are many things in life a man can enjoy, however, not all have the time or resources to pursue all that he would like. With all the choices there are, I find that metallic cartridge reloading is one endeavor that has held my interest for many years. In reloading there is always something new to try, another powder, a new bullet or rediscovering a classic caliber. The 7X57 has been there and done it all.

A successful military caliber used by numerous countries in the early part of this century, it also has built a great reputation for itself as an efficient hunting round. What more can one say about the superb Model 98 military Mauser that hasn't already been said.....they are simply the best. Strong and reliable with controlled round feeding and a foolproof extractor: a design that has won the hearts of many a shooter who need a dependable rifle.

Let me tell you a little about a favourite Mauser of mine. It is a standard infantry model 98 with details almost identical to the Gewehr 98. This is a WW1 era contract service rifle for the Brazilian army made in Germany by the famous gun makers, Deutche Waffen-undMunitionsfabriken at Oberndorf. I have also seen one that was manufactured at the D.W.M. plant in Berlin. In its full military trim with a 29.1 inch bbl weighing 9 lbs. This large ring 98 style Mauser has a straight bolt and an action that comes "in the white", un-blued, polished bright. The thinking behind that I believe was that the perspiration from one's hands would take care of it, a kind of crude rust blueing; as most well used rifles have receivers that are quite dull in finish.

Also, interestingly enough, the magazine follower does not hold the bolt open on the last shot having been beveled at the factory. The right side of the receiver is marked Mod. 1908 and has the "star crest" of Brazil on the top of the rec. The Mfg. is located on the left rec. Wall in front of the thumb "cut out". The workmanship of these rifles is superlative. These models have some of the smoothest actions one could encounter, the bolt seems to float on its own when operated.

#### Preparing To Reload

Even with the matching serial numbered bolt, the head space is quite generous in this rifle. It is not uncommon to find this condition in military surplus rifles. When firing factory cartridges in this rifle, case stretching just ahead of the web is severe, reducing case life to only a couple of reloads at best. This presents a challenge to the reloader if he wants to obtain a reasonable case life with his brass. The cost of factory loads or new brass cases being what they are, it makes shooting the old rifles an expensive proposition. Here's what I do.....perhaps you could try it too. When I purchase factory ammo. I pull the bullets and reload the cases with a lesser charge to help fire form the brass without stretching it unduly. Don't be tempted to use the factory powder, it cannot be positively identified. Merely using a lesser amount of factory powder could land you in trouble. It's best to just throw that out and start with something you know.

I use a reduced charge of fast burning rifle powder, IMR 3031, and re-seat the factory bullets. Basically what I am doing is just creating a mild reload. This may not be the perfect method of fire forming but it does somewhat reduce stretching on the first firing. If you can find a supply of used brass, try the partial resizing method first if your Mauser has a large chamber. More about that later.

When trying partial resized cases in the rifle, the bolt may close when chambered; if so, you are one step ahead in the reloading process. If not, you will have to full length re-size. By the way, if you are using F.M.J. military style cartridges, pulling them can be a real chore. Here's a tip that will make it easier. First; install the 7X57 seating die in your press, turn the bullet seating plug down so that you push the bullet back into the case about one eighth inch. This will break the bullet free from the lacquer sealer (put on at

the factory to waterproof it). The sealer, really cements the bullet to the inside of the case neck, which is why pulling them can be so difficult without breaking them free. There will still be plenty of slug showing to grab hold of if you are using the collet style of puller, which I prefer, because it is less messy than the kinetic style. Note: If pulling soft point bullets of commercial make, breaking free is not necessary.

### My Reduced Load

The reduced charge method tried, worked well in my rifle. I use 29 grs. Of IMR-3031 with a 175 gr. bullet. Through experimentation, I found the suggested starting load of 34 grs. 3031 was too high, as it still stretched the casings. Decreasing the powder charge one grain at a time and then test firing them, the 29 gr. load was decided upon. The pressure of this load is still enough to expand the brass adequately as no powder blowback smudged the case. Now I have a case that can be reloaded many more times without stretching. IMR 3031 seems well suited to this purpose as it is good for use in cast shooting and can be loaded down as far as 28 grains with a 168 grain lead bullet. (According to the RCBS cast bullet re-loading manual). It also fills the case fairly well so a dacron fibre overpowder wad is not needed. IMR 4198 also looks promising. The Speer manual has reduced loads for the 7X57 with this powder, however no pressure figures are included. As always, familiarize yourself with recognizing signs of excessive pressure when shooting your "hand loads".

### Determining Cartridge Overall Length

One factor that seems to add a great deal of accuracy to a re-load is finding the optimum cartridge overall length with the bullet of your choice. There are two methods to determine this. The first is the old method of seating a bullet out long, in a dummy round, and watching for rifling marks on the bullet after chambering; seating it progressively deeper til none shows. I have however, been fooled by scratches left on the bullet from cycling the round through the action which gave me a false reading. The second choice is more complicated but it allows an alternative method to determine the best over-all length with most bullets that you would care to use. (With the exception of short, lightweight varmint bullets who's reduced length demands different seating requirements). These guns were designed around a heavy bullet for caliber round so we will deal exclusively with them.

After ensuring that the rifle is NOT LOADED, securely position it on a table or bench. A gun vise is a great help here. Next close the bolt on an empty chamber; then using your cleaning rod with a flat tipped jag, insert the rod from the muzzle until it contacts the bolt face. Take a strip of black electrician's tape and wrap it around the cleaning rod a few times, right in the end of the muzzle, being careful not to move the rod. Next, remove the rod, take the rifle out of the gun vise and remove the bolt. Now, take the bullet you plan to re-load in your gun, and, tipping the rifle muzzle down, drop the bullet right into the chamber so that it makes contact with the rifling. Place the rifle back in the vise. Using a suitable probe of some kind, slide it into the chamber until it touches the base of the bullet lightly. Do not press too hard as you do not want to seat the bullet in any farther than its own weight did, you just want to make sure it stays in place for the next step. Take the cleaning rod again and insert carefully until it contacts the bullet tip. Note; Try not to push it back or the reading will not turn out true. Again, using another piece of tape, carefully wrap it around the rod at the muzzle. Once that is completed, give the bullet a little shove to start it out, then remove it from the gun. Now, with the two tape markers on the cleaning rod, take your calipers and measure the distance between the two front edges of the tape. What you have now is the maximum cartridge over all length, from the bolt face to the rifling. It has been recommended that for best accuracy a bullet should be seated .030" from the rifling. This is what I do but some folks have different views on that subject. I subtract .030" from the maximum C.O.L. which leaves me with the optimum O.A.L for that particular rifle and bullet combination. This works especially well with commercial rifles with good spec. chambers but with military Mausers and their long throats, one can end up with a cartridge that is sometimes too long to function in the magazine properly. In these instances, the only option left is to seat the bullets to a depth for smooth trouble free loading; even if they are deeper than you would like.

After assembling the mild re-loads, one has the pleasure of shooting them off at targets of opportunity in a suitable place. My favourite is an empty sand and gravel pit. Once, while shooting on the big range, I tried the 29 grain load of 3031 with the factory 175 grain F.M.J. bullet. Advancing the rear sight to 400 meters,

(after some sighting in shots) I was able to hit the steel gong easily from 200 yards away. Not bad for a velocity of only 1800 fps.

Whatever load I ran through the M1908 while experimenting, the results were at least acceptable. I consider this to be more of a testimony to the rifle itself. The Model 98 Mauser is a firearm of superior design and workmanship in my opinion.

Once you have accumulated some fired cases, care must be taken in how you will resize them. The steps to adjust your dies for partial full length resizing are found in most reloading manuals. Here are some rules to follow, the shoulder of the casing must not be set back during this step. If set back, one creates a condition of artificial head space. Adjust the die so that the sizing stops just short of the neck-shoulder junction. When the case is inspected, you will see a burnished ring from the resizing process on the neck of the brass. If you have trouble identifying this ring, try smoking the case neck and shoulder with candle black. After resizing, it will be instantly visible. Should the sized case fit too tightly, turn the die down just a little further. Far enough only so that when you chamber a case, the bolt closes with minimal resistance.

If the cases you are using were fired from your rifle, a good investment would be a set of neck only sizing dies. I have been using the Lee Collet dies of late, liking them very much. A great feature of these dies is one does not have to use case lube on the brass, so no clean up is necessary. All one must do is keep the cases fired in that particular rifle separate from other brass. Chances are that they would not chamber in another 7mm. Or worse yet, jam while loading. Of course, follow regular procedures of cleaning brass of case lube,(if used) and check case for proper length, trimming if necessary. Chamfer the inside of the case for easy insertion of the bullet.

#### A Load For A Great Cartridge.

The 175 grain bullet was the one that made the 7X57 famous as a military/hunting round so it's the one I decided to work with. Most of the major bullet manufacturers produce excellent bullets. I would have been happy to use any one of them. A good sale price convinced me to use the Hornady product. Their long, sleek 175 gr. spire point is a beautiful bullet, and it has given great results. It is also a very efficient bullet, with a sectional density of .310 and a ballistic coefficient of .506, even when started at modest velocity, it has a respectable flat trajectory. The 140 gr. bullet is an excellent performer on deer, but for game larger than whitetails, the 175 gr. will give the deep penetration needed for an exit wound.

In my model 1908 I have a cartridge O.A.L. of 3.100". This is quite long and will not chamber in the majority of rifles. This example simply shows what can be done when one custom tailors a hand load for a particular rifle chamber. A good choice of powder for the 7X57, is IMR 4350. It is sound advice to begin at the suggested starting load and work up from there. Also it's interesting to see how the groups respond to different powder charges as one increases them. Keeping separate targets for each load tried gives an interesting graph of what the rifle likes and dislikes. Often one sees the first group give average accuracy, then as the powder charge increases, the group will tighten up to be something to rave about; and finally as the maximum load is reached they may open up again. This is a broad statement, but fairly representative of what one comes across when load testing.....and yes, there are always exceptions to the rule.

Here's my personal favourite informal target load:

Case: NNY (Prvi Partizan)  
Primer: CC1 200  
Powder: IMR 4350  
Charge: 44grs  
Bullet: Hornady 175 gr. Spire Pt.  
O.A.L. : 3.100  
Group: .50" at 50 yds.  
Velocity: 2400 fps (approx)

The 7 mm. Mauser cartridge along with the 1908 Brazilian rifle is a great combination with which to work. After a session at the range, I always come away feeling very satisfied. These rifles are very pleasant to shoot. Their weight helps keep recoil to the minimum, the sights are adequate for general shooting. That's why the above load was tested at only 50 yds, for precise sight alignment.

Reloading is a great hobby, one can go as far as one wants, be as particular as one wants and there's also the savings. After having invested in the reloading tools, which will last a lifetime, we now can shoot more often for less money. More economy, better accuracy, and the satisfying sense of accomplishment in your own craftsmanship. Handloading will bring out the real potential in these old rifles....the results will surprise you. So don't leave your trophy at home, take it out and shoot it. Make some satisfying memories for yourself. You'll be glad you did. Regards and good shooting.

Bob Spence

#### CAUTION

Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions which are absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activities.

Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques, and safety precautions before attempting any similar activities.

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#### **Publisher's Comments**

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

First of all, my thanks to Joe, Steven and Bob for the excellent contributions this month! I found the loading info on the 7X57 round of particular interest; my own 91 Argentine "stalking rifle" wears a 7X57mm tube and I'm always looking for a good mild load for this old favorite.

A note – if anyone out there with no computer or e-mail access wants to contribute, please feel free to type up an article, question or note and snail-mail it to me. I have a scanner and a program that can convert typewritten pages or even neatly printed handwriting to text, so it's literally a piece of cake to add these contributions to the Monthly.

You are all surely aware of the great tragedy suffered by the families with children in Columbine High School here in Colorado, only ten miles from where I sit as I write these words. We've all heard enough moralizing, pondering how this could have been prevented; and we're all aware that now, our rights to bear arms will be once again under attack; however, I'll dispense from any of that here. Simply put, our thoughts and prayers have been with the families from Columbine, and I'm sure all of yours are as well.

On a happier note, Thunder Speaker will be out of the shop on Saturday, the Buehler-type safety having been replaced with a side-swing Winchester 70-type by my trusted gunsmith Tony Comella of the Firearms Service Center in Lakewood. I'm beginning work this week on the third in my hard-core hunting rifle series, based on a 1909 Argentine action; this one will be a heavy sporter barreled 6mm Remington, again with the Bell & Carlson stock and a high-powered target or varmint scope. The Mauser hunter trio will then be complete – a long range 6mm on a 1909 Argentine, the workhorse .30-06 on an Interarms Mk X, and of course Thunder Speaker, a .338 Win Mag on a 1908 Brazilian DWM action. That ought to make for an interesting article!

Until next month -  
Good Shooting!

- Ward