



Research Press Journal



Issue 8 | Winter 2019/20

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Research Press Journal

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Firearms

- Long range rifle fire. Long range target rifles. British military longarms. Small arms trials. Ammunition. Accessories. Gunmakers.

Marksmanship

- Military marksmanship. The art of shooting. Long range muzzle loading. National Rifle Association. Creedmoor and the international matches.

19thC Riflemen

- Those who pioneered the sport of target rifle shooting from the muzzle loading and into the black powder breech loading era. Biography.

Rifle Volunteers

- The Volunteer Force was established in 1859. From 1881 territorial regiments included regular, militia and volunteer battalions.

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The photograph on the left is a member of a military unit dressed in a Zouave uniform. On the right is a photograph of a soldier from Johnstown, New York.

See *The Remington Rolling Block*, page 19

Priming

News, Events, People & Places

LRR Whitworth Cup and Rigby Cup

The last weekend in October 2019 saw the final events of the year for the Long Range Rifles Branch of the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain. There were two 15 shot 600 yard muzzle loading matches on Bisley's Century Range, one for hexagonally bored Whitworth rifles and one for target rifles, the Whitworth Cup and Rigby Cup respectively. In the inclement conditions full use was made of the shelter conveniently located behind the allotted firing points! Despite the unfavourable weather, Henrie van Koot and Alan Beck won the Whitworth and Rigby Cup matches respectively with fine scores. In the evening, Branch members enjoyed a splendid meal at the Army Target Rifle Clubhouse, followed by the prize giving for the year. Jerry Womble, the MLAGB Mid and Long Range Rifle Secretary also used the event to present the MLAGB trophies for the years shooting.

Whitworth Cup

H. van Koot 57
B.Collot 45
J. Womble 45
P.Wolpe 43.2, G.Evans 40.1, D.Chambers 36,
B.Riaud 34, L.Jackson 17, M.Hall 10 (Ret)

Rigby Cup

A.Beck 61.3
F. Brouwer 59.4
P.Cornelissen 53.1
J.Whittaker 52.2, G.Evans 51.3, B.Lange 51.1,
J. Womble 50.1, C. Goed 49, P.Wolpe 49,
D.Minshall 45, A. van Rijssen 43.1,
H. van Koot 38. P.Hendy 33, B.Riaud 32.1,
T. van der Vlist 32.1, B.Collot 32,
A.Whiffin 22.3, J.Mallarme (Ret)



Triple Crown Long Range Black Powder Shoot and USIMLT Nationals

The Triple Crown Long Range Black Powder Shoot will be held in early March, 2020. The long range events begin on March 4-5 with a Creedmoor match (800, 900, 1,000 yards). Followed by the USIMLT Nationals on March 6-8 (300, 500, 600, 900, 1,000 yards). Followed by the 1,000 yard Championship (3 days of 30 shots at 1,000 yards).

A separate entry fee is required for the USIMLT Nationals and the other two long range events hosted by AZWINS. Ed Decker, Captain, USIMLT Long Range is the contact person for the USIMLT Nationals, email onceuponatimetwo@gmail.com.

Bill Loughrige is the contact person for the AZWINS Creedmoor and 1,000 yard Championship matches, email bill@westernnationalshoot.org. Contact Bill for details about match fee, entry form, etc.

The AZWINS also includes short range matches which include silhouette, shotgun, and primitive. Short range matches are held March 2-8.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to get 8 days of long range black powder shooting accomplished. The Ben Avery Shooting Facility is located north of Phoenix, Arizona, and close to a multitude of sightseeing such as the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Tucson, and Mexico.

*Ed Decker, Captain
USIMLT Long Range*

For further details see:

www.azmuzzleloading.com



Oak Ridge, TN - 2020

Rick Weber has been hosting Long Range Muzzle Loading (LRML) matches for over 20 years. Last year, and in anticipation of the forthcoming 150th anniversary (in 2024) of the international long range rifle match between Ireland and America at Creedmoor of 1874, Rick expanded his match programme to include (black powder) breech loading rifles. The match was held Oak Ridge, TN (ORSA) and comprised shooting at 300, 600 and 1,000 yards. A report and results for the event were published in *Research Press Journal* No. 6, Spring 2019.

- Dates for the 2020 match have been confirmed as 27-29 March.

Event details will be available to download from the news section of www.researchpress.co.uk.

News updates and information are also available via the event facebook group: Creedmoor 150 (1874-2024) - www.facebook.com/groups/361707117741162/



Oak Ridge targets, 2019

Long Range Muzzle Loading in the UK - 2020

The Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain and the Long Range Rifles Branch have published their combined calendar for mid and long muzzle loading matches to be held at Bisley, Surrey, UK in 2020.

April

- Fri 3 Long Range Rifles Branch, Asquith (Enfield) Cup, 600 yard (am), 800 yard (pm)
- Sat 4 Long Range Rifles Branch, Volunteer Trophy, 600 yard (am), 300 yard practice (pm)
- Sun 5 MLAGB National 200 yard Free & Enfield Rifle, Championship

May

- Fri 8 National 300 yard Free & Enfield Rifle Championship
- Sat 9 Long Range Rifles Branch, B.C. Baker Cup, 900 yard (am), 600 yard practice (pm)
- Sun 10 National 500 yard Free & Enfield Rifle Championship

June

- Fri 12 Long Range Rifles Branch, practice day 500 yard (am), 900 yard (pm)
- Sat 13 Long Range Rifles Branch, 1000 yard Championship
- Sun 14 MLAGB National 600 yard Free & Enfield Rifle Championship

August

- Sat 1 MLAGB National 900 & 1000 yard Free Rifle Championship, (Long Range Rifles Branch Metford Trophy, 1000 yards concurrent)
- Sun 2 Long Range Rifles Branch, Metford Trophy, 1100 yard (am), 1200 yard (pm)

October

- Fri 23 Long Range Rifles Branch, practice day 300 yard (am), 500 yard (pm)
- Sat 24 Long Range Rifles Branch, Whitworth Cup & Rigby Cup, 600 yard. Plus Annual Dinner

Verify confirmed dates via the following web sites:

- Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain - www.mlagb.com
- Long Range Rifles - www.longrangerifles.co.uk

2020 Calendar of Events

A Calendar of Events for 2020 is available on the Research Press web site. Events featured include muzzle and breech loading black powder rifle target shooting at distances of 200 yards and beyond. Event details and entry forms are included or linked to organiser sites where available. See: www.researchpress.co.uk/index.php/news/events

For those seeking Black Powder Cartridge Rifle silhouette shooting matches then please refer to Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette Shooters Association: www.facebook.com/groups/256570855019155/



Thomas Wilson his Patents, Arms and Ammunition

Andrew Appleby of Cape Town, South Africa, is researching the little known Victorian Engineer, Thomas Wilson and his rifle systems in order to write a definitive book on this man and provide some insight into his weapons system work conducted during the 1860's and later. His Christmas Letter 2019 provides an update on his current research activities. Editor.

My work on Thomas Wilson has included wading through the mass of Wilson research facts I have collected over the last twelve years. This has been necessary to ensure nothing is overlooked in my writings, but as twelve years of research has passed the likelihood of facts being missed or forgotten certainly grows and my memory can no longer track everything as it was in my first year.

The research side made great strides and I will hone in on two areas that have been useful to me.

Through a chance comment on a blog on a Wilson rifle within 'Pinterest' headed *Western style firearms used by Samurai*, I contacted the blogger and fielded several questions. He in turn very politely directed me to the Aizu Shinsengumi Memorial Hall, Aizuwakamatsu (<http://samurai-city.jp/en/sightseeing/1311>) and in turn to the National Museum of Japanese History, Tokyo.

Language became a barrier so I contacted a travel agent in Aizuwakamatsu who in turn kindly linked me with the curator of the Itabashi Historical Museum who speaks and writes perfect English. He has been a great help and has opened many doors and we have developed a good friendship, hitting it off from the beginning. He is a great rugby fan and during the final of the rugby match between South Africa and England, Yoshi and I were 'WhatsApping' each other throughout the game to the amazement of my wife.

To date, he has been instrumental in liaising with several museums and a gun shop. In all, we have found evidence of eight Wilson two-band breech-loading rifles, two had been sold on, and the locations of the four physical rifles were identified.

That may sound strange but after requesting serial numbers and me pointing out where they were placed

on Wilson rifles, we found two rifles were retrofitted with cannibalised parts from other Wilson rifles, particularly the securing cotter or wedge. So, these parts with their serial numbers prove the other two rifles existed and were no longer serviceable except for providing much needed spares. All physical rifles were in 0.577 calibre.

Great thanks go to Chicago Regimentals of Tokyo and in particular Mr. Kei-ichiro GM. who kindly supplied me with information on the Wilson rifles they have in stock. Not in the greatest of condition but as guns and gun imports are generally banned this is a captive market relying on the closed ownership of existing certified antique arms within the country. The lowest-priced Wilson is set at 8,373 USD and the highest at 18,059 USD. These prices and the condition of the rifles would deter most western buyers.

If you visit this site http://www.regimentals.jp/index_eng.html, you will see Chicago Regimental's business is devoted to deactivated guns which they undertake according to strict Japanese deactivation standards.

The Wilson rifles noted in Japan are dated 1867 with others reflecting the dates of 1868 and 1869. Some dates could not be read but the serial numbers of two would indicate they were also made around 1868/9. Interestingly a ship (The Hiogo) on its maiden voyage from London via the Cape of Good Hope to Japan in 1867 foundered on the Eddystone (Light House) reef and sank. From the wreck, some 90 Wilson rifles were salvaged and put up for public tender in London during January 1868. Western arms were being shipped to Japan for use in the Boshin and Clan Wars together with other skirmishes wracking the country during the decade.

Wilson moved with his son Samuel, and Frederick Deeley, to his premises at 'Crown Breech-Loading Works', 95 Bath Street, Birmingham during early January 1867 to commence manufacturing his M1867 'Central Fire Breech-Loading Rifle.' It is also believed Wilson at this time started to license out the manufacture of his M1859 rifle design to others so he could concentrate on his new rifle orders and his own successful 'bread and butter' line of double-action screw spanners.

Evidence from 1867 exists which confirms some

major changes to the wording on his rifles, patent referencing, plus the fact Wilson's personal quality assurance stamp no longer featured on the Knox forms of several of his rifles dated 1867 going forward. This now requires further research.

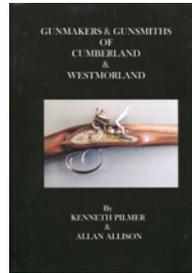
A second Wilson rifle has been found in Japan (the first is in a U.S. Collection) exhibiting a stamped Palm Tree on the lock and the lettering R&B either side of the tree trunk, which is now believed to be the design of Rabone Brothers and Company, Birmingham, a highly successful Birmingham Merchant, Trader and Exporter to the world who initially backed Wilson's development of his rifle by organising a consortium of financial backers (including the future Lloyds of London) to invest in its production during the years 1860/61. (See *Research Press Journal*, No. 5, Winter 2018/2019).

Other names on locks include Parker Field & Son, London and H. Henkel and Co, Birmingham. Unfortunately, the corrosion on other lock plates has made recognition impossible under normal lighting conditions outside of a laboratory. Japan has not been exhausted and a further three Wilsons are currently being tracked but I am in the hands of others and patience is a virtue I noted when working with Japanese folk.

Of listed Wilson serial numbers, the highest Japanese number is A12,439 dated 1869, compared to a rifle in South Africa dated 1874 with a serial number A13,240 showing only 801 rifles were built during the intervening years. No higher serial number is currently known.

For more information on Andrew's research and contact information see: www.researchpress.co.uk/index.php/firearms/british-military-longarms/small-arms-trials/thomas-wilson

Book News

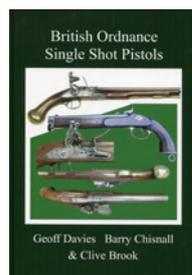


Gunmakers & Gunsmiths of Cumberland and Westmorland

by *Kenneth Pilmer & Allan Allison*

The authors have done a great service by publishing their annotated directory, documenting the trading history of those individual artisans engaged in gun making, from the early 17th to the end of the 19th century. Originating in research by Allan Allison during 1956-1966, while cataloguing guns housed in Carlisle City Museum collection, this was later expanded upon by Allan and a manuscript directory of local gun-makers compiled in 1996. Kenneth Pilmer boosted the project and assisted in significantly expanding the directory. This should prove to be a great resource for both Cumberland and Westmorland interests, and also in understanding more of regional gun making and the high quality sporting guns that were produced out side of the London and Birmingham workshops.

Copies of the book (A4, 204 pages, privately published) can be ordered from Ken Pilmer, 5 Lowry Street, Blackwell, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 4SH (Tel. 01228 520029). Price is £19.95 + postage.



British Ordnance Single Shot Pistols

by *Geoff Davies, Barry Chisnall & Clive Brook*

The book is a comprehensive study of Ordnance pistols from 1700 until 1860 which covers Cavalry, Sea Service, Customs, Dublin Castle, Portuguese & other pistols. The book is A4 size, 248 pages, full colour and hard back with over 120 pistols illustrated with more than 900 detailed full colour images. Many of these pistol photos have never been published before. There is also a detailed explanatory text covering pistol developments and tables giving pistol dimensions as well as appendices showing pistol locks, proof marks and stock stamps.

For further details and how to order visit:

www.britishcarbines.co.uk

A Volunteer Enfield Rifle

David Minshall



During the late 1850's there was growing apprehension as to the prospects of French invasion of Great Britain. Newspapers, particularly *The Times*, continued to fuel the debate regarding the formation of a Volunteer Force for home defence, and on 12 May 1859 the Government issued a Circular sanctioning the formation of Volunteer Corps.

The state of stores did not permit the Government to arm the volunteers completely, and at first they were required to provide their own rifles. A Circular dated 25 May stated that insofar as the rifles used they "should be perfectly uniform in gauge with those in use by the Regular Army, and that there should be a similar uniformity in the size of the nipple, in order to suit the Government percussion cap." This Circular also included information on the Government issue of ammunition for each trained volunteer. A further Circular of 13 July gave some assistance to the volunteers by offering, on application, to furnish every Rifle Corps with (long) Enfield rifles to the extent of 25 per cent. of the effective volunteers. In October an additional 25 per cent. on the effective strength of the corps was made available, raising the aggregate issue to 50 per cent. A Circular of 20 December 1859 addressed plans to make available after 1 January 1860 "an additional supply of long Enfield Rifles (pattern 1853), to the extent of 50 per cent. on the effective strength of the corps." This supply raised the aggregate issue to 100 per cent. on the effective strength of the force.

Two War Office Circulars of January 1861 noted the different systems of arming volunteer corps and that not infrequently two descriptions of rifles were in use in the same corps. Plans to buy up all rifles that may have been purchased by individuals or companies on their own account, to be paid for at contract rates, were outlined but ultimately not carried out. There was confirmation however that in the future corps would,

"on being newly raised or augmented, or requiring a renewal of their arms, be provided with them from the Government Stores." This marked the gradual re-arming of the Volunteer Force with the Government (long) Enfield.

The *Regulations for the Volunteer Force*, dated 19 January 1861, superseded previously published Circulars and Orders relative to the Volunteer Force. Clause 102 declared that "Every Volunteer Corps is supplied gratuitously with Arms from the Government Stores, to the full number of its Enrolled Members, if required." For rifle volunteers the arms supplied were to be "long Enfields with bayonets, or if the state of the Government Stores should permit, short Enfield Rifles, with sword bayonets, and swords for Staff-Sergeants."

The early Corps of 'gentleman' Volunteers in the metropolitan areas, and who had equipped themselves, identified more with the elite Rifle Brigade than Line Infantry and favoured the Short Rifle. As the Movement spread through the population and classes, there was a shift towards the Long Enfield, mirroring the Government's increasing issue of rifles, which also offset the expense of Volunteering.

Not strictly conforming to any particular Pattern, the pictured rifle is a nice example of a presentation Volunteer rifle, dating from 1860.

Such rifles were offered as prizes in competition, or presented as a mark of esteem or appreciation. Many carry engraved plates, study of which can reveal something of the prize competitions or men to whom they were presented.

This particular rifle has an engraved silver plate inserted in the stock, which reads:

Presented to
Sergeant James Deaves,
by the Members of the Fourth Squad
FIRST SHROPSHIRE RIFLE VOLUNTEERS
as a mark of their esteem
18th October 1860

Underneath this inscription are the Shrewsbury arms, with the motto “Floreat Salopia”, meaning “May Shrewsbury flourish.”

The First Shropshire Rifle Volunteers were formed at Shrewsbury on 14 December 1859, with Thomas Cholmondeley to be Captain. At the end of December, it was announced that the commissions of William Harley Bayley and Charles Chandler, as Lieutenant and Ensign had been signed by the Lord-Lieutenant of the county. By February 1860 the Rules and Regulations of the Shropshire Rifle Volunteers had been published, and were being sold for 6d.

The first general muster of the First Shropshire Rifle Volunteers took place at the Town-hall, Shrewsbury, at six o'clock on Thursday 15 March 1860. Several appointments were made at this time by the commanding officer, Captain Cholmondeley, including sergeants and corporals of the four squads. For the 4th Squad, these were Mr. J. Deaves sergeant and Mr. J.B. Bagnall, corporal. Captain Cholmondeley then congratulated the men on their progress. Having a considerable class who had performed the preparatory drills and exercises prescribed, these were qualified to proceed to target practice. A day once a week was to be identified for target practice at which time each man was to be issued twenty rounds. Further training days would be set aside for those not yet in the shooting class. Drill was then suspended until Monday 19 March, to allow the newly-appointed sergeants to make their preparations for the course of instruction.

Sergeant Deaves must have impressed his squad with his course of instruction for they set upon a plan to mark their esteem and respect by presenting him with a rifle. In order to obtain the necessary funds, a committee consisting of Messrs. C. Philpott, J.R. Bagnall (corporal), H. Rowley, George E. Newton, and



Robert E. Evans (secretary), was formed, and in a brief space of time they obtained the required sum.

On 18 October 1860 a supper was held at the Fox Hotel, Shrewsbury, with Sergeant Deaves as guest of honour. Following the meal the presentation was completed and speeches made; in talking of Sergeant Deaves his “obliging manner, his strict attention to drill, and other military duties subject to one in his capacity, and his preserving aim to bring those who have the pleasure to serve with him to a perfect state of efficiency in their drill” were noted. He was referred to as “the right man in the right place.” Mr. Robert Ward was chair of the meeting and in addressing Sergeant Deaves in the names of the members of the fourth squad of the First Shropshire Rifle Volunteers proceeded: I present you with this rifle, as a mark of the high esteem in which you are held, and trust that you may be blessed with health and long life to enable you to use it as an Englishman should use it, whether it be as a skilled marksmen in target practice, or in defence of your country.

Deaves, in receiving the rifle, spoke modestly, being at a loss for words to express his deep feelings at the time. He did however add, “But this I will say, that this rifle will never be placed to my shoulder but in a just and good cause. And although that is my determination, I sincerely trust we may never be called upon to use them against any enemy on our own shores. Our object as volunteer riflemen will, I trust, ever be to defend our Queen and our country, and if we do raise our rifles in anger, I know we shall do our duty.”

A Volunteer Enfield

Contemporary reporting of the presentation includes some description of the rifle, being “a five-groove short Enfield Rifle, of the naval pattern (latest Government pattern for Enfield ammunition), and patent breech, manufactured by Mr. F.T. Baker, 88 Fleet-street, London, armourer to the First Surrey Rifles.” The presentation also included a superiorly made sword-bayonet, of elaborate workmanship and embossed blade. Sadly the sword bayonet is no longer with the rifle.



The rifle maker, Frederic Thomas Baker (1828 – 1887), was the son of Thomas Kerslake Baker (1800 – 1879). Advertising for Thomas’ business notes that he formerly worked for the famous gun making family, Mortimer.

GUNS, RIFLES, and PISTOLS. – T. K. BAKER. No 34, St James’s-street (late Mortimer’s), invites sportsmen to inspect his stock of the above; they are manufactured on the premises, from the very best materials, and the workmanship is not to be surpassed. Double Rifles, with extra shot barrels, at very low prices, Baker’s Patent Safety Lock, applied to guns or pistols, has proved itself perfect in preventing accidents. Guns altered and repaired, and all kinds of sporting apparatus, supplied at No 34, St James’s-street.

*Bell’s Life in London and Sporting Chronicle,
Sunday 20 December 1846*

Frederic took over the business in 1857. The rise of the Volunteer movement created new business opportunities and in 1860 he was advertising “Volunteer Corps supplied with Military Appurtenances and Ammunition.” By 1881 Frederic was a master gunmaker employing 7 men and 2 lads. He died in 1887, although the business continued in his name, possibly in the hands of his son Frederic Thomas Kerslake Baker (1857-1941), until 1913 when Westley Richards were the successors to the business.

As for the recipient of the rifle, James Deaves was born c1821 the son of Thomas and Sarah Deaves of Shrewsbury, (Thomas was a shoemaker). James became a clothier with premises at Pride Hill, Shrewsbury. In 1845 he married Emma Wyatt, who passed away in 1865. In 1867 James remarried, to Mary Croft. James died at Shrewsbury on 23 March 1873, with effects valued at under £800.

James was still a member of the First Shropshire Rifle Volunteers in 1871, and in June that year it was announced that he was promoted from Colour-Sergeant to Quarter-Master-Sergeant.



A Volunteer Enfield



*Thanks to Greg Lee
for the photographs*



The Training of a Volunteer

Frank Lamburn

This article was found in Pearson's Magazine, September 1896 (Published; London). Editor

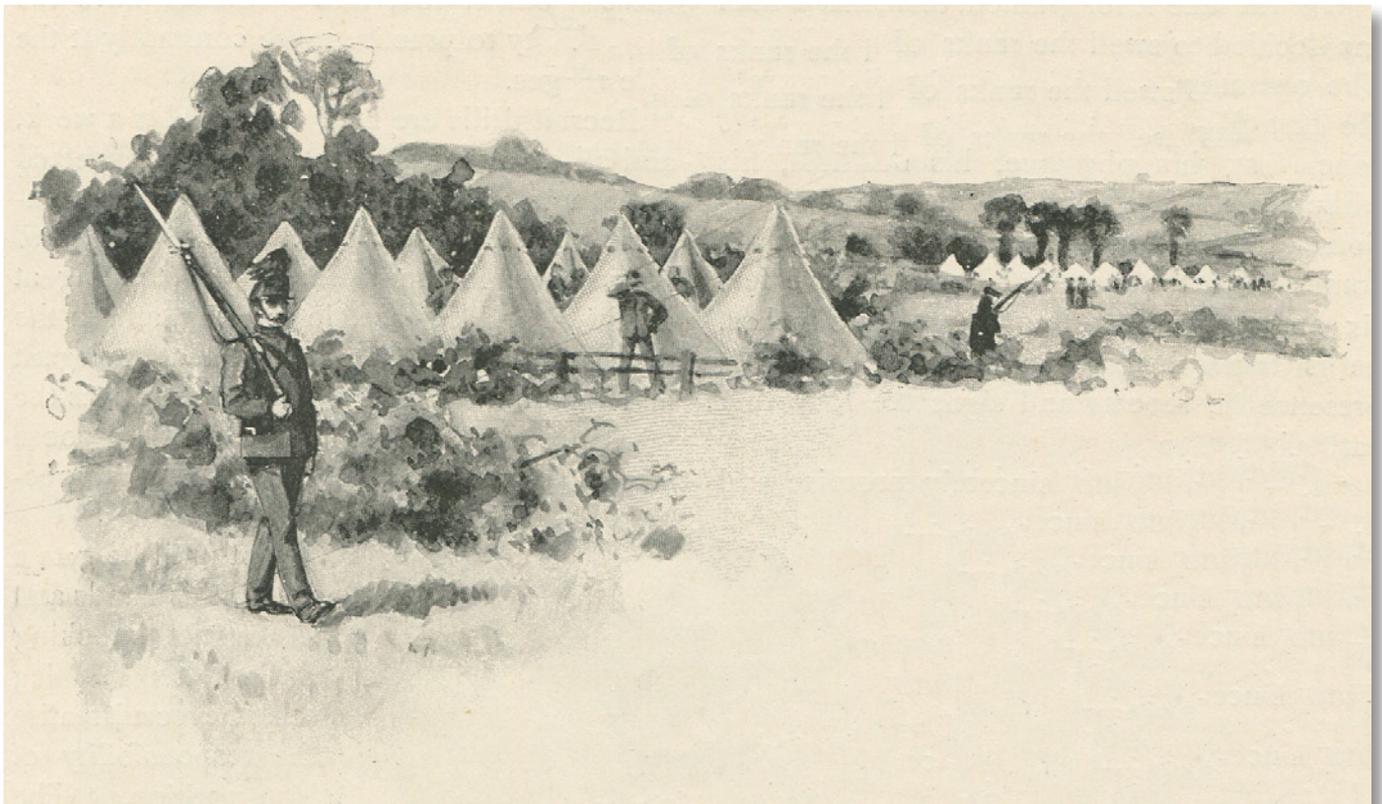
The British People has done for the young men of Great Britain what no other People in the world has attempted to do for the male population of its country; it has organised over two hundred semi-military clubs throughout the Kingdom, the members of which gather together at stated periods to indulge in recreative exercises and instruction in the art of fighting; through the medium of the Government it has, in the vast majority of cases, clothed the members, it supplies them with weapons for the term of their membership, it gives them ample opportunities for developing their military instincts, it pays into the funds of the club a capitation grant of 35s. per head, and it asks for nothing in return but the entirely unnecessary promise that, in the event of war being carried to our shores, they will fight for the Queen.

Our Volunteer Force is a huge system of Freemasonry in which the social and the military spirit have happily commingled, the common sentiment being that fine

patriotism which exists in every Englishman.

There are many inducements for a man to join a volunteer regiment beyond the knowledge that by so doing he is taking to himself an understanding of the art of war which he could never otherwise obtain without enlisting in the regular army; these considerations – the uniform, the arms, the companionship of other men, the physical exercise – are inseparable from the profession of a soldier, and, in considering the desirability of joining, a man naturally bears these points in mind, and they attract or repel him, according to his tastes and temperament.

In the actual training of a volunteer the same method is pursued by every corps in the country. The War Office issues regulations, and these are followed as closely as local conditions will permit. Therefore, a description of the progress made by a man in any one regiment will apply equally well to the course of training undergone by the members of any other regiment; and for this purpose I have chosen the London Rifle Brigade, officially known as the First City of London Rifle Volunteer Regiment, a brigade in which, according to the popular commanding officer, Colonel



H. C. Cholmondeley, “the military element is made of paramount importance, the ‘social club’ element of secondary importance.”

Of the men who join a regiment, it may be safely said that 90 per cent, are induced to do so by friends who are already members. After taking a man to a company supper, or to a regimental smoking concert, and then getting him to accompany the regiment during a field day or a sham fight, it does not require much persuasion for him to join, provided his conditions of life permit it.

We will take it for granted, then, that a man has decided to swell the ranks of the L.R.B. The operation of joining is simplicity itself. He first fills up a form stating particulars concerning his physique, his business, his willingness to abide by the rules and regulations of the Brigade, and then, provided he comes up to the standard height of five feet six, and the chest girth of thirty-three inches, he is taken before an officer, in whose presence he repeats and signs the following oath of allegiance:

“I, _____, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Her heirs and successors, and that I will faithfully serve Her Majesty in any part of Great Britain for the defence of the same against all Her enemies and opposers whatsoever, according to the conditions of my service. So help me GOD.”

Then he kisses the Bible, and the deed is done. He is a volunteer.

According to the War Office regulations it is necessary for a recruit to attend at least sixty drills in the first two years of his membership, but after that only nine drills a year are required to make him efficient. As a matter of fact the majority of men put in considerably more than

this; but, seeing that the average time occupied by an efficient in carrying a rifle in and out of uniform does not exceed a hundred hours a year, there is little excuse for a man who objects to joining on the score of “having no time.”

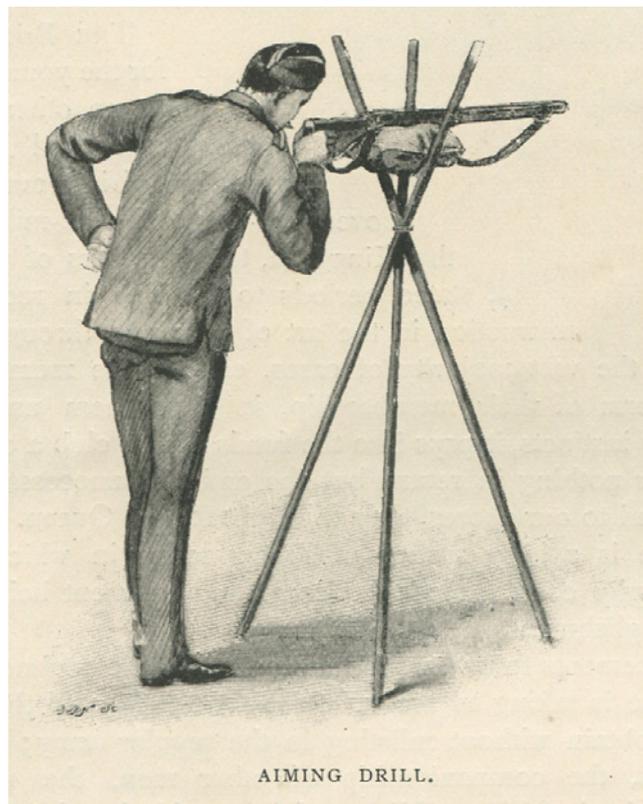
Moreover, from June until September evening company drills and Commanding Officer’s Parades are suspended, so that, in this respect, volunteering does not interfere with any other summer sports the members of the Brigade may indulge in; it is during these months, too, that members have the opportunity to practise more constantly at the rifle ranges.

Recruit drills are held three nights a week, and all of these the new member is expected to attend. The first half-dozen are uninteresting, even to a recruit. They consist of instructions in the positions of standing at attention and at ease, in saluting, and in the successful accomplishment of that inelegant and ignominious feat officially known as the “balance step,” which is, after all, the “goose step” of old dished up under a less disagreeable name.

Not until he gets a rifle in his hands and a bayonet knocking against his left leg does the recruit realise

the responsibility of his position. The drills henceforward develop an interest that is half unexpected. The component parts of the rifle are now explained to him, the method of cleaning it, and the military terms for the various positions in which it is carried. Before commencing to shoot, he receives two lessons in theoretical principles, besides four aiming drills.

Aiming drill is carried out in the following manner: The rifle is placed by the examiner carelessly on a bag of sand supported on a tripod stand about four and a half feet high, and the recruit has to arrange it in



The Training of a Volunteer



such a position that the barrel is aimed directly at a small bull's-eye painted on a window. "The backsight has to be perfectly upright, the left eye must be closed – if the recruit cannot do this he must tie a handkerchief over the optic – and the aim must be taken through the notch in the backsight, and the foresight brought up into alignment." Although these instructions appear so simple, it is a curious fact that not more than twenty per cent, of the men succeed at the first attempt in getting a perfectly true aim.

At the rifle butts, where the recruit next goes, fifteen blank cartridges are fired to begin with in order to accustom him to the recoil of the rifle, which, after all, is greatly exaggerated, for, provided the weapon is held as the musketry instructor demonstrates, nothing results from the explosion of the cartridge but a sharp, backward jerk. It is the agitated, or careless man, that pulls the trigger and then picks himself off the ground with a facsimile of the butt-plate stamped on his right cheek.

The ability to shoot straight is born in a man. I have known a raw recruit, who had never before fired a rifle in his life, make 49 points out a possible 56, while another man, under the same conditions, made 8. These, of course, are exceptional instances; anyone with fair eyesight can learn to shoot above the average if he is fond of this form of recreation.

When a man discovers that he is any good with the rifle, he will do well to nurture his inclinations. There is money in it, besides honour and glory. From possibly winning the company recruits' prize at the annual prize meeting, he will secure occasional silver spoons at the frequent shoots on the range, and pass through the various stages of prize winning until he secures the Company Cup, which, if he holds for three consecutive years, becomes his own property. Then come the regimental prizes – cash and medals and cups – and, finally, his appearance at Bisley in the struggle for the Queen's Prize.

He need be but a fair shot to win sufficient in cash

to pay his travelling expenses for the year to and from the butts, and it is unnecessary to speak of the excellent results accruing from the development of the judgment which is exercised on the ranges to a degree never suspected by a civilian.

The recruit, then, fires his “class” – which consists of forty-two rounds of ball cartridge. If he obtains 80 points and upwards he is classified first class, over 45 and less than 80, second class, and under 45, third class.

About this time he will receive his uniform and equipment, together with a small book containing the regulations and standing orders of the Brigade. As a rule the recruit finds little difficulty in fitting on his harness of war according to the instructions and diagrams in this little book, but some men are so built that the clearest and most elaborate explanations are misunderstood. I remember a recruit of this species, in another regiment, who, after struggling in fruitless endeavour with his equipment for a couple of hours, philosophically gathered up the various articles, arranged them as he thought best, and went on the parade ground with his cape stuffed in his haversack, his bayonet on his right side, and his great coat slung over his waistbelt behind – like a lady’s dress improver.

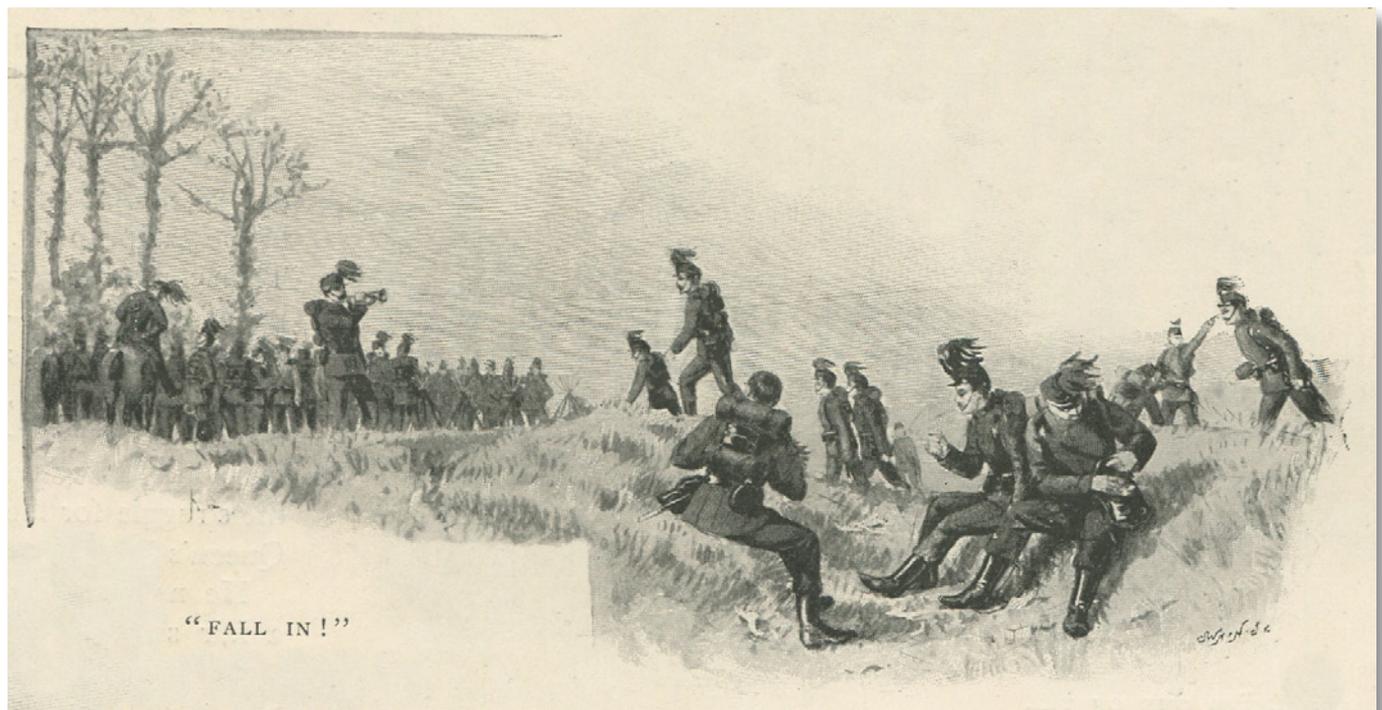
When the recruit is considered capable of

performing the movements usually made by the battalion on parade, the squad of which he forms part is inspected by the Adjutant, who, with the Clothing Committee, examines his uniform and sees that it fits him properly. This is the first occasion on which he appears, outside the precincts of his home, equipped with all the accoutrements of war.

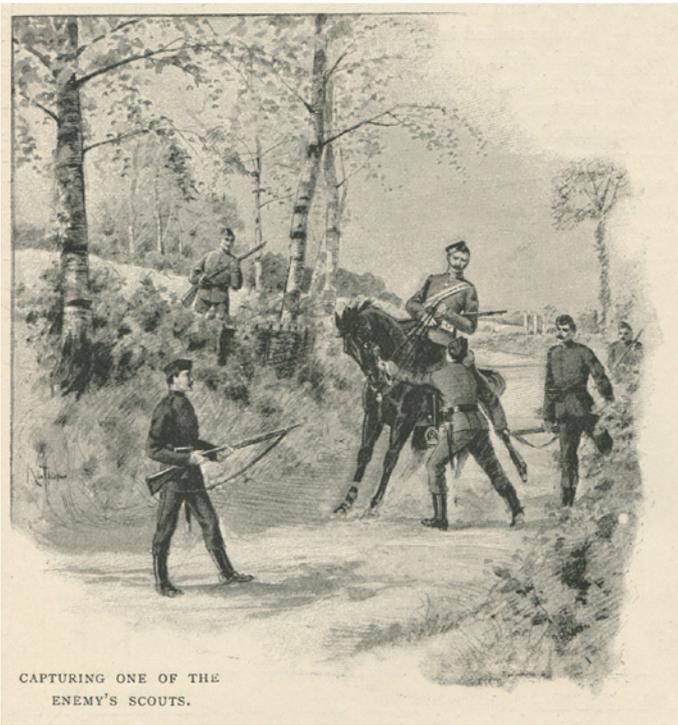
Having satisfactorily passed through this ordeal, he is justified in appearing at the next Commanding Officer’s Parade in the company to which he has been drafted. C.O.P.’s are occasions on which the members of the Brigade appear in uniform for battalion drill, under the officer commanding.

He also attends the plain clothes company drills held twice a week in the evening at headquarters, at which he undergoes a course of physical drills, bayonet exercise, instruction in field signalling with the arms and rifle, guard and sentry duties, and method of charging and of resisting cavalry attacks.

One of the first pieces of useful information he picks up connected with the volunteer force, is that in the case of an infantry brigade, the regiment is divided into two half-battalions, which, in turn, are split up into companies commanded by captains, and assisted by lieutenants and subalterns; while each company is subdivided into four sections, each section while in



The Training of a Volunteer



CAPTURING ONE OF THE ENEMY'S SCOUTS.

action being under the command of a sergeant.

At Easter the L.R.B. goes into garrison for four days at some town within reasonable distance of London – Chatham, or Canterbury, or Winchester – and truly there are few holidays from which a man can return with the comfortable feeling that his conversance with military matters has increased consistently with the improvement in his health and physique.

The Brigade gets into barracks on the Thursday night. At half-past five next morning reveille will sound. After breakfast the men parade in church parade order – side arms only – and are marched to a place of worship, in which the regimental band usually takes the part of the organ. Back to the barracks at eleven, when the uniform is changed to drill order, and the rest of the day spent in healthy outdoor exercise till dinner-time at five, after which the men are free till “First Post,” the bugle that sounds at 9.30 p.m. Those men who wish to remain out later must secure special permits from the captain of the company to which they belong.

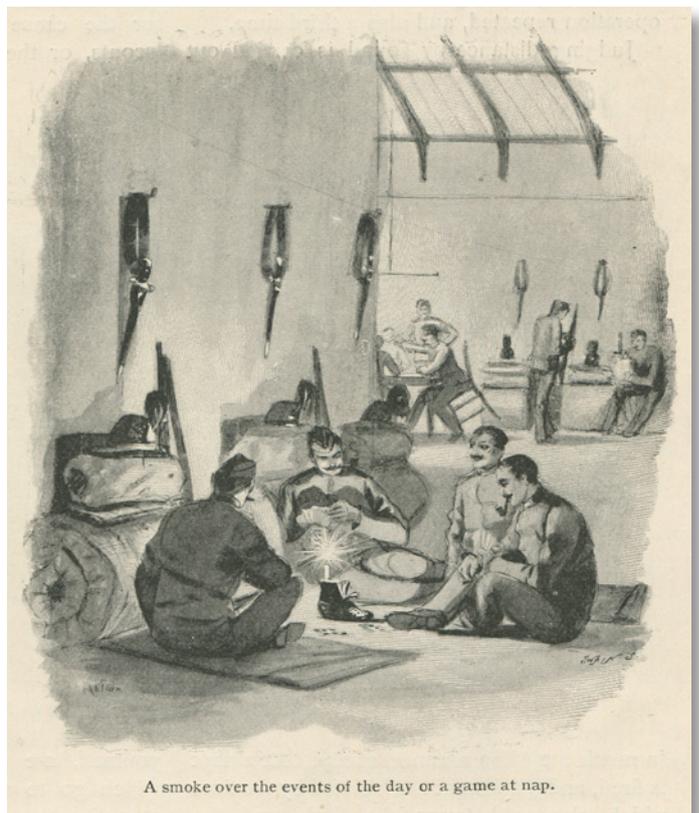
“Last Post” sounds at 10 p.m., and “Lights Out” at 10.15. Discipline is strict while the troops are under military law, but no inconvenience is experienced on this account by the law-abiding men.

Saturday is usually a most interesting day. The

brigade marches out about nine o'clock for two or three miles, when it is split up into small parties for outpost duty. On this occasion each captain will explain to the men under his command the nature of the work devolving upon the outposts – work which, in the event of war being carried to our shores, would to a large extent be performed by the volunteers.

Outposts are divided into four component parts – first, the line of sentries, two or three hundred yards in front of the pickets; behind the latter, at a distance of from four to eight hundred yards are the supports, in turn an equal distance in front of the reserves, the idea being that on the advance of the enemy, each line of observation could fall slowly back while the main body – about one or two miles in the rear – is being communicated with.

The sentry is informed how to judge by the density and condition of the clouds of dust along a road whether the approaching force is infantry, cavalry, or artillery, how to estimate the strength of the enemy by the number of bivouac fires, that an extra number of fires may indicate the enemy intends to retreat and has lit the extra fires as a ruse, that if there is much



A smoke over the events of the day or a game at nap.



smoke at an unusual time the enemy is cooking prior to moving off, that dogs barking and horses neighing indicate the presence of troops in an inhabited locality.

He will learn that on a calm night the noise of a company of infantry can be heard at 600 yards, a squadron or battery walking at 800 yards, the same body trotting at 1,200 yards, and a single horseman at 150 yards.

In the event of a person approaching him unprovided with a pass and ignorant of the countersign, the sentry must order him to lay down his arms, if he has any about him, and must then direct him to the examining post, via the sentry nearest to him who is in view. If the prisoner attempts to escape, he must be shot.

The officer in charge of the examining post, through which every person crossing the lines must pass, examines the prisoner, and either issues or refuses the necessary permission, according to his discretion.

This, then, and much more, will the volunteer sentry pick up during the time he is on duty or from his more

experienced comrades.

While on duty of this kind, the sentries will perhaps discover the advance of regular troops who attack the outposts, and are either driven back or compel the volunteers to retire fighting. By the time the “cease fire” sounds the excitement and physical exercise has developed in each man an appetite which only a couple of saveloys or a substantial pork pie, washed down with beer or aerated waters, can appease.

The afternoon will probably be allotted to practising the attack and to judging distance, a most important element in the training of a volunteer. The brigade is divided into two half battalions, which march away in opposite directions. At a signal, both parties halt and face each other. The sergeants of the sections then call out the men singly, and write down what each man considers to be the distance between the two forces. When this is done, more ground is covered, and the operation repeated, and also a third time.

Judging distance by sound is carried out in much

The Training of a Volunteer

the same manner, except that a shot is fired, and the distance calculated by the time which elapses between the flash and the report.

The correct distances are then given by the commanding officer, and two points are scored by those who come within thirty yards for each distance, and one point for those who come within fifty yards.

After that, the march back to barracks in the cool of the evening, a wash and brush up, a wholesome meal, a smoke over the events of the day or a game of nap, and then the sleep of the healthy.

Sunday is always a light day. After church parade the men are free, and disperse all over the country for miles around until night.

The hardest, and by far the most exciting, day is Easter Monday. The brigade marches out after breakfast, and forms part of an attacking or defending force in operations that usually extend over four or five hours. The day abounds with incidents, especially if cavalry and artillery are brought into action. The holding of a railway bridge, or the defence of a barn against overwhelming odds, or the chase and capture of the enemy's scouts, or the being chased by the enemy yourself, are a few of the stirring events which go to make volunteering so full of attraction to men who have any spirit at all in them.

It is all splendid exercise for the control of the emotions and the development of the muscles; and a man, who while in town would dread the idea of a ten-mile walk, will, in the excitement of his surroundings, unconsciously cover twenty miles in a day, equipped with heavy accoutrements and a nine-pound rifle, without experiencing any ill effects.

At the end of the fight, the "Cease Fire" sounds, followed by the "Assembly." The troops march past the Brigadier to the music of the massed bands, and return to London the same night.

Nor are operations of this kind confined to Easter alone. All through the year, at intervals, there are parades, and drills, and night attacks, and field-firing (when the whole regiment advances in attacking order and fires ball cartridge at a line of targets); and yet, in spite of their frequency, they are so arranged as to seldom interfere with other sports the average young Englishman goes in for.

In June, the regiment is inspected by the Honorary

Colonel (in this case, the Duke of Cambridge) or by the Brigadier; and the War Office makes it imperative that every man should make himself efficient to be present. Those who absent themselves must obtain leave or forfeit the capitation grant.

Provided a man has a certain amount of leisure time during the evenings, he may care to rise in the ranks. First he becomes a lance-corporal, then a corporal, a lance-sergeant, a sergeant, and finally a colour-sergeant.

The knowledge attained by joining the ambulance section is of a sort that is of the greatest use to a man, even in his civilian capacity; while the ability to signal with flags by day and with lamps by night lends an additional interest to work in the field.

Nearly all crack corps have at their head-quarters comfortable reading-rooms, dining-rooms, billiard-rooms, and Morris tube ranges, and also the appliances for the war game. This is a singularly interesting and exciting game, where opposing forces are moved against each other on a map as chessmen on a chessboard, and thus are acquired the elements of tactics which, later, are carried out actually in sham fight on the ground.

In connection with almost every regiment of importance there is a cricket club, a football club, a swimming club, a musical society, and a school of arms. All these consist entirely of members of the regiment, and friendly tournaments and matches with other regimental clubs are of frequent occurrence, while ample opportunities are given for those who are capable for entering the competitions held annually at the Royal Military Tournament.

In the training of a volunteer it has been the endeavour of the authorities to embellish the necessary amount of instruction with a certain degree of attractiveness which should appeal to the tastes of every Englishman of ordinary physique and military inclinations.

And in this, to my mind, they have succeeded.



The Remington Rolling Block

Matthew Billy



The photograph on the left is a member of a military unit dressed in a Zouave uniform. He is holding a **Model 1870 Navy rolling block rifle** Type 1, of which 10,000 were made by Springfield Armory. I don't know if the rifle is his or a prop gun from the photo studio. The rifle was rejected for having the rear sight too close to the receiver and approximately 8,000 of them were later sold to France.

Approximately 2,000 of them were already in service aboard US ships and were not sold to France. It is possible that this rifle is one of those rifles, and that was later sold as surplus to the US market in the late 1880's or 1890's. On the right is a photograph of a soldier from Johnstown, New York. On his cap are the letters KZ and his is also holding a

Model 1870 Navy rolling block rifle. The bayonet blade is approximately 20" long.

The display photograph is Model 1870 rifles at a gun show in 2008. The first 3 rifles from the top are the rejected Type 1 rifles with the rear sight too close to the receiver, and the 4th rifle down is the most common found Type 2 rifle with the rear sight 3-1/8" from the receiver.



Matthew Billy has been collecting military rolling block rifles, carbines and pistols for some years now. Over the years he has also collected vintage photographs of soldiers with their Remington rolling block arms. Through this new column Matthew will be sharing some of his collection and knowledge on the subject.

Editor



The Remington Rolling Block



The Dodge System

The rifle shown in the photographs is a Rolling Block Rifle that had the breech block and hammer modified using the Dodge System, Patent No. 112,692, March 14, 1871 and No. 113,408, April 4, 1871. One of the problems with the early Remington Rolling Blocks was the firing pin was spring loaded to keep it free from freezing up. It didn't work too well at times, when the rifle would set for long periods of time with the hammer setting on the firing pin, it would rust in place, with the firing pin exposed out the front end of the breech block. When a cartridge was placed in the chamber and the breech block was shut, the exposed firing pin would set the cartridge off. Since the hammer would be at full cock and not in the safety position, the force of the gasses from the round going off would open up the breech block causing injury to the shooter.



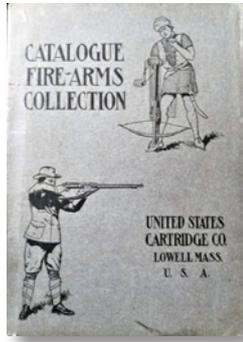
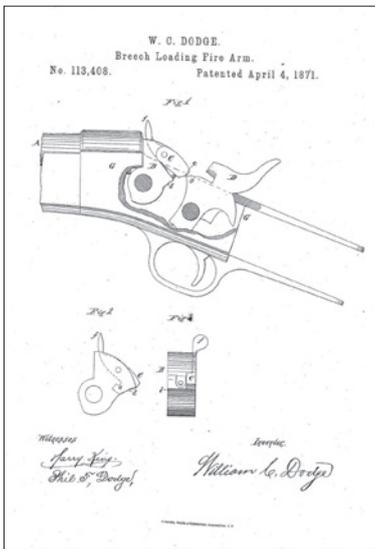
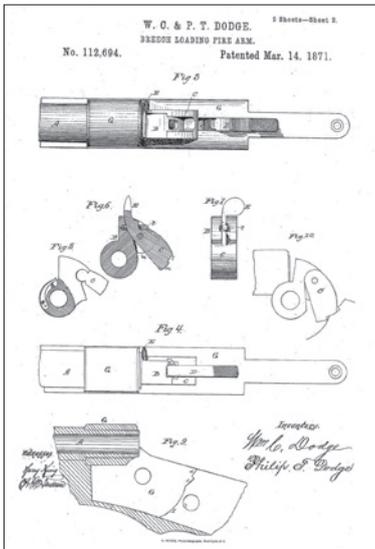
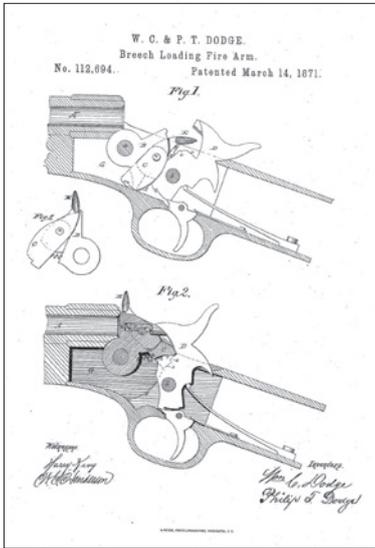
The Remington Rolling Block



With the Dodge System the back section of the breech block was spring loaded and would be pushed upward as the breech block was being closed. If a round would go off, this back section of the breech block would hit the front end of the hammer and it would stop the breech block from opening up all the way. When the hammer was at full cock, by pulling back on the thumb piece on the breech block, it would lower the spring loaded back section of the breech block letting it pass under the hammer when you went to load the rifle.

The original rifle was manufactured by Remington Arm Company. I believe that W.C. Dodge purchased the gun then modified the original Remington breech block and hammer to his design shown in Patent No. 112694 and 113408. The Remington patent dates on the upper tang of this rifle were moved, possibly by Mr. Dodge when he modified the rifle.

The Remington Rolling Block



This rifle was part of the collection of the United States Cartridge Company and is shown in a catalogue from 1903. On page 70 of the catalogue is a picture of the rifle #272. The No.1713 is stamped on the forearm of the rifle, it can be seen in the photograph of the rifle from the 1903 catalogue.

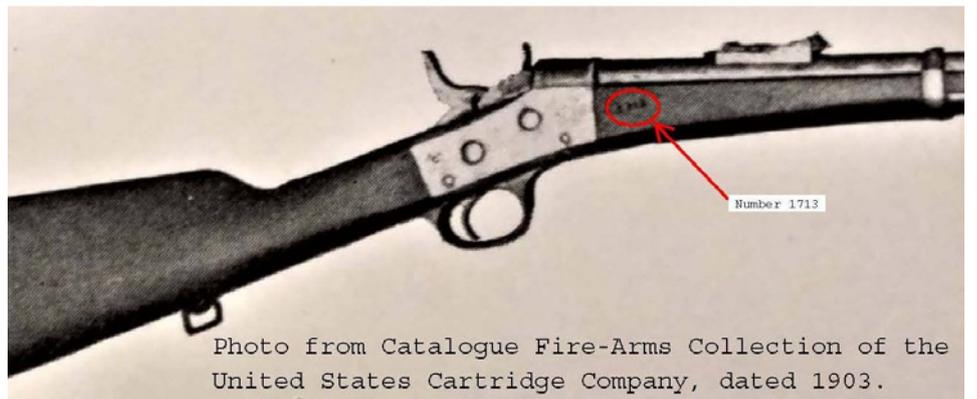


Photo from Catalogue Fire-Arms Collection of the United States Cartridge Company, dated 1903.

The Remington Rolling Block



The above photographs are of a special **New York State rolling block match rifle**. In George Layman's book on rolling block military rifles of the world, he said that a total of 40 rifles were manufactured. This rifle is not in the best of shape; I was told it was found in a crawl space in upper state New York. Looking at the outside condition of the rifle I would think that statement is true. They were made with the Springfield Buffington rear sight and the butt plate was hollow with a rubber insert. The gun is chambered in 50-70. Various parts on the rifle are marked with the number 17.

On the right is a photograph of the patent dates on the upper tang. Remington started to put Remington Arms Company on their guns in 1888. The New York National Guard stopped using the rolling block rifles in 1898. So, I would think that the gun was made right around 1890.



The Remington Rolling Block

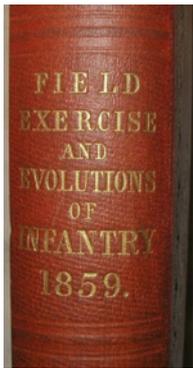


Dutch Cavalry Carbine Model 1870 chambered in 11.3 x 45 Dutch-Remington centerfire. This carbine was made 1872.



Mid Nineteenth Century Musketry Manuals ~ British Official Versions

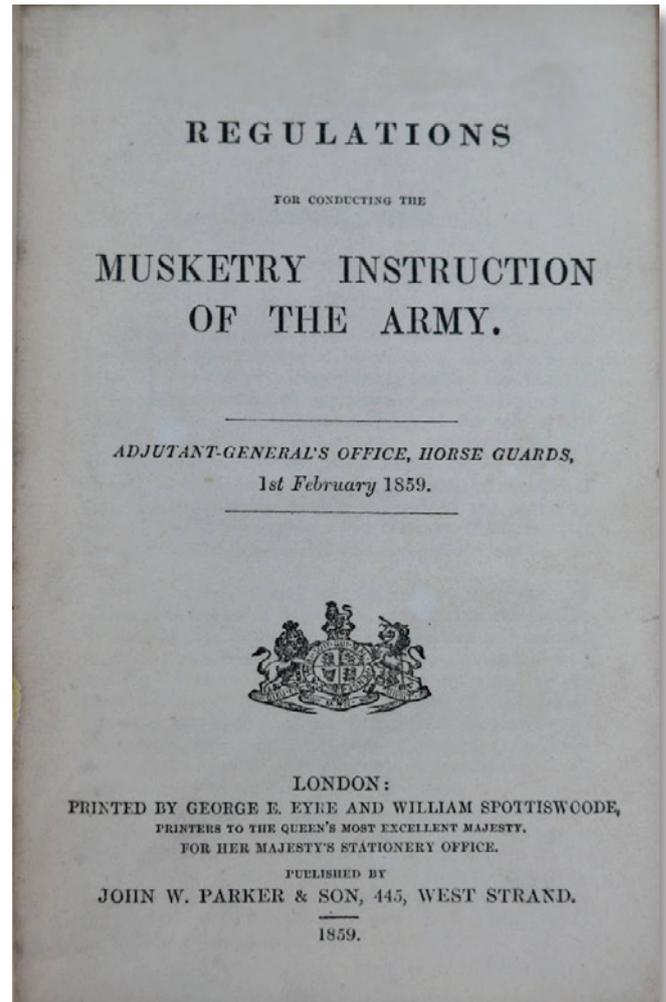
W.S. Curtis



The year 1859 was a remarkable one in the annals of Rifle Shooting. It marked the sudden flowering of the Volunteer Movement and the foundation of the National Rifle Association. A new and enlarged 2nd Edition of the Infantry Manual entitled *FIELD EXERCISES AND EVOLUTIONS OF INFANTRY 1859* was prepared with many of the lessons of the Crimea absorbed.

The 1847 Manual of 156 pages has now become 414 pages and buried within it can be found the Manual and Platoon Exercises divided into two sections catering separately for the Long and Short Enfield Rifles. The 1st February of the same year also saw the beginning of the new series of smaller format (7-1/4 x 4-1/2 inches) Musketry Instructions now more grandly entitled *REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING THE MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION OF THE ARMY*. New thinking continues to manifest itself and, for example, the archaic 17th Century expression “Firelock”, still in use in the 1856/57 editions, finally disappears and is replaced with “Rifle”.

The Volunteers were not expected to have to absorb the full detail of the Regular Army’s “Instructions” and a specially abridged Manual was rushed out to coincide with the sudden and massive demand created by the newly created Force. The First Edition of this appeared on an unstated date in 1859 and its Title Page is illustrated here. It followed the same size and format as the Regular Army’s manual but the binding was in green cloth instead of red. There were only 60 pages compared with 132 in the full version, and fewer plates. Its official status is defined only on the Title Page, which reads – *DRILL AND RIFLE INSTRUCTION FOR VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS, BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR*. Later editions than the First carry a Preface by



Colonel Lysons, Assistant Adjutant-General, in which he states that Volunteers should not expect to try to learn too much and that they should follow the advice of Sir Charles Napier: “Do not let anyone persuade you to learn more.”

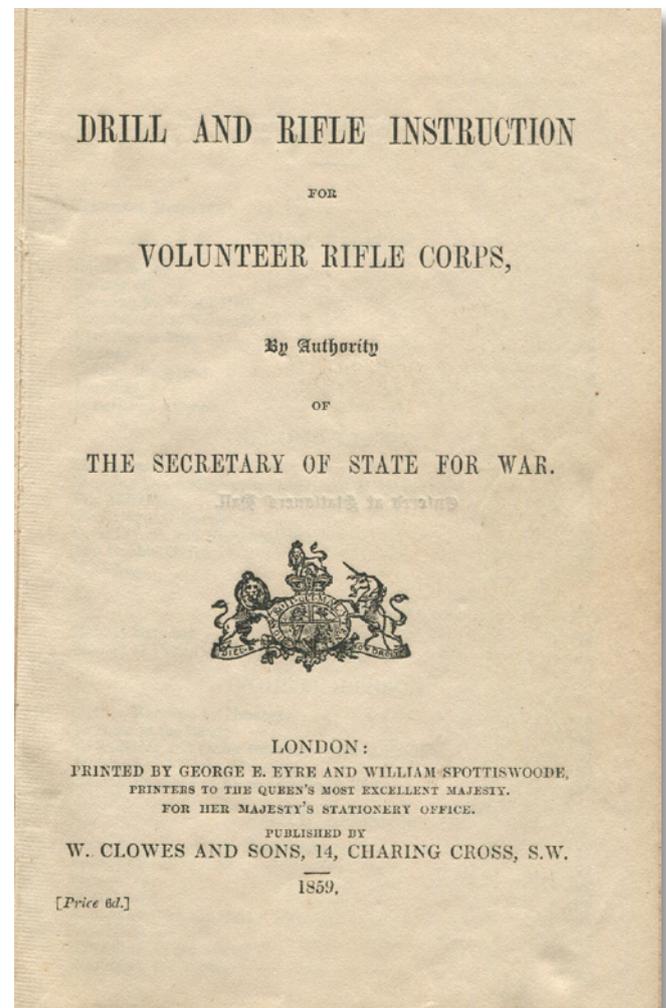
The rifle used to illustrate the section on arms is the Short Rifle Pattern 1856 with its Sword Bayonet. In spite of the Regulars’ new manual the word “Firelock” still crops up here and there in the Volunteers’ issue, although it seems to be used in an effort to avoid repeating the word “Rifle” too frequently. The demand

19th Century Musketry Manuals

was so great for this manual that at least eleven editions appeared between 1859 and 1860. We have not seen a later edition than the eleventh but there may well have been. A Ninth Edition before us bears the printing contract details which do not appear much before 1860. They show that the contract was for 10,000 copies and is dated September 1860. Every edition was printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode for the publishers W. Clowes and Sons, the military book sellers, on behalf of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. All editions were in the same hard bound green cloth with decorative blind stamping which included, on the front cover only, the Royal Arms and the words DRILL AND RIFLE INSTRUCTION. They were priced at sixpence, an exceptionally low price for a hard cloth bound volume, and designed to ensure a maximum take-up by individual Volunteers. This contrasts with the Regular Army's issue which was two shillings. If we were to assume that there were eleven issues at an average print run of 10,000, we are looking at over 100,000 copies that were in circulation and this is reflected by their comparative availability to today's collectors.

The standard Musketry Instruction of 1859 that we have already mentioned was followed over the next decade by a series of amended re-issues or completely new editions. The amended ones carry the same title page with variations in the names of printers or distributors. The printing contract details, where shown, are the best indication which issue is involved. Failing that, an examination of the text reveals material variations which are often prefaced with the General Order authorising them. The original 1859 INSTRUCTION does not carry the contract details but its re-issue, also dated 1859, shows it to have been Contract No. 178 for 2,000 copies dated April 1862. The variations result in an additional 16 pages of text and are mainly concerned with training matters and the use of the new range finding device "The Stadia". The amendments are prefaced by General Orders dated 21/8/1861, 31/11/1862, and 5/9/1861, 4/11/1862.

A completely new Edition of REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING THE MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION OF THE ARMY, dated 1st December 1864, increased the number of pages to 162. Contract No. 764, it is dated December 1864 and the print order was for 5,000. The price was now one shilling. This edition is unique



among the series dealing with the Enfield series of .577 rifles in that it is the only one to give a detailed series of drawings of the all the limbs of the lock with the names of each part of the individual limb. The rifle illustrated is the long Pattern 1853 rather than the Short Pattern 1856 shown in the Volunteer series.

The arrival of the Snider in 1866 led to the next edition, that of 1st February 1867, also priced at one shilling and part of a print order of 15,000. Whilst continuing to deal with the muzzle loading Enfield, it introduced the Snider. The pagination was also increased to 152. In common with the whole range of these manuals from the start of the Enfield period the binding is in the usual red cloth, blind stamped with a large Royal Arms and the words INSTRUCTION OF MUSKETRY.

With the firm establishment of the Snider much

of the information relating to trajectories etc., is revised in the last Edition to which we refer, that of 1st March 1870, but the manual continues to refer at length to muzzle loading practice. For instance, the instructions for making cartridges remain together with hints and instructions for dealing with problems peculiar to muzzle loaders while stipulating that these are for the benefit of troops with muzzle loading rifles as opposed to the Snider. With all this the number of pages is slightly reduced to 149 and the print order was for 10,000 ordinary copies and for 3,000 copies interleaved with plain paper for the facility of making notes. Officer Instructors found this useful in helping to prepare lecture notes and we have as an example of the use of this interleaving a small 14 page pamphlet entitled FOUR LECTURES ON MUSKETRY published at Hythe for Instructors at the School of Musketry. This is not included in our listing of Official Manuals as it seems to be limited for the use of the School or its students only and does not bear any Warrant or General Order although it is headed by the Royal Arms and the words SCHOOL OF MUSKETRY. Although undated it would appear to have originated around 1870 as it refers to differences between the normal rifle and what it describes as the H.M. (Henry Martini), the early form of words used to describe the new rifle. This bears the name of its original owner on the cover, "H. Goulburn, School of Musketry, Hythe" and the interleaving is covered with his additional lecture notes, illustrations to draw on the blackboard and instructions to himself on what to set up in the class room before starting. From 1854 onwards there is growing emphasis on formal training and theoretical instruction of soldiers in the finer points of rifle shooting.

Popular at the time but difficult to find today are the Official Pocket Editions of some of these manuals. Bound in red leather and secured by a hinged brass clasp they are attractively embossed with the full Royal Arms and the title. Two examples are titled FIELD EXERCISE 1862 – POCKET EDITION – BY AUTHORITY and RIFLE EXERCISES & MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION 1870 – POCKET EDITION BY AUTHORITY. These are very attractive little items measuring 4.7 x 3.4 inches and quite thick for their size, that of 1862 having 558 pages and for 1870, 280 pages. The 1862 Pocket Book contains nearly everything a young Infantry Officer

would need to know on the evolutions and practice of infantry. The 1870 Edition, on the other hand, is quite different and is divided into two parts dealing, in Part 1, with Rifle Exercises and, in Part 2, with Musketry Instruction. The completeness of the 1862 Edition is paralleled in the Royal Artillery by Lefroy's HANDBOOK FOR FIELD SERVICE (By Authority) which appeared in four editions, each with increasing numbers of pages, in 1854, 1857, 1862 and 1867. This astonishingly compendious little work, measuring only 3 1/2 x 4 3/4 inches, carries nearly everything an Artillery Officer should know, but we only mention it here as it does include lists and details of all the small arms in service together with cleaning instructions although the manual and platoon exercises are left out.

We will close this outline study of Musketry Manuals with an associated item. ANGELO'S BAYONET EXERCISE was widely used as the standard text book for bayonet fighting. Written by a noted exponent of the art, it was authorised by the Adjutant-General's Office at the Horse Guards and published By Authority. It is a slim volume 7x4 inches of 40 pages and soft bound in red cloth, blind stamped overall, with the title in gold. A New Edition dated July 1857 was priced at two shillings and remained on the publisher's lists for some years. Less detailed bayonet exercises were included in the full FIELD EXERCISE AND EVOLUTIONS OF INFANTRY.

The aspiring collector will find a very wide field of interest in these official books and enough of them have survived to make finding them at affordable prices still a very practicable proposition. Some so-called "Experts" who write authoritatively on the subject of small arms seem to have absolutely no idea at all on the subject of how they were used. To cite but one who shall be nameless but who writes novels about a certain Officer of the Rifle Brigade in the Peninsula War - what can we say? His description of the platoon exercise for the musket is lamentable, although he is alleged to be well read on the subject of Military History. But, to be fair to him and ignoring the historical inaccuracy, he does write a "Ripping Yarn".



Demise of the Black Powder Target Rifle

David Minshall

The National Rifle Association (NRA) in the UK had, from their first Annual Rifle Meeting in 1860, sought to promote the advancement of rifle shooting. Competitions for breech loading rifles were introduced, before such arms had seen general adoption by the army. The 'Any Rifle' matches featuring specialised target rifles with their sophisticated sights, cleaning regimes and plethora of associated equipment were colloquially referred to as 'scientific rifle shooting.' A special class of competition had also evolved, open to All-Comers, for the Military Breech Loading (MBL) rifle; this was not necessarily a current service rifle but one which had to meet rules such that the military 'character' of the rifle was maintained.

The original arm of the Volunteers was the muzzle loading Enfield rifle. In September 1870 this was replaced by the Snider, a breech loading conversion of the Enfield. The adoption of the Martini-Henry breech loading rifle by the Volunteers was commenced in 1879 but not completed until 1885. The issue of the Lee-Metford magazine rifle was authorised in 1895. This was also marked by a corresponding reduction in bore size; .577 - .450 - .303.

For the target rifle, its history is charted by the records of the Elcho Shield. Originating in competition between teams of eight from England and Scotland's top riflemen in 1862, Ireland also competed from 1865. The match comprised each man shooting 15 shots at each distance, 800, 900 and 1,000 yards. Whitworth rifles dominated in use in the earliest years, but by 1869 had been completely ousted by primarily Gibbs-Metford and Rigby muzzle loading match rifles. Breech loaders were used for the first time in the Elcho Shield in 1878, which included use by the English Team of two Gibbs-Farquharson-Metfords, a Remington and a Sharps (likely stimulated by the success of American teams with breech loading rifles in international competition, 1874-1877). Breech loaders were used exclusively for the first time in the Elcho Shield in 1881. Several rifle makes found favour over the years, but by the early 1890s the Gibbs-Farquharson-Metford dominated, indeed in 1890 all 24 rifles in use were by the Bristol gunmaker George Gibbs.

So too ammunition had changed, from the paper cartridges loaded with black powder and soft lead bullets of the muzzle loading Enfield days, to solid drawn brass cases with smokeless propellant and copper-jacketed bullets. By the mid-1890s noted riflemen T.F. Fremantle and G.C. Gibbs (and likely others) were experimenting with smokeless powder and copper jacketed bullets in their .461 rifles.

Under the NRA Regulations for their 1893 Bisley rifle meeting, Government Rifles of Rifles of *bonâ fide* Government pattern were only to use the ammunition issued by the NRA on the firing point. For MBL and Any Rifle there was no restriction on bore size. That changed the following year, when in 1894 the maximum bore size for MBL was set at .315 in., these conditions remaining in place through to 1896.

Although the rearming of the Volunteers with the Lee-Metford had commenced in 1895, this had not advanced far enough to justify a change in the rifle to be used at Bisley in 1896. That year the NRA had the following Classes, each with their own regulations, for rifles and carbines:

- Class I. M.H. : Martini-Henry Rifle
L.M. : Lee-Metford Rifle
- Class II. M.B.L. : Any Military Breech-Loading Rifle
- Class III. A.R. : Any Rifle
- Class IV. Spor. : Sporting Rifle
- Class V. Car. : Carbines

The year 1896 is effectively the end of the black powder era of target rifle shooting in the UK.

In 1897 the Martini-Henry rifle was abandoned in favour of the Lee-Metford. Competitions with the rifle in the hands of the Volunteers were now called "Service Rifle" competitions and were restricted to .303 magazine rifles. The 'MBL' competitions were no longer required, and were merged with 'Any Rifle', now changed to the new description of 'Match Rifle.' The character of the latter changed too, the stock having to be sufficiently strong for military use, and fitted with swivels for a sling. The bore was not to exceed .315 in.

Fitted with match sights, the Service Rifle could be used in the Match Rifle Competitions. The rifle and carbine classes from 1897 were then:

- Class I. S.R. : Service Rifle
- Class II. M.R. : Match Rifle
- Class III. Spor. : Sporting Rifle
- Class IV. Car. : Carbines

As for the Elcho Shield there was a marked change in the rifles used under the new 'Match Rifle' rules, and in 1897 they were:

- .303 Lee-Enfield (8 No.)
- .256 Mannlicher (8 No.)
- .256 by Martin (3 No.)
- .303 by Fraser (2 No.)
- .303 Lee-Metford (2 No.)
- .303 by Henry (1 No.)

In the USA in the mid-1880s, and with the lack of an international match to revive public interest, the Long Island Railroad facing bankruptcy and sponsors withdrawing support, the NRA of America was fighting for survival. In 1890 the NRA's Creedmoor rifle range, that had famously hosted international rifle matches, was deeded back to the state of New York. Further blows to NRA funding occurred in 1892 when Brigadier General B.M. Whitlock, Inspector General of Rifle Practice, state of New York, decided that members of the national guard should not be allowed to qualify for the state marksman's badge in the matches of the National Rifle Association. State troops were also given free use of Creedmoor. On 16 June 1892 a special meeting of the board of directors of the NRA was held where it was resolved to transfer its annual competitions to the Sea Girt Range of the New Jersey State Rifle Association, who had offered to provide for all the matches of the NRA. The closing of the office of the Association and the settling of its affairs was left to the officers of the NRA with power. The NRA had abandoned Creedmoor and in effect became dormant until 1900.

During this period of dormancy *Shooting and Fishing* magazine in the US published a summary of the development of shooting sports and rifles in the Great Britain, and lamented the loss of the National Rifle Association of America. The article was reprinted in the UK in *Volunteer Record & Shooting News* (Saturday, 29 August 1896) and is reproduced below:

AMERICAN TESTIMONY TO THE VALUE OF A NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

We borrow the following article from the columns of *Shooting and Fishing*, of New York. It has its *raison d'être* in the suggestion that it is desirable to re-form the National Rifle Association of America: -

Long range rifle shooting was once a popular sport. Years ago the international matches shot in Great Britain and America kept alive a deep interest in rifle shooting, and many clubs flourished by reason of interest in this department of shooting. It was a number of years ago that long range rifle shooting began to droop in America, and a little later it became practically dead. We were sorry to see an end of this sport in America, because we then believed, and still believe, that this particular style of shooting is one of the best known mediums for teaching the idiosyncrasies of rifle and ammunition. We believe that while long range rifle shooting held its popularity in America, it taught us a great deal about rifles and ammunition which we did not know before, and would not have known now had it not been for this sport. This knowledge has been utilised in the development of the military rifle of to-day.

But this sport which drooped and expired in America was continued in England. Year after year devotees to long range rifle shooting continued their practice, and when the small bore rifle with smokeless powder and jacketed bullets were introduced to the world as the successors of the black powder and leaden projectile, England's riflemen who practice long range shooting were in condition to test intelligently these new munitions.

The National Rifle Association of Great Britain encouraged the use of the new small bore and its ammunition in the long range match rifle, and as a result it soon saw that the days for the large bore and black powder for warfare were over, and learned a great deal about their successors.

Demise of the BP Target Rifle

Some two years ago that veteran rifleman, Sir Henry Halford proposed that in the match rifle competitions at long range the bore be restricted to rifles of calibre not exceeding .315. This idea did not find favour at that time; the general sentiment was in favour of permitting the use of any rifle without restriction, excepting as regards weight and magnifying sights; also the unreliability of the new ammunition and the stability of the old caused Sir Henry Halford's suggestion to be disregarded; but it was not forgotten.

During the recent prize meeting of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain a mass meeting of those interested in match rifle shooting was held, and it was decided to advise the council of the National Rifle Association to adopt a rule limiting the bore of rifles used in match rifle competitions and for the Elcho Shield to match rifles of calibre not larger than .315.

This action was taken in view of the adoption of small bore rifles by all European nations, and the probability that the large bore rifles will not again be used in warfare. This means the death of the large bore long range rifle shooting in Great Britain.

While we reflect sadly over laying aside the old style long range match rifle, we feel it would be folly to cling to it now in face of its superior rival. The old long range match rifle is developed fully; the new long range match rifle is nearly its equal, and possesses additional features which are recognised as essential; but by the new order of things opportunity will be given for inventors and experts to improve the new rifle and its ammunition, such as improvements in actions, rifling, powder, bullets, and primers.

We regard the action taken by British riflemen as one of great wisdom. They have abandoned a type of rifle that is now of no use in hunting or in warfare, and selected a type of weapon which is suitable to use in modern warfare. When this rifle is equipped with fine sights and placed in the hands of the expert riflemen of Great Britain, its exact capabilities will be learned; defects

will be remedied, and the military arm of Great Britain will, without doubt, be greatly improved; probably brought as near perfection as possible.

The existence of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain has given that country the best facilities to perfect a modern military rifle. It has improved the opportunity. The service of the National Rifle Association will be of inestimable value; far greater than could be secured from any individual, any commission, any ordnance board. In contradistinction to this, America with no national association; with no concentrated effort to develop the best results with the national arm; with what military marksmen we have jockeying with arms and ammunition with the sole object of gaining extreme accuracy; with the prospect of several different types of rifles and ammunition - chaos must be the results.

Sea Girt replaced Creedmoor, and the National Rifle Association's matches continued under the New Jersey State Rifle Association's management, being combined with their own from September 1892. Repeating firearms and smokeless powder appeared together on the range at Sea Girt for the first time in 1896, when the New Jersey teams arrived with newly issued Krag-Jorgensens to compete against a team of Georgia Volunteers armed with lever-action Model 1895 Winchesters chambered for the .30 calibre Government cartridge. Growth of the Sea Girt programme helped revive interest in a national association. On 20 December 1900 the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association since 1892 was held in New York City.

The reactivation of the NRA also saw revival of the Palma Trophy. Originally known as the Centennial Trophy and first competed for in 1876, the Trophy had been gathering dust since last shot for in 1878, when a US team fired without competition. Rule changes for 1901 required the competing teams to use the national military arm of the country they represented. Only Canada accepted the challenge, who with their .303 Lee-Enfields beat the American team using the .30 Krag-Jorgensen.



The St. George's Challenge Vase

Nick Leaper

During the 1862 General Meeting of the National Rifle Association it was announced the St. George's Rifles proposed to present a new trophy for competition at the 1862 Wimbledon meeting. The first part of this feature (published in *Research Press Journal* No. 7, Summer 2019) told of the background of the competition, and published the records up to 1889, the last year NRA held their Annual Rifle Meeting at Wimbledon. In 1890 the NRA Meeting moved to Bisley, Surrey, where it remains to this day.

- 1890 First Bisley Meeting.
2nd Stage range changed to 600 yds.
Gold Jewel. Capt. Gibbs. 2nd Gloucester.
Silver Jewel. Crp. Scott. 1st Roxburgh and Selkirk.
Bronze Jewel. Pte. Fisher. 2nd VB Welch.
- 1891 The Vase was won outright.
Gold Jewel. Crp Ritchie. 2nd VB A and S Hldrs.
Silver Jewel. Pte. Patrick. 1st Lanark.
Bronze Jewel. L-Corp. Ross. Queens Edinburgh's.
7 miniature jewels to 4th-10th place.
- 1892 The NRA provided a new Vase with a value of £80.0.0d. This was provided by the Elkington Company. The miniature jewels ceased to be awarded. A total of 188 of these were awarded. At the AGM Col. Sgt. Spencer advocated the restoration of the St. George's bullion badges. Sgt. G.E. Fulton GM. Advocated the second stage being a two range match 600 and 800 yards. The value of the Dragon cup was indicated as £31.10s. The Gold Jewel cost £9.0.0d. The Silver Jewel as £2.15.0d and the Bronze jewel as £2.6.0d.
Gold Jewel and Dragon Cup to Pte. Gray. 1st VB Norfolk
Silver Jewel. Pte. Stevens. 19th Middlesex.
Bronze Jewel. Corp. Norbury. 2nd VB S. Lancs.
- 1893 Gold Jewel and Dragon Cup to Pte. Henery. 20th Middlesex.
Silver Jewel. Capt. McEwen. 4th VB Royal Hldrs.
Bronze Jewel. Corp. Duthle. 1st VB A and S Hldrs.
- 1894 At the NRA Winter meeting Arm. Sgt. G.E. Fulton suggested the St George's and the Martin Competitions be combined in a two stage shoot. 1st Stage 500 and 600 yds and the Second Stage at 800 yds. At the Spring Meeting it was announced the St. George's would be a two stage competition. The top 50 in the first stage to receive a small bullion badge

and be entitled to shoot the second stage. The Dragon Cup was valued at £31.10.0d. Gold Jewel and Dragon Cup to Staff Sgt. King Canada. Silver Jewel and £25 to Sgt. Robertson 6th VB Royal Scots.
Bronze Jewel. Col.Sgt. Frost. 3rd VB Kent.

- 1895 At the Spring NRA Meeting the Duke of Cambridge announced the St.George's to be a two distance match. 500 and 600 yds. The top 100 would shoot the second stage.
50 small shield cloth badges would be presented to the top 50, the badges cost a total of £6.5.0d. The Gold Cross £9.7.0d. The Silver cross £3.2.0d and the Bronze cross £2.13.0d.
Gold Jewel and Dragon Cup Sgt. McNeil 3rd VB KOSB.
Silver Jewel Lc.Sgt. Yates. 3rd Lanarks.
Bronze Jewel L.Corp. Cook. 13th Middlesex.
- 1896 Gold Jewel and Cup Sgt. G.E.Fulton GM. Queens Westminster's.
Silver Jewel Pte. Duncan 2nd VB Gordon Hldrs.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. Parry. 2nd VB Cheshire.
- 1897 Gold Jewel and Cup Col. Sgt. Mansfield 2nd VB Surrey.
Silver Jewel. Corp. Bland. 2nd VB York.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. Henechan 6th VB Royal Scots.
- 1898 Gold Jewel and Cup. Lc.Corp. Fleming. 4th VB Scots.
Silver Jewel. Pte. Guy 1st VB Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. Glumart 2nd VB Royal Fusiliers.
- 1899 Gold Jewel and Cup. Lc.Corp. H. Ommundsen 5th Royal Scots.
Silver Jewel. Sgt. McCowen. 4th VB Royal Hldrs.
Bronze Jewel. Corp. Fulton. 1st Lanark.
- 1900 Gold Jewel and Cup. Arm.Sgt. G.E.Fulton GM. 13th Middlesex.
Silver Jewel. Pte. Mullineaux. 12th Middlesex.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. Carruthers Canada.
- 1901 Gold Jewel, £30 and Cup. Pte. Mahy. Guernsey.
Silver Jewel and £25. Lieut. Ranken 6th Royal Scots.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. Cowan.. 3rd Lanarks.
- 1902 Gold Jewel and cup. Sapper. Mitchie. 1st Lanark.
Silver Jewel. Lieut. Collier. 1st London RVC.
Bronze Jewel. Capt. Gray. Natal
NRA prize money was converted into 23 silver salvers at £3 each. 246 tankards at £1 each and 70 Spoons at £1 each.
- 1903 Gold Jewel and cup. Capt. Johnson GM. 1st London RVC.

St. George's Challenge Vase

1902; Silver,
tankard and
spoon by
Elkington



Silver Jewel. Lieut. Collier 1st London RVC
Bronze Jewel. Le Poidevin Guernsey.

- 1904 Gold Jewel and cup. Maj.J. Howard. 4th City of London Imp Yeomanry.
Silver Jewel. Arm.Sgt. R.H. Stocks. 2nd VB E.Yorks,
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. Gunn 1st Lanark.
- 1905 Gold Jewel and cup. Lt.Col. R.P. Sandeman. Gloucester Imp Yeomanry.
Silver Jewel. Sgt. D. Macfadyen 5th VB H.L.I.
Bronze Jewel. Pte. C.E. Parkes. 1st VB S.Staffs.
- 1906 Gold Jewel and cup. Lt.Col. G.A. Wilson. 2nd VB Liverpool.
Silver Jewel. L-Corp. Kerr SM. 1st Dumbarton
Bronze Jewel. Q-M-S. G. Wilkinson 4th VB Liverpool.
- 1907 Gold Jewel and cup. R.T. Gibson 2nd VB Scots Rifles.
Silver Jewel. Sgt. J.R. Williams 1st VB Shropshire L.I.
Bronze Jewel. Lc. Sgt. W. Tatlow. 2nd VB R. Warwickshire.
- 1908 Gold Jewel and cup. Sgt. W.M. Foster. 6th Hampshire.
Silver Jewel. Capt. W. Henderson. 5th Gordon Hldrs.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. F.H. Morris. Canada.
- 1909 Gold Cross and cup. Pte, J.S. Welch. West Kent Yeomanry.
Silver Jewel. Pte. J.Reid. 6th Gordon Hldrs.
Bronze Jewel. Capt. C. Riggs. Essex Yeomanry.
Pte Welch's memorabilia appeared at auction and unfortunately the collection has been dispersed. A selection fortunately remains in a private collection but the writer understands the Gold Cross was melted down for scrap before it could be saved or offered for sale only a year or so ago.
- 1910 Gold Jewel and cup. 2nd Lieut. A.M. Humphry Cambridge University OTC.
Silver Jewel. Res. J.H.,Williams. Australia.
Bronze Jewel. Pte. C.K. Roe. 4th Suffolk.
- 1911 Gold Jewel and cup. Lieut. T.A. Sparks. 21st London.
Silver Jewel. Trooper. J. Uglow 1st Devon Yeomanry.
Bronze Jewel. Pte. J. Philp. 7th A and S. Hldrs.
- 1912 Gold Jewel and cup. Lc. Corp. H.A.Mann, HAC.
Silver Jewel. Capt. W.H. Forrest. Canada.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. R.M. Hislop. 5th Royal Scots.
- 1913 Gold Jewel and Cup. Pte. A.G. Fulton. GM. Queens Westminster's
Silver Jewel. Pte. C.J. Woodrow. 1st Wilts.
Bronze Jewel. Lc. Corp. H.A. Mann. HAC
- 1914 Gold Jewel and cup. Pte. G.M. Corrie. 7th Hldrs.
Silver Jewel. Corp. H. Ommundsen. GM. HAC.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt F. Wood. E. Riding Yeomanry.

St. George's Challenge Vase



D.B. Minshall collection



D.B. Minshall collection

St. George's Challenge Vase

1915-18 No Competitions.

1919 Gold Jewel and cup. C.S.I. Newman. Canada.
Silver Jewel. Sgt. Pitts. Herts Yeomanry.
Bronze Jewel. Sgt. W.A. Westcott RMLI.

1920 Gold Jewel and Cup. R. Bodley. South Africa.
Silver Jewel. H. Dyer. 1st Home Counties.
Bronze Jewel. G. King. RMA.

1921 Competition becomes a 2 stage 15 round competition at 300 and 500 yds. The third to 25 th in the 2nd stage being awarded the small St. George shield badges.
Gold Jewel and Cup. H.G. Burr. Late LRB.
Silver Jewel. Arm. Sgt. J. Cunningham GM Late RAOC. *(pictured right)*
Bronze Jewel. C.S.M. H.V. Northcote Late 6th Manchester.
John Cunningham's dress jacket covered in shooting awards is on display in the Northumberland Fusiliers Museum at Anwick Castle.

1922 Gold Jewel and Cup. Sgt. C.H. Cave. Late Dorset Yeo.
Silver Jewel. Dr. F.H. Kelly. NLRC.
Bronze Jewel. Lieut. J.A. Smith. RAF.

1923 Rule change. 1st Stage and Bronze Cross to winner of the 300 yds match. The Gold and Silver Cross being awarded to the winner and runner up of the 2nd stage. 23 badges to the next highest. Dragon Cup awarded to winner of the 1st Stage.
Bronze Jewel and cup. Lt. Cmd. J.A. Clarke. RNR.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Maj. S.A. Pixley. Late NRA School of Musketry.
Silver Jewel. Capt. E.J. Lessimore. Late 4th Gloucester.

1924 Bronze Jewel. Corp. J. Borland. Canada.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Maj. T. Ranken. 6th Royal Scots.
Silver Jewel. C.S.M. F.C. Hale. Late King Edward OTC.

1925 Bronze Jewel. C.W.O. C.E. Bounton. RN.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Sgt. Maj. E.G. Browne, Rhodesia.
Silver Jewel. C.S.M.I. T.H. Kerr. Late School of Musketry.

1926 Bronze Jewel. Corp. J. Cook. Late Devon Yeomanry.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Sgt. J. Borland. Canada.
Silver Jewel. Sgt. Maj. E.C. Jarvis. RM

1927 Bronze Jewel. Capt. A.S. Turnham 10th R.Hussars.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. W. Anderson Late London Scottish.
Silver Jewel. Lt. Col. R.J. Cox. Late RASC.

1928 Bronze Jewel. Mr. G.L. Walker Australia.
Gold Jewel and Cup. R.Q.M.S. F.O. Mason. 10th Hussars.
Silver Jewel. Mr. W. Green. Australia.



1929 Rule change. 7 rounds each at 300 and 600 yds in stage 1. 2nd Stage 15 rounds at 600 yds.
Bronze Jewel for the 1st stage. Sgt. G.W. Downs. Late 10th Middlesex.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. C.B.R. King. Late MG Corp.
Silver Jewel. S.I. F.J. Collins. SASC.

1930 Rule change. 1st stage. 10 rounds 300 yds. 2nd Stage 15 rounds 600 yds.
Bronze Jewel. Lieut. G.A. Molecey Winnipeg Rifles.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Arm.Sgt. J. Livie. Late RAOC.
Silver Jewel. Maj. P.S. Bapty. India.

1931 Rule change. 7rds 300 and 600 yds. 2nd Stage 15rds at 900 yds.
Bronze Jewel. Capt. R.E.W. Johnson. LRB.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Sqd. Ldr. C.W. Hill RAF.
Silver Jewel. Lieut. R. Congreave-Pridgeon. Late 2/7th Hants.

1932 Bronze Jewel. Sgt. A.C. Bolton. Royal Trans. Corp.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Q.M.S. H.W. Burton Royal Canadian Engineers.
Silver Jewel. Lieut. A. Eccles. Late 5th Seaforth Hildrs.

St. George's Challenge Vase

- 1933 Bronze Jewel. C.S.M. C.F.H. Bayly late 4th VB R. West Kents.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Pte. P.R.T. Garnett late Inns of Court.
Silver Jewel. Capt. J. Barlow GM2. West Yorks Reg.
- 1934 Bronze Jewel. Capt. R.M. Hislop. Late 5th Royal Scots.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Pte. A.S. Smith late 6/7th Black Watch.
Silver Jewel. Capt. C.A. Dixon. Beds and Herts.
- 1935 Bronze Jewel. Lt. C. Laceby-Stevens. Late STC India.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Lt. C.A. Sutherland. Late 5th Black Watch.
Silver Jewel. Lt. W.C. Taylor 6th HLI.
- 1936 Bronze Jewel S.I. E Poulton SASC.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. E.H. Halley South Africa.
Silver Jewel. Sergt. A.G. Fulton GM3. Late Queens Westminsters.
- 1937 Rule change. 1st Stage 15 rds at 300 yds, 2nd Stage 15 rds at 900 yds.
Bronze Jewel. C.Q.M.S. W. Blackman 5th Royal Scots.
Gold Jewel, Cup and Coronation Medal. R.Q.M.S. B Spence. Late 5th Lincoln Reg.
Silver Jewel. Lieut. G.E. Matchett RHLI Canada.
- 1938 Bronze Jewel. O-Cdt. R.J. Skinner. CUOTC.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Driver. E. Brookes. RASC (SR).
Silver Jewel. C.S.M. G.M. Emslie 48th Highlanders. Canada.
- 1939 Bronze Jewel. Capt. H.D. Whitehead. Q.O.R. Canada.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Sgt. C.W. Harvey. Late Herts. Yeomanry.
Silver Jewel. CD. Gunner. A. Moody. RN.
- 1940-1945 No Competition.
- 1946 Bronze Jewel. Pte. H. Light RASC.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Maj. E. Nicholson. R. Signals.
Silver Jewel. Pte. H. Light RASC.
- 1947 Bronze Jewel. Lieut. A. Moody. RN.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Lieut. E. Marks. Late 21st Canada.
Silver Jewel. A.H. Moorshead. City RC.
- 1948 Bronze Jewel. Capt. L.E. Hoddle. Late RE
Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. L.E. Hoddle RE.
Silver Jewel. Mr. F.S. Morse. Bromesgrove.
- 1949 Bronze Jewel Maj. W.H. Magnay GM. City RC
Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. W.H. White Inf. WEA Staff.
Silver Jewel. Maj. R.A. Fulton late RA.
- 1950 Bronze Jewel. Sgt. J.G. Stooles. Rhodesia.
Gold Jewel and Cup. F/Lt. G. Robertson Late RAF.
Silver Jewel. Maj. R.B. Hodgson Late Devon Reg.
- 1951 Bronze Jewel. Mr. J.F. Rigden City RC.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Maj. W.H. Magnay. City RC.
Silver Jewel. Capt. R.M. Armour RM.
- 1952 Bronze Jewel. Mr. F. Musson. Louth RC.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. W.F. Ferrier. ACF.
Silver Jewel. Mr. T.W. Van Rensburg. South Africa.
- 1953 Bronze Jewel. Mr. H.M. Charles. 2nd Carms HG.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Lt. Col. S. Johnson. Canada.
Silver Jewel. W.O. R. Bennett. Late RAF.
1954. Bronze Jewel. Lieut. T. Elford. C.U.R.A.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Lt. Col. L.M. McBean. Rhodesia.
Silver Jewel. Lt. A. Moody. RN
- 1955 Bronze Jewel. Mr. H.B. Sear. Amberley RC.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. J.U. Swiegers. Rhodesia.
Silver Jewel. Insp. J.A. Young. Canada.
- 1956 Bronze Jewel. CPO. B.R. Parker. RN.
Gold Jewel and Cup. Lieut. H.E. Malpas. SASC.
Silver Jewel. Maj. W.H. Magnay, GM City RC.
- 1957 Rule change. Becomes a 3 stage shoot. 300/600/900 yds.
1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. F.G. Little Dean RC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Sq. Ldr. H.L. Homer New Zealand.
3rd Stage Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. The Lord Swansea. Porthcawl
25 Badges awarded to the top 25 in the final.
- 1958 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J. Powell LMRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Cross. Arm. Sgt. F.S. French GM late Herts Yeo.
3rd Stage. Gold Cross and Cup. O/Cdt. G.T. Martel CU. OTC
- 1959 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. O.A.3 R.J. Finch RN
2nd Stage Silver Jewel. Sgt. M.P. Susick Canada.
3rd Stage Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. W.L. U Price. London University.
- 1960 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Maj. R.A. Fulton GM NLRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J.H. Grobler. South Africa.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. J.R. Jackson. South Africa.
- 1961 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. CERA. J. Clark. RN.
2nd Stage Silver Jewel. Mr. J. Norman. Newport.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. O/Cdt. F.W. LeMaitre Notts. University.
- 1962 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Capt. J. Glen. West of Scotland.

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- 2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Maj. H. Heygate-Goddard. NLRC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Capt. E.H. Seward. RAMC.
- 1963 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. C.C.M. Burley Birmingham.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Grp. Capt. K.P. Lewis. Late RAF.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Grp. Capt. K.P. Lewis. Late RAF.
- 1964 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. A.E. Battersby. Manchester.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. R. Barras. South Africa.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. G.F. Arnold. Dorking.
- 1965 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. LAC. J.C. Hennock. Canada.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J.A. Vigor Radlett.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. J.A. Spaight. OCRC.
- 1966 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Lt. R.N. Britton 3rd VB Warwick.
2nd Stage. Silver Stage. Trooper. A. Sorenson. Canada.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. L.S. Dingle. Porthcawl.
- 1967 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. R.N. Britton. MCRA,
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. K.M. Pilcher. GM Old Epsomians.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel and Cup. Mr. S.J. Pattinson UVRC.
Last reference of the Dragon Cup being awarded.
- 1968 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J.A. Crawford. Royal Scots.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. R.L. Ashton. Manchester.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. M.F. Martel. Old Elizabethans.
- 1969 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. P. Edwards. Rainham RC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. R.A. Russell. Altcar RC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. G.F. Arnold. GM. Dorking RC.
- 1970 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. B.H.B. Wrey. CURA.
2nd Stage. Silver Cross. Mr. B.H.B. Wrey. CURA.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. D.A. Hodson. NLRC.
- 1971 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Miss J.M. Swan. 2nd Essex. HGRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. M.T. Heathcote. NLRC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.H. Bagnell-Oakley. CURA.



1971 M.T. Heathcote 2nd Stage Cross

1972. In 1972 it was announced that all 100 competitors in the final 3rd stage would receive a cloth badge. The top 25 would receive a slightly larger badge with an additional gold border around the shield. (insert pic). The remaining 75 received a circular cloth badge with the date (insert picture) at the time comment was made regarding the inferior quality of the badge and in subsequent years the design returned to the original shape with the top 25 receiving the larger badge. This remains the case to date.
1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. K.O. Pugh Newcastle.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. K.O. Pugh. Newcastle.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.R. Killian NLRC.



St. George's Challenge Vase

- 1973 1st Stage, Bronze Jewel. Mr. A. Chown. Barclays Bank RC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Capt. A.A. Parks. GM. Canada.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. A.H. Van Heendon. South Africa.
- 1974 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Insp. J.P. Gibault. Canada.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. D.A. Painting. Pumas. RC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Lieut. C.T.S. Belk. OURC.
- 1975 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J.R. Killian NLRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J.R. Killian NLRC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. A. St.George Tucker. GM. Bookham.
- 1976 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. M.F. Martel.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J.R. Killian. NLRC.
3rd Stage, Gold Jewel. Mr. M.G. Gordon. New Zealand.
- 1977 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Dr. R.H. Nicholason. Ballista Feb.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Dr. R.H. Nicholason. Ballista Feb.
3rd Stage, Gold Jewel. Mr. F.E. McDermott Australia.
- 1978 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. G.F. Arnold. Dorking.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. R.W. Stafford OURC
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. T.R. Hills. City RC.
- 1979 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. PO. J.D. Pollard. City RC.
2nd Stage, Silver Jewel. Corp. J.E. White RAF Support.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J. Pugsley Tavistock.
- 1980 1st Stage Bronze Jewel. Mr. A.E. Clarke. ATRC.
2nd Stage Silver Jewel. Mr. R.M. Allan. East of Scotland.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. G.M. Ayling. Australia.
- 1981 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. S.A. Thomas. Central Bankers.
2nd Stage, Silver Jewel. Mr. P.G. Kent. Old Epsomians.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Ft.Lt. D.P. Calvert. RAF.
- 1982 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. S.H. Cox. GM. RAF.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. S.H. Best. Canada.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. S. Belither UVRC.
- 1983 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.L. LeCheminant Jersey.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. P.B. Bromley. Ashford.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. L.E. King. GC. Colchester.
- 1984 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Cadet T. A. Ringer. UVRC,
2nd Stage, Silver Jewel. Mr. S. Belither. UVRC
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. M.L. Kent. Old Epsomians.
- 1985 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. R.L. Mundy.
2nd Stage. Silver Badge. Mr. F.E. McDermott Australia.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. R.B. Baker. OURC
- 1986 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. P.F. Dickins. Falcon.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. P.B. Bromley. Ashford.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. P.B. Bromley.
- 1987 1st Stage, Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.G.M. Coleman. GM. NLRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr M.R. Pattinson. Rugby
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.P.S. Bloomfield GM. Nottingham
- 1988 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Ft.Lt. D.P. Calvert. RAF.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. S. Belither UVRC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr S. Belither UVRC
- 1989 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. R.A. Benest. Jersey.
2nd Stage, Silver Jewel. Mr. A.W. Lothian Old Epsomians.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.M.A. Thompson. Central Bankers.
- 1990 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. R. Garside. LMRA.
2nd Stage, Silver Jewel. Mr. G.A. Atkinson. CURA.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. T. A. Ringer. GM3. UVRC.
- 1991 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.F. Sewell Canada.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr N.R.J. Brasier. SERC,
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. T.A. Ringer. GM3. UVRC.
- 1992 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. B. K. Hyam. Old Epsomians.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J.A.M. Paton GM. Canada.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. A.D. Le Cheminant. Jersey.
- 1993 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.G.M. Coleman. GM. NLRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Ft.Lt. A.M. Gent. RAF.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.S. Collings. Windsor.
- 1994 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr P.D. Griggs. Ibis.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Ft.Lt. A.M. Gent. RAF.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. N.J. Ball. Stock Exchange.
- 1995 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. S.A. Thomas. Central Bankers.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Ft.Lt. A.M. Gent. RAF.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Ft.Lt. A.M. Gent. RAF.
- 1996 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Ft.Lt. S.C. Williamson. RAF.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. A.F. Aspin.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.W.E. Lewis. GM. ATRC.
- 1997 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. R.R. Gristenwaite. OCRA.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. D. LeQuesne. Jersey.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. D.M.C. Dodds. NLRC

St. George's Challenge Vase

- 1998 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.G.M. Coleman. NLRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. S. Belither UVRC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.S. Collings. Windsor.
- 1999 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. L.M. Peden GM.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. P.G. Kent. Old Epsomians.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Cadet. A.S.H. McCullough.
- 2000 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. N.E. Harvey. NLRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. M. Teglas, Canada.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Dr. P.M. Patel Old Epsomians.
- 2001 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Dr. P.M. Patel. Old Epsomians.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. S.A Thomas. Central Bankers.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. S. A. Thomas. Central Bankers.
- 2002 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. A.R. McLeod. ATRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Wg.Cmdr. D.P. Calvert. RAF.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. S. Murray Canada.
- 2003 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J.A.M. Paton Canada.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. F.O. Pinyon Australia.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.A.R. Hodge. Old Epsomians.
- 2004 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J.A. Watson UVRC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr P.D. Griggs Ibis.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Lt. N.J. Ball. Stock Exchange.
- 2005 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Sqd. Ldr. R.J. St G. Clark. RAF.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Dr, P.M. Patel. GM.. Epsom.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Miss. J.M. Messer GC. NLRC.
- 2006 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Dr. P.M. Patel GM.. Epsom.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J.M. Taylor. Windsor.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. R.J. McQuillan. Ulster.
- 2007 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Dr. C.D. Haley OCRA.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. P.G. Kent. Old Epsomians,
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.C. Underwood. GM. Old Guildfordians.
- 2008 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Dr. G.C.D. Barnett GM2 OGRE.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Dr. G.C.D. Barnett GM2 OGRE.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Dr. G.C.D. Barnett GM2 OGRE.
- 2009 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. R.W. Shaw. Sheffield.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Miss. S.J. Binder Huddersfield.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.A. Anderson. NRA.
- 2010 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. C.J. Morton. RAF.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Dr. P.M. Patel Epsom.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Dr. J.D. Warburton GM. Huddersfield.
- 2011 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett. GM. Australia.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr J. Corbett. GM. Australia.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Dr. P.M. Patel. Epsom.
- 2012 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett. GM Australia.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett. GM Australia.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. D.C. Luckman. Sedgemore.
- 2013 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J.G. DuToit. Witwatersrand.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Dr. P.M. Patel Epsom.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. D.C. Luckman. Sedgemoor.
- 2014 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. G.S. Cotton. Horsham RC.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett. GM. Australia.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. J.P. Bailey. Australia.
- 2015 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.C. Luckman, Sedgemoor.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr C.P. Weedon. Capt. A.W. Gill or J.A.M.Paton
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Wg.Cmdr. D.P. Calvert. GM3 Ulster.
- 2016 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. D.C. Luckman. Sedgemoor.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. A.D. Hunter, NLRC.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. A.N.R. Walker. Old Framlinghams.
- 2017 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. S.M. Negus. Australia.
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. W.J.D. Broad. Old Epsomians.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. D.C. Luckman. Sedgemoor.
- 2018 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett Australia
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett Australia.
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. R.S.J. Shouler.
- 2019 1st Stage. Bronze Jewel. Mr. C. Mitchell. OCRC
2nd Stage. Silver Jewel. Mr. J. Corbett. City RC
3rd Stage. Gold Jewel. Mr. C.J. Watson. Uppingham Vetrans RC.

Additional research is required to ascertain when the materials used in the crosses changed. Most likely the 14k Gold crosses became silver gilt following the end of WW1 and Gold plate after WW2. Likewise the silver became silver plate around the same period. Although someone out there will be able to throw some light on this aspect.



**Muzzle Loaders
Association of Great Britain**



The MLAGB was formed in 1952 and is the Governing Body for muzzle loading within the UK.

Its objectives are to encourage an interest in muzzle loading firearms, to promote, regulate and safeguard their use and to preserve their freedom of collection.

www.mlagb.com

**Historical Breechloading
Smallarms Association**



The HBSA was founded in 1973. The fundamental aims of the HBSA are to encourage the Preservation of Historic and Heritage Breechloading firearms and to foster the research and study of all aspects of the subject, from the aesthetics of sporting guns and the engraver's art to the functional aspects of firearms used by the soldier, target shooter and the sporting shooter.

www.hbsa-uk.org

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2020

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March 4-5

AZWINS

◆
**Creedmoor
Match**
◆

Day 1: 800-900-1000 yards
Day 2: 800-900-1000 yards

Contact:
William Loughrige
(480) 223-8034
email: bill@
westernnationalshoot.org

March 6-7-8



**USIMLT National
Championship**

Day 1: 300-500-600 yards
Day 2: 900-1000 yards
Day 3: 1000-yd. Team Match

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We provide target pullers
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Muzzleloaders, Cartridge Rifles
and Vintage Sniper Rifles*

Contact: Ed Decker
OnceUponATimeTwo@gmail.com
For complete details: USIMLT.com

March 9-10-11

AZWINS

**1000 yard
Championship**

Day 1: 30 shots 1000 yards
Day 2: 30 shots 1000 yards
Day 3: 30 shots 1000 yards

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(480) 223-8034
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of Continuous
Black Powder
Shooting at
3 Separate Events!**

