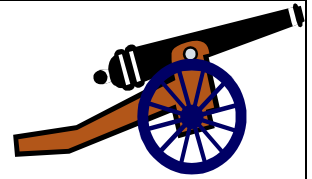




SSAA (MILDURA) ARMS & MILITARIA
COLLECTORS GUILD

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2005 - November Issue

THE ROLLING VOLLEY
THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE ARMS AND
MILITARIA COLLECTORS OF SUNRAYSIA &
OTHER PARTS OF AUSTRALIA

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**Meeting: First Wednesday of the month except January at
Mildura RSL, Corner 10th Street & Madden Ave, Mildura at
7.00 pm**

Message from the Prez

Another year has passed and it's almost time to put the Xmas roast in the oven. It has been quite a successful year too and I don't mind saying it. Visits were made to Shepparton and to Bendigo by members to put on displays and they received good reports and appreciation from the local organizations.

The local scene was not forgotten either, an excellent display was again presented to the public at the Mildura show and a number of clubs and organizations were visited to display our wares. These are important exercises and assist the public to become aware of our roll as collectors of history and it is always an enjoyable experience.

This year's theme was "Mauser the Maker, from Black Powder to Today". Next year's theme will be "The Sniper" so give it some thought as to how you can contribute with ideas equipment etc.

The proposed visit to the Auction in October was a fizzer, with the flu hitting & several away, only David Baird managed to go but he was impressed enough to purchase a couple of interesting pieces, you will probably see him on our range using them in the near future, before he fires his new acquisitions that is. The next auction is the first weekend in May 2006 and we should be looking to attend as a club.

Clubs don't exist without a lot of work from committees, members etc and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your help and support and I hope that you all have a very merry Xmas and a great new year of collecting & visiting.

Ron Pain

Guess Which One Dave Got & guess what he's going for next Auction



The Webley Mark IV (.38/200)

Webley



Enfield



A revolver that keeps on appearing at Roley Martin Auctions is the Webley Mk 4, usually in very good condition and usually quite cheap, Approx 2 to 3 hundred dollars for an item. Here is an article on this Famous revolver.

The Webley and Scott Mk.VI revolver, calibre .455 was the standard British Service Revolver during and immediately following WW1. It was produced by Webley and Scott who had been supplying Brittan's side arms since 1887, this was taken away from them and handed to the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield in 1921.

Despite it's yeoman service during WW1 it was considered by many, not Pat Keogh (member) though, to be bulky, heavy and unwieldy. For these reasons Webley and Scott were contracted in 1922 to undertake research and development into a new reduced calibre revolver. The idea being that a .38 was much easier to handle and so was much more accurate.

W and S submitted a sample .380 revolver to the War office on July 19th 1921 along with 200 rounds of ammo, modified .38 S and W. The revolver was a modified Webley Mk111, hinged frame, self ejecting pocket model. The ammunition was modified to use 200 gn lead bullets, chosen to simulate the .455 ammo. The revolver was well received because it was light-weight, accurate, maintained its velocity over 50 yards and most importantly, the projectile was unstable and "tumbled" on impact. This became the .380/200 service cartridge.

Meanwhile all was not well at W and S and the RSAF at Enfield was directed to manufacture the new revolver. They did this, making no change of note except some manufacturing features. W and S were understandably upset, especially when no recognition was given to their research and development. Even so W

and S continued with research, submitting two models to the War Office in 1924, one 6 inch barrel and one 5 inch barrel, both were very accurate and well received.

By 1927 W and S became aware that they had been “shafted with a saw-back bayonet” as the Mk 1v was now being produced by the RSAF and being called Pistol Revolver, No 2 Mk. 1 and there was no intention for W and S to get a piece of the action. They sued the Govt for development costs and after a bitter law action they were awarded 50% of their costs. The War Office then severed all relationship with the company.

W and S had the last laugh though, WW2 and the RSAF was unable to keep up supply, they produced 120,000 revolvers for the armed services and in 1945 it was officially approved.

The Webley Mk 1v is a well made, accurate revolver and is still used by police forces and military units around the world, a fine testament to this outstanding revolver.

Browning 1910

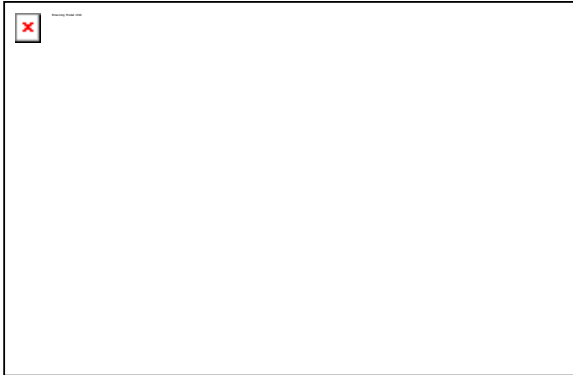
THE PISTOL WHICH STARTED WORLD WAR I

Country Of Origin: Belgium

Designation: Pistol

Cartridge: 7.65 mm
Browning
(.32
ACP)

Production Date: 1910



Weapon Dimensions:

Length: 152 mm

Barrel: 88 mm

Weight: 600 g

Rifling: 6
grooves,
rh

Capacity: 7
rounds

Grant Sherriff

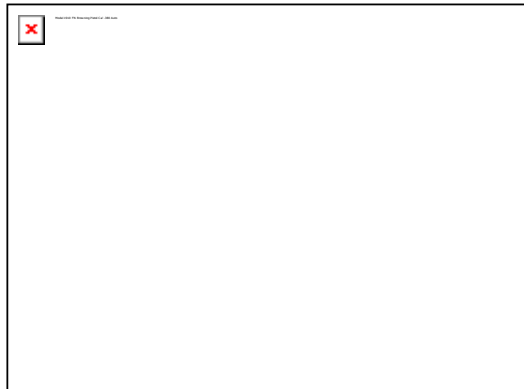
There has always been great interest in a particular firearm if it has been involved in some great historical event.

Most readers will be aware that the incident which sparked the First World War was the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo on 28th June 1914.

Tradition has it that the pistol used in this assassination was the Browning Model 1900 in .32 acp. Most authors still quote this, in particular whenever a history of Browning firearms is written, and such information is in the FN archives.

The pistol used was in fact the Browning Model 1910 in .380 Short.

At the time of this assassination the Model 1900 pistol was obsolete, production ceasing in 1912 after 724,450 were made. It was replaced then with the much improved Model 1910, which was manufactured almost unchanged until 1983.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofie were killed by assassin Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Serbian Black Hand terrorist group. Considering the importance of this mission it is logical to assume the hit group would be given weapons in first class condition, probably new to insure against failure. Taking cartridge power and concealability into account the 1910, in .380 would be a good choice.

According to newspaper reports of the day 6 Black Hand terrorists given the contact on the Royal couple were armed with "4 Belgain pistols", plus some Bombs.

One bomb attempt on the Archduke car failed, but later a second conspirator Gavrilo Vrincip fired two deliberate shots at close range when the car stalled in traffic. An eye witness stated "the pistol snapped twice with little noise as if it had fired blanks".

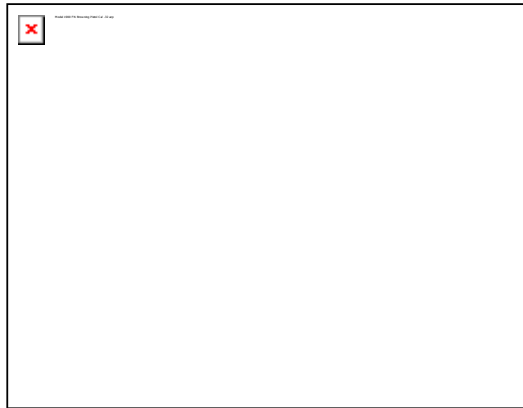
Four Model 1910 pistols were recovered from the conspirators, numbered 19074, 19075, 19120, 19126. The closeness of the serial numbers indicates they were purchased new from the same source.

There is however no record as to which pistol fire the fatal shots.

These pistols were located at Salzburg until 1945. Unfortunately the four .380s, were liberated, along with every other weapon that could be found by advancing US Army, which made Salzburg headquarters of the occupation forces in Austria.

The whereabouts of these pistols are now unknown, but no doubt are somewhere in the States.

If however you ever find a 1910 Browning in .380, of early manufacture, and bearing one of these serial numbers you would certainly have one of the most famous pistols of history.



Lastly The Editors Comment

Well as promised here is another volume of the Rolling Volley, a little later than expected so I will call it the Xmas Edition. I have received some excellent web sites from David Baird (that's another local member) so if you are interested in a look at some German uniforms the following are extremely interesting sites.

www.bajonett.de

gives some very good pictures of WWI German soldiers in uniform along with an array of rifles used in that era with an even more interesting array of bayonets.

www.germancolonialuniforms.co.uk

is another site which is chockers (translation – filled with) with information.

Keep that sort of information coming in folks

**AN IMPORTANT NOTICE SO
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE
ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF
DECEMBER.**

SO KEEP DECEMBER 14TH FREE

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT
TREVOR'S HOUSE WHERE A BBQ
WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE CLUB.**

**BRING A SWEET OR SALAD AND
YOUR WIFE/HUSBAND/FRIEND.**

**PLEASE RING TREVOR ON
50236123 FOR CATERING PURPOSES**