

Reloading The Oddball Metrics And Others

Part XI

The 8.15 x 46R

by J. C. Munnell

Should one make a conscious effort to collect pre-World War I cartridge long arms of middle European parentage, or should one even accidentally accumulate a few such examples of the gun-maker's craft, it is practically certain that a number of them will be chambered for one cartridge in particular. Only slightly less certain is the likelihood of acquiring a rifle of between-the-wars vintage in the same chambering. Most likely of all, however, is the probability of running across this round as that one specific round for which virtually any given Schuetzen rifle will be chambered. I refer, of course, to the venerable 8.15 x 46R.

Although often credited to various gun makers, there is little doubt that the cartridge was designed by Adolph Frohn of Suhl, Germany, some time between 1890 and 1895, and was originally designed specifically for target shooting. (It was originally called the 8.15 x 46.5RB Target.) By 1900 it had achieved such success in the discipline of offhand 200 meter shooting that it became the first cartridge to be "Normalized" by means of specific *dimensions* being established by the German Arms Industry. (Please note: Only dimensions of the cartridge and specifically of the *case* were established at this time; definitely *not* the loading of the round and, in all likelihood, not even the dimensions or weight of the bullet or even the dimensions of the chamber were established.) This date is at least a decade before the "Normalizing" of any other German cartridge took place, even though such process became quite widespread before the outbreak of World War I.

However (and here is where things get a bit murky), even though the case dimensions

Two of the more-or-less typical German Schuetzens. Right rifle is a falling-block chambered for the 8.15 x 46R made by J. Gessinger, while left gun was made by J. G. Anschutz and is chambered for the .30-40 Krag. No doubt it was made for the American market.



are fairly consistent among gun and ammunition makers after 1900, the *bullet* diameter, type and style often employed varied greatly, as did even chamber dimensions, among the different rifle makers. No doubt the great variety of types of rifles produced in this chambering contribute to the great diversity of opinion on how this round was to be loaded.

Rule Number One for loading the 8.15 x 46R: All loading information and data are strictly dependent upon the type of rifle being used, and less importantly upon the chamber throat dimensions of that rifle and even the bore diameter of that rifle. Please do not let this statement discourage you however. Despite its accuracy, there are a few universal truths which allow us to ignore many of these vagaries of bore and chamber dimension. I do wish to emphasize, though, that Rule Number One is inviolate for another very important reason: A load which may be perfectly safe when fired in a bolt action rifle could turn a wonderful and beautiful Schuetzen into a pile of shrapnel, some of which might have to be extricated from the person (or the corpse!) of the shooter or a bystander should this rule be ignored.

While today's current factory-loaded ammunition—as far as I know—is intentionally loaded light enough to be safe in any gun chambered for the 8.15 x 46R, this was not always so in days past. Hunting loads as well as target loads were available and it would probably be well to be sure of the purpose originally intended for any old ammunition you might run across. Speaking of modern factory loads, at least they still list this ammunition and it often can be found with a bit of diligence. I personally always start looking at Huntington Die Specialties (www.huntingtons.com).

Let us now look at some specific types of rifles which can be found chambered for this round and then at some examples with which I have had various degrees of experience. A logical beginning point would be with Schuetzens since these are by far the most frequently encountered home of the 8.15 x 46R. Not only is this so, but for any given

pre-World War II German Schuetzen rifle encountered, there is a very high likelihood that this will be its proper chambering.

Although I no longer own any such host rifle, my notes reveal that I have previously been the custodian of perhaps a dozen so-chambered and that I have loaded for

some eight of these, and it is concerning such rifles which, ironically, much of the bad information written by others is found. Quixotically, this is also where one of the aforementioned universal truths will be of most benefit.

The first “universal truth” is the previously mentioned fact that in 1900 case dimensions of the 8.15 x 46R were established by the German Arms Industry, thus a case formed for one post-1900 gun will fit all post-1900 guns chambered for this round. Usually! Regardless, we shall rely on this assumption, with but one small caveat to be explained a bit further on. If you want, you can purchase ready-formed cases either from Huntington Die Specialties or from Quality Cartridge (www.qual-cart.com), and be 99 percent confident that they will work fine in your gun. Or you can easily form cases from .30-30 or .32 Special or .32-40 WIN brass by simply running the case through a 8.15 x 46R full-length resizing die, trim case length to 1.80, chamfer and de-burr the case mouth and be good to go. Usually!

Here is where the above caveat comes into play. *Some* new cases will have rims which may be too thick to

chamber in *some* guns. The “cure” for this problem is either to thin the front of the rim (a true pain in the brass chore), or to simply find some older brass and use it. The older cases usually had thinner rims. As a general rule, I dislike using fired brass to re-form into another case, but I have never had any once-fired .30-30 or .32 Special brass that has not formed into an 8.15 x 46R in this manner. Once formed, cases will last virtually forever due in large part to the mild pressures to which you will be reloading them.

A somewhat painful personal lesson may be in order here. Years ago, I purchased a very nice game-scene engraved



The left cartridge is our subject, the 8.15 x 46R. On the right is the .32-40 Winchester & Ballard, which was the American favorite for the sport of Schuetzen target shooting. Until hostilities broke out in World War I, Schuetzen fests were a big deal over here as well as in most of Germanic Europe.

Below: 8.15 x 46R on left can be made from any of these three common American cases. From left, .32-40, .30-30 WCF and .32 Winchester Special. All three must be trimmed and run through the 8.15 x 46R full-length resizing die. That's all there is to forming this round—usually.



Schuetzen rifle (rather unusual engraving in itself) at a gun show which was specifically marked "8.15 x 46R" (also unusual; most are not so marked). After admiring it at home and taking it apart for a thorough cleaning, I proceeded to spend the better part of an evening methodically forming 20 rounds of .32 Special into an 8.15 x 46R and loading the cases with five different loads. The next day, upon firing the first round, out popped a perfectly formed—but slightly short—.32 Special! A chamber cast would have been in

pletely in the rifle, so a very popular bullet design employed a narrow band of lead in front of the cartridge mouth that measured .325± in diameter. Naturally this required chambering throats being cut large enough to accommodate this band. Thus, anyone making a chamber cast would come up with a throat diameter of as much as .346. Likewise, measuring the diameter of the bullet of a loaded round would give a false reading for the true diameter of the rest of the bullet shank. The *assumption* derived from



Engravings of a shooter and his son are quite common.

order! (Surprisingly, the rifle was very accurate with all of these loads which I continued to shoot until used up.) Apparently this was a very popular re-chambering job in days past. Lesson learned.

Now, another universal truth. Bullet diameter is listed as being anywhere from .316 to .328. Logically, if 8 mm is .318 to .323, 8.15 mm would be larger, right? Wrong; every 8.15 x 46R-chambered barrel I have ever slugged has been .318 to .319. Where the original designation came from I am not sure, but a definite clue was provided years ago by Cliff LaBounty, former proprietor of LaBounty Reboring Service, and in general, all-around cartridge expert. It seems that early target shooters in Germany felt that a "belted bullet" would better seal the bore from any blow-by caused by a lead slug not entirely "bumping up" to obdurate com-

such misleading measurements would be that the bullet was of substantially larger diameter than it actually was.

The "universal truth" here is the fact that by totally being ignorant of such bullet and throat nuances, I successfully wrung fine accuracy from a goodly number of all manner of rifles chambered for this round using a simple cast bullet of .319 diameter. Every single rifle so tested gave excellent accuracy using the very fine typical Schuetzen sights. None—as long as I did my part—produced non-acceptable accuracy. When I say "good accuracy," I am talking the occasional one-hole group of ten shots at 50 yards!

Another truth: Virtually any cast bullet of between 155 and 175 grains in weight as cast from a relatively soft alloy (1-in-20 to 1-in-30 parts tin to lead) has worked very well in every Schuetzen I have ever tested in this chambering.

My two favorite moulds for these guns are the Lyman #323470 (a 155 to 167 grain round nose gas check style) and the NEI #165.322 GC, a flat nose gas check style weighing between 158 and 170 grains, depending on the alloy), both sized to .319. I am sure there are those of you who will take issue with my use of a gas-checked bullet, but I do so in order to assure there will be no leading problem with any roughness in those old bores. (Truthfully, target shooters, then as now, were pretty meticulous about maintaining

Since I have a great aversion to using any powder in any gun that would require cleaning the gun with water (that great aider and abetter of rust), I have refused to use black powder in any weapon that uses a metallic cartridge. Apparently there are others with this aversion, since I don't know of a single even semi-modern source of loading data that lists a black powder charge for the 8.15 x 46R. Still, I must hereby state that even though I have fired many hundreds of smokeless powder loads in all sorts of such rifles



Hunting scenes are rather unusual for rifles intended for target shooting.

their rifles in good condition, and bores therefore of most Schuetzens are generally like new.

Next we come to a particularly thorny issue: Powder charges. Most 8.15 x 46R-chambered rifles, especially those made before World War I, will not bear Nitro proof. Throughout pre-World War II Germany it was still possible for gun makers to request proofing with only black powder for both the 8.15 x 46R and the 9.3 x 72R. Thus the owners of these old rifles, as well as those who bought newer ones, could be sure they would all function with the older ammunition. This is not to say that some later rifles cannot be found with Nitro proofs. They are, even some Schuetzens. Whether guns that were so proofed were done just as an extra measure of insurance or because they were intended for heavier loads, I am not certain, even though heavier loads did appear on the scene at some point in time.

without even the hint of a problem, be *very cautious*. A quick glance at the sheer mass of the average Martini-actioned Schuetzen, or especially a falling-block Schuetzen, would convey the erroneous impression that these things are strong. Not so! Most are made from very mild steel (to make life easier for the engraver?), and most have never been heat treated. Often even the smaller parts of the trigger group have not been heat treated. Likewise, the barrels of these old guns are usually made from soft steel without any heat treating or may even be made from iron. If using any smokeless powder loads, keep pressures very low and never attempt to use any load designed for a bolt action or even for a break-open gun for any Schuetzen.

The first 8.15 x 46R Schuetzen I loaded for was an Original Ayt action made by C. G. Haenel, perhaps the most commonly found type of Schuetzen in America. This rifle

had some engraving, although this type of action, because of the external extractor, etc., does not lend itself to profuse engraving. It is also one of the relatively few mass-produced Schuetzens of pre-World War II Germany. Fortunately, the fellow from whom I traded the gun had some empty cases made from C-I-L .32-40 Winchester brass, although he had

mould one could own for this cartridge, the Lyman #323470. Cast from a mix similar to the old Lyman No. 2, bullets weigh 171 grains and are .321 in diameter. This is a round-nose gas-checked style, and no doubt was originally designed for the American version of the ideal Schuetzen cartridge—the .32-40 Winchester & Ballard. I found that it is best to size these bullets to .319.



Another unusual hunting scene and game scene on these Martini-style frames.



never loaded them. Dies were obtained from RCBS (www.rcbs.com). They, as well as most die manufacturers, offer 8.15 x 46R dies on a "semi-custom" basis. Due to this round having been normalized at such an early date, there is a very great likelihood that most dies will work for most 8.15 x 46R rifles. (By the way, for our readers familiar with 8 mm German cartridges, the really great news is there is no such thing as an 8.15 x 46R!)

Next, by purest serendipity, I bought possibly the best

Reloading data was abysmally scarce in those days. About the only reference I had with any useful data was Phil Sharpe's wonderful tome *The Complete Guide To Handloading*. In it, he listed a fair number of reasonable loads and some of them employed IMR 4227, a powder which I had on hand. Thus did serendipity strike again. After trying a few other powders, I quickly realized that IMR 4227 was (is) the "magic powder" for this case. The 15.5 grains behind the Lyman bullet gave superb accuracy with the large original rear sight disc and the pin-head front sight typical of German Schuetzens. In fact, either this load or one-half grain less has shot quite well in all eight Schuetzen rifles I have used it in.

Two further suggestions are warranted for this load. First, you will enjoy much more consistent velocity—and therefore accuracy—if you stuff one-half of a "packing peanut" on top of the powder charge. Simply roll one between your forefinger and thumb until it will fit into the case mouth, then push in with a wood dowel or a pencil. It will expand enough to fit quite snugly in the case body. Second, as with all cast bullet shooting, it is necessary to slightly "bell" the case mouth before seating bullets. I use a Lyman .30 carbine expander die for this purpose.

Although I did not own a chronograph when I loaded for this Aydt Schuetzen, the 15.5 grains/IMR 4227 load produces right around 1700 fps in the normal 32 Schuetzen barrel. As such, it produces quite modest pressure. In addition to 4227, IMR

4198, 3031, and N-201 are also useable in this case in small charges, although as we shall see later, these are not necessarily the best powders for loads to be used in a stronger rifle.

You might want to know what I consider "great accuracy" for a Schuetzen in this chambering. When my eyes were younger and they made bull's-eyes with darker ink, I could benchrest such a rifle and literally produce ragged one-hole ten-shot groups at 50 yards with about every such rifle I

owned! Until now we have discussed loading German Schuetzen rifles chambered for the 8.15 x 46R cartridge. I have emphasized that this cartridge was originally a black powder cartridge and even though it successfully made the transition to the smokeless powder era, pressures have always been kept low in most factory ammunition and even more modern guns were quite often only black powder proofed. Now we will look at some other types of guns found in this chambering in which it *might* be possible to load the cartridge to somewhat higher pressure.

At some point in time the European ammunition makers, in fact, did offer such higher pressure loads but, to what pressures they were loaded I am not aware. I would rather imagine a parallel could be drawn between the original black powder loads and the more modern smokeless loads with the manner in which certain .45-70 ammunition is loaded in the U.S. Most reloading manuals will show three distinct groupings of rifles chambered for the .45-70 in which the first grouping is for the weaker types of rifle actions which should be loaded only to black powder pressures. The second grouping is for actions that are somewhat stronger and will withstand somewhat more powerful smokeless powder loads. (The third grouping is for extremely high pressure loads for a very few modern guns. There is no parallel to this third grouping that would apply to guns chambered for the 8.15 x 46R.)

At one time I had a rather interesting single-shot "stalking rifle" of the type that the Germans referred to as a Kipplauf. Such rifles may be either of break-open design or of falling-block design. My gun was of the latter type, and in many ways, resembled a miniaturized Schuetzen. My rifle—which, unfortunately I do not seem to have kept a good photo of—was marked "Ideal" and thus was one of the more common configurations which were made by Buchel in Germany. In fact, the term "Buchel rifle" has become somewhat generic as a term for this type of rifle.

A rear sight quite similar to the often-missing middle sight of a Schuetzen was present and was mounted on a short dovetailed quarter rib which was made as an integral part of the barrel. The sight was made with all of the precision usually associated with a Schuetzen sight and was fully adjustable for windage and elevation by use of the ubiqui-

tous clock key. It also could be moved into position anywhere along the six-inch quarter rib so as to allow for different ambient light and different eyes and then locked into place. Well balanced and light (under six pounds), it was nevertheless not quite suitable for many hunting applications (although, doubtless, that was its original intended



Common falling-block action and the fairly unusual Tanner System rolling block (below).



use). Even though a tang safety was present, it operated backwards to what we were used to; the rear position was fire! The rear sight above the riser portion was hinged at the front and was not retained by any spring or latch, thereby being free to flop around with a rather loud clicking noise while walking, thus alerting any would-be target to the hunter's presence.

The gun was marked "Max Borgwart, Barmen" (Germany) and was far more extensively proofed than I was used

to seeing with a gun of this chambering. It was proofed in 1928; the caliber designation was "7.7" over "46" (a completely logical marking in that 7.7 is a much more correct diameter for a gun with a groove diameter of .318). Marked for use with a lead bullet of 11 grams, the barrel was marked "Nitro", but there was no Nitro proof on the frame or on the breech block. The barrel was 27" long and fully octagonal. The action body was case-colored quite handsomely and a small diamond-shaped area of scroll engraving was present on both sides. Other than this, the gun was quite plain in all respects.

Due to the lack of a Nitro proof on either the frame or breech block, I was reluctant to try to "soup up" any loads,



An example of an 8.15 x 46R cartridge and packaging. This particular ammunition is from Czechoslovakia, very fitting for using in the Zlenek combination gun. Note the jacketed bullet—a sure sign that this was designed more for hunting than for target shooting.

Below: Close-up view of the Zlenek combination gun. There is a deer on the right lock, corresponding to the rifle barrel, and a hare on the left, signifying the lock for the shot barrel.



and by the time I was aware that pre-World War II European ammunition makers had marketed a "hunting load" for this round, I had disposed of the gun. Still, I did try a few slightly speedier loads with the same 171 grain cast bullets as I used in the Schuetzen and was able to approach 1850 fps. I also tried a few slower-burning powders. The most accurate load was 24 grains of IMR 3031, which gave 1759 fps. Unfortunately, this is also the only load that I fired after acquiring a chronograph. I will state that 26.5 grains of IMR 4895 was very accurate, as was 22 grains of the long-discontinued HiVel No. 2. I tested as much as 25 grains of Norma 201, but accuracy simply wasn't there.

At best, this gun resembled a .32-40 Winchester in

its ballistics and was adequate for smallish deer at fairly close range, but not much more.

Break-open combination guns are not common in this chambering, but neither are they unheard of. Likewise, this is true of double rifles. I have owned one "Buchsfliinte," or side-by-side rifle/shotgun combination. ("Cape gun" is not a term to be applied to such guns, by the way. It is strictly

fairly late for this style of gun as well as for this chambering, attesting to the staying power of both the 8.15 x 46R, as well as external hammers.

Although there is no doubt this gun was intended for hunting as opposed to target shooting, again I have been reluctant to try and "step up" velocity or try any bullets other than cast ones. Since my standard Schuetzen load is not



The right side of the Zlenek combination gun with the 8.15 x 46R rifle barrel.

a British appellation.) This gun, as are most of this configuration, is a rather plain gun, with a 16-gauge barrel (chambered for the 2-3/4" case!) on the left and an 8.15 x 46R rifle barrel on the right. The Bohler Blitz Stahl (steel) barrels are 26-3/4" long. The locks are of the rebounding back-action hammer type and the bolting system is the typical Scott top lever and double Purdey underbolts, with the addition of a doll's-head extension of the top rib. A very nice tang sight is nearly hidden in an extension of the top tang, and one stationary and one folding rear sight are also present. The front sight is a small bead dovetailed into the rib from the front. Lightly cut game-scene engraving is present on the locks, while half-coverage scroll is found on the action body and triggerguard. The locks were probably originally case colored, although no such remains at present.

The maker is stated as "Ant. Zlenek, Praha" (Prague). The gun is proofed 1932 and is fully Nitro-proofed. This is

only accurate in this gun but "shoots to the sights," I have so far left well enough alone. In light of what I have learned with the last and final type of rifle chambered for the 8.15 x 46R, I intend to revisit the Zlenek in the near future. There really is no good reason why this gun and I should not occasionally go afield together.

With combination guns such as this and especially with double rifles, I would strongly suggest experimenting with different powder, charges, and bullets. Such guns were regulated for one specific load and it often takes a while to deduce what that load is. Usually only trial and error will suffice. I am fortunate this gun does hit where it is aiming with my old Schuetzen load.

The final gun to be discussed today will technically violate the stated subject matter of the Journal; it is a Mauser Model 98 bolt action repeater. However, since such guns in this chambering are more typically reworked into single

shots, I ask the editor's indulgence for this discussion.

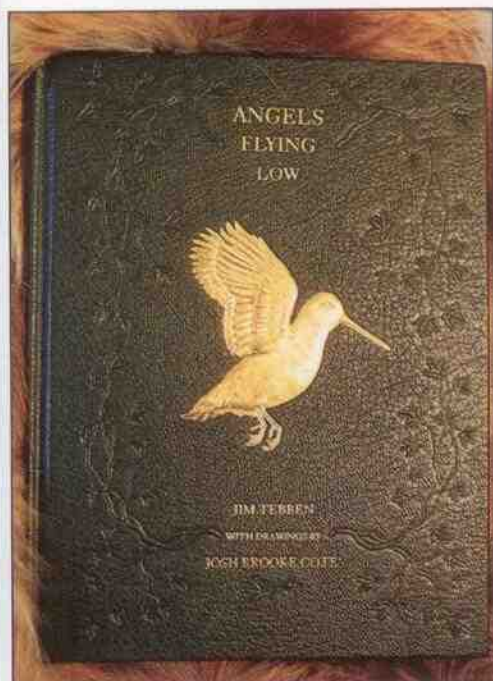
Every time I gaze upon this rifle, I do so with distinct mixed emotions. For almost 35 years it belonged to my best friend, fraternity brother, roommate and hunting buddy. Ron and I shared many common interests, not the least of which was reloading for as many different metallic cartridges as we could manage. We were both also devout hoarders, particularly of reloading components. For most of those 35 years, I pestered, wheedled, cajoled and whined in a futile attempt to pry this Mauser away from him. Although, being the good friend that he was, he loaned the rifle to me for several months at a time, and in return I fired many different loads out of it so that he could better enjoy it whenever he remembered I had it and demanded it back. Obsolete European cartridges were not one of Ron's main reloading interests.

Underside of the Zlenek and left side of the Zlenek side-by-side 8.15 x 46R and 16 gauge. Even the fore-end and release mechanism is more indicative of a pre-World War I gun.

Unfortunately, in 2005, after living for about 20 years more than any medical person even predicted (and living well I would add), Ron passed away. Also unfortunately—in a sense which can be only appreciated by one who has been in this position—Ron simply had entirely too many guns I wanted for various sentimental as well as distinctly unsentimental reasons. Thus it came to be that I ran out of money before I could buy this Mauser. (I should perhaps add that his wife, Nancy, would gladly have given the gun to me, but that would not have been in accordance with Ron's and my agreement. That agreement simply stated that whichever one of us survived was to receive all the reloading equipment without cost belonging to the deceased person, but the survivor damn well had to pay for any gun he took.) Instead, the bulk of Ron's guns, some 100 or so, were sold to my next best friend.

To compound misfortune upon misfortune, J. J. too passed away rather soon thereafter and most unexpectedly. This time no such agreement existed and I was not charged with disposing of J. J.'s guns. Thus when the egotistical "expert" who priced J. J.'s guns for disposal valued





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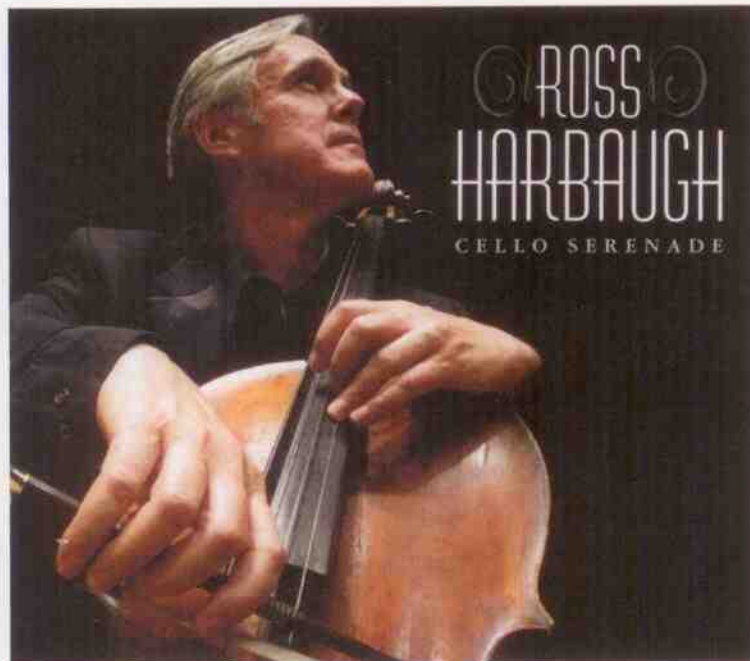
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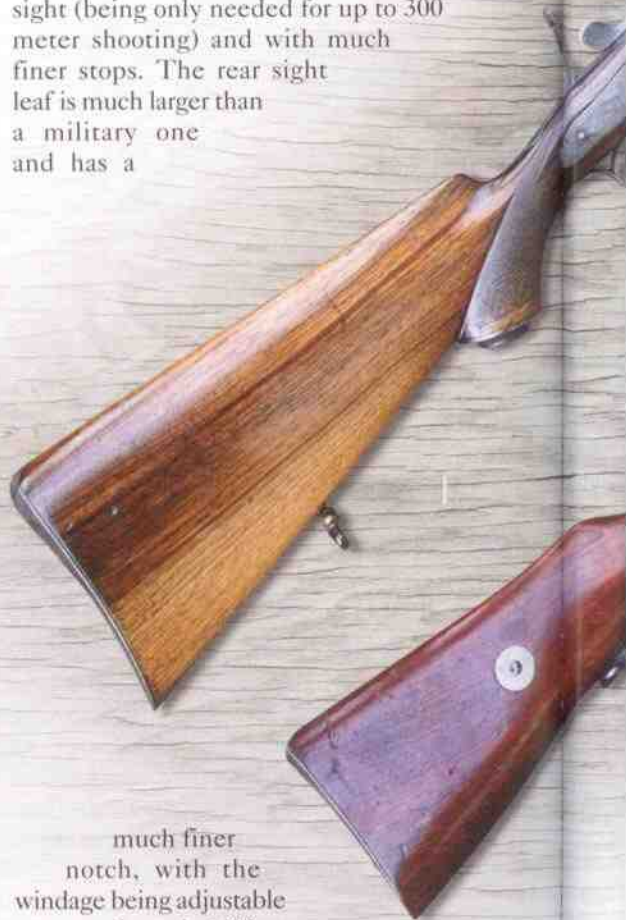
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it simply as another military rifle. I *very* quickly snapped it up. I think Ron would have been proud of me.

The rifle is a Wehrmannsbuchse, or a military rifle reworked by Mauser into a rifle for use in military-type target matches. Starting life as a normal World War I Military Gew 98, the receiver date is 1908. However, in April of 1925, per the barrel proofing, the gun was re-barreled and chambered for the 8.15 x 46R. This barrel is 28 long and although of "stepped" configuration, it is not precisely done in the military manner. The rear sight, although again similar to a military sight, is much more precisely made and more finely adjustable. It is affixed to a sweated-on barrel band and consists of a riser base with much less taper than a military sight (being only needed for up to 300 meter shooting) and with much finer stops. The rear sight leaf is much larger than a military one and has a



much finer notch, with the windage being adjustable at approximately 1/2 increments at 100 meters. The front sight rides on a short base soldered to the barrel and has a military-type blade inserted. The stock is distinctly military in appearance, complete with two barrel bands and an upper wood handguard. There is even a bayonet lug, oddly enough attached to a *separate* 3-1/2" long wooden extension, which,

in turn, is affixed to the stock with a wooden dowel. The bottom metal and trigger are pure military; however, all metal parts are much more highly finished than on military guns and do not bear the typical military partial serial numbers. The original serial number of the rifle is 70480, but the new number—on both the barrel and receiver—is 304. The receiver is still in the white.

Two of the more interesting features of the rifle are that about 2" in front of the front tang of the bottom metal is a 1" circular German silver disc inlaid into the stock with intertwined Gothic initials "KdB". The other odd feature is that, unlike most Wehrmannsbuchsen, it is a repeater. Other than the follower being cartridge-specific, there are no changes to the normal



Top: Anton Zlenek 8.15 x 46R and 16-gauge side-by-side combination gun. Although made rather late, it retains many features of a turn-of-the-century gun, not the least of which is the chambering of the rifle barrel. The external hammers and "pop-up" tang sight are also early features. The Mauser Wehrmannsbuchse. Chambered for the 8.15 x 46R. This gun was intended for military type shooting matches. Many of the pieces of the rifle are military in origin, but are far better finished.

Bottom: Medallion found on the Mauser Wehrmannsbuchse. The initials no doubt are those of the original owner of the rifle once it was in this configuration.

Far right: The Mauser's bottom metal is purely military, although it has been rather highly polished and has no military markings.



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A.H. FOX - A Grade, 28" bls. IC/M, DT, CC 50%, bl. blue 90%, PG 13-3/4" x 1-11/16" x 2-3/4", top lever right of center, 6 lb. 8 oz.....**\$3,100**

20 GAUGE GUNS

CONN. SHOTGUN - RBL Launch Edition, coin receiver with scroll engraving, 28" choke tubed barrels (5 tubes), straight stock with UP Grade wood, new in box with case and accessories.....**\$3,950**

V. BERNARDELLI - Premier Gamecock, sideplated boxlock ejector, Mod./Full, straight stock, single trigger, drops 1-3/8" x 2-1/8", LOP 14-1/8", lock up has 4 bites.....**\$2,100**

PARKER REPRODUCTION - 20 ga., DHE, 26" IC/MOD, pistol grip, splinter forend, cased, as new.....**\$4,950**

.410 GAUGE GUNS

PARKER BROS. - VH, 26" barrels choked Mod/Mod, ball grip, splinter forend, LOP 14-7/8" over pad, wt. 5 lb. 8 oz., very good condition.....**\$21,000**

ARRIETA - Sidelock ejector, "Griffin & Howe Round Body Extra Finish," 28" bls. IC/MOD, str. stock, LOP 15-1/2", wt. 5 lb. 13 oz., game scene coin finished rec., rolled edge trigger guard, bushed strikers, like new condition.....**\$10,500**

B. RIZZINI - O/U Aurum small action, comes with choke tubes, 28" vent rib bls., 5 lb. 12 oz., str. stock, LOP 14-9/16", cased, new.....**\$3,200**

AMERICAN ARMS - Spanish side by side, Gentry Model, 26" bls., 3" cham., IC/MOD, coin rec., scroll engraved, wt. 6 lb. 3oz., single selective trigger, new in box.....**\$1,050**

Call with any questions, wants, or items you have for sale.

My E-mail: tarheel07921@yahoo.com

Website: www.stevencobbguns.com

Model 98 magazine box, spring, etc. It is a bit tricky to load multiple rounds, however, since the rifle is chambered for a rimmed cartridge. All rounds must be inserted toward the rear of the box and each succeeding round inserted into the magazine must be carefully placed with the rim ahead of that of the preceding round. Otherwise feeding is nonexistent.

This gun is capable of excellent accuracy. Still using both the Lyman cast bullet and the NEI #165.322 GC, I used a conglomerate of old and ancient .30-30 brass of varying headstamps. (Yes, I know it's a cardinal sin to mix headstamps, but the simple truth of the matter is there was virtually no appreciable difference in the internal capacity of Rem-Umc, W-W, and Sears cases, and hardness of the



brass was not a consideration since pressures would remain reasonable with all loads.

IMR powders in 3031, 4895, and 4064 were used with charges up to 26.0, 27.5 and 28.5 grains respectively, as well as Hodgdon's 4895 (27.0 grains), in addition to war surplus WC-846 (28.0 grains). Velocities varied from 1615 to 2044 fps with the 171 grain Lyman bullet, whereas with the NEI bullet, I kept all velocities around 1700 to 1800 fps. Fifty-yard four-shot groups ranged from 1 to 2-1/8", with the best accuracy—as always with this cartridge—appearing at velocities in the 1700 and 1800 fps range.

Not that I would like to wander about the dense Pennsylvania hardwoods with a 28-barreled nearly ten-pound rifle in pursuit of the wily whitetail, but a 170 grain bullet at 1850 to 2000 fps sounds suspiciously like the ballistics of a .32-40 and not too far off those of a .30-30 Winchester, .303 Savage, .30 Remington, or a .32 Winchester Special. Seems like I have read where these rounds may have killed a deer or two as well as quite a

few elk, moose, bear, etc., etc., in days past. Come to think of it, a good old-fashion day of still hunting with this old warrior might be fun.

If you are the type of reader who more or less frequently parts with some of his hard-earned cash for an interesting old European rifle or two, it is a pretty good bet that sooner or later you will acquire an 8.15 x 46R of some sort, whether you are looking to do so

The frame's rail markings reflect the rifle's military origin.



Top of the Wehrmannsbuchse. Note that the rear sight, although similar to a military sight, is more finely made and adjustable.

At right: Although the Mauser was made for target shooting, its original military purpose was retained and is reflected by the bayonet lug attached to an added-on piece of wood which is doweled to the stock. Note also the typical military front sight. Even though the rifle's rear sight is plainly intended for target work, the front sight must have been a bit of a handicap.

or not. If you do, please don't shy away from it. Embrace the challenge. I'm quite certain it will be a rewarding experience.



THE
DOUBLE GUN



& Single Shot
JOURNAL

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



WINTER 2014

FOUNDED IN 1889