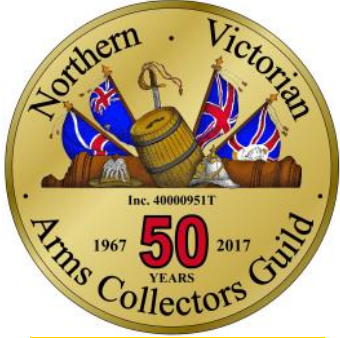


More Majorum

2021 PART 5



Above: Carden Loyd Tankette
Above Left; Morris Martel Tankette
Left; Chauchat machine gun
Bottom left; members of the 2/4 Anti-tank Regiment with their 2par AT gun and Carrier in Malayan 1942.
Below; two Type 95 Ha-Go tanks destroyed at the Battle of Muar by the 2/4 Anti-Tank Regiment.

British pre-World War II tankettes

No. 2 grenade

Footnote in History;
New Zealand Wars

Chauchat

Something from
your Collection

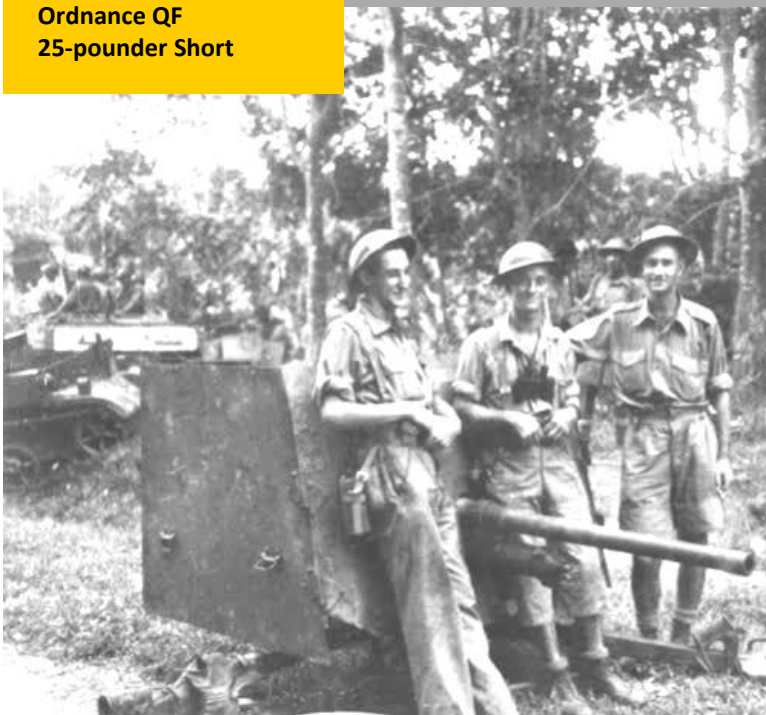
.310 Cadet/Greener

2/4th Anti-Tank
Regiment

William Dunstan, VC

What is a Doglock

Ordnance QF
25-pounder Short



N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2021/22

EXECUTIVE

President/Treasurer: John McLean

Vice Pres/M/ship Sec: John Miller

Secretary: Graham Rogers

Newsletter: Brett Maag

Safety Officer: Alan Nichols

Sgt. at Arms: Simon Baxter

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Harrington

Scott Jackson

Carl Webster

Peter Roberts

Rob Keen

Sol Sutherland

From the Secretary's Desk

What advantages does membership of the guild offer members in relation to collecting "ARMS"?

The Guild is a Victorian Police approved firearms collectors club approval No. 441-335-30Y and so after 28 days of joining, members come under the blanket Governor in Council Exemptions for Swords, Daggers, and Imitation Firearms.

Basically, the exemption says a person aged 18 years or over who is a member of a collectors' organisation listed in Schedule 2. (NVACG is listed) can bring into Victoria, cause to be brought into or sent into Victoria, display, or advertise for sale, sell, purchase, possess, use, or carry an imitation firearms, swords, or daggers. For, study, collecting and displaying imitation firearm, swords, or dagger with an historical or cultural significance.

It should be noted that a recent amendment to the firearms act, confirms that toy firearms known as "Gel Blasters" are now classified as firearms and can not be collected as imitation firearms. Membership of the guild does not qualify you for an ammunition collectors licence or to keep live or deactivated ammunition.

Membership of the guild for at least six month, qualifies you to apply for a collectors licence for Category A/B C D E and some Cat. H firearms. The licences are:-

1. Antique Handgun Collectors Licence.
 2. Category 1 Firearms Collectors Licence.
- You must have held a Category 1 licence for 2 years and have a minimum of 10, pre 1947 firearms before applying for a Category 2.

This table explain which licence is required for each category of firearm.

For more information on Governor in Council weapons exemptions go to the Victoria Police website :-

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/governor-council-exemption-order>

For more information on Firearms licencing And types of firearms:-

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms-forms-and-reference-information>

FIREARM	FIREARM CATEGORY	REGISTRATION REQUIRED?	CAN BE HELD ON ANTIQUE HANDGUN COLLECTOR LICENCE?	CAN BE HELD ON CATEGORY 1 FIREARMS COLLECTOR LICENCE?	CAN BE HELD ON CATEGORY 2 FIREARMS COLLECTOR LICENCE?
Longarms manufactured before 1900 that do not take cartridge ammunition.	Exempt	✗			
Longarms manufactured before 1900 that do not take commercially available cartridge ammunition.	Exempt	✗			
All other longarms.	A, B, C, D, E (whichever applies)	✓		✓	✓
Handguns of a type that do not use percussion, or methods developed during or after the development of percussion, as a means of ignition.	Exempt	✗			
Single shot antique handguns (an antique handgun that is a black powder handgun that is capable of firing one shot only before requiring reloading).	Exempt	✗			
Antique Handguns (manufactured before 1 January 1900 that use percussion as a means of ignition but do not take commercially available cartridge ammunition).	Q	✓	✓	✓	✓
Handguns manufactured before 1 January 1900 that use percussion as a means of ignition and take commercially available cartridge ammunition.	H or E (whichever applies)	✓		✓	✓
Handguns that have been manufactured on or after 1 January 1900 but no later than 31 December 1946.	H, E (whichever applies)	✓		✓	✓
Handguns that have been manufactured on or after 1 January 1947.	H, E (whichever applies)	✓			✓

SNIDERS WANTED

Hi all. Several members are looking for a 577 Snider in good working order with good barrel. Most are after Mk 3's, but if a good Mk 2 is available that will be good also. Order of preference is: Military carbines, two band short rifles, three band long rifles, then sporting Sniders.

Please contact John H. on 03 58213192
or email jobah450.577@bigpond.com
Or John M. on 0427 303 357 or
Brett M. at bnmaag@gmail.com

LOOKING TO BUY

Several items namely:

- (A) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Yataghan Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- (B) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Cutlass Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- (C) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Elcho Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.

If you can help with any or all of these Bayonets contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email on jobah450.577@bigpond.com

Something from your Collection

With each newsletter we would like to feature something special from a members collection, it doesn't have to be valuable or rare, just something you don't see every day. Members who would like to have an item featured can contact Brett Maag or Graham Rogers. If you can supply a digital photo and a short spiel it would be good if not, bring it along to a meeting and we will photograph it there and take notes.

Message from the Editor; there is no item or items in this Newsletter for "Something from your Collection". This is due to a few reasons, one is to covid restrictions and I have been unable to visit members and see their collections, two I have come very close to running out of my own items to take photos of and show here in the Newsletter, thirdly lack of items from member



No. 2 Grenade

(also known as Hales pattern and Mexican pattern) is a percussion cap fragmentation and rifle grenade used by the United Kingdom during World War I. To use the grenade, the detonator is inserted, the safety pin is pulled out, and the

grenade is then thrown. Streamers on the grenade are designed to stabilize the grenade's flight so that it always lands head-first.

History; The No. 2 was created by Frederick Marten Hale in 1907. It was first used in the Mexican Revolution and was produced by the Cotton Power Company under contract from the Mexican government. France also purchased some as rifle grenades. The United States tested the No. 2 as a potential grenade, but it was not adopted. When World War I broke out, it soon became obvious that the standard British grenade, the No. 1 grenade, could not be produced fast enough to meet with demand. To help meet supply, the British Government purchased all of the No. 2 grenades made by the Cotton Powder Company.

Supply; Like the No. 1, the No. 2 required a special detonator that was similar to the one used in the No. 1. This made it even more difficult to get adequate supplies of the No. 2 to the troops and further tied up supplies. Arguably, the No. 2 made the grenade problem worse for the British, as there had to be separate detonators for the No. 1 and No. 2 that could only be made by a small group of firms. Later on, the No. 2's explosive was changed to Tonite so that it could accept more common detonators. It is unknown if this actually increased supply. The grenade was officially declared obsolete in 1920, but it is likely that the No. 2 stopped being used by British forces in 1916.



Used by	United Kingdom, Mexico, France
Wars	Mexican Revolution, World War I
Designer	Marten Hales
Designed	1907
Manufacturer	Cotton Powder Company
Produced	1907-?
Variants	Mk II (shorter handle and multiple cloth streamers),
Mass	1 lb (0.45kg)
Filling	Tonite
Detonation mechanism	Percussion fuse (i.e. impact detonated)

Variants; There were two variants of the No. 2 created, the Mk I and Mk II. The Mk I has a 16-inch long handle and one cloth streamer, while the Mk II has a seven-inch long handle and multiple cloth streamers.

Rifle grenade; variant of the No. 2 comes in two forms, 7mm and 8mm. The 7mm model was produced for Mexico and was designed to fit into the M95 Mauser rifle used by the Mexican Army, while the 8mm model was designed to be used in the Lebel rifle. The only difference between the models is that the 7mm has a clip attached to it to make it properly fit the M95, while the 8mm model does not. The 7mm variant was used by the British as a temporary rifle grenade until others, such as the Hales rifle grenade, were developed.

Aerial bomb; A modified version of the No. 2 was used as a weapon by the Royal Flying Corps. Instead of a handle, the aerial bomb variant has only a cloth streamer.



William Dunstan, VC (2 March 1895 – 8 March 1957) was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry "in the face of the enemy" that can be awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces. Dunstan was born on 8 March 1895. He was 20 years old and a corporal in the 7th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force during the First World War when he was awarded the VC for his actions on 9 August 1915, during the Battle of Lone Pine on Gallipoli, Turkey. During the action

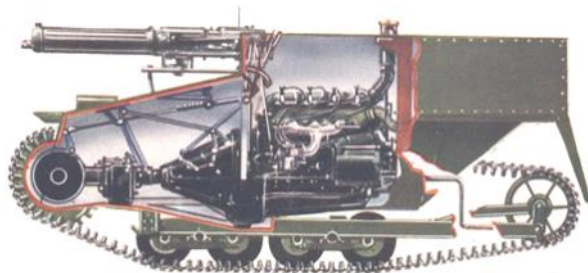


Turkish forces had made a determined counter-attack on the centre of the newly captured trench held by a lieutenant, Frederick Harold Tubb, two corporals (Alexander Stewart Burton and Corporal Dunstan), and a few men. The Turkish blew in the sand-bag barricade, leaving only a foot standing, but Tubb, Burton and Dunstan repelled them and rebuilt the barricade. Twice more the Turkish blew in the barricade and on each occasion they were repelled and the barricade rebuilt.

Dunstan was blind for almost a year after Lone Pine. He later achieved the rank of lieutenant. Before the war, Dunstan had been a messenger boy in a draper's shop. After the war he worked for the Repatriation Department in Melbourne and in 1921 joined the staff of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd as an accountant. He rose to become its General manager. He died on 2 March 1957. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. In 1995 a Memorial to Dunstan was erected in Sturt St, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. The "Dunstan VC Club" at Puckapunyal is named in his honour. He was survived by his wife, Marjorie, and three children, William "Bill" Dunstan, Helen McIntosh and the prominent journalist and writer Keith Dunstan.

Dunstan was awarded:
Victoria Cross, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal with oakleaf (MID)

British pre-World War II tankettes



Carden Loyd tankettes were a series of , the most successful of which was the Mark VI, the only version built in significant numbers. It became a classic tankette design worldwide, was licence-built by several countries and became the basis of several designs produced in various countries.

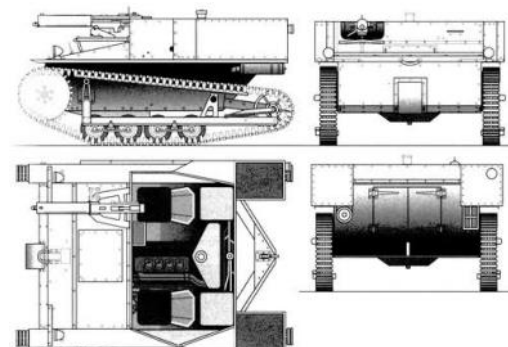
Development; The Carden Loyd tankette came about from an idea started, as a private project, by the British military engineer and tank strategist Major Giffard LeQuésne Martel. He built a one-man tank in his garage from various parts and showed it to the War Office in the mid-1920s. With the publication of the idea, other companies produced their own interpretations

of the idea. One of these was *Carden-Loyd Tractors Ltd*, a firm founded by Sir John Carden and Vivian Loyd and later purchased by Vickers-Armstrongs. Besides one-man vehicles they also proposed two-man vehicles which turned out to be a more effective and popular idea. Vickers-Armstrongs manufactured and marketed vehicles of the latter type worldwide. Considered a reconnaissance vehicle and a mobile machine gun position, the Mark VI was the final stage of development of the Carden Loyd series of tankettes. The Carden Loyd tankette was the prototype for the Universal Carrier.

Production; Started in 1927 and lasted until 1935. From 1933 to 1935 production was by the Royal Ordnance Factories. Some 450 were made in all. The British Army used at least 325 Mark VI tankettes (a value of 348 is also given) in several variants, mostly as

machine gun carriers, but also as light gun tractors, mortar carriers or smoke projector vehicles.

Service history; In 1929, Poland bought 10 or 11 Mark VI tankettes with a licence and used them for development of their own TK tankette series, which was followed by the Polish TKS tankette. Czechoslovakia also bought three Mark VI tankettes in 1930 with a licence, and then improved the design, producing 74 Tančík vz. 33 tankettes in the ČKD (Praga) works; the original British construction was evaluated as unusable in modern warfare. The Soviet Union bought 20 Mark VI tankettes, which they designated K-25, as well as a licence. However, the final project was significantly modernised and the licence was dropped. Instead, the Bolshevik Factory in Leningrad started the production of the T-27 tankette, a modernised and enlarged variant of the British design. A total of 3,228 T-27 tankettes were built between 1931 and 1933. Bolivia purchased between two and five tankettes in 1931. They saw action in the Chaco War, where they proved to be ill-suited for the bushy environment. Japan also bought six Mark VIb tankettes, and later developed its own Type 94 Te Ke design based on them. Carden Loyd Tankettes operated by the Imperial Japanese Navy Land Forces were designated the Type 6 Machine Gun Car (力式機銃車, *Ka-shiki Kijūsha*). Italy bought a number of Carden Loyd Mark VIs, built a few licence copies designated CV-29, and then developed this design further into the L3/35 tankette. The Canadian Army acquired 12, in two batches of six, in 1930-31. After being evaluated by Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Royal Canadian Regiment, the Canadian Army used them in a training role at Canadian Armoured Fighting Vehicle School, pending the arrival of newer, larger tanks. Eventually, they were supplemented with the Vickers VI B



Mass	1.5 long tons (1.5 t) "battle weight"
Length	8 ft 1 in (2.46 m)
Width	6 ft 6.5 in (1.994 m) over tracks
Height	4 ft 0 in (1.22 m)
Crew	2
Armour	6–9 mm (0.24–0.35 in) face-hardened
Main armament	0.303 inch Vickers machine gun with 1,000 rounds
Engine	Ford Model T petrol 4-cylinder 22.5 bhp
Transmission	Model T two speed epicyclic
Suspension	Bogie, four rubber-tyred wheels each side
Fuel capacity	10 Imp. gallons
Operational range	100 mi (160 km)
Maximum speed	30 mph (48 km/h) on road

light tank in 1938. Until then, they had been the only armoured equipment in the Canadian Army, apart from some armoured cars. At no time were they used in a combat role by Canada. In addition, the Carden Loyd Tankettes were also supplied in small numbers to France, India, Italy, Latvia (18 Mk. IVs in 1935), the Netherlands (5), and Siam. The five Dutch tankettes were involved in fighting German paratroopers during the May 1940 invasion of the Netherlands. The French unarmed Renault UE carrier was based on the Carden Loyd design. A small number were acquired by Greece prior to 1935. Thailand had about 60 in the French-Thai War. Carden Loyd Tankettes were also used by Chile, the Republic of China, Manchukuo (20 Mk. VI), Finland (Mk. IVs and Model 33s) and Portugal (6). The design of the German Panzer I light tank was influenced by the Carden Loyd Tankette, due to the German military cooperation with the Soviet Union.



Mass	2.25 long tons (2.29 t)
Crew	1-2 depending on model
Armour	0.3 in (7.6 mm)
Main armament	Lewis Gun
Engine	Morris "16hp" 16 bhp (12 kW)
Suspension	Leaf spring
Ground clearance	18 inches (460 mm)
Maximum speed	30 mph (48 km/h) on road



Morris-Martel

was a British inter-war tankette developed from prototypes designed by Lieutenant-General Sir Giffard Le

Quesne Martel. Intended for reconnaissance, eight were constructed for the Experimental Mechanized Force and were tested against experimental models of the Carden Loyd tankette - built by John Carden and Vivian Loyd as a response to Martel's work - on Salisbury plain in 1927. The project was abandoned after testing with the Carden Loyd design chosen instead; during its short existence the tankette attracted "quite a lot of publicity" and was a pioneer of the tankette concept.



.310 Cadet, also known as the .310 Greener, or the .310 Martini, is a centerfire rifle cartridge, introduced in 1900 by W.W. Greener as a target round for the Martini Cadet rifle. Firing a 120 grain heeled lead projectile at 1350 ft/s the round is similar in performance to the .32-20 Winchester and some rifles may chamber both rounds with some accuracy. The full metal jacketed round was used in cadet rifles in Australia and New Zealand after early 20th-century Defence Acts. In New Zealand, after the start of the Boer War, a cadet corps had been started; by 1901 it was recommended that membership be compulsory. 500 Westley-Richards miniature Martini-Henry rifles were available by October 1902 (Auckland Star), and 5000 by April 1903 (Star). Such rifles gained popularity in Australia, New Zealand and the United States when thousands of Martini Cadet rifles were sold by the Australian government after World War II.

Current Use; After being sold by the Australian government many were converted to sporting or target rifles, often re-barreled to calibers like .22 Hornet, .218 Bee, .25-20 Winchester, .222 Rimmed, .357 Magnum and others to .22 rimfire by gun makers like Sportco. Those still using the .310 Cadet have to either buy cases to reload, by Bertram Bullet Co. in Victoria, Australia, or several small independent ammunition makers in Australia and the United Kingdom. However these new .310 Cadet cases are 3-4 times as expensive as new .32-20 Winchester cases, hence shooters modify .32-20 cases, as a cheaper alternative. Modifications involve length resizing, and in most cases reducing the rim thickness. Due to the .310 using a heeled projectile, the neck thickness of the .32-20 does not have to be reamed down, after first being case length resized to 1.075" (27.3 mm). Most .310 cadet chambered rifles need to have the rim of the .32-20 case reduced from 0.065" to 0.045" (1.7 mm to 1.14 mm), to allow proper head spacing and operation of rifle. However, in the unusual instance of a lever action .32-20 fitted with a .310 barrel, the rifle will cycle better without the case rim thickness being reduced. As home reloading is the main option for the .310, many shooters play with different case length reduction of the .32-20, anywhere from 0.875" to 1.185" (22.23 mm to 30.10 mm).



Far Left Australian .310 Cadet FMJ

Left British .310 Cadet lead bullet



PARTS WANTED

Westley Richards "Monkeytail" gun parts namely lock and hammer etc.

Also a complete firearm with good barrel and in good working order.

contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email jobah450.577@bigpond.com



SOME OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW BUT THE N.V.A.C.G. HAS IT'S OWN WEBSITE

Here you will find all the news and details for coming guild events and information for prospective members.

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/>

You can find past & current newsletters here

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/news/>

We are also on Facebook





Mass	9.07 kg (20.0 lb)
Length	1,143 millimeters (45.0 in)
Barrel length	470 millimeters (19 in)
Cartridge	8×50mmR Lebel .30-06 Springfield 7.92×57mm Mauser 7.65×53mm Mauser 6.5×54mm Greek
Action	Long recoil with gas assist
Rate of fire	240 rounds/min
Muzzle velocity	630 metres per second (2,100 ft/s)
Effective firing range	200 metres (220 yd)
Maximum firing range	2,000 metres (2,200 yd)
Feed system	20-round magazine (usually only loaded to 16-19 rounds)
Sights	Iron sights

Chauchat ("Show-sha", French pronunciation: [ʃoʃa]) was the standard light machine gun or "machine rifle" of the French Army during World War I (1914–18). Its official designation was "Fusil Mitrailleur Modele 1915 CSRG" ("Machine Rifle Model 1915 CSRG"). Beginning in June 1916, it was placed into regular service with French infantry, where the troops called it the FM Chauchat, after Colonel Louis Chauchat, the main contributor to its design. The Chauchat in 8mm Lebel was also extensively used in 1917–18 by the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.), where it was officially designated as the "Automatic Rifle, Model 1915 (Chauchat)". A total of 262,000 Chauchats were manufactured between December 1915 and November 1918, including 244,000 chambered for the 8mm Lebel service cartridge, making it the most widely manufactured automatic weapon of World War I. The armies of eight other nations—Belgium, Finland, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Serbia—also used the Chauchat machine rifle in fairly large numbers during and after World War I. The Chauchat was one of the first light, automatic rifle-caliber weapons designed to be carried and fired by a single operator and an assistant, without a heavy tripod or a team of gunners. It set a precedent for several subsequent 20th-century firearm projects, being a portable, yet full-power automatic weapon built inexpensively and in very large numbers. The Chauchat combined a pistol grip, an in-line stock, a detachable magazine, and a selective fire capability in a compact package of manageable weight (20 pounds) for a single soldier. Furthermore, it could be routinely fired from the hip and while walking (marching fire). The Chauchat is the only fully-automatic weapon actuated by long recoil, a Browning-designed system already applied in 1906 to the Remington Model 8 semi-automatic rifle: extraction and ejection of the empties takes place when the barrel returns forward, while the bolt is retained in the rear position. The muddy trenches of northern

France exposed a number of weaknesses in the Chauchat's design. Construction had been simplified to facilitate mass production, resulting in low quality of many metal parts. The magazines in particular were the cause of about 75% of the stoppages or cessations of fire; they were made of thin metal and open on one side, allowing for the entry of mud and dust. The weapon also ceased to function when overheated, the barrel sleeve remaining in the retracted position until the gun had cooled off. Consequently, in September 1918, barely two months before the Armistice of November 11, the A.E.F. in France had already initiated the process of replacing the Chauchat with the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle. Shortly after World War I, the French army replaced the Chauchat with the new gas-operated Mle 1924 light machine gun. It was mass manufactured during World War I by two reconverted civilian plants: "Gladiator" and "Sidarme". Besides the 8mm Lebel version, the Chauchat machine rifle was also manufactured in U.S. .30-06 Springfield and in 7.65×53mm Argentine Mauser caliber to arm the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.) and the Belgian Army, respectively. The Belgian military did not experience difficulties with their Chauchats in 7.65mm Mauser and kept them in service into the early 1930s, as did the Polish Army. Conversely, the Chauchat version in U.S. .30-06 made by "Gladiator" for the A.E.F., the Model 1918, proved to be fundamentally defective and had to be withdrawn from service. The weapon has a poor reputation in some quarters, with some experts assessing it as the worst machine gun ever fielded.

History; The design of the Chauchat dates back to 1903, and its long recoil operation is based on the John Browning-designed Remington Model 8 semi-automatic rifle of 1906, not (as so often repeated in the past) on the later designs (1910) of Rudolf Frommer, the Hungarian inventor of the commercial Frommer Stop pistol. The Chauchat machine rifle project was initiated between 1903 and 1910 in a French Army weapon research facility located near Paris: Atelier de Construction de Puteaux (APX). This development was aiming at creating a very light, portable automatic weapon served by one man only, yet firing the 8 mm Lebel service ammunition. The project was led from the beginning by Colonel Louis Chauchat, a graduate from Ecole Polytechnique, assisted by senior armorer Charles Sutter. Not less than eight trial prototypes were tested at APX, between 1903 and 1909. As a result, a small series (100 guns) of 8 mm Lebel CS (Chauchat-Sutter) machine rifles was ordered in 1911, then manufactured between 1913 and 1914 by Manufacture d'armes de Saint-Étienne (MAS). Because they were light, they were used temporarily during the early part of World War I to arm observation crews on French military aircraft. None of these CS machine rifles have survived, either in public museums or in private collections. Only a fairly complete photographic record of their past existence remains. In 1914, when World War I broke out, French troops did not operate any light machine gun. It was clear that this type of weapon had become indispensable in modern warfare, because of the increase in firepower it could provide to an infantry section. Spurred by General Joseph Joffre, it was decided to adopt the Chauchat, above all else because the pre-war CS (Chauchat-Sutter) machine rifle was already in existence, thoroughly tested, and designed to fire the 8mm Lebel service ammunition. Furthermore, due to its projected low manufacturing costs and relative simplicity, the newly adopted (1915) CSRG machine rifle could be mass-produced by a converted peacetime industrial plant. The term CSRG is made up of the initials of Chauchat, Sutter, Ribeyrolles and Gladiator, the respective manufacturers. Paul Ribeyrolles was the general manager of the Gladiator company, a peacetime manufacturer of motor cars, motorcycles, and bicycles located in Pre-Saint-Gervais (a northern suburb of Paris). The fairly large Gladiator factory was thus converted into an arms manufacturer in 1915 and became the principal industrial producer of Chauchat machine rifles during World War I. Later on, in 1918, a subsidiary of Compagnie des forges et acieries de la marine et d'Homecourt named SIDARME and located in Saint-Chamond, Loire, also participated in the mass manufacture of CSRGs.



Design details; The Chauchat machine rifle or "automatic rifle" functioned on the long barrel recoil principle with a gas assist. The Chauchat machine rifle (CSRG) delivered to the French Army fired the 8mm Lebel cartridge at the slow rate of 240 rounds per minute. At 9 kilograms (20 lb), the gun was much lighter than the contemporary portable light machine guns of the period, such as the 12-kilogram (26 lb) Hotchkiss M1909 Benét–Mercié machine gun and the 13-kilogram (29 lb) Lewis gun. It was a selective fire weapon, either on automatic or semi-automatic mode. The Chauchat's construction was a mix of new, high quality components, re-used parts proven in other designs, and the shoddy and sub standard. This combination did not help in the reliability of the weapon. The recoiling barrel sleeve, as well as all the bolt moving parts, were precision milled from solid steel and always fully interchangeable. The barrels were standard Lebel rifle barrels that had been shortened from the muzzle end. The barrel radiators were made of ribbed cast aluminum. On the other hand, the outer breech housing was a simple tube, and the rest of the gun was built of stamped metal plates of mediocre quality. Side plate assemblies were held by screws that could become loose after prolonged firings. The sights were always misaligned on the Gladiator-made guns, creating severe aiming problems that had to be corrected by the gunners. The exact number on record of Chauchat machine rifles manufactured between 1916 and the end of 1918 is 262,300. The Gladiator factory manufactured 225,700 CSRGs in 8 mm Lebel plus 19,000 in the U.S. caliber .30-06 between April 1916 and November 1918. SIDARME manufactured 18,600 CSRGs, exclusively in 8mm Lebel, between October 1917 and November 1918. The SIDARME-manufactured Chauchats were generally better finished and better functioning than those made by Gladiator. The French Army had a stock of 63,000 CSRG's just before the Armistice. The French military at the time considered the Chauchat's performance as inferior in comparison to the reliable heavy Hotchkiss M1914 machine gun. However, whereas the Hotchkiss was a weighty, tripod-mounted weapon, the Chauchat was a light, portable gun that could be mass-produced quickly, cheaply, and in very large numbers. It was also never intended to take the role of static defense of the heavy machine gun. On the contrary, it was designed to be a light, thus highly portable, automatic weapon that would increase the firepower of infantry squads while they progressed forward during assaults. A significant plus is that it could easily be fired while walking (marching fire), by hanging the Chauchat's sling over a shoulder hook located onto the gunner's upper left side of his Y-strap.

Service; The Mle 1915 Chauchat's performance on the battlefield drew decidedly mixed reviews from the users when the war was stagnating in the mud of the trenches in 1916. This brought about a survey, regiment by regiment, requested by General Pétain in late 1916; the survey's essential conclusion was that the open-sided half-moon magazines were defective and caused about two thirds of all stoppages. For instance, it was a common practice for the gunners to oil up the inside of the magazines to facilitate movement of the 8mm Lebel rounds. Also, loose earth, grit, and other particles easily entered the gun through these open-sided magazines, an ever-present risk in the muddy environment of the trenches. An insistence on using only good, undeformed magazines with strong springs was the most practical solution to this problem. Chauchat gunners were also known to load their magazines with 18 or 19 rounds, instead of the maximum 20, in order to avoid the dreaded first-round failure to feed. The Chauchat's long recoil system is often cited as a source of excessive stress on the gunner when firing, though recent and extensive firing tests have demonstrated that it is the Chauchat's ergonomics and its loose bipod, rather than its recoil, that makes it a difficult gun to keep on target beyond very short bursts. On most of the Gladiator-made guns, the sights also made the Chauchat shoot systematically too low and to the right, a failing which was soon recognized but never corrected. Overheating during uninterrupted periods of full automatic fire (about 120 rounds with the 8mm Lebel version) often resulted in the barrel sleeve assembly locking in the rear position due to thermal expansion, causing stoppage of fire until the gun had cooled off. Hence, French and US Army manuals recommended firing in short bursts or semi-auto only. In essence, the Chauchat was a rather heavy but portable machine gun with limited full auto capability, rather than a true "light machine gun", hence, in 1918, the A.E.F. officially labeled the Chauchat in its user manuals as an "automatic rifle".



Soldiers of the American [308th](#) and 166th Infantry Regiments liberate a French town in 1918. The soldier on the left is carrying a Chauchat slung over his shoulder

Chauchat in American service; After the United States entered World War I in April 1917, the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) arrived in France without automatic weapons or field artillery. Consequently, it turned to its French ally to purchase ordnance. General Pershing chose the Hotchkiss M1914 machine gun and the Chauchat machine rifle (designated as "Automatic Rifle, Model 1915 (Chauchat)" by the AEF and nicknamed the "Sho-Sho" by the troops) to equip U.S. infantry. Between August 1917 and the November 11, 1918 Armistice with Germany, the Gladiator factory delivered to the AEF 16,000 Chauchats in 8 mm Lebel and, late in 1918, 19,000 Chauchats in .30-06. While the performance of the M1915 Chauchat in 8 mm Lebel was combat-effective, judging by the numbers of decorated U.S. Chauchat gunners found in the U.S. Divisional Histories, the performance of the M1918 Chauchat in .30-06 was soon recognized as abysmal (and in large part the reason for the gun's bad reputation). The most common problem was a failure to extract after the gun had fired only a few rounds and became slightly hot. A modern-day test firing of the M1918 30-06 Chauchat was performed at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in July 1973, but no particular problem was described in the official report, which is accessible on open file. Conversely, an exhaustive firing test of the M1918 Chauchat in .30-06 was also carried out in 1994

near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, by R. Keller and W. Garofalo. Their testing, which is reported in "The Chauchat Machine Rifle" volume, did expose severe extraction problems caused by incorrect chamber measurements and other substandard manufacturing. During World War I, in 1918, the preserved U.S. archival record also documents that American inspectors at the Gladiator factory had rejected about 40% of the .30-06 Chauchat production, while the remaining 60% proved problematic whenever they reached the front lines. Supplies of the newly manufactured and superior M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) were allocated sparingly and only very late, during the Meuse-Argonne offensive, which began in late September 1918. Therefore, about 75% of the U.S. Divisions were still equipped with the Chauchat – in its original French M1915 version in 8 mm Lebel – at the time of the Armistice of November 11, 1918. It is also well documented that General Pershing had been holding back on the BAR until victory was certain, for fear it would be copied by Germany. However, it is also known that the very first BARs delivered had improperly tempered recoil springs, and had these guns been prematurely introduced during the summer of 1918, their employment may also have been problematic.

One of the most significant accounts of the Chauchat's poor performance was from then-lieutenant Lemuel Shepherd, who was quoted saying: "*I spent the last few weeks [of World War I] back in the hospital, but I'll tell you one thing the boys later told me: The day after the Armistice they got the word to turn in their Chauchats and draw Browning Automatic Rifles. That BAR was so much better than that damned Chauchat. If we'd only had the BAR six months before, it would have saved so many lives.*" As documented by World War I veteran Laurence Stallings (in *The Doughboys*, 1963) and by U.S. Divisional Histories, the Medal of Honor was awarded to three American Chauchat gunners in 1918: 1) Private Nels Wold (35th Division, 138th Infantry). 2) Private Frank Bart (2nd Division, 9th Infantry) and 3) Private Thomas C. Neibaur (42nd Division, 107th Infantry). The CSRG 1915 Chauchat was operated with *Balle D* 8mm ammunition, which was standard for the French until 1932 when they went to an improved *Balle N* 8mm Lebel cartridge. The Chauchats, as they were retired, were not converted to the *Balle N*, and as a result, they do not operate well with the *Balle N* cartridge (French World War I weapons converted to *Balle N* will have a noticeable "N" markings). Only *Balle D* 8mm should be used in the Chauchat 1915. The quickest way to identify the different cartridge is that the *Balle D* bullet is brass colored while the *Balle N* is a shiny silver.

Improvements; Several prototypes of dirt-proof, fully enclosed Chauchat magazines were successfully tested in May and June 1918, but came too late to be placed into service. Stronger open-sided standard magazines, as well as tailored canvas gun covers protecting the gun against mud during transport, had previously been issued in late 1917. The initial two-man Chauchat team was also found insufficient and eventually grew to a four-man squad by October 1917 (the squad leader, the gunner, the assistant gunner who handled the magazines plus one additional magazine carrier). Both the gunner and the assistant gunner carried at all times a .32 ACP Ruby pistol with three magazines, each one loaded with 9 rounds, as part of their regular equipment. The squad leader and the magazine carrier were both equipped with a rifle or with a Berthier carbine. While the additional men provided assistance in carrying loaded magazines, helping manage malfunctions, and protecting the gunner, it also negated one of the Chauchat's primary innovations: the ability to provide highly mobile automatic fire without the need for the 4-man team inherent to the Hotchkiss M1914 machine gun. By mid-1918, with mobility returning to the war and the end of the stalemate on the Western Front, the war had moved out of the mud of the trenches and into open fields, thus making the guns more reliable and easier to maintain. Furthermore, French infantry regiments had been reorganized into multiple small (18 men) combat groups ("*Demi-Sections de Combat*"). Those were made up of a full Chauchat squad plus four VB rifle grenade specialists and eight conventional grenadiers/riflemen. At this point in time, in 1918, the French regimental records and the statistics of medals given to Chauchat gunners document that they were an essential contribution to the success of these updated infantry tactics. Those were applied to suppress enemy machine gun nests by the combined action of Chauchat automatic fire coming from the sides and VB rifle grenades lobbed from the front, within less than 200 yards (182.9 meters).

WWI German use; A number of captured Chauchats were used by German front-line infantrymen in flamethrower units because they had no light machine guns of their own until the portable Maxim MG 08-15 light machine guns were issued to them during early 1917. The German army tried to modify some of these guns to fire 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge.



Belgian use; The Belgian Army, which held a large sector of the Western Front, acquired nearly 7,000 Chauchats for its infantry. About half of those Belgian Chauchats were successfully converted to fire their standard 7.65 mm Mauser ammunition and were also fitted with better protections against mud and dust. Post-war modified guns were designated *FM 15/27*. They were kept in service into the 1930s.

Serbian use; The Royal Serbian Army received at least 1,400 Chauchat between December 1916 and April 1917. Some were modified to fire 8mm Mauser.

Greek use; Chauchat entered service with Hellenic Army in 1917. The guns fired the 6.5×54mm Mannlicher-Schönauer cartridge, stored in semi-circular magazine. Turkish National Movement forces used captured guns during the Greco-Turkish War. The Chauchat was still in frontline use during the Greco-Italian War.

Polish use; Poland received French military assistance, notably infantry weapons and artillery, after World War I. As a part of those French weaponry transfers, Poland received over 2,000 Chauchats, which they used extensively during the Polish-Soviet War (1919–1921). After that war, Poland bought more of them, and their numbers reached 11,869, becoming a standard Polish light machine gun (the RKM wz 15). Eventually, about half of them were successfully converted during the mid-1920s to 7.92×57mm Mauser (or 8mm Mauser) and kept in service until the early 1930s under the designation RKM wz 15/27. One remaining specimen of these

A Belgian machine gunner armed with a Chauchat, guarding a trench



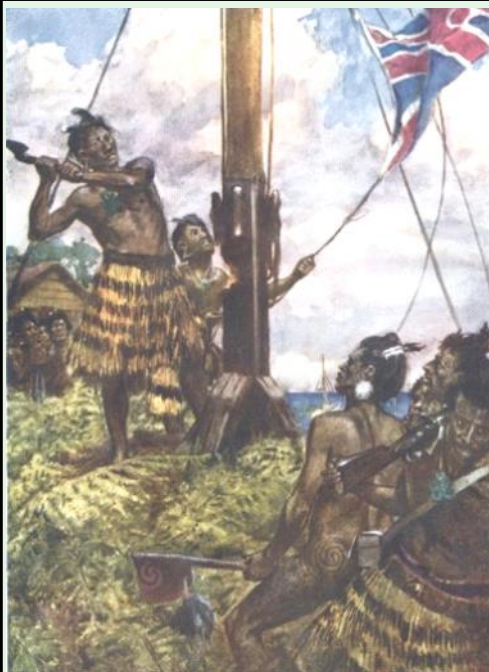
Polish Chauchats in 8mm Mauser is preserved and visible in the MoD (Ministry of Defence) National Firearms Center which is a part of the Royal Armouries in Leeds, Great Britain. Later, in 1936–1937, some 2,650 Chauchats were sold abroad by Poland, some to the

Finnish use; During the Winter War between Soviet Union and Finland, over 5,000 surplus Chauchats were donated by France to Finland, which was short on automatic weapons. The weapons arrived too late to see action but were used in Continuation War, mostly on the home front. After the war they were warehoused until 1955 and sold to Interarmco in 1959–1960.

WWII German use; Nazi Germany seized Chauchat from Poland, Belgium, France, Greece and Yugoslavia. Ex-French guns were designated *LeMG 156(f)*, ex-Yugoslav and ex-Polish *LeMG 147(j)*, ex-Greek *LeMG 156(g)* and ex-Belgian *LeMG 126(b)*. A small number of Chauchats captured by the Germans were issued to the Hungarians.

Other uses; The Chauchat saw service by Syria in the 1948 Arab-Israel war. Some remnants of the Chauchat machine rifle are reported to have appeared in Vietnam during the 1960s in the Vietnam War.

Comparison; The Chauchat was not comparable to the submachine guns of World War I, which used pistol, rather than rifle, ammunition and were thus less powerful. Compared to the Chauchat, the early submachine guns were used in relatively small numbers and had much shorter effective ranges. Unlike much heavier air- and water-cooled machine guns (such as the Hotchkiss machine gun and the various belt-fed Maxim gun derivatives), and like the Madsen machine gun and Lewis gun, the Chauchat was not designed for sustained defensive fire from fixed positions. The tactical edge expected from the light and portable Chauchat machine rifle was to increase the offensive firepower of advancing infantry during the assaults. This particular tactic became known as marching fire. Colonel Chauchat had already formulated this tactical vision since the early 1900s, in his many proposals to the highest levels of the French military command structure, including General Joffre.



Hōne Heke cutting down the flagpole on Flagstaff Hill.

Footnote in History; New Zealand Wars were a series of wars fought between Māori on one side and a mixture of settler troops, imperial troops and Māori on the other. What the wars were fought over has been debated by historians, with Keith Sinclair arguing that they were about land, while James Belich has argued that although land was a major factor, the wars were essentially a contest over sovereignty. This debate is reflected in the naming of the wars: there is no real consensus over whether they should be called the 'New Zealand Wars' or the 'Land Wars', although Belich's books and television series about the conflict popularised the former term, as did a book by historian James Cowan published in the 1920s. The name 'Māori Wars' has fallen into disuse. Māori names for the armed conflicts are Te Riri Pākehā ("white man's anger") or Ngā pakanga o Aotearoa ("the great New Zealand wars"). While the fighting began in 1843 and the last shots were arguably fired in the early 20th century, the bulk of fighting took place in the 1860s. The first skirmish of the New Zealand Wars was the 1843 Wairau Affray at the north end of the South Island. It was an isolated incident caused by the Nelson settlers trying to seize land they did not own, an extra-legal vigilante action that resulted in twenty-two of them being killed. The Flagstaff or Northern War took place in the far north of New Zealand, around the Bay of Islands, in March 1845 and January 1846. This was about mana—tribal prestige—and customs duties. It was really a war between rival Māori chiefs with the British fighting on one side for the prestige of the British Empire. This was followed almost immediately by the Hutt Valley Campaign, March to August 1846, and the Wanganui Campaign, April to July 1847, in the south-west of the North Island. Both these conflicts were about the encroachment of the European settlers onto Māori land. In the first three wars, Māori fought the British to a standstill each time.

From the engagements emerged an understanding: English law prevailed in the townships and settlements, and Māori law and customs elsewhere. There followed a period of relative peace and economic cooperation from 1848 to 1860. During this time European settlement accelerated and in about 1859 the number of Pākehā came to equal the number of Māori, at around 60,000 each. By now Pākehā had largely forgotten the painful lessons of the earlier conflicts. They tried to use military might to push through a very dubious land sale that the courts later repudiated. The result was the First Taranaki War. Once again the local British forces were more than evenly matched by Māori, and after twelve months both sides were happy to settle for a draw. However, this was clearly just a preliminary. The British settlers were not prepared to countenance Māori controlling and ruling most of the land in the North Island. War broke out again in 1863 with the Invasion of the Waikato. To assist in this war, a temporary navy was established. This was the Waikato Flotilla, New Zealand's first de facto navy, comprising eight riverboats, four armoured barges, five coastal boats and a naval dockyard. The Waikato War, including the Tauranga Campaign, was the biggest of all the New Zealand Wars. The outcome of this war was the major confiscation of land owned by Māori, which quickly provoked the Second Taranaki War. By the mid-1860s the conflict had forced the closing of all the native schools. The period from the second half of 1864 until early 1868 was relatively quiet. Possibly the most notorious incident during this time was the murder of the missionary Carl Volkner. There were also two serious Intra-tribal conflicts, civil wars in Māori tribes, between adherents and non-adherents of the Pai Marire or Hau Hau sect—a vehemently anti-Pākehā religious group which was intent upon balancing the developing unbalanced cooperation between the Māori and Pākehā. These are sometimes known as the East Cape War, but that label oversimplifies a complicated series of conflicts. The last major conflicts were Te Kooti's War and Titokowaru's War. These were fought at the same time but were not related to each other and should be considered as separate conflicts. This ended the major, violent conflicts between the new colonial government and the original occupants of the land.



The death of Gustavus von Tempsky by Titokowaru's forces in 1868.



CATEGORY A/B & H FIREARMS LICENCE TESTING

Firearm safety coarse & license testing conducted by Victoria
 Police authorized safety instructors, available to any N.V.A.C.G. member.
 Contact Graham Rogers 0417 137 232 or Alan Nichols 0408 142 733





Unit Colour Patch

2/4th Anti-Tank Regiment was an Australian Army anti-tank artillery regiment that was raised for service during the Second World War as part of the all volunteer Second Australian Imperial Force. It was formed in November 1940, and was assigned to the 8th Division. In early 1942, the regiment took part in the Malayan campaign and the Battle of Singapore before being captured when Singapore fell to the Japanese at which time most of its personnel became prisoners of war. Over 170 members of the regiment died in captivity before the end of the war in August 1945.

History Formed in November 1940 at Puckapunyal, Victoria, as part of the all volunteer Second Australian Imperial Force that was raised for overseas service during World War II. The regiment was assigned to the 8th Division, replacing the 2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment, which was transferred to the 9th Division; its first commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Cranston McEachern. It initially consisted of four batteries – the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th[1] – and had an authorised strength of 30 officers and 526 soldiers. In February 1941, the 13th Battery deployed to Singapore to support the 22nd Infantry Brigade, which had been sent to bolster the garrison in Malaya in case of a Japanese invasion; the 14th Battery deployed to Darwin, Northern Territory with the 23rd Infantry Brigade. This battery was later transferred to the 103rd Anti-Tank Regiment, in December 1942. Meanwhile, the rest of the regiment was deployed to Malaya, to rejoin the 13th Battery. The regiment was based around Tampin, while the individual batteries deployed forward: the 13th around Malacca with the 27th Infantry Brigade, the 15th established itself at Mersing, and the 16th deployed with the 22nd Infantry Brigade around Jemaluang, where they were tasked with securing the eastern coast. During the early war years, there was a shortage of artillery pieces with which to equip the artillery regiments that were formed as part of the Second Australian Imperial Force. The 2/4th was also affected by this, and even after being deployed it was short of its establishment. By December 1941, the regiment possessed only twelve 2-pounder anti-tank guns and twenty-four 75 mm pack howitzers, which was twelve guns short of its entitlement. When the Japanese invasion of Malaya began, the 13th Battery moved to Kluang to continue to support the 22nd Infantry Brigade, but the rest of the regiment was focused on the west coast of the peninsula, supporting the 27th Infantry Brigade as the Japanese advance pushed the Allies back towards Johore. One battery was detached to support the 45th Indian Infantry Brigade during the Battle of Muar, while another battery took part in the Battle of Gemas on 14 January 1942, supporting an ambush on the advancing Japanese by the 2/30th Infantry Battalion. During the battle, the 13th Battery engaged and destroyed four Japanese tanks, and damaged several others, that were advancing down the main road. Despite some local successes, the 22nd and 27th Infantry Brigades withdrew down the peninsula towards the island of Singapore, fighting several delaying actions. By 30 January, the last Allied troops had crossed the Johore Causeway, and it was deliberately blown up to prevent the Japanese from using it. A short lull followed, as the Japanese prepared to cross the strait. During this time, the two Australian brigades occupied hastily prepared defensive positions on the north-west coast of the island. The 2/4th Anti-Tank Regiment deployed the 13th Battery to support the 27th Infantry Brigade in the Causeway Sector; the 15th supported the 22nd Infantry Brigade in the north-western sector, and the 16th Battery supported the 44th Indian Infantry Brigade in the south-west. Regimental headquarters was located at Yew Tee Village. The regiment was bolstered during this time with its batteries expanding from three troops to four, and receiving more guns; at this time it had thirty 2-pounders, as well as thirteen 75 mm pack howitzers, and four other guns of Italian origin. On the evening of 8/9 February, the Japanese attacked, sending two divisions across the strait to land in the sector held by 22nd Infantry Brigade. Heavy fighting followed and over the course of a week, the regiment's batteries fought numerous local actions, often with just a single gun, as the Allies were pushed back towards Singapore town. During this time, the regiment was heavily engaged. Several guns were placed on trucks for a mobile defence, from which they attempted to engage Japanese armoured vehicles before being knocked out, while others fired in direct support of the infantrymen in the same manner as field artillery. The Australian units were eventually concentrated around Tanglin Barracks where they prepared for a final stand. On 15 February, the garrison commander, Lieutenant General Arthur Percival, ordered the remaining garrison to surrender.

The regiment's casualties during this time amounted to 11 killed, 34 missing in action, and 37 wounded. The surviving members of the regiment subsequently became prisoners of war and spent the next three-and-a-half years in captivity. They were sent to camps around south-east Asia including Thailand, Borneo, Sumatra and Japan before being released at war's end in August 1945. The conditions they experienced were brutal and of the almost 15,000 Australians who were captured during the Malayan campaign and fighting around Singapore, only two thirds survived. More than 170 members of the 2/4th died as prisoners.



Type 95 Ha-Go tanks destroyed by an Australian 2-pounder anti-tank gun during the Battle of Muar in Malaya, 1942



Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short was an Australian variant of the British Ordnance QF 25-pounder field gun/howitzer. The gun was developed by modifying the 25-pounder's design to improve its mobility during jungle warfare. Development began in 1942, and the weapon first entered service with the Australian Army the next year. It was used by several Royal Australian Artillery regiments during fighting in the South West Pacific Area, before being declared obsolete in 1946. The development of the Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short was an important achievement for Australia's defence industry, and provided the Army with a weapon suited to conditions in the South West Pacific. Nevertheless, the gun's performance was inferior to that of the standard 25-pounder, and it received a mixed reception from artillerymen.

In service	1943–1946
Used by	Australian Army US Army
Wars	World War II
Designed	1942
Unit cost	£3,300
No. built	213
Mass	1,315 kg (2,899 lb) gun and carriage
Barrel length	49.8 inches (1.26 m)
Crew	6
Shell	Various, with normal (3 charges) and super charge
Shell weight	25 pounds (11.3 kg)
Calibre	3.45 inches (87.6 mm)
Breech	Vertical-sliding-wedge
Recoil	Hydro-pneumatic, variable
Carriage	Two wheel, box trail
Elevation	-5° to +40°
Traverse	4° on carriage
Rate of fire	3-4 rpm
Muzzle velocity	1,230 ft/s (375 m/s)
Effective firing range	10,200 yd (9,300 m)
Maximum firing range	11,500 yd (10,500 m) using super charge

Background; The Australian Army began to be equipped with British-built 25-pounder guns in 1940. The gun proved successful, and was the standard equipment of Australian field batteries by 1943. In January 1940, the Australian Government approved a proposal to build 25-pounders in Australia. A Government-owned factory was constructed at Maribyrnong in Melbourne and commercial industry was contracted to produce additional guns. Almost all the guns' components were manufactured in Australia, with almost 200 firms providing parts. The first Australian-built 25-pounder was completed in May 1941 and 1,527 guns were delivered before production ceased at the end of 1943. The 25-pounder was well suited to the open conditions the Army experienced in the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres but proved difficult to deploy in jungle terrain. While the developed road network in Malaya allowed it to be moved by vehicles during the Malayan Campaign, the rugged terrain and limited transport infrastructure in New Guinea meant that the guns could only be moved away from coastal plains and airfields by manhandling. As a result, Australian infantry often had no artillery support heavier than 3 inch mortars during the New Guinea Campaign in 1942.

Design; The difficulty of deploying artillery in New Guinea led to a need for a gun which could be broken down into light parts and transported by aircraft or jeeps. The Army had only a small number of British 3.7 inch Mountain Howitzers, and Australia's request for United States M116 75mm pack howitzers was not immediately filled. In September 1942, the Army's Director of Artillery, Brigadier John O'Brien, suggested that a variant of the 25-pounder be developed to meet this

requirement.^[10] This proposal was approved, and all development work was conducted in Australia by the Army, the Ordnance Production Directorate and Charles Ruwolt Pty Ltd. O'Brien produced the early design diagrams himself. The three organisations cooperated successfully as they were strongly motivated to provide the Army with a useful light artillery piece as quickly as possible. Design work began in September 1942, and an acceptable weapon was ready by January the next year. Preparations to manufacture the gun commenced while it was still being designed. This violated the Army's usual procedures for fielding new weapons, but proved successful.^[13] During the period the 25-pounder Short was under development, the Army received thirty-eight 75mm pack howitzers and deployed some of these guns to New Guinea. The new gun used as many standard 25-pounder parts as possible, but included a number of major differences in order to reduce the weapon's weight. Modifications included shortening the gun's barrel and recuperator, making the trail lighter, and incorporating the new recoil system which had been developed to allow 25-pounders to be mounted in the Australian-designed Sentinel tank. The guns weighed 1.25 tons, had a 49.825 inches (1,266 mm) long barrel and a maximum range which was approximately 87 percent that of the standard gun. The QF 25-pounder Short could use three standard charges to obtain a range of up to 10,400 yards (9,500 m). This range could be extended to 11,500 yards (10,500 m) if a super charge was used, though standing instructions warned against doing so except in emergencies due to the strain they placed on the gun carriage. The gun could fire the same variety of ammunition as the standard 25-pounder; namely high explosive, armour piercing, smoke, gas, propaganda and illumination shells. While the prototype gun was fitted with a gun shield, this was later removed and not incorporated into the production weapons. The QF 25-pounder Short incorporated a number of design features which sought to increase its mobility. The gun could be broken down into 13 or 14 parts in under two minutes, allowing it to be air-dropped from aircraft or packed into Willys MB "jeeps". Of these parts, only the recuperator and front trail weighed over 135 kilograms (300 lb). Assembled guns could also be towed by a Jeep, which was advantageous as it was possible to transport these vehicles inside of aircraft. The gun carriage was very different from that in the standard 25-pounder, and included a new cradle, trail and axles. The guns were initially fitted with stabilisers to reduce stress on their wheels when firing, but these were later removed as they caused problems when reversing or running up the guns in action. Initial testing of the prototype QF 25-pounder Short was completed in early December 1942.^[4] The 2/1st Field Regiment also trialled the gun in New Guinea during early 1943. Large-scale production began in early 1943, after minor modifications were made to the design, and the Army placed an initial order for 112 guns. A second order was later placed for 100 more. This lot incorporated the Mark II carriage, which had larger wheels and tyres to prevent the problem with wheel bounce encountered by the first lot. Altogether, 213 guns were manufactured by the time production ceased in 1944. As completed, the gun's full designation was Ordnance QF 25-pounder Short (Aust) Mark I, but it was nicknamed the 'snort' by Australian soldiers.

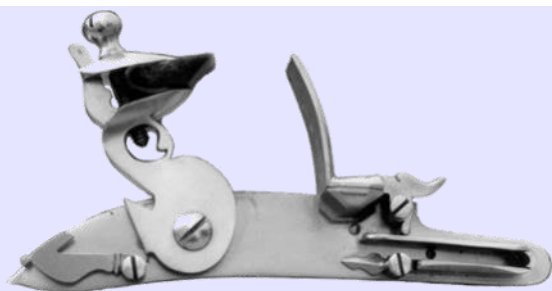




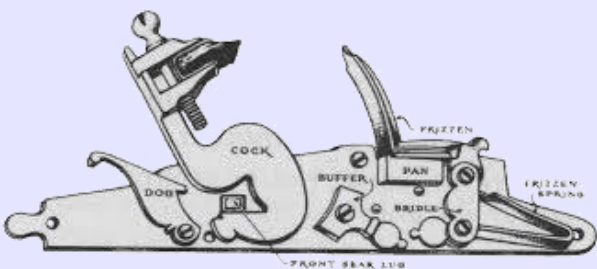
Service; QF 25-pounder Short guns were first issued to front line artillery regiments in August 1943 as part of the reorganisation of the Australian Army's fighting units to the "Jungle division" structure. Under this structure, one of each field regiment's three batteries was re-equipped with the new guns. Field batteries equipped with the guns normally consisted of a headquarters and two troops each with four guns, seven jeeps and a D6 tractor. Like the standard 25-pounder, each gun had a crew of six men. The commander of New Guinea Force's artillery, Brigadier L.E.S. Barker, preferred the 75mm pack howitzer to the 25-pounder Short, and tried to prevent the new gun being issued. He was overruled by O'Brien. Barker accepted this decision. The guns were first used in action by the 7th Division during

the landing at Nadzab, when a 32-man detachment of the 2/4th Field Regiment was dropped by parachute from five C-47 transports with two guns. One gun was assembled and ready to fire within an hour, but the buffer and recuperator of the other took two days to locate in the long grass. The QF 25-pounder Short continued to be used by some Australian artillery units in New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Borneo until the end of the war, and was declared obsolete in 1946. The QF 25-pounder Short received a mixed reception from gunners, and was particularly unpopular among members of AIF artillery units which had used the standard 25-pounder during the fighting in the Middle East. The lack of a gun shield and the shortened barrel exposed gun crews to a severe backblast each time the gun was fired. As a result, gunners often suffered mild concussions and nosebleeds by the end of fire missions. Guns were sometimes put out of action by damage caused by the absorption of violent recoil. The gun also had a tendency to tilt at low elevation; this was remedied by its crew standing on the trails, an expedient that had previously been used with the QF 4.5 inch Howitzer. Other limitations included a low rate of fire (three or four rounds per minute) and difficulties towing the weapon. Concerns were also raised over the quality of workmanship, and the commander of the 2/4th Field Regiment rejected a batch of Short 25-pounders sent to his unit before the Nadzab operation in the belief that they had been poorly manufactured. Inspectors subsequently concluded that most of his criticisms were unfounded, however. The most important deficiency compared to the regular 25-pounder was the shorter range. As a result of its experience with the gun, the 9th Division recommended that they be pooled and reserved for their special role rather than be employed in a day-to-day role alongside the regular 25 pounder. Post-war assessments of the gun's performance are generally positive. The Australian official history acknowledged the QF 25-pounder Short's limitations, but argued that these were the result of it being developed to perform a specialised role for which some trade-offs in performance were needed, and that on balance it was a successful weapon. Historian and retired Major General Steve Gower has assessed the gun as being "undoubtedly one of the more significant Australian weapon developments of the Second World War" as it represented a success in adapting a foreign-designed weapon to meet the Australian Army's requirements. Similarly, Australian historian Adrian Threlfall noted the shortcomings of the gun, but stated that its rapid development and introduction into service provides an example of the Army's success in adapting to the demands of jungle warfare. Jeffrey Grey also judged that the gun "was not a perfect weapon, but a compromise born of an urgent situation". British historian Chris Henry has written that the QF 25-pounder Short "gave good service, and was robust enough to survive life in the jungle even though many modifications were needed".

Surviving examples; Several QF 25-pounder Shorts remain existing. One is on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Two form part of a war memorial in Mordialloc, a suburb of Melbourne. Other examples are preserved at Manly in Sydney, Eugowra, New South Wales, The Army Museum Bandiana and Nyah, Victoria.



This type of lock had no internal, half-cock loading position as the later flintlock mechanism contained. To load a firearm with a dog lock, the cock was secured with the external dog, preventing it from moving forward to strike the frizzen and begin the firing sequence. The user could then safely load the musket or pistol. To fire, the cock was moved to the full-cock position, which caused the dog to fall backward and no longer prevent the lock from firing. A pull of the trigger would then fire the piece. This fell out of favor with the British before 1720. Later flintlocks would contain no such catch, as the half-cock position had been created with the internal parts of the lock.



What is a Doglock

Doglock is a type of lock for firearms that preceded the 'true' flintlock in rifles, muskets, and pistols in the 17th century. Commonly used throughout Europe in the late seventeenth century, it gained popular favor in the British and Dutch military. A doglock carbine was the principal weapon of the harquebusier, the most numerous type of cavalry in the armies of the Thirty Years' War and English Civil War era. Like the snapchance, it was largely supplanted by the flintlock. Much like the later flintlock devices, it contained the flint, frizzen, and pan, yet had an external catch as a half-cock safety, known as the "dog".



On the left is Shown is a small Type 2 English lock of the English Civil War era.

The lock is in the full-cock position. The dog has been automatically pushed out of the notch in the back of the cock and is lying back horizontally.

