

# More Majorum

**2022 PART 1**



**SWAP MEET**  
(See page 2)

Footnote in History ;  
Raid on Pebble Island

Something from  
your Collection

Ontos, Rifle, Multiple  
106 mm, Self-  
propelled, M50

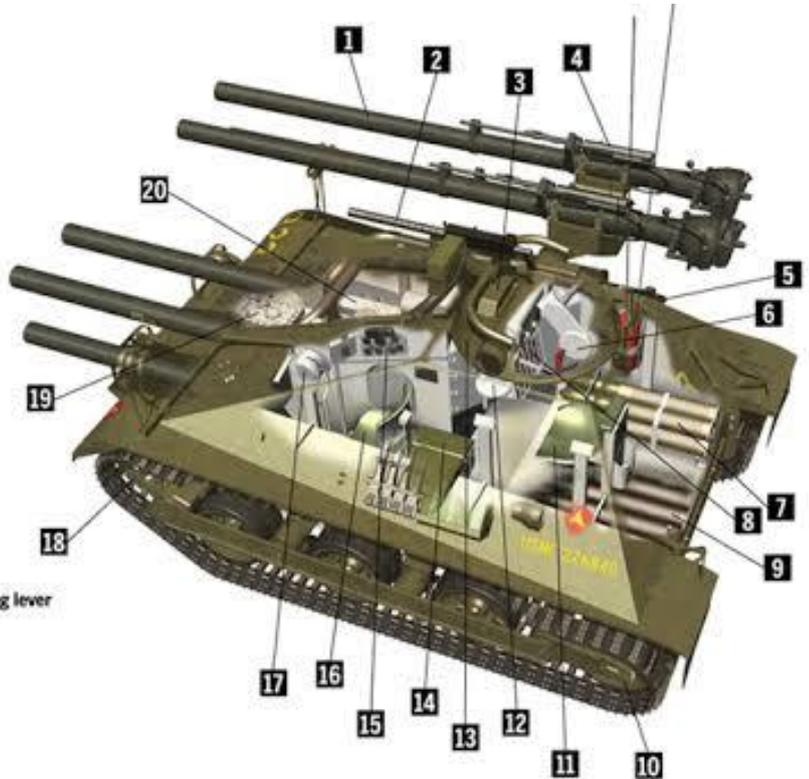
Geweer M. 95

Bombardier Mario  
(Murray) Takasuka

Colt Model 1903 Pock-  
et Hammerless

Grenade, Hand, No. 1

1. M40A1C 106 mm recoilless rifle
2. M1919A4 .30-caliber machine gun
3. Gunner periscope sight M20A3G
4. M8C .50-caliber spotting rifle
5. Engine exhaust tailpipe
6. Elevation handwheel, firing button
7. Four 106 mm rounds (on deck)
8. Weapons control panel
9. Eight 106 mm rounds (under deck)
10. Rear supporting arm, road wheel
11. Gunner seat
12. Traversing handwheel
13. 106 mm rifle mount T149ES
14. AN/VRC-8 radio
15. Driver's instrument panel
16. Driver seat
17. Steering levers, shifting and starting lever
18. Final drive, sprocket wheel
19. Allison XT-90-5 transmission
20. Chrysler V-8 engine



Above Diagram of Ontos and  
below 2 Ontos on patrol in  
Vietnam with US Marine Troops.



The M.95 periscope rifle

Bottom Left and bottom show  
SAS attack at Pebble Island and  
a row a damages Pucarás



### 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

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John Harrington

Scott Jackson

Carl Webster

Peter Roberts

Rob Keen

Sol Sutherland



## Achtung !!



From the Secretary's Desk

THE ANNUAL GUN SHOW IS CANCELLED DUE TO THE RESTRICTIONS OF RUNNING A PUBLIC EVENT IN A COVID ENVIRONMENT. SO WE WILL HAVE A COLLECTORS SWAP MEET INSTEAD, SAME WEEKEND, SUNDAY ONLY. ALL POLICE APPROVED COLLECTORS ASSOCIATIONS WELCOME. NO CHARGE. COVID RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITS WILL APPLY, BUT WE HAVE A LOT OF OUT-DOOR SPACE.

THERE WILL BE A COVID MARSHAL ON THE DOOR. PLEASE DON'T GIVE HIM/HER A HARD TIME, THEY ARE ONLY VOLUNTEERING TO ENABLE THE EVENT TO PROCEED. PLEASE - NO ARGUMENT ABOUT VACCINES OR MASKS, WE DIDN'T MAKE THE RULES WE ARE JUST TRYING TO LIVE WITH THEM. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE .



## SHEPPARTON MILITARIA & COLLECTABLES

### SWAP MEET



**Sunday 6th March, 2022**

The Northern Victorian Arms Collectors Guild Inc. will be holding a Militaria and Collectables Swap Meet, from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm. At the shooting complex, Pine Lodge Recreation Reserve  
1127 New Dookie Rd, Pine Lodge VIC 3631

**This event is not open to the public. Members of police approved collectors clubs, guilds or associations or their invited guests, only. This means if you bring a guest you must vouch for them and you must ensure they are not a prohibited person.**

Please wear club badge, bring photo ID and membership card.  
You will be required to register at the door and check out on departure.

Anyone selling registerable firearms, or ammunition will require the appropriate dealers licence and permits. All functional firearms will have triggers zip tied.

**Two meter bench space can be reserved by phoning 0417 137 232,  
First in first served no charge or entry fee.**

The premises has recorded video surveillance. Finger food and refreshment will be available for purchase.  
Bring money no EFTPOS in facility.

COVID restrictions will apply and at the moment that means you must be fully vaccinated or have a valid exemption.



## Bombardier Mario (Murray) Takasuka (1910 - 1999)

Mario(Murray) Takasuka's family arrived in Australia in 1905, with the idea of growing experimental rice in near Swan Hill, Victoria. Mario was the third and youngest of his family, but most importantly, the first born in this country. The Takasuka family then moved to Huntly, near Bendigo, where they rapidly became very active members of the local community. Mario's older sister Aiko became a very popular part of the Huntly community, becoming a school teacher and having leading roles in several local community groups Mario's older brother, Sho became a well-known local businessman and tomato grower. When the Second World War commenced in 1939, Sho immediately joined the newly formed Volunteer Defence Corps. Mario attempted to enlist in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force twice in the months after Australia entered the second world war. However, he was rejected twice, because he did not meet the minimum height requirement, but more importantly, his parents were Japanese, and men not "of substantially European origin were legally excluded from enlisting. Mario did not let this deter him. In June 1940, having grown his hair a bit longer, to make him look taller, he went to

Melbourne, where he was not well known. This time he was successful and by the end of the year, Mario was in the middle east with 7 Battery of 2/3 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, armed with 40mm Bofors anti aircraft guns. Mario found himself taking part in the ill-fated defence of Crete. On 20 May, 1941. His unit was tasked with defending Heraklion airfield when it came under attack by German paratroopers. In the action, Mario's bofors gun destroyed one German aircraft and scored hits on two others. After expending all their ammunition, Mario and his mates were cut off by the enemy, and only made their escape by stealing a rowboat after which they were picked up by the Royal Navy Destroyer HMS Kingston. After being bombed and strafed, Mario assisted the crew of Kingston in rescuing survivors of sunken Destroyers Greyhound and Fiji. In February 1942, in Palestine, Mario received a written commendation after he and two comrades risked their lives to rescue the crew of a crashed train which had collided with a troop train. The entry of Japan into the war complicated things for Mario. His family members were declared "enemy aliens" and his older brother, Sho was interned at Tatura, until a petition raised by his neighbours secured his release.

Mario's sister was also listed for internment, but the local internment officer knew of her reputation and the high esteem in which she was held. Not sure what he should do, noticed that the order had no fulfillment date. He then placed the on his desk and ignored it until the end of the war, so the order was never carried out. Army HQ ordered that Mario be assigned to a rear area position. They were of the rather insulting opinion that Mario would not want to fight other Japanese men. Mario resisted this posting, and such was the esteem that he was held in by his fellow gunners and his officers that they joined him in protesting the order. His commanding officer writing " His record as a soldier both in and out of action has been exemplary and in consideration of his outstanding service on Crete I selected him for promotion as a bombardier."

When the unit sailed for New Guinea, Mario, with the rank of Gunner Sergeant was with them. He continued to serve with quiet distinction until the end of the war.

By Ian Jorrdon

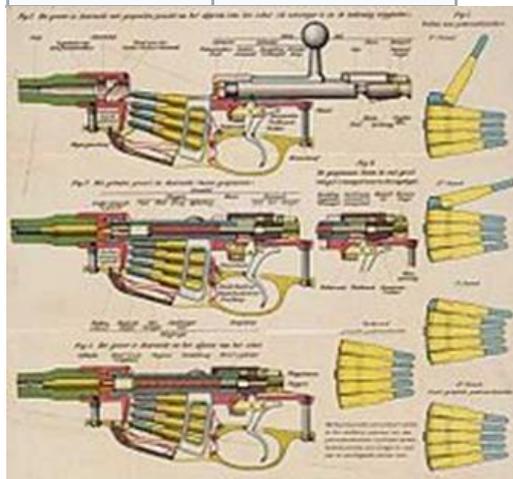
**Geweer M. 95**, also known to collectors as the Dutch Mannlicher, was the service rifle of the Armed forces of the Netherlands between 1895 and 1940 which replaced the obsolete Beaumont-Vitali M1871/88. At first it was produced by Steyr for the Dutch, but after 1904, production took place under license at Hembrug Zaandam in the Netherlands. Although often regarded as being based on the earlier Mannlicher 1893 Model, the rifle is in fact a modification of the Mannlicher rifle by August Schriever and the Dutch rifle commission. The Dutch issued about 470,000 M.95s.



Both Dutch and Romanian rifles fired the same rimmed cartridge often referred to as "Romanian" 6.5x53.5mmR or "Dutch 6.5" 6.5x53 mmR. In military service, Dutch M.95 rifles (6.5x53 mmR) cartridges are loaded primarily through the use of an *en-bloc clip*, similar in concept to the clip used later by the US Army's M1 Garand. With the Ferdinand Mannlicher designed trigger guard / magazine housing assembly, when the bolt is open and fully retracted to the rear the full en-bloc clip is loaded into the magazine from the top through the open receiver. The empty clip will fall out through a hole in the base of the magazine housing when out of cartridges. This enabled quick reloading of the rifles during combat. When the bolt is in the fully open and retracted position, full clips can be vigorously ejected upwards from the magazine housing by means of a spring loaded latch at the rear of the magazine. This is operated by a recessed button in the front of the trigger guard portion of the assembly. The clips were essentially disposable as ammunition would be issued already loaded into clips from the factory. This same cartridge in the early Imperial (English) nomenclature called the .256 Mannlicher also saw limited success as a sporting round, including use by the elephant hunter W. D. M. Bell.

<b>In service</b>	1895–1940
<b>Used by</b>	Netherlands Nazi Germany Empire of Japan Indonesia
<b>Wars</b>	Aceh War Dutch intervention in Bali (1906) World War I World War II Indonesian National Revolution Malayan Emergency
<b>Designer</b>	Otto Schönauer and Ferdinand Mannlicher
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Steyr Mannlicher Hembrug Zaandam
<b>Mass</b>	4.35 kg (9.6 lb)
<b>Length</b>	1,290 mm (51 in)
<b>Barrel length</b>	790 mm (31 in)
<b>Cartridge</b>	6.5×53mmR .303 British 7.7×58mm Arisaka
<b>Action</b>	Bolt-action
<b>Muzzle velocity</b>	742 m/s (2,430 ft/s)
<b>Effective firing range</b>	up to 400 m (440 yd)
<b>Feed system</b>	5-round en-bloc clip

**History;** In the 1880s, two important developments took place that disrupted the current armament paradigm: the adoption of repeating ( i.e. magazine) rifles, and the invention of smokeless gunpowder. On 23 February 1886, the Dutch Minister of War appointed a "commission for the purpose of evaluating the rifle question", which was tasked with gathering information on the new system of repeating rifles. As the matter of finding a new rifle was regarded a long term goal, the immediate adoption of a magazine rifle was also considered. By 1888, the Dutch Beaumont rifle was modified with a 4-round Vitali magazine, to serve as an interim solution to "the rifle question". With regards to adopting a new rifle, the commission utilised two principles: The rifle had to have been adopted or at least been considered for adoption by other nations, and the commission would focus on the barrel, bolt, and cartridge of the system. A further question was the inclusion of a magazine cut-off device, allowing the weapon to be used as a single-shot rifle, much like the Beaumont-Vitali M71/88 just adopted. In 1890, the chief of the General Staff and the Inspector of the Infantry allowed the commission to ignore the magazine cut-off function, allowing the rifle to be a "pure" repeater. Nine rifles using a clip system of loading were trialled: the Austrian Mannlicher 1886, the Italian Vinci rifle, a so-called Bergman rifle, a Belgian Nagant rifle, an improved Belgian Pieper rifle, the Krag–Jørgensen rifle, a Swiss Frey rifle made by the Neuhausen factory, the German Gewehr 1888 rifle, and an improved Mannlicher rifle of the August Schriever factory of Liège, Belgium. The latter had his own firearms factory, in addition to being an agent of the Oesterreichische Waffenfabriks Gesellschaft Steyr. Some rifles were immediately disqualified: The Vinci rifle was provided with too little ammunition for testing; the German rifle was provided without any ammunition at all. It was recommended to create a rifle from the best elements of those rifles provided, with the August Schriever Mannlicher rifle being the preferred base rifle. At the final moment however, the Nagant firm submitted a new and improved rifle, using a Mauser style stripper clip. It was thus decided to trial both rifles, and by the end of November 1890, both manufacturers were asked to provide the necessary rifles for a large scale trial. Both manufacturers agreed to provide the rifles, at the exorbitant price of 155 Dutch guilders. Following further small scale trials, the commission decided to focus on three rifles: the German 1888, the August Schriever modified Mannlicher, and the Nagant rifle. As ammunition for the German 1888 was finally acquired in December 1890, the weapon was subjected to trials, and subsequently removed from consideration: it was possible to cause a double-feed with the German 1888 rifle, resulting in the tip of the rear cartridge's bullet hitting the chambered cartridge's primer, with catastrophic results. Although the commission initially focused on a calibre of 7.5 to 8 millimetres, a Schriever rifle with an Italian barrel chambered for 6.5 mm was also trialled. As the commission concluded no downsides to the 6.5 cartridge in comparison to a trialled 7.65mm cartridge, 6.5mm was given preference due to its lower weight. As the Mannlicher style of loading was preferred, the matter was almost settled, with the Schriever modified Mannlicher being the preferred candidate. In March 1892, a draft contract for 100 rifles was submitted to the Minister of War for his approval. At this moment, the issue of carry method was raised. Was the weapon to be carried with slings, and if so, how? After deciding on a German style of sling and sling attachment, the question of a hand guard was raised. Following small changes to the stock and barrel bands, this issue too was settled. Finally, small adjustments were made to the sight and other small parts, until the weapon was officially designated the Gewehr M.95 on 4 December 1895. The rifle was the standard weapon of the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army (KNIL) until the Japanese invasion. M.95 rifles were later used by both sides during the Indonesian National Revolution. After the conclusion of the war, the remaining rifles were handed over by the KNIL to the new Indonesian armed forces. The M. 95 remained in Dutch colonial service at least to 1955, where it was in use by the police force of Suriname.



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Bayonet and scabbard issued with the rifle

**Variants;** Nine variants were produced, these were largely carbines differing only in sling swivels. These included : Karabijn No.1 Oud Model ("old model")(introduced in 1896) designed for the cavalry and the Marechaussee. It later became the official carbine of the KNIL (*Koninklijk Nederlands Indisch Leger*, Royal Netherlands East Indies Army) in 1911 (1925 for the non-European units in Java). Karabijn No.2 for the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* (Royal Military Constabulary Corps) with a knife bayonet. Karabijn No.3 pioneer and artillery carbine model Karabijn No.4, a shortened M.95 (designed in 1909) created for the Dutch bicycle troops that had a wooden fairing on the left side of the magazine.



A No.3 Old Model Carbine

M.95 Loopgraafgeweer ("trench gun"), a Periscope rifle version of the M.95, designed in 1916 for trench warfare.

Around 1930, new models (*Nieuw Model*) of the No.1, No.2, No.3 and No.4 were introduced.

In 1936 a shorter No.5 carbine model was introduced. It was a Geweer M95 cut down to carbine size. The first 9,500 were issued to field artillery and anti-aircraft artillery. A total 35,500 were rebuilt in all.

**Beutewaffen designations;** After Germany occupied the Netherlands, its captured weapons (*beutewaffen*) were catalogued for German use. *G* stands for *Gewehr* ("Rifle"), *Gr.* *G* stands for *Graben-Gewehr* ("Trench Rifle"), *K* stands for *Karabiner* ("Carbine"), and (*h*) stands for *holländisch* ("Dutch").

G 211 (h) = *Geweer M1895* (Mannlicher M1895 Infantry Rifle)

Gr. G 212 (h) = *Loopgraafgeweer M1895* (Mannlicher M1895 trench rifle)

K 411 (h) = *Karabijn No.1 Nieuw Model* (carbine No.1 New Model, cavalry)

K 412 (h) = *Karabijn No.1 Oud Model* (carbine No. 1 Old Model, cavalry)

K 413 (h) = *Karabijn No.3 Oud Model & Nieuw Model* (carbine No. 3 Old Model and New Model, artillery & pioneers)

K 414 (h) = *Karabijn No.4 Oud Model & Nieuw Model* (carbine No. 4 Old Model and New Model, bicyclists)

The No.2 carbine was not classified because few, if any, were captured. The No.5 carbine was classified as a *Geweer M95*.



A class at the Suriname Police School in 1955, practice field-stripping

### Hand grenade No. 1 Mark I



## Grenade, Hand, No. 1

was the first British hand grenade used in World War I. It was designed in the Royal Laboratory, based on reports and samples of Japanese hand grenades during the Russo-Japanese War provided by General Sir Aylmer Haldane, who was a British observer of that war. The grenade proper is a container of explosive material with an iron fragmentation band. The fuse was of the impact sort, detonating when the top of the grenade hit the ground. A long cane handle (approximately 16 inches or 40 cm) allowed the user to throw the

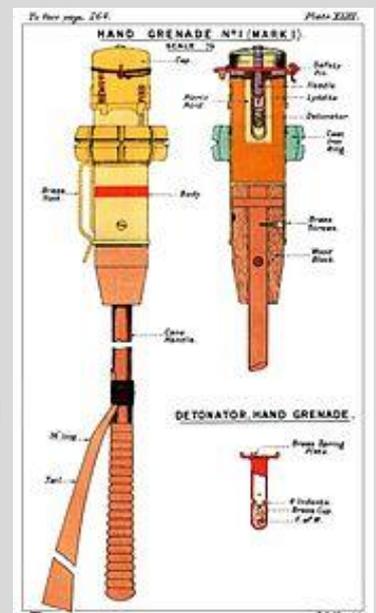
grenade further than the blast of the explosion. To ensure that the grenade hit the ground nose first, a cloth streamer was attached to the end of the handle. When thrown, this unfurled and acted as a tail to stabilize flight. The grenade came with a metal loop so it could hang from a belt.

**In the trenches;** When the battlefield became confined to the trenches, the long handle became a liability, causing several accidents. Reaching back for the throw, the fuse could strike the trench side. The No. 3, a variant of the No. 1, had a shorter handle for easier use in trenches. Even with these adjustments, the No. 1 and its variants did poorly in battle. According to German prisoners captured at Ypres in January 1916, the No. 1 could be deflected by wooden boards. In some cases, the deflected grenade could be thrown back. Manufacturing the No. 1 was difficult, as it required a special detonator that could only be produced by the ordnance factories.

<b>Wars</b>	<b>World War I</b>
<b>Designer</b>	<b>Royal Laboratories</b>
<b>Designed</b>	<b>1908</b>
<b>Produced</b>	<b>1908-1915</b>
<b>Variants</b>	<b>No. 3 (shorter handle), No. 18 (different detonator)</b>
<b>Mass</b>	<b>2 lb (0.9 kg)</b>
<b>Filling</b>	<b>Lyddite</b>
<b>Detonation mechanism</b>	<b>Percussion fuse (impact detonated)</b>

Because of this, the British Expeditionary Force got far fewer No. 1s than were ordered. A version that used a more common detonator, the No. 18, was designed, but by then battlefield experience had shown that the No. 1's design was ineffective. The difficulty of operating it in trenches plus the special detonator caused Britain to create several stopgap grenades, such as the jam tin grenade, until the Mills bomb was adopted.

### Detailed diagram and cross section of the No. 1 grenade



## 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.

From Graham Collection



I always wanted a nice Lithgow SMLE No.1 Mk. III\* from the WW2 era, but it had to be a shooter as well as a collector. Found plenty of rough ones that were well and truly worn out, plenty that had been converted to range rifles with alterations to the forend, for fitting of an aperture sight and removal of rear battle sight. Most of those had seen more than their fair share of rounds also. Then there were the safe queens, for some reason they had been locked away and not had the rough handling of a military rifle. These were bringing premium prices, which I guess was affordable, but if I was to use it a lot, it would no longer be valuable as a unused rifle. What I need was a rifle that had just been through the treatment rifles got



after WW2, when rifle were sent back to Lithgow, they were stripped cleaned and all excessively worn parts replaced. Reassembled not necessarily with originally numbered parts, the rifle were then returned to Army stores. But all those rifle had seen another 50 years of use since then. Perhaps I could do my own refurbishment. The search for good clean unworn parts began.

Started with a brand new set of Slanzenger 1943 manufactured wood. Purchased a brand new reproduction barrel, all other part were selected for minimal signs of ware and damage. It has a few enhancement to make it a good shooter, such as heavy target barrel and windage adjustable sight from an early version of this pattern. But at a glance it looks like a new issued 1943 Lithgow rifle.

All parts were cleaned, metal bead blasted and reblued, rear sight reamed out to fit heavy barrel, new barrel fitted and rifle assembled and tested by Tom Smith of T-bone Shipwrighting NSW.

More form Carl. The SHEAFFER FARMHOUSE - GETTYSBURG, PA is a former Union Field Hospital that was inundated with casualties and where nearly 3,000 Rebel prisoners who were taken during "Pickett's Charge" were kept during the July 1-3, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg.



When the wounded began to arrive on the first day of battle, the Sheaffer's were asked to leave. Immediately thereafter, surgeons began performing amputations on every available surface, forcing the drilling of holes in the floorboards to "wash the blood into the cellar". The most famous patient at



the Sheaffer House Field Hospital was General Daniel Sickles.

## 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 [jobah450.577@bigpond.com](mailto:jobah450.577@bigpond.com)

## 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](mailto:jobah450.577@bigpond.com)

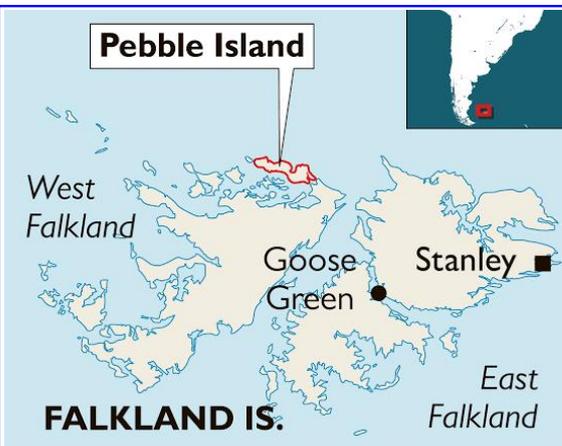
Or John M. on 0427 303 357 or Brett M. at [bnmaag@gmail.com](mailto:bnmaag@gmail.com)



## 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





## Footnote in History; Raid on Pebble Island

was a raid by British Special Forces on Pebble Island's airfield during the Falklands War, and took place on the night of 14–15 May 1982. Pebble Island is one of the smaller Falkland Islands, lying north of West Falkland. The site was being used as a forward operating base for T-34 Mentor and Pucara aircraft by the Argentine Air Force; British Special Air Service (SAS) operatives were tasked with destroying the aircraft on the ground, in an operation that echoed back to some of the unit's first missions during the North African Campaign of World War II. SAS elements, then embarked on HMS *Hermes*, were tasked with eliminating the airfield, with naval support from the Type 22 frigate HMS *Broadsword* as *Hermes* defensive escort and the County class destroyer HMS *Glamorgan* to provide naval gunfire support with its Mark 6 4.5 inch

guns. During the night of 14 May, two Westland Sea King HC4 helicopters of 846 Naval Air Squadron, part of the Commando Helicopter Force, departed with 45 members of D Squadron on board. The force infiltrated the airfield without alarm allowing them to lay charges on seven of the aircraft. Once all the aircraft had been prepared the raiding team opened fire on the aircraft with small arms and L1A1 rockets. All of the aircraft were damaged, with some having their undercarriages shot away. Following this cue *Glamorgan* began shelling the Argentine positions on the airfield using high-explosive rounds, hitting the ammunition dump and fuel stores. The defending force did not engage until the entire raiding party had re-grouped and were preparing to move out. One British soldier was wounded by an Argentine IED while the raiding party returned fire, resulting in the death of the Argentine commanding officer (according to British assessments) and the suppression of any defensive effort. The wounded man was hauled back to the recovery site with the raiding party reaching the aircraft by the required time for transportation back to *Hermes* before daybreak.

**Background;** Immediately after the Argentinians had seized the Falkland Islands they established a small airbase, Aeródromo Auxiliar Calderón, on Pebble Island (Argentine name: isla Borbón) using the local airstrip on which were based Argentine Air Force's FMA IA 58 Pucará and some Argentine Naval Aviation's T-34 Mentor light ground attack aircraft. Reconnaissance by these aircraft could have compromised the Royal Navy's manoeuvres before its intended landing on East Falkland. SAS elements, then embarked on HMS *Hermes*, were tasked with eliminating the threat, with naval support from the Type 22 frigate HMS *Broadsword* as *Hermes*' defensive escort and the County class destroyer HMS *Glamorgan* to provide naval gunfire support with its Mark 6 4.5 inch guns. The Naval Gunfire Support Forward Observer (NGSFO) who was responsible for co-ordinating the naval gunfire support was Captain Chris Brown RA of 148 Battery 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery.

### Planning

**Initial intentions;** Initial intentions were for a squadron strength air insertion from *Hermes* using personnel from D Squadron, 22 Regiment. The raiding party would destroy the deployed aircraft, radar site, ground crew, and force protection garrison before helicopter exfiltration to return to the deck before daybreak.

**Reconnaissance;** for the raid was conducted by personnel from the Boat Troop of D Squadron, conducting an infiltration by Klepper canoe. The patrol found that strong headwinds would increase the time taken to fly in from *Hermes* launch point, delaying time on target and reducing the available offensive window to thirty minutes, rather than the planned ninety. In light of this information the planning emphasised the importance of destroying the aircraft as a priority, with support personnel as a secondary priority.

**The raid;** During the night of 14 May, two Westland Sea King HC4



helicopters of 846 Naval Air Squadron, part of the Commando Helicopter Force, departed with 45 members of D Squadron on board. The delivery point was 3.7 mi (6 km) from the airstrip on Pebble Island. Mountain Troop was tasked with the destruction of the Argentine aircraft, while the remaining personnel acted as a protection force, securing approaches to the airstrip, and forming an operational reserve. The raiding party unloaded over 100 L16 81mm Mortar bombs, explosive charges, and Rocket 66mm HEAT L1A1 Light Anti-tank Weapons to carry into the engagement zone from the helicopters, with each man in the raiding party carrying at least two mortar bombs. For small arms, M16 rifles were used, some with underslung M203 grenade launchers. Approach navigation was conducted by a member of the Boat Troop who had carried out the reconnaissance.

**Action;** As the raiding party approached the target they spotted an Argentine sentry but were not seen, allowing them to enter the target and lay charges on seven of the aircraft. Once all the aircraft had been prepared the raiding team opened fire on the aircraft with small arms and rockets. All of the aircraft were damaged, with some having their undercarriages shot away. Following this cue *Glamorgan* began shelling the Argentine positions on the airfield using high-explosive rounds, hitting the ammunition dump and fuel stores. The defending force did not engage until the entire raiding party had re-grouped and were preparing to move out. One British soldier was wounded by an Argentine IED while the raiding party returned fire using small arms and M203 grenade launchers, resulting in the death of the Argentine commanding officer (according to British assessments) and the suppression of any defensive effort. The Argentine version states that their marines remained in shelters during the shelling by *Glamorgan*, so they were unable to face the SAS in combat. The British wounded was the result of shrapnel from exploding charges settled by the Argentines under the airstrip in order to deny its use to the enemy. The blasts were triggered in the belief that the operation was a full-scale assault to take over the air base.

**Exfiltration;** The wounded man was hauled back to the recovery site with the raiding party reaching the aircraft by the required time for transportation back to *Hermes* before daybreak. The decision was made to proceed with exfiltration rather than returning to attack the defending force.



#### Aftermath

Damaged IA 58 "Pucará" at Pebble Island, 1982  
 Argentine "Sea King" helicopters departing to rescue the troops at Pebble Island, June 1982  
 Assets destroyed during the raid totalled:  
 Six FMA IA 58 Pucarás (*Air Force*)  
 Four Turbo Mentor trainer/light attack aircraft (*Navy*)  
 One Short SC.7 Skyvan utility transport aircraft (*Coast Guard*)  
 Destruction of the ammunition dump  
 Destruction of the fuel dump  
 The raid was considered a complete success, reminiscent of the type of operation carried out by the SAS in the Second World War. One of the officers involved, Captain Hamilton, was later killed in another SAS action near Port Howard. The

Argentine forces continued occupying the position until they were evacuated later in the war, the last troops were recovered on 1 June 1982 by two Argentine Navy Sea King helicopters.



**Ontos M50A1, the 50-cal spotting rifles can be seen on the upper guns**

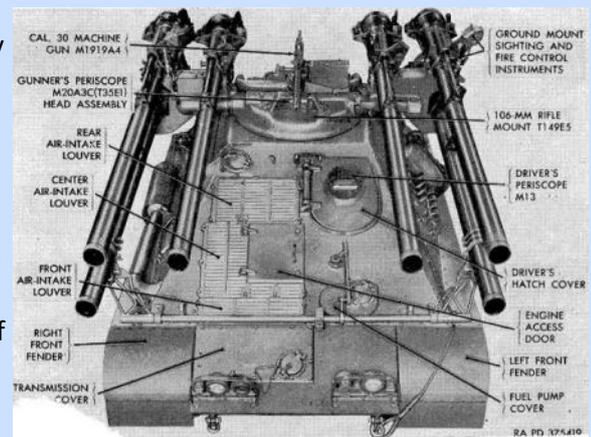
**Ontos**, officially the **Rifle, Multiple 106 mm, Self-propelled, M50**, was a U.S. light armored tracked anti-tank vehicle developed in the 1950s. It mounted six 106 mm manually loaded M40 recoilless rifles as its main armament, which could be fired in rapid succession against single targets to guarantee a kill. Although the actual caliber of the main guns was 105 mm it was designated 106 mm to prevent confusion with the ammunition for the 105 mm M27 recoilless rifle, which the M40 replaced. It was produced in limited numbers for the U.S. Marines after the U.S. Army cancelled the project. The Marines consistently reported excellent results when they used the Ontos for direct fire support against infantry in numerous battles and operations during the Vietnam War. The American stock of Ontos was largely expended towards the end of the conflict and the Ontos was removed from service in 1969.

**Development;** The *Ontos* (Greek for "thing") project was created to be an air transportable tank destroyer capable of being lifted by the cargo aircraft of the 1950s. This limited the vehicle to a weight between 10 and 20 metric tons. The *Ontos* also had to use the six-cylinder engine then widely used in the Army's GMC trucks. Allis-Chalmers was awarded a contract on August 12, 1955, for 297 vehicles. Allis-Chalmers' first vehicle, completed in 1952, was based on the running gear of the M56 Scorpion light anti-tank vehicle. The vehicle mounted a cast steel turret with two arms holding three rifles each. This early model could traverse the turret only about 15 degrees. A second prototype used a new suspension system, new tracks, and a newer turret with about 40 degrees traverse. The vehicle could carry only eighteen rounds for the main guns inside the vehicle due to limited space. Four of the recoilless rifles also had .50 BAT (12.7x77mm) M8C spotting rifles attached, each of which fired a tracer round with the same trajectory as the 106 mm round, and that gave off a flash and puff of white smoke on impact. The spotting rifles were used to line up the 106 mm recoilless rifles with the target. The *Ontos* also carried a single .30 caliber (7.62 mm) M1919A4 machine gun for anti-infantry use. The vehicle was taken to the Aberdeen Proving Ground where single rifles had been tested earlier. When all six weapons were fired at once, the back blast from the firing knocked bricks out of a nearby building and knocked the rear windows out of several cars. The prototype and testing stage was completed by 1955, at which point the Army canceled its order. As an anti-tank vehicle the *Ontos* had several problems, including a small ammunition load, a very high profile for such a small vehicle, and the need for the crew to exit the vehicle in order to reload the guns, exposing them to enemy fire. Although the Army canceled their order, the Marine Corps were desperate for any anti-tank vehicles they could get, and ordered 297. Production ran from 1955 through 1957. The Marine Corps accepted its first vehicle on 31 October 1956.

**Variants and upgrades;** Several variants were also studied. The Utility Vehicle, Tracked, Infantry, T55 was a light Armored personnel carrier (APC), but only two versions of the prototype were built. It proved impractical due to the limited room inside, carrying only five infantry and forcing the driver to lie prone. A "stretched" version known as the Utility Vehicle, Tracked, Infantry, T56 was also built, and while it held a complete eight-man team, their equipment had to be carried on the outside. Neither was considered very useful. In 1960 there was a brief study made to replace the *Ontos*'s 106 mm rifles with a new 105 mm design that included a revolver-style autoloader. This project was not accepted. Another proposed upgrade was replacing the GMC engine with a newer Chrysler 361 cu in (5.92 l) V8 engine. This upgrade was implemented and the variant was named Rifle, Multiple 106 mm, Self-propelled, M50A1. However of the 297 vehicles initially accepted by the Marines, only 176 were converted between 1963 and 1965 to this standard.

**Service;** While the M50 was designed as a tank destroyer, during the Vietnam War most M50s did not engage enemy armor as the North Vietnamese Army deployed few tanks. The *Ontos* was therefore more widely used by the US Marines for direct fire support for the infantry in combat, a role that was never emphasized in training or doctrine. Its light armor was effective against small arms but vulnerable to mines and rocket-propelled grenades. Consequently, many *Ontos* were deployed in static defense positions. The relatively light weight of the M50 made it exceptionally mobile for the amount of firepower it carried. In one operation, the *Ontos* was the only tracked vehicle light enough to cross a pontoon bridge. In the Battle of Hue, Colonel Stanley S. Hughes felt the *Ontos* was the most effective of all Marine supporting arms. At ranges of 300 to 500 yards (270 to 460 m), its recoilless rifles could knock holes in or completely knock down walls. The appearance of an *Ontos* was sometimes enough to make the enemy break and run, and anecdotal accounts describe the enemy fleeing occupied buildings when an *Ontos*'s spotting round entered a window. In Operation Desoto, the introduction of the large CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter made possible moving a platoon 25 miles (40 km) south of Quan Ngai City carrying *Ontos* in slings underneath the aircraft. The *Ontos* units were deactivated in May 1969, and some of the vehicles were handed over to an Army light infantry brigade. They used them until they ran out of spare parts, and then removed the turrets and used them as fixed fortifications. Both these and the rest of the vehicles returned from Vietnam in 1970 and were cut up for scrap, with some of the chassis being sold off to be converted into construction vehicles. Some of the *Ontos* that were sold to construction companies were later acquired by collectors for restoration. The *Ontos* did see use as an anti-tank weapon during the American involvement in the Dominican Civil War: on 29 April 1965 an M50 *Ontos* and an M48 Patton of the 6th MEU engaged and destroyed two rebel L/60L light tanks, each destroying one. In another instance, an *Ontos* destroyed an AMX-13.

Specifications	
Mass	8,600 kg (19,000 lb)
Length	3.83 m (12 ft 7 in)
Width	2.59 m (8 ft 6 in)
Height	2.13 m (7 ft 0 in)
Crew	3 (driver, gunner and loader)
Main armament	6 × M40A1C recoilless rifles
Secondary armament	1 × .30 (7.62 mm) M1919 Browning machine gun
Engine	GM 6-cylinder inline 302 cu in (4.95 l) gasoline engine 145 hp (108 kW)
Operational range	185 km (115 mi)
Maximum speed	48 km/h (30 mph)





**Colt Model 1903 Pocket Hammerless** is a .32 ACP caliber, self-loading, semi-automatic pistol designed by John Browning and built by Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company of Hartford, Connecticut. The Colt Model 1908 Pocket Hammerless is a variant introduced five years later in .380 ACP caliber. Despite the title "hammerless", the Model 1903 does have a hammer. The hammer is covered and hidden from view under the rear of the slide. This allows the pistol to be carried in and withdrawn from a pocket quickly and smoothly without snagging.

**History;** Approximately 570,000 Colt Pocket Hammerless pistols were produced from 1903 to 1945, in five different types. Some were issued to US Army and US Air Force general officers from World War II through the 1970s; these were replaced in 1972 with the RIA Colt M15 general officer's model, a compact version of the M1911A1. The Shanghai

Municipal Police issued the M1908 to its officers in the 1920s and 1930s and it was a popular model with police in the United States such as the Boston Police Department. In addition to lawful owners, many gangsters of the pre-World War II era favored the Model 1903 and Model 1908 because they were relatively small and easily concealed. It is said that Al Capone kept one in his coat pocket and Bonnie Parker used one to break Clyde Barrow out of jail after smuggling it into the jail by taping it to her thigh. Bank robber John Dillinger was carrying this model of pistol when he was shot by FBI agents outside the Biograph theater on July 22, 1934, and another famous bank robber, Willie Sutton, had one when he was captured by police in Brooklyn on February 18, 1952.

Note: There was also a Colt Model 1903 Pocket Hammer pistol in .38 ACP, but this design is unrelated. The FN Model 1903 pistol design is related to the Colt Pocket Hammerless, but it is physically larger due to its chambering in the 9x20mm SR Browning Long cartridge.

**General officer models;** were often engraved with the officer's name. Recipients include generals Eisenhower, Bradley, Marshall, and Patton. Patton's Model 1908 was embellished with three (later four) stars on the grip panels to denote his rank. They were issued with a fine-grade leather holster, leather pistol belt with gold-metal clasp, rope pistol lanyard with gold-metal fittings, and leather two-pocket ammunition pouch with gold-metal fasteners. They came in russet or black leather (depending on service and regulations) and were made by Atchison Leather Products or Hickock. A cleaning rod and two spare magazines were also included. Generals were issued the Model M in .380 ACP, until 1950, when supplies ran out. At that point, they were substituted with .32 models until their replacement in 1972. The Pocket Hammerless was replaced by the M15 pistol made by Rock Island Arsenal in .45 ACP. Today, the Pocket Hammerless is manufactured by U.S. Armament, and is licensed by Colt.

**Design;** This pistol is actually fired by action of a hammer striking and driving a firing pin into a center-fire cartridge's primer. The hammer is covered by the rear of the slide. The "hammerless" designation was merely an advertising designation pointing out the pistol's particular suitability for concealed carry. Special features include a serrated slide to prevent slippage during manual cycling of the slide and two safety mechanisms (a grip safety and a manual safety). The grip safety is a spring-loaded piece making up the back strap of the pistol. The grip safety, though not solely restricted to them, was a typical feature of Colt automatic pistols. A magazine safety was added on later models; this feature prevents the pistol from being fired with a round in the chamber and the magazine removed.

In 1908, a .380 ACP version of this gun was introduced. Called the Model 1908, it is nearly identical to the Model 1903 except for the bore diameter and the magazine, which hold seven rounds (one less than the Model 1903). Grip panels are black checked hard rubber, checked walnut, or special order materials (ivory, mother of pearl, inset medallion). Sights are fixed, although the rear sight is drift-adjustable for windage. Metal finish is blued or nickel, and some special-order finishes such as engraved, silver- or gold-plated.

#### Variants

Type I: Integral barrel bushing, four-inch barrel, no magazine safety, serial numbers 1 through 71,999

Type II: 32 cal separate barrel bushing, 33/4-inch barrel; 1908–1910, SN 72,000 through 105,050

Type II: 380 cal separate barrel bushing, 33/4-inch barrel; 1908–1910, SN 001 through 6250

Type III: integrated barrel bushing, 33/4-inch barrel; 1910–1926, SN 105,051 through 468,789

Type IV: integrated barrel bushing, 33/4-inch barrel, magazine safety

Type V: integrated barrel bushing, 33/4-inch barrel, military sights, magazine safety on both commercial and "U.S. property" variations. SN 468,097 through 554,446.

There was an M1903 version with a military Parkerized finish, which is otherwise the same as the Model IV, SN 554,447 through 572,214.

**Trivia;** Former Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo used a Colt Model 1903 to attempt suicide shortly before his arrest for war crimes in September 11, 1945. Tojo was convicted at trial and was executed on December 23, 1948. Tojo's pistol is on display at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.



## PARTS WANTED

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

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contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email [jobah450.577@bigpond.com](mailto:jobah450.577@bigpond.com)



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