

More Majorum

2022 PART 4



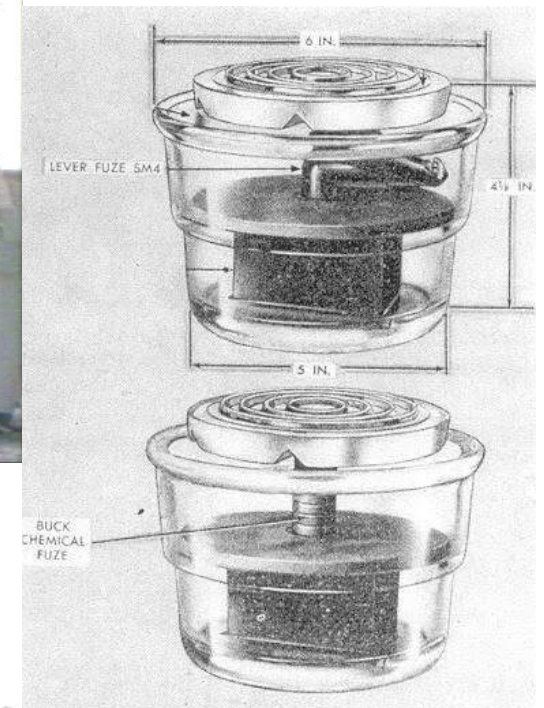
Right: Different examples of Hand Mortars, top one is a Wheelock and the other two are flintlocks.

Below; RFA *Sir Tristram* still on fire several hours after the Argentine air attack.



Left; RFA *Sir Tristram* fully load as it heads down to the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Below; Photo's from a US Army training manual about German weapons of Glasmine 43 naming it's different parts.



Above; RFA *Sir Tristram* on fire shortly after the Argentine air attack.

Below and below right; T19 Howitzer Motor Carriage (HMC) in the field During the north African Campaign.



Footnote in History ; Bluff Cove air attacks

Something from your Collection

Glasmine 43

T19 Howitzer Motor Carriage (HMC)

De Lisle carbine

Hand Mortar

What is a Snaplock

Webley Self-Loading Pistol

Guild Business

N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2022/23

EXECUTIVE

President / Treasurer: John McLean

Vice Pres / Safety Officer: John Miller

Secretary: Carl Webster

Membership Secretary: Graham Rogers

Newsletter: Brett Maag

Sgt. at Arms: Rob Keen

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Harrington

Scott Jackson

Simon Baxter

Peter Roberts

Rod Davidson

Terry Scott

NEED YOUR COLLECTORS LICENSE APPLICATION OR RENEWAL ENDORSED BY THE GUILD?

There are the three members authorised to endorse applications:

John McLean Mob: 0402 367 055 Email: majormac@bigpond.com

Graham Rogers Mob: 0417 137 232 Email: membership@nvacg.org.au

Ricky Seiter Mob: 0400 567 353 Ricky can be found behind the counter at Trellis's Shepparton, but phone him first to make an appointment, and bring your current membership card.

Important Guild Information!

The Guild meets at the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, Shepparton Branch, Shotgun Club Rooms, located at the SSAA Shooting Range 1170 Midland Hwy, Shepparton East. General Meetings are held here on the second Friday evening of each month Meeting commence from 8.00 pm.

The NVACG holds approval as a Victoria Police recognised collectors club No. 441-335-30Y. The guild is also a Category A/B hunting organisation No. 441-335-81H Governor in Council and Chief Commissioner Exemptions held by the guild as a recognised collectors organisation. Daggers, swords, crossbows, and non-firing replica firearms. No exemption for Gel Blasters.

The current President is:

John McLean P: (03) 5762 1181

M: 0402 367 055 E: president@nvacg.org.au

All official correspondence should go to the Secretary:

Carl Webster M: 0409 527 272 E: secretary@nvacg.org.au

Postal address:

Northern Victorian Arms

Collectors Guild Inc.

P.O. Box 985

Shepparton, Vic. 3632

If you wish to sign up a new member have them go to:

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/member/join.html>

Or contact membership secretary for form.

For issues regarding new and existing member's records, contact the Membership Secretary:

Graham Rogers M: 0417 137 232

E: membership@nvacg.org.au

For general information: Internet: <http://www.nvacg.org.au>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/nvacgorg/>

For past copies of our newsletter - More Majorum:

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

To submit an article or advertising to the guild newsletter.

The editor is: Brett Maag M: 0417 122 115

E: bnmaag@gmail.com

Bank Details for payments:

Bendigo Bank - BSB: 633-000 Account: 101586287

Or contact Treasurer: John McLean M: 0402 367 055

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

jobah450.577@bigpond.com



Hand Mortar is a firearm and early predecessor of modern grenade launcher that was used in the late 17th century and 18th century to throw fused grenades. The action was similar to a flintlock, matchlock, or wheellock firearm (depending on the date of production), but the barrel was short, usually 2 inches (5 cm) to 4 inches (10 cm) long (though some are reported to have barrels up to 13 inches (33 cm) long), and had a large bore to accommodate the grenade; usually between 2 and 2.5 inches (5 to 6 cm). After priming the firearm and adding the gunpowder, the shooter would light a grenade fuse, place the grenade in the muzzle of the mortar, then fire it at the enemy. However, accidents could occur if the weapon misfired and the lit grenade remained in the barrel. Additional modifications attempted to light the grenade using the burning gunpowder, but accounts say that the fuse would be forced into the grenade which would explode immediately. The low number of surviving specimens of this firearm indicate that it was not a popular weapon, possibly due to the safety issues. In his essay on the weapon, Hewitt opines that the mortar is among a variety of "projects for destruction which have never destroyed anything but the fortunes of their inventors." In fact, under military exhibitions in *The Official Report of the Calcutta International Exhibition, 1883-84* a hand mortar is described as "only a toy ... never intended for service." Hand mortars were also to be found in the New World. References to a hand mortar being transferred in Maryland are found in the record of *The Proceedings of the Council of Maryland* in 1698.



Naval usage; In 1872, a work entitled *Life-boats, Projectiles and Other Means for Saving Life* gave an account of a sailor using a hand mortar. The hand mortar was described as being able to throw a leaden projectile and a line a distance of 80 yards (73 metres). Inventors; At least one version of the hand mortar was probably invented by John Tinker in 1681. However, his mortar may have been an improvement on an earlier piece. A reference to this mortar may have appeared in a work entitled *Ancient Armour* which refers to a tinker's mortar. Another account refers to a hand mortar as a cohorn, and attributes its invention to a Dutch engineer, Menno Van Coehoorn, who lived from 1641 to 1704.

Production; Between 1672 and 1740, the Royal Foundry of Berlin (Königliches Gießhaus zu Berlin) produced 302 hand mortars (Handmörser). Additionally, a mortar at the Museum of Artillery in Woolwich, Great Britain bears the inscription *Fondeur á Strasbourg* (made in Strasbourg (France)) and several other surviving pieces bear the coat of arms of Württemberg indicating that they might have been made there.

Ammunition; The first references to the type of grenade used in a hand mortar occur in a 1472 work entitled *Valturius*, where an incendiary prototype may have been produced. However, widespread use of the explosive grenade does not occur until the early-to-mid-16th century under Francis I of France. An early casualty of this type of grenade was Count de Randan who died of shrapnel wounds to the legs from a grenade during the Siege of Rouen (probably the battle of Issoire) in 1562.

Explosive grenades were made from brass, glass, and possibly clay, and incendiary projectiles were made from canvas, however, Nathanael Nye, Master Gunner of the City of Worcester in a work entitled *Art of Gunnery* published in 1647, remarks that the soldiers of his day were not fond of handling the grenades because they were too dangerous. While there are substantial records of infantry units called grenadiers throughout the 18th century in Europe, these units generally threw the grenades by hand.





What is a Snaplock A snaplock ignites the (usually muzzle-loading) weapon's propellant by means of sparks produced when a spring-powered cock strikes a flint down on to a piece of hardened steel. The snaplock is therefore similar to the snaphaunce (sometimes classed as an advanced type of snaplock) and the later flintlock. In all snaplocks, the flint is held in a clamp at the end of a bent lever called the cock. When the gun is "cocked", the cock is held back, against the pressure of a spring, by a catch which is part of the trigger mechanism. When the trigger is pulled, the catch is released and the spring moves the cock rapidly forwards. The flint strikes a curved plate of hardened steel, called the "steel". The flint strikes from the steel a shower of white hot steel shavings (sparks) which fall towards the priming powder held in the flash pan. The flash from the pan's ignited primer travels (unless there is only a "flash in the pan") through the touch hole into the firing chamber at the rear of the barrel, and ignites the main charge of gunpowder. Before the weapon is fired, the pan has a closed cover: the mechanism for opening this cover (i.e. manual or automatic) can affect whether the weapon is classed as a snaplock. In fact, the term *snaplock* may be used in three ways, as follows: The most general use of *snaplock* is for any lock which strikes flint against steel but which does not have the defining feature of a true flintlock. This is the frizzen, a single piece of metal which is a combined "steel" and self-opening pan cover. A more restrictive definition excludes the snaphaunce, more sophisticated weapons with a lateral sear and a pan cover, separate from the steel, that opens automatically. Sometimes the term is used only for specific Scandinavian, German, and Russian varieties of lock.

continued to do so in 1548 and beyond. The earliest surviving example of a Swedish snaplock is currently held in the Royal Armoury of Stockholm, probably one of a series of snaplock guns made in 1556 from German barrels and Swedish locks. Compared to a matchlock, the snaplock could fire twice as many shots per minute due to requiring fewer steps to reload. Not requiring a match to be lit also made it easier to handle and more usable in a wider set of environments, such as in damp places. It was cheap and easy to produce, and like all post-matchlock weapons, could be primed and loaded in advance and be fired at a moment's notice. It fell out of favor by about 1640, except in Sweden and Russia, where it lasted far longer. Safety; Snaplocks as a class did not have safety devices, but individual models could be prevented from inadvertent firing by different mechanisms: In the early models with a manual pan cover, the steel could be swung out of the path of the flint until just before firing; also, a closed pan cover would not allow the primer to ignite and could help keep the primer dry in misty conditions. On some models, an external hook attached to the lock plate could engage the tip of the "cocked" cock to prevent it from moving forwards.



Period of use; The origin of this proto-flintlock is unclear. The earliest source which could be speaking of a snaplock is an account from 1515 where a young man in Konstanz, Germany accidentally shot a girl with a pistol, thinking it could not go off due to the lack of a lit match. The pistol in question could be a snaplock but probably was a wheellock. Two years later is the letter-patent of the Emperor Maximilian I, banning the use of self-striking guns which ignite themselves. Dr. Arne Hoff argues that because "striking" is a very inaccurate description of what happens with a wheellock, it is probable that he was referring to a snaplock, thus making 1517 the likely first appearance of the weapon. City regulations from Italian town Ferrara from 1522 and 1634 forbid the carrying of certain firearms which probably are snaplocks and in 1547 a corresponding law in Florence in describing the different locks speak of matchlock, wheellock and a lock with stone and steel. In this cases it is more or less inarguable that the weapons in question are snaplocks. Arsenal accounts from 1547 in Sweden also explicitly mention snaplocks, and

continued to do so in 1548 and beyond. The earliest surviving example of a Swedish snaplock is currently held in the Royal Armoury of Stockholm, probably one of a series of snaplock guns made in 1556 from German barrels and Swedish locks. Compared to a matchlock, the snaplock could fire twice as many shots per minute due to requiring fewer steps to reload. Not requiring a match to be lit also made it easier to handle and more usable in a wider set of environments, such as in damp places. It was cheap and easy to produce, and like all post-matchlock weapons, could be primed and loaded in advance and be fired at a moment's notice. It fell out of favor by about 1640, except in Sweden and Russia, where it lasted far longer. Safety; Snaplocks as a class did not have safety devices, but individual models could be prevented from inadvertent firing by different mechanisms: In the early models with a manual pan cover, the steel could be swung out of the path of the flint until just before firing; also, a closed pan cover would not allow the primer to ignite and could help keep the primer dry in misty conditions. On some models, an external hook attached to the lock plate could engage the tip of the "cocked" cock to prevent it from moving forwards.



Regional varieties include the Baltic Lock, the Russian Snaplock, and the Miquelet lock. The Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus had many matchlock muskets converted to snaplocks during his military reforms.

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.



Hi all, this member's item, is his late Dad's 1951 BRNO No1 .22 rim-fire rifle. Which his Dad acquired second hand from a work mate in 1952. His dad found out only in the 90's why the barrel never had any rust issues.



The reason why, is back in the 50's BRNO used blued stainless steel barrels on many of the No 1 model rifles. In South Australia in the 50's, his dad used the rifle a lot on weekends, shooting rabbits and other animals like kangaroos (spotlighting) for cash, as a second job. This helped him buy his first Land Rover (Series No1). The sling and leather work on the rifle butt are made from kangaroo hide.



SHEPPARTON - ANNUAL

MILITARIA & COLLECTABLES

EXPO 2023

DEALERS - CONTACT
exposec@nvacg.org.au

Admission
Adults \$10
Children
under 16
with adult
free



@SheppartonArmsExpo

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

Sat. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm ~ Sun 9.00 am to 3.30 pm

GUN SHOW MOVED TO MCINTOSH CENTRE SHEPPARTON

MARCH 4th & 5th



Type	Self-propelled gun
No. built	324
Mass	9.54 short tons (8.65 t)
Length	20 ft 2 in (6.15 m)
Width	7 ft 3.5 in (2.223 m)
Height	7 ft 8 in (2.34 m)
Crew	6
Armor	Howitzer shield: 0.25 in (6.4 mm) Windshield: 0.50 in (13 mm) Sides and rear: 0.25 in (6.4 mm)
Main armament	M2A1 105 mm Howitzer (8 rounds)
Secondary armament	.50 cal (12.7 mm) M2 Browning machine gun
Engine	White 160AX, 386 in ³ (6,330 cc), 6-cylinder, gasoline, compression ratio 6.3:1
Power/weight	147 hp (110 kW)
Suspension	Front: semi-elliptical longitudinal leaf spring rear: single vertical volute spring bogie
Fuel capacity	60 US gal (230 l)
Operational range	200 mi (320 km)
Maximum speed	45 mph (72 km/h)



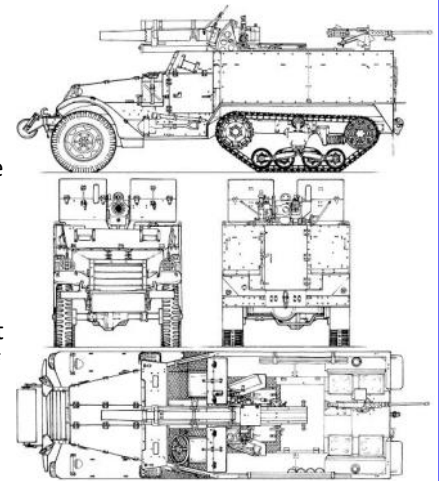
T19 Howitzer Motor Carriage (HMC) was a 105 mm (4.1 in) howitzer mounted on a M3 Half-track chassis. It saw service during World War II with the U.S. Army. Its secondary armament consisted of an air-cooled .50 in (13 mm) M2 machine gun for local defense. It was produced by Diamond T between January 1942 and April 1942. It principally served in the North African Campaign, although some served in the Allied invasion of Sicily and the subsequent Italian Campaign, and even as late as the invasion of southern France in 1944.

Specifications; The T19 Howitzer Gun Motor Carriage was similar to the M3 Half-track, as it shared the same chassis, engine, suspension, armor, and fuel tank. It was 20 ft 2 in long, 7 ft 3.5 in wide, 7 ft 8 in high, with a weight of 9.54 short tons. The suspension consisted of semi-elliptical longitudinal leaf springs for the wheels and vertical volute springs for the tracks. It was powered by a White 160AX, 147 hp, 386 in³, six-cylinder gasoline engine with a compression ratio of 6.3:1. It was capable of a maximum road speed of 45 mph. The power-to-weight ratio was 14.7 hp/ton. The vehicle was operated by a crew of six. Maximum armor was only 0.5 inch at the windshield and 0.25 inches everywhere else. The armament consisted of one 105 mm M2A1 howitzer (equipped with eight rounds of ammunition) with a single .50 caliber (12.7 mm) M2 Browning machine gun (equipped with 300 rounds of ammunition) for local defense.

Development; In the autumn of 1941, when the Armored Force expanded, an urgent need for self-propelled artillery arose. Although a full-track chassis was preferred, the situation required the use of whatever vehicles were immediately available. The M3 Half-track was selected to carry a 105 mm M2A1 howitzer. Although this design had originally been suggested in September 1941, it had not been taken up. However, the urgency of the requirement resulted in the approval by the Adjutant General and the construction of a prototype was authorized by OCM 17391, dated 31 October 1941;

the new vehicle designated as the 105 mm Howitzer Motor Carriage T19. As with other American self-propelled guns produced during the early World War II period, the prototype was assembled and tested at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The M2 recoil mechanism and other parts of the M2 howitzer carriage were used in the vehicle mounting. After several tests, the gun carriage proved fragile on bumpy terrain. The problem was corrected by reinforcing the frame, and redesigning the howitzer mount. Demountable headlights were recommended because of the muzzle blast, although they were not available for early production models. Early models had no shield for the howitzer either, but a foldable shield was added during testing. The gun faced forward, like many other half-track models. The total traverse was 40 degrees and the elevation was from -5 to +35 degrees. The armored windshield cover was remounted so it could fold onto the hood. After further testing, it was accepted for production. After the design was accepted, a prototype was shipped to Diamond T as a guide for production. The first production vehicle was delivered to the US Army in January 1942. A total of 324 T19s had been made by the time production ended in April 1942.

Service history; The T19 HMC was designed as a stopgap measure until better self-propelled artillery pieces were made; it served in the Tunisia Campaign in North Africa in 1942–43. It was employed mainly in most battalions' headquarter platoons, and the "cannon companies" of infantry divisions. The T19 was soon replaced in armored divisions by the M7 Priest, a 105 mm howitzer on a fully tracked chassis. It served with only a few units in Sicily and Italy. On one occasion in Sicily, a T19 company (part of the 16th Infantry Regiment) halted a German tank attack by destroying six tanks, for the loss of one T19. That unit was later awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. A few served as late as 1945 in southern France. It was finally declared obsolete in July 1945. That month, the contractor Brown & McLaughlin converted 90 T19s into M3A1 Half-tracks



Production of T19

Month	T19
January 1942	1
February 1942	38
March 1942	136
April 1942	149
Total	324

In service	1943–1965
Wars	World War II, Korean War, Malayan Emergency
Designer	William G. De Lisle
Produced	1942–1945
Mass	7 lb 8 oz (3.74 kg), unloaded
Length	35.3 in
Barrel length	8.27 in (210 mm)
Cartridge	.45 ACP (11.43×23mm)
Action	Bolt action
Muzzle velocity	about 830 ft/s (250 m/s)
Effective firing range	200 yd (185 m)
Maximum firing range	400 yd (365 m)
Feed system	7 or 11-round detachable magazine
Sights	Ford Dagenham: Winchester rifle sight at rear, simple ramp with modified P-14 front sight protector at front. Sterling models: Lanchester Mk I rear sight (later changed to Lanchester Mk I*), windage adjustable front sight. Airborne model: Lanchester Mk I rear sight, windage adjustable front sight



De Lisle carbine or De Lisle Commando carbine

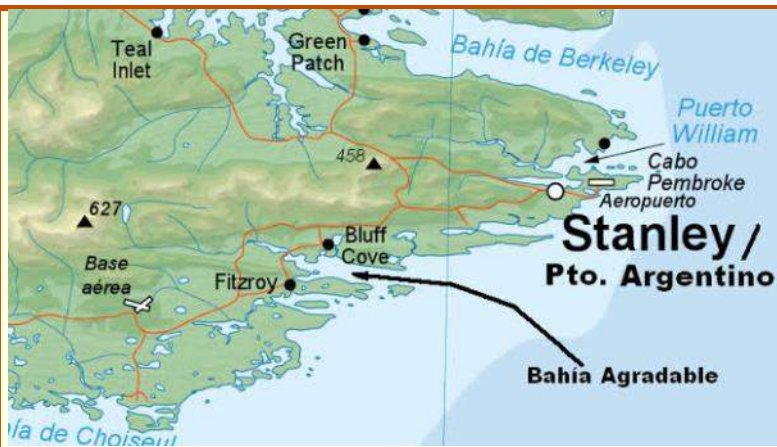
was a British firearm used during World War II that was designed with an integrated suppressor. That, combined with its use of subsonic ammunition, made it extremely quiet in action, possibly one of the quietest firearms ever made. Few were manufactured as their use was limited to specialist military units.

History; The weapon was designed as a private venture by William Godfray de Lisle (known as Godfray), an engineer who worked for the Air Ministry. He made the first prototype in .22 calibre; this he tested by shooting rabbits and other small game for the table, near his home on the Berkshire Downs. In 1943, he approached Major Sir Malcolm Campbell of Combined Operations with his prototype; this was informally tested by firing the weapon into the River Thames from the roof of the New Adelphi building in London. This was chosen to discover if people in the street below heard it firing – they did not. Combined Operations officials were impressed with the weapon and requested De Lisle produce a 9mm version. However, this was a failure. A third prototype, using the .45 ACP cartridge that was favoured by de Lisle, was much more successful. Tests of this showed the weapon had acceptable accuracy, produced no visible muzzle flash and was inaudible at a distance of 50 yards (46 m). Subsequent official firing tests recorded the De Lisle produced 85.5 dB of noise when fired. As a comparison, modern testing on a selection of handguns has shown that they produce 156 to 168 dB when firing without a suppressor, and 117 to 140 dB when firing with one fitted. The De Lisle's quietness was found to be comparable to the British Welrod pistol. However, the Welrod was useful only at very short range and used fabric and rubber components in the suppressor that required replacement after a few shots. The De Lisle was able to fire hundreds of rounds before the suppressor required disassembly for cleaning. Combined Operations requested a small production run of De Lisle carbines and an initial batch of 17 were hand-made by Ford Dagenham, with Godfray De Lisle himself released from his Air Ministry duties so he could work full-time on the project; this initial batch was immediately put into combat

use by the British Commandos. In 1944, the Sterling Armaments Company was given an order for 500 De Lisle carbines, but eventually only produced around 130. The Sterling version differed in a number of details from the earlier, Ford Dagenham model. Two prototypes of a further version, for Airborne forces, were made. These had folding stocks, similar to those fitted to the Sterling submachine gun. During the remainder of World War II, the De Lisle carbine was mainly used by the Commandos, although they also saw some use by the Special Operations Executive (SOE). E. Michael Burke, the American former commander of a Jedburgh Team, stated that a De Lisle was used by them to assassinate two senior German officers in 1944. A number of De Lisles were shipped to the Far East and used during the Burma Campaign. The De Lisle would also be used during the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency. It has been claimed the weapon was also used by the Special Air Service during the Northern Irish Troubles.

Description; The De Lisle was based on a Short Magazine, Lee–Enfield Mk III* converted to .45 ACP by modifying the receiver, altering the bolt/bolthead, replacing the barrel with a modified Thompson submachine gun barrel (6 grooves, RH twist), and using modified magazines from the M1911 pistol. The primary feature of the De Lisle was its extremely effective suppressor, which made it very quiet in action. So quiet that working the bolt (to chamber the next round), makes a louder noise than firing a cartridge. The .45 ACP cartridge was selected as its muzzle velocity is subsonic for typical barrel lengths; consequently it would both retain its full lethality and not require custom-loaded ammunition to use with a suppressor. Most rifle rounds are supersonic, where the bullet generates a "sonic boom" like any other object traveling at supersonic velocities, making them unsuitable for covert purposes. The Thompson gun barrel was *ported* (i.e. drilled with holes) to provide a controlled release of high pressure gas into the suppressor that surrounds it before the bullet leaves the barrel. The suppressor, 2 inches (5.1 cm) in diameter, went all the way from the back of the barrel to well beyond the muzzle, making up half the overall length of the weapon. The suppressor provided a very large volume to contain the gases produced by firing; this was one of the keys to its effectiveness. The MP5SD and AS Val are among other modern firearms that use the same concept. The Lee–Enfield bolt was shortened to feed the .45 ACP rounds; the Lee–Enfield's magazine set-up was replaced with a new assembly that held a modified M1911 magazine. The bolt operation offered an advantage in that the shooter could refrain from chambering the next round if absolute silence was required after firing; a semi-automatic weapon would not have offered this option as the cycling of the bolt coupled with rearward escaping propellant gas and the clink of the empty case against any hard surface would produce a noise with each shot. While the carbine was silent, it was not very accurate.

De Lisle's own .22 prototype was given to the National Army Museum in London, but it was subsequently lost and its present whereabouts are unknown. A reproduction of the .45 calibre carbine is manufactured by the American company Valkyrie Arms. Special Interest Arms for a time produced limited quantities of a De Lisle replica which incorporated an improved magazine adapter system that allows the use of unmodified M1911 magazines and also fully supports the barrel chamber in the action, later discontinued.



Footnote in History; Bluff Cove Air Attacks

Occurred 8 June 1982, during the Falklands War. British troop transport ships were bombed by the Argentine Air Force (FAA) whilst unloading, with significant damage and casualties.

Background; By 1 June, British forces on the Falkland Islands were bolstered by the arrival of 5,000 new troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade. Major General Jeremy Moore now had sufficient force to start planning a full-scale assault on Port Stanley. Advance parties of the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment moved forward and occupied Fitzroy and Bluff Cove, when it was discovered to be clear of Argentine forces. Units of the

Welsh Guards and Scots Guards were to be sent in to support them. After the sinking of the transport *Atlantic Conveyor* there was only one British heavy-lift helicopter available, an RAF CH-47 Chinook, *Bravo November*. Therefore, supplies and reinforcements would have to be transported by ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which were manned by civilian sailors.

Air strikes; While unloading on 8 June, the British ships were attacked by two waves of A-4 Skyhawks from the Argentine Air Force's 5th Air Brigade, each of them loaded with three 500 lb retarding tail bombs of Spanish design. The airstrikes had



been called in by Argentine commandos of 602 Commando Company after they spotted the ships from their position on Mount Harriet. The fighters departed from Río Gallegos airbase, which at the time was monitored by the British nuclear submarine HMS *Splendid*. The first package, originally made of eight aircraft, was reduced to five when three Skyhawks returned to base due to refueling problems. On their way to Bluff Cove, the formation overflew a Scout helicopter from 656 Squadron; the Scout, XR628, was forced to make a hard landing on McPhee Pond. The aircraft was eventually written off. Six Argentine IAI Dagger fighters simultaneously took off from the airbase at Río Grande for a complementary mission, led by a Learjet which provided navigation information. One of the Daggers subsequently returned to base due to refueling issues. The attacking aircraft were preceded by four IAI Dagger fighters which took off from Río Grande airbase to carry out a decoy mission over the north of the islands in order to draw away the British Sea Harriers and allow the Skyhawks and Daggers to carry out their attacks unmolested, while the Argentine destroyer ARA *Santísima Trinidad* broadcast interference signals to jam the frequencies used by the Royal Navy's air controllers directing Sea Harrier operations. The nuclear submarine HMS *Valiant*, on picket duty off Río Grande, was able to track the six Dagger fighters that took off from the airbase there, but the report from the submarine failed to reach the British forces at Bluff Cove.

First strike; At approximately 14:00 local time the ships RFA *Sir Tristram* and RFA *Sir Galahad* were badly damaged by five A-4Bs of *Grupo 5*. Three A-4s targeted *Sir Galahad*, which was hit by three bombs released from the Skyhawk flown by First Lieutenant Carlos Cachón. The second Skyhawk was unable to drop its bombs, and the third overshot the British ship. The remaining two aircraft attacked *Sir Tristram*, which was struck by two bombs released by package leader Lieutenant Daniel Gálvez; the bombs of the last A-4 fell short. The explosions and subsequent fires killed 48 men aboard *Sir Galahad*, of whom 32 were soldiers from the Welsh Guards, 11 were other army personnel, and five were crewmen of the *Sir Galahad*, among them two Hong Kong Chinese sailors. The attack on *Sir Tristram* killed two crewmen, both of them Hong Kong Chinese sailors.



RFA *Sir Tristram* after the Argentine air attack



Second strike; At 16:50 a second wave, composed by four A-4Bs of *Grupo 5* hit and sank the Landing Craft Utility (LCU)

Foxtrot-4 from HMS *Fearless* in Choiseul Sound. The landing barge was ferrying the vehicles and communications equipment of the 5th Brigade's headquarters from Darwin to Bluff Cove. Six Royal Marines on board were killed. However, this time the Sea Harrier combat air patrol was already on scene and responded; three Skyhawks were shot down and their pilots, First Lieutenant Danilo Bolzan, Lieutenant Juan Arrarás, and Ensign Alfredo Vazquez were killed. Bolzan and Vazquez were shot down by Flight Lieutenant David Morgan while Arrarás was shot down by Morgan's wingman, Lieutenant David Smith. The fourth aircraft, which was flown by First Lieutenant Héctor Sánchez, suffered combat damage and lost a large amount of fuel, but returned to the mainland assisted by a KC-130 tanker. A third wave, by A-4Cs of *Grupo 4*, arrived minutes later and struck ground targets without visible success.



Attack on HMS Plymouth; In a separate incident, the frigate HMS *Plymouth* endured the sudden attack of the *Daggers* from Rio Grande, which struck her with four 1,000-pound bombs. The warship sustained severe damage, and five crewmen were injured. Although all the bombs were duds, the attack caused the explosion of at least one depth charge on her flight deck.

Aftermath; A total of 56 British servicemen were killed, and 150 wounded. The incident marked the greatest loss of life among British forces in a single incident since World War II, and accounted for one-fifth of British fatalities in the entire Falklands War. *Sir Galahad* was damaged beyond repair and scuttled, but her sister ship survived to be re-built post-war. American author Robert Bolia blames the disaster on the use of large LST ships instead of LCUs and other small vessels. BBC television cameras recorded images of Royal Navy helicopters hovering in thick smoke to winch survivors from the burning landing ships. These images were seen around the world. However, General Mario Menendez, commander of Argentine forces on the islands, was told that hundreds of men had been killed. He expected a drop in British morale, and their advance to slacken. In fact, the attacks delayed the scheduled British advance on Port Stanley by just two days, and Argentine forces on the Falkland Islands surrendered six days after the incident.

According to Brigadier Julian Thompson;

[5 Brigade] actually hadn't seen the Argentine Air Force work, 'cause for the five days they'd been there, the bad weather had kept the Argentine Air Force away; so they hadn't seen how deadly those guys could be. I can tell you, if I'd have been on board that ship I would have swam ashore rather than stay there



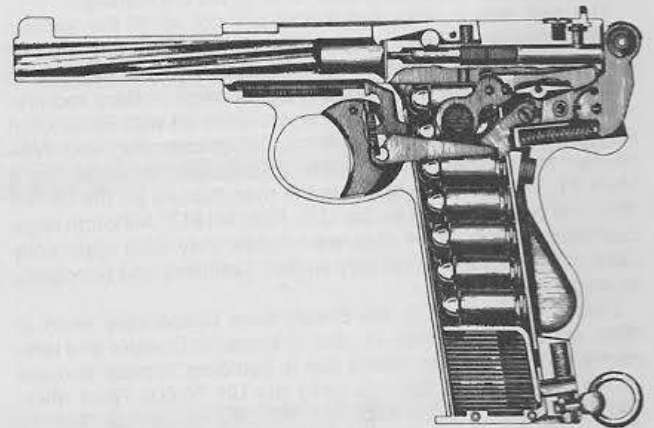
The .455 version was adopted by the Royal Navy in 1912 as the first automatic pistol in British service. The pistol was also adopted by the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Flying Corps. Its predecessor was the unsuccessful Mars Automatic Pistol.

Problems; The pistol's original cordite cartridge left a lot of residue in the barrel causing frequent jamming. This was resolved in 1914 with nitrocellulose instead of cordite in the .455 cartridge. This new cartridge for the Mk.1 was called the Mark Iz. Had Webley invested in more research and development of its pistol and ammunition and new technologies, the result would have been a better firearm produced more quickly. Particularly given the increasing adoption of the semi-automatic pistol by foreign armed forces and the extensive testing and development data available from previous efforts by other manufacturers.

Improvements and variations; The first models of the Mk. 1 had the safety on left side of the hammer. This was later moved to the left side of the frame, where it could lock the slide. Service versions were also outfitted with a grip safety.

Webley; Self-Loading Pistol

was an early magazine-fed pistol. The gun was designed in 1910 by the Webley & Scott Company. The Mk. 1 entered police service in 1911 in a .32 ACP model for the London Metropolitan Police.



Webley automatic pistol—action closed.



Action open and cutaway to show mainspring and sear.

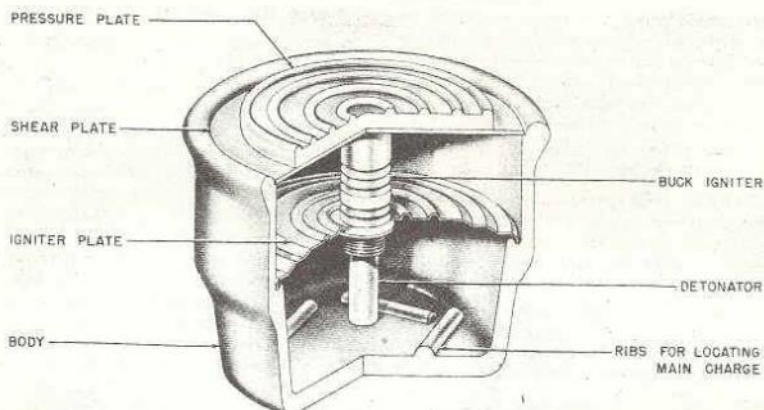


Glasmine 43 was an anti-personnel mine with a glass body used by the Nazi Germans during World War II. This mine was an early form of minimum metal mine, designed with the minimum amount of metal to reduce the likelihood of detection by the Polish mine detector then in use by Allied forces. The reduced use metal was also beneficial because it saved this valuable war resource for other uses.

Description; The mine consists of a glass bowl, 6 inches (15 cm) in diameter containing an explosive charge and a detonator. The top of the mine was covered by a sheet-glass disk 0.25 inches (6.4 mm) thick, under a thick, molded glass pressure plate. Each mine was supplied with a small quantity of cement putty to seal gaps between the main body and the glass disk cover and make the mine waterproof. When stepped on, the pressure plate shattered the glass disk and activated the detonator, detonating the mine's main explosive charge. This was a *Sprengkörper 28*, a standard demolition charge with 200 grams (7.1 oz) of explosive. Two types of detonator were used. Early versions of the mine used a mechanical detonator, known as a *Hebelzünder 44* which used a percussion cap. Later versions fired the main charge using a device known as a *Buck igniter*. The Buck igniter was a small can of thin, corrugated aluminium. This contained a glass ampule of sulfuric acid, surrounded by flash powder that included powdered naphthalene. The can crushed when subjected to a pressure of around 5 pounds (2.3 kg), shattering the ampule and causing the acid to mix with the powder. The resulting chemical reaction produced a flash that ignited the detonator of the main explosive charge. In 1944 and 1945, 11 million mines were produced; at the end of World War II, 9.7 million were still in stock. Along with other companies, the Glashütte Gifhorn [de] participated in the production.

Effect and legacy; Glass shrapnel was not easily detectable via X-rays, which rendered medical assistance to victims much harder than conventional mines. Glass also carried an increased infection risk; moreover, life-threatening injuries were more difficult to assess. Mines of this type are still buried in the Eifel National Park on the grounds of the Vogelsang Military Training Area, a former "Nazi leadership" training center. Demining areas with this type of mine is resource intensive, as the fields must be swept either by hand or with mine flails like the Keiler, not forgetting that the latter has a certain margin of error since it was developed with military-tactical deployments in mind (creating pathways through minefields). In 2004, the Colombian Government claimed that "home-made" glass mines were employed by guerrillas in Colombia.

Type	Minimum Metal Anti-Personnel Mine
Place of origin	Germany
In service	1944–1945
Used by	Germany, World War II
Produced	1944–1945
No. built	11 million
Variants	<i>Hebelzünder 44</i> detonator <i>Buck</i> chemical detonator
Height	6 inches (150 mm)
Diameter	4.5 inches (110 mm)
Filling	TNT
Filling weight	200 grams (7.1 oz)
Detonation mechanism	Pressure – weight of around 40 pounds (18 kg)



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