

# More Majorum

July—September 2020



Japanese Special Naval Landing Forces with the Type 11 during the Battle of Shanghai

Above: Boxer Rebellion  
Left: top view of type 11 machinegun



Right: OTO Mod. 35 Grenade  
Below: CAC Woomera and Woomera remote gun turret



## Guild Business

## Up Coming Events

Something from your collection

Type 11 light machine gun

1st Independent Company

Italian "Red Devil"

Bodeo Model 1889

Footnotes from History;

10.4mm Cartridge

CAC Woomera

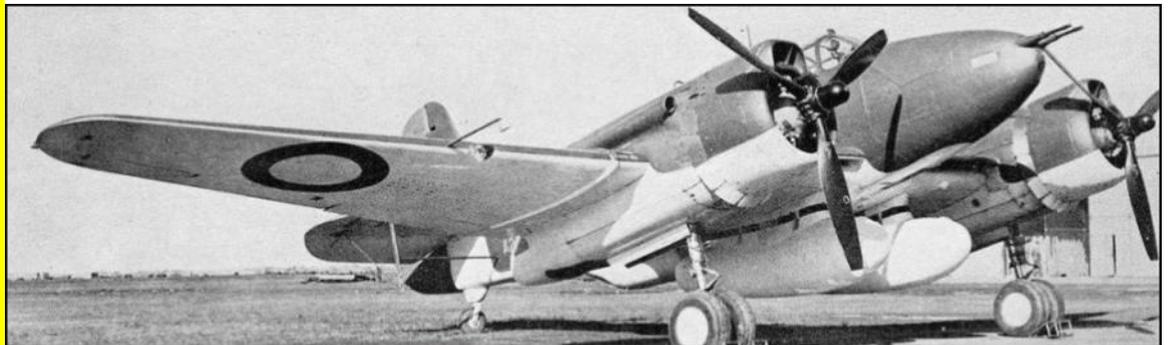
Part 2 Modellers Corner by " Old Nick "

## UP COMING EVENTS

Due to COVID-19 all up coming events and club meeting have been cancel for JULY.

BUT if all goes well we will restart in AUGUST with a monthly meeting on the 14th, follow by the AGM and monthly meeting on the 11th SEPTEMBER.

**BUT THIS ALL DEPENDS ON COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS**



## N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2019/20

### 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



## Achtung !!

From the secretaries' desk



Michael (Bluey) Steele-Perkins will be sadly missed from our monthly meetings. Bluey passed away on June 18th, 2020 after a long illness. Bluey introduced many new members to the guild so I guess we will be talking about him and his collection for some time. RIP Bluey.

Also passed away this year, was member Mark Rogers from Beechworth. Mark being a distant member did not attend meetings, so was not as well known to the other members. RIP Mark.

This Covid19 has literally stuffed everything. We are still under restrictions as far as holding a meeting goes, 10 people being the limit for a public building. With the current level of infections in Victoria, I cannot see the restrictions being lifted in time to hold a meeting in August, let's try for September. Also, the financial risk of running a Gun Show at the end of February 2021 is too great, we could outlay thousands of dollars and have it shut down the week before due to another covid outbreak. 2021 Militaria Expo is cancelled, unless a vaccine is produced in the next couple of months.

Membership: Currently we have 1x associate member, 1x honorary member, 2x junior members, 7x life members and 101x ordinary members for a total of 112 paid up for the 2020/21 year. This leaves 39 people whose annual subscription are now past due and looking at my records from previous years I can see that 30% of those have preferred to pay cash at meetings.

Emails. Could members please read their emails, I have had so many people with email addresses call me up and say they have not heard from the guild for 12 months. When I point out there has been at least 20 emails during that time I get told "Oh I never read emails". Well folks a stamp is now \$1.10, an envelope is \$0.05, each sheet of paper printed two sides is \$0.16 and a mailing label is \$0.05, it takes me an hour to print off 40 copies of a 10 page newsletter, and a couple more hours to staple, fold, insert, affix stamp and address label and that is just for the 40 people that don't have email. If we have to do it for every communication to all of the 153 members then we will have to start paying someone to do it and the cost of being a member of the guild would have to increase. The easy solution: - just read your emails, please.



**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  
[@nvacgorg](https://www.facebook.com/nvacgorg)

## NVACG SWAP MEET & XMAS RENDEZVOUS

**Date 8th November at the Shepparton SSAA range. Due to Covid19 restrictions this event will be moved down to the rifle/ pistol range where we can have 10 people per range and 20 outside.**

**Start time 10 am till 3 pm, all attendees will be required to book to comply with social distancing numbers, request a table if you have items to sell.**

**For bookings, please contact the Secretary  
[secretary@nvacg.org.au](mailto:secretary@nvacg.org.au) or 0417 137 232**



**Type 11 Light Machine Gun** was a light machine gun used by the Imperial Japanese Army in the interwar period and during World War II.

**History;** Combat experience in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905 had convinced the Japanese of the utility of machine guns to provide covering fire for advancing infantry. This was reinforced by the first-hand observations of European combat tactics by Japanese military attachés during the First World War, and the Army Technical Bureau was tasked with the development of a lightweight machine gun, which could be easily transportable by an infantry squad. The resultant "Type 11 light machine gun" (named after the 11th year of the reign of Emperor Taishō, or 1922) was the first light machine gun to be mass-produced in Japan and the oldest

Japanese light machine gun design to see service in the Pacific War. It was superseded by the Type 96 light machine gun in 1936.

**Design details;** The Type 11 light machine gun was a design by famed arms designer Kijirō Nambu, based on a modification of the French Hotchkiss M1909 Benét–Mercié machine gun. It was an air-cooled, gas-operated design, using the same 6.5×50mm Arisaka cartridges as the Type 38 infantry rifle. A feature of the Type 11 machine gun is its detachable hopper; it can be refilled while attached and does not require removal during operation. Instead of a belt or box magazine, the Type 11 was designed to hold up to six of the same cartridge clips used on the Type 38 rifle. The five-round clips were stacked lying flat above the receiver, secured by a spring arm, and the rounds were stripped from the lowest clip one at a time, with the empty clip thrown clear and the next clip automatically falling into place as the gun was fired. The system had the advantage that any squad member could supply ammunition and that the hopper could be replenished at any time. The relatively short barrel (17.5 inches) produced excessive flash with standard ammunition (initially intended for Type 38 rifles with barrel more than a foot longer). A new loading was introduced for this reason, which had a slightly lower muzzle velocity (under 100fps), but burned much more completely in the Type 11 short barrel and produced much less flash as a result. This new round was called the 6.5×50mm Arisaka genso round, the cartons identified by a circled "G".

The inherent disadvantage of the hopper was that the open feeder box allowed dust and grit to enter the gun, which was liable to jam in muddy or dirty conditions due to issues with poor dimensional tolerances, which gave the weapon a bad reputation with Japanese troops. Another issue was that the weight of the rifle cartridges in the side-mounted hopper unbalanced the weapon when fully loaded. To compensate, the buttstock was designed in a way that it bent to the right, leading to the Chinese nickname for the weapon "bent buttstock". Reloading the weapon during an assault charge proved impossible due to the clip feeding system.

**Variants;** **Type 89 "flexible"** – two Type 11 actions mounted on a flexible mounting for anti-aircraft

<b>In service</b>	1922–1945
<b>Used by</b>	Japan Manchukuo National Revolutionary Army Chinese Red Army Viet Minh Korean People's Army Second Sino-Japanese War Soviet-Japanese Border Wars World War II Chinese Civil War First Indochina War Korean War Vietnam War
<b>Wars</b>	
<b>Designer</b>	Kijiro Nambu
<b>Designed</b>	1922
<b>Produced</b>	1922–1941
<b>No. built</b>	29,000
<b>Mass</b>	10.2 kg (22.49 lb)
<b>Length</b>	1,100 mm (43.3 in)
<b>Barrel length</b>	443 mm (17.4 in)
<b>Cartridge</b>	6.5×50mm Arisaka
<b>Action</b>	Gas-operated
<b>Rate of fire</b>	500 rounds/min
<b>Muzzle velocity</b>	736 m/s (2,415 ft/s)
<b>Effective firing range</b>	600m
<b>Maximum firing range</b>	2000m
<b>Feed system</b>	30-round, hopper system

use and as a rear-defense aerial gun. The machine gun was chambered for the 7.7x58mmSR Type 89 cartridge. It was equipped with a metallic Y-shaped stock and two spade grips, the barrels had no cooling fins. It was fed from two 45-round quadrant-shaped pan magazines (each magazine had a place for nine five-round stripper clips). The double-barrelled machine gun weighted about 28 kg and had a rate of fire of around 1,400 rpm.

**Type 91** – was a modified Type 11 for use on tanks and armoured vehicles. The machine gun was equipped with an angled pistol grip, the stock and bipod were removed. Additionally, the machine gun was equipped with two brackets (on the right side) for mounting a 1.5x30 scope manufactured by Tomioka Kogaku.

**Te-4** – a modified Type 11 which was designed to replace the Type 89 "flexible" due to the excessive weight of the latter. It used a different flexible mounting, had a shorter wooden stock and a straight pistol grip with an enlarged trigger guard, the barrel had no cooling fins. It was chambered for the 7.7x58mmSR Type 89 cartridge and fed from 70-round pan magazine. It is uncertain whether the Te-4 was made by splitting the Type 89 "flexible" or was a direct derivative of Type 11.



Japanese Border Guard Trooper and Type 11 light machine gun

**Combat record;** The Type 11 came into active service in 1922, and some 29,000 were produced by the time production stopped in 1941. It was the primary Japanese light machine gun through the Manchurian Incident and in the early stages of the Second Sino-Japanese War. Although superseded by the Type 96 light machine gun in production in 1936, it remained in service with front-line combat through the end of World War II. Many were captured by the Chinese and were used against the Japanese. Manchukuo Imperial Army received replace its ex-Chinese ZB vz. 30s with Type 11s in 1936. Both sides also used Type 11 machine guns during the Chinese Civil War and North Korea used Type 11 and Type 91 during the Korean War. The Viet Minh also used the Type 11 during the First Indochina War, as did the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War.



A Type 11 light machine gun captured by the Chinese Army and used against the Japanese soldiers.

Japanese soldier with a Type 11 in China



Video Link

<https://youtu.be/JH9VQGht8CU>



British servicemen hold their first Boxer prisoner

## Footnotes from History;

### China (Boxer Rebellion), 1900–01

During the nineteenth century the major European powers compelled the reluctant Chinese Empire to start trading with them. There was little the Chinese government wanted from the West at the time but there was a strong demand for opium among the population. In the Opium Wars of 1839-1842 and 1856-1860, the British forced the Chinese to accept the import of opium in return for Chinese goods, and trading centres were established at major ports. The largest of these was Shanghai, where French, German, British, and American merchants demanded large tracts of land in which they asserted "extra-territorial" rights - being subject to the laws of their own country rather than Chinese law. According to popular myth, a sign at Huangpu Park near a European compound read: "No dogs or Chinamen". The Chinese government's failure to resist inroads on its sovereignty and withstand further demands from the Europeans, such as the right to build railways and other concessions, caused much resentment among large sections of the population. This eventually led to the Chinese revolution of 1911 which toppled the imperial dynasty.

By the end of the nineteenth century the balance of the lucrative trade between China and merchants from America and Europe, particularly Britain, lay almost entirely in the West's favour. As Western influence increased, anti-European secret societies began to form.

Among the most violent and popular was the *I-ho-ch'uan* (the Righteous and Harmonious Fists). Christian missionaries were probably the first to refer to the well-trained, athletic young men as "Boxers", because of the martial arts they practiced, and so the society gave the Boxer Rebellion its

name.

Throughout 1899 the *I-ho-ch'uan* and other militant societies combined in a campaign against Westerners and Westernised Chinese. Missionaries and other civilians were killed, women were raped, and European property was destroyed. By March 1900 the uprising spread beyond the secret societies and Western powers decided to intervene, partly to protect their nationals, but mainly to counter the threat to their territorial and trade ambitions.

By the end of May 1900 Britain, Italy, and the United States had warships anchored off the Chinese coast at Taku, the nearest port to Peking. Armed contingents from France, Germany, Austria, Russia, and Japan were on their way. In June, as a Western force marched on Peking, the Dowager Empress T'zu-hsi sent imperial troops to support the Boxers. Further Western reinforcements were dispatched to China as the conflict widened.

Australian colonies were keen to offer material support to Britain. With the bulk of forces engaged in South Africa, they looked to their naval contingents to provide a pool of professional, full-time crews, as well as reservist-volunteers, including many ex-naval men. The reservists were mustered into naval brigades, in which the training was geared towards coastal defence by sailors capable of ship handling and fighting as soldiers.





**A Boxer gun structure on the wall of the Imperial City**

When the first Australian contingents, mostly from New South Wales and Victoria, sailed on 8 August 1900, troops from eight other nations were already engaged in China. On arrival they were quartered in Tientsin and immediately ordered to provide 300 men to help capture the Chinese forts at Pei Tang overlooking the inland rail route. They became part of a force made up of 8,000 troops from Russia, Germany, Austria, British India, and China serving under British officers. The Australians travelled apart from the main body of troops and by the time they arrived at Pei Tang the battle was already over.



The next action involving the Australians (Victorians troops this time) was the siege of the Boxer fortress at Pao-ting Fu, where the Chinese government was believed to have sought refuge when Peking was taken by Western forces.

The Victorians joined a force of 7,500 on the ten-day march to the fort, only to find the town had already surrendered; the closest enemy contact was

guarding prisoners. The international column then marched back to Tientsin, leaving a trail of looted villages behind them.

While the Victorians marched to Pao-ting Fu and back, the NSW contingent was undertaking garrison duties in Peking. They arrived on 22 October, after a 12-day march. They remained in Tientsin and Peking over winter, performing police and guard duties and sometimes working as railwaymen and firefighters. Although they saw little combat, the Australian forces helped to restore civil order, which involved shooting (by firing squad)

Chinese caught setting fire to buildings or committing other offences against European property or persons. The officers and men of the Australian

contingents were dissatisfied with the nature of the duties they were asked to undertake. They had expected martial adventure and the opportunity to distinguish themselves in battle but had arrived too late to take part in significant combat.

The entire naval brigade left China in March 1901. Six Australians died of sickness and injury, and none were killed as a result of enemy action. While they had been away the colonies from which they sailed only nine months before had become a federal commonwealth and Queen Victoria died in England.



**SELECT**



**SEED**

**GROWER**

**I GROW, HARVEST, CLEAN  
& MIX GRAIN LOCALLY**

**FOR:**

- **Budgies**
- **Canaries**
- **Small Parrots**
- **Large Parrots**
- **Pigeons**
- **Poultry**

**Phone Ian -**

**0417 564 492**

**selectseedgrower@gmail.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.

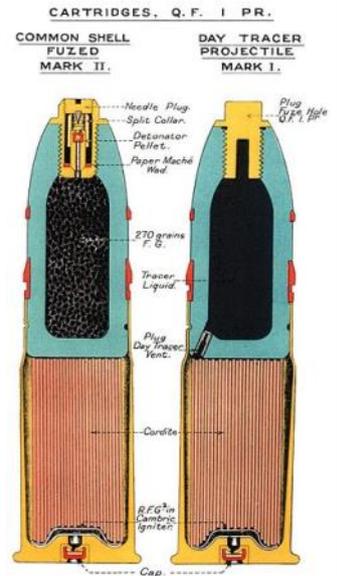


3 rounds from the left are British. The red round on the right is a French round, and has two brass drive bands on the shell.



**left: Australian troopers with a captured 1 pounder in South Africa circa. 1901**

Hi all here we have some 1 pounder rounds from a 37mm MK.1. Vickers-Maxim pom-pom gun, from a collection of a long term NVACG member. All the rounds are HE rounds. The first



## Bodeo Model 1889

was an Italian revolver named after the head of the Italian firearm commission, Carlo Bodeo. It was produced by a wide variety of manufacturers between 1889 and 1931 in both Spain and Italy. The Bodeo was employed by the Royal Italian Army in World War I, the Interwar Italian colonial wars, and World War II. The Bodeo comes in two distinct varieties with only superficial weapons differences.

### History;

Made by a large variety of Italian gun-makers, the Bodeo became the service revolver of the Italian Army in 1891. The revolver was named after the head of the Italian commission that recommended its adoption, Carlo Bodeo. It remained the principle handgun of the Italian Army until it was increasingly supplanted by the Glisenti Model 1910. The revolver was never declared obsolete and



**Bodeo Model 1889, with folding trigger**

remained as a reserve weapon until the end of World War II. The Italian manufacturers identified with the production of the Bodeo include: Societa Siderurgica Glisenti, Castelli of Brescia, Metallurgica Bresciana, and Vincenzo Bernardelli of Gardone Val Trompia. During World War I, Spanish manufacturers Errasti and Arrostegui of Eibar produced the Bodeo for the Italian government. The Italians nicknamed this revolver *coscia d'agnello* ("leg of lamb"). During World War II, the Wehrmacht designated the Bodeo as *Revolver 680(i)* when utilized as an alternative firearm.

**Design details;** The Bodeo Model 1889 is a solid-framed, six-shot revolver. The revolver was designed in two distinct versions: a round-barrelled version designed with a trigger guard, and an octagonal-barrelled version with a folding trigger. The octagonal-barrelled version was produced for rank and file Italian soldiers, while the round-barrelled version was produced for non-commissioned officers and field officers. The folding trigger version was produced in greater numbers.

**Mechanics;** The Bodeo was considered simple and robust. Due to the revolver being produced by a multitude of manufacturers, the quality of the weapon varied greatly. Frames were made from a wide variety of materials ranging from brass to brazed copper plates. The gate was connected to the hammer with the barrel screwed into the frame. Ejection was achieved by the rod normally housed in the hollow axis pin. The hammer block was designed to prevent firing unless the trigger was fully cocked.

### Service history

Used by	Royal Italian Army
Wars	Italo-Turkish War World War I Second Italo-Abyssinian War Spanish Civil War World War II
Produced	1889 to c. 1931
Mass	950 g (2 lb 2 oz)
Length	232 mm (9.1 in)
Barrel length	115 mm (4.5 in)
Cartridge	10.35mm Ordinanza Italiana
Action	Double action
Muzzle velocity	256 m/s (840 ft/s)
Feed system	6 round cylinder
Sights	Fixed iron sights



**CAC Woomera**, also known as the **CAC CA-4** and **CAC CA-11**, was an Australian bomber aircraft that was designed and constructed by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation during World War II. The order for the Woomera was cancelled before it became operational with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

#### Design and development

In early 1939, the Australian Government ordered large numbers of Bristol Beaufort bombers, with major components to be built in a variety of locations, including railway workshops, and in doing so it by-passed the local aircraft company, the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. CAC, under Sir Lawrence Wackett, began work on its own design, hoping to out-perform the Beaufort by building a machine that could serve as both a torpedo-bomber and dive bomber. To keep down weight, Wackett dispensed with traditional self-sealing fuel tanks and opted to make the wing cavities liquid-tight and thus serve as fuel storage. The Australian Government was initially uninterested in the CAC design. However, in mid-1940, cut off from the supply of British-made components for the Beaufort program (thanks to a British embargo on the export of aviation products, due to the need to maximize British production during the Battle

of Britain), the Australian Government ordered a prototype of the CAC design, even before the Royal Australian Air Force had expressed a view about the machine. This prototype CA-4 took to the air on 19 September 1941. The CA-4 was a low-wing, twin-engine, multi-role bomber with a crew of three. It was armed with four nose-mounted .303 caliber machine guns and two remote controlled twin machine-guns barbette mounted at the rear of the engine nacelles. It could carry either 500 lb. (230 kg) bombs, 250 lb. (110 kg) bombs or two torpedoes. It was originally powered by two Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp R-1830-S3C3-G radials. Unfortunately, the novel fuel tanks never proved reliable, and in January 1943 the CA-4 prototype was completely destroyed in a mid-air explosion, probably due to a fuel leak. With a re-designed tail and rudder, and an improved nose armament of two 20 mm cannon and two .303 caliber machine guns, the CA-4 became the CA-11 Woomera.

#### Production

Faced with the crisis caused by the Japanese entry into the war in December 1941, the RAAF accepted the design even before testing was complete, and ordered 105 examples of the CAC bomber on 8 March 1942. However, after the loss of the CA-4 prototype, the redesigned CA-11 did not fly until June 1944. By the time production was due to commence, the dive-bombing concept had fallen into disfavor and the RAAF was filling the light bomber/reconnaissance/strike role with British-designed Bristol Beaufighters (which were being made in Australia by the Department of Aircraft Production); US-made bombers, including the B-25 Mitchell, had also become available. Consequently, the original Woomera order was reduced from 105 to 20. After the first CA-11 flew, the whole program was cancelled and the production capacity set aside for Woomeras at CAC was switched to P-51 Mustang fighters. The only completed CA-11 Woomera, A23-1, was stripped for parts and scrapped in 1946.

#### Loss of CA-4

On 15 January 1943, the prototype CA-4, A23-1001, crashed on a test flight to assess power plant performance and evaluate aerodynamic effects of a new fixed leading edge slat. During the return to the CAC airfield at Fisherman's Bend, the pilot, Squadron Leader Jim Harper, had detected a fuel leak in the port Pratt & Whitney R-1830 engine. As the problem worsened he attempted to shut down the engine, feathering the propeller; however, the actuation of the feathering switch caused an explosion and uncontrollable fire. The three man crew subsequently attempted evacuation at 1,000 feet (300 m), yet only Harper succeeded in parachuting free, while the CAC test pilot Jim Carter and power plant group engineer Lionel Dudgeon were both killed. The airframe subsequently impacted 3 miles (4.8 km) south-west of Kilmore, Victoria. The wreckage was recovered and used for components.

**Crew:** 3 (pilot, bomb aimer/navigator, rear gunner)

**Length:** 39 ft. 7 in (12.07 m)

**Wingspan:** 59 ft. 2½ in (18.05 m)

**Height:** 18 ft. 2 in (5.53 m)

**Wing area:** 440 ft<sup>2</sup> (40.9 m<sup>2</sup>)

**Empty weight:** 12,756 lb. (5,798 kg)

**Max. takeoff weight:** 22,885 lb. (10,402 kg)

**Power plant:** 2 × Pratt & Whitney R-1830-S3C3-G Twin Wasp 14-cylinder two-row radial engine, 1,200 hp (895 kW) each

**Maximum speed:** 282 mph (454 km/h, 247 knots)

**Range:** 2,225 mi (3,580 km, 1,950 nm) (with external tank and one torpedo)

**Service ceiling:** 23,500 ft. (7,165 m)

**Rate of climb:** 2,090 ft./min (10.6 m/s)

#### Guns:

2 × .303in Browning machine guns in the nose

2 × 20 mm Hispano MkII cannon in the nose

4 × .303 Browning machine guns in

two rear-firing remotely controlled barbettes

1 × .303 Vickers K machine gun in a ventral position

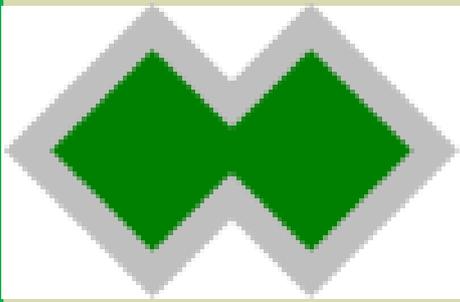


#### Bombs:

4 × 250 lb. (113 kg) bombs internally in engine nacelle bays  
and 4 × 500 lb. (224 kg) bombs

or 2 × Mk XII, Mk XV or Mk 13 aerial torpedoes mounted  
under the fuselage

or 1 × torpedo and 1 × 293 imp gal (352 USG) external fuel tank  
mounted under the fuselage



**1st Independent Company** was one of twelve independent or commando companies raised by the Australian Army for service in World War II. Raised in 1941, the 1st Independent Company served in New Ireland, New Britain and New Guinea in the early stages of the war in the Pacific, taking part in a major commando raid on Salamaua in June 1942. Having lost a large number of men captured by the enemy as well as a number of battle casualties, the company was withdrawn from New Britain later in 1942. The company was subsequently disbanded, with its surviving members being transferred to other commando units, and it was never re-raised. History; The 1st Independent Company was formed in May/June 1941 and was trained at the No. 7 Infantry Training Centre

#### Unit Colour Patch

at Tidal River on Wilsons Promontory in Victoria. Originally the company was raised to serve in the Middle East although, at that time there was uncertainty about the role that the company would fill there. Indeed, within the Australian Army there was a section that saw no need for the independent companies, believing that they would prove to be more of a drain on resources than anything else. However, later in 1941, as the threat of war with Imperial Japan loomed, the main body of the company was sent to Kavieng, New Ireland, to protect Kavieng airfield whilst other sections were sent to Namatanai on New Ireland, Vila in the New Hebrides, Tulagi on Guadalcanal, Buka on Bougainville, and Lorengau on Manus Island to act as observers and provided medical treatment to the inhabitants.

Commanded by Major James Edmonds-Wilson, in the event of an invasion of New Britain by the Japanese the 1st Independent Company was under orders to resist long enough to destroy key airfields and other military installations such as fuel dumps, before withdrawing south to wage a guerrilla war. They did not have to wait very long, as on 21 January 1942, a preparatory bombing raid by about sixty Japanese aircraft attacked Kavieng. A number of aircraft were shot down, however, the company's only means of escape, the schooner *Induna Star*, was damaged. Nevertheless, despite the damage the crew managed to sail the vessel to Kaut where they started to repair the damage. As they did so, the commandos withdrew across the island to Sook, having received word that a large Japanese naval force was approaching the island.

In the early morning of 22 January 1942, the Japanese landed at Kavieng with between 3,000 and 4,000 troops. As the lead Japanese troops reached Kavieng airfield, fighting broke out as the small force that had remained at the airfield blew up the supply dump and other facilities. Fighting their way out, the commandos withdrew towards the main force at Sook, although a number of men were captured in the process. Once the company had regrouped at Sook, on 28 January they withdrew further south to Kaut, where they helped with the repair of the *Induna Star*, before setting out along the east coast of the island. They reached Kalili Harbour on 31 January but after learning that the fighting on New Britain was over and that the Japanese had occupied Rabaul, it was decided to sail for Port Moresby.

On 2 February the schooner was sighted by a Japanese plane which subsequently attacked, causing considerable damage to the vessel as well as destroying one of its lifeboats and causing a number of casualties. The *Induna Star* began taking on water and as a result the men were forced to surrender. Under escort by a Japanese aircraft and then later a destroyer, they were instructed to sail to Rabaul where they became prisoners of war.

After a few months at Rabaul, the officers were separated from their NCOs and men. The officers were transported to Japan where they remained in captivity for the rest of the war, whilst the NCOs and men, along with other members of Lark Force that had been captured and a number of civilians, were put on to the Japanese passenger ship *Montevideo Maru* for transportation. Traveling unescorted, the *Montevideo Maru* sailed from Rabaul on 22 June. On 1 July the ship was sighted by an American submarine, the USS *Sturgeon*, off the coast of the Luzon, Philippines. The USS *Sturgeon* torpedoed and sunk the *Montevideo Maru*, without realising it was a prisoner of war vessel. Only a handful of the Japanese crew were rescued, with none of the between 1,050 and 1,053 prisoners aboard surviving as they were still locked below deck. All 133 men from the 1st Independent Company who were aboard the *Montevideo Maru* were either killed or drowned.

Meanwhile, the sections of the company that had not been with the main group at Kavieng managed to avoid capture by the Japanese. Working with the coast watchers, they reported Japanese movements and carried out demolitions until they were later evacuated or escaped from the islands between April and May 1942. A reinforcement platoon had been trained in Australia while the company was deployed and after completing its training sailed on the *Macdui*, arriving at Port Moresby on 10 March 1942. Following their arrival, the platoon was designated the Independent Platoon Port Moresby and initially used for local defence purposes. It was later re-designated as Detachment 1 Independent Company. In April 1942, under the command of Captain Roy Howard, it was moved to Kudjeru, in New Guinea, to guard against possible Japanese movement south of Wau along the Bulldog Track. In the process they became the first Australian Army unit to cross the Owen Stanley Range. In June, a section fought alongside the 2/5th Independent Company as part of Kanga Force where they participated in a major raid on the Japanese at Salamaua. Eventually, however, as a result of the losses suffered during the 1942 campaigns it was decided that the company would be disbanded and as the survivors were transferred to other commando units – with the majority of those in Port Moresby being transferred to the 2/5th – the 1st Independent Company was never raised again.

Throughout the course of the unit's existence, it suffered 142 men killed in action or died while prisoners of war. One member of the company was awarded the Military Cross.

**Structure;** With an authorised strength of 17 officers and 256 other ranks, the 1st Independent Company was composed of a company headquarters consisting of 13 personnel, three 60-man platoons named A, B and C, each of three 19-man sections numbered in series from 1 to 9, plus an engineer section of 21 men, a 34-man signals section, a medical section of six men and a transport section with four men. The company was commanded by a major, with a captain as a second-in-command. Each platoon was also commanded by a captain, while all sections except the medical and transport sections were commanded by lieutenants. The medical section was commanded by a captain.

**Italian Hand Grenades;** They earned the nickname **"Red Devil"** by British forces because of their high volatility during the recovery of unexploded Italian hand grenades on the battlefield. Background on World War Two Italian Hand Grenade



In 1935, Italy adopted three similar types of hand grenade (Bomba a Mano) for the Regio Esercito. They include the Breda Mod. 35, Oderno Terni Orlando (OTO) Melara Mod. 35 and Societa Romana Construzioni Meccaniche (SRCM) Mod. 35. Because of Italy's desire to rapidly build its stock of hand grenades, these three different manufacturers were used. Here we have two of the four types of grenades.

On the left is the **Breda Mod.35** entered production in 1935. It is considered the least effective of the three Italian hand grenade types.

However, since Breda's Brescia factory had the largest production capacity, the Breda Mod. 35 was the most common grenade used.

On the right is a **SRCM Mod.35** offensive grenade. It contains an aluminum outer shell and is the only Italian hand grenade with a fragmentation liner. It is easily recognized with the lettering "Societa Romana" on the safety cuff, which this one is missing.

**Operation;** When thrown, the safety cap falls away. It is connected to the safety strip by a small chain. This pulls the strip out and arms the grenade. The SRCM



Mod.35 also uses the Always fuze. The Italian Army utilized the SRCM Mod.35 until the 1980s.

Grenade	Breda Mod. 35	OTO Mod. 35	SRCM Mod. 35
Weight	200 grams	150 grams	240 grams
Height	96 mm	75 mm	85 mm
Diameter	58 mm	50 mm	57 mm
Filling	TNT	TNT	TNT
Filling Weight	63 grams	36 grams	43 grams
Mode of Detonation	Percussion on impact	Percussion on impact	Percussion
Range	15 m	15 m	12 m

**Variants in hand grenade is color-coded for specific purposes.**

Red: For offensive use.

Red with Outer Shell Holes: Smoke (war period).

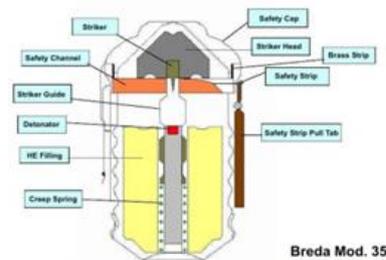
Yellow: Smoke (pre-war).

White with Red Stripe: For offensive use by the Regia Marina.

Red with Yellow Line: High capacity TNT.

Red with Brown and Blue Stripes: Reduced charge for training purposes.

Upper Red Lower Black: Smoke/Incendiary. It also contains the lettering "F" and "F1" on the bottom.



**P.S.** I also need to say thanks to a long term NVACG member who allowed me to take pic's of his two Italian Hand Grenade from his collection.

One of our members is 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.  
 (A). .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 on [jobah450.577@bigpond.com](mailto:jobah450.577@bigpond.com)

**"FOR SALE"**  
**COLLECTABLES**  
**&**  
**MEMORABILIA**  
 etc.

**Contact Geoff**  
**on 5821 9015**  
**Or**  
**email;**  
**wilsigns1@gmail.com**

**10.4mm Italian Revolver;** This cartridge was developed for the Italian Model 1874 service revolver, but was also used in the Glisenti Model 1889 revolver. It is sometimes listed as the 10.35

Italian Revolver or 10.35 Glisenti.

Black-powder and smokeless powder ammunition is encountered. Both of the above revolvers have been sold from time to time in surplus stores.

Black-powder and smokeless powder ammunition is encountered. Both of the above revolvers have been sold from time to time in surplus stores.



## Modellers Corner by " Old Nick " out of my Collection

\*\*\*\*\*

This issue the Light Infantry Support Tank M3A1 " Stuart 3 " , it was classified as a Light Tank due to its thin Armour and was intended to be used as a fast Reconnaissance Armoured Vehicle . Definitely not to stand and fight the opposition's Medium and Heavy Tanks !

**SPECIFICATIONS :** Designed and built by the United States of America Tank Arsenal in 1940 .

**Power Plant :** One Continental 7 Cylinder Radial Engine 250 bhp.

**Speed :** 42 mph .

**Armament :** 37 mm Quick Firing Gun

A coaxially Turret mounted . 30 cal Browning MG .

. 30 cal Browning AA – MG

Ball Hull Mounted front . 30 cal Browning MG .

Provision for 2 x . 30 cal MG's mounted inside sponson's , later plugged with Armour . The Armoured blanking plate can be seen covering the original ball-mounting for the . 30 cal Browning in the front of the Starboard sponson in the Photo below .

**Crew :** 4 , Commander / Loader , Gunner , Driver and Hull Gunner .

**Weight :** 12.6 tons

**Armour :** 38 mm ( very thin )

**Fuel Range :** 40 miles

**In Service :** 1941– present

**Produced :** 1941—1944

**No. built :** 22,744 of M3's and later M5's

**Wars used in :** WW2, first Indochina war, Chinese Civil War, Korean War, Indonesian National Revolution, 1959 Cuban Revolution, Nicaraguan Revolution, First Kashmir War just to name a few.

**Current Operator :** Paraguay with 10 in service (M3 & M3A1) and 4 more in storage in 2014

**Former Users :** USA, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil 350 M3A2/A3/A5's, British Army, Canada Stuart V (M3A3), Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, India, Indonesia M5A1 & M3A1 from the Netherlands, Italy, Korea, Japan captured vehicles from the USA in the Philippines, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand 89 M3A1 used 1941-42 Pacific, Soviet Union received 1676 M3's & M5's as part of Lead lease and Australian received around 370 M3's for Armoured Division Cavalry Regiments, just name to a few former Operators.

**Australian Combat Service :** Australia used the " Honey " Stuart Tank in Syria and Buna in New Guinea , our Armoured Units that used this LIGHT TANK were : the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Divisional Cavalry Regiments , 2/6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiments , in support of the 2/9 – 2/10 – 2/12 Battalions at Cape Endiaderre near Buna 6 out of 8 Tanks were knocked out ( B Squadron 2/6<sup>th</sup> ) by Jap guns . The Stuart Tank was in some cases used as a Medium Assault Tank and due to its lack of suitable Fire Power and thin Armour was totally unsuitable for this role!



Australian M3 Stuarts at Buna above and middle and right is a row of captured Stuarts with Japanese markings in the Philippines