

*The
Territory
Arms
Collector*

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARMS COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

DECEMBER 2006

**ARMS COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY INC.**
(ACANT)

EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE: 2006-2007

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Secretary – Ellen Pitts
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ACANT general meetings are held at the SSAA Club House at the Mickett Creek Shooting Complex at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Approval is sought from the Commissioner of Police for every second meeting, commencing with the January meeting, to be preceded by an authorised collectors' shoot. Under current arrangements, firearms held on a collector's licence, including H Class firearms but excluding proscribed items, may be discharged at approved shoots, which are conducted at SSAA Range 2 commencing at 4.30 pm. Meals are provided at moderate cost after the shoots, and access to SSAA bar facilities is then available. Both the SSAA and ACANT attendance registers must be signed.

ACANT CALENDAR 2007

11 Jan	Military Handguns	<i>Shoot</i>	12 Jul	Military Mausers	<i>Shoot</i>
8 Feb	Muzzle-loaders		9 Aug	Shotguns	
8 Mar	Lee Enfields	<i>Shoot</i>	13 Sep	Martinis & Sniders	<i>Shoot</i>
12 Apr	Swords, Knives, Bayonets		11 Oct	Big Game Rifles	
10 May	European Sporters	<i>Shoot</i>	8 Nov	European Handguns	<i>Shoot</i>
14 Jun	Percussion Pistols		13 Dec	Uniforms etc	<i>Xmas Party</i>

ACANT MERCHANDISE

Stubby holders bearing the ACANT emblem are offered for sale to members at \$5 each, and also stickers at \$1. A few ACANT T-shirts are still available at \$30 each. Contact the Secretary with your request. First in, best dressed!

FOR SALE

Any members wishing to sell collector-firearms or related paraphernalia, or who are looking for a particular item, why not advertise in the Newsletter? Contact the Editor on 89273914, or the Secretary on 89321759. In accordance with current legislation, the serial number and the seller's license number must accompany all advertisements for firearms.

TRADING TABLES

It was proposed at the September meeting that trading or dealing tables be set up at future ACANT meetings, tentatively the April and October meetings during 2007. Firm dates will be posted in the next newsletter.

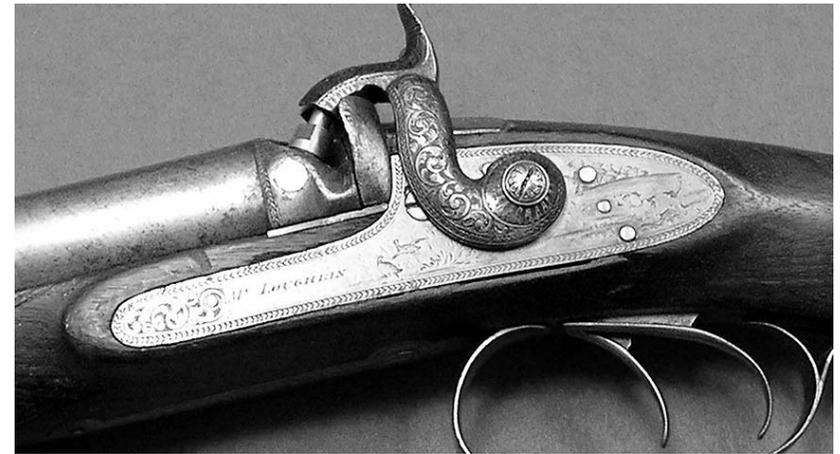
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETINGS

October: Percussion & Flintlock Pistols

The theme was well represented with the tabling of a fine Birmingham pepperbox, a percussion revolver by Webb of Salisbury, an Adams dragoon pistol, and a collection of replica percussion revolvers, flintlock pistols, and a replica matchlock pistol. A number of antique powder flasks and a Joseph Brazier lock (in the white!) were also on display.



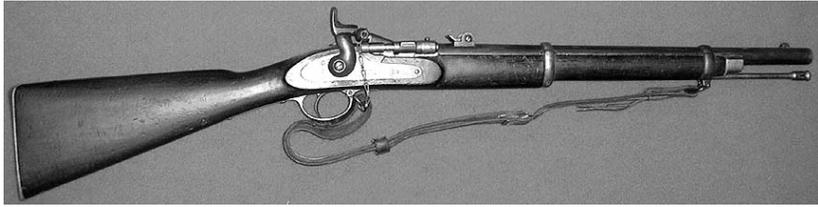
Percussion long-arms included a McLaughlin double 12-bore engraved with dogs, birds and scroll, and a nicely engraved C. Lancaster London double rifle with oval bore in .54 calibre. A J.&W. Tolley double hammer breech-loader chambered for the rare .500/.450 x 3 1/2 Express cartridge, and a Snider .577 Enfield 1871 were also viewed. The 8mm velo-dog revolver that featured in the September newsletter rounded out the display.



November: Martinis & Sniders

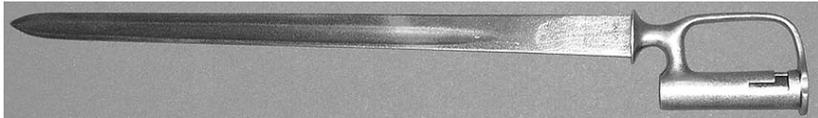
The number of Sniders and Martini Henrys brought forth by the November theme demonstrated that they remain popular with collectors. Calibres ran the gamut of late Victorian military cartridges, and there were also Martini-action shotguns included in the display. The oldest weapon was a Tower Snider of 1866 in .577" calibre. There was also a Barnett of London volunteer 3-band Snider, and a Snider brought in from New Zealand and reportedly a previous Prison Service issue. It is said to have killed two prisoners attempting to escape during that time. A commercial sporting Snider in .577 boasted a scroll-engraved lock and chequered stock.





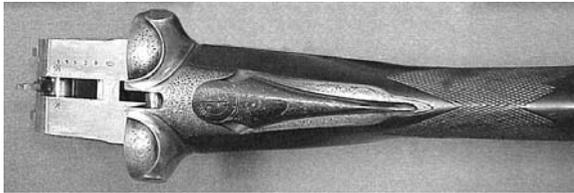
The three military Martini Henrys exhibited ranged in year of manufacture from 1883 to 1888, the most recent being an artillery carbine marked 'I.C.1' with 1858 Yataghan bayonet. The two rifles were marked Enfield III/1 and IV/1. Two Greener GP shotguns and a 'Commonwealth of Australia' Cadet rifle with 'VIC' markings were also displayed, along with a very tidy Army & Navy Martini Enfield .303 sporter with full-length rib, engraved receiver, and horn fore-end tip. The most modern Martini was a BSA International Mk.II .22 target rifle, and perhaps the rarest was a Westley Richards Improved Martini Henry produced in vain for military acceptance on the eve of the adoption of the repeating rifle.

Non-theme items included a sporterised Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5mm rifle, an FN Browning Model 10 semi-automatic pistol in 7.65mm Kurz, a Beretta Model 1934 pistol in 7.65mm Corto, a Beretta Model 1935 in 9mm Corto, a Colt Model 1903 pistol in .32 ACP, and two .45-calibre percussion revolvers. A number of bayonets and other edged weapons were also shown, including a very unusual socket bayonet that was made, according to Stephens' text, for the East India Company Sapper's Carbine of 1845.



December: Cased Sets

Unfortunately the display theme was not well supported on account of the members' preoccupation with food, drink, and merriment, since the December meeting doubled as the ACANT Christmas Party! Nevertheless,



a lovely serpentine W.W. Greener 12-bore game gun with exquisite damascus barrels and fine scroll engraving, cased with leather

trade label and full accessories, shared centre stage with a well-engraved Wilkes .470 NE double rifle made for Mantons' of Calcutta and Delhi, in its original oak & leather case with leather Manton trade label.



Members are reminded that, while each Monthly Meeting has a theme, displays are not limited to that theme and all items that might be considered to be of interest are most welcome.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

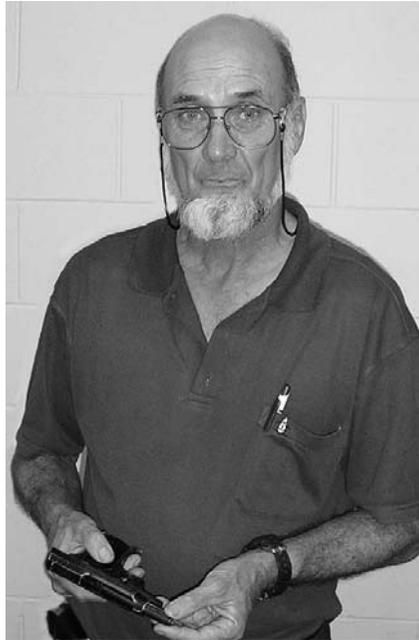
The ACANT Christmas Party followed the December general meeting, which consequently had one of the shortest agendas in history! The function was memorable for the opulent catering by Craig & Ann Wharton, Steve, Margaret & Jessica Sunk, and Leigh Harding. All attendees were clearly satiated by night's end, and the leftovers would have fed a small country! All this was washed down with a fine range of wines expertly selected by Lorna & Brian Dudley. Many thanks to all who contributed to the outstanding success of the evening.



MEMBER PROFILE

Bruce Keeley is an enthusiastic shooter and collector, whose main collecting interests lie in double rifles and British sporting arms, though like many of us he admits he can't afford it! Born in Perth in 1948, Bruce grew up in the northern suburbs. He shot 'big-bore' at the South Perth Rifle Club, and was also a member of the Perth Field Rifle Club where he performed the duties of Treasurer and was instrumental in the construction of the clubhouse.

In mid-1980, Bruce moved to Darwin to take up a teaching position with the Darwin Community College, and instructed Heavy Vehicle apprentices after the transition to Darwin Institute of Technology. Moving into the curriculum area, he rose to the position of Senior Policy Officer TAFE, and is currently in the throes of retiring from the Charles Darwin University as TAFE Accreditation Officer. Bruce has been a keen member of a number of shooting clubs in the Darwin area, and joined ACANT in 2000. During 4 of those years he capably held the position of Treasurer, and is a regular contributor to the monthly displays.



Sadly, Bruce is planning a move to Queensland's Sunshine Coast in the new-year, where he intends joining the local SSAA branch and the Big Game Rifle Club, as well as retaining his ACANT membership. I'm sure his collecting interests will expand in the new location. He will be an asset to South East Queensland and we wish him well in his endeavors there.

I expect we'll see him back in Darwin for a 'holiday' occasionally, perhaps around July when the sou' wester starts to make its presence felt!

WANTED TO BUY

Advanced collector wishes to purchase the following items:

1. Fuse assembly for WWII British 3.7" anti-aircraft projectile.
2. Complete WWII German 88mm flak round.

3. Inert WWI German Diskus & Kugel hand grenades.
 4. Deactivated rifles: SKS (Russian or Chinese); L1A1 SLR; M-1 Carbine.
 5. Replica MP-40 SMG; Replica Uzi SMG.
 6. Armalite AR-7 .22cal Survival Rifle.
 7. Fieldman-Naughton .22cal rifle with thumbhole stock in VG working condition.
 8. Any WWI / WWII / Vietnam etc Body Armour.
- Purchaser has all the necessary permits, Licence # 11727 (NT)
Contact: Craig Wharton, PO Box 36557, Winnellie NT 0821

ARTICLES

The feature article in this edition of the Newsletter describes a Johnson M.1941 rifle from a member's collection. A snapshot of the intriguing Vickers Luger is also offered, along with details of a fabulous little ladies' revolver from a bygone era. Lastly, a timely recipe for Goose Curry, Badun Tamil Style, is provided by one of our resident chefs!

The Johnson M.1941 Rifle, Serial # 2429

from the collection of
Craig Wharton

Sadly, like all the other 'D' class weapons held on collectors' licence these days, this example is deactivated! The rifle came from a deceased estate so its background history is unfortunately lost. The Johnson is one of those military weapon oddities: a "what if?" It's a firearm that could have been the US Army's standard battle rifle during WWII instead of the Garand.



During the mid to late 1930s, various countries had experimented with semi-auto rifle designs. In the US, Captain Melvin C. Johnson USMCR, an arms designer, was a Marine Corps observer to Springfield Armouries during the Garand and Pedersen rifle trials. He came to the conclusion that both these designs were flawed and would be difficult to mass-produce, so he set out to design his own rifle. His 1935 prototype was made from scrap firearms parts, and even had a knitting needle for a firing pin!

By 1938 he had developed his design to the extent that it was ready to submit for US arms trials. Unfortunately it was rejected in early 1940 on the

grounds of being too heavy and too long. It also had too many small and easily-lost parts, and being recoil-operated rather than gas, it did not perform well in the accuracy department with the bayonet attached. Later in 1940 Johnson tried again. The new trial was carried out by the USMC, pitting the Johnson against the Garand, and the results were more favourable to Johnson's design. The following year, Johnson released his rifle as the Model 1941. Interestingly the title, Model of 1941, was not a US Military one but was coined by Johnson himself in an effort to 'drum-up business' with the Armed Forces. The US Military had dropped the usage of dates in rifle nomenclature by the late 1920s. Had the Johnson M.1941 been accepted into US service as a supplement to the Garand, or as its replacement, it would have been known as the US Rifle, Calibre .30, M.2. By that stage however, the Garand had already been accepted into service as the US Rifle, Calibre .30, M.1 in 1940.



In late 1941 the Dutch government placed an order with Johnson for 70,000 rifles to arm its Netherlands East Indies Forces in what is now Indonesia, as invasion by the Japanese forces appeared imminent. During that period, the newly-created USMC Parachute Battalion was also taking a keen interest in the design. Being easily broken down for parachute drops and quick to reassemble it was a good concept. The Johnson's recoil was not as stout as the Garand's, up to 1/3 less in fact (to which the author can attest from past experience!). It also carried 10 rounds in the unique rotary design magazine, which could be reloaded with loose rounds or by 5-round stripper clips to top it back up to 10 at any time. The Garand could not do this as its 8 rounds are held *en bloc* in a clip. After the 8th round is fired, the empty clip ejects with that distinctive metallic 'ting' sound, a fact that wasn't lost on the Japanese during the Pacific war. That sound was their best chance to jump a G.I. during his reload!

Some sources claim that the delivery of the Dutch order of 70,000 Johnson rifles was cancelled due to the rapid Japanese advance into the Pacific and the Netherlands East Indies. The author believes some were delivered and on the Japanese invasion of the N.E.I. some were delivered here to arm the

free Dutch troops withdrawn to Australia. The author remembers reading somewhere years ago of Australian RAAF personnel being equipped with Johnson rifles here in the Northern Territory, which makes perfect sense as Number 18 Squadron operating out of MacDonal and Batchelor was a mix of RAAF and NEI crews and ground staff. Because of this particular Johnson's low serial number from the first production batch, the author believes it to be one of the rifles either diverted here, or even carried out of Java by an evacuee.



The NEI order cancellation meant that the USMC then had a ready supply of semi-auto rifles, as all available Garands were given in preference to the US Army and it was late 1942 before the Marines started to receive Garands in any quantity.

Johnson also designed 2 LMGs: the Model 1941 and Model 1944 LMG. The Johnson M.1941 Rifle and both LMGs were used by Marine raiders and Para-Marines in the Pacific, and by the 1st Special Service Forces in Europe. The Model 1941 was the only recoil-operated rifle manufactured in quantity during WWII, produced from 1941 to 1944 at the Universal Windings Plant at Cranston, Rhode Island. Year of manufacture is indicated by a letter prefix to the serial number. The absence of a letter prefix, as in the current example #2429, indicates 1941 production, the first batch! A 7mm variant was also produced in 1943, to fill an order for 1,000 rifles placed by the Chilean Government for their mounted troops. Production figures for the M.1941 are believed to total about 30,000 units, however actual production is not accurately known as all records were lost during a fire at the factory in 1961.

The prong bayonet designed for the Johnson, derisively named "the tent-pole bayonet" was short and light-weight, a necessity in order not to interfere with the rifle's recoil system. Considered totally useless by US servicemen who used it, the bayonet is today a very rare and expensive collectable!

At the end of WWII the USMC returned all M.1941 rifles to the Netherlands Purchasing Commission, although it would appear that the Dutch did not end up with them. In 1953 the Winfield Arms Company purchased *all* Dutch rifles then held as military surplus in the US, including all parts held

in stock by the Numrich Corporation, and shipped the lot to Canada. After refurbishment, Winfield imported them back into the US where they were sold for \$70 - \$110 depending on their condition. That supply of Johnsons was exhausted by the mid-1960s.

The last known usage of the Johnson M.1941 on a large scale was during the 1960's attempted invasion of Cuba, during the infamous 'Bay of Pigs' operation. Large quantities of M.1941 rifles and LMGs were used to arm the Cuban exiles who took part in the CIA-backed invasion.

In a way, the Johnson still lives on! After the war, Melvin C. Johnson worked with Winchester and later with Colt on the Armalite Rifle project. Johnson's patent for the bolt, bolt-carrier, and bolt cam system was incorporated into the M.16 rifle, so his design is still soldiering on. Johnson died in New York on 9th January 1965. His unique rotary magazine rifle design is now a highly sought-after collector's item.



Having had the privilege of handling and firing both the Johnson and the Garand, as a matter of personal preference the author would prefer the Johnson. US gun-writers often 'wax lyrical' over the virtues of their beloved Johnson. US gun-writers often 'wax lyrical' over the virtues of their beloved Garand, ensuring that it always out-performs any 'foreign' opposition during concocted performance evaluations, usually on the basis of national pride! However, sitting in a fox-hole under fire, knowing you have fired 7 rounds but can't top up the magazine until the last cartridge is fired, constitutes a major tactical mistake in firearms design not shared by the Johnson rifle.

These days, the Johnson has a certain mystique for collectors. It is a real curiosity, a "what if?" ...and this particular rifle is an enigma in its own right: how did it get here? We will probably never know, but perhaps one day some of the answers may come to light. Until then, it will continue to hold a special place in the author's collection as a fine example of one of history's more colourful military rifle developments.

The Vickers Luger Pistol

by
Don Davie

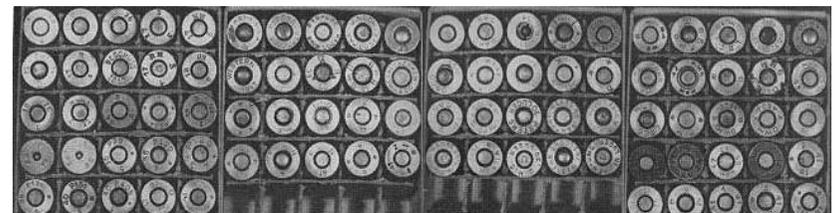
The Netherlands military acquired some 4,000 Luger pistols from *Deutsch Waffen und Munitionsfabriken* (DWM) in 1906, and required a further 6,000 of the same model after the end of the 1914-1918 War. The provisions of the Treaty of Versailles prevented Germany from supplying the pistols, but the Vickers Armament Company in Britain provided Lugers against a Dutch order. They were the 4"-barrel model chambered for the 9 x 19mm (Parabellum) cartridge and were identical with the German product except for the VICKERS LTD marking on the toggle, and of course the British proof marks.



The Vickers Luger was the standard issue pistol of the *Koninklijke Nederlandsche Indische Leger* (Royal Netherlands Indies Army) and remained on issue in the Netherlands East Indies until the islands were overrun by the Japanese in February 1942. Although Lugers with Vickers markings are something of a rarity today, the author has seen two examples. One was in a small museum at Ambarawa in central Java, and the other was in the collection of firearms held at the old NT Police Headquarters on Bennett Street in Darwin.



One authority on Vickers Ltd stated in 1994 that the pistols were sent to Britain from Germany in an incomplete state to be finished by Vickers, but this is still a matter of some debate. Did Vickers manufacture the Lugers, or were they simply assembled by Vickers from parts provided from Germany, perhaps after some finishing work? If any reader should have further information on the origin of the Vickers Lugers, the author would very much like to hear it.



The Paris Life Protector

from the collection of
Tony Orr



This well preserved piece belongs to the family of vintage handguns known as "puppy" revolvers, which are generally smaller cousins to the well-known 'bulldog' short-barrel side-arms. Puppies generally have folding triggers with no guard, to fit in the waist-coat pocket or lady's purse rather than a trouser-pocket or holster, and are usually .38-calibre or less, whereas Bulldogs are invariably .44 or .450. This particular piece is something of an enigma, however. It is undeniably 'puppy' in style, but 'bulldog' in nature, being chambered for Eley's .44 Bulldog cartridge!



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Although the 170-grain lead bullet over perhaps 15-grains of black powder is rather anaemic by today's standards, it is nevertheless quite a handful in such a small piece!

The gun itself is rather a high-grade example of the Belgian trade, being completely nickel-plated with the exception of the hammer, trigger, and ejector-rod assembly, which are *gold*-plated! Very sensible to prevent corrosion from use with black-powder, of course. All available surfaces are covered in a very fine, ornate vine engraving, very elegant indeed. ...but what really tops-off this splendid little gun are the chunky genuine-ivory grips!



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Engraved on the top-strap we find the *raison d'etre* for the existence of this marvellous example of the gun-maker's art:



Imagine the look of surprise as some dance-hall mademoiselle produced this wicked little item from her garter to ward-off a hostile advance!

Those were the days!

FOR INTEREST

This Swiss dagger, or *holbein*, dates from *circa* 1560, yet its role as the prototype for the design of the German SS dagger, first issued in 1936, is undeniable. Original Swiss daggers are extremely difficult to acquire today.



STEVE'S STOVE

GOOSE BADUN (CURRY)

This recipe provided by Steve Sunk is particularly timely as the waterfowl season draws to a close, and the keen hunter contemplates transforming his freezer full of goose-meat into a Christmas feast for the whole family.

Ingredients:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 goose cut into 12 pieces | 4 cloves garlic chopped |
| ½ cup vegetable oil | ½ cup grated ginger |
| 12 dried red chillies) | 2 tablespoons tomato paste |
| 1 tablespoon fennel) | 2 tomatoes chopped |
| 1 tablespoon cumin) grind and roast | 1 litre chicken stock or water |
| 10 peppercorns) | 1 cup coconut milk (optional) |
| 1 tablespoon tumeric | 4 curry leaves |
| 2 cinnamon quills | 2 large onions roughly chopped |

Method:-

Heat oil in saucepan or camp oven. Place in onions, garlic, ginger and sweat. Add all the dry ingredients and cook until fragrant. Add the goose pieces and colour or seal. Then pour in stock or water with tomatoes and tomato paste. Add curry leaves and bring to the boil. Skim and simmer, cooking slowly for 2 ½ hours. Keep topping up the liquid, and when tender add coconut milk. Serve with rice.

*Chilli can be reduced and red paprika powder can be substituted.

* commercial curry paste can be used, or if preferred just use onions.

