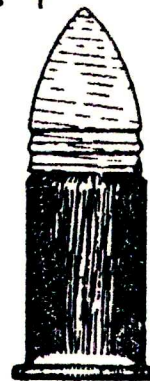


OCTOBER

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There are several items of importance to be brought out in this issue.

1. OFFICERS Our President for 1961 - 62 is Lynn H. Harris; Ian D. Wright ran him a close second and, as such, automatically becomes our Vice-President ; and guess who was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

2. THE CLUB Now officially is open. As an organization it belongs to and for you THE MEMBERSHIP to further the hobby of CARTRIDGE COLLECTING which as a hobby need not take a back seat to any hobby. Our membership is still small, but already I have had several enquiries about the Club and I trust that the time will only be short before we have one of the keenest and most active Clubs in New Zealand. However, increasing the membership is as much your job as mine, and I trust that you will each do your best to interest other people in joining the Club, and becoming keen followers of the hobby.

3. MEMBERSHIP Our official membership cards are now printed, and those of you who have already paid your Subs should have received your card by the time this first Bulletin reaches you. I trust you like them. They are attractively printed, and I am certain that their display on your lounge wall will soon prompt many questions, both about the Club and about cartridge collecting.

Lynn Harris and I are trying to compile information on cartridges and shotgun shells manufactured by the Colonial Ammunition Company Limited, Auckland, New Zealand. We hope that we may compile the information into a reasonable booklet which should be of use to all cartridge collectors, both here and overseas. We welcome any, and all, correspondence with Collectors having Cartridge boxes, early broadsheets, or any information pertaining to this Company.

Poter Price would like to know if any member can tell him the name of the German Smallarms Company using the code letters "P635" on ammunition manufactured prior to 1940.

John Oram wants to know whether the Eley .410 revolver cartridge is the same cartridge as, or different from, the .41 Short Colt ?

A new cartridge headstamp has shown itself on some ammunition seen recently in New Zealand. It is "N.W.M" which is the postwar Dutch Ammunition Factory - Nederland Wapen en Munitiefabriek.

As most of you Military Ammunition Collectors will know by now, the 7.62 Nato Ball Cartridge is being manufactured by the Colonial Ammunition Company here in New Zealand. Their first headstamp was "CAC-60-N-L2A2" and this year's 7.62 bears the headstamp "CAC-61-L2A2" Both have the usual British military purple dye marking around the annulus for military ball ammunition. The New Zealand made 7.62 ball is a 146 grain boattail bullet, and the case has a smokeless Berdan Primer. It is understood that C.A.C will soon be putting out boxes of .308, which is, of course, the commercial variety of the 7.62 Nato.

John Wells asks me to draw attention to the fact that his correct address is 102 Johnson Street, Milton ..not Johnston Street as I put it in page 2 of the original membership list. Sorry John, I goofed, and the rest of you please change your membership list to show John's correct address.

As the .303 British is still the most easily collected cartridge in New Zealand, herewith a little bit of information on them. Production of the .303 began sometime back in the 1880s. Calibre reduction with increasing high velocity was becoming a recognised fact after the experiments of Colonel Rubin, head of the Swiss Arsenal in Thun. Along with the small calibres had come the metal jacketed, lead-cored bullet that was so necessary for high velocity. British military .303s were officially introduced in 1889. Naturally this was the Mark I, and I believe that it was loaded with  $71\frac{1}{2}$  grains of compressed black powder, which is said to have given a velocity of something like 1,850 feet per second.

In 1891 the .303 was changed to use the new smokeless "Cordite" powder, and this boosted the velocity to some 1,970 feet per second. In 1893 the Mark I gave way to the Mark II, which used the Berdan primer rather than the Boxer primer of the earlier Mark. With the advent of the Mark II, the Ammunition Companies started using the code letter of their company, "II" for Mark.2 and "C" to show that the cartridge was loaded with Cordite.

For all the resulting high velocities and greater range of the .303 however the Army were still not very happy with them, for at that time British troops were still actively engaged fighting fanatical tribesmen in India, and the .303 just did not have the "pick-em-up and slam-em-down" power of the earlier .577 and .450/.577. So experiments were then started with the metal cased expanding bullet, and the most successful were those invented by Major General Tweedie - which had a cupro-nickel jacket covering all but the tip where the lead core was exposed in a round head, causing the bullet to mushroom when striking. Many of the Tweedie type bullets are still seen in commercial loadings - and by Captain Clark, who was then stationed in Dum-Dum, India - which employed a hollow nosed cupro nickelled jacket bullet. It was these bullets which were then developed as the Mark III, Mark IV, and Mark V .303s. As you all know the term Dum-Dum caught the public fancy, and that name has been the descriptive term by which all expanding military bullets have since been known. I have never been fortunate enough to see a Mark III, so I cannot describe it, except to say that I believe it had a metal cup or tube inserted in the nose of the bullet. It never went into general production and I imagine any specimens of the Mark III, would be as scarce as the proverbial hens teeth. The Mark IV had a large hollow nose, and the nickel jacket was thinned at the end to ensure expansion. However this Mark ran

into trouble through the unfortunate habit it displayed of leaving its pure lead core behind either in flight, or its cupro nickel jacket behind in the bore of the rifle. It thus gave way to the Mark V, which had a slightly longer bullet and which for the first time employed antimony hardened lead as the core. This was a really successful "dum-dum" and as those things are likely to do, immediately having a good "dum-dum" public opinion was brought to bear against them. The crusade against the military "dum-dum" ended finally in the Hague Conference, where all the major powers swore off such refinements as dum dum, explosive, or expanding bullets for small arms ammunition - so exit the Mark V - but let me hasten to add here that it is only fair to say that the British had sworn off use of the hollow nosed Mark V in the Boer War which, of course, preceded the Hague Conference.

In 1904 came the Mark VI .303, the last of the round nosed .303 bullets for military use. The bullet itself closely resembles the Mark II, but my micrometer tells me that the Mark VI has a more rounded nose, and a thinner jacket.

In 1910 came the Mark VII, the first of the sharp pointed bullets, and it is this particular Mark of cartridge with which we are all most familiar. It was the mainstay of our troops in two World Wars, and given time I hope to discuss the Mark VII at greater length in another issue of our Bulletin. With the Mark VII came also the advent of Nitro cellulose powders, and when the Mark VII was loaded with Nitro Cellulose instead of the more usual cordite, it was indicated by the small letter "z" after the Mark number to indicate, in military parlance, that it was "loaded other than with black powder, or cordite."

Late in the second World War came the last Mark of the British Military Ball round, the boat-tailed Mark VIII. It is believed that this round was intended only for use in machine guns, and few of these Mark are encountered in New Zealand. In my own collection the only Mark VIII, which I have was strangely enough manufactured by Fabrique-National in Belgium in 1950. It is not marked with the Mark number at all, but simply bears the headstamp F N 50, though it has the British military purple dye marking on the anulus. The packet, however, bears the inscription " CART. Cal - PATR. Kal .303 C.T.N pour F.M Bren - voor M.G Bren " which seems to bear out that this particular cartridge was intended for use in the Bren machine gun.

Well fellows thats all for this time. Please note this month's Bulletin has a bit of information in it - Useful I hope ! Next month will be question month. So get out your pens and pencils and send in some of those queries you think other members of the Club may be able to answer for you. Likewise keep your pencils sharpened and your ink bottles full, so that in turn you will be able to send me in some answers for the following month.

I CALL FOR YOUR 1961 DUES. We have opened a Post Office account in the Club's name, and every year in September a statement of the year's balance account will be published in the Bulletin. Got cracking and help us to become financial. You will get three calls for your dues, and if by then you have not managed to beg, borrow, or scrape your fees together you will not get the fourth bulletin.

# THE N.Z. CARTRIDGE COLLECTORS CLUB

## Membership List ~~1~~ 2

Donald G. KIDDIE  
Kowhai Grove,  
Greerton, TAURANGA  
General Collection  
130 rounds approx.

Donald E. LESLIE  
15 Colemans Road  
BIENHEIM

Speciality: Big Game  
Approx 100 Rounds

Lowin J.M. TAVERNER  
Santoft R.D. BULLS  
General Collection  
100 rounds approx.

James G. McGOWAN  
R.D. 15 Te Pahu  
TE AWAMUTU

General Collection  
Approx 150 rounds

James Ellis PETER  
250 Songer Street  
Stoke, NELSON

General Collection,  
150 Rounds approx.

Frank R. PIERCE  
176 Tinakori Road  
WELLINGTON  
General collection  
Approx. 300 rounds

Leonard S. PITCHER  
43 Ranch Road,  
Mt. Maunganui

General collection  
Approx 500 rounds

James C. TILLINGHAST  
P.O. Box No.5  
Sand Pond Road,  
Marlow, N.H.  
United States  
General Collection  
Approx 2,000 rounds.

Peter PRICE,  
C/- Police Station  
TAIHAPE  
General Collection  
Approx. 500 Rounds

Graeme REINHARDT  
C/- N.Z. Forestry Service  
HOKITIKA  
General Collection  
Approx 100 rounds

William H. WOODIN  
Route 2, Box 251  
Tucson, Arizona  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Speciality: Military 1885  
to present day.  
Approx. 8,000 rounds.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

CARTRIDGE LIST containing many new items of cartridges available  
for swap or sale. 1/- coin.

.. Lynn H. HARRIS  
P.O. Box 2276  
WELLINGTON.

WANTED .. Information on coiled case cartridges. All correspondence  
welcomed on this subject, and replies guaranteed.

.. James C. TILLINGHAST  
P.O. Box No. 5, Sand Pond Rd.,  
Marlow, N.H. United States of America.

WANTED .. Early military cartridges, British or American. Will  
Swap or Buy. Good swaps including .40 Booby Trap available.

.. Brian M. COLBOURNE  
2 Waiho Tce.,  
ELSDON.