



**SSAA (MILDURA) ARMS & MILITARIA**  
**COLLECTORS GUILD**

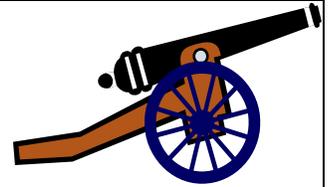
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2008 - December Issue

**THE ROLLING VOLLEY**  
**THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE ARMS AND MILITARIA**  
**COLLECTORS OF SUNRAYSIA & OTHER PARTS OF**  
**AUSTRALIA**

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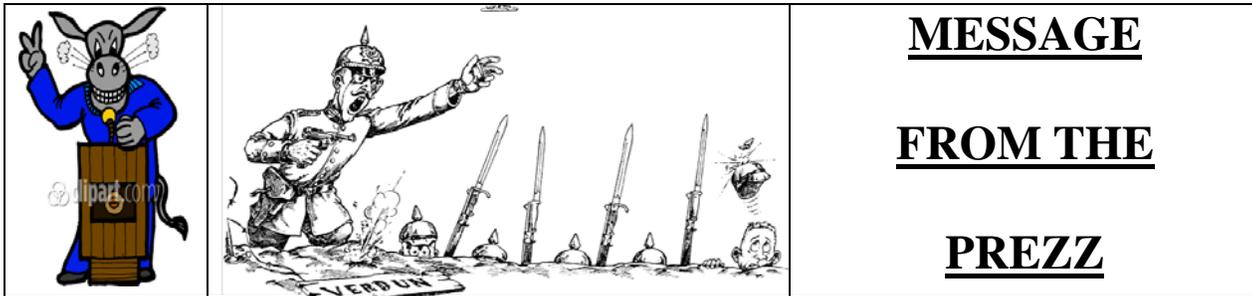
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**Meeting: First Wednesday of the month except January at Tyrepower,  
Corner 9<sup>th</sup> Street & Madden Ave, Mildura at 7.00 pm.**



As I put finger to keyboard the end of another year is upon us, a year when I wasn't around very much, a year when the financial world has gone haywire, a year when prices at Auctions such as e-bay and Roley's have gone through the roof and a year when threats to shooter's rights have gone reasonably quiet, in Australia at least.

This time of the year lets us look back and see the things that have been done by the club and to thank members for their support. Every year when "thanks" are given out we can always manage to forget someone, so here goes and I hope that I don't fill my own expectations.

A big thanks to the members who came to the meetings each month to participate with their input and especially to those who brought parts of their collection to share with other members of the club in "Show and Tell". Some people find it easy to stand up and talk to a group, others find it quite difficult, to the latter group a special thanks, it can only get easier. A big thanks to the Mills family for their continued support with a meeting room and a Gourmet's array of refreshments. An important part of any club is of course the executive, and apart from attending Working B's and rolling up their sleeves to any other task that comes their way, they are responsible for the smooth running of the club. Now as I have often said, "You hate to praise the prick up", but I don't think anyone works harder than Garry. He manages the minutes, organises the agenda and keeps us informed on movements within the shooting laws.

Our big event for this year was of course the local show, and what a display we had, probably one of our best. We had a slight change of format with the use of display boards and they proved to be very successful even though some members don't know what their rifle models are???. The success of this event started with a working B to plan and set-up the displays, continued with the setting up at the show, guard duty at night, advisors during the day and the dismantling on Friday night and Sunday morning. A great effort, but wait it didn't finish here. Nick made some flash steel stands to replace the empery wooden ones we used and delivered them to the range. A huge amount of work goes into this event and thanks to all involved.

We didn't manage to have an official club trip this year so it will have to be high on our agenda for next year, some members did however manage to get to one or two auctions for the year and to the newly run Melbourne Gun Show. Reports are varied, the first auction was apparently quite reasonable in its' prices but in the October one the prices totally blew us out of the water. I am told by my secret spy that there is a lot of "Arab Dollars" being used to buy collectables for touristy museums, and a good source of information it is too. The MGS, now being run by Jeff Pannon has proved to be a big success, he tells me

that numbers at the door have doubled since he too over. The break-away club of David Baird/John Thomas Inc inform us that the Adelaide Sow is worth a visit, usually after they arrive home to gloat!!!!

Ron and I have already booked in for a display at the Shepp Collectors show early in the year and have already had some offers of help, if you are interested see Ron or myself.

I am sure that I have missed something, but I have said enough, all the best for Xmas and I hope that all goes well for the new year, collecting and etc.

Trevor Johns.



### **THE EDITER'S COMMENT.**

Well a lot of time was spent outside not only of the club, but also of Australia. Ron and I had a great month on a WW1 tour of the battlefields of Turkey and Europe. What a great feeling it was to walk the walk of those soldiers along Anzac Cove, up Artillery Road to Lone Pine, along Rhododendron Ridge, to walk in the trenches at Walker's Ridge and Quinn's Post. The feeling you get when you hear **The Last Post** played is always very emotional, but to hear it played at Anzac Cove at 6.00am, at Lone Pine a little later or at Mennin Gate at 8.30pm, is an experience that all Australians should have the opportunity to have. (might change a few attitudes.) France and Belgium for two weeks, with more tours, how lucky were we. Went to Poziers on The Somme, in a mere square mile, 640 acres, Australians are missing here at a rate of 20 to the acre, 12,000 in a square mile, try and get your head around that. Went to Belgium, saw my uncle's name on the list of missing in that country, saw the paddock that he disappeared in, saw the paddock where another uncle won the MM, saw the cemeteries with hundreds of thousands of British Empire Soldier's graves and saw the lists of the missing.

But it wasn't all cemeteries and battlefields, we saw some great Military Museums, drank some excellent Belgian Beer and French Wine, ate gourmet food from Turkey, through France and Belgium, but its hard to beat Battered Fish with a plate of chips in a London Pub.

We will need ideas for a club trip next year, there are some excellent museums on the way and around Sydney along with a very good Gun Show. We have given Melbourne a good shot, but it still has the Auctions and I am sure, museums and displays that we haven't seen. Shepp and Bendigo are probably two displays that we can do. We need ideas perhaps to improve our show display. Friends from Shepp have given me some ideas on what they do.

Anyway in closing, hope you can still afford to collect in 2009

Trevor Johns

## Gun Feature - 1

# Mannlicher-Berthier 1907-15



*The French discovered a serious practical defect in their standard issue Lebel rifles thus two years into WW1, the Berthier was issued, although designed in 1907 and issued in small quantities as an improvement over the old lebel with its slow to load tube magazine it wasn't until WW1 that manufacture really got going on the improved 1907-15.. Officially titled the Fusil d'Infanterie Modele 1907, Transforme 1915, the replacement rifle was, like the Lee-Enfield, clip loaded.*

*Replaced by the Berthier but not forgotten the lebel soldiered on throughout WW1 in greater numbers than the newer Berthier and was still used by the French Foreign Legion up until replacement by the MAS 36 Bolt Action Rifle.*

*A fine weapon, the original Berthier (designed in 1907) nevertheless suffered, like its predecessor, from a design flaw - its magazine held only three rounds. A modified version, produced in 1916, increased this to five rounds. The result was the Fusil modele 1916, loaded from a five round charger. The 1916 Berthiers with their five round magazine did not enter service until 1918 the last year of the war.*

*All of the Berthier models were chambered for the original 8mm Lebel cartridge ( 8x50R )but when the MAS 36 was introduced into service some of the berthiers were converted to the newer 7.5 cartridge these were designated as . fusil mle 1907-15 M34 Approx 40,000 were converted to the 7.5 round*



*Note in the picture above and also the carbines below that the magazine on the three round Berthier does not extend below the woodwork.*

### *Various carbine length Berthiers*



*Note the two types of chargers used in Berthier rifles the three round 1915 and the five round 1916.*



**Berthier rifle bayonet.**



***NOTICE THE EXTENDED MAGAZINE ON THE 1916 VARIANT TO SUIT THE 5 ROUND CHARGER***



## GUN FEATURE - 2.



### **SPANISH 9MM LARGO DESTROYER CARBINE**

*There are many different models of the Spanish Destroyer Carbine but the one that we commonly see on the surplus market here in Australia is the one I will deal with here.*

*The Spanish police originally used a Winchester 1892 copy 44-40 rifle not made under licence that they called the El-Tigre this was eventually replaced some time before the Spanish civil war with the Destroyer carbines in 9mm Largo the first model carbines just used the bolt handle for a locking lug but the model we usually encounter here in Australia has been extensively copied from the 93Mauser action some Destroyer carbines even had a bayonet lug as per the picture below.*



*Production of the Destroyer continued up until the early 1970's. The 9mmLargo cartridge was first loaded in Spain about 1907 and used in their Bergmann pistols hence it's use in the destroyer carbine. The Destroyer has a six round detachable magazine.*

*The 9mm Largo cartridge is like most auto pistol cartridges it headspaces on the end of the cartridge case so although cases such as the 9mm steyr, 9mm browning and even 9mm para will chamber and in most cases fire it is not a prudent practice. Surplus ammo is still available and can be purchased in Australia at the moment. Also starline brass is available for those who wish to reload for this little carbine.*

*The Spanish continued to use the 9mm Largo cartridge in one fashion or another until after 1981 when the Fabrica Nacional Toledo produced the final government run of 9mm Largo ammunition. Over it's life, the Spanish used it in pistols, carbines, and submachine guns and sporting arms. From 1907 to 1981 the Spanish used a variety of designations for this round:*

*9mm de Pistola*

*9mm Para Pistola Bergmann*

*9mm Para Pistola Campo-Giro*

*9mm Largo*

*9 x 23*

*These rifles can still be found from time to time in gun shops at anywhere between \$200-300 and could make a great youth or ladies rifle could also be useful for some of our events where a light rifle would suit, such as rapid-fire etc.*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



Membership renewals are due. By the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year. You are required to be a current member of the SSAA and we certainly would like to see a current photocopy of that membership along with your renewal.

Application forms can be obtained from our website.

[SSAA Mildura Collectors Guild](#) (Google) or

<http://www.ssaamildura.org/cg/index.htm>

RENEWAL EXTENSION TO 28 February 2009.

Tim (Membership Secretary.)

## CAN SOMEONE TELL ME IF THIS IS TRUE

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself.. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel...

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked.

'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill .. His son's name?

**Sir Winston Churchill.**

## JOKES

1.



**You can trust me I'm Kevin Rudd I,ll keep my eye on things**

**Fuel watch**

**Grocery watch**

**Whale watch**

**School watch**

**Watching**

**Watching**

**Watching**

## **The Wild, Wild West**

The young dude in the Old West wanted to be the fastest gunfighter alive.

Sitting in a saloon one night, he spotted an old graybeard who had the reputation of having been the greatest gunslinger of his day. The kid went up to the old man and told him of his dream. The ancient legend looked him up and down and said, "I got a suggestion that's sure to help."

"Tell me, Tell me!" said the young dude.

"Tie the bottom of your holster lower down on your leg."

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?"

"You damn betcha," said the old man.

The kid did as he was told, drew his gun, and neatly shot the bow tie off the piano player. "Wow, that really helped! Got any more suggestions?"

"Yeah - If'n you cut a notch in the top of your holster where the hammer hits, the gun'll slide out a lot smoother."

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?"

"You damn betcha."

The dude did as he was told, then drew his gun, and lightning quick, shot a cufflink off the piano player. "This is really helping me out! Is there anything else you can share with me?"

"One more thing," said the old timer. "Get that can of axle grease over there in the corner and rub it all over your gun."

The fellow didn't hesitate and immediately started smearing the grease on the gun barrel.

"No, no, the whole gun," said the graybeard. "Handle and everything."

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?"

**"Not likely, boy. But when Wyatt Earp gets done playing that bar piano, he's gonna shove that gun up your ass and this way it won't hurt so much."**

## **BLONDE JOKE.**

*A blonde teenager, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a 'handy-woman' and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighbourhood. She went to the front door of the first house, and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do.*

*'Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint my porch,' he said, 'How much will you charge me?'*

*Delighted, the girl quickly responded, 'How about \$50?'*

*The man agreed and told her that the paint brushes and everything she would need was in the garage.*

*The man's wife, hearing the conversation said to her husband, 'Does she realize that our porch goes ALL the way around the house?'*

*He responded, 'That's a bit cynical, isn't it?'*

*The wife replied, 'You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes we've been getting by e-mail lately.'*

*Later that day, the blonde came to the door to collect her money.*

*'You're finished already?' the startled husband asked.*

*'Yes, the blonde replied, and I even had paint left over, so I gave it two coats.'*

*Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the \$50.00 and handed it to her along with a ten dollar tip.*

**'And by the way,' the blonde added, 'it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus.'**