



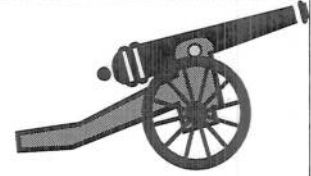
**SSAA (MILDURA) ARMS & MILITARIA  
COLLECTORS GUILD**

Established 1994.

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2008 - July Issue

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

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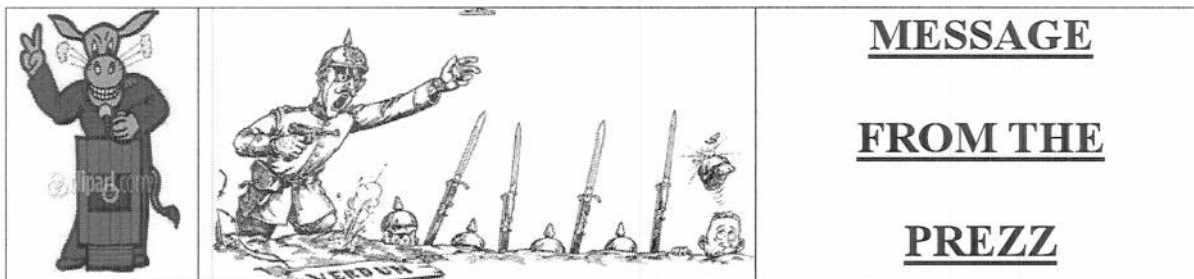
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**Meeting: First Wednesday of the month except January at Tyrepower,  
Corner 9<sup>th</sup> Street & Madden Ave, Mildura at 7.00 pm.**



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.

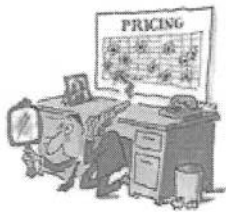
We didn't manage to have an official club trip this year so it will have to be high on our agenda for next year, some members did however manage to get to one or two auctions for the year and to the newly run Melbourne Gun Show. Reports are varied, the first auction was apparently quite reasonable in 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.

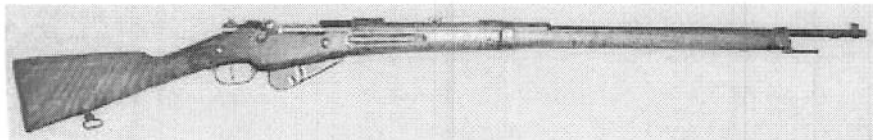
We will need ideas for a club trip next year, there are some excellent museums on the way and around Sydney along with a very good Gun Show. We have given Melbourne a good shot, but it still has the Auctions and I am sure, museums and displays that we haven't seen. Shepp and Bendigo are probably two 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**

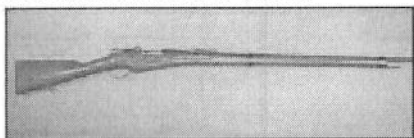


*The French discovered a serious practical defect in their standard issue Lebel rifles thus two years into WW1, the Berthier was issued, although designed in 1907 and issued in small quantities as an improvement over the old lebel with its slow to load tube magazine it wasn't until WW1 that manufacture 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.*

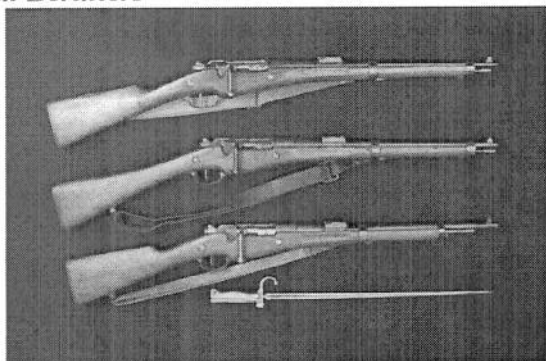
*A fine weapon, the original Berthier (designed in 1907) nevertheless suffered, like its predecessor, from a design flaw - its magazine held only three rounds. A modified version, produced in 1916, increased this to five rounds. The result was the Fusil modele 1916, loaded from a five round charger. 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*

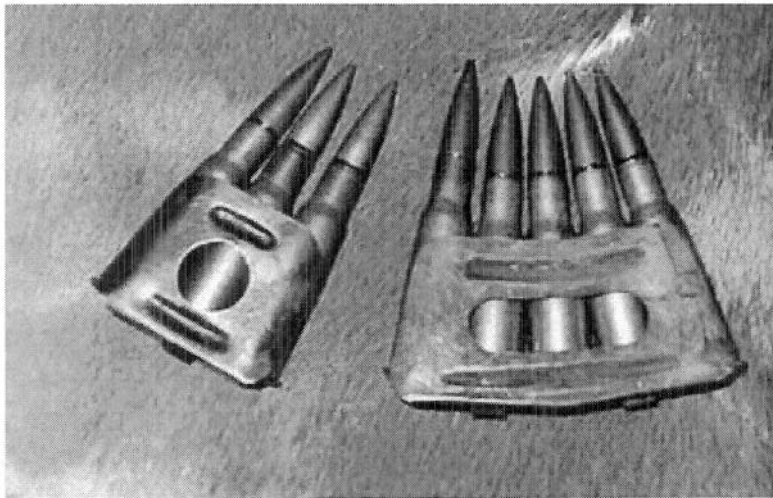


*Note in the picture above and also the carbines below that the magazine on the three round Berthier does not extend below the woodwork.*

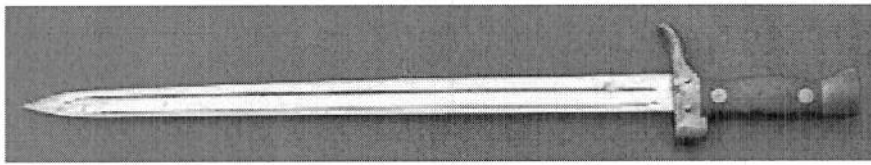
#### *Various carbine length Berthiers*



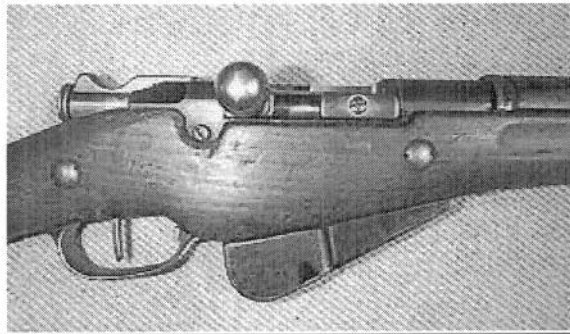
*Note the two types of chargers used in Berthier rifles the three round 1915 and the five round 1916.*



**Berthier rifle bayonet.**

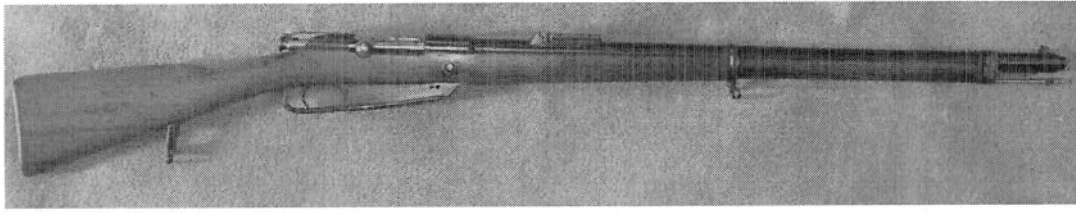


***NOTICE THE EXTENDED MAGAZINE ON THE 1916 VARIANT TO SUIT THE 5 ROUND CHARGER***



## **Gun Feature - 2**

German Gew 88 Commission Rifle



IN 1886 France surprised all of the great military powers of the time by announcing their new Lebel rifle using a jacketed small bore bullet propelled by smokeless powder developed by Paul Marie-Eugene Vieille. This was revolutionary.

Germany suddenly found themselves falling behind in the European arms race as they still relied upon the 71-84 Mauser using a lead bullet propelled by Black powder. But soon Germany had a chance to catch up as one morning in 1887 a French soldier crossed the border with his rifle and new smokeless ammunition and asking for the princely sum of 20,000 marks and sold the Germans the latest technology from France.

German chemists soon had the powder copied and now they set about developing a cartridge to use it in, after looking at the cartridge developed by a Swiss major Eduard Rubin who had developed a rimless cartridge the Germans soon decided upon a rimless case 57mm long in a new small bore calibre of 8mm. (.318 Projectile )

Now to develop a rifle to use it in. A commission was set up to find a rifle and after looking at the Lebel, Mauser, Mannlicher and Lee the Germans decided they could do better than the rest and set about to develop a rifle, as with all committees (commissions) you run the problem of ending up with a camel instead of a horse and that's what the Germans managed to do

Using the French Lebel designed 4 groove barrel, Mannlichers packet loading system (clip stays in mag until last cartridge fired) and a modified 71-84 Mauser bolt the rifle was developed and after many problems like soldiers getting fingers blown off and loosing eyes and continual modifications the Rifle we know as the 88 Commission rifle went into service but by the late 1890s the Germans started looking at a replacement and it wasn't long before PaulMauser presented them with a rifle that would in various forms serve them for nearly 50 years the famous 98 actioned Mauser.

But the 88 Commission rifle managed to soldier on in various conflicts most notably at Gallipoli in the hands of the Turks who used it with great proficiency and also as a second line rifle in the hands of the Germans throughout WW1 with artillery units, Prison guards and reserve forces etc.

These rifles can still be found here in Australia for reasonable money and are a great collector and still a fair shooter with the right ammunition, barrels can have several bore sizes 318 and

323 also some rifles were modified with extra freebore and stamped S bore for use with the larger 323 round but really still have the 318 bore so if you purchase an 88 the barrel should always be slugged so the right rounds can be loaded up and used without stressing these old rifles.

## 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.

EXTENSION TO 31 JANUARY 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**

*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.'**