

Charger Clip

The Transcontinental Shooting Journal with LERA Australia

The Lee Enfield Rifle Association
of Australia



LERAA 2018

Free to Members



The Charger Clip

From the Editor

Welcome to this first edition of the Charger clip. Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Secondly, I would remind all of you to be safe this coming year. Let us not be an accident statistic.

And now, to get down to brass tacks. The time has come to shoot and to stop talking. There is too much talk in the global shooting scene. And while discourse is very important, there is no place for it on the range.

So let us clean our rifles, load up our ammunition (or in my case buy it), call our shooting buddies and then head down to the range. For it is time to shoot.

We have a series of exciting and challenging competitions which we hope you will enjoy.

Finally I would remind you all to be super safe ambassadors for the sport of shooting.



THE TRANS CONTINENTAL SHOOTING & LERA AUSTRALIA STORY

Trans Continental Shooting started as a postal shoot between a small Australian Rifle Club and various British target shooters. The emphasis was firmly on the .303 calibre British Lee Enfield Rifle. Shoots took place between the Australians and the British until they were joined by the South Africans. The driving force behind this whole organisation was Graham Murgatroyd of Australia. It was his invitation to Raf Jah to shoot .303 which first started this entire adventure. We met in Australia and shot the challenging Anzac trophy at 300 and 700 yards. After returning to England, the shoot was kept up every April with the Brits shooting at 300 and 600 (700 not being available at Bisley) and collating the scores and sending them to Australia. The problem with this shoot was the lack of access to a 300/600 yard range for most global shooters. You needed to be near a proper military gallery range to make this happen.

After much searching, the answer was found at the gates of the Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA). Paul Quilliam, the long time secretary (and now president for life) of the LERA suggested that we shoot the LERA SMLE Global Postal shoot. This 200 yard competition was easy to shoot and required few targets. It was soon shot around the globe, from South Africa to London to Sydney. The results were sent to London to be distributed to the commonwealth countries which had taken part. The LERA Global Postal Shoot has become the bench mark for easy to shoot, Lee Enfield 303 target competitions around the world.

As our shooters interests diversified so did trans continental. It grew naturally with articles and reviews of equipment other than the .303. One area in which much interest was located came from the service rifle shooters and extreme long range shooting. In addition members of transcontinental shooting indulge in deer stalking, target rifle, practical shotgun and service rifle. Times change, and we had to be dynamic. We started the Hesketh Prichard Challenge, which takes a marksman's ability and stretches it to the limit by shooting .30 calibre rifles at tiny sniper targets from 300-1000 yards. This is run in conjunction with the Anzac shoot and the SMLE global postal shot.

Our biggest problem was always to find interested bodies to partner with us and shoot with us. Part of the problem was range access, and part of the problem was stick in the mud club secretaries or utterly useless human beings who talked a lot and shot very little. So in order to continue, Graham started the Lee Enfield Rifle Association of Australia. Unlike so many other rifle clubs, associate membership is open to all- from around the globe. This historic service rifle association now partners with Trans Continental Shooting to produce some of the finest historic service rifle competitions on earth.

Please feel free to get in touch, in Australia to secretary@leraa.com and in the UK to raf@kayakpemba.com





Service Rifle and the 303 at Bisley Camp

There is nothing quite as exciting as a service rifle shoot. The marksman has to take all the principles of marksmanship and compress them into seconds, as a small target appears in a flash, holds for a moment and then drops below the mantle.



Standing, kneeling, sitting and prone shooting are all required within minutes or seconds of the previous position. The shooting is almost instinctive, but when the wind gets up and the distances increase, there is no avoiding a mental ballistic calculation, that simply has to be done in seconds. The service rifleman's body has to be flexible, the brain agile and the hold on the rifle rock steady. Add into this equation a heavy wooden rifle that was designed over a century ago, for a conflict on the highlands of Africa, and you end up with a monumental challenge. This is the world of historic service rifle competitions.

Service rifle shooting with Lee Enfields was once very popular amongst NRA members, but it fell by the wayside. That was until 1998 when a new discipline was started, that of civilian service rifle (CSR) shooting. The UK CSR league is now a large part of civilian shooting. Within a few years, the Lee Enfields were replaced by more modern, user friendly rifles. But there was always a desire to shoot old rifles amongst the members. So in 2014 the NRA and the Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA) got together and created the first historic service rifle competition. Indeed CSR shooting is now perceived to be the fastest growing shooting sport in the UK. So

successful was the first year of historic shooting that a second historic shoot was added at the end of the CSR Season.

It was with this background in mind that I found myself in the butts hauling down a target. All historic and civilian service rifle competitions require the shooters to work the targets for the other shooters. The 303 round cracked over my head and deep into the sand. It was well wide of the target.

"Do you want to tell the shooter where he is going?" I asked the butts officer.

"He'll ask if he needs to" he replied sagely.

The second sighting shot was closer but still missed.

The butts' officer looked at me and said "I don't have much sympathy- this is supposed to be a shooting competition". He strode off busying himself with the last seconds of preparation. No one asked any more questions and all too soon the newly patched targets were ready to be hoisted.

"Targets up" came the command from the venerable butts officer.

I hoisted mine and with that the shoot started. Thankfully my shooter must have seen the splash of his missed shots as bullet after bullet smacked into the target. 45 seconds passed, and the shout went over the loudspeaker:

"Targets down".

I obeyed the command, counted up the shooters scores, noted them on a scrap of paper and inserted orange spotting disks. There is no time to waste on a service rifle shoot, the targets must be up and shown quickly, so that the next shoot can begin. My biggest concern is to avoid underscoring a fellow shooter.

"Did this cross the line?"- I show my neighbour, Blair, a very experienced professional. Blair is an old Africa hand, and a superb shot with a 303. Often he is asked to work as an official at such competitions. He glances at my target and the round that has come oh so close to breaking the line of the 5 ring.

"Yes mate, give him that one". Blair goes back to his own target as I wait for the scorer to come down and take scores. As soon as the scores are given and the shooters decline to challenge, we haul down the targets and patch them for the next practice. It's speedy stuff, usually done by a two man team. By chance I am on my own, but my neighbours lend a hand now and again. Soon enough the practices are all over and we walk swiftly back to the car park, collect our kit and hurry on to the firing point.

Less than a quarter of an hour later, I find myself lying prone on a damp Bisley mound with a Canadian made Long Branch 303 clenched in my clammy hands. A DP1 target appears as if by magic in front of me. The black and white swirls are the civilian version of the "charging Ivan" figure 11. I raise the Long Branch into my shoulder and let the foresight rest on the centre of the DP1. I fire, reload rapidly and fire again. I repeat the process until my magazine is empty. By this time I have broken out into a sweat. The stress of trying to get all the rounds on target is by now very noticeable. Everyone around me is still shooting. I look about and eventually the targets disappear. It seems I might have been faster than was necessary.

"You had 45 seconds," says Peter Cottrell, the head of the shooting division, and the inspiration behind the Historic Service Rifle competition. "But I think you got your rounds off in 10!" He was joking but he made a valid point. My scores were commensurate with my speed rather than care. I took more time on the next practice.

Using 180 grain Sellier and Bellot ammunition requires some thought. The bullet comes out faster than PPU at 2400 ft per second, but the weight means that it does drop slightly more inconsistently than the ladder sights on a 303. The wonderful thing about it is that it does not waver in slight to mild wind. It is what a shooting aficionado calls "a very slippery pill". Slightly annoyingly the wind is neither slight nor mild, but comes in occasional sneaky but powerful gusts which seem to appear in consonance with the DP1. The DP1 flashes up and I line the sights up with the swirl, the wind picks up suddenly and blows past my face, I hold off on the edge of the target and squeeze the trigger. Taking my time, my scores are far more respectable. They are still nowhere near the top shooters but thankfully a good distance from the bottom.

The shoot works its way back to 300 yards and volley after volley of 303 bullets go downrange.

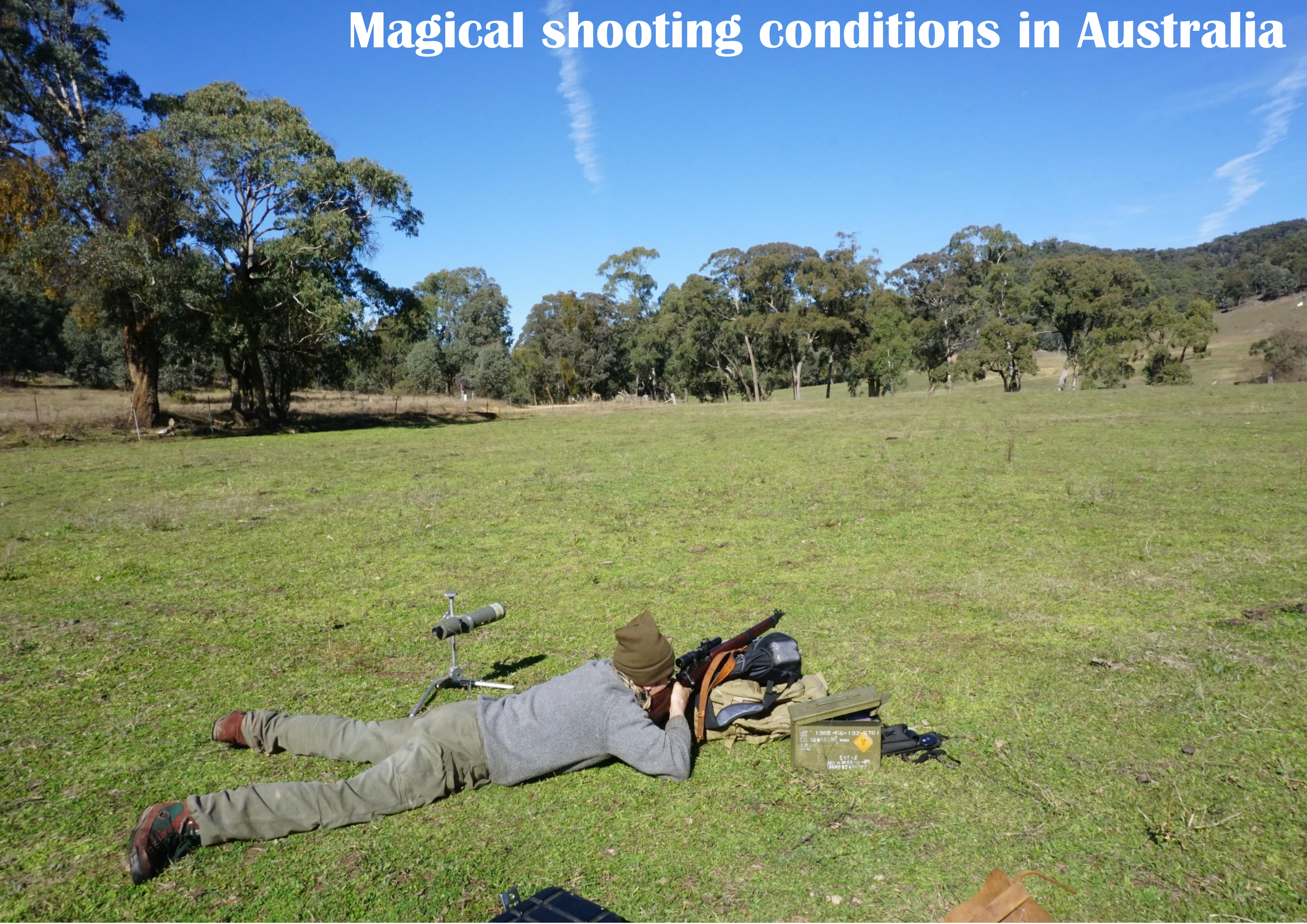
All too soon the final practice is over. The shooting stops, the hooter goes, and Bisley falls silent once again. Some shooters have shot incredibly well, dropping only a few points. They are recognized at the informal prize giving ceremony at the end of the day. Peter Cottrell asks Mick Kelly of the Lee Enfield Rifle Association, and an invaluable source of information on all things Enfield, to present the medals. The sky darkens, winter is ever closer, and as soon as the final medal has changed hands, we retire in good order.



.303 shooting at Bisley



Magical shooting conditions in Australia



The Lithgow HT Sniper

By Brett Anthes



From time to time, I see a reference to a test report on a certain scarce rifle and while the review is interesting in a historical context, by the end of the article, I am left thinking: "well, how does it shoot? And how did it perform with the ammunition of the day ?" So rather than whinge about it, I thought I should start reviewing and testing old rifles.



Over the coming months I will be testing a selection of our classic scarce military arms of commonwealth origin and reporting my findings and experiences. Today's rifle is the somewhat rare Lithgow SMLE NO1 MK3 HT (heavy telescopic) snipers rifle assembled at Lithgow small arms factory (SAF) in the closing stages of WW2. Heavy refers to the barrel profile, essentially a shortened version of the old Magazine Lee Enfield but reduced to 25.2 inches and telescopic referring to the Australian manufactured version of the pattern 1918 3X magnification telescopic sight .

The original contract was for 2500 rifles in 2 models , today known as "high" and "low" mounts , very similar but with minor differences , the high mount sits approx. 1/2 a inch higher above the line of the bore with mounts that allow for a uninterrupted view of the rifles as issued open sights , while the low mount model naturally sits lower down and has a scallop removed from the rearmost top hand guard to facilitate installation and removal of the scope as shown on the test rifle . The low mount models telescopic sights are also marked with a /1 suffix on the tube to denote the model , apart from this both rifles are the same. On occasion a wooden cheek piece was issued , though it was rarely fitted. Over the years I have been lucky enough to own both models. The low mount model shown here presenting the best opportunity to conduct a valid test , having fired less than 100 rounds since built .

Much has been written on the so called love and dedication shown in the assembly of these rifles with reference to bedding and fine tuning. Indeed many of you will be familiar with the Holland and Holland connection with the No4 T rifle assembly.

There are few people who are as experienced in Australian 303 rifles than Brett Anthes of Lithgow Australia. Here Brett lends his eye and hand to the Lithgow Sniper HT rifle. Here he tests it on his own private range, and gives us an insight into the wartime construction of this classic. Brett Anthes is living proof that oral history and careful preservation of old rifles are a living part of our society.

Setting up the Scope.

The scope was issued with a canvas carry case to carry and store the scope , most still retain the scope number chalked in on the case still , in service they were seldom used being liable to snag and catch in and on scrub and i was said that it also drew attention that the man with the case was a sniper . leather len covers also were part of the scope kit .

The scope is adjusted in a set procedure.

1 . Focus is done first , under the tube a screw is slackened allowing a brass spigot to be moved back and forth thus to obtain a clear view.

2 Windage is adjusted second , remove the front ray shade , slacken 3 very small grub screws , by turning the front lens segment either left or right with a special key , the image is bent via two lens , graduations marked on the front indicate each division as approx. 5 minutes of angle , note altering windage alters elevation , thus once windage is set , elevation is to be checked.

3. Elevation , I like to check it at 200 yards always using as issued mark 7 cartridges for which the rifle and sight was designed for , the top drum is calibrated from 200 to 1000 yards , to adjust , slacken the 3 smalls screws on top of the drum , freeing the drum to rotate to the set range , then once set tighten screws.

The rifle is now set up correctly.



Mr Jack Robb, one of the workers at the SAF told me in in the 1980s, " there was no time for mucking around with bedding and the like , the pressure was on as we were pushing the Japs back up on the islands, we had to just get them out the door " , I asked him about test shooting them with the scopes on , he replied " It never happened, the rifles were selected at random , maybe 1 in 15 and test fired at 100 yards in the Enfield rest before fitting of mounts ,they had to group within a 6" by 2 " oblong ,the scope was then electric engraved to the rifles number , put in the case ready to ship it out , it was up to whoever received it , to sort it out " .

Jacks' story makes a lot of sense , The Lithgow SAF was under a lot of pressure during the war. It was the base for the feeders factories in towns close to Lithgow that were in full swing producing parts for the rifle , with the town of Orange taking the leading roll in rifle production followed by Bathurst while Lithgow concentrated on Bren and Vickers gun manufacturing. A lot of these HT rifles before conversion were top class full-bore range rifles handed in , in many cases from not to happy rifle club members who thought they might come in handy against the Japs, most were correctly bedded and regulated ,many with good stable walnut forends, these rifles were completely stripped , new barrels installed , forends and timberwork replaced with the inferior locally sourced and plentiful coach wood timberwork marked H and modified for the heavy barrel. The timberwork was made by Slazenger's in Sydney, with the middle internal band dispensed with and the redundant hole in the stock plugged. (coach wood is a far less stable timber than walnut , more prone to warping and splitting the other common timber found on Lithgow's is Queensland maple).

Over 90% of the actions used were first world war Lithgow marked actions, as the SAF regarded them better both in metallicity properties and in that the tolerances were tighter. New bolts were issued for these actions and some British actions from England were also used. I have seen the majority marked as BSA and LSA one. A WW2 Lithgow action is a very rare find on a Lithgow HT sniper rifle .

Some rifles had the metal work painted with a green corrosion resistant paint under the timberline to stop rusting in the tropics. Attaching the scope to the rifle relies on a front claw mount.

The rearmost mount is locked into place with a overcentre lever arrangement typical of the pattern 1914 sniper rifle. The pattern 1918 telescopic sight was quite obsolete at the time , and was made locally in Melbourne by the firm Australian optical company differing from the British Mk32 Scope in that the graticule is photoetched on the lens .





History and experiences in service

These rifles really appeared too late in WW2 to make a difference. The P14 sniper rifle was the mainstay of the Australian forces through the period , however in 1945 the rifles was to see limited use in the closing stages of the pacific war . The HT's moment of glory came in Korea where the rifle was used to good effect at long range .

Private Ian "Robbie" Robertson of 3 RAR sniper section use this rifle to good effect out to 1000 yds. at Hill 614 , in Robertson's words

- the rifle was capable of putting 15 rounds on a fist sized target at 300 yds.
- head shots were possible at 600
- and if conditions were right he was confident of hitting a man at 800 to 1000 yds.

Robertson was wounded in action in 1951 , after recovery he competed in the 1952 kings prize back here and finished second , considering the amount of men engaged in 303 full-bore rifle shooting as a pastime during these periods it certainly stands as a testament that " this bloke could still shoot. "

These rifles were brought out of storage in 1976 , no doubt due to lessons learnt in Vietnam , with the reopening of sniper training at Singleton army base in NSW , and remained the army's sniper rifle until 1979 when finally replaced with the Parker Hale M82 in 7.62 and Kahles Helia telescopic sight.

The Lithgow HT sniper rifles were sold off through the rifle clubs and many of the riflemen in rifle clubs got their hands on them . Some of the riflemen were farmer or graziers who brought them as a cheap " roo gun " as 303 ammunition was still in plentiful supply.

Today these rifles have become quite collectable , out of the original contract of 2500 only 1131 high mounts and 481 low mounts were produced and the survival rate has not been high. In my opinion, they are not in the same class as the No4 T with the excellent Mk32 telescopic sight. The Lithgow HT being a lot more " finicky" and the patt 1918 scope not as robust. It pays to remember that in Australia, this was what we had, and what we had to deal with. The Lithgow HT is good wartime compromise which has now become an interesting rifle which is now quite scarce and collectable. Most of all it is a lot of fun to shoot on the range .

Testing the rifle .

At the back of my house I have set up a 100 yard range for rifle testing , the ammunition used was mark 7 , two types were used to test the rifle , which is exactly the type of ammunition that the rifle would have been issued with

1 Australian MF 56 (made in 1956, and top quality still to this day)

2 CAC 1929 "colonial ammunition company" cupronickel jacketed mark 7 , dated 12/1929 , which is still good too considering its age.

I chose to shoot off the shoulder without a rest , using the webbing sling run through the as issued king screw swivel fitted in front of the magazine as a aid to steady the rifle . The trigger has not been touched and is the standard affair , I fired a few rounds to get a feel once again of the rifle with the shots going close to the point of aim .

It was quite refreshing to have the pleasant smell of cordite linger once again in the air. I then settled in for a 5 shot group using the MF56 cartridges taking a 6 o'clock hold on the top of the post within the pattern 1918 scope and fired 5 rounds without checking or making adjustments . Walking up to the target i was reassured the old rifle was still capable of a good show with a 1 1/2 to 2 inch group very close to the point of aim .

I decided then to fire a 3 shot group using the CAC 1929 issue mark 7 cartridges , being the early cupro nickel jacketed projectiles and well aware of the metallic fouling issues of using it i settled in once again this time selecting a point of aim in the centre of the black aiming mark , to my pleasant surprise to group showed very little variation , somewhat to the right a fraction but measuring approx. 1 1/2 inches , sight setting throughout on the range drum was 200 yds.

Going back through my records in my range book to 2005 i noticed the best score achieved with this rifle was 47.5 out of a possible of 50 at 800 yds. at Lithgow SAF range firing the same MF 56 cartridges on 7.62 full-bore targets and the average throughout at all various ranges would be somewhere close to a 45.

After shooting the bore was cleaned by running hot soapy water through it with the aid of a funnel from the breach to neutralise the potassium chlorate residue from the priming, then dried with patches , finally a patch with Ballistol through the bore and a wipe over the rifle with that patch left it in good stead.





Service Rifle

Long Range Challenges

Sniper Competitions

200 YARD LERA GLOBAL POSTAL SHOOT
HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE

100 YARD LERA AUSTRALIA POSTAL SHOOT
HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE

300-1000 YARD HESKETH PRICHARD
CHALLENGE
ANY RIFLE 30 CALIBRE OR SMALLER

300-600 ANZAC MEMORIAL SHOOT
HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE

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Going the Distance – Super Accurate Long Range Shooting



Gravity and the shooter

Imagine a belly flopper, or what we call "the TR boys" shooting at 1000 yards. These chaps and ladies lie down on the green grasses of Bisley Camp (or other ranges around the globe) , tie themselves up in tight jackets, strap spaceship looking rifles to their arms and shoot, quite accurately, at black circles on white paper. They have no telescopic sights, no optics, only their eyes. They have their peep sights with twiddle knobs that can be wound up to allow for accurate shooting at 100 to 1000 yards. They are happy to chat away on the range, have tea and medals, but woe betide anyone caught talking on the firing point next door to them. He or she seems alien to all who are not in the TR tribe. Contrast this with a Lee Enfield Marksman. An Australian who drinks beer, has a barbeque, and then, the next morning lays down on the ant infested mount. Using a 100 year old rifle at 300/700/1000 yards he sends 50 year old bullet after bullet, into the black at 1000 yards. Using only a sling and a large hat for the sun, this person seems to be the antithesis of the TR tribe.

What do these people have in common with the CSR shooter? The F-Class expert, the hunter, or the long range gong ringer? The simple reality is that these two groups, tribes if you like, of the shooting community, are doing what we do, using technology. Their technology is the raising of the rear sight to compensate for the effect gravity exerts on the bullet as it flies through the air. The TR chaps have their drop tables and only use 7.62 bullets. The Enfield marksmen have their scaled sights which clearly state settings



to 2000 yards using Mk7 ball ammunition. The ballistic curve has been duly worked out by scientists and then notched onto the metal in 1916. This gets the marksman close enough with his two sighters, to shoot a 10 rounds string and win a competition.

So assuming that a shooter has the basic principles of marksmanship mastered, (and this cannot be underestimated) then the shooter can hit the target using his metal sights. When we add a telescopic sight to our rifles, matters become more difficult. We zero our rifles at 100 yards, but then have to rely upon a ballistic table or calculator to know what adjustments to make to the scope to hit the target at distance. This is often combined with actual databased upon previous shooting experience. In my experience, very few ballistic calculators actually worked consistently at all distances. You might have been on at 1000 and 300 yards but at 1000 the difference was up to 10 MOA. I would make my own drop tables based upon experience, but what worked in Wales in the wet would be different at Bisley when the sun came out. So "first shot first hit" was impossible. You always needed the sighters- and this was before taking into account the wind. Indeed my fastest long range shots were using a 7.62 Lee Enfield, and popping a tracer out to 1100 yards, seeing where the shot fell, rapid reloading and deviating and hitting the target on the second

shot. This is all fine and dandy if you happen to have box of 300 FN sniper tracer rounds, but for long range hunters and precision target shooters this is not good enough.

Until recently I had given up on first round first hit on a small target, except for 7.62 at a maximum of 300 yards. All of this changed when Andy, our scientific member of the politburo, suggested a visit to Sharp-Shooting UK, the domain of Richard Utting.

Cue Mr Richard Utting

It is spring, it should be sunny and it is most definitely not. The wind is coming in sideways and it is drizzling. A Japanese 4x4 car appears and out jumps a man of middle height, who has a large felt hat. Hailing from Norfolk, he is a quiet and polite.

"Right chaps, its going to be cold and wet so put on everything you own".I am already cold, and so this does not bode well. We drive up through to the range, and find that it is even more windy and cold now, and the rain really starts in earnest. I put on two fleeces, a ridgeline smock and an arktis waterproof jacket on top. This just about keeps the wind out... Just. Richards classroom is the back of my discovery. He is a charismatic teacher, and as we sit on the bumper he expounds on the subject of ballistics. Firstly he asks that we have Strellok Pro on our iPad or iPhone. Then he sets up the app on your phone with certain settings.

Entering the right data into your ballistic application

For my 7.62 rifles, I have chosen Sierra Match King 7.62 175grain GGG. It is widely available and very accurate while also being cheap. For me this means lying in a muddy puddle to get out of the wind, and shooting at 300 yards. It is hard to explain how utterly horrid the weather is.

Richard then adds more data to my iPad. He synchronises Andy's Kestrel weather station with the iPad, which then provides wind data as well as drop. Then various factors are added to the equation, powder temperature, humidity, barrel twist rate, weight of the bullet and the ballistic co-efficient/ G7.

"right now we shoot at 375 yards" he pronounces, while giving me an exact sight adjustment. The splash of the shot confirms the data is almost perfect. We adjust and note the exact correction.

"Now lets shoot out to 423 yards" Again Richard gives me the setting from Strellok and it is very close. At that point, he shows us how to true the data between the actual fall of shot and the application.



Putting the data into practice.

The wind and weather are taking their toll on us. We are shooting into the wind and rain. I clean my Kahles 6-25 again and again with a roll of kitchen towel. Richard decides that we have achieved enough and moves us to a more sheltered valley within his range complex. We drive across somewhat wet fields and up hills to get to our next firing point. The ground is so sodden that we elect to shoot from a lower position to minimise the damage done to the moorland. Here Richard tests us. He chooses random, hidden targets at various distances, and we shoot based purely on the data given by Strellok. The results are incredible, with the exception of the wind, we are on at every distance, within inches even at 600 yards. The only difficulty is the wind, it swirls around the valley, and while the Kestrel will read wind at the muzzle, it cannot take into account the wind 500 metres away.

We spend the rest of the afternoon shooting across the valley at random targets. Thankfully the sun finally comes out and the light changes dramatically. The views over the hills are spectacular. I use Richards Swarovski Binoculars and find that I can see the east coast of Britain. Andy is banging away with his DTA at a 6 inch target at 600 yards. I can barely see it, but with his data he is on with every shot.



The essentials – was it all worth it?

Richard winds the day up. “The key to all this, is to allow the gamekeeper or long range hunter to make his shot first time. I have shown you how to accurise your rifles permanently. You can take this information away with you and apply it to any rifle and any cartridge. You must remember to add the correct information to the app every time. Your curve on the app must match the actual curve of the fall of your bullet. You now know how to make the curves match. You have the ballistic zero. The relationship between speed and accuracy have to be perfect. ” And with that, we pile our sodden kit back into the cars and start the drive home. I have plenty of time to mull the day’s experiences over and come to a conclusion.

As an experienced shooter, and ones who does use science and drop charts, my knowledge is just like a jigsaw. I know what I am looking at, I am 80% of the way there, but I cannot complete the picture. Richard has given me the tools to finish the jigsaw and start and finish another. I have been to a few private training facilities, and all of them are excellent and all, have their specialties. None of them however, offer the scientific hands on training that Richard Utting does. His training days are unique in the UK.

He is capable of taking any shooter with any experience and building on it, but here finally, there is a training facility that challenges experienced shooters, and adds

to their knowledge. The TR Tribe, the Enfield marksmen, the F-class experts and the hunters could all learn something from his unique training sessions.

KNOW AND GO

Richard Utting offers training days that start at £210 a day in the winter. His RV point is in the village of Bowes. The Marksman can find accommodation at the Ancient Unicorn Pub, (£60) in Bowes. which is very friendly. Andy the owner welcomes competent marksmen as well as hill walkers. The food is excellent and the rooms spotlessly clean. <https://ancientunicorn.com/>

You will need a tablet (£150-800) and Strelak pro (£12). You should arrive with the ammunition you always use. You can chronograph it before you arrive or do so with Richard. Ranges vary from 200 yards to 1600 yards, with a lot of shooting between 300-700.

After your first visit, a repeat clients’ rate is applicable and this is very reasonable.

Contact Richard through: <https://www.sharpshootinguk.com/>

Trade Listings:

The following organisations welcome our members and have given consistently good service to trans-continental members. While we recommend them, we take no responsibility if you have a bad experience.

Long Range Tuition

Get your long range shooting accurate first time with Mr Richard Utting <https://www.sharpshootinguk.com/> Richard@sharpshootinguk.com

Orion Firearms Training- Amazing range facility in the Cambrian Mountains,
<http://www.orionfirearmstraining.co.uk> info@orionfirearmstraining.co.uk 01686 412113

British Firearms dealers

Fultons of Bisley – suppliers of club shooting mats and paraphernalia

www.fultonsofbisley.com 01483 473204

Bradley Arms – AR15 / Remington Sales and modification www.bradleyarms.com Mark@bradleyarms.com

CPG DESIGN . General RFD, good selection of rifles and ammunition. <https://www.cpgdesign.co.uk/>

cpgdesign@aol.com 01354 697764

John Bradshaw Guns. RFD in Northants –Excellent country RFD with a good selection of rifles

<https://www.johnbradshawguns.co.uk/> 01832226376

Australian Listings

Firearms Dealer NSW

Graham Murgatoyd (303 A speciality)

Tel: +61 400 153 951

Last Word

We live in a different world. The sport of shooting is under fire from politicians and people who don't know what they are talking about. In Great Britain, politicians who have lost all credibility due to the Brexit debacle, have chosen to choose shooting as a punch bag. It matters not whether the shooter is for or against Brexit, we are all affected by the idiocy of the latest so called consultation on firearms, has targeted lever release and High Muzzle Energy rifles for no reason. If we think that Britain is unique, our members from around the world paint a sad picture.

Our Australian shooters are seen as criminals and a constant theft risk and criminal target. They report that there is no understanding from the populous of the need for rifles on farms, professional cull shooters and the general nature of primary production. Furthermore, there is no real feeling for the history of the Australian rifle club and the benefits that sport target shooting bring to a community. Bush and town ranges are being shut down by the authorities for any reason they can find.

In South Africa, sport target shooters are seen as being part of the legacy of the appalling apartheid regime. While many of our target shooting friends are white, the system of apartheid is firmly over and is universally acknowledged as being utterly evil. Reconciliation is supposed to be absolute, and those target shooters who continue to make South Africa their home are a tribute to that spirit of reconciliation.

Our colleagues in Eire report that they have a only handful of ranges available to them over 100 yards, and restrictions on them are growing. While in the United States laws vary from one state to another, with some states being so restrictive that the United Kingdom seems somewhat easier. The US is of course not without its problems, but there is no universal standard which shooters can adhere to. A few miles over the state line and a magazine is illegal.

In Tanzania shooting ranges are non-existent, and domestic hunting is effectively banned. Ammunition is prohibitively expensive and limited to 250 rounds a year for some rifles.

The question that we ask ourselves, as shooters around the free globe is what can we do about our predicament. The answer is simple. We must firstly be as safe as possible. We must protect our firearms against theft by taking every practicable measure to protect them. Every round that is stolen from us is a possible robbery or murder weapon. We must be assiduous in upholding the law and being model citizens. We must be walking talking ambassadors for our sport, When someone asks us about it, we must speak of the benefits of shooting the history and the benefits to the economy. But we must also not shy away from telling our lawmakers that an attack on sport shooting is an attack on our democracy, and that we will not vote for someone who needlessly attacks our sport.

And so with that – we wish you safe shooting- merry Christmas- a happy new year and peace for 2018. *The Charger Clip Team*