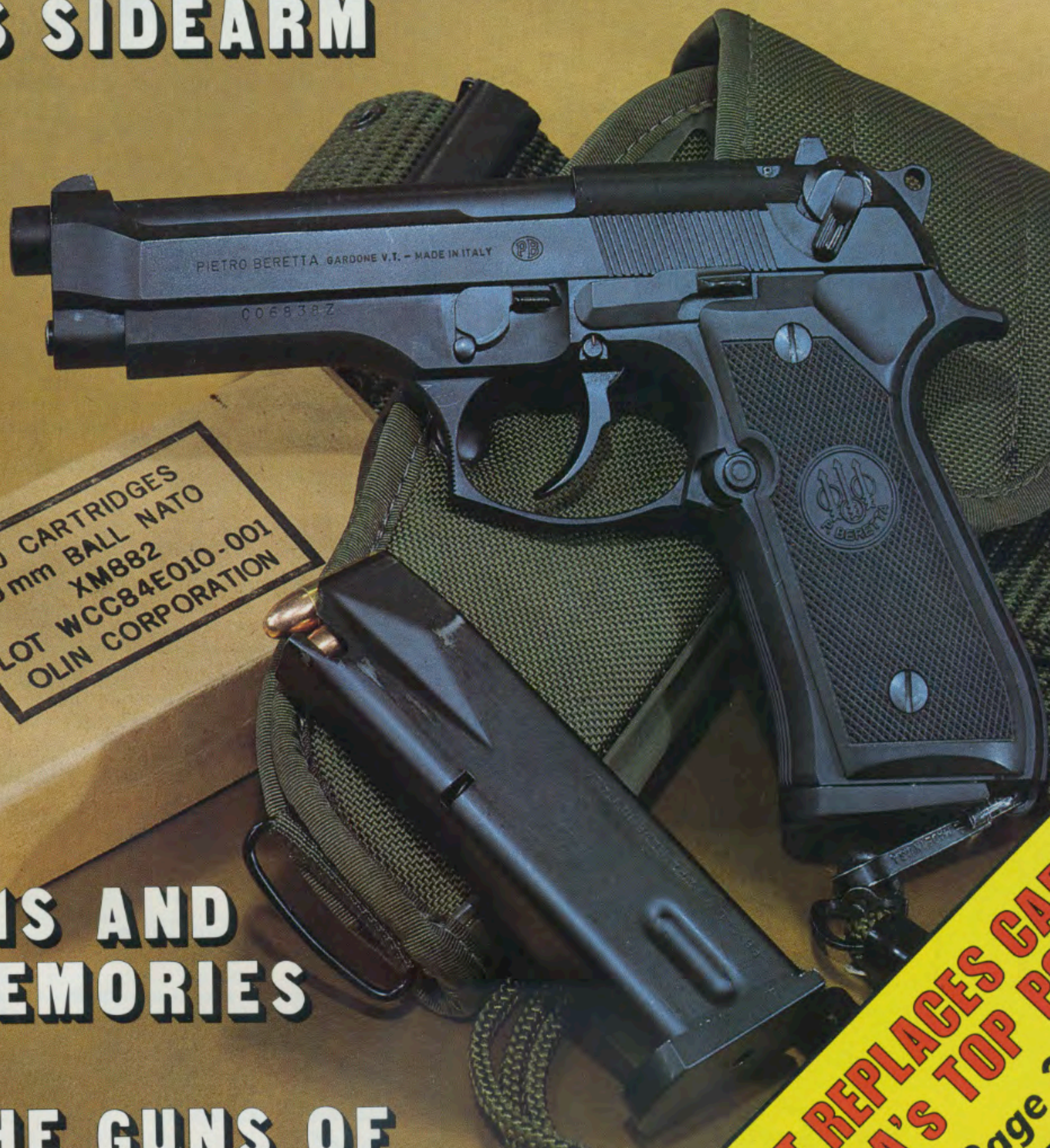


AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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PENTAGON PICKS BERETTA AS SIDEARM



**MIS AND
MEMORIES**

**THE GUNS OF
THE GUN WRITERS**

**ARNETT REPLACES CARTER
IN NRA'S TOP POST**
See Page 21

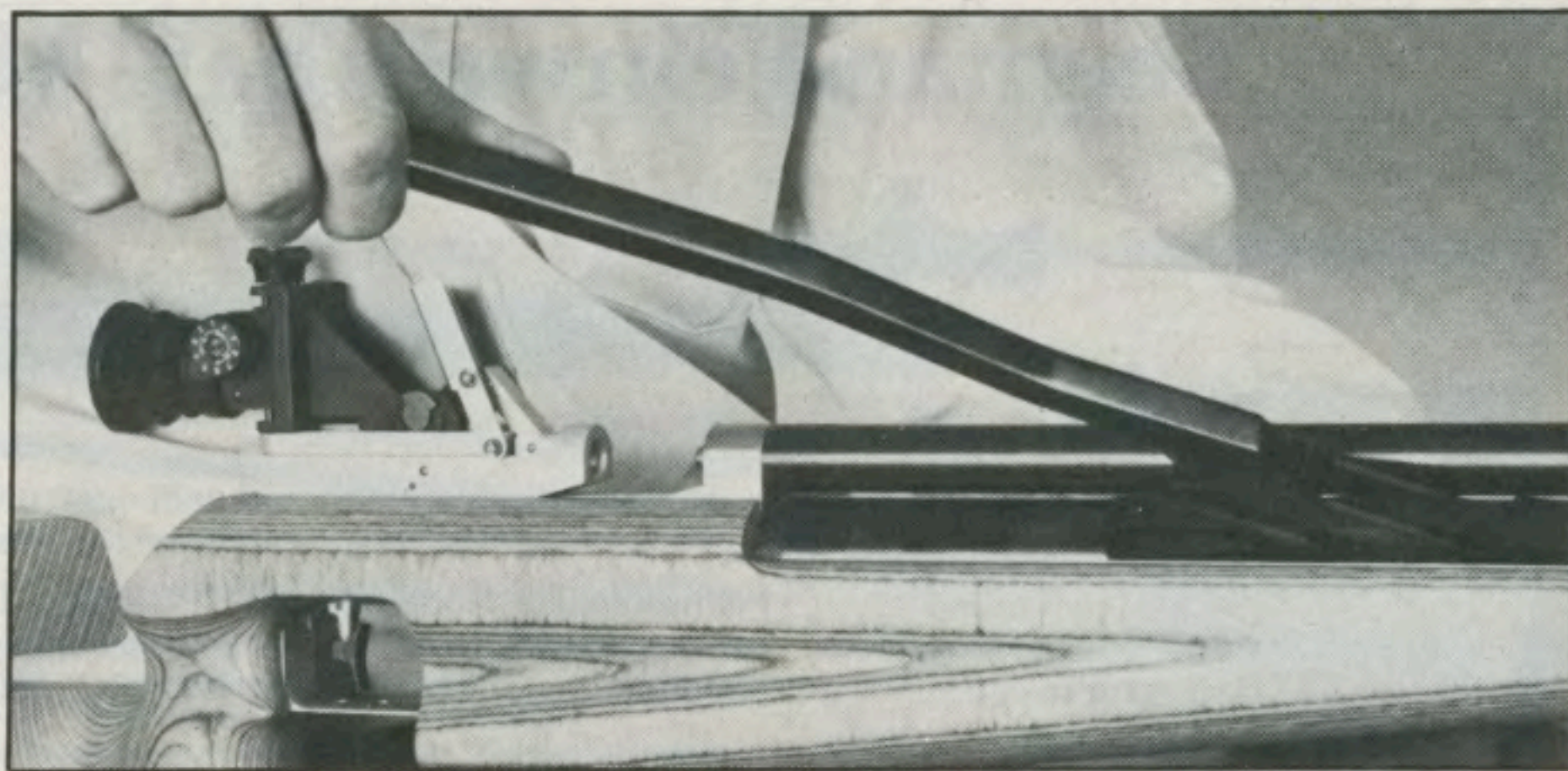
effect. Laminated wood is also noted for its strength and resistance to warping

The fore-end is equipped with an accessory rail, useful for the three-position shooting popular in Europe, but basically unknown in this country. The fore-end has deep grooves on either side for better grasping. Since the trigger guard is integral with the receiver, there is a gap between fore-end and pistol grip

The pistol grip, like the fore-end, has a smooth finish without stippling or checkering. It does, however, have a pronounced palm swell and a groove for the trigger finger. There is a deep cut behind the pistol grip to accommodate the thumb. The laminated wood is a special plus in this area, since the wood is only about 3/4" thick.

The adjustable cheekpiece is, in compliance with International Shooting Union rules, not "readily" adjustable. The cheekpiece is first detached from the buttstock by turning a slotted screw, then it is adjusted for height by turning a pair of thumbscrews which bear on the inside of the buttstock. The curved buttplate is adjustable within the rules limitations, and a plastic spacer is provided to adjust length of pull.

The receiver top is grooved and numbered for use with the supplied adjustable sight. While there is plenty of rail length



The rifle is designed to reduce the cocking force normally expected of pneumatic arms. The cocking lever is long and hinged at the front, allowing the shooter to pull to the rear and slightly downward. It works better on a bench than on a camera tripod.

for proper eye relief with the metallic rear sight, scope installation on the Model 600 will be difficult—a minor consideration given the arm's role as a competition piece.

The front sight is dovetailed to the barrel and surrounded by an aluminum muzzle weight, which is secured by a pair of hex screws. The barrel is a mere hollow tube for the last 8½" of its length; the rifled portion is just 17" long.

The Model 600 was tested by Technical

Staff members and by present and former members of the U.S. Shooting Team. All found it an accurate and very pleasant gun to shoot. Especially appreciated was the fast lock time and virtual absence of felt recoil and vibration.

The sliding breechblock allowed quick and easy loading, and its automatic release when the cocking lever is raised eliminates one task during the loading procedure.

Cocking the gun was rated as easy, though it is better adapted to cocking on a bench than on the camera tripods that many U.S. shooters use. Further, the hand can strike the rear sight during cocking, a problem which could probably be cured by a reshaped cocking lever.

Users thought that Feinwerkbau had probably designed the rifle with the needs of women and junior shooters in mind. The length of pull without the spacer installed was too short for most, and the trigger placement was too far back for longer fingers.

These small criticisms aside, the Feinwerkbau Model 600 struck all who fired it as an air arm with tremendous potential for success at the highest levels of competition.

ACCURACY RESULTS

Five Consecutive Five-Shot Groups At 10 Meters

.177 Caliber Pellets	Vel.@5' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)	25 Shot Composite (ins.)
Daisy Bullseye	583 Avg. 7 Sd	.14	.22	.18	.34
H&N Match	582 Avg. 3 Sd	.07	.25	.15	.25
RWS Meisterkugein	562 Avg. 2 Sd	.09	.22	.17	.25
Average Extreme Spread				.17	

MISCELLANY

U.S. Selects M1911 Pistol Successor

AFTER extensive testing of a number of competitive pistols, the Department of the Army has announced the selection of the Beretta Model 92 SB-F as the new "official" personal defense weapon of the U.S. Armed Services.

The DOA's memorandum of Jan. 14, 1985, is reproduced herewith:

The Department of the Army as Executive Agent for the Department of Defense today announced the winner of its competition for a 9 mm personal defense weapon. The Beretta U.S.A. Corporation of Accokeek, MD., has been selected to supply the new standard handgun to

be used by the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. A five-year multi-year fixed price contract for 315,930 weapons will be awarded to Beretta in approximately 30 days.

The Army decision was based on a thorough test and evaluation of

eight candidate weapons from both American and foreign manufacturers. The Beretta was one of only two candidates to satisfactorily complete a rigorous test program designed to verify both performance and durability under both normal and adverse environmental conditions. It met or exceeded all mandatory requirements and was judged to have the lowest overall costs and provides potential further savings over the life of the weapon due to durability advantages.

The 9 mm Beretta will be the first new military handgun since introduction of the .45 cal. pistol in 1911. The need for a new standard handgun was reflected in a 1978 House

Appropriations Committee Survey that showed a proliferation of handguns and ammunition among the Services. The adoption of a 9 mm standard handgun and ammunition will provide compatibility with our NATO allies and result in savings and efficiencies due to its enhanced reliability, better performance, and lighter weight.

It has been further reported that the first year's production will be supplied directly from Italy. In the second year, the parts will be Italian but the assembly will be done in Maryland. In the third year and thereafter, all raw materials, manufacture and assembly will originate in the U.S.

Further details will be in future issues.

Dutch East Indies. These cartridges are distinguished by a number stamped into the lead of the bullet, though no one but the most advanced cartridge collector is likely to see the round.

There are many 8 mm, 9 mm and 11 mm pistol rounds, but the 10 mm has pretty much been neglected.—R.W.H.

Pointed Bullet Use

In the recent article on wildcat cartridges (see American Rifleman, January, p. 40) the author asserts that pointed bullets were not available until the late 1920s. I thought they were invented in Germany about 1900. Will you clarify an apparent misunderstanding?

Answer: The "invention" to which you refer is the design for a sharp-point full jacket bullet patented in the United States in January, 1907—from a February, 1905 application—by Arthur Gleinich, and assigned to the Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken (DWM). Gleinich's design is similar to that upon which the 154-gr., .323"-diam. 8 mm Mauser military bullet was based. But, Gleinich was not the first to experiment with sharp-pointed bullets.

U.S. Army Ordnance officers, notably the Frankford Arsenal commander, Lt. Col. J.P. Farley, experimented with sharp-pointed bullets as early as 1894. Farley's bullet was a steel .30 cal. 1.435" long, with a .308"-diam. copper rotating band, that weighed approximately 131 grs. In test firings at the arsenal, the Farley bullet was shot at velocities approaching 2900 f.p.s.

The earliest use of jacketed sharp-point bullets for sporting purposes occurred after the adoption of M1906 Ball ammunition for the M1903 rifle, and the sport was target shooting. By 1910, the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. was cataloging sharp-pointed bullets for a variety of cartridges that included the .25, .30, and .35 Rem. All were full-metal-jacket bullets. All soft-point bullets shown in the 1910 UMC catalog are either flat- or round-nose.

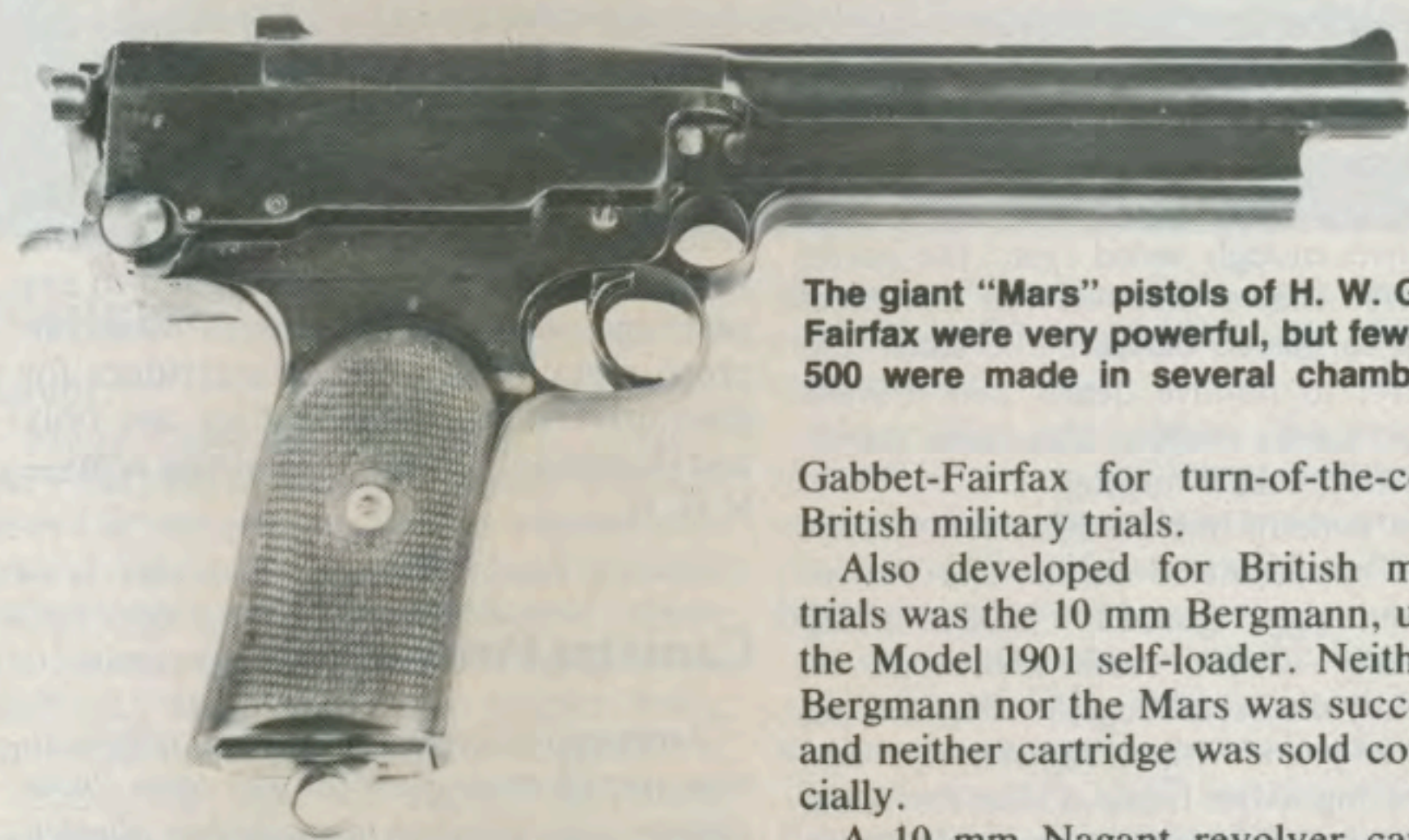
Three letters published in *Arms and the Man* in 1908 indicate that expanding sharp-point bullets began to be tried at about that time.

In the first, dated in May, a Dr. L. B. Wilson proposed a 180-gr. .30 cal., ¾-jacketed bullet having a sharp copper-capped point. He also suggested a 112-gr. bullet of similar shape and construction for the 6 mm Lee cartridge.

In October, 1908, rifleman and rifle expert Maj C. W. Hinman reported the successful results of shooting a deer with a sharp-point bullet. In this instance, Hinman, who was using 180-gr. full-jacket bullets, broke the animal's neck

Questions and Answers

From the tens of thousands of questions and letters on guns, ammunition and their use that the *American Rifleman* receives every year, it publishes here the most interesting. Receiving answers to technical questions is a privilege reserved to NRA Members. Questions must be in the form of letters addressed to Dope Bag, c/o NRA, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; must contain the member's "code line" from an *American Rifleman* or *American Hunter* mailing label or membership card; must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, legal-size envelope and must be limited to one specific question per letter. Non-members may submit a question with membership application and dues. We regret that no technical question can be answered by telephone and that we cannot place even an approximate dollar value on firearms of any description.



The giant "Mars" pistols of H. W. Gabbet-Fairfax were very powerful, but fewer than 500 were made in several chamberings.

Gabbet-Fairfax for turn-of-the-century British military trials.

Also developed for British military trials was the 10 mm Bergmann, used in the Model 1901 self-loader. Neither the Bergmann nor the Mars was successful, and neither cartridge was sold commercially.

A 10 mm Nagant revolver cartridge was produced for a gun that apparently was never made.

Colt manufactured a few examples of a 9.8 mm version of the Government Model which were shown to military authorities in the Balkans. Apparently the Bulgarian, Rumanian and Serbian soldiers were unimpressed, because nothing more was heard of the pistol or its ammunition.

One 10 mm pistol round which was "officially" adopted was the 10 mm Soerabaja, made for a revolver used by the

10 mm Pistol Cartridges

The publicity surrounding the 10 mm cartridge used in the Bren Ten pistol has made me wonder why no sidearms have used the caliber before. Has there ever been a 10 mm pistol?

Answer: Several experimental pistols, nominally of 10 mm caliber, were developed during the early years of the century. Probably the most famous of these was the Mars, developed by H. W.