

The TMCA News

Volume 44 Issue I

April 2020



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2020 Spring Show

Where: Franklin Marriott Conference Center / Hotel
Cool Springs 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN 37067

When: Friday, **April 10th** - Dealer Set-up & Members Only 8 am - 12 pm
Public Admitted 12 Noon - 6 pm
Saturday, **April 11th** - 8 am - 3 pm

Admission: \$5. for Non-Members. **TMCA Members get in free early - Wear Badge**, Children under 15 free. Also admitted free Members of US Military, Fire, Police, and if in uniform R.O.T.C. and J.R.O.T.C members.

What Will Be There: Uniforms, Medals, Insignia, Badges, Helmets, Weapons, Veterans. **Buy-Sell-Trade-Display-Appraisals.**

Table Reservations '310' 6 FT. Tables ~ Members Only ~
Sale and Display Tables - \$50 each. SOLD OUT, call for waiting list
To reserve contact Ronnie Townes @ 615-661-9379 - tmca@comcast.net

Room Reservations at Hotel: Call 615-261-6100 or 1-888-403-6772, and ask to receive the **TMCA discount rate of \$109**, plus tax (normal rate is \$209). **Deadline for this Special Rate is March 26, 2020**

Club News

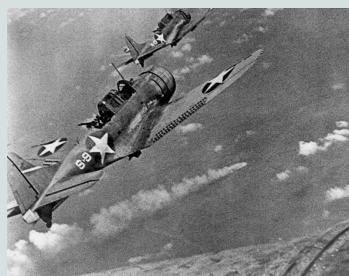


75th Anniversary of the Pacific Theater Theme: Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of WW2 in the Pacific. The TMCA will be giving out an award for the best, Pacific Theater display during our Spring 2020 show. We are concentrating on the early Pacific campaign 1941-43.

Note: In the fall show, we will honor from Tarawa until the end of the war. 1943-1945

The winner will receive a plaque and \$100 cash.



Cast Bullet MOA Accuracy In U.S. Military Battle Rifles by: Brook Harris

(This is an abbreviated article I shall soon send to The Fouling Shot cast bullet publication with additional supporting data.)

During the 1970's and 80's my hobby was varmint hunting, and over time I upgraded my rifles with Hart barrels. That upgrade, along with Fred Sinclair's primer on accurate reloading, made both my 223 Sako and 22-250 40X Remington into .5 MOA rifles and increased my hit percentage substantially.

At age 41 I began shooting service rifle competition and the next year I won the Tennessee state championship. I shot Obermeyer barrels in my M1A and continued using his barrels when we switched to AR-15's, and then again as I shot long range matches with my 30 FBI (a slightly modified 30-338).

In my quest for accurate rifles I shot nothing but the best match barrels and became ever-more discriminating in my reloading technique. As I recollect shooting the approximately 2 dozen Obermeyer, Hart, Lilja, and Bartlein barrels three characteristics stand out...how smooth they were as I cleaned them; how easily they cleaned up; and how many rounds I could shoot through them without having to clean between stages with no discernible loss in accuracy.

All through those years and even more so today my favorite rifle has been the 1903 Springfield and its variants. Its relative lack of accuracy didn't bother me as I reminisced what a pivotal role she played in the two World Wars. But what did bother me was how hard that steel buttplate was when shooting ball ammo during the summer while wearing a t-shirt. In the winter with a coat on it wasn't too bad but with that straight stock my thumb would still recoil back into my nose. Another inconvenience was the extraordinary effort required to remove the copper fouling from the rough barrels.

Well, thanks to an article I read a couple years ago I now shoot my Springfields and Enfields year-round and with greater accuracy than I'd thought possible...and even in a t-shirt from prone there "ain't" a flinch in a box of 50!

Some years back C.E. (Ed) Harris wrote an article on shooting cast lead bullets in military rifles. (Except for the H&G 200 gr. SWC in my 45 autos I had not shot cast bullets.) Ed shared that "The Load" for 30-06 size military cases was 16 gr. of 2400 or 13 gr. of Red Dot.

I began experimenting with my C-stock Springfield and straight-away shot groups in the 1 ½ to 2 inch range. I don't cast but over time I tried five or six different cast bullet makers and found two that improved my groups. One, Montana Bullet Works, produces bullets so consistent that nearly all within a box of 200 weigh within 1 grain of each other and most within ½ grain. Additionally, when you order 200 they add 5 or so more and then pack them as they were gold bullion so they arrive undamaged. To date I have shot over 300 and have yet to find a reject!

No longer having competitive shooting as an outlet for my O/C nature, I decided to see just what accuracy I could extract from five of my rifles that had NOS government contract barrels:

1903A3 was unissued with 2 groove barrel;

1903 arsenal refurbished with 1942 4 groove SA barrel and not reissued;

1903 Remington modified arsenal refurbished with 4 groove HS barrel and not reissued;

1903 Rock Island with 4 groove SA barrel;

1917 Winchester Enfield with JA 2 groove barrel I had rebarreled.

No match preparation has been performed on these rifles. The only time I have had them out of the stocks has been to initially apply grease on the parts not visible when assembled. All stocks and hardware are as issued or refurbished and screws are just snug and not torqued.

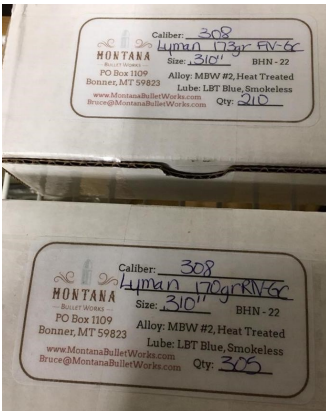


I started with new Hornady, Winchester, and Federal brass with respective average weights of 175, 185, and 197 grains. (I cannot tell that one shot more accurately than the others.) I prepped the cases and assembled the rounds with the same care I did when shooting LR matches at 1000 yards except: I didn't turn the necks, couldn't use a straight-line seater due to the over-sized bullets, I seated to the crimping groove irrespective of the distance to land contact, and I have not checked for loaded round concentricity.

From the beginning this process reminded me of my prone smallbore days when you select your barrel and the barrel selects the brand and lot number it prefers. I shot .309's, .310's, flat nose and round nose from different bullet makers and finally settled on Montana Bullet Works.

In the midst of my testing I read an excellent article in the April 2019 Handloader magazine written by Mike Venturino. He, too, shoots cast bullets in his military rifles and is especially fond of AA 5744. So I have also included a stunning result with that along with 2400 and Red Dot results.

Skipping through much trial and error and supporting data for the longer upcoming article in The Fouling Shot, let me share what I have found:



Shot over my Oehler chronograph the 13 gr.

Red Dot load averaged 1522 fps with a 5 shot extreme spread of 10 fps.

The 16 grain 2400 load averaged 1462 fps with an ES of 14 fps.

Five shots of 23 gr. AA 5744 averaged 1830 fps with ES of 13 fps.

I found no difference between Federal 210M's and WLR primers either in accuracy or ES.

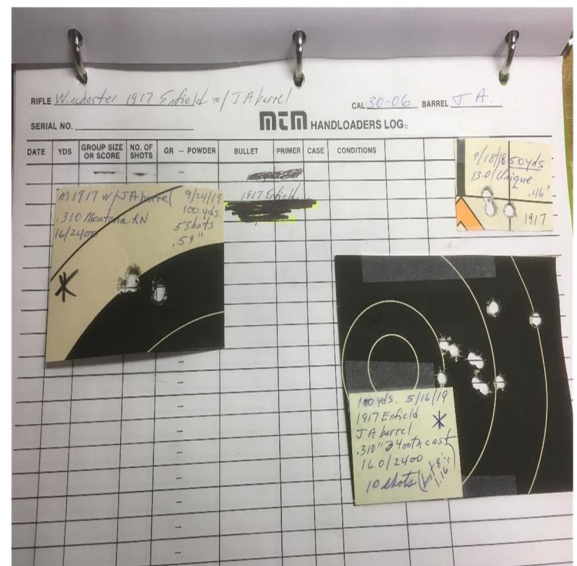
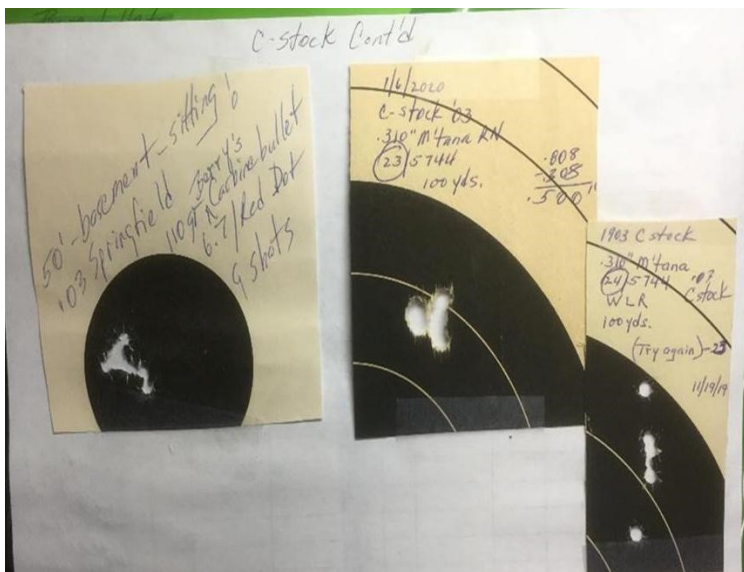
Thrown charges of 2400 stay within .1 gr. in my BR-30 Redding powder measure but Red Dot will vary up to .3 gr. Nonetheless, my loads were loaded to .02 gr.

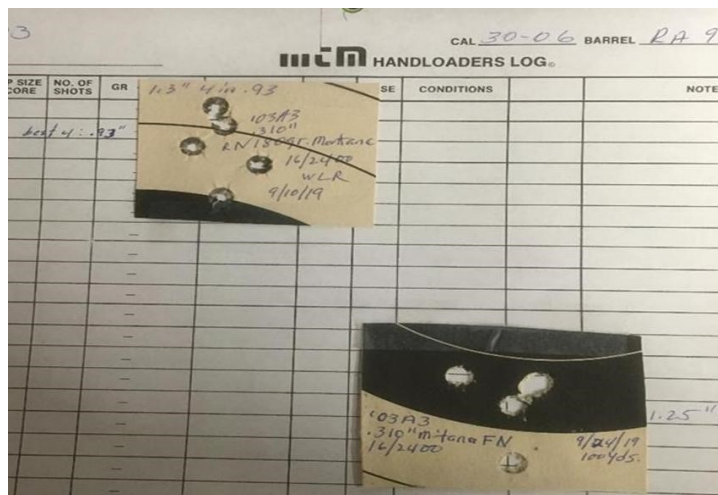
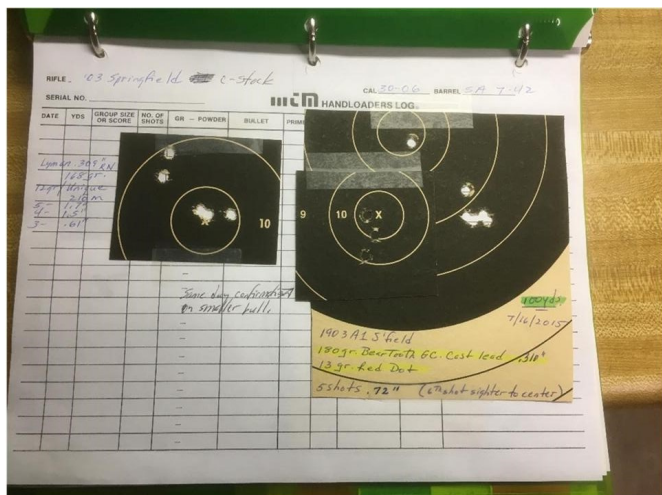
No filler has been used and there was no effort to ensure the powder was tapped toward the rear of the case. Some were single loaded and others from the magazine. The flat tip bullets fed out of all 5 magazines.

The best 5 shot group I have produced from any of my 5 rifles with 168 SMK's and a service rifle load of IMR 4064 or AA 2495 at between 2500 and 2600 fps has been 1.37" with the other 4 grouping between 2 and 3 inches.

Photos of some groups follow and I know some will doubt it possible with iron sights. Humbly, I hold the highest NRA classification in 4 rifle disciplines, am double Distinguished, and have won across the eastern US.

Note the extreme difference a 1 gr. increase made in my rifle!





I strongly suspect the 6 o'clock shot in both groups is due to the large size of the rear aperture in the '03A3. The hole at 1 o'clock on the bottom bull is a double.

Aside from holding case weight to 1 gr., bullet weight to .5 gr., and powder to .02 gr. an absolutely imperative part of this experiment has been seeing the front sight clearly and still seeing the bull adequately. I am 70 years old and have had cataract surgery so any visual accommodation is not possible.

I ordered a set of trial lenses for around \$100. and while looking through the tiny aperture on the front ladder sight while on a bench I incrementally tried various trial lenses in front of my shooting glasses and found the best for this exercise was a +.25.

Yet another requirement, at least for me, is to shoot on an overcast day. When I shoot these narrow front sight blades on a sunny target face I lose shots to elevation.

The triggers, although all different, are all heavy and full of creep. But if you'll dry-fire sufficiently to learn that trigger you can stage if properly for a smooth send-off. Remember to smoke your front sight blade, then fall in love with the very top edge of your front sight, and exaggerate your follow-through like on a smallbore rifle due to the modest velocity and long barrel time.



Shooting Montana's bullets with a BHN of 22 allows for a very easy cleanup with almost no fouling whereas the SMK load at full velocity or ball ammo requires wearing out brushes and overnight soaking. **I am done shooting full speed jacketed bullets out of my military bolt actions.**

All during this 2 years of experimenting I have wondered what is the key to this outstanding cast bullet accuracy I have obtained in 5 out of 5 rifles (.50" to 1.25"...4 of the 5 under an inch) when I am unable to duplicate that accuracy with 168 SMK's at NMC velocities...especially considering their unbedded state and all that wood hanging on the clamped-down barrel?

Well, I have 2 more trials before I send the entire article to The Fouling Shot. My friend and Wimbledon Match champion Frank Van Cleave has a very accurate match 30-06. We're going to try these cast bullet loads out of his rifle and I am going to similarly load the 168 SMK's with these midrange powder charges to see if there is a reduction in group size compared to the fullbore loads. If so, it would seem that the greater the turbulence the more difference bedding and free-floated barrels may make.

I currently shoot a 1903 Springfield in my 50 foot basement range but will save details on that for The Fouling Shot.

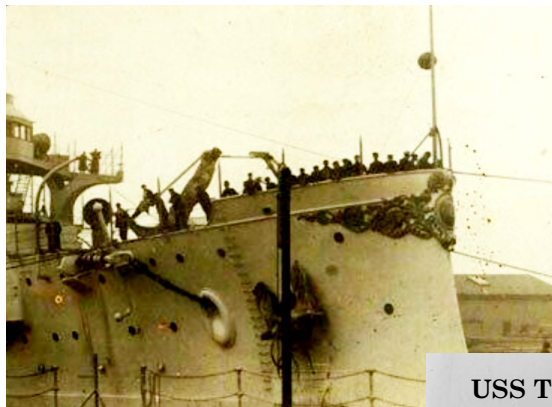
Brooks Harris

NRA Benefactor Life

brookssaved1998@aol.com

USS Tennessee (ARC-10) Prow in Nashville's Centennial Park

The Bronze Bow scroll (Prow) from the Armored Cruiser, USS Tennessee (1906-1916) still survives today as a memento of the Great White Fleet era.



The Armored Cruiser, USS Tennessee, ARC-10 was commissioned on 17 JULY 1906.

She was one of last ships to be painted white as part of the Great White fleet. For her first few years, she was fitted with beautiful bronze scroll work (Prow) on her bow.

Around 1908-09, she was repainted grey and her bronze scroll (Prow) was removed.

The ship travel the world for several years and in 1916, because she was a cruiser, she was renamed the USS Memphis.

The name 'Tennessee' was then transferred to the new Battleship BB-43. Battleship's were being named after states and Cruisers were being named after cities.

In 1909, her Bronze Prow was removed and displayed at Seattle's Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition worlds fair.

The bronze scroll caught the eye of Captain Albert Gleaves, a prominent navel officer and a good friend of President Theodore Roosevelt. Gleaves, was from Nashville, and soon he contacted several officials and had the Prow brought to Nashville's Centennial park around 1910.

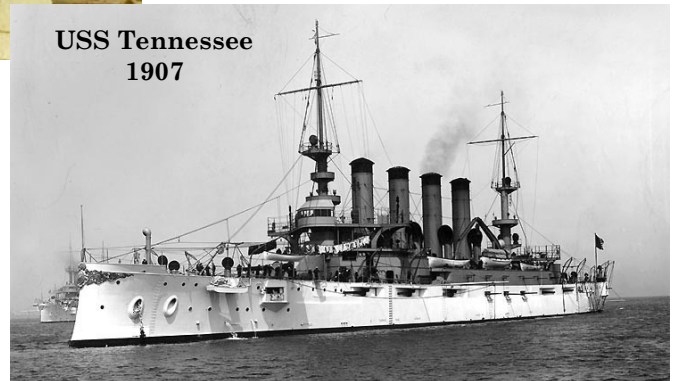
The Prow is mounted on a concrete structure that replicates a part of the ships bow. It still remains there today in the park.

Sadly, the monument is unmarked and there is nothing on site that explains its history or what it stands for.



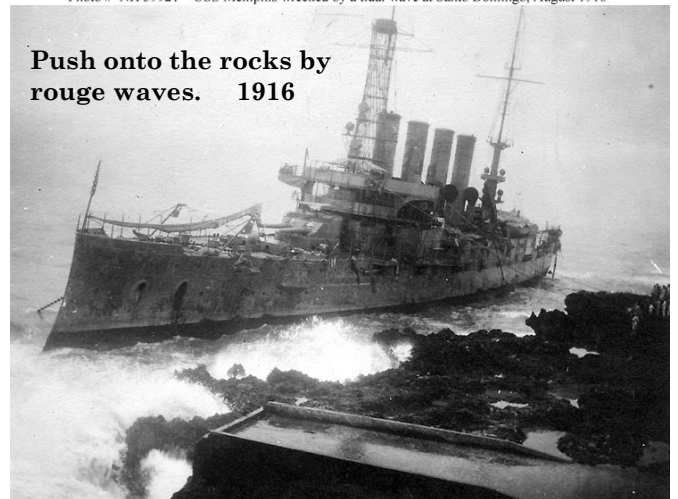
In 1916, the USS Tennessee (later USS Memphis) ran ashore on the rocks at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. A freak set of large waves had caused the disaster.

Her hull was damaged beyond repair, and she was scrapped on site.



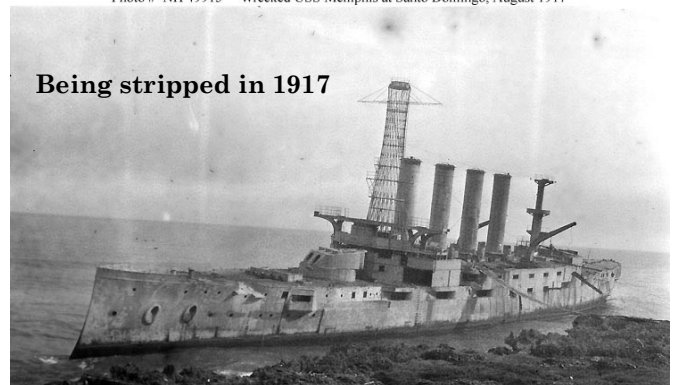
**USS Tennessee
1907**

Photo # NH 59921 USS Memphis wrecked by a tidal wave at Santo Domingo, August 1916



**Push onto the rocks by
rouge waves. 1916**

Photo # NH 49915 Wrecked USS Memphis at Santo Domingo, August 1917



Being stripped in 1917

FALL 2019 AWARDS



Directors Choice Award
Emily and Ronnie Townes



Member of the Year 2019
John Burton



Loen Pullen Award
Jimmy Howell



Best Display Fall 2019
Battle of the Bulge
Pat Gibson



Directors Choice Display Fall 2019
Battle of the Bulge
Larry Eads



Dealer of the Year 2019
Joey and Lisa Groseclose

Up Coming Shows



AMCA Spring Show
April 24th & April 25th 2020
Huntsville, Alabama
TEMPORARY LOCATION FOR 2020
Sandra Moon Community Complex
7901 Bailey Cove Road
Huntsville AL, 35802

Friday, April 24th Setup: Exhibitors Only 9 a.m.
Open to LIFE & Charter Members at 11 a.m.
Open to Members & Public at 1 p.m.
Closed at 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 25th—Open to Members and Exhibitors 8 a.m.
Open to the Public 9 a.m.
Closed to Public at 4 p.m.
Closed to Members & Exhibitors at 6 p.m.

<http://www.almilitarycollectors.org>

OVMS
"THE CORN FIELD SHOW"
JUNE 19-20, 2020
at the Roberts Centre
123 Gano Road
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CLASSIFIED ADS Ad's are **FREE** for all TMCA members – email: dhoagey@comcast.net

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STEN MKII Gun is on a Form 4, Unrestricted, 9mm, Interport, Tube gun, **\$7,500**

(2) HARRINGTON & RICHARD REISING MODEL 50 sub-machine guns, ex-condition, .45 ACP. Both model are Second Design and wartime serial numbered. Both Reisings come with two original 20 rd. mags and three commercial thirty round mags. **\$8,500** each

GEMTECH "RAPTOR" .45 CAL SUPPRESSOR FORM 4, used **\$400**

I WILL CONSIDER TRADES FOR THE ABOVE ITEMS FOR C&R, US Military Weapons or US Mfg. C&R Firearms of the 1870-1900's Period


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WW2 Aviation Art Prints
Collection of prints by most of the well known artist: Taylor, Kodera, Phillips and others. I have a large list, so if you have specific wants, contact me at: 901-457-7654 CST or eghj@earthlink.net.

Thanks,
Ewing Haley
TMCA Mbr. #122





**TENNESSEE MILITARY
COLLECTORS
ASSOCIATION**

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TMCA@comcast.net**

President: Jimmy Howell
Vice President: Rick Moody
Secretary: Emily Townes
Treasurer: David Hoagey
Sgt. at Arms: Woody McMillin
Show Director: Ronnie Townes



Child Photos

1



Guess who these famous kids are?

Answers on page 1

4



2



3



5



gettyimages
March of Time