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GUNNOTES/Elmer Keith



1000-YARD ACCURACY

It seems to this old gray-headed veteran of three National Match .30 caliber teams at Camp Perry that many of our best ballisticians are working in the wrong direction in their attempts to produce a winning Wimbledon Cup rifle and load.

While lying out in an October blizzard with Ben Comfort, I had the pleasure of designing the .300 magnum bull gun he used to win the Wimbledon the next year. Ben asked what it would take to win the Wimbledon and, as we could not hunt sheep in a blizzard at 9000 feet, I put in the extra time drawing up specifications. I asked him to have Western Cartridge Company handload their good 180-grain, .30-06 match B. T. to around 3000 feet, which they did, and the next fall Ben sent me a tiny snapshot of himself drinking beer out of the historical Wimbledon Cup. Since Ben won the great Cup with the .300 magnum, I believe it has gone only one time to a lesser cartridge and that was a heavy-loaded .30-06, probably close to the ballistics of the old .300 magnum Western loads that Ben used.

In my humble opinion, the only way to get a better Wimbledon rifle and load is to go to a larger caliber.

Al Weber of Lodi, California, made a huge Mauser saw log for the .50 caliber Browning machine gun cartridge. I shot it 25 times one day and it lay closer to the wind than anything I have fired from the shoulder either before or since. It was also the most accurate long-range rifle I ever fired. At Fort Douglas in 1942, I did a lot of firing at 2000 yards with the old Browning .50 caliber machine gun with the 48-inch infantry barrel. This gun was single loaded and fired like a single-shot rifle. It convinced me that the .50 B.M.G. round with 702-grain B. T. would lick any and all .30 caliber weapons at any range over 500 yards. Al Weber's rifle further confirmed this opinion, since any time the Weaver variable scope cross-wires were on a five-inch rock out at 500 yards, I hit it, and with considerable wind blowing from 9 o'clock.

The last time I fired this big rifle was at the RCBS Show several years back when Pete Brown and I were Huntington's guest speakers. At that time Al Weber had made and fitted a huge coke bottle-sized compensator to the 36-inch barrel on that big .50 caliber Mauser. He had, of all things, a Fecker target

scope on it with 1½-inch eye relief, and had the temerity to ask me to shoot it for the assemblage. I refused. I thought the recoil would drive that ocular lens through my skull. Al shot it to show us he had completely licked recoil. The big rifle moved only an inch or two on the rest over a car top. We all fired it then at a rock some 25 inches in diameter at 700 yards. Myself, son Ted and Col. George W. Bushley, who formerly captained a bunch of .30 caliber cavalry teams at Camp Perry and was the best coach I ever had. We all hit the rock each shot and finally my old friend, Capt. L. E. Wadman, fired it. His 702-grain A. P. ball ricocheted off the rock and set that California wheat grass afire and all — broke loose. An airplane came over — two fire trucks from Oroville. Most of the assemblage jumped in their cars and drove right through barbed wire fences to start beating out the fire with their suit coats.

Cap's bullet caused the loss of several thousand dollars worth of coats that day.

The big rifle weighs 25 pounds but could well be made much lighter. With Weber's compensator and a good 12X scope it could well take the Wimbledon from all smaller calibers. All it needs is a husky lad who is a rifleman and can dope wind. But I found the .50 B.M.G. round drifted far less in the wind than any shoulder arm I had ever fired.

What I think is needed to take the Wimbledon under adverse wind conditions is a larger caliber; either a .50 MG with handloads and 702-grain boattails or a rifle for the .378 Weatherby or .340 Weatherby built in either caliber. We would have to have matched boattails, 350-grain in the .378 Weatherby and 275-grain to 300-grain in the .340 Weatherby. If Sierra would bring out a 275-grain boattail for the .338 and we could get a 16 to 17-pound rifle throated to seat this long bullet with base of full caliber flush with case shoulder, and would use 4831 or some of Bruce Hodgdon's even slower ball powder, we could come up with a winning Wimbledon combination.

The .378 Weatherby on a long magnum action, with a 300-grain boattail seated with full caliber of base flush with base of case neck, and a heavy charge of Hodgdon's slow-ball powder,

continued on page 14

GUNS & AMMO

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Scope caps, made of the finest optical glass, protect the scope against possible damage from scratching, dust and moisture. Simply slip the caps over the scope lenses and forget them. The caps are available in sizes for all popular scopes. Clear caps cost \$3.25 a pair. Filter lens covers are also available at \$4.95 each. Write: Southwest Cutlery & Manufacturing Co., Inc., 1309 Olympic Blvd., Montebello, Calif.



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The bullet is a precision-made soft point flat nose of 240 grains. Thin-wall construction of "Tri-Clad" jacket permits expansion at lower velocities of extended range. Muzzle velocity in 18.5" bbls is 1705 fps. Load is cannellured to distinguish it from handgun loads. Primers are Norma's own non-corrosive, non-mercuric. Suggested retail for boxes of twenty is \$3.55 each. At leading sporting goods stores.

APRIL 1967

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Model 340-V

\$73.50, and only Savage offers such a value. That's for the 222 Rem; if you prefer the much hotter 225 Win. cartridge, it's five dollars more and an equally outstanding buy.

The precision headspacing for which the 340 is famous brings out the full accuracy potential of either of these great varmint cartridges. A crisp trigger and fast ignition help make those impossible shots seem easy.

The 340 is a good-looking rifle, too. The streamlined walnut stock with fluted comb has a checkered pistol grip and fore-end. White liners set off the grip cap and butt plate.

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Capacity of the 225 is four shots; the 222 holds five (both including one in the chamber).

A rifle as accurate as this deserves a good scope. Ask your dealer about 340 rifle/scope combinations, priced as low as \$117.50 complete with mount.

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ELMER KEITH

continued from page 12

or even 4831, could turn the trick.

With all due respect to Bob Hutton, our good ballistician, I don't think he will ever come up with a consistent Wimbledon Cup winner by going to small-bores as I did with Ben Comfort's first .300 magnum used in the great match. I also feel a certain larger caliber, .338, .375 or the big B.M.G. .50 if we had match bullets, would beat anything smaller. There is no substitute for sectional density and the mass and inertia of a heavy projectile in motion. It certainly cannot be matched by speeding up smallbore needles.

GUN CARE

Many more good guns are ruined by neglect than by shooting. It takes only a few minutes to run a solvent-soaked patch through the bore of any rifle, shotgun or sixgun, and then to wipe the exterior. While that may not accomplish a thorough job, it will preserve the arm from rust or corrosion.

When old corrosive primers are used, it is mandatory that you either clean or neutralize the corrosive sublimate fouling in the bore as soon as possible. This is true of all the old British cordite cartridges and all their older loads. Cordite, like Hi-Vel-2, is a hot powder and, while hard on the grooves of a rifle, is not so bad if the rifle is cleaned soon after firing. Rice's X-10 solvent is the only one I have found that will really clean cordite-fouled rifle bores, but Hoppe's No. 9 and other good solvents will neutralize the corrosive action of those corrosive Berdan caps.

I own the late Jim Corbett's tiger rifle — the best quality, box lock .450-500, 3-inch double rifle by W. J. Jeffery & Co. — with which he killed so many man-eating tigers for the Indian Government. He also used it in Africa. The brass-cornered oak and leather case is in fine shape. The canvas cover for the case is in bad shape and the rifle shows more use and less abuse than any rifle I have ever seen.

The metal is as bright as a silver dollar. The action in that good No. 2 Jeffery is sound and tight as a rat trap. Engraving shows up even better on the bright steel. Only traces of the checkering are left. The stock ears are actually worn away from the frame, as is the butt of the stock from the engraved heel and toe plates.

The bores are gray in the grooves from Cordite and the lands are worn down about halfway from the original, but there are no pits from neglect.

With Corbett lying out in tree crotches and machans in the rain waiting for tigers, this rifle was exposed to all kinds of weather. Jim Corbett had no Hoppes No. 9 or Rice's X-10 solvent, but I

would bet he poured many gallons of hot water through these tubes. In spite of external wear, it is as effective and accurate a hunting rifle as when turned out by W. J. Jeffery & Co. I fired both barrels at a 6-inch bullseye — at 80 yards — shooting from a car window. They landed one inch apart, one directly over the other, both cutting the centerline of the target (Kynoch 400-grain soft nose). Jim sold this rifle to a man in Vancouver and my friend George Neary got it from him. I swapped a perfect .350 Elliot caliber, Daniel Frazier double ejector for it.

I would like to have known Jim Corbett. His book, *Man Eaters of Kumaon* is a masterpiece on the Indian tiger and proves he knew more of the life and habits of that beast than any living man. I treasure his old rifle. You can judge a man by the condition of his rifle.

MUZZLE CAPS FOR THE TROPICS

Time was when muzzle covers were issued for the 1903 Springfield and also, before my time, for the Krag.

Muzzle covers are almost a necessity in Africa and much of the tropics because both mud and leaf doobers, a kind of wasp, dearly love to lay their eggs in gun barrels and then seal them fore and aft. God help you if you fail to discover the obstruction and fire the gun.

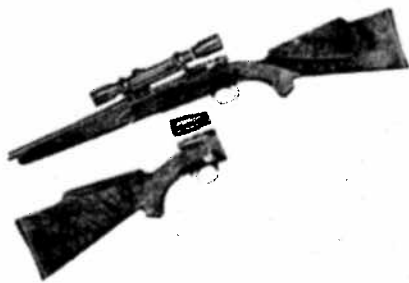
After coming in from a morning's hunt with John Lawrence in Tanganyika, now called Tanzania, I left my .333 OKH in the front seat of the jeep while we had lunch and a siesta before the evening hunt. Before starting the afternoon and evening drive I opened the bolt of this good Henriksen Mauser and looked in the tube. It was black. I pulled the bolt and tried to see through the bore and still no luck. John remarked, "The doobers have plugged the bore," and he ran for his cleaning rod.

Fitting a tight patch, John ran it in from the breech and out came three inches of wet leaves, then three inches of eggs, then three more inches of wet mucous-covered leaves.

A solvent patch of Hoppes No. 9 cleaned up the mess and we went hunting, but I learned my lesson. From then on I kept both my .333 OKH Mauser and my .476 Westley Richards double rifle zipped up tight in their good Boyt saddle scabbards when not in use. I noticed John had a heavy saddle batten muzzle cover on his Rigby at all times when it was standing in the gun rack in the jeep.

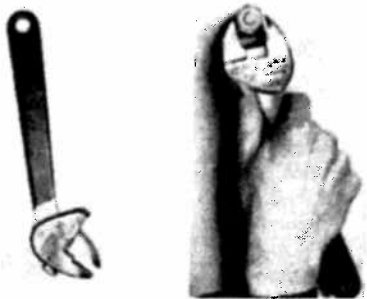
Since then I have had covers made for most of my double rifles and some magazine arms as well. These leather covers are also excellent protection for the front sight and the muzzle of rifles or shotguns and they may save you from a serious accident.

WHAT'S NEW



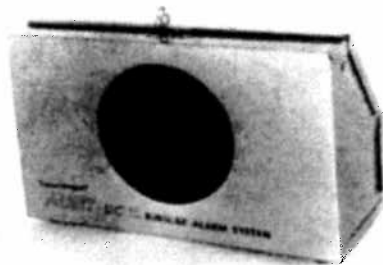
NEW LINE OF RIFLE STOCKS

from E. C. Bishop & Son, Inc. featuring a high comb rollover cheekpiece manufactured by a new process — involves profiling the comb, then shaping it with a high speed routing device. Made of Ozark black walnut with three different degrees of finish. Prices start at \$16.95. For information write E. C. Bishop & Son, Inc., P.O. Box 7, Warsaw, Missouri. Free catalog available.



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APRIL 1967

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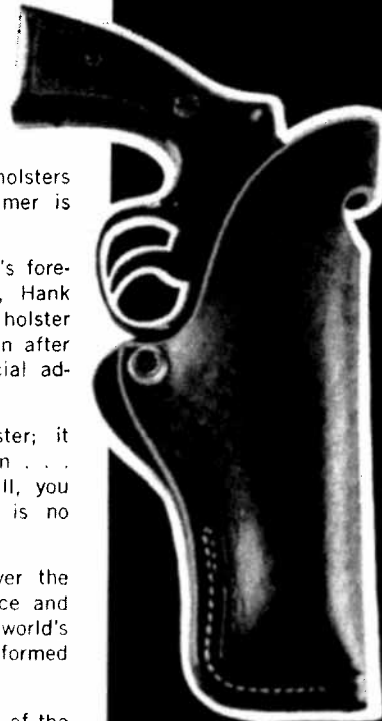
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Elmer Keith
Salmon, Idaho



Dear Elmer;

Finally got the photostatic copies of the correspondence on the Corbett gun for you. Sorry for all the delay but I had to wait upon the convenience of the gun's former owner.

Had a fairly good elk hunt. Got a nice 4 point with a 405 belgian double. Had to take a head on shot at about 130 yds. and brought it down ok. Sure glad I didn't have some pop gun as I'd still be trailing it.

Just got a proper screwing from Earl Lockwood of Fort Wayne, Ind. He offered a H&H royal 465 as new to me for \$1250 and I said fine send it out and he said ok. This was after phone calls and letters etc. No gun showed up after several weeks and finally a letter to the effect that he wanted \$1500 for the gun along with a lot of crap about the price of guns in London.

How are you doing with the 577? Cap Wadman put some lead in his and it shot 18" apart at 100 yds. I had a 470 Tolley that shot 3" wide if the bbl. was rested on anything firmer than the free hand. Recently I had Krieghoff put a set of 12X12 over 22H P bbls on my 12 over 9.3x74 that I used in africa. They did a really excellent job and it shoots well within an inch with factory ammo of loaded stuff. Got it for coyotes and such while duck and quail hunting.

Got some reliable info on weatherby's India hunt. Seems like old BS boy Roy wound up a cat with a 300; it turned on the beaters and Roy shot the right leg off one beater trying to kill the tiger. His hunter spirited him out of the country in a record 3 hours to avoid a nasty incident which would have surely ended in R.W.'s well deserved death at the hands of an outraged mob of hindus.

Picked up the ultimate in shooting irons; a 4 bbl. by Kerner with 4X Hensoldt 16x16 over 22 hornet and 8x57 jr. Its a very handy gun and well balanced. It will make a good pot gun as its light and easy to carry on a plane. I never intend to ship my guns separately again. Everything goes on the plane or not at all. It took nine weeks airfreight for our guns, cameras, clothes, etc.

We hunted with what we got off the plane in for a month then had to have a charter plane bring our stuff out to the camp by Lake Tanganyika. Sure TWA paid off but it still damned near ruined our hunt. So next time everything is going to be hand carried.

Best for the New Year



L. H. SUGAR FACTORIES & OIL MILL LTD.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-
"CRYSTAL" PILIBHIT
TELEPHONE NO. 8

PILIBHIT 194
(U.P.)

Reference

Dear Mr. Davis,

I am sorry that I cannot reply earlier. But because of the recurrence of the war, I delayed in sending this letter. It was a matter of regret that I did not get a good shot at Pilibhit. Shiver is nothing better of it. I am sure if you take another attempt at Pilibhit, you will meet with better success. I do hope you will be able to do so next year during the shooting season.

I am glad to hear that you have taken over the Corbett's estate. I am very glad you have possession. That rifle has been used in putting an end to more murderers than any other weapon you can get in this country. Few people know, but Corbett's was a very good rifle. -- shooting and very often the weapon he used was this very rifle that you have bought from him. If I were you, I would have treasured this weapon because of its associations.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Edwin D. Davis Esqr.,
52, Queensway,
New Delhi.

N. N. D. J.

January 18, 1949.

W. J. Jeffery and Co., Ltd.,
18 King St., St. James St.,
London, England.

Gentlemen:

Over a year ago, I secured from Jim Corbett of India, one of his favorite rifles, a 450-400 double-barrel Jeffery rifle. This rifle carries a serial number of 20176, each barrel are marked 'Gussathal Krupp Essen cordite 55 400 max' and on the inside of the rib the number 1393. Both barrels are cut for the 3 inch shell.

I prize this rifle very highly and have used it on two tiger shoots in India with perfect results. Unfortunately I was prevented to secure some pertinent information concerning this rifle from Jim before returning to the United States. I have found myself in several quite embarrassing positions answering so many questions about the Jeffery, a rifle quite new to this part of the world, but an object of much interest, therefore it would be appreciated very much if you would inform as to possible date of manufacture, first purchaser (believed to be Jim Corbett) any historical background for such a rifle, when first used, where and for what purpose. Of course any other information would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Edwin E. Davis
Route 10, Bon Hill,
Olympia, Washington.
U. S. A.

KDD:1ab.

Gurney House
Nainital
Dated 20th May 47

Dear Mr Davis

I left the Ramsay Hospital yesterday and I am losing no time in sending you my Arms Licence.

I am sending the licence by Registered Post and would request you to return it to me the same way after you have had the change of ownership of the rifle and shot gun entered on it, together with the number and date of your licence. A check is being made of all arms in the U.P. and to avoid trouble I would request you to return my licence as soon as possible.

With regard to your complaint about the safety catch - for which you have deducted 250/- - I should like to point out that the rifle was specially built for quick shooting in an emergency. It only takes a fraction of a second to push up a safety catch but the loss of that fraction of a second might cost one ones life when dealing with a charging tiger or lion, and for this reason the safety catch was made to remain in the OFF position no matter how often the rifle was opened to reload it. To alter this special feature will, in my opinion, ruin the rifle which, in all the years I have used it, has never let me down. The leaf sights too have been specially designed to offer a black surface to the eye when raised; this device adds 50% to the accuracy of aim when shooting at long ranges, and is a great asset to the rifle.

I was in hospital a month with malignant malaria and pneumonia and it will take me a long time to get back on to my feet.

Yours sincerely

John Corbett

DATE 10/10/19

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

[illegible]

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SECRET

getting a three-shot group of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch. Another five-shot group he fired went into $1\frac{3}{8}$ -inch from the Ruger single-shot.

Ross also tried my old Farquharson Holland & Holland .500-450 at fifty yards with open sights using No. 172 Kynoch primers and 80 grains of 4350 with 500-grain bullets. The three shots made a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch group, edge to edge of the widest holes.

As Don Martin, Joe Kinsella, and I had all made clover leaf groups with the .458 Remington and Winchester factory loads in my three .458 rifles—a No. 1 Ruger single-shot, a Henriksen light-weight Mauser, and also in my Champlin and Haskins No. 1 Keith grade rifle—I wanted Ross to try it in the Ruger No. 1 with a load Bob Ray of Seattle had given me; namely 75 grains of 748 B.R. Winchester ball powder with a CCI magnum 250 primer. Ross fired these loads at 100 yards from a bench rest using a flat-top post 3X Weaver scope. They cut the usual clover leaf, well proving Bob Ray's load. We both found it much easier to make close groups with the flat-top post in low-power scopes held at six o'clock, rather than trying to hold fine cross wires either at six o'clock or center. Fine cross wires are good for long shots, but a big black, easily discerned, flat-top post is better on paper targets. My eyes are seventy-five years young but Ross is a young man and he found the same situation was true even with his keener vision.

METAL FOULING

Back in my younger days in Montana, when I shot with the Helena Rifle Club at Fort Harrison with the old Krag and the 1903 Springfield, we at times experienced considerable metal fouling near the muzzle of those rifles. It would build up from the 150-grain cupronickel jackets into lumps on the top of the lands. We found it easy to remove by corking up the chamber end of the barrel with a rubber stopper and pouring a strong ammonia solution in the bore. We used a short length of hose on the muzzle to bring the ammonia level up above the bore at muzzle. Letting this solution stand for a half-hour would completely remove the lumpy metal furring on the lands, then we poured boiling water through the bore, dried it and then used Hoppes No. 9. Later I found that Winchester crystal cleaner would do the same thing, so it must have been mostly strong ammonia.

Over the years I have found that many new rifles will not do their best grouping until they have accumulated some copper wash from modern bullets. Many benchrest shooters, however, like to

completely remove the thin copper wash from the lands. Ken Glanzer of Seattle uses his own special formula that is mostly strong ammonia to completely clean the copper wash from the lands as his excellent photos prove. Personally, I have never had copper wash effect the accuracy of my rifles. However, I have not engaged in the super accurate benchrest game so he may well have a point, in that a good cleaning improves the accuracy of his benchrest rifles.

For several years I have used Rice's X-F 10 solvent. I prefer this solvent to any other known to me as it completely eliminates the use of hot water to clean the big cordite rifles. The X-F10 solvent also cleans well any rifle or pistol fired with old corrosive primers including some 1917 .45 auto stuff which had about the worst fouling I have experienced. One brushing and a thorough swabbing with Rice's XF-10 and the job is done. It does not allow the bore to foul up for several days thereafter as does other solvents I have tried. Truman Fowler and I used it in Africa to clean my .500 and his .577 double rifles. It is available from Rites Products Co., Palm Beach, Florida.

MAY Jim Corbett's
Jeffery-Tiger
Rifle

GUN ENGRAVING

Ornamentation of fine firearms is a very old art and dates back many centuries to the beginning of firearms development. Engraving can be expensive, yet it will greatly increase the value of an arm if properly done. Cheap, large, or coarse engraving adds little to a gun in either value or beauty. On the other hand fine engraving, even a very modest amount of scroll here and there, does enhance the beauty of the arm and increases its value. Game scenes, if done by an artistic engraver who really knows his animals, are wonderful, but if the animals are poorly done they add nothing and really detract. One is far better off with good scroll work. A well-engraved gun looks good even after most of the original finish is gone.

I have Jim Corbett's old .400 Jeffery with which he killed so many man-eating tigers. The metal is all worn as bright as a silver dollar. The checkering is worn smooth and the wood is worn away from the steel at the junction of the frame and the heel and toe plates. The action is sound and as tight as the day they made it. The gun is a light weight, best-quality boxlock ejector. The frame, guard, and tangs are beautifully scroll-engraved, and in

pite of the fact it has seen so much hard service, it is still a beautiful example of fine gunmaking. The bores show use of cordite and the lands are worn down some but it is still as accurate as the day he made it. This gun can still place both barrels within an inch at eighty yards.

The English gunmakers are very adept at scroll work all the way from the deeply cut, fairly large work, to the finest scroll as found on the Purdeys. I have a 10-bore Purdey that carries complete fine scroll engraving—a most beautiful job. I also have a Spanish 16-bore by Aguirre E. Aranzabal, commonly known as the AYA. This is a copy of the Purdey as to ornamentation, and it has typically fine Purdey-type scroll work throughout. A most beautiful job, but necessitates close-range inspection to appreciate the fine engraving. Master engraver Frank Hendricks of San Antonio, Texas does the finest gold animal inlay work I have seen on any arm. My .375 H&H Champlin & Haskins rifle shows Hendricks at his best as his gold animals are perfect in every single detail. Only a master engraver, who is a fine artist and also knows his game animals, can produce such work.



This finely engraved pistol grip cap was done for Keith's Hoffman Arms rifle.

Bas relief floral and scroll are not only artistic, but when well done they make any gun a work of art. Large scroll or floral with pinked-in back-ground is not my idea of good engraving. Medium-size deep scroll or floral (especially when in raised bas relief) is beautiful and long-lasting as well. I prefer such engraving in scroll or floral designs to either coarse, large work or the finest work like the Purdeys where you really need a glass to appreciate it.

I have a .44 Magnum S&W engraved Madis of Dallas, who did the piece in fine scroll. It is a beautiful job, done with no background at all. His chisels never slipped—he's a good craftsman.

I have a No. 1 Ruger, serial number 15 in .375 H&H, engraved by Alvin White. A grizzly is engraved on the left of the action with my name in gold on the right. The borders and corners of the action are done in very nice medium-size scroll. It's a beautiful job engraving—but then White has quite a staff of engravers.

Back in the early twenties Hoffman Arms Co. employed some very fine engravers and I have had several of their rifles with both scroll and raised bas relief gold animals. I do not know who did the work, but I suspect Kronbrath as it was all very well executed. A few perfectly done gold inlays in bas relief against a black-blue background will enhance the beauty of any fine firearm; however, if too much gold is used, it becomes more gaudy than beautiful.

E. C. Prudhomme, himself a master engraver, wrote the best treatise we have seen on gun engraving back in 1961. It was an expensive book then and has become more so today, but it really covered fine gun engraving and is well illustrated. Engraving, when it comes right down to it, is a matter of personal taste. The important thing is to exercise good taste when making your selection.

JUNE

MISFIRES & HANGFIRES WITH RELOADS

In bolt-action rifles, hang and misfires are often caused by improper adjustment of the resizing die. Even if the dies are set to allow the shoulder of the case to be pushed back a few thousandths of an inch, the result is a head space problem. When the firing pin strikes the primer, it must force the whole cartridge forward until the case shoulder rests firmly against the chamber shoulder. This very often causes hangfires or

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Jim Corbett's Rifles

Corbett's career began with the killing of the Champawat man-eater in 1907 and continued until the shooting of the Thak man-eater in late 1938. Throughout his hunting career, Corbett used at least five different rifles, unfortunately, he was infamously unforthcoming about any details of rifles unless they had a direct bearing on events. He began with a **Martini-Henry .450** as a child, and he later acquired a **.500 BP double rifle** in which he shot both black powder and modified cordite ammunition – a transitional smokeless load for use in black-powder proofed rifles. Although several tigers fell to the .500, Corbett moved on to a **.450/400 Jeffery double**. His lighter rifles were the **.275 Rigby Mauser (7x57)**, which was a gift from the Governor for killing the Champawat tiger, and a **.275 Westley Richards**.

Folklore has it that Corbett had buried his rifles and tiger skins somewhere on his property before leaving for Kenya. In reality, he took his trophies and rifles with him to Nyan, Kenya, and **Jim's rifles and trophies, were auctioned off after his death** in Nairobi by the Standard Bank of South Africa, the executors of Corbett's will. Maggie sent most of the proceeds to India to be distributed among his various causes. The rifles are now in private collections in USA and UK.



Jim Corbett's .275 Rigby Mauser

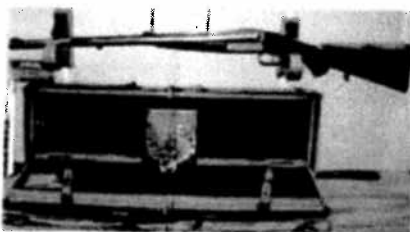
The 7x57mm was one of the first smokeless, high-velocity military rounds, and made its name as a superb game calibre. The .275 Rigby and the 7mm Mauser are in fact one and the same cartridge, perhaps better known as the 7x57. The US calibre system is based on the actual projectile diameter (.284" or 7mm), while the old British method used the land-to-land bore diameter of the barrel (.275).

In the early 1900s, Rigby produced a line of quality custom Mauser-actioned rifles for colonial hunters and the .275 Rigby Mauser was simply a rebadged 7x57. The 7x57 loaded with 175-grain soft-point projectiles was highly effective on large soft-skinned game. The same weight projectile in solid form was also used to take the biggest game. Jim Corbett frequently used a 173-grain bullet at 2,300fps. The Rigby-Mauser rifles represented the synergistic confluence of Peter Paul Mauser's design genius and John Rigby's gun-making brilliance.



Jim Corbett tackled his first man-eater (Champawat) with a shotgun and a .500 Express. He was presented with a .275 Rigby Mauser (Serial No. 2516). The rifle weighed 7lb 8oz, had a 25-inch barrel, and a 14 3/8 inch length of pull. A silver plaque mounted in the buttstock was inscribed: **"Presented to Mr. J.G. Corbett by Sir J.P. Hewett KCSI, Lieutenant Governor of the United Provinces in recognition of his having killed a man-eating tigress at Champawat in 1907."**

This became Jim Corbett's favourite weapon in subsequent years and used while hunting other man-eaters including the Rudraprayag leopard in 1926. This is now in the private collection of Paul Roberts in the UK. (Paul, owns J. Roberts & Son, and took over Rigby between 1984-97). Paul Roberts used to make frequent forays to India, 1960s to the 80s, to buy up guns and rifles from the Maharaja's collections.



Jim Corbett's .450/400 (3") Jeffery boxlock double

The double rifle is in effect, two single shot rifles; it has the finest lock work and the action is closed against mud, rain, snow or foreign matter, and there is nothing to jam. It has a built-in safety factor in that both locks are hardly going to go haywire at one time. A majority of classic British double rifles were built on the solid and very reliable hammerless or boxlock action. Developed by Westley Richards in

Birmingham, the boxlock action is simple in design with few parts to go wrong and consequently has an outstanding reputation for reliability. With practice, it could be loaded, shot and reloaded very quickly.

The .450/400 3" Nitro Express is a .450 case necked down for a .40 calibre, rimmed, bottlenecked cartridge designed by Jeffery. Better known as the 400 Jeffery Nitro Express, it was designed exclusively for use with cordite. It fires a 400-grain jacketed bullet at 2,100 fps. The double rifle represents one of the last vestiges of sportsmanship where, in a tough, tight, often life or death situation, it can be relied upon to get you out alive. As Jim Corbett himself writes "I armed myself with an accurate .275 rifle, in addition to the .450/400 rifle which I took for an emergency." The vast majority of classic British double rifles went to India, and the most popular double rifle cartridge was the .450/400, the classic tiger cartridge.

Jim Corbett Tour

- Corbett Tiger Reserve Safari
- Corbett Tiger Reserve Accomodation
- Jim Corbett Museum
- Jim Corbett Village
- Jim Corbett Falls
- Jim Corbett's Gurney House
- Jim Corbett
- Jim Corbett's Rifles
- Jim Corbett's Gun Dog: Robin
- Tigers in Jim Corbett's India

.275 Rigby & Chowgarh Man-eaters



"As I stepped on the giant slate, I beheld me over shoulder and — straight into the face. The move of swinging round rifle with one hand began very slow, hardly perceptible as soon as the pointing at the body, I pressed trigger. For a

perceptible fraction of time the tigris remained perfectly still. Then, very slowly, her head sank on to her outstretched paw; at the same time a jet of blood issued from the bullet hole. If the rifle had not been a right one it would not have been possible for me to have moved it in the way it was imperative I should, and then discharge it at the full extent of my arm."

— Jim Corbett in the 'Man-Eaters of Kumaon'. The Chowgarh Man-eating Tigress was shot by Jim Corbett on 11 April, 1930 with the .275 Rigby Ma

.450/400 & the Thak Man-Eater



"The tigris was so close that I heard the intake of breath each time she called and I again blew her and the same way and we called

Jim Corbett's .450/.400 (3") Jeffery boxlock ejector double rifle is displayed at the Elmer Keith Museum at Cabela's, in Boise, Idaho, USA. Elmer Merrifield Keith's report on Jim Corbett's gun, in the Gun Notes, April 1967:-

I own the late Jim Corbett's tiger rifle the best quality boxlock .450/.400 (3") double rifle by W.J. Jeffery & Co. with which he killed so many man-eating tigers for the Indian government. He also used it in Africa. The brass covered oak and leather case is in fine shape while the rifle shows more use and less abuse than any old rifle I have ever seen.

The metal is as bright as a silver dollar. The action is that good No. 2 Jeffery is sound and tight as a rat trap. Engraving shows up even better on the bright steel. Only traces of checkering are left. The stock ears are actually worn away from the frame, as is the butt of the stock from the engraved heel and toe plates.

The bores are grey in the grooves from cordite, and the lands are worn down about halfway, but there are no pits from neglect. With Corbett lying out in tree crotches and machans in the rain waiting for tigers, this rifle was exposed to all kinds of weather. Jim Corbett had no Hoppes No. 9 or Rice's X-10 solvent, but I would bet he poured many gallons of water through these tubes in spite of external wear; this .450/.400 is as effective and accurate a hunting rifle as when turned out by W.J. Jeffery & Co. I fired both barrels at a six inch bull's eye at 80 yards, shooting from a car window. The bullets (Kynoch 400 grain softnose) landed one inch apart, one directly over the other, both cutting the centerline of the target. Jim sold this rifle to a man from Vancouver, and my friend George Neary got it from him. I swapped a perfect .350 Elliot caliber Daniel Frazer double ejector for it.

I would like to have known Jim Corbett. His book 'Man Eaters of Kumaon' is a masterpiece on the Indian tiger and proves he knew more about life and habits of that beast than any living man. I treasure his old rifle. You can judge a man by the condition of his rifle."

.500 'modified cordite' double rifle & the Champawat Man-Eater



"The men on the ridge, hearing the three shots, not unnaturally concluded that the tigress had been killed. They emptied all their guns and gave a final yell, and I was holding my breath and listening for the screams that would herald the tigress's arrival on the ridge, when she suddenly broke cover to my left front and, taking the stream at a bound, came straight for the gorge. The .500 modified cordite rifle (sighted at sea level) shot high at this altitude, and when the tigress stopped dead I thought the bullet had gone over her back, and that she had pulled up on finding her retreat cut off, as a matter of fact I had hit her all right, but a little far back. Lowering her head, she half turned towards me, giving me a beautiful shot at the point of her shoulder at a range of less than thirty yards. She flinched at this second shot but continued, with her ears laid flat and bared teeth, to stand her ground, while I sat with rifle to shoulder, trying to think what it would be best for me to do when she charged, for the rifle was empty and I had no more cartridges. Three cartridges were all that I had brought with me, for I never thought I should get a chance of firing more than two shots, and the third cartridge was for an emergency."

~ Jim Corbett in the 'Man-Eaters of Kumaon'. The Champawat Man-Eater was shot by Jim Corbett in 1907 with the .500 'modified cordite' double rifle. This was the

first man-eater killed by Corbett. This female Bengal tiger began her man-eating in Nepal, where she killed an estimated 200 people before the Nepalese army was called in to hunt her down. Though the army failed to kill the man-eater, they did succeed in scaring her across the River Sarda and into India. Once in India, the tigress continued her man-eating ways and claimed a further 236 victims. Her final victim, a 16-year-old girl, was killed just hours before Jim Corbett hunted her down in 1907.

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simultaneously
effect was startle
instantaneous. V
a second's hesit
she came bang

then she stepped right out into the open, and, looking into my
stopped dead. Owing to the nearness of the tigress, and the
light, all that I could see of her was her head. My first bullet c
her under the right eye and the second, fired more by accide
with intent, took her in the throat and she came to rest with h
against the rock. The recoil from the right barrel loosened m
on the rock and knocked me off the ledge, and the recoil fro
left barrel, fired while I was in the air, brought the rifle up in c
contact with my jaw and sent the heels over head right on t
men and goats. Once again I take my hat off to those four m
not knowing but what the tigress was going to land on them;
they caught me as I fell and saved me from injury and my rifl
being broken.

~ Jim Corbett in the 'Man-Eaters of Kumaon'. The
Thak Man-Eater was shot by Jim Corbett at abou
6.00pm on November 30, 1938 with the .450/400
Jeffery double. This was the last man-eater kille
Corbett.

Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag

Corbett killed the Rudraprayag leopard at 10 pm on
1926. For most of the time that he hunted it, Corbet
one of two rifles - a .275 Rigby (7x57) and a .450/4
Jeffery boxlock double - and eventually killed the le
with the .275 - with one shot, fired from 20 feet - in
darkness, as it attacked a tethered goat. He had the rifle alreac
where he knew the goat to be, and the dying patter
him one brief flash in which to glimpse the leopard -
the trigger.



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December 15, 2014

Mr. Wes Dillon
James D. Julia, Inc.
203 Skowhegan Rd.
Fairfield, ME 04937

Dear Mr. Dillon,

Re: The Elmer Keith collection

You and I had a phone conversation a couple of months ago, mostly concerning info that could enhance the perceived value of the Corbett .450/.400 tiger rifle. At the time there was no formal agreement between Ted Keith and Julia Auctions, so it was pointless to spend much time on paperwork just yet. Of course, I have been pretty much out of the mix since mid-October, as I have been in recovery mode from lower back surgery. At this point I still can't say that I am up and "running", but gratefully, I am up and active.

I was advised by Ted Keith yesterday that the truck transporting the Elmer Keith collection of firearms and related items has arrived at your auction facility in Fairfield, Maine. That's good news because it means that things are moving forward on a more defined path. Ted and I also talked about some documents I have that might be useful to you and I agreed to round them up and send them to you. They include:

- A copy of an old one-page letter that was written and signed by Jim Corbett, dated "20th May 47", sent to a Mr. Davis who was the first owner of the famous .450/.400 double rifle after Corbett. (Elmer Keith became the owner a few years later.) The topics of primary interest in the letter include information about a special safety catch feature that keeps the safety "in the OFF position no matter how often the rifle was opened to reload it." Corbett explains why he didn't want the safety to automatically return to the ON position every time the action was opened and reloaded. He also explains some particulars about the leaf sights. The original of this letter was found in the gun case and should still be there.
- Four pages are stapled together that document my e-mail correspondence with J Roberts Gunmakers in the UK who have apparently taken over what was originally the W. J. Jeffery & Co. factory in London where the Corbett tiger rifle was made. My primary mission was to learn "from the horse's mouth" about manufacturing proof standards and if the century-old .450/.400 was still safe to shoot; and if so, what specific ammo was recommended. I had other questions but they along with their answers are easily found in the chain of e-mails. This makes more sense if you start reading near the bottom of page 2 with my first e-mail dated July 23, 2012 and then work your way forward chronologically to the more recent correspondence dated July 30, 2012 appearing page 1.

- A letter on W. J. Jeffery & Co. L^{td} stationary, accompanied by a copy of the page from factory manufacturing records that includes the Corbett .450/.400 double rifle, serial number 20176. This came from Charles Williams, located in Boulder, Colorado, who currently retains official W. J. Jeffery records. Please note that in the July 30th e-mail discussed above, Paul Roberts advises me that “we no longer retain the records of W. J. Jeffery. They are now with Charles Williams ...”. So Charles Williams was thoughtfully Cc’d on that e-mail to me from Paul Roberts which no doubt prompted Mr. Williams to follow up with his letter along with the manufacturing record which you will find are self-explanatory.

I hope the forgoing and the referenced enclosures can be helpful in some way, Wes. If thoughts or questions arise that you think I might be able to help with, please feel free to give me a holler.

Sincerely,

Al Marion

Cc: Ted Keith

Enclosures

Al

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you very much!

Al Marion

From:
Sent:
To: a
Subject:

Sent:
Cc:

I write with [REDACTED] longer retain the records of W J Jeffery. They are now [REDACTED]

However from my Jeffery knowledge I can confirm that the answers to your questions are as follows:

1. age: made between 1907-1909
2. ownership: no information on owners is available as the record book for that period was destroyed in WWII
3. ammo: you can use Hornady .450/400 3" or Kyamco .405/400 3" but the rifle's condition must be inspected by a competent gunmakers in the US before use
4. proof: standards were the same when the rifle was made. Clean with Hoppes Bronze
5. accuracy do not expect 1" apart at 80 yards! Elmer Keith was known to romance a little.
6. Last thought: Jim Corbett was a great hunter but very superstitious – he went after man eater with only 5 rounds of .275" cal. ammo. He thought that carrying more than 5 rounds was unlucky – he ran out of ammo twice!

Furthermore he never spent any money on his guns.

I have hi .275 Rigby with the original chipped stock which he never had repaired. He did mention doing it in one bookj but it never happened.

I hope this information is of some help.

With best regards

From:
Sent:
To: Cal
Subject:

From
Sent
To:
Sub

net.net]

Mo

Following up on the e-mail below that was sent on Monday evening of this week, I must apologize for its length and somewhat disjointed nature. It had been a long day and I perhaps should have saved the task for the next day when my 73 year-old mind would have been more crisp. But in spite the e-mail length, there is one thing I failed to mention, and that is Mr. Boxford's thought and motivation in the first place, to write and publish a story with photos about his dreamed-of "date" with this particular double rifle.

So please know that this is not just a casual accommodation for Mr. Boxford. Rather, it would not be worth the cost and effort were it not for anticipated publicity for a very unique museum, plus publicity for the Cabela's sporting goods organization that captured the vision for this in-store museum and publicity for shooting sports in general. Of course for you, there just happens to be a VERY famous Jeffery rifle capturing the center of attention in it all.

At 10am on Tuesday, July 31, Ted Keith and I will be in a meeting with the Cabela's Store Manager to update each other on new information and progress with plans to date. The gunsmith who has routinely cared for all weapons on display in the Museum may well join us. Any information you can provide in response to the questions in my initial email will be appreciated.

Thanks again,



Gentlemen,

I am hoping that you can fill in some informational blanks regarding the Jeffery .450-.400 (3") double rifle that used to be owned by the famous tiger hunter, Jim Corbett. I was steered earlier today in your direction by Ed Baruth at www.kynochusa.com.

Background: My name is Al Marion, and I live in Garden Valley, Idaho, USA. For more than a quarter century, Ted Keith and I have been friends. Ted's father was the very

famous Elmer Keith who ended up owning and "treasuring" (Elmer's language) what had been Jim Corbett's trusted rifle. Following Elmer's death in 1984 Ted inherited his Dad's holdings including the Corbett rifle which (finally) now resides in an extensive Elmer Keith Museum at a Cabela's sporting goods store in Boise, Idaho. The museum happened to be my brain child, and I sold Cabela's on the idea early enough that before opening this new store in Boise, they had time to integrate the Keith museum into their planning. I was asked by Cabela's to be there to provide assistance on the day Elmer's guns were being placed in display cases behind glass panels. Attached above is a photo taken of me holding the Jeffery/Corbett .450-.400 just before placing it in its display location behind where I stand in the photo. That was six years ago. (I have a lot more photos of the finished museum if they would be of interest.)

Earlier this year an international sportsman and gun writer wrote an article about the .450-.400 cartridge and some notable rifles that have been chambered for it. That article was published in *Precision Shooting Magazine*. It should come as no surprise that among .450-.400 rifles, it is a tough or impossible assignment to imagine a rifle approaching the fame of the Jeffery double carried by Jim Corbett. With the forgoing in mind, in the previously mentioned article, the author expressed his wish, or perhaps passionate intent, to not only lay his eyes directly on Corbett's rifle, but to "handle" it and just maybe, participate in allowing it to "speak" again.

That Jeffery double is the most valuable weapon on display in the Keith museum. In U.S. dollars, the insurance coverage is well into 6-figures. It is still owned by Ted Keith but Cabela's pays for the insurance. For the right person with an unusually good reason, appropriate conditions and arrangements might be made for them to "handle" the rifle. But allow it to speak, i.e., shoot it? Well, that requires more thought, and not only involves obvious security concerns with the rifle leaving the store and the city for a half-day, etc., but also involves not violating ammunition standards for a rifle that must date back a century or so.

My role? Answer: Middle-man. Neither Ted nor the folks at Cabela's have any relationship with the .450-.400 author, Stephen Boxford (a Brit, by the way) or the Editor at *Precision Shooting, Inc.* However, as an author with published work spread over the past decade in *PS, Inc.*, plus personal history with both Cabela's and Ted, I have trusting relationships in both directions, thus, "middle-man". Boxford and *PS* have a predictable desire for the plan to come together. Ted Keith and Cabela's are definitely interested but want to be sure they don't mess up a valuable asset. As a prerequisite, I am totally on Ted's and Cabela's side of "don't mess things up".

Sooooo, the serial number is: 20176.

- When was it manufactured?

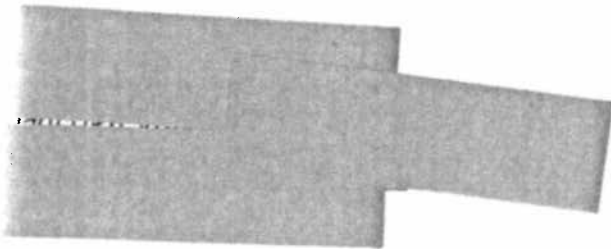
- Who was the first owner, if not Jim Corbett?
- Was/is safe ammunition for it restricted to Cordite?
- If not so restricted, does current production Kynoch ammunition fit safely within proof standards?
- What were the proof standards at the time of manufacture?
- What else might I and others want to know that I am not smart enough to ask about?

By the way, in Elmer Keith's book, "*Gun Notes*" on page 106 he talks of shooting the Corbett rifle as follows: "I fired both barrels at a six inch bull's eye at 80 yards, shooting from a car window. The bullets (Kynoch 400 grain softnose) landed one inch apart, one directly over the other, both cutting the centerline of the target." That sure sounds like Elmer was not shooting Cordite.

What am I thinking? If you have never seen it you should read the rest of the kind words Elmer had to offer about "your" rifle: "I own the late Jim Corbett's tiger rifle-the best quality boxlock .450-400 (3") double rifle by W.J. Jeffery & Co., with which he killed so many man-eating tigers for the Indian government. He also used it in Africa. The brass-cornered oak and leather case is in fine shape, while the rifle shows more use and less abuse than any old rifle I have ever seen. The metal is as bright as a silver dollar. The action is that good No. 2 Jeffery is sound and tight as a rat trap. Engraving shows up even better on the bright steel. Only traces of checkering are left. The stock ears are actually worn away from the frame, as is the butt of the stock from the engraved heel and toe plates. The bores are grey in the grooves from cordite, and the lands are worn down about halfway, but there are no pits from neglect. With Corbett lying out in tree crotches and machans in the rain waiting for tigers, this rifle was exposed to all kinds of weather. Jim Corbett had no Hoppes No. 9, or Rice's X-10 solvent, but I would bet he poured many gallons of water through these tubes. In spite of external wear, this .450-400 is as effective and accurate a hunting rifle as when turned out by W.J. Jeffery & Co. I would like to have known Jim Corbett. His book, *Man Eaters of Kumaon*, is a masterpiece on the Indian tiger and proves he knew more about life and habits, of that beast than any living man. I treasure his old rifle. You can judge a man by the condition of his rifle."

I need to stop thinking because that results in more length. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for whatever insight you might provide.

Sincerely,



W. J. Jeffery & Co. L^{td}

GUN AND RIFLE MAKERS

1426 Rembrandt Road
Boulder, Colorado 80302
USA



2

August 1st 2012



Thank you for your enquiry related to the Jim Corbett .450-.400 rifle # 20176. I am delighted that my colleague Mr. Paul Roberts has been able to answer some of your questions. I have gone through the W.J. Jeffery record books and photocopied the page where the .450-.400 is listed. You may have difficulty in reading the entry so I have done my best to decipher the entry for you (I may not be totally accurate but here goes)

W.J. Jeffery, .450 - .400 Serial Number 20176

Double, hammerless, Anson and Deeley, Ejector,
24" Gussthal Barrels, Dolls Head,
Standard and 4 leaves rear sight to 500 yards,
Ivory bead foresight, E J Rib,
Scroll Engraved, Anson forepart,
Pistol Grip, Eyes for sling,
Weight 10lbs. 2ozs.
Cost at time of manufacture £24-0-0. (British pound sterling)

W. J. Jeffery & Co. L^{td}

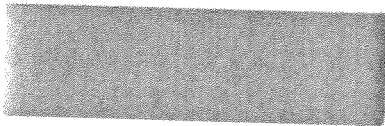
GUN AND RIFLE MAKERS

1426 Rembrandt Road
Boulder, Colorado 80302
USA



Date of manufacture ? (Paul Roberts suggests 1907-1909)

I hope this information is of value to you.
Yours sincerely,



NO.	DESCRIPTION.	MADE BY AND DATE.	COST PRICE.	SELLING PRICE.	WHEN SOLD AND MOJO IN JOURNAL.	TO WHOM SOLD.
20171	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Pistol has 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard		35.00	9/11/15	
20172	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	18.10	30.00	9/30/14	
20173	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	18.10	30.00	9/30/14	
20174	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard		24.00	2/16/19	
20175	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	20/4/0	35.00	9/4/69	
20176	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	24/1/1	45.00	10.156	This rifle belongs to Gil Jim Corbett.
20177	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	28-3-6	60.00	9/4/14	Ref. G. Whittmore
20178	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	2-10-0	43.00	10/15/12	
20179	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	30.13:6	10.00	4.85	
20180	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	8/10/10	10.00	2/230	
20181	400 S Lops Lever A & 20 Eyector 24" Standard 240 Barrels Standard Head 8 1/2" long 100 lbs Barrel Engaged at 700 yds eye for eye 100 lbs	Leonard	8/10/1	12.12.0	8/13/13	



WINTER ATV PROD

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



HOME RIFLES SHOTGUNS HANDGUNS AMMUNITION OPTICS BLOGS GALLERIES VIDEOS ART

Handguns



THE LAST WORD: COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY

In honor of the 125th anniversary of American Rifleman, the following is an excerpt from the April, 1929 issue: The Last Word.

By Elmer Keith (RSS)
June 15, 2011

From the April, 1929 issue of American Rifleman

The Colt factory furnishes but one standard model of the S.A.A. now, in plain and fancy finish, though at one time they did furnish flat-top Bisley and S.A.A. models with target sights. It's a simple matter at the factory to adjust sights on the S.A. I have watched my friend Fitzgerald remove the extractor tube, slip a polished steel rod of land diameter into the barrel and clamp same tightly in a special barrel vise, with padded jaws to fit the contour of the barrel; then slip his hammer handle through the cylinder space in the frame and turn the barrel to correct line, though sometimes it required some sighting shots and additional moving to get it just right. That's all very nice if one has the tools, but we on isolated ranches and in the hills have no such tools, and do not care to be without our guns from three to six weeks, or more, either.

My good friend, S.H. Croft, put in a lot of time, thought and money improving the S.A. Colt. He was working to obtain a light-weight weapon for self-defense purposes. However, a combination of some of his improvements added to the regular-weight 6-gun makes the last word in a fine, trigger S.A. for target or game shooting. Mr. Croft has designed the changes necessary to convert an ordinary S.A. Colt into the finest trigger single-action imaginable, either in the featherweight model, or at my suggestion, in a heavy, all-around 6-gun.

Mr. Croft had four models of Featherweight guns made up from S.A. Army and Bisley Colts, which I described in a previous issue of the Rifleman. He worked out and had made up his No. 3 grip, which is perfect. At about the same time, or a little later, J.D. O'Meara finished up his pet 6-gun grip. Both he and Croft used the Bisley back strap and S.A.A. When O'Meara had finished, I found that his grip and Croft's No. 3 were almost identical. For a gun to be used with trigger this No. 3 is the latest and best grip ever put on a 6-gun.

The S.A.A. is one of the best-balanced and easiest handled of 6-guns. The regular S.A.A. back strap, while by far the best shaped of any on the market, and the only one for the slip gun, does not come up as high in back as it should to completely fill the hand. By bending and welding the Bisley back strap to the same general contour as the S.A.A., and combining with the S.A.A. guard and front strap, we have the No. 3 grip.

Needless to say, after playing with Croft's guns a while I decided to have one of my S.A.A. guns worked over to



incorporate some of Croft's improvements, with a few ideas of my own thrown in. Croft supervised the job. He and Mr. Neal K. Houchins, of Philadelphia, made the sights, which are duplicates of the sights on the No. 1 Featherweight, with these exceptions: I had a cross pin put through the front-sight band, and a set screw put in the rear of the flat-top frame and bearing against the rear-sight base, to lock the sight against a possible blow.

Mr. Croft had Mr. R.F. Sedgley weld up the frame into a flat top, and extend it back over the top of the hammer; and also fit the new type base pin and catch. This pin is a tool-steel job, and is a very close fit. Mr. Sedgley also made the No. 3 grip, welded the base onto the S.A.A. hammer to fill the long cut in the top of the Bisley back strap, and made the wide trigger, which of course required some cutting out of the trigger hole in the guard. The hammer is one J.D. O'Meara had previously fitted with Bisley top for me, by dovetailing and brazing in the Bisley thumb piece. O'Meara also made

and fitted the walrus ivory stocks. Sedgley made and fitted the new type mainspring. He and Croft designed this very excellent spring for the S.A.A. It is not as liable to breakage as the regular S.A.A. spring and is very much more sensitive and quicker than the standard spring; and the gun cocks as easily as when Newman's "far country" spring is used. This Newman spring is unbreakable, and the best for absolute reliability. The Croft-Sedgley spring is without a doubt the fastest in action of any S.A.A. spring, and should improve the S.A. greatly for target-shooting.

We decided to call this gun model No. 5. The sights are square, or Patridge; the rear one adjustable for windage in the same manner as the S. & W. target sights. The front-sight blade is adjustable for elevation by the turning of a screw in the rear of the base. This gives very close micrometer adjustment, with a locking screw on the side of the base. This type of sight and blade gives maximum sight radius. The front sight elevates at the muzzle and not an inch to the rear, as on most target 6-guns. The front sight is fitted by means of a barrel band, base and band being one piece of steel. Two blades were made for this gun. One of them I am going to have fitted with a Call type gold bead.

I had long wished for a wide trigger instead of the narrow S.A.A. one placed in the left side of the guard. Croft had one made by Sedgley for this gun that seems to fit perfectly the contour of my trigger finger. This trigger is set back close to the guard, which greatly improves the gun, to my notion. It gives about the same difference intended—namely, as man-stoppers up to 50 yards. The 260-grain load seems to be considerably more accurate at long range. The 280-grain load is, I believe, the most powerful man-stopper in existence. The blunt point delivers an awful wallop. Couple that with its extreme weight and fairly good velocity—858 feet per second with 15,000 pounds' pressure—and it is bound to knock all the fight out of most any sized man if hit anywhere between the pelvic bone and where his hair ought to be. However, these bullets are not the thing for target shooting, or for game-killing at a distance of over 50 yards.

Tags: *colt saa, colt single action army, elmer keith, firearms, guns, handguns, shooting, single action army*

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COMMENTS

5 Responses to *The Last Word: Colt Single Action Army*

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 **John wrote:**

Elmer Keith
Gun Collection

April 1972

Double Barrel Rifles

page 7 of 17

Rifle	Make	Calibre	Serial #	Value
R 58	Charles Boswell-Ejector	500NE	17109	4,500
	Cased with Accessories with EK on stock			
R 59	Holland & Holland Royal Grade	375 Mag. Rim		
	Scope Sighted-Hand Detachable Side Locks		30423	5,000
	Fully Engraved-Cased w/ all accessories			
R 60	Westley Richards Cape Gun	303 British	T2247	4,000
	ejectors, Hand detachable	16 Gauge		
	locks, & pistol Circassian stock			
R 61	Jeffery - Box Lock			
	Fully engraved	450-400	20176	10,000
	24" Bbl.	4"		
	Jim Corbets Tigre Rifle used to kill man eating			
	tigres, some who have killed 100-300 natives			
	Oak & leather case w/ accessories			
	Worn bright but good condition			
	2 triggers / w/ ejectors.			
R 62	Westley Richards	476 NE	17222	5,000
	Best Quality, Hand detachable locks			
	ejectors, single trigger			
	fully engraved			
	Circassian stock			
	Used by EK to kill big 5 in 1957			
	Cased w/ all accessories			
R 63	Westley Richards #2 Grade	500 N.E.	09367	4,000
	ejectors, cased w/ all accessories			
	plain gun - new condition			
R 64	Westley Richards - Best Quality	476 NE	9331	5,000
	plain finished, ejectors, Hand			
	detachable locks, cased with all			
	accessories			
	made for Stewart Edward White			
	used in Africa - Big 5			
R 65	Josh-Springer - Best Quality	9374R	10506	5,000
	full side lock, ejectors			
	Hand detachable locks			
	set triggers, Scope sighted w/ Zeiss Zielvier			
	4X scope P.A. mounts			
	fully engraved			
R 66	Westley Richards - ejector, Best Quality		17336	5,000
	Hand detachable locks	577 NE		
	fully engraved + extra set of locks			