

Craig Boddington

July 20, 2011

This letter is in reference to your Holland & Holland .577 Black Powder Express underlever sidelock double rifle, serial number 19208.

As you and I have talked about at the Safari Club conventions, this rifle belonged to the late Jack Lott. Jack Lott is perhaps best remembered today as the creator of the .458 Lott, but he was also a long-time contributor to *Guns & Ammo* and many other publications. Jack was a fine writer, an extremely astute “gun guy” and a very talented gunsmith in his own right. Other wildcat cartridges that he created include the .460 G&A that he developed for Tom Siatos and Bob Petersen and, much later, the .460 G&A Short that he built for Ken Elliott.

Jack and I became friends when I joined Petersen Publishing Company in 1979. He was opinionated, outspoken, and not always politically correct...but I generally got along well with him...and learned a great deal about rifles from him. He also had a Holland & Holland Royal in .318, and that was the rifle he carried on the several occasions when we went boar or deer hunting up the coast. Jack was quite a sight in the coastal hills with his .318 double, Rhodesian beret, and his impala skin vest!

Your double .577 was Jack’s pride and joy, definitely his most prized possession. In about 1980, when I was the Editor of “Guns & Ammo Specialty Publications” (the annuals) one of our projects was a newsstand book on “Big Bore Rifles,” featuring and primarily written by Jack Lott.

We made several trips to the range at Petersen Ranch to do testing and photography for this book, and one time Jack brought along his beloved .577. He had some mild handloads, and we each shot a few. That wasn’t so bad. Then he pulled a couple of original Kynoch 750-grain .577 Nitro Express loads out of his pocket. He offered me one, but I demurred...as you know, although the rifle is very tight and strong, it isn’t technically proofed for the full-house Cordite load. I was also thinking that the rifle was a bit light, and with that load it would hurt! In those days I was also fully conscious of the fact that those scarce Kynoch cartridges were worth about \$50 each!

Jack shrugged, dropped one in the right barrel, cocked the hammer, and took aim. The rifle went nearly vertical and it pushed him back a full step. He turned around to me, glasses cocked and beret askew, and with a beatific smile on his face he said, "That's wonderful!"

Jack and I remained friends until I left the Los Angeles offices in 1993. Shortly thereafter I was very sorry to learn of his passing. He was a bit of a mysterious character, involved in numerous intrigues and situations in Africa from the Sixties onward. He had in his possession a Congo Cross from Moise Tshombe, but I never really got the full story, nor can I recount the details of his involvement in the Rhodesian War. Along the way he acquired a great deal of African hunting experience, including being tossed by a buffalo on what I believe was his first safari, in Mozambique in 1959.

Jack was an original, a real character. I'm pleased that his rifle has found a good home where its lineage is appreciated, and I hope this letter adds a little bit to its historical significance.

With best wishes for good hunting,

Sincerely,



Craig Boddington

ctbodel6col.com



HOLLAND & HOLLAND
LONDON

WEAPON HISTORY

Serial N^o: 19208
Calibre: .577
Model: Double Express Hammer Rifle
Barrel Length: 26 Inch Barrels
Regulated: •
Stock Length: 14 ½" x 14 7/16 x 14 15/16
Weight: 11 Lbs. 14 Ounces
Year of Manufacture: 1895
Additional Information: Lever over guard , long top strap ,

•This denotes information not available or applicable.



HOLLAND & HOLLAND
LONDON

19208

Goring Jones

577 bore double Express rifle
L.O.G. action, long top Straß
rebounding locks
26" steel bls dolls head
extension

Bend $2 \frac{3}{16} + 1 \frac{11}{16}$
Length $14 \frac{1}{2} + 14 \frac{7}{16} + 14 \frac{15}{16}$
lost off $\frac{1}{8}$ bare + $\frac{1}{4}$ toe
pistol hand & cheek piece
recoil pad
weight of rifle 11 lb 14 oz
" " bls 7 " 0 1/2 "

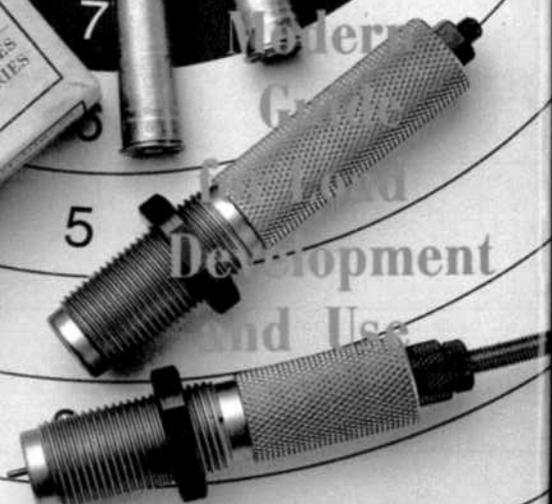
rifle built on lines of old
Lewis rifle
Backsight rather high standard
& 2 leaves  

(weight of the "Lewis" bls 6lb 10oz)
length 26"

factory finish July 1895

SHOOTING the BRITISH DOUBLE RIFLE

Second
Edition



Graeme Wright

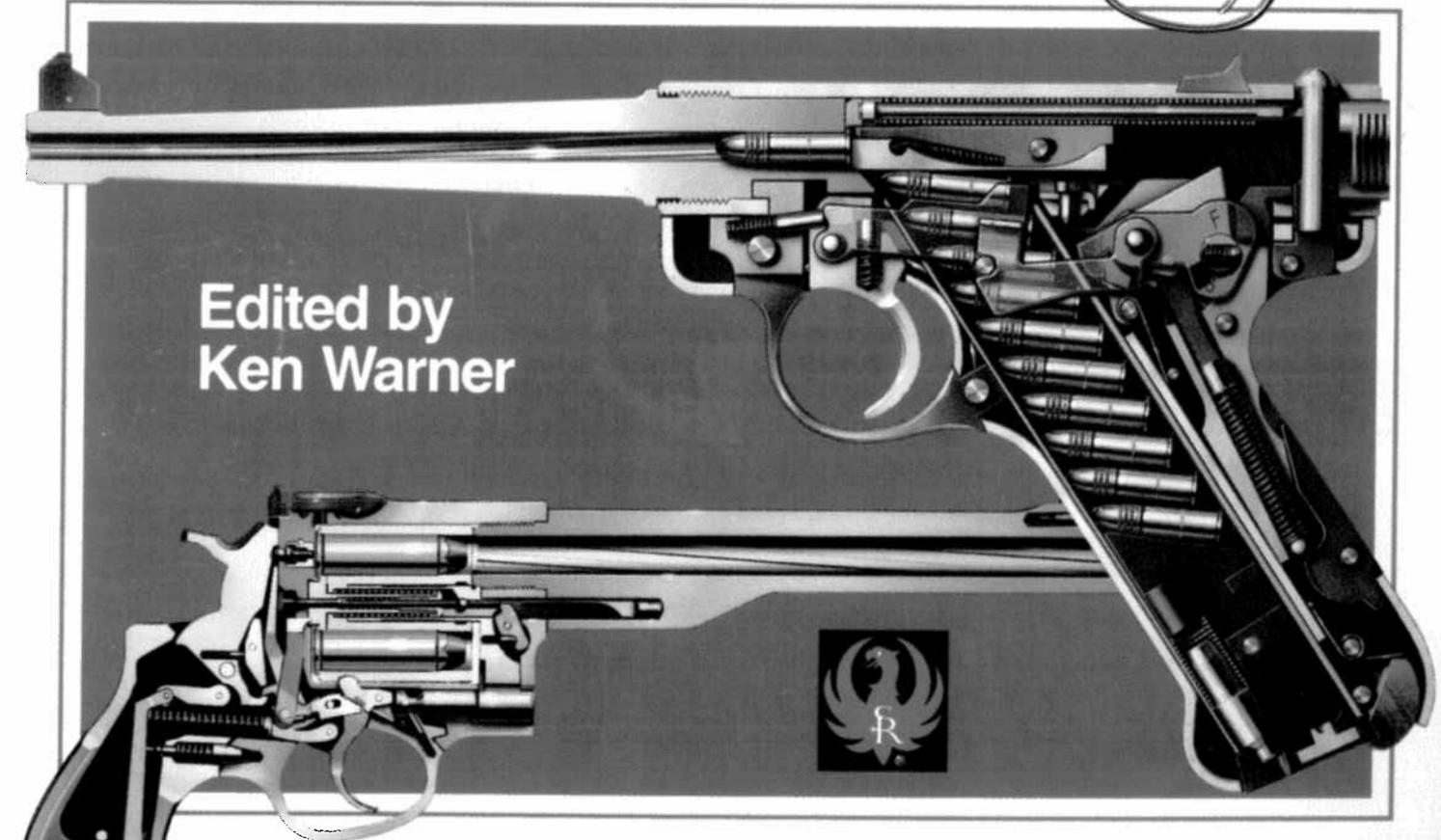
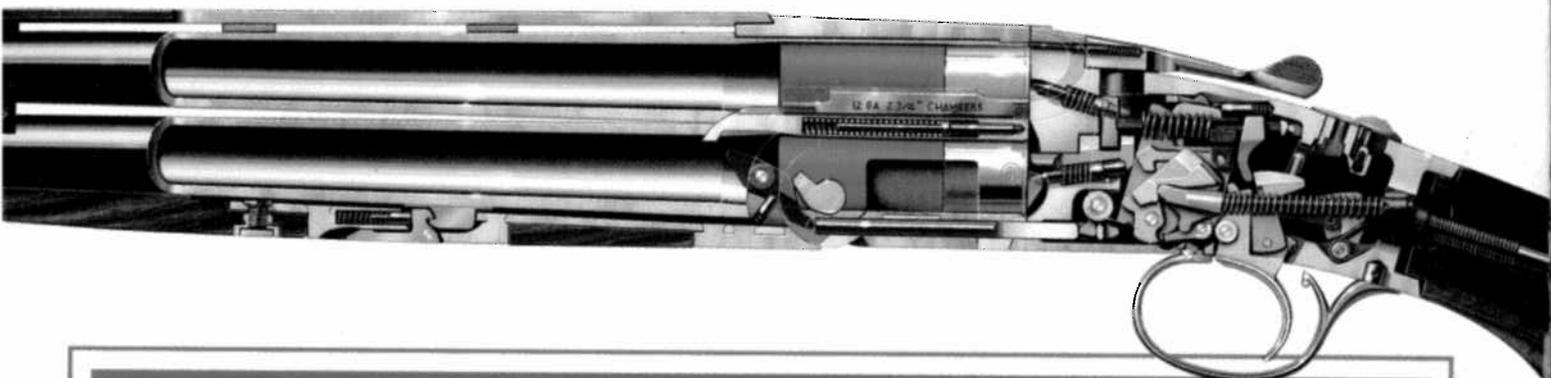
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