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D. A. WHITE, Esq.
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Dec. 22nd, 1913.

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Dated this 21st day of September, A.D. 1914.
PEDRO SALINAS.

NEW, EXPLOSIVE BEATS GREEK FIRE

The fearful effects of the new French explosive is thus described: "Terrible as the effects of turpentine are, they are eclipsed by the new annihilate shells, which have been, as the Paris Figaro is aware, placed at the disposal of the French government by a distinguished chemist, whose name we are not at liberty to mention at present, and which will be in due course adopted by the British War Office. This new explosive well deserves its name, annihilate, as the effects produced by the bursting of these shells are rightly described as annihilating. In the open field of battle against dense masses of troops, in a fortress or on a warship, the explosion of one of these annihilate shells forms a fierce blast of flame some two thousand yards long, and from one hundred to two hundred yards in width, which, passing over men, animals or material, leaves nothing but a scorched and charred mass behind. Trenches, fortifications and other means of defence are of no avail. The atmosphere within the radius of its explosion is all burnt up, owing to its chemical action on the oxygen of the air, which is changed into a consuming fire. It is perhaps too much to hope that the invention of annihilate will mean the stoppage of all wars in the future, but it will undoubtedly help in that direction and form a bulwark of civilization against those who would break the peace of the world. But as regards the present war, this fearful and powerful weapon in the hands of the British and French forces will certainly assist them to bring it to a speedy conclusion, as no human being can stand against the terrible effects of annihilate."

HOME MADE DUMDUM BULLETS-- HOW ANY SOLDIER CAN DO IT

USE OF DUMDUM BULLETS MAY BE AUTHENTIC WITHOUT GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY — MADE BY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS.

The national arsenals do not make dum dum bullets. They do not have to. Any soldier can "dum dum" his own bullets, and many of them do so. Hence, very largely, the charges and counter-charges that we have heard during the present war. This statement is from an article contributed to The Technical World Magazine (Chicago, November), by a writer signing himself "A. L." who hides behind these initials, we are told in an editorial note, the personality of "an American who has devoted many years to the study of ballistics and military organization." His conclusions are that many wounds attributed to dum dums are due to ordinary bullets striking sidewise or "keyholing"; and that such real dum dums as there are are made by the combatants themselves, on both sides. He writes:

"Every jacketed rifle-bullet ever designed is potentially a dum dum bullet. Every jacketed bullet may become one of the dum dum variety either by reason of nature's forces working on it or by the design of the man who despatched it.

"And this much more is true: There never has been any army—German, French, Belgian, English, Austrian, Russian, Servian, Japanese, Boer, or American—that has not used jacketed bullets that deliberately were made to dum dum. . . .

"Permit me to make a momentary digression. I want to speak of the arrant nonsense so often printed in newspapers and magazines about 'steel-jacketed' bullets. There is no such thing. The modern small-arms bullet consists of a core of lead and tin composition, surrounded by a jacket of cupronickel or cupro-zinc alloy. Were pure steel jacketings to be used they would rip the lands right out of a rifle-barrel.

"The cupronickel- or cupro-zinc-alloy jacket is just soft enough to take the rifling. And yet it is so hard—it has to be made so for almost obvious reasons—that after a hundred or so rounds have been fired there is barrel erosion not attributable only to the high-pressure, slow-burning powders used. This erosion increases in battle, because on the firing-line a soldier has few opportunities to clean his rifle often enough.

The modern jacketed bullet, whether it is of the round-nose or pointed-nose type, swings beautifully true through its trajectory—up to a certain (perhaps I should say uncertain) point. After that it begins to keyhole.

"Instead of continuing on its long axis alone through rotary motion given it by rifling—it is this rotation which keeps the bullet on its course—the base of the bullet swings in a circle larger than its own circumference. When it does this the missile goes through the air with much the movement of a spinning top after it has been free a minute or two of the rotation-giving cord. This exaggerated rotation of the base is called keyholing.

"Keyholing may be due to one of many causes: it may result from an imperfection in the bullet itself (i.e., in shape, balance, weight in ratio to powder charge, etc.), from erosion or rust in the rifle-barrel, from atmospheric conditions, from decreasing velocity, etc. There is no way to gage it. But the very fact that it is keyholing makes a bullet a splendid instrument to stop, abruptly and permanently, any living thing it hits.

"And if a pointed bullet is not keyholing from the causes enumerated above, it is very likely to keyhole the minute it hits any-

thing that provides real resistance to its easy penetration and continued flight, such as a belt-buckle or a bone. There are instances, even, when the bullet commenced to keyhole when it entered soft flesh; but, in the main, such instances occurred after the bullet had lost much of its velocity.

"This keyholing of a bullet upon contact occurs because the point is checked, albeit for only an infinitesimal fraction of a second, because the base of the bullet is checked. For with the point engaged and checked, the base starts to catch up with the point.

"What happens depends upon how fast the bullet was travelling when it hit. If it still retains considerable velocity (or, rather, energy), the bullet will spiral its way in fairly clean fashion through the object it hit. But if it is moving with greatly impaired velocity—due to head wind or long flight or some similar cause—the keyholing bullet is very likely to imbed its point in a bone and then, unable cleanly to penetrate the bone, use remaining energy to push the whole bone ahead of it.

"In other words, enough energy has been lost to prevent clean penetration, but sufficient has been retained to push impediments to its continued flight out of its path. The sharper the point of the bullet, the more likely it is to keyhole upon impact. This is 'stopping-power' with a vengeance. The German bullet is sharp-pointed. The United States is the sharpest-pointed of all.

"This keyholing naturally causes terrible wounds which, in turn, often bring forth the charge that dum dum, or explosive, bullets are used.

That much of the talk about dum dum bullets is the result of this "keyholing" action of the ordinary projectile, is the writer's belief. There is, however, he tells us, another side of the picture: the deliberate dum dummings of the bullets by the men in the ranks. The arsenals, he assures us, do not have to turn out dum dum bullets. Any soldier desiring to accomplish the result can make the most "civilized" bullet a dum dum by using a knife or bayonet to cut the jacket at the point, so that, when the missile strikes, the lead core will pour through. And Americans who are horrified at the report of such "uncivilized" doings in Europe may pause when they read that our own army has not been entirely stainless in this particular. Says this military expert:

"As a matter of fact this was done so often in the Philippines that the commanding officer of every company examined every individual cartridge on every individual soldier at morning inspection, to see that none had been tampered with. And a few hours later you could see many an enlisted man patiently 'sandpapering' his cartridges so that the jacket-point would be worn to such thinness as would effect 'mushrooming' upon impact.

"Prof. William Mollendorf, a German who had not lost his head and who thinks that the soldiers of the countries at war with his own are ethically the equals of his countrymen, said: "The enforcement in war of international law or Hague conventions depends, in the last resort upon the moral sense of the individual soldier."

When we have reached this point in the exposition, it is not difficult to see that a soldier in the trenches who sees an enemy rushing at him, and who knows from experience that a clean bullet-hole will not stop him, is very apt to attach more importance to saving his own life than to obeying the behests of The Hague Convention.—Literary Digest.

MINE THROWERS MUCH EMPLOYED

Germans and Austrians Seek to Overcome Russian Entrenchments With Heavy Weapons.

Posen, Germany, Jan. 8.—The battle is now stationary at many parts of the long front in Poland. The rapid movements of the army forward and backward, with kaleidoscopic changes in the situation which hitherto have characterized the warfare in the East, have given place, for the time being at least, to a struggle along a heavily entrenched line of field fortifications resembling those in France.

The German and Austrian allies are in close contact with the army of Grand Duke Nicholas, but they are engaged in sapping, instead of maneuvering their way forward. During the fortnight, which a correspondent of the Associated Press spent at the front, attached to the staff of one division in the battle line along the Rawa River, the operations were marked by advances of from ten to twelve miles in a few places, but in general the infantry is fighting its way foot by foot with the aid of artillery support.

In the operations the artillery and mine-throwers are trumps, instead of the soldiers' legs. The mine-throwers are particularly effective. Although the heavy artillery is handicapped by weather conditions and the short days, which make observations and the direction of the fire possible only for short periods, the mine-throwers are busy day and night hurling projectiles of 200 pounds of high explosives from trench to trench that is very effective. During the comparatively short time one of these huge missiles is in view, wobbling through the air, along an erratic parabola, the sight is most impressive. The projectile can be plainly followed with the eye, and the tension upon the men in the trenches as the bomb comes nearer and nearer is beyond all comparison with the excitement caused by the heavy artillery shells, which are unseen until the explosion throws up a column of earth and scatters the fragments of the shells in all directions.

Russian prisoners, of whom there is a constant stream moving through the German lines, stated to the correspondent that the landing of each mine causes a catastrophe in the trenches, as its victims are torn to bits.

GERMAN LOSSES TOTAL 2,000,000

Amsterdam, Jan. 9.—The total German losses in the war to date are two million dead, wounded and missing, according to a Berlin dispatch to The Telegraph.

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