



**Prince Philip, Duke of
Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth
& Baron Greenwich
1921-2021**

SHOOTERS' JOURNAL

ISSUE 69

ISSN 2398-3310

TRANSITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR EX-
ANTIQUES
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT
GROUSE MOORS
LEAD SHOT
GALLERY RANGES
IS EVERYTHING A TARGET?

WAR & PEACE CANCELLED
What of the rest?

More on SFO W80

BOOK REVIEWS

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Until 30th June, lapsed individual members can re-join for £36 and lapsed clubs for £14.25 per person (3 or more). New member and club rates below:

SRA MEMBERSHIP FEES

New Individual	£39.50
Extra family members, each	£10.00

CLUBS, GROUPS, SYNDICATES

(Minimum of three) per person	£22.00
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LARGER GROUPS 40+ per person	£15.00
Over 100	£12.50

Group leaders can add new members to their group at any time for £22 per person up to the group's renewal date. Pro rata if that's soon.

We've peeled our membership fees to the bone to help our members get over COVID 19. Clubs that couldn't meet, history groups that couldn't display, shooters who weren't allowed out combined with a dramatic loss of income as people were furloughed or their jobs evaporated during the lock down.

And still it goes on: large events cancelled for this year from the SHOT Show to War & Peace and beyond. Small shows may well go ahead, the difference being the lower risk involved in not being able to insure the cancellation risk.

We hope and pray that the only lasting impact will be COVID tummy – uniforms that don't fit!

COVER

Issue 69 'Spring' 2021



SRA PHOTO

There's goings on that impact on nearly all our members. Collectors have to take account of new regulations that exclude many existing antiques from certificate exemption: like the ones on our cover – A Swedish 7.5x22mm and a Belgian .320"

Current spec de-acs had to be registered with the 'Serious Violence Unit' at the Home Office in March and 'defectively deactivated' ones can't be traded. That may change, as this was all EU regs and we've left that party.

The EU is also plotting a ban on lead shot and now the UK government is looking at the subject – again. Watch out for the consultation and there's a link to a very good article on the subject on our Facebook page.

Grouse moors are a target again. While it's a minority sport, grouse moors occupy as much land as Greater London making them a target for all sorts of 'anti' lobbies.

SHOOTERS' JOURNAL
ISSUE 69
SPRING 2021
 Published by TSRA Ltd
 PO Box 3, Cardigan SA43 1BN
 ISSN 2398-3310

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**ANTIQUE FIREARMS
 TRANSITIONAL
 ARRANGEMENTS**

Several 1870s vintage cartridge revolver types are changing from antiques to modern firearms by Home Office regulations on 22nd March: these are revolvers chambered .320", .41" short or long Colt, .44" Smith & Wesson Russian, .442", .44" Webley, 9.4mm Dutch service revolver, 10.6mm German Ordnance revolver and the French M1873 army ordnance revolver in 11mm.

Additionally, antique firearms currently possessed without certificates get swept up into these transitional arrangements if made after 1st September 1939 or made earlier but chambered for a self-contained centrefire or rimfire cartridge that is not exempted from firearms controls by the antique calibres list.

The transitional arrangements are the same for all owners. The firearms being taken off the antiques list become licensable section 7(1) firearms on 22nd March. Anybody in possession may continue to possess them until 21st September and may transfer them to anyone else during that time frame as though they were still antiques.

Firearms made after 1st September 1939 will cease to be antiques on 21st September 2021 regardless of what they're chambered for. If you're in possession of anything that you have been prosecuted for possessing it without a certificate and acquitted, you will need to take legal advice about what to do. You can't be prosecuted a second time for the same offence and the secondary legislation regulations bringing these changes in can't change common law, but not registering possession might be a different offence that you could fall foul of.

Persons in possession and intending to remain so must apply for a firearm certificate, a variation to a firearm certificate, an RFD and a section 5, or a variation to their existing section 5 if they don't already trade in handguns by the 21st of September, whereupon

their lawful possession continues until their application and any consequential appeals are decided. The key point is that the dates for individuals and the trade are the same, unlike other transitional arrangements. In 1989, RFDs could handle self-loading rifles for six months after the FAC hand in date and that wasn't long enough for the Home Office to grant any section 5 applications for them. MARS rifles were prohibited for the trade to handle long before FAC holders had to surrender them.

If you have any antique firearms made to chamber self-contained rim or central fire metallic cartridges you must check whether or not those chamberings are still exempted and if they are not you must either apply for a certificate or pass the guns on by 21st September. They can go to any RFD for deactivation – they can pass them on to whoever actually does the work – or if you want them kept live, you can sell them/pass them on to someone who is intending to apply for a certificate or who is already an RFD with a section 5.

The main difficulty likely to arise is what are the chances of applications made this spring being granted by 21st September? Several police forces stopped accepting new certificate applications at the start of the Covid 19 outbreak in order to concentrate on renewals and one force at least is over a year behind with them at the time of writing.

Legally, it won't matter as the fact of the application is sufficient for possession, but the last time this form

of transition was used – for air cartridge revolvers – where an application was refused police tried seizing the guns after a Crown Court appeal was refused notwithstanding the automatic right of appeal to the High Court.

Either way, any ultimately unsuccessful application/failed appeal will leave the owner with guns that can only be surrendered to police, as the 21 days grace after a failed appeal to dispose of items lawfully (i.e., to a section 5 deactivator or dealer) that appears in the 1968 Firearms Act is not reflected in the 2021 regulations. One solution for valuable items in the possession of somebody without a certificate is for a certificate holder to apply for variations for the same guns and to take possession of them by 21st September 'just in case'.

That way, if the owner's application is refused, there's nothing for police to seize. Once seized, it has become notoriously difficult to get guns back from the police, even where their seizure was unlawful in the first place and their continued retention has no justification in law.

Any members with concerns about any gun in their possession can discuss its status – and possible change of its status with the SRA. That's what we're here for.

EDITORIAL

Our membership, particularly those on the SRA's Facebook group it seems, take an interest in the goings on in American politics: we have kept an eye on things too and

following his inauguration as US President, we heard Joe Biden's opening speech, which was one of conciliation. The problem is that he made no attempt to bridge the political divide. His offer to President Trump's supporters of the chance to get on board with his style of government meant them leaping that divide to his side of it.

He signed executive orders dismantling America's position on most issues that President Trump left him. That seems to be par for the course, as President Trump dismantled as much of President Obama's legacy as he could when he entered the White House.

American politics seem dominated - to outsiders like me - with the position one takes on wedge issues: abortion, alcohol, drugs, gun control and immigration being the ones that readily spring to mind. Each is a control question; whether to allow someone to do any of these things or to impede their doing so and each is actually a niche market: the average person in Britain can pass through their whole life having nothing to do with any of them and I would imagine the same could be said of most Americans.

The silent majority. Alcohol is the most likely to have some impact on any of our lives. I've been the SRA's secretary since 1985 and I moved my family to Pembrokeshire from London in 1986. Pembrokeshire is in Wales,

and at that time seven or eight of the fifteen counties were 'dry' on Sundays, which meant pubs couldn't open and such shops as could open on Sundays could not sell intoxicating liquor that day.

Drinking in the Principality seemed to me somewhat bound up with religion. Methodists don't drink and John Humphries (then a Radio 4 presenter) said that when urine was a commodity saved for the tanning industry, that of teetotal Methodists attracted higher prices.

I heard another piece on Radio 4 in which the presenter reminisced about her Welsh family. She said her father regarded himself as a teetotaler, although there was always wine at Sunday dinner and he took medicinal whisky every night.

America had dry counties before the national prohibition just after the Great War and it still has dry counties to this day. Our chairman Jan A Stevenson started his career as a police officer in Alabama in a dry county. He described policing there as chasing bootleggers and the occasional homicide; and the odd northerner who needed help after using soft vegetation as roadside toilet paper. Northerners apparently don't know poison ivy when they see it and, unlike native British stinging nettles, the effect is not immediate.

Alcohol as a wedge issue led America to its 18th Constitutional

amendment to ban it and its 21st to repeal the ban. A case of the English puritan religious legacy being inflicted on other groups of immigrants who came from beer drinking Europe. Between the two amendments, millions of prescriptions were written out for medicinal whisky. Take any wedge issue and you can see that neither anti nor pro campaigners can 'win' by inflicting their minority view on the opposing minority. Between the two sides the silent majority lack the insider knowledge or experience to care either way and may swing vote one way and then the other: or not bother at all.

In Wales, dry county advocates took the issue to a national referendum, which went against them: all but one county voted to go wet on Sundays. And that one went wet by government order earlier this century.

Immigration was one of the key issues in the UK's referendum about EU membership. It's a Home Office department; the bunch that put the 'reducing immigration to the tens of thousands' objective in David Cameron's mouth in 2010 and with Theresa May as Home Secretary had hoarding vans driving around 'immigrant' areas with their 'we don't want you here' signs on them.

As blatant a piece of racism as any we can remember. Government approved racism. Then they went a few steps further

and started forced 'repatriations' of children of the 'Windrush' generation. Like most immigrants before and since, the West Indians who came to Britain in the late 1940s were economic migrants headhunted to fill a labour shortage. The National Health Service actively recruited women for nursing careers from the West Indies when Enoch Powell was Health Secretary. London Transport recruited Sikh carpenters in India.

Some waves of immigrants started their journeys fleeing conflict but ended them in Britain as economic migrants filling vacant jobs. I started working in the City of London in 1970 as a civil servant and the first section I worked in was staffed by Nigerians, pressured out of their country by civil war.

I also worked with East African Asians – the people Idi Amin threw out of Uganda. Jomo Kenyatta was forcing Asians out of Kenya at the same time but attracted less media comment because he was more subtle about how he did it. They slotted into our labour market, enriched our cuisine and bought houses; as Clement Attlee's government foray into the housing market couldn't cope.

More recent immigrants from the EU – permanent and seasonal – have likewise slotted into the labour market, enriched our cuisine and bought houses. Those

who couldn't bring money with them generated wealth here and those who did bring money spent it here. It wasn't clear to me who the Home Office wanted to 'go home'. In any one year the bulk of 'immigrants' are taking up university places, bringing money into the UK to pay the fees. Britain is the adopted home of productive wealth-generating people from all over the world.

My General Practitioner when I was small was a German Jew who had fled to Holland in 1933 and then couldn't get back into that country after leaving it to serve in the International Brigade in Spain. The Netherlands revoked the citizenship of those who went to that war, so they came to Britain, where the then leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition welcomed them at the railway station. Good thing too; my brother is still alive because of him, but don't get me started on the German dentist we had on the NHS.

We seem to be two countries at once; the one Clement Atlee welcomed refugees from the Spanish civil war into shortly before WW2 and the Dystopian Home Office version which revoked Shamima Begum's citizenship for being a gullible teenage airhead.

American anti-immigration spleen is vented at people coming up from the south and as we know from asylum seekers crossing the

English Channel in large lorries or small boats, those who make it can only work in the black economy. That's the trouble: if you welcome people in they have to earn the means to stay. If they sneak in, they can't work legitimately, so their options are claiming asylum or turning to crime.

Anyway; unless you have skin in any of these games, what politicians think, say or do about them won't matter to you and that's the position of the majority of voters. The concept of gun control, as advanced by those who don't want other people having guns, is generally to restrict what can be owned and used legally; it never has any impact on criminals, despotic governments, rebel armies, terrorists or any gun owners other than those trying to do so lawfully.

And on the pro-gun side, there's no compromise to be made: every restriction is advanced as a way of reducing legitimate ownership and there's nothing in that for gun owners except a reduction in their social lives.

At this point, consider the 'five eyes' intelligence network: this, in case you haven't encountered it before is the pooling of intelligence by the UK, the USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand and its why cockamamie British Home Office policies about guns pop up in New Zealand: such as the warning signs of covert right wing

extremists which might include tattoos, shaved heads and white skin. I wrote at the time that NZ was declaring it couldn't hold joint manoeuvres with the British army if they used that immigration criteria.

There are clear indicators that American concerns about their illegal immigration and white supremacists feed into Home Office paranoia about both. They come up with 'solutions' for use in the UK in search of American style problems. We mentioned the American far right in the last issue - 'the Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord' or CSA for short and as an example of the American problem.

The UK version of the extreme right amounts to Thomas Mair, who shot and stabbed Jo Cox MP to death in June 2016, 17 years after he purchased a manual describing the assembly of a homemade pistol.

He'd acquired a German made Weihrauch .22 bolt-action rifle, stolen in August 2015 from the boot of a sports utility vehicle in Keighley. It was subsequently sawn off at both ends (making it a prohibited small firearm having a barrel length of less than 30 centimetres and an overall length of less than 60 centimetres) before he used it for murder. He'd also bought a replica army dagger by mail order, which he carried to the crime scene.

Residents in Birstall where he lived describe a man with mental health issues, socially isolated and disconnected from society. Precisely the sort of person who could not have joined a rifle club, and as you'd expect had nothing whatever to do with the law-abiding firearms subculture.

The social nature of shooting clubs is an excellent bulwark against such people having access to firearms, yet Home Office policies have tried to erode the social controls exercised very effectively by the shooting community to the extent that the Jo Cox murder sparked a panic in case he was a Manchurian candidate and there'd be a new one every week. The establishment is always less than keen on 'lone nut' events, so tighter security for MPs at their surgeries and a good trawl through their case files in search of FAC holder with shaved heads or tattoos eventually turned up the SRA's Scottish Rep Frank Berry.

In August 2015, Frank visited a surgery of his new MP in the hope he would be more enthusiastic about investigating Home Office double standards than his predecessor. On arrival at the surgery, he did not meet his new parliamentary rep but two of his staff.

Their palpable lack of interest in what he had to say or show (he brought images of firearm types to explain the problem), was made

clear. However, they did refer the issues he'd raised to his MP, who in turn did make one attempt to elicit a response from the Home Office.

That came to naught, but impressed by the attempt, Frank contacted his MP several times on other matters, over the remainder of the year. Sadly, the novelty of working for a constituent wore off to the point where his emails were no longer acknowledged. As the year turned from 2015 to 2016, Frank printed copies of the unanswered correspondence and took it to his MP's office, which was in an office block fronted by a controlled entry door. Frank pressed the buzzer, and someone let him in, but just as he reached for the handle of his MP's office, the door opened because those within were about to leave. When everyone recovered from the surprise, Frank presented his correspondence, and left.

Despite this effort, relations continued to cool, to the point where in April 2016, Frank received a letter requesting that he stopped regarding his MP's office as a research library on matters pertaining to firearms legislation. Frank complied, but even enquiries on subjects such as TV Licences and offshore savings fell on deaf ears.

In June 2016, following the homicide of the MP, Jo Cox, the police contacted the surviving members of the House to ask if

they had any concerns about their constituents. Seeing this as an opportunity to clear Frank from his 'in tray', his MP related that Frank's conduct at his surgery some nine months previously put his two assistants into a state of fear and alarm, and the encounter at his office earlier in the year came across as an attempt at covert entry.

That, and that he's routinely shaved his head and face since leaving school led to him being prosecuted for intimidating these clerks. He was acquitted.

Nevertheless, his firearms, which had been seized at the start of this debacle remained seized, his certificate remained revoked and various medical 'concerns' became the focus of Police Scotland's resistance to him getting his firearm certificate back. At a meeting of firearms managers, the Scottish representative ***"gave a very impassioned support of the scheme and advocated the Scottish model which he firmly believes has saved lives and led to a much more robust licensing regime - massive areas of risk are being uncovered, and applicants are blatantly lying - we cannot ignore this- it is essential it is progressed."***

The 'progress' sought was to do with compulsory medicals for all applicants. This mission creep has expanded from the words of the Act, which preclude anyone of

'unsound mind' holding a certificate* to a listed raft of medical conditions intended to give firearms managers the eebie jeebies about issuing a certificate to anyone having any of the diagnoses.

(* The phrase 'unsound mind' first appeared in the Firearms Act 1920 and has been carried forwards unamended through 1937 to the 1968 Act. It was taken from contemporary mental health legislation, where it meant a person incapable of looking after themselves and people of that diagnosis could not be registered to vote.)

Next, the Home Office stretched their catch-all list of medical conditions to shotgun certificate applicants with the line that having any of these diagnoses "may also be evidence of danger to public safety or the peace" and on that basis then extended the requirement to include registered firearms dealers and their servants.

British Home Office policy towards the legal ownership of guns was developed in the 1950s cold war when the government couldn't afford nuclear bunkers for all. The Swiss managed it, but in Britain they opted to build underground bunkers for the civil service to hide in so that they could carry on serving the government regardless of who controlled the

surface and what language they spoke.

In training scenarios, they had to confront the expectation that the surface would be controlled by heavily armed bands of men roving the countryside trying to disrupt the underground government by stealing their food supplies and breaking into their bunkers. There were only three likely such candidates for that role: British armed forces, enemy armed forces and the rifle clubs.

That's how the rifle clubs, which are descended from the volunteer rifles movements of Victorian times, became the 'enemy' in Home Office thinking. The Home Office took over control of rifle clubs and section 5 prohibited weapons authorities in 1968 and sent a memorandum of guidance to police chiefs in 1969 as to how to manage the civilian ownership of firearms. The implementation of those policies sparked a firearms crime wave, as police took to treating the gun trade and certificate holders as target criminals.

An unpublished report by Sir John McKay (chief inspector of constabularies) in 1972 became police policy, although such parts of it as were put to Parliament as a green paper in 1973 were roundly rejected. That's why the Home Office don't green paper their plans for spoiling your hobby anymore.

McKay's conclusion was that reducing the possession of firearms by the public to an absolute minimum was a desirable end in itself. The Home Office set about stripping military firearms off the rifle clubs; initially by prosecutions of the gun trade (by changing the definition of a section 5 weapon), then via the 1988 Firearms Act, followed by removal of their defence of the realm charitable status in 1993.

The 1988 Act ban on semiautomatic rifles followed a single instance of a lawful object being used for an unlawful purpose and on the back of that they banned a lot of other stuff that had never featured in crime.

Since then, they've banned various firearms by type on the basis that criminals were using them. Next, they banned firearms by type to prevent the public owning them and thus to prevent criminal stealing them and still it goes on, getting progressively more paranoid with each turn of the screw. MARS rifles - AR15 types designed to comply with the 1988 Act have been collected off owners earlier this year and a consultation about more restrictions on the law abiding has just closed.

Home Office 'consultations' basically set out their intentions and challenge those taking part to agree with them. The problem with that is they regard 'stakeholders'

as not the owners and users, but the police and crime agencies. Naturally, they'll agree with the paranoid take the Home Office put forwards, which is usually additional controls of prohibitions for their own sake. The Home Office has always seen fit to disregard the views of anyone who disagrees with them and they don't consider petitions as worthy objections.

I mentioned 'five eyes' earlier. That is explained in a review of a book called 'How spies think: ten lessons in intelligence' by David Omand elsewhere in this Journal. His credentials for writing such a book are impeccable and reading it to review has been a pleasure. It was also an eye opener, as Home Office policy with respect to the public ownership of firearms clearly fails every test of intelligence in the book.

Neither the Home Office policy nor that of Sir Ian McKay came out of a proper or reasoned analysis of the facts. The Home Office position and how they got there I've outlined above. Policing refused to be drawn into the Second World War on Britain's side in 1940. They stated that they wouldn't use their weapons to fight fifth columnists, parachutists or invading enemy forces, nor would they carry firearms in occupied territories, but neither would they prevent British armed forces or armed civilians doing so.

That said, policing has always sought to protect itself from the public it purports to serve by disarming said public. As evidenced by how the Channel Islands police collected up licensed firearms in 1940 and the Falkland Islands police did likewise in 1982. Of course, they could only collect up registered firearms. Criminals don't get involved in politics.

America's firearms control policies (Democratic Party version) seem to be derived from the 'five eyes' intelligence: i.e., they haven't applied any of the ten lessons in intelligence to the issue either. Republican policies seem to be more libertarian – they haven't tested their position intelligently but support the status quo - and with all that polarity of views, the key point gets lost.

The basic principle of British common law that Americans adopted as their second amendment in 1791 is the right to protect oneself - life, liberty and property AND it's an obligation to equip AND TRAIN oneself for national defence if or when called upon to do so. The right is inextricably bound up with the obligation and you can't have one without the other. Unless you've got a Home Office like the British one manipulating the law to protect itself with a cavalier disregard for the consequences to the public it doesn't serve.

We're currently 'excused duty' as rifle clubs aren't allowed to *si vis pacem, para bellum* on behalf of national security. The army is the smallest it has ever been, with more cuts in the pipeline. The police outnumber the army and rifle clubs put together and won't defend the country. It's really time for a thorough and independent review of these Home Office policies that no government has officially adopted. Before things get any worse.

SFO W80 again

A judicial review by W80's lawyers of the High Court's decision not to allow disciplinary proceedings against the officer has been dismissed.

In summary, on 11 December 2015, Armed Police Officer W80 shot Mr Jermaine Baker dead. The Independent Office for Police Conduct's investigation recommended disciplinary proceedings for gross misconduct in using excessive force. It concluded that a reasonable panel at a misconduct hearing would be likely to find that W80's belief that he was in imminent danger was an honestly held one, but could (i.e., 'might') determine that "W80's honest, but mistaken, belief that his life was threatened was unreasonable". The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis disagreed with the legal premise on which this conclusion was based and decided not to follow the

recommendation. The IOPC thereafter directed the Commissioner to give effect to it pursuant to paragraph 27(3) of schedule 3 to the Police Reform Act 2002 (the "PRA 2002"). W80 brought these proceedings for judicial review of that decision.

The Divisional Court quashed the IOPC's decision, holding that "in applying the objective civil law test in determining that there was a case to answer, the IOPC applied the wrong test. It should have applied the criminal law test".

The Divisional Court's consideration of the issue and the argument before it centred on the distinction between the criminal and civil law tests for self-defence. In this judgment, the court takes the view, however, that the focus should have been on the proper meaning of the applicable conduct standard and the Code of Ethics (the "Code") published by the College of Policing (the "College").

The difference between the criminal and civil law tests is that the presumption of innocence and the principle that no one should be punished for the consequences of an honest mistake explained why a person who honestly believed he was "in danger of an imminent deadly attack and responds violently in order to protect himself from that attack" should be able to make a plea of self-defence as an answer to a criminal charge. Nonetheless, the greater the

unreasonableness of the belief the more unlikely it may be that the belief was honestly held.

In *R v. Keane*, Hughes LJ restated the criminal law test in terms that emphasised an objective assessment of the force used must also be made.

Lord Scott said that the function of the civil law of tort was to protect people's conflicting rights, and to strike a balance between them. He held that, for civil law purposes, an "excuse of self-defence based on non-existent facts that are honestly but unreasonably believed to exist must fail".

The standards of professional behaviour required of police officers are statutory. They are contained in schedule 2 of the 2012 Regulations. The relevant statutory requirement is that "police officers only use force to the extent that it is necessary, proportionate and reasonable in all the circumstances". That standard is elaborated upon and explained by the Code, but the Code cannot alter the standard itself. The question is not whether the standard, as explained by the Code, is more consistent with either the civil or the criminal test of self-defence. Those tests are, of course, important, but they do not dictate the proper meaning of the standard.

It applies where lethal force is used, but not only in that situation.

In conclusion the court said, ***“we do not think that the Divisional Court was right to quash the IOPC’s decision. The IOPC was justified in concluding that it was open to a reasonable panel at a misconduct hearing to make a finding of misconduct if W80’s honest, but mistaken, belief that his life was threatened was found to be unreasonable. That conclusion was soundly based in law on the proper and plain meaning of the 2012 Regulations and the Code. The assessment of the disciplinary panel in misconduct or gross misconduct proceedings is not to be made by reference to any imported test relating to self-defence.***

We will accordingly allow the appeal and set aside the order of the Divisional Court. The IOPC’s Direction to the Metropolitan Police to issue a Notice of Referral to Misconduct Proceedings under regulation 21 of the 2012 Regulations was not issued in error.

We might mention in closing the suggestion that our conclusion is unfair because W80’s training has been conducted on the basis that the criminal test for self-defence will apply in misconduct hearings. It will be more appropriate to make this point in mitigation, if that becomes necessary.”

This still seems to skate around the problem that W80 was

deployed to the scene as an armed officer *because whoever was in charge of this believed that lethal force should be deployed.* He didn’t have any choice in the matter and when you issue someone with a loaded gun and send them into a situation it is inevitable that using the gun will have been printed on that person’s mind as the solution to the problem.

Stolen Webley Nemesis Combo air rifles reappearing

Posted on Gun Trade News on March 5, 2021 by charlottepeters

“On the night of February 17th a shipment of Webley Nemesis X Combo Airguns was stolen from a lorry in Leicestershire whilst in transit (from a parked-for-the-night-lorry) to Webley importer Highland Outdoors.

It is thought that the thieves have been using a What’s App group to sell on the stolen guns, some of which have already started to reappear.

The new owner of a Nemesis combo walked into a Highland Outdoors dealer asking to buy CO2 for it. Another new Nemesis combo owner contacted Highland Outdoors to check to see if his airgun was under guarantee. Highland Outdoors has passed the details of both individuals onto the police.

Unique guns

Highland Outdoors commented: ‘These

new 88g powered Nemesis Combo airguns are unique and this is the first shipment of these guns to land in the country (and the world) so will be very easy to pick out. They are in new Webley packaging and have the scope fitted to each airgun.

"We have a full listing of every serial number from this shipment. Anyone in possession of one of these, or considering purchasing will be in receipt of stolen goods. Anyone selling these is also in breach of the Firearms Act, which can carry severe penalties including imprisonment and large fines. We are working very closely with the relevant authorities and we will be pursuing every incident to the full extent of the law."
Anyone with information should call police on 101 quoting reference 21000096871.

Courts Backlog exceeds 51,000.

The Justice System in the UK, derailed by the coronavirus pandemic, and struggling to cope with years of underfunding, is at risk of losing the public's trust entirely, according to the Evening Standard's assessment at the end of 2020. There are few signs that the tide is set to be turned any time soon and if there was ever a time for the entire law profession to improve back office case management and for the courts to use available technology,

now would be a good time to implement any such changes as can be introduced.

Shooters are all too familiar with backlogs in police firearms departments, most which announced back in March that they would not be considering new applicants or variation applications during the lockdown and would concentrate on the backlog of pending renewals. And they are quite something, as 2020 was the middle of the busy period.

Firearm and shotgun certificate durations were extended by Parliament in 1994 from three years at a time to five. That created two 'slack' years, as certificates issued in 1994 after the law changed were valid to 1999. Those issued prior to the change were valid for three years and there came a point in 1997 when there were no further renewals until 1999.

As you can guess, chief constables reduced staffing in firearms offices where there were only variations and new applicants to deal with and staff were swamped as the three busy years started. The cycle will have evened out a bit in the intervening quarter century but 2022 and 2023 will still be quieter than 2021 and 2024.

All is not gloom, however, as Dyfed Powys issued a new firearm certificate in October 2020 to an applicant who'd applied before the

pandemic struck. Eighteen months before the lockdown started in fact.

One assumes they'll be accepting new applications and variation applications to accommodate the Home Office shifting an estimated 26,000 obsolete calibre handguns from the obsolete calibre list to firearm certificates. It would be awkward, wouldn't it, if the police can't cope with that change in Home Office policy.

Coming back to court backlogs, we observe that section 44 firearms appeals are being delayed by a lot of foot-dragging in firearms departments: slothful about getting the relevant papers to their legal sections for service on appellants.

Given that the police are not entitled to withhold anything they considered in the course of making the revocation/refusal decision from the courts, all that material must have been in one place for the decision maker to consider and could easily have been copied then; ready for the appeal when an aggrieved person enters one.

NEW POWERS FOR ENTRAPPING THE PUBLIC

A bill to amend the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 caught our eye. The Covert Human Intelligence Sources (Criminal Conduct) Act 2021. The bits that jumped out and grabbed us by the throat in particular are highlighted

in bold and we'll explain our concerns below.

The bill introduced section 29B, which reads:

29B Covert human intelligence sources: criminal conduct authorisations

- (1) *Subject to the following provisions of this Part, the persons designated for the purposes of this section each have power to grant criminal conduct authorisations.*
- (2) *A “criminal conduct authorisation” is an authorisation for criminal conduct in the course of, or otherwise in connection with, the conduct of a covert human intelligence source.*
- (3) *A criminal conduct authorisation may only be granted in relation to a covert human intelligence source after, or at the same time as, an authorisation under section 29 which authorises the conduct or the use of the covert human intelligence source concerned.*
- (4) *A person may not grant a criminal conduct authorisation unless the person believes—*
 - (a) that the authorisation is necessary on grounds falling within subsection (5);*
 - (b) that the authorised conduct is proportionate to what*

- is sought to be achieved by that conduct; and
- (c) that arrangements exist that satisfy such requirements as may be imposed by order made by the Secretary of State.
- (5) A criminal conduct authorisation is necessary on grounds falling within this subsection if it is necessary—
 - (a) in the interests of national security;
 - (b) for the purpose of **preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder**; or
 - (c) in the interests of the economic well-being of the United Kingdom.
 - (6) In considering whether the requirements in subsection (4)(a) and (b) are satisfied, the person must take into account whether what is sought to be achieved by the authorised conduct could reasonably be achieved by other conduct which would not constitute crime.
 - (7) Subsection (6) is without prejudice to the need to take into account other matters so far as they are relevant (for example, the requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998).
 - (8) The conduct that is authorised by a criminal conduct authorisation is any conduct that—
 - (a) is comprised in any activities—
 - (i) which involve criminal conduct in the course of, or otherwise in connection with, the conduct of a covert human intelligence source, and
 - (ii) are specified or described in the authorisation;
 - (b) consists in conduct by or in relation to the person who is so specified or described as the covert human intelligence source to whom the authorisation relates; and
 - (c) is carried out for the purposes of, or in connection with, the investigation or operation so specified or described.
 - (9) If an authorisation under section 29, which authorises the conduct or the use of a covert human intelligence source to whom a criminal conduct authorisation relates, ceases to have effect, the criminal conduct authorisation also ceases to have effect so far as it relates to that covert human intelligence source (but this is without prejudice to whether the criminal conduct authorisation continues to have effect so far as it relates to any other covert human intelligence source).
 - (10) The Secretary of State may by order—
 - (a) prohibit the

authorisation under this section of any such conduct as may be described in the order; and

(b) impose requirements, in addition to those provided for by subsections (3) and (4), and sections 29C and 29D that must be satisfied before an authorisation is granted under this section for any such conduct as may be so described."

RELEVANT AUTHORITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SS. 28, 29 AND 29B

A1 Any police force.

B1 The National Crime Agency.

C1 The Serious Fraud Office.

D1 Any of the intelligence services.

E1 Any of Her Majesty's forces.

F1 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

G1 The Department of Health and Social Care.

H1 The Home Office.

I1 The Ministry of Justice.

J1 The Competition and Markets Authority.

K1 The Environment Agency.

L1 The Financial Conduct Authority.

M1 The Food Standards Agency.

N1 The Gambling Commission."

And the equivalent bodies in Scotland

The **National Crime Agency** are the bunch that went round the

2018 War & Peace show telling stallholders that it would be an offence to sell battlefield relic firearms. 'Advice' which is at odds with both Home Office guidance to the real police and the common law.

Given that the police have been treating firearm and shotgun certificate holders and registered firearms dealers as target criminals for many years now and the Home Office department concerned with the registration of deactivated firearms, approving shooting clubs and issuing section 5 authorities is the 'Serious Violence Unit' – which is (supposedly) mainly concerned with terrorism, gang warfare and riots – but rolls us all into that brief out of a sense of bureaucratic tidiness – it seems we can look forward to lots more crude attempts at finding fault with the people who are involved with firearms and are trying to do things right.

With these various agencies now able to possess illegal weapons with impunity, we anticipate crude attempts at entrapment will increase. Brent Slade's lawyer managed to keep him out of prison when one lot of policemen detected his possession of air cartridge revolvers (by looking in his register) that had been left with him by another. In Dorset, local police left handguns with a shooting club, which were

then ‘found’ by Devon & Cornwall during a register check. That got the club closed down until the ‘mistake’ was exposed and the now reopened club is still struggling for compensation.

We think prosecuting whoever stopped their lawful trade for unlawful restraint of trade would work. It should focus everyone’s attention on the fact that preventing lawful trade by acting unlawfully is a crime. And we’d like to see a lot less of it affecting certificate holders, whereas this legislation will have the opposite effect.

Scottish grouse moor licensing

Alan Werrity’s ‘Grouse Moor Management Group’ report, published in November 2019, rated a mention just before Christmas 2020 when Scottish Environment Minister Mairi Gougeon announced her government’s intention to licence driven grouse shooting, subject to her party and thus the SNP government surviving the elections in May 2021.

The Grouse Moor Management Group was set up in 2017 to consider a licensing scheme as a way for the Scottish Government to micro-manage that land use and recommended a licensing scheme within five years unless there is a demonstrable and sustainable increase in the raptor population meanwhile.

We looked at his report and noticed that he seemed under-briefed or under-informed about shotguns and

the law. The report makes two recommendations:

That where a firearm or shotgun is involved in the commission of a wildlife crime, the court should have the power to cancel the relevant certificate, as is already the case in the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996.

That consideration should be given to amending firearms legislation which is reserved to the UK Parliament to allow the Chief Constable to withdraw a shotgun certificate where such a weapon has been involved in the commission of a wildlife crime not just on grounds of public safety but also on the grounds of a threat to the safety of wildlife.

Both of which were already in effect long before he wrote the report. The power to cancel the certificate of someone convicted of a firearms crime is to be found in section 52 of the Firearms Act 1968 and chief constables routinely revoke certificates where guns held on certificates are found to have been used for an unlawful purpose – which is a breach of the peace (Ackers and others v Taylor, 1974, 1All ER771).

We wondered if the relevant authorities giving evidence to his enquiry withheld such information in hope of him stumbling upon another way of reducing certificate numbers with an arbitrary knee-jerk reaction to something. He has clearly avoided being led up that garden path.

That other countryside ‘issue’ – lead shot – doesn’t rate a single mention in his report.

And Briefly...
GOVERNMENT THINKING ABOUT
PHASING OUT LEAD SHOT

The Government is now considering a lead ammunition ban under the UK's new chemical regulation system – UK REACH – and has requested an official review of the evidence to begin, with a public consultation in due course.



Post Brexit Announcement
NORTHERN IRELAND

It has come to the attention of the Firearms and Explosives Branch that Firearms Certificate holders are purchasing 'magazines' for their firearms without first making an application to this Branch.

This Branch is therefore requesting that all Firearm Certificate Holders apply before you buy.

This will include all firearms and component parts, including magazines. Component parts, including magazines are subject to certificate control and may be authorized if an applicant needs replacement or interchangeable parts.

To apply simply complete an online application – instructions on how to complete are as follows:

TYPE – this is where an FAC holder would select 'MAGAZINE' in the

dropdown i.e. Magazine x 1 if only one magazine required or Magazine x 2 if 2 magazines are required etc.

MAKE, MODEL, CALIBRE, SERIAL NUMBER - the FAC holder would enter the details of the firearm they want the magazine for.

Good reason required under REASON which should include the magazine capacity.

If it is to be purchased over the internet then at PROOF OF PURCHASE and DEALER NAME there is the facility to enter for example 'Online purchase' and the name of the company.

Once your updated Firearms Certificate (FAC) is received your new firearm or component part can be ordered or collected.

Please refer to the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 Articles 2 (2) and 3(1) b for further information.

Please be aware that it is an offence for an individual to purchase or possess a firearm or component part including magazines unless an application has been made to and approved by this Branch.

If ordering online please be aware that import licensing and the importation of firearms is now the responsibility of the Department for International Trade (DIT). We refer you to the DIT's Notice to Importers 2922 issued on 16/07/19 - paragraph 6 (importing firearms subject to possession controls in the UK) and paragraph 17 (non-commercial imports of firearms, their components and ammunition). Any further queries regarding importing should be

referred to the Department for International Trade.

Please be aware that it would then be your responsibility to comply with this notice and deal with import duties, customs and any other requirements.

Husband and Wife Christmas Shopping

A couple were in a busy shopping centre just before Christmas. The wife suddenly noticed that her husband was missing and as they had a lot to do, she called him on the mobile.

The wife said "Where are you, you know we have lots to do."

He said "You remember the jewellers we went into about 10 years ago, and you fell in love with that diamond necklace? I could not afford it at the time and I said that one day I would get it for you?"

Little tears started to flow down her cheek and she got all choked up...

"Yes, I do remember that shop." she replied.

"Well I am in the gun shop next door to that."

War and Peace Revival Cancelled

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

It is with great disappointment and regret, which we know will be shared by many, that we announce the cancellation of the 2021 War and Peace Revival show which was due to be held the 27th to 31st July this year (2021).

Despite the encouraging Government announcement of a possible reopening

of events from June 21st, the situation remains fragile and there is no guarantee that large events like the War and Peace Revival can take place.

Following consultation between The Hop Farm, Public Health England and Tonbridge and Malling Council, it has been deemed that due to the scale and location of the show it is not possible to proceed with the event this year.

The health and safety of all those involved in the event and the local community remains top priority and the level of operational and public health risk posed by the show was agreed by all concerned to be a risk!

We are extremely disappointed to have to cancel for the second year in a row as our event forms a major gathering of the year for so many people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the War and Peace Revival community for your valued and trusted support over the years.

We will return to the Hop Farm on the 26th-30th July 2022!

Rest assured we are all looking forward to 2022 with enthusiasm and a sense of a new start on the road to normality.

Stay safe and remember the Dunkirk Spirit!

Deferred ticket and stall bookings;

All ticket and stall deferrals remain valid. These will be transferred to the 2022 event automatically for you.

Please note our opening hours;

War & Peace offices are currently operating at reduced capacity. Offices

will only be open on Wednesdays between 10:00 - 15:00.

Contact us

If you have an urgent enquiry please call us using the number below, otherwise we kindly request all non-urgent enquiries and questions be sent via email.

Call us: 01258 857700 Email: info@warandpeacerevival.com

We thank you for your patience and co-operation during this time.

DEACTIVATION REGULATIONS

The 2019 regulations created a requirement for transactions, i.e., acquisitions of firearms deactivated to EU specifications to be registered with the Home Office 'Serious Violence Unit' and possession of these deactivated firearms to be registered by 13th March 2021 - the 25th anniversary of the Dunblane murders.

The Home Office have no budget for doing anything with the information and have said that they aren't monitoring the mailbox. Our guess is that because it was an EU measure the treasury hasn't given them any funds to do anything with the information, as we left the EU to spare ourselves the cost of implementing looney EU policies. We thought leaving the EU would see these regulations repealed, but no such luck yet.

What's left in limbo via these regulations is 'defectively deactivated' firearms. The regulations are clear that these can be possessed and don't have to be notified to the unit until transferred - and they have to be upgraded for a transfer to take place.

As to how you get them upgraded without transferring them to someone else to do the work is left unsaid.

Apart from being evidence of paranoia in the Home Office, we thought that the EU upgrade regulations were a sneaky way of getting more work for the proof houses. The British ones have been living on virtually nothing but deactivation checks for several years now. They don't get the military work anymore as British army rifles are made in Germany and a lot of British gunmakers have ceased making guns: Boxall & Edmiston, JSL (London), Parker Hale, Realm Defence, Sabre Defence etc. and the new regulations require the deactivated gun to be inspected twice.

There's a reason for that. Some years ago we had a case at Luton Crown Court where a collector was prosecuted for possessing the deactivated guns in his collection. The prosecution case was that where a deac didn't comply with the guidelines it reverted to section 5 prohibited status automatically. All the prosecution exhibits had been deactivated prior to the change of specifications in 1995 and all had been marked as approved by the Proof Master.

A prosecutor in such a case has to prove that the deactivation has been tampered with *after* the Proof Master approved it and for it to revert to firearms controls must prove that it is a lethal barrelled weapon from which a shot, bullet or missile can be discharged.

In this case the owner had an MG34, an MG42 and a Bren Gun with which he'd been charged. The main points of the pre-1995 guidelines were obstructions in the bore and chamber, breech face cutaway and the firing pin shortened. Some models required weakening slots carved in them and barrels had to be secured to the receiver to prevent its removal.

The three guns mentioned all came with spare barrels when in service for quick changes to spare rifling erosion when the barrel became too hot. The MG34 barrel came out of the rear of the receiver and the 42 out of the side. German gunners had an asbestos glove in their kit since pulling the barrel clear meant touching the chamber end of the barrel. Rapid fire of twenty rounds of that 7.92mm ammunition through a bolt action rifle heats the muzzle end up enough to light a cigar, so the breech end after a belt or three would glow in the dark.

On the Bren, conveniently, there's no need to touch it: it comes off the front of the gun. Just lift the catch and smack the back of the wooden carry handle with your bare hand. The internal weld holding the barrel on had failed on this exhibit, while the German two had never been welded shut in the first place. I think that way back then, the final weld was left so that the Proof Master could check the barrel and was supposed to be applied after the proof mark was applied. This dude was being prosecuted for the Proof Master marking guns that didn't meet the spec. That won't happen now with double inspection.

The current position with defectively deactivated firearms is that they can still be lent or hired out. It's the transfer of ownership without a deactivation upgrade that is barred. This came up in the context of film armourers, who can still hire guns out to productions, but the owner can't sell the company with its stock.

Deactivation has been taking place for over a hundred years, so a lot of 'defectively deactivated' firearms have become antiques since they were neutered – and in some cases before being decommissioned. The planned new antique regulations create an interesting solution to the defective deactivation conundrum in that those which were made before 1st September 1939 count as antiques provided their calibre is on the exempted list – or isn't on the banned list. Either way, de-acs don't have calibres.

As an aside, our defectively deactivated MkV Sten gun barrel measures 7.7mm at the muzzle and our Uzi measures 10.4mm. As 'original' firearms they should both be 9mm, or .357". The deactivation work obscures what the chambering was. The Uzi was in .41"AE and the Sten is a cobble-up, the muzzle having originally been that of a No4 rifle.

For the time being the key to compliance is register current spec weapons and sit on the rest. If the Home Office do nothing about the mess they've made of deactivation regulations, the chances are the older ones will be able to circulate as antiques without further ado after the antiques regulations are published.

BOOK REVIEWS

UNLEASH THE LIONESS

A woman's guide to fighting off violent attack, by Robin Houseman

Hodder & Stoughton 1993

ISBN 0 340 59180 3 (paperback edition)

The 2021 abduction and murder of Sarah Everard brought the safety of women on the streets to the surface again and while such kidnap and murder happenings are rare events, they are alarming enough to have caused public outrage this time and then further protests when police tried to prevent the public gathering to show collectively that something has to change.

The options for change to make the streets safer for women to walk alone in are

- to allow women to carry defensive weaponry,
- to train them to use defensive weaponry effectively,
- to train women to fight men off without weapons
- and/or to re-educate men not to attack women in the first place.

Allowing anybody other than policemen access to defensive weaponry is contrary to Home Office policy. When that policy was adopted in the 1950s, the claim was that, if you have a weapon, your attacker will disarm you and then use it on you so you will be hurt less in the attack by not being prepared for it. Quite unrealistic, of course; subsequent studies showed that resisting an attacker generally resulted in less

harm coming to victims; not that such studies had any effect on the policy.

Re-educating men not to attack women can be achieved in two ways: one is the long-term 'political correctness' approach, in which uninvited physical contact becomes socially unacceptable.

The current outcry, at the time of writing, about sexual harassment in school and workplaces suggests that the political correctness training isn't gaining the traction we thought it had.

The other way of educating men not to try harming women is target hardening methods, as used in the animal kingdom. The ones that come to mind are run, fight, scare an attacker off or taste nasty. None is fool-proof – running works for hares most of the time, or at least until trumped by superiorly trained specialist predator dog. Tasting nasty took the species that use this method a long time to develop and wouldn't suit women for other reasons: that leaves scaring or fighting attackers off.

As a skunk deploys his defensive weaponry, he's also educating a would-be attacker about what'll happen next time. To get eaten by a bear, a human has to deploy the same defensive techniques as a cheeseburger.

Countering threat with threat, noise with noise and claws with a pointy stick, pepper spray, electric shock or other non-lethal option allows the furry attacker to disengage and sulk while getting over the temporary nature of whatever he was incapacitated with. A WWF 2013 report recommended a deterrent

pepper spray that would work on polar bears at up to eight metres. Waiting until he's that close leaves you barely one second before contact, while hoping the nozzle isn't frozen.

And that's the problem with weapons; the delicate risk in the UK of using disproportionate violence against someone who started the fight: or someone you thought was starting a fight. That brings us back to education. Nobody would run up behind a French woman and tap her on the shoulder. Not in France anyway. When they come to the UK their defensive weapons are taken off them by HM Customs to make our streets safer for sexual predators and control freaks.

Robin Houseman's book came out in 1993 when the prospect of being attacked on the streets was of sufficient concern to enough women to have become a topic for daytime television. All the current affairs shows explored the subject: Kilroy, The Time The Place, Vanessa Feltz etc. What came out of those public debates were that street attacks on women were far more common than crime statistics suggested; that being because so many women talking about attacks they'd survived hadn't reported the event.

Crime figures are difficult anyway, as so many stalking, harassing, verbal or physical attacks on women are by people known to them; relatives, men who sought a relationship and were rejected or men who'd started a relationship from which the woman sought escape. Kidnapping likewise; so many children are abducted by

relatives for family or 'control' reasons.

Robin Houseman introduces the dynamics of an attack thus: ***"...very little damage is done without a considerable amount of effort....untrained people can't fight effectively. Violent men are usually cowards who use their size to intimidate others."*** The most recent figures we found showed 17% of homicides involved victims being hit or kicked to death without a weapon being used and 11% were strangled. Sharp instruments accounted for 40% of deaths, so more than two thirds of murder victims died in close physical contact with their attackers *that they might have fought off with the appropriate weaponry, knowledge and training.*

Robin Houseman: ***"Research in the United States shows that a woman who fights back has three times as much chance of escaping serious injury compared with those who do nothing."***

That's if or when you have let your attacker get close enough. On his advanced Stressfire courses, Massad F Ayoob reported a test carried out on prisoners in a federal penitentiary. The men tested were there for having committed violent street robberies and the test consisted of them watching video clips of people in street scenes and identifying which ones were potentially attackable.

Robin Houseman explains the body language of confidence thus; ***"Karate instructors and boxers don't get street mugged"***. In the video clips

exercise Ayoob reported, the people prisoners identified as not suitable for attacking were all trained people: not necessarily karate instructors or boxers, but those who had environmental awareness training. Soldiers who'd served in urban patrols, security guards, postmen, policemen: people who are used to looking at where they are. Wolf Cubs and Brownies were trained to be observant; one of the many life skills taught in their badge courses.

Vanessa Feltz said she'd been street mugged when her show dealt with this subject; and what was she doing at the time besides walking along a street? She said she was reading a book. Another of Mass Ayoob's anecdotes was of a mugger who hit his victims in the face if they hadn't noticed him approaching. He then helped them to the floor with loud comments like 'are you ill', 'do you need help' which tended to deter passers-by from getting involved. He could then search for the valuables he was after while telling anyone who might be paying attention (including the victim) that he was looking for their medical emergency card etc. before departing saying "I'll call an ambulance." No victim ever picked him out of a line up.

Robin Houseman explains 'reprogramming yourself'; ***"...many women are capable of bravely defending a child or a friend yet they have the gravest difficulty in fighting back to save themselves...you may believe you can't be attacked because you've never done anything wrong....just balance the worst***

scenario of doing nothing against the worst scenario of fighting back and you will know that you've got nothing to lose".

Being alert and aware, being prepared for that nasty encounter leads to the build-up of controlled anger; ***"how dare you threaten me... (but) don't speak, say it all with your eyes."*** At which point he knows you've 'made' him as having hostile intentions *and will recognise him again.* His move: he can break off and slink away leaving you punching the air. "I didn't do nothing; she was acting strange, so I put distance between her and me," is what he'll say if a policeman asks what he was doing approaching you. Chances are, you won't report it – nothing much to report – and he'll look for someone less wary.

If you're being caught up from behind, you can't look over your shoulder without looking scared. Our suggestion at that point would be to turn around and go back the way you came. Don't stop: that would obligate the person catching you up to engage. By spinning round and going towards him, like you've done your shopping but forgotten the matches, he's got the option of ignoring you as you go back past him *at a safe distance.* Brushing past him gives him the 'grab from behind' option you're trying to avoid. That's how Jack the Ripper attacked his three victims. Not going within nine feet (274.32 centimetres) of him would mean his having to change speed and/or direction to maintain his role in the situation *while within your*

peripheral vision and that's when you stop, turn and give him the lazy eye.

If he can't break off at this point; he has to make his move. Your advantage is that ***"complete silence gives nothing away, creating doubt. Excessive noise creates an image of size and power that undermines (his) self-confidence."*** The use of noise – or silence – as a weapon (if there's time to) is the first tool in the box: ***"(He will) expect noise, but not the screaming ferocity of a woman who isn't prepared to take any of his (sic) crap."***

When he starts his attack, makes his threats or otherwise spreads his hostile vibes, he's given you the green light to proactively start your defence; ***"scream loudly using clear words that indicate to the public what is happening and that you want assistance. Scream 'rape' and 'help'"*** NB. not if you've fled up someone's front path and are banging on their door for help. Then you scream "fire", as that's harder for people within to ignore.

Robin again; ***"choose a vulnerable target on his body."*** Soft tissues are favourite: abdomen, ears, eyes, fingers, nose, testis, throat; one good strike may well be enough to end round one in your favour.

At this point we beg to observe that men are, on average, bigger and heavier than most women. He's probably relying on his size as part of his intimidation technique, while you're reliant on training and attitude.

If you look at CCTV or police fly-on-the-wall television where men are

fighting, the two things that stand out are punches are directed at the head and grappling for the head or neck is at least as popular as throwing a punch. Our advice to women is not to try either; consider the men you know; how many of them are shorter than you? Probably, most are taller; so if you go for the ears, eyes, nose or throat, it's an uphill move against someone with a longer reach.

'Unleash the Lioness' takes the reader through the minefield of 'weapons of convenience' and illustrates with clear photographs techniques for using them and ways of fighting off an attacker when no weapon is available.

It's illegal to carry a weapon for defensive purposes in the UK. Saying that you have something for 'defence' makes it an 'offensive weapon' in the eyes of the law and most defensive weapons that have no other function are prohibited in the UK anyway. A 'weapon of convenience' is something that you ordinarily carry about and which could be pressed into service as a weapon should the need arise.

Robin Houseman's examples include a bunch of keys, nail files, a tail comb, umbrella, hairspray and a hat pin if you're wearing a hat. Aside from the hairspray, these all help your hand deliver a harsher blow. Other options would include a good pocket flashlight, a metal pen and there are noisy alarms, dye sprays and whistles. Policemen always used to carry whistles, as did Sea Scouts. A well-made boatswain's call can double as a kobutan *in extremis*.

What you can't do in the street is reveal your weapon as a threat: that won't work, as then you've given up your advantage of surprise. If the situation has escalated to the point where you have to draw your weapon of convenience, it's also time to start using it.

Robin Houseman wasn't the first to write a self-help self-defence book for women. The first one we thought of was 'Hands Off! Self Defence for women and girls', by Major Fairbairn, published in 1942. A quick trawl around Amazon produced these titles:

- Self Defence for Women by Pat Butler (1982)
- Self Defence for Women by Paul Redgrave & Carolyn Seaward (1983)
- Hands Off: Hap-ki-do Self Defence for Women by Frederick Adams & Gillian Webster (1986)
- Her Wits about her: Self Defence success stories by women by Denise Gaignon and Gail Groves (1989)
- Self Defence for Women by Lavinia Soo-Warr (2006)
- Self Defense made simple: easy and effective self-protection whatever your age, size or skill by Phil Pierce (2014)
- Weapons of Fitness; the woman's ultimate guide to fitness, self-defence and empowerment by Avital Zeisler (2015)
- Self-Defence for Women: Learn to Defend Yourself with Effective Techniques, Strategies and Systems by Denis Magua (2016) kindle edition

All are fundamentally telling you that to have an effective self defence strategy for use on the street calls for planning, training and practice. As Robin Houseman said in his introduction, "***untrained people can't fight effectively***"

We started this review thinking about what happened to Sarah Everard. A rare event, as suggested by this list of high profile 'missing persons' cases that came to mind;

- Lesley Whittle (1975),
- Suzy Lamplugh (1986),
- Céline Figard (1995)
- Joanna Yeates (2010).

The list of children similarly lured to their deaths that stick in our minds also suggests rarity; Roy Tutill was fourteen in 1968, Genette Tate was thirteen in 1978, Sarah Payne was eight in 2000, Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells were both ten in 2002, Milly Dowler was thirteen that year and April Jones was five in 2012.

Sexual intentions of their murderers seem to be the motivation for their being lured into the horrors that befell them. Aside from Jessica and Holly, who were murdered by their school caretaker and may thus have known him slightly and Genette Tate whose abduction started with her being knocked off her bike by her kidnapper's car, the other children appear to have fallen into the 'stranger danger' trap for which the main defence is training people while young how not to fall into it in the first place.

It's a bit different for adults, as avoiding strangers is not always

possible, as the murders of Gemma Adams, Anneli Alderton, Paula Clennell, Tania Nicol and Annette Nicholls attest; all victims of one sexual predator around Ipswich in the last three months of 2006. Reaching back, there were the Yorkshire Ripper's victims in the 20th century and Jack the Ripper's body count in the 19th. All female and either sex workers or mistaken for such and initially accosted/attacked in the street: aside from Mary Jane Kelly in 1888.

She was in her room when found and in all probability got there willingly. Suzy Lamplugh likewise in the sense that she went to meet a prospective buyer for a property on her estate agency's books and was never seen again. Lesley Whittle was snatched from her bed; Milly Dowler, Joanna Yeates and Sarah Everard were walking home when they met their murderers.

Whether any of these women and children could have survived their attackers, had they been appropriately trained to fight someone off, is doubtful. They met men who had the most extreme intentions of any predator and once fleeing was not an option, they each lost the fight for life.

Where self-help books and videos, courses and seminars will help women prepare for dealing with unacceptable male behaviour is in developing the necessary confidence and attitude to deal with the hundreds of thousands of instances where pathetic bullies try to score a victory over a woman. These are the ones for whom women should be prepared. And that's our reply to the

women who protested for change: it's they who have to change, to be prepared to meet whatever threat that is out there with a reasonable and proportionate response.

And for them to do that, it would be useful if Home Office policy changed to, thus to help women deal with the problem. Samuel Colt is synonymous with the term 'equalizer'; the principle of having a weapon with which to solve any imbalance – size, weight, how many of them etc. – that one may encounter. Having a weapon, the knowledge of how and when to use it – and not to use it - to meet a threat is a great confidence booster. All that stands in the way of giving women access to that necessary confidence is a Home Office policy.

How spies think Ten Lessons in Intelligence By David Omand

Published by Penguin in 2020
ISBN 0241385199 Kindle edition

Professor Sir David Omand's intelligence background in the MoD (PPS to the Defence Secretary during the Falklands conflict in 1982), with subsequent tours of duty including three years in NATO, periods in the Joint Intelligence Committee and as a director of GCHQ before three years at the Home Office as Permanent Secretary.

He was the first UK Security and Intelligence Coordinator; responsible to the Prime Minister for the professional health and intelligence community, national counter-terrorism strategy and "homeland

security". We cribbed this biography from the King's College London page, where he is now a visiting professor.

Three years as Permanent Secretary at the Home Office? We'll come back to that and to discuss this quote; *"I am fond of the Greek term phronesis, to describe the application of practical wisdom to the anticipation of risks."*

To continue in David Omand's words, *"Our choices, even between unpalatable alternatives, will be sounder as a result of adopting systematic ways of reasoning. That includes being able to distinguish between what we know, what we do not know and what we think may be. Such thinking is hard. It demands integrity"*

To think like David Omand means swallowing various acronyms as guidance, such as S.E.E.S.

- **Situational awareness** of what is happening and what we face now. *Well-attested facts are susceptible to multiple interpretations, which can lead to misleading exaggeration or underestimation of the problem. BUT Situational awareness suffers from all the difficulties of assessing what is going on. Gaps in information exist and often evoke a reluctance to change our minds in the face of new evidence.*
- **Explanation** of why we are seeing what we do and the motivations of those involved. *Constructing the best explanation consistent with the available evidence, including an understanding of the motives of*

those involved. BUT: Explanations suffer from weaknesses in understanding others: their motives, upbringing, culture and background.

- **Estimates** and forecasts of how events may unfold under different assumptions. *How the situation may change over time, perhaps following a wave of arrests made by the police and successful convictions of leading extremists. We can estimate how likely it is that arrest and conviction will lead to a reduction in threats of violence and public concern overall. It is this third step that provides the intelligence feedstock for evidence-based policymaking. BUT: Estimates of how events will unfold can be thrown out by unexpected developments that were not considered in the forecast.*
- **Strategic** notice of future issues that may come to challenge us in the longer term. *Such as abroad that may feed in. BUT; Strategic developments are often missed due to too narrow a focus and a lack of imagination as to future possibilities.*

The author introduces us to the Reverend Bayes (1701-61) whose theorem that one interprets probability as an amount of epistemic (what you think you already know) confidence – the strengths of beliefs, hypotheses etc. rather than a frequency by using conditional probability to work backwards from seeing evidence to the most likely

causes of that evidence existing.

"The Bayesian method of reasoning therefore involves adjusting our prior degree of belief in a hypothesis on receipt of new evidence to form a posterior degree of belief in it ('posterior' meaning after seeing the evidence)." With him so far?

Now for the cognitive biases: we paraphrase... 'while Bayes can be applied to everyday matters, especially where we may be at risk of faulty situational awareness, data that are in accordance with (your) unconscious mental models are more likely to be perceived and remembered than information that is at odds with them. Caution is needed when the source seems to be showing you what you had most hoped to see.'

"In all sustained thinking, assumptions do have to be made – the important thing is to be prepared in the light of new evidence challenging the assumptions to rethink the approach."

In a practical example of what spies do with intelligence, he reached back to 1917, ***"...the cryptographers in Room 40 possessed three deep secrets: they could read the high-grade German diplomatic cypher, they were tapping the US transatlantic cable, and they knew how to use their secret intelligence to influence US public opinion."***

It's what you do with it that counts. The intelligence room 40 detected was of Germany's intention to escalate the Great War into total war, which meant attacking ships flying neutral flags,

such as America's, in a bid to prevent war materials getting to Europe. They hoped that America would stay neutral, but if it didn't Germany proposed an alliance with Mexico to start a war along the Rio Grande. The plan was to assist Mexico in regaining its territories north of the river. America would then divert aid from Europe into fighting on its home front.

By tipping the Americans off, President Wilson could work diplomatically with the about-to-be-elected (by a landslide) President Carranza to head that one off.

.....More recently, R. V. Jones, summarized and highlighted what he called it Crow's law) – ***"do not believe what you want to believe until you know what you need to know."***

Turning to the ten lessons that this book is about, we summarize:

1. Our knowledge of the world is always fragmentary, incomplete and sometimes wrong.
2. Facts need explaining.
3. Predictions need an explanatory model as well as sufficient data.
4. We do not have to be so surprised by surprise.
5. It is our own demons that are most likely to mislead us.
6. We are all susceptible to obsessive states of mind.
7. Seeing is not always believing: beware manipulation, deception and faking.
8. Imagine yourself in the shoes of the person on the other side.

9. Trustworthiness creates lasting partnerships.
10. Subversion and sedition are now digital.

"A useful pragmatic test about making assumptions is to ask at any given stage of serious thinking, if I make this assumption, am I making myself worse off in terms of chances of success if it turns out not to be sensible than if I had not made it? Put another way, if my assumption turns out to be wrong then would I end up actually worse off in my search for the answer or am I just no better off?"

This practical example caught our eye:

An obvious application in intelligence and security work is in deciding whether an individual has shown sufficient associations with violent extremism to be placed on a 'no-fly' list."

Hmm. The Police wanted to put a registered firearms dealer of our acquaintance on terrorist watch and no-fly lists for associating with other registered dealers and people working in government departments.

We found ourselves enjoying this read while relating each gem within it to how the Home Office treats us: consider this - ***"Groups can develop their own distinctive dynamics, the equivalent of a collective personality that is more than just the sum of those of each of us in the group. Members of a group both consciously and unconsciously exercise a reciprocal influence on each other, such as a pressure for conformity or a desire for closure. The existence of***

such distinctive group behaviours has been established in many therapeutic settings by psychologists and psychoanalysts – for example, in relation to hostile feelings towards the 'outgroup', i.e., those who are not members of the group."

Way more than that, of course; the collective personality is true of any institution, be it a ship, barracks, RAF base, boarding school, university, hospital, supermarket supply hub or a government department.

"The bias affects policymakers too: even in the face of evidence that the policy is not working they will keep repeating the positive messages that led them to adopt it in the first place...biases that can get in the way of our everyday thinking. We can all understand that they exist and why we might be susceptible to them. But managing the risk that they represent is much harder. That should not surprise us as most of the biases identified in this chapter operate at the unconscious level of the mind, and by definition are therefore not usually accessible to us".

Cognitive biases and prejudices explain the discredited and now defunct Forensic Science Service's demise: they continued providing 'expert' evidence for prosecuting certificate holders after decided cases had solved the 'problem'. For example, an Attorney General's reference in 1980 (R.v. Hucklebridge) decided that a rifle which had been smoothbored but not rechambered was nevertheless a shotgun and all its parts were thus

shotgun parts.

Forensic Science Service 'experts' ignored the judgment and described military rifles, smoothbored & reproofed as shotguns, as 'damaged'. We don't know how many unsafe convictions they secured thus, as people would be convicted if they pled guilty. What we do know is that everyone who didn't was acquitted eventually – at great cost to themselves and to the state.

We found wisdom on nearly every page;

- *"judgements become increasingly distorted once they enter a conspiratorial loop."*
- *"Conspiracy stories are hard to kill off. Part of their attraction is that they fulfil a need we all experience to have an explanation for disturbing events or changes in our lives which we fear and over which we feel we have not had control."*
- *"As a general rule, we have already seen that it is the hypothesis with the least evidence against it that is to be preferred."*
- *"...try to disconfirm theories by using them to make predictions and testing those against the evidence. If the evidence does not bear out the prediction, then the search is on for why that is".*
- *"One valuable way of checking is to approach the problem afresh, having obtained what*

you think is a solution, to see – on the assumption that it is correct – whether you can work backwards to establish whether the answer is consistent with the terms of the original problem."

- *"We become so secure in our bubbles that we accept only information, whether true or not, that fits our opinions, instead of basing our opinions on the evidence that is out there. (From Obama's speech when he returned to Chicago)"*
- *"the dark triad of narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy lead the flight from rational argument."*
- *"...the over-ready dismissal of expertise as being itself politically motivated, especially when it comes to scientific knowledge."*
- *"...not confuse the right to freedom of speech with a right to algorithmic amplification of our views".*

David Omand's book was getting denser by the page and we also developed the disconcerting view that he hadn't put the lessons of his book into practice when he was a civil servant. A case of 'do as I say, not as I did'.

"Try to distinguish when we are faced with: Malinformation: true information but never intended to be public. Misinformation: false information but innocently so. Disinformation: false information and known to be so before

circulation. Regard ourselves as being under an obligation to correct misinformation errors as quickly as reasonably possible. Be very wary of genuine information that has been 'weaponized' by being leaked, especially online, and recognize that it may have been made more potent by omissions and alterations before release. Be aware that those seeking to deceive us know that the most effective 'fake news' will be false information that we are likely to think could be (and should be) true. Avoid the temptation to over- or underestimate the import of what you read on the web. Protect reputations by avoiding spreading what looks like disinformation or 'fake news' (and certainly not by adding to it). Retweet therefore with discretion. Remember that, even when disproved, fake stories still hang around like a bad smell."

We checked our concerns about the book with other reviewers – we looked on Amazon – and found people reporting that they hadn't finished reading it.

We did, as nuggets kept appearing – such as about the 5-eyes relationship (this is intelligence shared by the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. It's why Home Office perverse thinking about guns surfaces on the other side of the world.)

We came to the view that David Omand's stint at the Home Office did nothing whatever to get the public order department to apply intelligence or logic to their brief. When he got there, they were using the paranoid

Cold War assumption that an armed public would turn on them and by the time he moved on they'd ramped up their efforts to extinguish the shooting sports without any reassessment of their reasons for doing so.

So, dense and difficult read, but well worth the effort. As to whether anybody will apply this to practice remains to be seen.

Back to that quote: ***"I am fond of the Greek term phronesis, to describe the application of practical wisdom to the anticipation of risks."*** Says it all, really; a risk is the chance that a hazard will actually cause anyone some harm. A knife is a hazard, but not when used to slice raw onions. At that point the onion poses a greater risk to the person holding the knife than the person holding the knife is to someone in another room. And so on.

PARTING SHOT

As we went to press, news broke about the police shooting of Latino youth Adam Toledo, aged thirteen. The British media reacted to the release of bodycam footage from officer Eric Stillman (who fired the fatal shot) being released.

The officer was responding to a 'shots fired' call and chased Adam Toledo, who had a handgun, into an alleyway shouting to him to "show me your f****ing hands".

In response to that, Adam raised his hands *and turned to face the officer*, who fires one shot immediately. The officer then goes into medical emergency mode, as

the threat to him has been neutralised, but the wound was too serious for Adam to survive.

What we noticed in the BBC's repetitive reportage of the bodycam footage was that they said the shot was fired within a second of Adam putting his hands up and they also said he was shot in the chest; *but didn't mention that he spun round to face the officer.*

People who are trained to use handguns are taught to focus on the front sight and since the officer fired so quickly *in reaction to Adam turning around* that was where his focus would have been: not on the boy's hands.

It won't take the average gentle reader of this publication long to find numerous theatrical examples of the fleeing felon turning to face his pursuer *to start the gunfight.*

Our observations to this point are that Eric Stillman reacted to the boy turning into a confrontational position by firing first. Even without the fact that suspects (other than IRA members) turn to engage their pursuer in TV shows and probably in real life too, the officer did not tell him to turn around – he said “show me your f***ing hands” – and that places his shot fired in the same ballpark as that fired by SFO W80.

He shot Jermaine Baker when Jermaine was in the act of raising his hands and our reading of the various court judgments in that case are that

Jermaine heard both ‘hands up’ and ‘put your hands on the dashboard’.

In reacting to ‘hands up’ he wasn't doing ‘hands on the dashboard’ and the chances are that he got shot by the person who said, ‘hands on the dashboard’ and was reacting to Jermaine not doing that.

The decision to shoot is a split second one. If Adam Toledo hadn't tossed his gun through the gap in the fence he'd reached before turning round he and Eric Stillman could have fired almost simultaneously. And in that split second Eric Stillman would have come second in that gunfight had he hesitated for the extra half second.

Elsewhere, the month long trial of Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd was reaching its climax when 26-year veteran officer in the Brooklyn Police Department Kim Potter shot Daunte Wright after a traffic stop.

Bodycam footage shows Daunte Wright being handcuffed, breaking out of that restraint and getting into his car while Kim Potter shouts “Taser, taser, taser” as she draws and fires her sidearm.

Her police chief described this as a tragic accident. In that department, the sidearm is worn on the strong side and the taser on the weak side, which is standard police practice – lethal strong side and less than lethal weak side: so the taser

crowds onto an officer's belt with the baton and pepper spray.

Under stress, we revert to our training and a suspect violently breaking out of co-operating with custodial treatment and fleeing is a stressful experience for the police officers. The media is full of the rhetorical 'how could the officer mistake a firearm for a taser' question and the likely answer is to be found in her training.

A 26-year force veteran will have drawn and fired her sidearm in training and requalification tests many, many more times than the taser.

A quick trawl on Amazon suggests that the price of two taser cartridges would buy you more than 50 9x19mm rounds, so guess which weapons system police departments spend more time training on and practicing with.

We couldn't find the answer to our other question in the time available, which was 'when did Brooklyn Center Police Department first issue tasers?' We suspect that Kim Potter started her service without one in 1995 and it became a later addition to the options on her belt. It probably didn't form part of her original training.

The counter-balance to that would be frequency of use. In the old days, sidearms got drawn for remote control purposes – the gunpoint arrest – but as police

equipment developed, so training evolved.

You can't draw a baton as a remote control threat, as it's a contact weapon. If you do, it can be interpreted as an offensive act; your hands are filled and the suspect can decide how to trump your gambit.

Pepper sprays work best when used pre-emptively; once the suspect's gander is up, it can prove ineffective. Their best use is to stop something before it starts.

The net result of multiple choice is that the situation may be allowed to escalate until a choice of intervention tool is necessary and can be made.

When Eric Stillman jumped out of his patrol vehicle to pursue Adam Toledo, his choice had already been made by the nature of the call - it was a 'shots fired' call - and the sight of Adam fleeing the scene with a gun in his hand. Eric Stillman drew his sidearm to engage in the pursuit.

When SFO W80 approached the steamed up car Jermaine Baker was dozing in, the choice had already been made for him by the senior officer who ordered the intervention. It still seems strange that the legal argument against him is that he used disproportionately excessive force when that was what he was there for on the instructions of the senior officer in charge of the operation.

Derek Chauvin had decided against the use of a weapon to bring George Floyd under control, while Kim Potter opted for a less than lethal taser and her hands went into muscle memory mode in reaction to what Daunte Wright did.

That point is relevant in all these instances. SFO W80 approached the car Jermaine Baker was in, acting on the information that the occupants of the vehicle had firearms and the intention to effect Izzet Eren's escape from lawful custody. When he fired the fatal shot, he had that brief at the front of his mind.

George Floyd was suspected of passing a counterfeit bill and then put up active resistance to being arrested. He started the struggle which escalated into Derek Chauvin's restraint technique.

Adam Toledo was fleeing the scene of a shooting with a gun in his hand and escalated the threat to the officer by turning toward him.

Daunte Wright was in the process of escaping lawful custody after being arrested on an outstanding warrant for failing to appear at court to answer charges of possession of an illegal weapon and fleeing police. Kim Potter would have known about his previously having had a weapon and his previous flight from law enforcement.

The point here is that in each case they contributed, by their actions, to how the police responded. If Keith

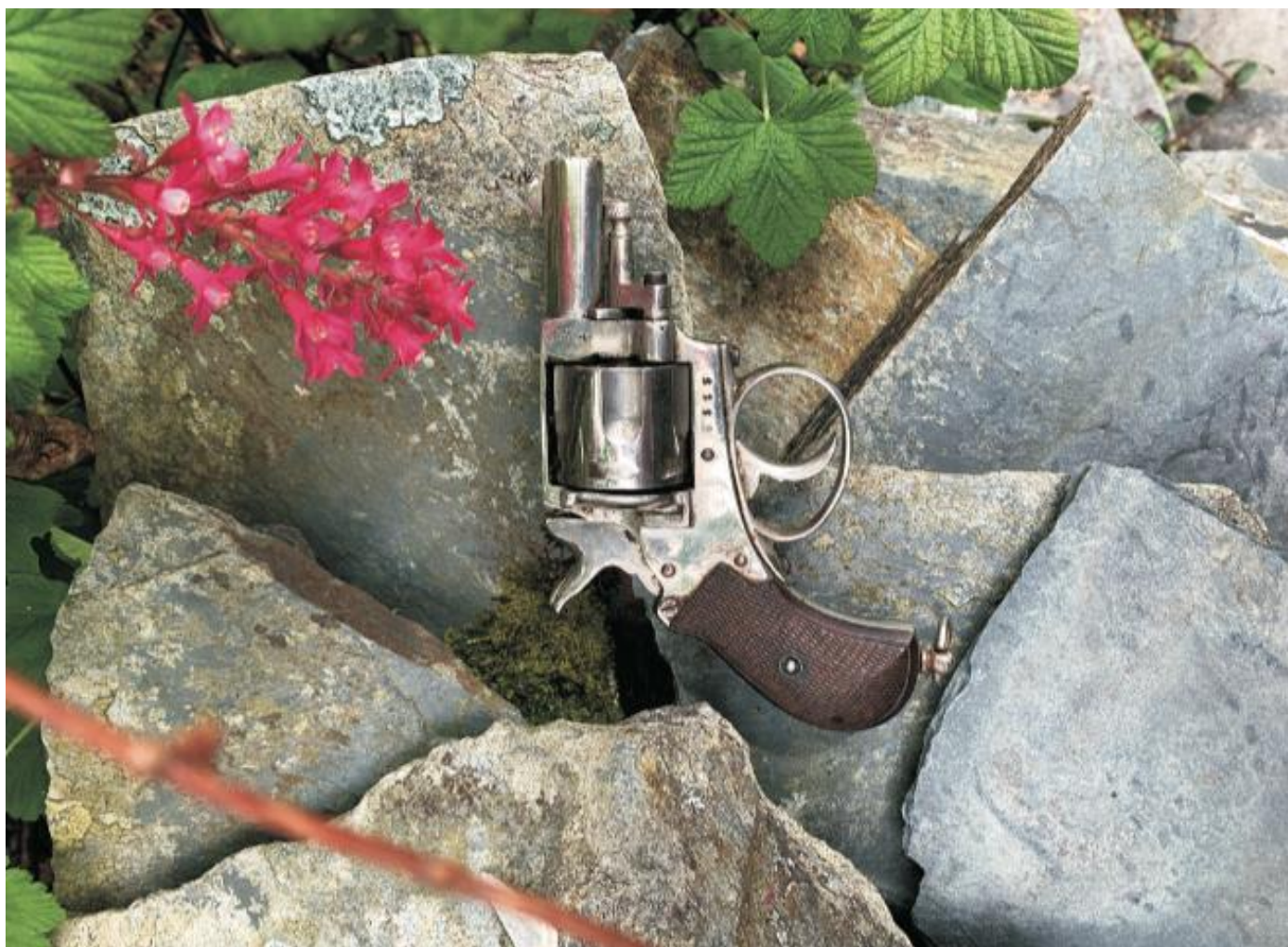
Floyd had 'come quietly' there would have been no need to wrestle him to the ground.

Likewise Daunte Wright. Surrendering to lawful arrest would have saved his life. And if Adam Toledo hadn't turned round, or just stopped, dropped the gun and put his hands up when the squad car arrived, Eric Stillman wouldn't have fired.

What these people hadn't appreciated was that doing things that make feeling their collars of interest to law enforcement means having a plan for what to do when they come for you.

Policemen are prepared for violent resistance to their authority and are trained to prevail when it happens. Reminding us all that Adam Toledo was only thirteen and didn't have a gun in his hands when shot doesn't excuse his having had one until a nano second before. He didn't know how to behave when his actions brought him up against police and that could be said of all of them. It's another example of where a lack of training leads to; same as being taught not to play on railway lines.

And the IRA? We mentioned them earlier as an exception to turning around before firing because they developed the technique of firing over their shoulders as they ran, famously on their way to Balcombe Street for the siege.



Webley's 1873 Bulldog revolver in .320" was the original 'Saturday Night Special' enabling ladies to walk unmolested, as it gave them the ability to remind gentlemen to remain gentlemen. Its 55 foot pounds of striking energy was less than the 60 foot pounds that was reckoned to be lethal at the time, but its big black powder bang would get the attention of anyone the holder intended. The discredited and now defunct Forensic Science Service blocked the inclusion of .320" on the obsolete calibres list in 1992 on the grounds that they were too common. Some four million handguns, like this 'Lincoln', were imported from the near continent during Edward VII's reign and the reason they were 'common' in 1992 was that there hadn't been any ammunition to wear them out with for decades. Finally added to the obsolete calibres list in 2002, they are scheduled to come off it again in September 2021.