

rect name Snider-Enfield) adopted by the British Army in 1867. The marking V.R stands for Victoria Regina, and Enfield for the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock.

A committee, set up in 1864 to determine the practicability of standardizing on a breech-loading rifle in the British Army, recommended that it be done. As in other countries in the same situation, the system chosen had to be suitable for converting the existing muzzle-loading rifle (in this case the .577" Pattern 1853 Enfield) to breech-loading.

About 50 different breech-loading systems were exhaustively examined and tested at Woolwich Arsenal. The one adopted had been submitted by Jacob Snider, an American. The Enfield barrel was readily cut off at the breech and threaded into the Snider action body, the rest of the rifle (lock, stock, and barrel) remaining unchanged. The first Snider-Enfield rifles were produced in that way. Later the barrels were manufactured new, at first of iron and later of steel. The rifle went through several marks, indicating detail changes.

Under this system the caliber remained .577 as in the muzzle-loading Enfield. The breech-loading cartridge eventually adopted was designed by Col. E. M. Boxer of the Royal Laboratory. It was made with a cartridge case built up of thin sheet brass on an iron head, and a primer with separate anvil. A charge of 70 grs. black-powder gave the 480-gr. bullet a muzzle velocity of 1200 f.p.s. Later the cartridge case was changed to a solid-drawn type.

The Snider was strong and reliable. It was in use, especially in the carbine form, until the 1890's, and still later in the colonies.

Ammunition for the .577 Snider continued to be manufactured in England, and also in Canada where it was called the .57 Snider, until recently. Snider rifles in serviceable condition are safe to fire with the

correct blackpowder ammunition. Quantities of Snider rifles were sold cheaply for many years. However, such rifles in good condition have become scarce.—E.H.H.

### 7.62 mm. Elevation Table

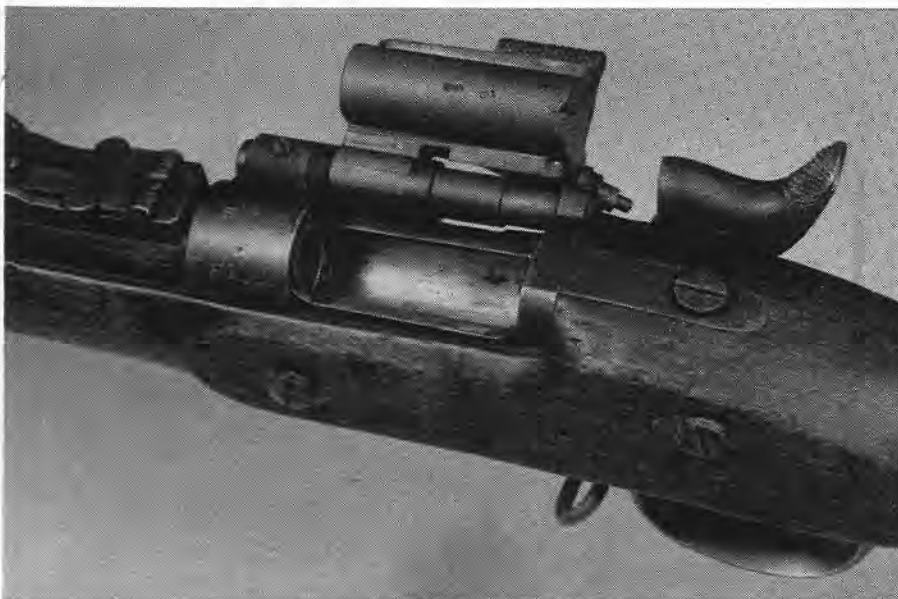
*What are the necessary elevations for 7.62 mm. NATO service ammunition at various ranges?*

**Answer:** Following is the Army elevation table for the 7.62 mm. service ammunition.

Elevations in such tables are regularly given in mils, the angular measure most convenient for military purposes because it marks off a distance approximately one-thousandth the range; for example, 5 yds. at 5000 yds. One mil is 3.375 minutes of angle. In the following table the equivalent elevations in minutes of angle have been added.

Range, M59 Ball (Meters) M61 Armor-Piercing	Angles of Elevation			
	M59 Ball		M80 Ball	
	Mils	Minutes	Mils	Minutes
100	0.7	2.4	0.8	2.7
200	1.6	5.4	1.6	5.4
300	2.6	9.1	2.6	9.1
400	3.7	12.5	3.7	12.5
500	5.0	16.9	5.0	16.9
600	6.5	21.9	6.6	22.3
700	8.3	28.0	8.5	28.7
800	10.5	35.5	10.8	36.5
900	13.1	44.2	13.5	45.6
1000	16.2	54.7	16.7	56.4
1100	19.9	67.2	20.5	69.2
1200	24.1	81.5	24.8	83.8
1300	28.8	97.3	29.5	99.6
1400	34.0	114.8	34.7	117.2
1500	39.7	134.0	40.3	136.0

The M80 Ball cartridge has a bullet with lead-antimony core instead of the steel core (with lead-antimony point and base filler) of the M59 Ball cartridge. Maximum weight of the M59 Ball bullet is 150.5 grs. and of the M80 bullet, 149 grs.—W.D.



To open breech, draw hammer back to half-cock and swing breechblock over to right. Start fired cartridge case from chamber by pulling breechblock back, then remove with finger or turn rifle over.

JUNE 1968

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