

19 April 1971

From...Dick Bernabei
To..... Sylvia Meagher and "Smith"
Re..... Walker Bullet (CF 573)

The references cited in your 13 April 1971 letter to me leave no doubt that the Walker bullet was marked for purposes of identification-- that is, the bullet itself was scratched, and not merely the container holding the bullet, as I previously suggested as a possibility.

Your letter states that Smith "found only Day's mark and one other obscure symbol alongside it which he could not identify." If, as I presume, "Day's mark" is the word DAY, then the "obscure symbol" may be the cross that was also used (probably by Day) to identify the bullet. CF 5114 says: ~~THE~~ "The slug was identified by a cross and the word DAY which ~~XXXX~~ Lieutenant Day stated is placed on the slug." (I presume that the cross was part of Day's mark, since Norvell is said to have marked his initial--or initials-- on the base of the bullet. There is not room on the base of J. 573 for Norvell's initial and the word DAY.

What is said in CF 1952, p. 4, about Norvell's statements is worth noting-- and with emphasis.

The FBI report states that Norvell said they found a "mushroomed" bullet. To a gun buff, the term "mushroomed" does not signify merely a mutilated bullet, but a specific form of mutilated bullet wherein the nose of the bullet is expanded and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ smashed flat, the jacket stripped back from the nose like sections of a banana peel, and the base more or less intact. Mutilation in this form is typical of soft-nosed hunting bullets-- indeed, such bullets are designed to expand in this "mushrooming" fashion. The result looks like this (see also the attached pictures):



Full metal cased bullets (fully jacketed) do not "mushroom"-- if you take the term as applying to a specific form of mutilation, as most gun buffs do-- although they may be grossly deformed in various ways. The term "mushroomed" has quite a specific meaning, and cannot properly be applied to the sort of deformation that fully jacketed bullets sometimes suffer.

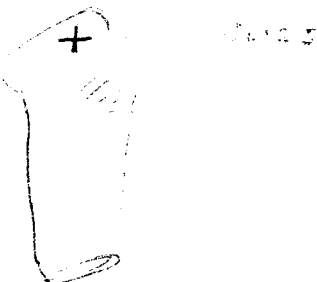
I don't think that I am being fussy about semantics here, for although Norvell might perhaps carelessly applied the term "mushroomed" to a bullet deformed in the manner of CF 573, something that is said in the FBI report caused me strongly to believe (indeed, I feel sure) that Norvell used the term in the way I normally understand it-- that is, a soft-nosed bullet whose nose is expanded and flattened, but whose base is generally intact.

The FBI report states: "He (Norvell) stated the bullet was mutilated and mushroomed from impact, except for the base and a fraction of an inch from the base." This describes a ~~typical~~ typical mushroomed bullet, the base of which normally is not deformed by impact. The description bears no resemblance whatever to the bullet depicted in JF 573, the base of which is severely mutilated, almost completely flattened-- and the flattening extends well toward the nose, so that it is hard to see why anyone would distinguish it as ~~being~~ being less mutilated than the middle of the bullet. I do not think that anyone can even carelessly characterize JF 573 as mutilated or mushroomed "except for the base and a fraction of an inch from the base."

If it is true that a truly "mushroomed" bullet was recovered, then you can almost certainly eliminate the possibility that ~~xxxx~~ the bullet recovered from Walker's house was full metal cased.

Notice that the FBI report says that Norvell scratched his initial(s) on the base of the bullet. Smith should look here for an identification mark (I hope it's not "SAB"). The base of JF 573 seems extremely narrow due to the flattening, and I wonder whether it would be possible for anyone to scratch an identifying initial on it. (On a typical mushroomed bullet, however, the base is round, and offers a suitable surface for an identification mark.)

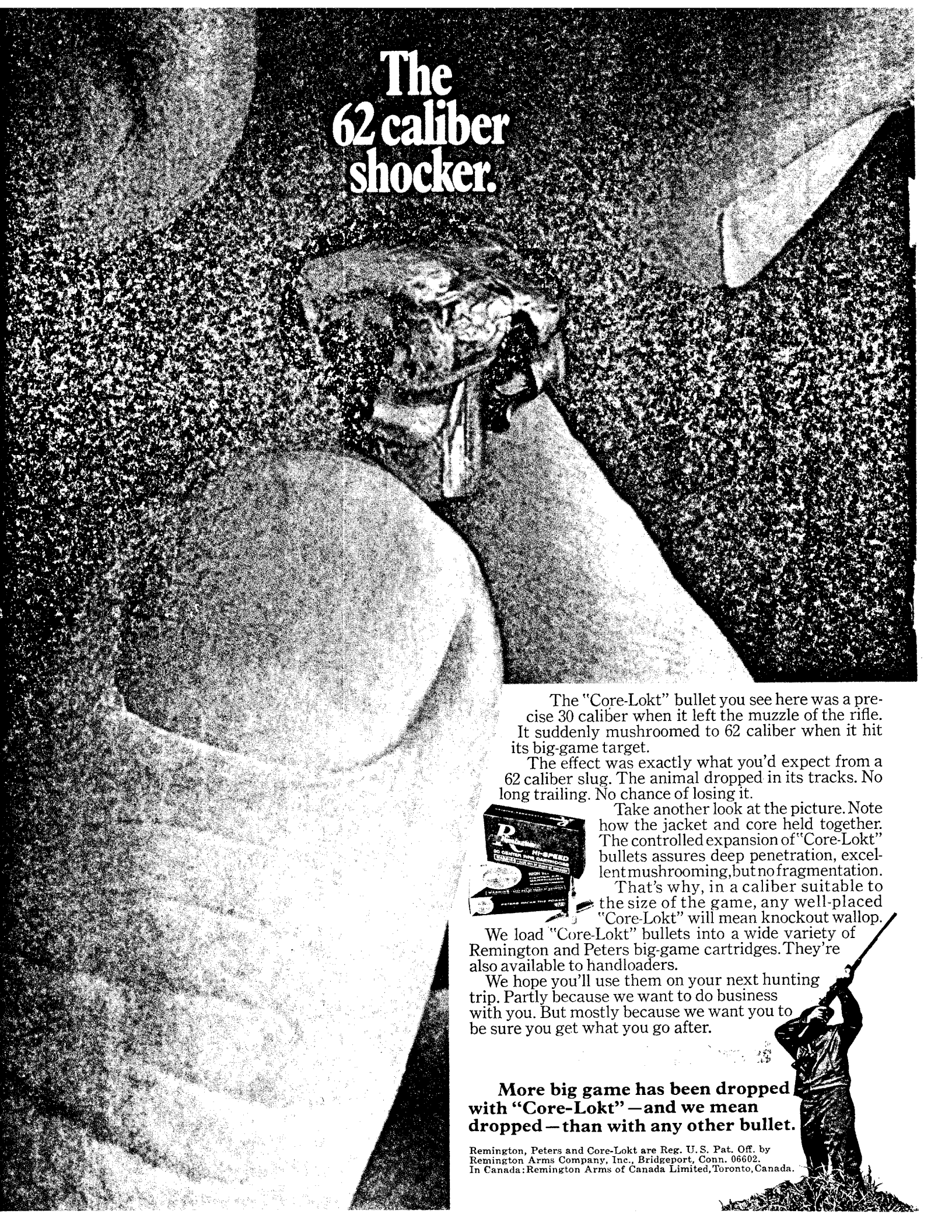
I just remembered that I have a color slide of JF 573, sent to me by Norvell. On this slide I see a cross scratched on what would be the nose of the ~~bullet~~ bullet (for the location, see the diagram below), but I see no identification work on the base, all of which is visible in the photo that I have. A cleared photo might perhaps show ~~work~~ work, but this one shows none-- although the ~~xxxx~~ letters are quite clear.



More later, if ~~xxx~~ anything develops.

Bike
Dick Bernabei

The 62 caliber shocker.

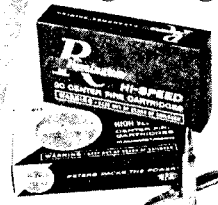


The "Core-Lokt" bullet you see here was a precise 30 caliber when it left the muzzle of the rifle. It suddenly mushroomed to 62 caliber when it hit its big-game target.

The effect was exactly what you'd expect from a 62 caliber slug. The animal dropped in its tracks. No long trailing. No chance of losing it.

Take another look at the picture. Note how the jacket and core held together. The controlled expansion of "Core-Lokt" bullets assures deep penetration, excellent mushrooming, but no fragmentation.

That's why, in a caliber suitable to the size of the game, any well-placed "Core-Lokt" will mean knockout wallop.

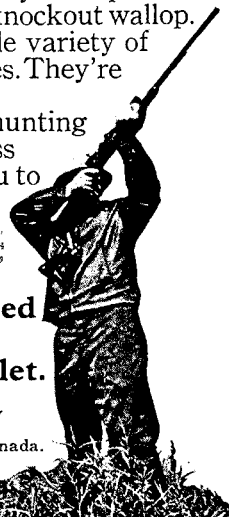


We load "Core-Lokt" bullets into a wide variety of Remington and Peters big-game cartridges. They're also available to handloaders.

We hope you'll use them on your next hunting trip. Partly because we want to do business with you. But mostly because we want you to be sure you get what you go after.

**More big game has been dropped
with "Core-Lokt" — and we mean
dropped — than with any other bullet.**

Remington, Peters and Core-Lokt are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn. 06602.
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Wirkung der Geschosse bei Jagdbüchsenpatronen

Schuß auf Weichteile



BLEIGESCHOSS

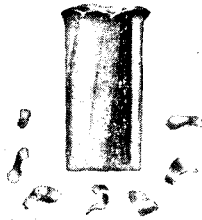
Schwaches Abplattten mit geringer Vergrößerung des Durchmessers. Keine Splitter. So gut wie keine hydrodynamische Energieübertragung. Die Wirkung beruht allein auf Stoß und Zerstörung der unmittelbar getroffenen lebenswichtigen Organe. Geringe Auftreffgeschwindigkeit bringt nur eine Verdrängung des Gewebes.

Schuß auf starke Knochen

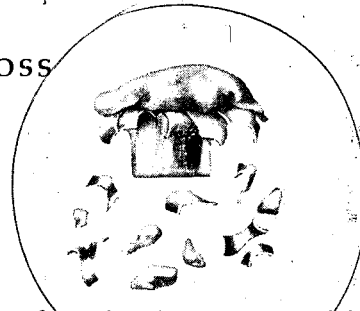


Starkes Abplattten und Vergrößerung des Durchmessers. Kaum Splitterbildung. Nur geringe Tiefenwirkung, daher meist kein Ausschuß. Durch den völligen Aufbrauch der Geschosßenergie verhältnismäßig gute Wirkung durch den Stoß.

TEILMANTELGESCHOSS

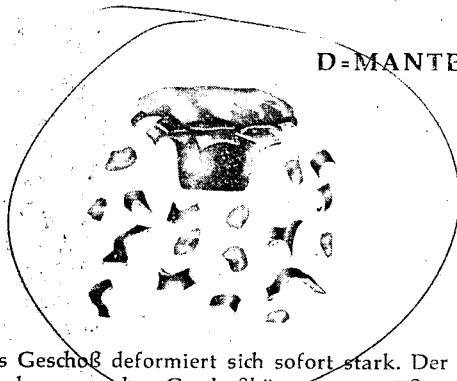


Abplattten mit kleiner Vergrößerung des Durchmessers. Wenige Splitter, die sich seitlich fast nicht ausbreiten. Hydrodynamische Wirkung etwas stärker als beim Bleimantelgeschoss, aber oft noch sehr gering. Längerer, oft nicht überkaliber großer Schußkanal, bei schwachem Wild mit Ausschuß. Meist wird im Wild nur ein geringer Teil der Geschosßenergie wirksam.



Mantel größtenteils aufgerissen, Fahnenbildung, größere Splitterabgabe. Die Durchschlagswirkung reicht bei starkem Wild zum Ausschuß nicht aus. Manchmal trennt sich der Bleikern vom Mantelrest. Bei genügend starker Patrone und gutem Sitz des Schusses bis zu mittleren Entfernungen oft gute Augenblickswirkung.

D-MANTEL-GESCHOSS



Das Geschosß deformiert sich sofort stark. Der Durchmesser des Geschosßkörpers vergrößert sich dadurch erheblich. Stoßwirkung und reichliche Splitterabgabe. Dadurch bei größerem Schußkanal starke hydrodynamische, schlagartige Wirkung. Bei schwachem Wild trotzdem Ausschuß, weil die Mantelzerlegung des hinteren Geschosßteiles nicht so schnell vor sich geht und so gewisse Tiefenwirkung gewährleistet.



Das Geschosß deformiert sich schnell mit starker Stoßwirkung. Immerhin reicht die Verzögerung zum Durchschlag mittelstarker Knochen- und Muskelpartien aus (sofern nicht Schuß im spitzen Winkel!). Viele wirksame Splitter in Einschußnähe. Unter Umständen vollständige Zerlegung bis auf den Geschosßboden und vielleicht einen kleinen Bleirest. Starke hydrodynamische Wirkung und größte Aufhaltekräft.

*Stoßwirkung - stacking-punch / thrust effect
 Immediat - immediate
 Verzögerung - delay, retardation
 Durchschlag - colander, strainer, filter.
 (-schloß - penetrator)*