

Collecting and Shooting the Military Surplus Rifle



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Postal Match #18 Results

Back to the Basics of Mil-Surp shooting

Turks

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What is a postal match? [More.....](#)

I figured that WAY more than 7 shooters would have gone for this match. Apparently, I was way off base. Was it the rifle, was it the targets/positions, or was it the mil-surp ammo only rule?

Featured Shooter: Lyell P. of El Paso, TX

1. How did you get into collecting and shooting military surplus weapons?

Was an avid reader of all aspects of WWII since I was knee high to a grasshopper. Mil-surp rifles seemed easier to collect than Sherman tanks or P-51s.

2. Do you have a focus rifle/pistol/era/country etc. that you try to collect only in? why?

I've narrowed it down to bolt action center fire rifles J The bulk of my collecting is Mosins and Mausers-particularly those from South America or Spanish speaking, in general.



3. What was your first mil surp weapon? Is there anything special about it?

The first milsurp firearm I owned is a M1911 handgun. I loved them since the first day Uncle Sam issued me one. Researching how to refurb a 91 Argie I inherited from my grandfather got me to this site.

4. What is your favorite mil surp weapon?

No particular favorites. Each and every one has its own challenges. A rifle that shoots a 50-5x out of the box would be boring. Besides, who wouldn't miss cosmoline, Ed's Red, Easy Off, and adjusting sights with a hammer and punch?

5. What is your experience in shooting competitively or hunting with mil surps? Or what is your experience in shooting in general?

Hunted as a young-un with my first rifle-a Marlin Model 110M from Western Auto, which I still have. Until I used it in a Postal Match, it had never been without a scope. The iron sights were 8" off at 50 yards for all these years. I Just started shooting CMP style matches, which tend to be a little counterintuitive for me.



6. Do you reload (yes), if so, what are your favorite companies for equipment, parts and

supplies?

Bulk of my reloading equipment is Lee with a sprinkling of RCBS and Lyman. I've broken a lot of toggles, so the sizing press is a Pacific I got from Rapidrob.

7. What do you NOT like about mil surp weapons?

Lack of cheap surplus ammo for some of them.

8. Do you have a favorite caliber?

Prefer 7.62x54R, 7x57, and 7.65x53. After those, just lump all calibers together for fourth place.

9. Can you recall a mil surp experience that was funny?

Quite a few. Everything from being asked, at the range, if my Turk Mauser was an Enfield to proving a cynic wrong about the merits of an extended bayonet on an M44 (retracted, it destroyed his target stand-in the next lane!).

10. Can you recall a mil-surp experience that was down right dangerous?

Yes.

11. How do you collect your weapons, that is, what is your favorite way of getting "new" ones?

Swaps, trades, and PAWN SHOPS!

12. What are your favorite sources for mil-surp information? Favorite museums?

This site, of course, fellow members and shooters, and other certain sites specializing in certain rifles.

13. What is one mil-surp weapon that you really want, but can't get? And why?

MG42. Reason should be obvious since I only have a C&R.

14. Did you serve in the military at all? When/where/what?

U.S. Army 1976-1998. 8th Cavalry, 35th Armor. 7th ADA Regiments, etc. Background in Armor, Nike-Hercules, and Patriot Missile System. (My avatars tend to reflect that). Retired as a MSGT/E8. Still work with soldiers in my second career.



15. Any match shooting secrets?

Half the time, even I don't know what I got right. Proper focus on the target rather than the sights, as is awareness of your breathing are the two I have to key on. I tend to be a 'snap shooter' offhand, which dates to the squirrel hunting days. I've been practicing over the last few years and my offhand is getting better.

16. What is your greatest shooting related accomplishment, i.e., best score, best match, etc.

Other than military qualifications, I seem to have won a couple Postal Matches for reasons I can't fathom, other than the real shooters don't send in their targets. It is a lot of fun to take a gunsmith special or u-fix-em, refurb it, and see what it does in a postal match. Of the eight Mosins I used in that match, three were u-fix-ems.

17. Anything else?

Great group of guys and gals on this site. Have met and shot with a few of them here in the desert southwest. Hope to meet more of them, someday, when I'm visiting my home state of OHIO. Good stuff.

Results:

Category 1, 50 yards, iron sights, off hand

first	last city	state	rifle	ammo	total
1 Mike	E Dallas	TX	M38 Turk	Rom/Yugo	141-3x

Ted J	Maplewood	MN	M38 Turk	Yugo	140-2x
Lyell P	El Paso	TX	M98/38	Romanian	138-4x
Chris M	Osseo	WI	1942 Turk	Romanian	138-0x
Justin W	Van Lear	KY	1903 Turk	Yugo	77-0x

Category 2, 100 yards, iron sights, benched

first	last	city	state	rifle	ammo	total
1	Mike E	Dallas	TX	M38 Turk	Rom/Yugo	148-5x
	Tom S	Aiea	HI	M38 Turk	Yugo	147-10x
	Chirs M	Osseo	WI	1943 Turk	Romanian	145-2x
	Ted J	Maplewood	MN	M38 Turk	Yugo	141-1x
	Lyell P	El Paso	TX	M1893	Romanian	139-3x
	Brett P	Visalia	CA	M38 Turk	Romanian	137-1x

Congratulations to the winner of both categories, Mike E. of Dallas TX. Certificates will be printed and sent.

Door prize winner:

Brett P. of Visalia, CA wins

A reminder to everyone who enters the match. PLEASE check the required amount of postage to get your targets to us. If you STUFF an envelope to the gills with 35 lb paper, it will NOT be a 39 cent stamp that is needed....

Stay tuned for an upcoming caliber specific match....

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