was used in the first 'Imperial Meeting' of this
Queen Victoria Association, in 1860. H.M. Queen Victoria fired
Victoria the first shot of that meeting and that target is
here in our museum. We also have others with
variations of the scribed scoring rings.

As the Volunteer movement grew, ranges sprang up all over the country and all needed targets. To meet this increased demand, private companies went into production and I enclose a copy of the earliest advert known to us, for such targets.

Because of the weight, they were made in sections and were bolted together. As the bullets were made of lead, in those days, they left a splash of lead where they struck and a very slight dent. A strike on the target resulting in a resounding 'clang', from which originated the saying
Drafting a clanger 'drafting a clanger'. If you missed the target, you 'drafted a clanger'. Todays interpretation is slightly different.

1860 By the June of 1860, the Volunteer Force was quoted at 120,000 men, all of whom practiced shooting in accordance with the regulations of the School of
Hythe musketry at Hythe. Distances were from 200 yds to 1,000 yds and all targets were 6'0" high. For 200 & 300 they were 4'0" broad (2 x 2'0" sections), for 500 & 600 yds, 6'0" broad (3 x 2'0" sections) and for 800, 900 & 1,000 yds 10'0" broad (5 x 2'0" section

As the development of ballistics progressed into the realms of smaller calibres, higher velocities and jacketed bullets, these iron targets were no longer practical and were replaced by canvas and paper ones, as they remain today. Consequently
1880 it is doubtful that iron targets were in use after 1880.

The School of musketry controlled army shooting regulations, but they no longer exist. However I suggest that their archival records exist and suggest that you write to the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT. Tel. 0171 730 0717.

I hope that the foregoing information will prove of interest.

Good Luck and Best wishes

Ted Molyneux (NEC MOLYNEUX

Hon. Curator

NRA Museum of the National Rifle Association

292

1808

Luppitt Parish
August 1808

Terrier

A Terrier of the Vicarage and Glebelands and the customs of the said Parish of Luppitt as such customs have been for time immemorial and the goods of the same Parish.

Vicarage

The Vicarage house is built with stones and timber and covered with reed – it contains five under rooms namely a kitchen, a cellar and a pantry with stone floors, and a parlour and a room inside the parlour floored with wood – and four chambers and a study. The outbuildings are one small stable a barn and a small brewhouse built with stone and covered with reed. There is a orchard about half an acre and there are two gardens hedged in all, adjoining the church yard... There are also four acres of enclosed land, two acres and a half of which are dry pasture and one acre and a half of a meadow called the Grove, and there is a right to Common without stint. There are four

Bells

bells. – the church is repaired by the parishioners

Chancel

and the chancel by the impropriator of the Rectory.

Goods

The goods of the church are a surplice – one large pewter flagon – one silver bowl – one silver paten and one pewter basin for the oratory.

The Rector or Impropriator is entitled to the Rectorial or Great Tythes consisting of all sorts of corn and seeds? The Vicar is entitled to the

Tithes

Vicarial Tythes or to the customary payments in lieu there of which – customary payments have always prevailed in the said parish as follows to wit – For every acre of meadow ground two pence, for every acre of land grass mown, for the tythes of the milk of a cow three pence, for the tythes of the milk of a heifer two pence, for the tythes of a foal of a mare one penny, for the tythes of a garden one penny, for the tythes of every hogshead of cider two pence, for the land let to agistment the twelth penny, and the same tythe ought to be paid to the Vicar at Easter yearly, for purifying a woman two pence, and no more, for the tythe of Lambs than tenth, and if the parishioner hath but

seven. the Vicar to have the third Best paying unto the parishioner three pence and if the said parishioner hath but six Lambs or under Lull ton then for every of them one penny. And that the tythe of Lambs ought to be paid at the feast of St Mark the Evangelist — For the tythes of Hoard ??? the parishioners ought to pay according to conscience in money and not any tythe of apples. For the tythe of a pig the tenth, titheable at fourteen days old at the utmost and that nothing ought to be paid for the tythe of plough or for Horses, Hope geldings or colts except only one penny for the foal of a mare as aforesaid. For young cattle nothing, for the tythe of eggs nothing, but by Courtesy and for the tythe of wood nothing and that the paid tythes and tenths have always been paid in the said parish according to the ancient modus or custom and not otherwise.

Fire

Luppitt Fires.

Rolleshayes

The Carer who came on the morning of the 9th November 2001, said that a fire engine had passed her on the road out of Honiton and taken the road towards Plaugh after the Langford Bridge over the Otter. From our Bedroom window the billowing smoke could be seen, but the high ground of Ballands prevented me from being certain of it was from Rolleshayes or Higher Wick. I then went to Higher Orchard and could see that it was more likely to be the farm house of Rolleshayes as it was behind the range of dutch barns which was originally the cowshed.

WMN Western Morning News Saturday November 10. 200

Massive Blaze wrecks cottage Andrea Kuhn

Firefighter called to deal with a massive blaze at a historic Westcountry cottage said it was one of the worst they had seen.

At one point the flames and smoke were so intense they almost obliterated the early morning sun. The Five Bedroomed thatched property at Wick, near Honiton, which is used as a Holiday

Let, needed six pumps from stations accross the county to bring it under control.

Assistant Divisional Officer at the Devon Fire and Rescue Service Adge Tilke said: "Its one of the most seriously damaged properties I have seen", he said. "There was nothing left other than the external walls". "It was a very traditional building. Almost everything in it, roof joists, floors, etc., was made of timber so it burnt very quickly.

Officers received a call to attend the fire at the house just after 8 AM yesterday morning. It is believed it started to the rear of the property and then up into the roof space. However Officer Tilke said it had spread ~~undected~~ undetected under the thatched roof for some time before fire crews arrived.

"It was very developed before we even got to it. The roof had already collapsed into the first floor.

At least eight breathing apparatus were used as officers were forced to face the heat and go inside the blazing building and tackle the fire.

Officer Tilke said that as soon as it became apparent that very little of the house would survive the flames, firefighters attempted to save as much of the furniture as possible. "In these kind of circumstances we try not to soak everything and we managed to salvage quite a lot" he said.

At present he said the cause of the fire was not thought to be suspicious but investigations are still continuing. It is believed it may have started due to a problem with the electrical heating system.

Midweek Herald — November 14th 2001

A devastating fire that broke out last week at a tiny hamlet near Honiton has virtually destroyed an historic thatched cottage, writes Tim Prince.

Firefighters from accross the county were alerted to Rollshayes Rollshayes Farm in Wick at just after eight o' clock on Friday morning to find the five-bedroom cottage severely damaged by the blaze.

The fire is thought to have gone undetected for some time. A spokesperson for Devon Fire and Rescue Service told The Herald that the roof of the two storey building had already collapsed by the time crews

arrived "It is one of the incidents I have ever encountered" he said. The property was being used as a Holiday Home and fortunately was unoccupied at the time. But because it was a traditional building and almost everything inside was made of timber it burnt extremely quickly. Two Buildings beside the premises had to be evacuated whilst firefighters from Honiton Axminster Ottery St Mary Sidmouth Bullompton and Exmouth donned breathing apparatus and tackled the blaze for more than 24 hours.

A nearby road had to be cordoned off and a bowser from South West Water was specially commissioned to handle the immense water demands.

The spokesman said that it was too early to tell what caused the fire although it is suspected to have been the result of an electrical fault.

Picture ref. 46/01/3027. 46/01/3015

Simon Horn.

Little Shelvin

Little Shelvin fire

Returning from Trull after our Christmas Day lunch, about 4 p.m, we were able to see accross the valley a pall of smoke But not until we were coming down Pitt hill could Norrie and I be certain that it was at Little Shelvin, and blue lights on vehicles in the vicinity indicated that there was a fire out of control. Arthur had returned home earlier in order to feed his dairy herd. Worrying though it was we could do nothing to help, but pray; and get on with our own tasks. When later a knock on the door was answered, we were a little relieved to hear that it was not the house, but a barley recently built barn which was alight; and our permission was needed for water tenders to use our farm road as a one way system. A fire officer and Mr Harrison were readily given permission. The barn was being used by Mr Rosewell for winter housing cattle, and hay and straw stored there for them was well alight. The intense heat made it very difficult to release the animals.

296

Little Shelvin

Midweek Herald Wednesday Jan 2nd 2002

Barn fire claims cow's life - but 20 saved.

A cow was killed in a fire which broke out in a large barn near Luppitt on Christmas Day.

Fire crews from across East Devon were tasked to the single-storey Dutch barn at Little Shelvin when it was found to be ablaze at just after 7 o'clock in the evening.

Around 20 tonnes of hay were destroyed along with the structure of the 20x18 metre barn, although emergency services personnel from Honiton, Ottery St Mary, and Sidmouth were able to lead 20 cows to safety. Two hose reels and two sets of breathing apparatus were used to control the blaze, which took nearly three hours to extinguish and a further three hours before the incident was closed. A spokesman for Devon Fire and Rescue service told The Herald that firefighters successfully prevented the blaze spreading to nearby buildings. "Crews also had to cope with the building becoming very unstable," he continued.

It was later learnt that other animals had to be put down because of their injuries.

Lower Shelvin Fire

Pulman's Weekly News 7/12/65

Pigs rescued in Luppitt fire

Lower Shelvin

Mr Jack Sage and his family were asleep at Lower Shelvin, Luppitt, when, just after midnight on Thursday, they were awakened by what sounded like rifle shots.

Mr Sage's two sons, Frederick and Arthur, rushed out of the house to find a nearby piggery on fire. After Mr Sage had called the Fire Brigade the family concentrated on rescuing the six weaners, and two sows with litters of 9 and 10 piglets in the building, before tackling the fire with extinguishers and buckets of water. Only one of the small pigs was unaccounted for, but it turned up later in the morning with a burned ear.

The 'rifle shots' that had roused the family were the asbestos roof of the piggery exploding as the fire took hold. The firemen stopped the blaze spreading to adjoining buildings, but the timber and asbestos roof was completely burned out. The stone walls of the building are virtually undamaged.

The following is a copy of a letter written to the Fire Service

Lower Shelvin

Lower Shelvin Farm
Beacon
Culfitt
Honiton
7/12/65

Dear Sir

With reference to the fire at the above farm in the early hours of Friday last, Dec. 3rd I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Fire Service for their prompt response to my call for help. Would you therefore please ensure that all concerned, both at the station and at H.Q. are personally thanked, and are notified that my family and I deeply appreciate the swift turnout and service rendered.

The sight of the two winking blue lights coming up the road to the farm gave us all a tremendous feeling of relief and reassurance which would have to be experienced to be fully realised, and will always be remembered and that although with available extinguishers and buckets of water we had been able to restrain the fires advance considerably we then knew that we could hand over to efficiency and experience, and attend to the well being of the pigs which we had had to turn out of their sty so hurriedly and forcibly.

I know that this fire was, by the Grace of God, comparatively small but only because it was tackled early having been alerted by the rifle fire noise made by the heated asbestos sheets. Hay in a shed about 15 feet away was being showered by sparks, and in the garage adjoining a fuel tank with 200 gallons of T.V.O. was only on the other side of a brick wall. Had that gone up imagination can suggest that other adjacent buildings would

have been in peril, and the farmhouse, partly thatched, though farther away, was in the direct line of the wind.

Our very sincere thanks to all.

Yours gratefully

On writing the above I would add that not all the roof was destroyed as indicated by the newspaper report.

Also that Arthur found the one missing pig during the following morning in Big Copse having followed its tracks in a light covering of snow.

Following the availability of the 'Luffitt Book' in December 2000 I received a telephone call from Mr Geoff. Coombes, now retired to near Tenny Bridges, who before lived at Tovehayne Farm, Monkton, and who was able to give me further information on two matters dealing with that side of Luffitt Parish.

Ford Bridge

Ford Bridge

Mr Coombes informed me that the owner of Halsdon House was responsible for the building of a bridge over the Otter at Ford so that it was possible to attend Sunday worship at Monkton Church, towards the end of the nineteenth century. Local farmers hauled stone for its construction, and the Pulman family did the building. In time of flood it had not been possible to cross the ford.

Chapel Halsdon

The Brethren Chapel

In a field on the Dumpdon side of the road opposite Halsdon House a small chapel was built with schoolroom adjoining, for use as a chapel for worship by local people with Brethren views, on land owned by the owners of Halsdon in a field tenanted with Smithenhayes Farm.

Early in the year 2002 we met Mrs Phyllis Matthews (nee Pring) and I asked her if she could inform me of what she knew about

this chapel, as she grew up at Beacon and her father Mr John Pring attended it.

She kindly wrote me a letter with some detail which I copy below.

11 Ottery Moor Lane
6/2/02 Honiton Ex14 1AW

Dear Mr & Mrs Sage

It was very good to meet you the other day and to talk about old days of Luppitt. I am enclosing an account of how Mr Helyar met his death, and also details of the writing on the tomb stone sited to the left side of the entrance door of Luppitt Church.

Helyar

As I read it:

Ernest Octavius Helyar Born 18.9.1846
Fell Asleep 11th August 1882.
"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 4 v 17.

Also Emily Gertrude wife of the above and eldest daughter of Joseph Whitwick of Hanham Hall Gloucestershire, who fell asleep on the 8th February 1913 aged 64 years. "Father I will that they also whom Thou hast given me be with me where I am".

The details of his death were written also in the record of a book of authors of Hymns under the name of Mr E.G. Helyar, relating to a Hymn no 15 in the current publication, as follows:

Mrs Helyar was on her honeymoon in Austria and out walking when her husband slipped into a crevasse and was unable to be rescued from the bottom of a glacier. When his body was eventually recovered and removed for burial it was very young looking and wonderfully well preserved.

It can be understood how the Hymn was written in the light of the loss of a husband, "Thou remainest when all else is gone; and the hope in the Lord."

Regarding the Halsdon Meeting Room built by Mr Helyar who lived at Halsdon House in

those days, this also included a Sunday School room alongside, these being sited in a field occupied by the Manley's of Smithenhayes Farm. The ruins are still there about a 100 yards or so up the field opposite Halsdon House main entrance. There were about 30 gathering there so far as I can remember as a child. We were told that my father John Pring used to take Mr Bill Blackmore to Sunday School there as a Boy. Some people came out from Honiton until 1938 when the Room closed. A number of folks had moved into Honiton area, including my grandmother who died aged 97 years.

Halsdon

Mr King

Halsdon House was eventually sold to a Mr King; my two aunts were in service at same time and I myself worked there for 2½ years when General and Mrs Osborne lived there during the early part of the East War.

General Osborne

These are just a few comments I thought you might find interesting to add to your extensive record of Luffitt history.

Yours sincerely
Phyllis Mathews (ne Pring)

363 L.M.

1 O Lord and Saviour, we recline
On that eternal love of Thine,
Thou art our rest, and Thou alone
Remainest when all else is gone.

2 ~~O Lord and Saviour~~
Yes! "Thou remainest" sea and land
Even heaven shall pass, but Thou shalt stand
Undimmed Thy radiancy appears,
Changeless through all changing years.

3 Lord, on the Throne Thy love is the same,
As once upon Thy cross of shame
In loveliness Thou camest to die,
Thou livest now for us on high.

4 We see Thee there, the Lamb once slain —
Thy loss was our eternal gain;
We see Thee crowned with glory now,
No shade on Thy victorious brow.