

may be turned into a "dum-dum" in a moment with a knife or bayonet.

The "dum-dum" bullet was so called from the fact that an arsenal in the town of Dum-Dum, near Calcutta, first manufactured a jacketed military bullet that had either a hollow point or else a jacket split on the point, particularly so it would mushroom.

As Britain and the United States were the two nations mostly concerned with the effects of bullets on fanatics or savages, they did not sign the first Hague Agreement, in 1899, but did sign in 1907, not to manufacture, issue or use the "dum-dum" for warfare. The public must understand, however, that it is absolutely impossible to supervise the actions of every man in the trenches and if a man thinks that he wishes to tear apart some sniper who has killed several of this man's friends, you can rest assured that this man will use whatever bullet he thinks will best put this sniper out of action.

You will note that Figure 1 shows the bullet entirely covered by a cupro-nickel jacket, with the exception of the small round space on the base of the bullet, where the jacket is turned over it. On either a round nose or pointed metal jacketed military bullet this is the only point where lead is exposed.

The round nose bullet (Fig. 1) was the first issued for high power military rifles. This type of bullet was the real cause of the nickname "dum-dum," as the stiff jacket did not allow the bullet to upset or mushroom, as did the old pattern soft lead bullet, when entering a body or striking a bone. For that reason, when fighting against savages, the soldiers would cut a cross through the point of the nickel jacket, with their knife or bayonet blade, or rub off the nickel point on a rock, to allow the bullet to actually stop a savage when a rush was made. They named these hybrids after those made in that East Indian town. Before any Hague Agreement was signed this practice was resorted to by the British soldiers in Africa and by the United States soldiers in the Philippines.

All military rifle bullets have envelopes or jackets of hard metal, or else are made throughout of hard metal. The necessity of having metal jackets around a lead core was brought about by the use of smokeless powder, which gave such a high velocity and pressure against the base of the bullet that soft lead bullets simply pushed through the rifle barrel and did not take the rifling. Thus the lead bullets did not spin during their flight and did not hit where they were aimed, and also struck sideways as well as point on.