

Detroit Police on SAFARI?

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The exploding ammunition shell was the great leap forward in European weaponry in the late 19th Century. Shrapnel was first used against the people of Surinam, the percussion-fired musket against the Chinese; the Mine ball used against the Bantu in Africa. Henry Shrapnel was an English artillery officer who died in 1842. Claude Etienne Minie was a French army officer who died in 1879.

The logical next step was a fragmenting small arms projectile. The Imperial Russian Army was first to introduce a bullet capable for bursting on contact with hard surfaces, mainly used to blow up artillery wagons. In 1866 a modified bullet was designed to explode upon colliding with substances as soft as flesh. The Imperial War Minister, seeing the danger of such a bullet to his troops, advised Czar Alexander II to call an international military commission to outlaw such bullets. Britain and 19 other nations, 15 of them from Europe, met in St. Petersburg in 1868 to place arms control into effect and ban exploding projectiles under four hundred grams in weight.

Major General Gerald de Courcy Morton, the Adjutant General in India, alarmed by stories of individual enemies surviving as many as six wounds, ordered his ordnance experts at the ammunition factory at Dumdum, near Calcutta, to develop a bullet which expanded on impact like those used on elephants and big game. The Dumdum bullet and hollow point variants like the Mark IV produced larger jagged wounds, first-sized holes, ideal for stopping native combatants in their tracks.

In 1898 Captain Bertie Clay invited the Dumdum to be used against Afridi tribesmen of India's northwest frontier. Hollow point bullets were used to punch fist-sized holes into Afridi warriors who could not be made to stand in fear of conventional ammunitions. Remember, use of such bullets was against the St. Petersburg Convention.

However, Surgeon Major General J.B. Hamilton and Sir John Ardagh of Britain explained before the International Peace Conference at the Hague in the Netherlands in 1899 that the native people of the colonies were not to be equated with the signatories of the St. Petersburg Declaration, and should not be treated like "civilized" men, but put down like

wild game, "since the savage, like the tiger is not so impressionable and will go on fighting even when desperately wounded". Under these circumstances, the Dumdum bullet was deemed entirely appropriate for use against colonized people.

Britain did not use Dumdum bullets against the white Boers (colonizers of Dutch descent) in South Africa. The bullet was kept out of World War I. It was considered an exotic weapon until Americans used AR-16's against the Vietnamese in the 1960's, and the Soviets used AK-47's against Afghans in the 1980's.

Dumdums and hollow points, Gatling guns, Maxims, Browning and Lewis machine guns helped greatly in the oppression of peoples the world over. remember what types of weapons are used on whom. Detroit, Safari Land, 1999, where the action is!

Some argue in favor of hollow points because some metro Detroit suburban police officers have them. The Detroit metro area has a record as being one of the most segregated and racially divided regions in the United States. Corporate business and Detroit suburbs have for the past forty-five years kept in place an economic blockade against inner city Detroit. The Detroit inner city has been pushed off to an island of economic starvation. Suburban police activities should not serve as a guideline for Detroit. In fact, when we look at the historical record of the Detroit Police Department, we see that it has not shown itself to be Black Detroit's best friend.