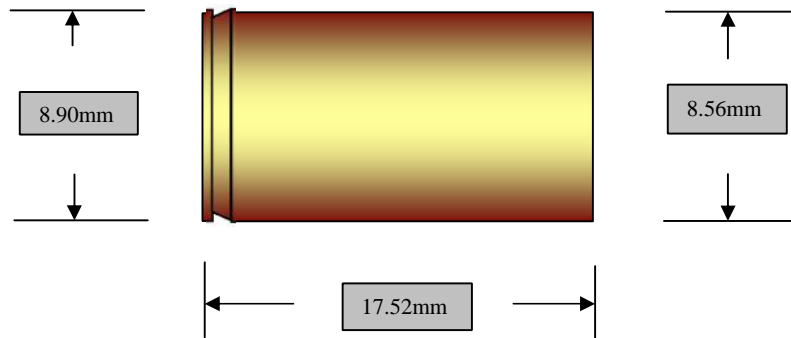


.32 AUTO CARTRIDGES



During the mid 1930s the Small Arms Ammunition Factory at Maribyrnong produced a .32 Auto pistol cartridge for use in either Police or bank teller's firearms. This was in the good old days when a bank teller was permitted to confront a would-be bank robber and shoot him/her. Now of course we understand the robber is only misguided and really needs all our

understanding and help and should not be filled with holes as a short sharp lesson in what not to do.

Be that as it may, the factory did produce this type of cartridge and it is a bit of an oddity for several reasons. Firstly it was a civilian calibre produced when the factory was making mostly military ammunition. I believe it is not stretching things too far to make the assumption that it was an effort to keep the factory running in those lean depression years. It is noteworthy that the Factory has not produced the item since 1941. Secondly, the projectile has a Monogrammed core. Now this is not unusual as the Germans and the British have been doing this sort of thing for years but I believe it is one of the few Australian projectiles so marked.



.32 Auto cartridge made at MF during the years 1934

Apart from these points it is a standard .32 auto with all the inherent failings of such a small calibre pistol cartridge. In fact the author has talked with senior police officers in the NSW force who have been sent out armed with these minuscule firearms to look for a lion that had escaped from a circus in the early fifties. I am assured that it was only after several hours looking for this lion that the policemen suddenly realized the enormity of what they were actually doing and decided very sensibly that they should go home. Mind you it is not too long back here in Queensland that a drug dealer was accidentally shot with one of these cartridges and it killed him outright. Just remember it's not the calibre that kills you it's the shot placement.



The embossed projectile base.

